



Skills Ambassador Network Meeting

Monday 23rd February 2026 from 10.30 – 12.00

1. Skills Competition Wales 2026

Overview

Competition delivery took place between 2 - 13 February 2026

65 competitions successfully delivered

99 Heats delivered

21 Locations

Registrations:

Another record-breaking year

1780 Registrations

32.1% Digital, Business and Creative

30.8% Health, Hospitality and Life

20.2% Engineering and Technology

16.8% Construction and Infrastructure

System will shortly be updated to show Reserves invited to participate Withdrawals and No Shows

<https://lookerstudio.google.com/reporting/f5ff0348-0afa-4dcb-9b23-df987f421ec4/page/hLALF>

Parental Consent:

28 competitors removed from the system due to parental consent not being provided approx. 1.6% withdrawal compared to 1.6% in 2025

Reserves:

We successfully invited more reserved to compete this year than in previous years we even accommodated some on the day.

This is an area that we all need to push in future years



<p><u>Skills Champion</u> Richard Wheeler -Engineering & Technology Coleg Cambria, Bridgend College, St Davids sixth Form College, HE support</p>	<p><u>Skills Champion</u> Rachel Arnold - Digital, Business & Creative. +Forensic science & Lab Technology. Cardiff and Vale College, Coleg Y Cymoedd. Gower College Swansea, HE Support</p>
<p><u>Skills Champion</u> Matthew Watts - Health, Hospitality and Lifestyle Coleg Gwent, NPTC Group of Colleges, Training providers as facilitated by NTFW</p>	<p><u>Skills Champion</u> Melissa Thomas - Construction and Infrastructure Grwp Llandrillo Menai, Coleg Sir Gar/Coleg Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire College, Merthyr College</p>

SCW26 Awards

Date: Wednesday 18 March 2026

Timings: 5pm - 6:30pm (at the latest - the aim is to keep the event to a minimum of 1hr 15 minutes)

The Skills Competition Wales 2026 Awards will take place in the Rhyl Pavilion Theatre on Wednesday the 18th of March 2026

The awards will host Grwp Llandrillo Menai, Coleg Cambria, and North Wales training providers. With Watch Parties happening around the rest of Wales. A financial contribution will be made to support those hosting Watch Parties - amount tbc.

We'll be announcing Gold, Silver, Bronze and Highly Commended Competitors whilst also celebrating everyone who took part in the competitions.

Meetings have taken place with watch parties and attending partners in North

A number of organisations have provided sponsorship support for the competitions. Including two organisations -Genpower and Tilgear, which are providing vouchers for the organisations for the competitors who have placed (1st,2nd,3rd) in SCW.

Additionally we would like to recognise those organisations who have supported competitions, by providing materials for competitions and time in kind. The competition leads have been asked to provide the information of all support provided on the marksheets, along with contact details of the organisations. Please can the Skills Ambassadors push for this information to be provided, to ensure nobody misses out on recognition.



Wrap around events

We successfully delivered four Green Skills wrap around events at the following venues:

GLLM - 3rd February 11 suppliers 168 attendees

Coleg Cambria - 4th February 13 suppliers 276 attendees

Coleg Y Cymoedd - 10th February 8 suppliers 78 attendees

Pembrokeshire College - 12th February 10 suppliers 210 attendees

These events were aimed at promoting vocational education pathways, particularly green growth and green jobs.

Developing Excellence Programme

During Skills Com Wales, we put on a range of CPD sessions to support and upskill tutors whilst attending the competitions. The following CPD sessions took place:

- Built Environment Courses
- Bricklaying (GLLM)
- Bricklaying (Cymoedd)
- Bricklaying (Pembs)
- Health and Social Care
- Competition Craft - Martin yates
- Competition Craft - Andy Whitehouse
- Competition Craft - Toby Bell
- 3D Game Art - Networking

Attendance is as below.

CPD Session	Number registered	Organisation
Built Environment Courses	5	5 attended
Bricklaying (GLLM)	2	3 attended
Bricklaying (Cymoedd)	2	8 attended

Bricklaying (Pembs)	2	5 attended
Health and Social Care	11	8 attended
Competition Craft - M Y	7	7 attended
Competition Craft A W	6	4 attended
Competition Craft T B	9	9 attended
3D Game art Networking	8	6 attended

We also have two further CPD sessions planned as follows:

Automotive CPD 2026 – Practical Competition Preparation

Friday 6th March - Cardiff and Vale College

We currently have 9 registered for this CPD as follows

NPTC x 1

CAVC x 3

Coleg Cambria x 1

ACT x 3

Bridgend College x 1

Wind Power Systems CPD 2026

Tuesday 10th March 0- University of Doncaster

We currently have 5 registered for this CPD as follows:

XR-Training x 1

Coleg Sir Gar x 1

GLLM X 1

Nptc x 1

Coleg Cambria x 1

We are accepting one registration per organisation for this CPD, please can you discuss and push within your organisations if nobody has yet registered.

