Welsh Government Dysg eNewsletter: 9 December 2013 (Issue 360)

This newsletter aims to provide updates and developments affecting post-11 education and training sectors in Wales. Os hoffech chi ddarllen y cylchlythyr yn y Gymraeg Cliciwch yma.

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Welsh Government updates

National Leadership Development Board (NDLB)
The first meeting of the Welsh Government’s National Leadership Development Board (NDLB) has now taken place.
In its first meeting, the Board considered the Welsh Government’s proposals for building leadership capacity in schools. Future work will focus on how proposals can be developed and implemented in schools for the benefit of all practitioners and learners. More

Raising School Standards: A guide to school banding
The School Banding information will be published on Thursday 12 December 2013 on the My Local School website. The Welsh Government has published a guide to school banding and a comprehensive Frequently Answered Questions page for your information.

My Local School website - update
The My Local School website is currently being updated. The new data will be available on 12 December. Those updated areas include 2013 secondary school banding, final Key Stage 4 and sixth form examinations results for the 2012/13 academic year, secondary school attendance data and financial reserves for the 2012/13 academic year. Schools and LAs will already have access to this data via the All Wales Core Data Sets. The site can be accessed here. For queries, please email the IMS mailbox

National Reading and Numeracy Tests 2014 - ordering system now live!
The secure ordering system for the National Reading and Numeracy Test (NRNT) papers for 2014 is now live until 20th December. More

Guidance for School Information Management Systems
This guidance document has been designed to help mainstream and special schools and Local Authorities (LAs) to collect and record accurate and consistent information about pupil special educational needs (SEN) in the PLASC school management information system from which the Pupil Level Annual Schools Census (PLASC) return is generated. More

School term dates regulations consultation - ends 21 February 2014
This consultation seeks your views on proposals for regulations on the consultation process to be followed before the use of Welsh Ministers’ powers of direction on school term dates. More
Evaluation of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) Wales and Assembly Learning Grant - Further Education (ALG FE) Wales Schemes
The Welsh Government has commissioned an independent evaluation to be carried out on EMA and ALG (FE) during academic year 2013/14. More

Hwb+
We are pleased to report that 356 tranche 3 schools have attended a Hwb+ training session and, as a result, have now received their very own Hwb+ site. The response from the 500+ teachers who have attended has been overwhelmingly positive. The next tranche of Hwb+ sites will be ready for training during January 2014 and more information regarding dates, venues and how to book a place will be released in due course.

Hwb Content Team
The team continues to bring new content to Hwb. This week sees the Hwb Content Team collaboration with the National Library of Wales bring two new ibooks to Hwb users via the Education Wales iTunesU channel. These are available in English and Welsh, aimed at KS2 pupils, and take the themes of Evacuees in Wales and Emigration from Wales to Ohio. Additional materials for CAA’s Gwledydd y Byd factual series (KS2, Welsh Learners and Geography) are now also available on Hwb.

Funding for schools to work with arts organisations
The Arts Council of Wales provides support for schools to commission arts organisations to develop creative participatory projects (e.g. workshops in schools or artists in residence). In order to be considered for funding, schools must demonstrate that the projects enhance and complement education and learning. Particular priority will be given to school clusters. There is a rolling programme for grants of up to £5,000. The next deadline for larger grants (up to £30,000) is in January 2014. Apply now

Welsh in Education Grant
Welsh-medium and Welsh-language education have become increasingly important in Wales. Our education system has a key role to play to help realise the Welsh Government’s vision of creating a bilingual Wales. The main purpose of the Welsh in Education Grant (WEG) is to provide support at regional and local level for the implementation of the Welsh Government’s Welsh-medium Education Strategy. More and for guidance issued by the Welsh Government for the Welsh in Education Grant 2014-15.

Training for teachers to improve Welsh language skills
Minister for Education and Skills, Huw Lewis, has approved over £5.6million to ensure practitioners at all phases of education and training have high-quality Welsh language skills. More

Lead and Emerging Practitioner School: Tranche 2 Project
This is your last chance to apply for the second tranche for Lead Practitioner Schools
The Welsh Government, in partnership with the four regional consortia in Wales, has established an effective national school to school improvement strategy to raise standards. More

Creative writing workshops for Key stages 2 to 4
Developing Dylan’s team of 32 writers are currently delivering workshops that introduce Dylan Thomas’ characters, themes, poetry and prose to pupils
throughout Wales. The workshops will inspire pupils to create pieces of creative writing which they can then enter into the Developing Dylan creative writing competition. Teachers will also receive a pack on a branded USB stick which includes ideas on how to develop the work that was introduced during the workshops. These teaching packs were created in partnership with Canolfan Peniarth and reflect current curriculum requirements in Wales, including those of the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework. Book a workshop for your school now!

**Dates for your diary**

**Delivering a national qualifications system for Wales - 11 December 2013 - Register for the webinar!**
The Welsh Government will hold a national conference to update stakeholders on the vision and timeline for reforming the qualifications landscape in Wales. Keynote speeches from the Minister, Huw Lewis, Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, Vice Chancellor of the University of Cambridge and Scott Waddington, Chief Executive, SA Brain and UKCES Commissioner. Further information and register to be involved in the live webinar.

**All Wales SPFP summit - 10 January 2013**
The ‘One Year on - One Year ahead’ summit will examine the successes and challenges of the SPFP and will take a forward look at the future. Aimed at those involved in the delivery of SPFP projects and of particular interest to Project Managers and Directors, a series of learning workshops will be available to participants covering a number of topical SPFP issues including best practice case studies. Book your place now!

**Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) Webinar - March 2013**
Would you like to hear more about how the PDG could make a real difference to the attainment of disadvantaged learners? Would you like to see practical examples of what really works in schools? The Welsh Government will be hosting a free webinar during March 2014 sharing best practice approaches for raising attainment of learners from poorer backgrounds. To receive more information closer to the date and express your interest in joining the webinar please email.

**Resources and competitions**

**There’s still time to enter our anti-bullying film competition! Closing date Friday 13 December**
Help it. Stop it. Create it is an exciting film competition for schools. You don’t have to have any experience of making videos to enter. The winner in each category will receive the support of the Welsh Government and a professional video production company to develop, film and produce their idea. The winning short films will be promoted via the Learning Wales website and could even be the front of our Anti-bullying week 2014 campaign. Enter

Learning Wales users welcomed for website quality testing!
We are now inviting you to take part in our online test to help with the final version of the site.
Learning Wales was developed as a web-based resource. Since its launch in 2012 we have seen a variety of new content come online, including the Literacy and
Numeracy Framework and the Masters in educational practice learning packs. The site is for you, so your opinion really does count! More

**WW1 educational programme - subsidy for schools in Wales**
As part of the Welsh Government’s WWI educational programme, secondary schools in Wales will be eligible to apply for a subsidy for the commemorations. This £1000 will provide assistance to help meet the costs associated with supporting pupils to develop a deeper understanding of the causes and consequences of World War One and the impact it had on people’s lives. Further details about this funding will be made available via the DYSG website in January 2014.

**Latest statistics**

- [Achievement of 15 year olds: Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) National Report](#)
- [Local Area Summary Statistics](#)

**UK Updates**

**Apply Now! Sutton Trust US Programme for Year 12 State School Students**
Get a taste of US culture and university life! The initiative is centred on a one-week summer school in the US (students will be based at MIT, Yale University or Harvard) with introductory events and application support in the UK before and after. Find out more and how to apply Applications will close on Wednesday, 22 January by noon.

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