



Skills Ambassador Network Meeting

Monday 23rd February 2026 from 10.30 – 12.00

1. Skills Competition Wales 2026

Overview of delivery was provided in the last SA meeting in February.

Further information now available:

The number of no shows on the day was 212. This means that materials and lunches were provided for 212 competitors who were expected on the day but did not turn up. Lunch alone for the no shows would have been around £1500.

Below is a table which provides information on organisations, number of competitions entered, number withdrawn prior to the competition, number of no shows on the day and total number who participated. Please can you take a look and where possible interrogate the reason for the competitors not attending as in some instances there may be areas which can be improved moving forward.

Training Provider	No of comps entered	Withdrawn	No Shows	Participated
Coleg Elidyr	5	0	0	8
Cambrian Training Company	1	0	0	1
Derwen College	6	0	0	14
ITEC Training Solutions	2	2	0	3
XR Training	2	0	0	5
Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini	1	0	0	1
Coleg Cambria	37	7	7	99
Gower College Swansea	30	8	9	75
Coleg Gwent	38	19	13	104
Coleg Sir Gar/Coleg Ceredigion	40	13	16	118
Coleg Y Cymoedd	26	1	12	75
Cardiff and Vale College	42	38	17	106
Pembrokeshire College	38	5	14	87
Employed/Self Employed	21	3	8	44
Bridgend College	37	15	19	78
Grwp Llandrillo Menai	44	27	43	172
St David's College	8	3	4	15
NPTC Group of Colleges	32	9	24	88

The College Merthyr Tydfil	28	13	15	54
Newport Youth Academy	5	1	1	3
ACT	5	3	6	14
University of Wales Trinity Saint Davids	1	0	2	2
ISA Training	3	0	2	2
Aspiration training	1	0	1	0
Caerphilly Sports MPCT	1	3	0	0
PeoplePlus	1	1	0	0

Skills Competition Wales 2027

Planning for SWC27 is in place, with dates and locations in the planning stages. The confirmed list will be available in September 2026.

Competition leads have been confirmed. Please see below for a list of overall competition leads per competition lots.

Lot	Lead Training Provider	Contact name
Lot 1a	Merthyr College	Lewis Jones
Painting & Decorating		
Inc Woodwork		
Carpentry		
Joinery		
Plastering		
Brickwork		
Electrical Installation		
Lot 1b	Coleg Y Cymoedd	Lee Perry
Plumbing		
Lot 1c	Coleg Elidyr	Jenni Simpson
Inc horticulture		
Lot 2	Coleg Cambria	Robert Jones
Aero		
Lot 3	Coleg Gwent	Robert Morse
Light vehicle tech		
Heavy vehicle tech		
Body repair		
Refinishing		
Lot 4a	Coleg Cambria	Robert Jones
MTC		
CNC Milling		
CMW		
Lot 4b	Pembrokeshire College	Daniel Williams
Welding		
Lot 5	USW	Hannah Seale
Forensic		

Lab tech		
Lot 6a	Coleg Cambria	Judith Alexander
Enterprise		
Lot 6b	Coleg Cambria	Judith Alexander
Coding		
Lot 6c	Gower College Swansea	Louisa Walters
Digital support and security		
Cyber		
Lot 7	ACT	Becky Morris
Inc IT		
Accountancy		
Lot 8a	Coleg Cambria	Robert Jones
Make up		
Beauty body		
Beauty Hands and face		
Lot 8b	Merthyr College	Vicky Williams
Hairdressing		
Lot 9	Cambrian Training	Alison Collingridge
Culinary arts		
Restaurant service		
Patisserie		
Inc food prep		
Inc restaurant		
Lot 10a	Coleg Sir Gar/Ceredigion	Victoria Davies
HSC		
Inc HSC		
Lot 10b	Coleg Gwent	Cerys Rees
Inc fitness assistant		
Personal trainer		
Lot 10c	ACT	Becky Morris
Childcare		
Inc Childcare		
Lot 11	GLLM	Gwen Hartleb
Pop music		
Photography		
performing arts		
3D game art		
digital media		
Web development		
Inc media		
Graphic Design		
Lot 12	ACT & PeoplePlus	Becky Morris
Inc Sustainable Enterprise		
Lot 13	NPTC	Sarah Holmes
Fashion		