Link to CPD sessions - <https://inspiringskills.gov.wales/events>

Skills for Success workshops

Prior to competitions each organisation supports the competitors with getting them ready for competitions. This can be done by delivering sessions around resilience, time management, team work etc. We have a bank of resources from past years and we are sifting through the content to put together a resource pack which will help you with preparing your learners for competitions.

If you have resources and would like to share with the network we would be really grateful. Please get in touch and we can look to add these to our resource page, which will support colleagues across the network.

The date of the launch of the resources is tbc.

ISE will be sending out a list of SCW competitors for each organisation over the next few weeks, for sign off, that competition preparation was completed with them.

2. National Finals

SkillBuild National Finals

National Finalists from

CAVC	GLLM
Merthyr College	NPTC
Coleg Sir Gar/Ceredigion	

In the following areas

2 x Plasterers	3 x Wall and Floor tilers
2 x Carpenters	2 x Joiners

Finals took place in Milton Keynes for the 3rd year between 18 - 20 November 2025

100% increase in representation from Wales Well done ALL

Inclusive Basic Woodworking will be a demonstration event and SCW medallists from

SCW will be demonstrating both learners are from Coleg Y Cymoedd

Results

Wales won two medals in the Skills Build competitions

Both were in the floor and tiling competitions with Cardiff and the Vales taking both silver and bronze medals.

2026 Skillbuild registrations closed on the 20th Feb we are awaiting final figures and the

Regional heat will be held in Coleg Cambria on the 4th June (Some colleges are choosing to attend another heat in England traveling time is shorter and easier)

2026 National final will be held at Milton Keynes wc 16th of November.

WorldSkills UK National Finals

WorldSkills national finals Took place in Wales for the first time between the 24th - 28th November. A big thank you to those who hosted competitions, we have received fantastic feedback from WSUK.

Team Wales representation was over 30% for the first time

We had national finalists in 77% of the skill areas.

Wales took the top spots in both the mainstream and foundation skills competitions.

Please see below for the league tables for mainstream and foundation skills competitions

WorldSkills UK National Finals 2025

Organisation League Table

Rank	Total Medal Points	Organisation Group	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Highly Commended
1	13	Cardiff and Vale College	Wales	2	1	0	2
=	13	Pembrokeshire College	Wales	1	2	1	1
2	12	New College Lanarkshire	Scotland	2	0	2	0
=	12	Southern Regional College	Northern Ireland	2	0	2	0
3	11	Coleg Gwent	Wales	1	1	2	0
4	10	Bridgend College	Wales	1	1	1	1
=	10	Cheshire College South and West	England	2	0	0	2
=	10	Grwp Llandrillo Menai	Wales	0	1	3	1
5	9	Burnley College	England	1	1	1	0
=	9	Coleg Cambria	Wales	1	1	1	0
=	9	East Coast College	England	1	1	1	0
=	9	NPTC Group of Colleges	Wales	0	1	3	0
6	7	SECTT	Scotland	1	1	0	0
=	7	The Northern School Of Art	England	1	1	0	0
7	6	Belfast Metropolitan College	Northern Ireland	0	1	1	1
=	6	CAFRE	Northern Ireland	0	1	1	1
=	6	Coleg Sir Gar/ Coleg Ceredigion	Wales	0	0	1	4
=	6	South West College	Northern Ireland	1	0	0	2
8	5	Airbus UK	Wales	1	0	0	1
=	5	Dudley College of Technology	England	1	0	0	1
=	5	Gower College Swansea	Wales	1	0	0	1
=	5	New College, Durham	England	0	1	1	0
=	5	North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College	England	1	0	0	1

Organisation League Table - Foundation Skills



WorldSkills UK National Finals 2025

Rank	Total Medal Points	Organisation Group	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Highly Commended
1	12	Bridgend College	Wales	2	1	0	1
=	12	Pembrokeshire College	Wales	2	1	0	1
2	10	North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College	England	1	1	1	1
3	4	DN Colleges Group	England	1	0	0	0
=	4	Elidyr Communities Trust	Wales	0	1	0	1
=	4	New College Lanarkshire	Scotland	1	0	0	0
=	4	NPTC Group of Colleges	Wales	1	0	0	0
4	3	Coleg y Cymoedd	Wales	0	1	0	0
=	3	Gower College Swansea	Wales	0	1	0	0
=	3	Harlow College	England	0	1	0	0
=	3	Middlesbrough College	England	0	1	0	0
=	3	The Oldham College	England	0	1	0	0
5	2	Brooklands College	England	0	0	1	0
=	2	Burnley College	England	0	0	1	0
=	2	Coleg Gwent	Wales	0	0	1	0
=	2	Hornsea College	England	0	0	1	0
=	2	Ice Skills & Employment	Wales	0	0	1	0
=	2	Riverside College	England	0	0	1	0
=	2	South West College	Northern Ireland	0	0	1	0
6	1	Weston College	England	0	0	0	1

Link to website for National Finals Results -

<https://www.worldskillsuk.org/national-finals-2025/>

Feedback from network

WorldSkills UK 2026

Registrations will open on the 2nd March 2026 and will close on the 27 March 2026.

