

# Higher and Further Education Partnerships on Welsh-medium Education

## Introduction

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On 7 August 2013 at the National Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and Colegau Cymru signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the aim of widening the delivery of Welsh-medium education in the further education sector in Wales and to create opportunities for learners who wish to progress from further education to higher education through the medium of Welsh.

## The Memorandum of Understanding

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Key aims of the Memorandum of Understanding:

- Improve Welsh-medium and bilingual progression routes for further education, work-based learning, adult learning and higher education
- Share teaching and learning resources
- Support the continuing professional development needs to teaching and support staff in both sectors, and contribute to professional networks
- Work together on matters of policy, communications, marketing and branding initiatives.

## Implementing the Memorandum

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Over the last 12 months the Memorandum has been in the process of being implemented. Five colleges planned and started to deliver pilot projects with funding from the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, with the aim of improving progression routes.

The five colleges are: Coleg Cambria, Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, Bridgend College, The College Merthyr Tydfil, and Coleg Sir Gâr.

Here's a flavour of each project:

**Coleg Cambria** is attracting and guiding further education students to pursue courses and modules in Welsh-medium higher education in Criminology, Law and Social Sciences. Students aged 16 to 19 studying A levels as well as students studying vocational courses in Health Care and Public Services are the focus.



They are provided with relevant resources, and information on the value of the Welsh language as a professional skill, the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's scholarships, and advice on applying to UCAS through the medium of Welsh.

**Grŵp Llandrillo Menai** has targeted Year 12 pupils and vocational students in their first year in college.



At **Bridgend College**, the focus has been on students studying Health and Social Care, including Child Care.



**Grŵp Llandrillo Menai** and **Bridgend College** have set out to provide specific courses that prepare students myfywryr to move on to higher education, including: academic skills, study skills, research skills, presentation skills and academic debate. Welsh language packs are now available in print and online.

**Coleg Sir Gâr**'s project focuses on the field of Business, with two new Welsh medium level 3 modules being prepared. The new interactive resources will be installed on the Porth library, so that they are available to other students across Wales. Further progress is expected in due course, with several other developments under discussion.



The **College Merthyr Tydfil** is organising an opportunity for students from all further education colleges at the University of South Wales, planned for October 2014, where Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol lecturers will present a flavour of Welsh-medium higher education across many fields.



## Lifetime of the Memorandum

Following the initial year (Aug 2013/14), the Memorandum has been extended for a further three years.

## Further Information

**ColegauCymru** is the national organisation that represents all of the further education colleges and institutions in Wales. [www.collegeswales.ac.uk](http://www.collegeswales.ac.uk)

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The **Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol** is a national body which plays a key role in planning, supporting and developing Welsh medium education and scholarship at universities in Wales. [www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk](http://www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk)

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