Lot 14	Gower College	Steve Williams
Industrial Electronics		
Lot 15	GLLM	Bryn Jones
Additive Manufacturing		
CAD		
Lot 16	GLLM	Arron Peel
Renewable Energy		
Lot 17	GLLM	Mac Jones
Industrial Robotics		
Lot 18	The College Merthyr Tydfil	Lewis Jones
Net Zero Skills		
Lot 19	The College Merthyr Tydfil	Kate Payne
Inclusive Skills: Life Skills		
Lot 20	CSG	Elizabeth Bowes
Sustainable Agriculture		
Lot 21	GLLM	Geraint Rowlands
Automation		
Lot 22	ISEiW	Melissa Thomas
Retrofit		
Lot 23	UWTSD	Georgia McKee
Textiles and Surface Pattern Skills		
Ceramic Craft Skills		
Lot 24	Pembrokeshire College	Chloe Griffiths
Inclusive Skills: Cleaning		
Lot 25	Coleg Gwent	Kristi Jones
Nail Technician		

Following the completion of the 2026 competitions and gaining feedback from the network we have made the decision to merge IT support technician and IT network security into one competition for 2027 – digital support and security, this falls in line with WSUK and international competitions. Suggestions for new competitions have been made by the network which have now been reviewed by the ISE team and a decision has been made to introduce a new competition for 26/27 – Nail Art, meaning the number of competitions for 26/27 will remain at 65.

Dates for the steering group meetings have been arranged for each competition and they start in June. Please can you pass on the dates to the relevant tutors/people in your organisations as their input is required in these meetings and help shape the competition for 26/27

Here is a link to our webpage where you can access the list of meetings and dates - [Steering Group Dates](#)

Briefing sessions will follow on later on in the year for certain competitions tbc - these will be for new competitions and competitions where uptake is low,



<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>

2. SCW26 Awards

The awards took place on the 18th of March 2026 at the Rhyl Pavillion and were a great success.

As well as the Rhyl Pavilion hosting learners/their guardians/ staff from GLLM, Coleg Cambria and local training providers, the event was also live streamed to watch parties being held in colleges across Wales, meaning the event reached over 1720 attendees

This year medals were awarded as follows:

97 Gold

94 Silver

95 Bronze

328 Highly Commended

Here is a link to our website where you can view a list of all medal winners - [Medalists](#)

SCW26 Awards – Rhyl Pavilion - [Awards Photos](#)

SCW26 Awards – Watch Parties - [Watch Party Photos](#)

The SCW Awards for 2027 have been confirmed to be held for a second year in the Rhyl Pavillion on Thursday the 18th of March 2027.



3. Green Skills Events

Green Skills events have been confirmed for 2026/27. They are currently in the early planning stages, although we can confirm there will be four events and they will not be held alongside SCW this year. Further information will be provided in due course.

4. Developing Excellence Programme

We are in the process of planning the CPD delivery for SkillsFest26. To ensure effective planning we are looking to have the list of CPD sessions available in June, this will allow you time to distribute to the relevant people in your organisations and enable them to book on prior to the summer leave. This longer notice period should allow individuals to plan effectively and hopefully generate higher interest in the sessions as well as reducing the amount of non attendance to the sessions,

Additionally we will be working again in partnership with Didactic services to bring to you CPD in relation to FESTO equipment. We are in the final stages of agreeing dates, which will be sent out once confirmed for you to pass onto your network.

5. World Skills UK and Skill Build

The total number of registrations received from Wales across both registration sites was 998 registrations.

WorldSkills UK	907
SkillBuild	91

Wales achieved a total of 11% of registrations to the WSUK competitions which received a total of 8233 registrations.

This year there were 72 registrations on the submitted stage when registrations with WSUK closed. This means that 72 learners that were potentially wanted to enter the WSUK national finals were unable to. Please discuss within your organisations to try to understand the reasons for the learners remaining at the submitted stage upon the registrations closing, as 72 is a high number and we don't want learners missing out if they were wanting to compete.