Regional heats will take place and will be confirmed nearer the time.

The National Finals will be week commencing the 16th of November (same dates as Skill Build)

Please can you push registrations within your organisations, paying particular attention to those who competed in Skills Comp Wales and may be hungry for their next challenge.

WSUK have confirmed the following for 2026:

- Heavy Vehicle Technology will no longer run
- IT Support Technician and Network Technician and Network Infrastructure Technician competitions will merge to form one competition aligned to the

- international pathway.
- Potential Demo competitions we are awaiting further information

ISEiW support

Support will be available for 2026 cycle for competitors that are invited to participate at the UK final and will be released once we have the invited list.

Torch Relay

A big thank you to those who participated in the Torch Relay. I think you agree it exceeded expectations and it was fantastic to see the whole of Wales getting involved.

The WSUK National Finals will be hosted in Wales again next year and Welsh Government is keen to relaunch the torch relay, although in a different format.

We will be discussing the torch relay on the SA away day next week (for those that will be there) More information on this will follow and WG will be looking at information being sent out to request bids for the new format from around the 7th of May.

[Torch Relay](#)

International Activity

Squad for WorldSkills Shanghai

Following some competitors being withdrawn from the process Team Wales currently have 14 competitors in Squad UK

Skill Area	Competitor	Organisation
Aircraft Maintenance	Kleo Pepper	Coleg Cambria
Beauty Therapy	Erin Owens	Pembrokeshire
It Network Administration	Daniel James	Cardiff and Vale
3D Game Art	Logan Cook	Coleg Gwent
CNC Milling	Tomas Ankers	Coleg Cambria
Cooking	Gabrielle Wilson	NPTC
Electronics	Evan Klimaszewski	GLLM
Renewable Energy	Madeleine Warburton	GLLM
Robot Systems	Peter Jenkins George Hedges	Bridgend College & GLLM
Web Technologies	Finn Gallagher	Cardiff University
Restaurant Service	Yulia Batrak Katie Law	GLLM & Coleg Sir Gar Ceredigion
Graphic Design	Melody Cheung	Bridgend College

Japan Long Squad

Jantsandorj	Charnock	Aircraft Maintenance	British Airways Maintenance	Wales
Logan	Sweet	Automotive Refinishing	Cardiff and Vale College	Wales
Lily	Mathias	Beauty Therapy Practitioner	Pembrokeshire College	Wales
Otis	Lorton	Culinary Arts	Pembrokeshire College	Wales
Jac	Brisland	Health & Social Care	Bridgend College	Wales
Phoebe	Miller	Hairdressing	Coleg Gwent	Wales
Stevie-Leigh	Tolland	Hairdressing	Coleg Gwent	Wales
Dylan	Jones	Industrial Robotics	Bridgend College	Wales
Joe	Ashton	Industrial Robotics	Bridgend College	Wales
Luke	Bodenham	Industrial Robotics	Bridgend College	Wales
Luke	Evans	Industrial Robotics	Bridgend College	Wales
Ashley	Coles	Laboratory Technician	NPTC Group of Colleges	Wales
Joseph	Battle	Laboratory Technician	NPTC Group of Colleges	Wales
Daniel	James	Network Infrastructure Technician	Cardiff and Vale College	Wales
Zack	Arnold	Renewable Energy	Coleg Llandrillo - Rhos on Sea	Wales
Darcie	Garnon	Restaurant Service	Pembrokeshire College	Wales
Shannon	Brown	Restaurant Service		Wales
Mason	Althison	Welding	Pembrokeshire College	Wales

3. Taith funding

Following the visit by Pembrokeshire College we successfully delivered the Cleaning competition this year.

We are awaiting feedback from CSG/CC regarding the Danish partnership exchange.

4. AOB

Away day - Away evening for the Skills Ambassador Network (colleges and training partners)

We were able to invite one SA per organisation and I am pleased to say that most organisations have engaged in the away day, which is scheduled for next week - 3rd & 4th of March. During this get together we will discuss best practices/challenges within your areas, have breakout sessions and to generally discuss what we can do to support you to spread the message of Skill Competitions in your areas and help break down any barriers you may have.

Thank you to those who sent over topic discussions.

An update will be sent to the whole network following the session.

