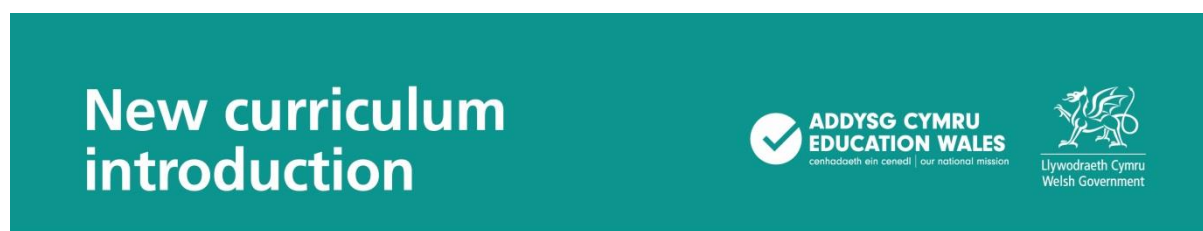


Your update on Education in Wales: our national mission

December 2017 / Issue: 01



All schools will have access to the final curriculum from 2020 to allow them to move towards full rollout in 2022

Welcome to issue 1 of the newsletter that will update you on Wales' education reforms, term by term. It absorbs the Curriculum for Wales newsletter and now includes everything you need to know about our ambitious programme in Wales.

At the beginning of term our action plan to 2021, '[Education in Wales: our national mission](#)' was published. The new curriculum for children aged 3-16 is at the heart of the reforms, supported by development in four key areas: [New plan for national mission to raise standards – Kirsty Williams](#)

The reforms, and their timelines, are neatly captured in a [wall chart](#), which has been printed and delivered to all schools in Wales.

On 18 December we published the [Welsh language in education plan](#). This will transform teaching and learning of Welsh in all our schools, with the aim of more pupils leaving school able to speak Welsh. [Kathryn Davies' blog post explains](#).

News about each aspect of reform, grouped under the key themes in 'Education in Wales: our national mission', follows below.

If you have observations or feedback on any of the content, [please let us know](#)

In this edition you'll find updates on

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Transformational curriculum

The new curriculum will be available to schools from April 2019, giving schools time to feed back and prepare for implementation from 2022. This Autumn, Pioneers have focused on 'What matters', the big ideas for each Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE).

- Teacher Kath Lewis of Porthcawl School tells the story of the work underway in the ['Expressive Arts' AoLE this Autumn on our blog](#)
- Three headteacher events this Autumn focused on 'Curriculum for Wales – Turning the Corner'. Delegates heard about 'what matters' for Areas of Learning and Experience. To read the theory behind ['What Matters' on our blog](#). [To see and hear more about the conferences visit the event page](#).
- A second formative evaluation of the Pioneer School approach to curriculum development has taken place. [The review is broadly positive about progress](#)
- The 'Camau' project is mapping out approaches to assessment and progression needed to underpin the forthcoming curriculum. The University of Wales Trinity Saint David, in Partnership with the University of Glasgow, is supporting this work.

Developing the profession

Supporting a high quality teaching profession is key to our reforms

- [New Professional Teaching and Leadership Standards were launched in September](#) and will apply to all teachers from September 2018 to enhance pedagogy, collaboration, leadership, innovation and career-long professional learning.
- Plans to change Initial Teacher Education to support the new curriculum are moving forward. In Summer 2018 we will announce who will be delivering Initial Teacher Education from September 2019.
- The [‘Schools as learning organisations’ model](#) has been developed to help schools work together and with consortia to explore ways of improving learning and outcomes. Pilot schools met the Cabinet Secretary this month to share progress. [Full story.](#)

Leadership

We need leaders that can support their school communities through change which is why promoting and supporting effective, collaborative leadership is central to our reforms.

- The National Academy of Educational Leadership for Wales is being developed by a highly inclusive ‘shadow board’ and will launch in 2018. It will develop a bespoke leadership programme and review programmes put forward for endorsement - [See our written statement](#). [Tegwen Ellis expands on this in her excellent blog post](#)
- The Academy’s ‘Associate Programme’, is underway, with Headteachers beginning to act as role models for school leadership across Wales. [Applications are still open](#) for those who wish to join.
- [Recruitment of a Chief Executive for the Academy has also gone live](#), the application window is open until 21st January. Recruitment for a Chair and Board members will start soon.

Evaluation & accountability

To deliver the new curriculum effectively, we need to be clear about those things we wish to value and measure. An assessment and evaluation framework for the entire system will be published before the end of 2018. In the interim we have introduced some changes.

- A consultation on new regulations which may end the routine publication of teacher assessment and test data, leaving scope for more focus on schools' self-evaluations, [opened in November](#).
- This will lead to some changes to the [National School Categorisation system for 2018](#).
- Education Secretary Kirsty Williams announced new rules in October to reduce the number of pupils being entered too early for GCSE exams: [press notice](#)

Equity and Well-being

Learners are at the heart of all our reforms. We want to support all learners so they are physically and emotionally ready to learn.

- Providing for the Emotional and Mental Health Needs of Young People in Schools: [a written statement](#).
- The Welsh Government's aim is to transform the additional learning needs system so it provides better support to those children and young people who need it most has achieved a key milestone after the [National Assembly for Wales passed the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal \(Wales\) Bill on the 12th December](#)

Other education news

- Nominations for Professional Teaching Awards closed on 30 Nov and were 20% up on 2016. The awards will take place in [May 2018](#).
- [Drive to improve science and technology in schools begins](#). The network for excellence will target the improvement of teachers' skills in science and technology and improve pupils' experience of the subjects. Hwb zone: <https://hwb.gov.wales/nnest>

- [£1.28m for a School Business Manager pilot project in 11 local authority areas was announced in September 2017.](#)
- [A £2.7m project to improve the way supply teachers support schools was announced in October](#)
- [A £2.5 million small and rural schools grant was announced in November](#)
- [Welsh Government has earmarked an extra £2.3bn to modernise education infrastructure](#)
- [New incentives to recruit teachers of physics, chemistry, maths, Welsh, computer science and modern foreign languages were announced in October](#)
- [Learning in Digital Wales programme](#)
- [The Welsh Government has published a new plan today outlining how the Welsh Government intends to work with the sector to improve outcomes for learners in Wales who access education otherwise than at school](#)



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