As a suggestion for the next cycle - can you encourage registrations to be submitted as soon after the opening date as possible as if there are any issues with the registrations there will be time to resolve prior to the registration closing deadline.

Please see below for a list of organisations that have registered, how many registrations were completed for this years WSUK and the number of registrations lost at the submitted stage.

Organisation	26/27 Registration Numbers	Lost at Submitted
Bridgend College	82	16
Coleg Gwent	64	11

Coleg Sir Gar/CC	62	8
Gower College	50	7
GLLM	126	6
Cardiff University	5	5
Coleg Y Cymoedd	28	4
NPTC	58	4
Merthyr College	45	3
CAVC	121	3
ITEC Skills & Employment	19	3
Coleg Cambria	72	1
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	35	1
Pembrokeshire College	61	0
St Davids 6th Form College	8	0
Cardiff Metropolitan University	1	0
University of South Wales	3	0
Wrexham Glyndwr University	0	0
ACT Training	10	0
XR Training	6	0
Newport and District Group Training Association	2	0
Cambrian Training	1	0
Aspirational Training	1	0
Newport Youth Academy	3	0
NDGTA Newport Apprenticeships	2	0
The Skills Academy - JES Group	3	0
ISA Training	3	0
Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini	1	0
Airbus	12	0
MilDef Limited	1	0
Lloyd Morris Electrical	2	0
Steel 4 Structures Limited	1	0
Tenet Consultants	1	0
The Parkway Hotel & Spa	1	0
Coleg Elidyr	10	0
Hairport Hair	1	0

International Crusher Solutions	1	0
Industrial Automation & Control Ltd	2	0

For those who registered for the WSUK national finals they would have been notified of any entry stage tasks that required submitting. Following this stage, those that have been successful would be notified by now and invited to the National Qualifiers. Here is a link to the WSUK website where you can check the dates and locations for the National Qualifiers that will be taking place over the next couple of months - [National Competition Qualifiers 2026](#)

Can you let the relevant people in your organisations know that WSUK offer a Competitor Support Fund - which is available to those taking part in the on-site national finals and the national finals. There is an eligibility criteria for the competitor support fund. Here is a link to the WSUK website where you can access all of the relevant information - [Competitor Support Fund](#)

The competitors who score the highest (top 8) will be announced as finalists in July and invited to take part in the UK National Finals in November.

The National Finals will take place w/c the 16th of November, with most competitions taking place on the 18th & 19th and Foundation Skills taking place on Friday the 20th. Please see below for a list of competition venues:



Bridgend College

- Aircraft Maintenance
- Digital Construction
- Electrical Installation
- Laboratory Technician
- Landscaping
- Mechanical Engineering: CAD
- Plumbing
- Welding
- Accounting Technician



Cardiff & Vale College

- Automotive Body Repair
- Automotive Refinishing
- Automotive Technology
- Beauty Therapist
- Beauty Therapy Practitioner
- Culinary Arts
- Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps
- Restaurant Service
- Special Effects Media Makeup for Film & TV Industry
- Digital Media Production
- Graphic Design
- Demo: Esports Enterprise & Entrepreneurship Challenge



Coleg Gwent

- Cyber Security
- Hairdressing
- Health and Social Care
- Metal Fabricator
- Digital Support and Security
- Web Development



Uni of Wales TSD

- Industrial Robotics
- 3D Digital Game Art
- Additive Manufacturing
- Automation
- CNC Machinist
- Electronic Fire & Security Systems
- Industrial Electronics
- Industry 4.0
- Mechatronics
- Renewable Energy

Skill Build

Skill Build will take place alongside the National Finals this year and will be held on the 18th and 19th of November in Milton Keynes.

Here is a link where you can access further information on Skill Build and their qualifier dates - [Skill Build](#)

ISEiW Support for National Finalists

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.

6. Torch Relay

The torch relay will be returning for a second year, building on last year's success. Whilst the applications are not yet available (they are awaiting sign off from WG), we wanted to give you a brief overview of what to expect, to allow you to start thinking of ideas. If you could start thinking about the following:

- Proposed torch relay stop
- Skills showcase - may include live or pop-up demonstrations lead by learners/apprentices, highlighting different vocational areas, or try a skill
- Torch bearer - who you would like to nominate as a torch bearer, why have you chosen them?
- Community engagement - who will you involve locally (schools, employers etc)

There will also be the opportunity to host a round table event (there will be two in total). The aim of these are to bring together colleges, employers and young people to discuss skills and world skills. These sessions will showcase the real world impact of skills, give local voices a platform, and help shape shared ambitions for the future.

There will be a separate application to host a round table event and you will need to think about the following:

- Location/date/number of attendees
- Focus of the round table - skills needs, employer engagement, local priorities etc
- Participants - who would you plan to invite - employers, learners, partners, apprentices
- Outcomes - what would you be looking to achieve from the event

Please note: We do not have applications or any further information at the moment, the above information is given to allow you to start thinking about the proposed format this year.

Following the success of the Torch Relay last year coverage received/media produced, Welsh Government x Golly Slater have been shortlisted at the national CIPR Excellence Awards in the **Best Event** category - Wales' Roadtrip to Excellence. A big well done and thank you to your organisations input in making the Torch Relay a success.

7. International Activity

Squad for WorldSkills Shanghai

Team Wales have five competitors chosen to be part of the Worldskills Shanghai Squad. There is the potential of one other in Robotics which we are awaiting a decision on - this was delayed due to the other team member pulling out and WSUK finding a replacement.

Skill Area	Competitor	Organisation
3D Game Art	Logan Cook	Coleg Gwent
CNC Milling	Tomas Ankers	Coleg Cambria
Renewable Energy	Madeleine Warburton	GLLM
Web Technologies	Finn Gallagher	Cardiff University
Restaurant Service	Yulia Batrak	GLLM

Japan Long Squad/EuroSkills

First name	Last name	Competition	Organisation Name
Jac	Brisland	Health & Social Care	Bridgend College
Dylan	Jones	Industrial Robotics	Bridgend College
Joe	Ashton	Industrial Robotics	Bridgend College
Luke	Bodenham	Industrial Robotics	Bridgend College
Luke	Evans	Industrial Robotics	Bridgend College
Jantsandorj	Charnock	Aircraft Maintenance	British Airways Maintenance
Logan	Sweet	Automotive Refinishing	Cardiff and Vale College
Daniel	James	Network Infrastructure Technician (ITNSA)	Cardiff and Vale College
Daniel	Pitman	Network Infrastructure Technician (ITNSA)	Cardiff and Vale College
Katy	Law	Restaurant Service	Coleg Ceridigion
Phoebe	Miller	Hairdressing	Coleg Gwent
Stevie-Leigh	Tolland	Hairdressing	Coleg Gwent
Zack	Arnold	Renewable Energy	Coleg Llandrillo - Rhos on Sea
Evan	Klimaszewski	Electronics	Coleg Menai
Shannon	Brown	Restaurant Service	Coleg Sir Gar
Daniel	Roberts	Plumbing & Heating	Coleg Y Cymoedd
Bradley	Claringbold	Electronics	Gower College
Ashley	Coles	Laboratory Technician	NPTC Group of Colleges
Eleri	Davies	Culinary Arts	NPTC Newtown College
Lily	Mathias	Beauty Therapy Practitioner	Pembrokeshire College
Erin	owens	Beauty Therapy Practitioner	Pembrokeshire College
Otis	Lorton	Culinary Arts	Pembrokeshire College
Darcie	Garnon	Restaurant Service	Pembrokeshire College
Mason	Aitchison	Welding	Pembrokeshire College

4. AOB

1. Skills Ambassadors away day in March - thank you to those who attended, we hope you found in beneficial.
 - 1a. We are thinking of holding another SA face to face meeting during the National Finals in November - thoughts?
 2. Is anyone thinking of going to the International Finals in Shanghai?



