

## newyddion Colegau Cymru #193 Colleges Wales Enews 24 Awst/ August 2015

### **Croeso / Welcome to edition #193 of the Colegau Cymru / Colleges Wales e-news: the weekly roundup of news from across education colleges in Wales.**

This edition of enews is dedicated to showcasing the successes of Wales' further education colleges in this year's **A level exams** and in congratulating Wales' competitors in the largest skills competition on Earth - **WorldSkills**.

Enews is available in both English and Welsh. [Cymrwch gip ar y rhifyn Cymraeg yma.](#)  
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### **A level results**

#### **Impressive A level results at Wales' Colleges**

The A level pass rate at a wide range of further education colleges is above the UK average. The pass rate at the top grades also saw some notable increases in many colleges in Wales. Many students from colleges in Wales are now heading for prestigious universities including the Russell Group and Oxbridge.

Those colleges outperforming the UK average pass rate of 98.1% include Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, Gower College Swansea, NPTC Group, the College Merthyr Tydfil, Coleg Gwent's Blaenau Gwent Learning Zone, Coleg Sir Gâr and Pembrokeshire College, with other colleges hitting the 97% Wales pass rate as well.

Colleges are major players in academic education provision in Wales. For instance, Coleg Gwent entered 1,000 students for A levels this year, and Grŵp Llandrillo Menai entered 650 students. Gower College Swansea offers around 50 A level options, with 86 students achieving A\*-A grades this year at A2.

Relative newcomers to A levels have also reported impressive results - The College Merthyr Tydfil and the Blaenau Gwent Learning Zone.

Beyond the statistics, there are some incredible individual success stories to be told, including that of homeless student [Jacob Lewis of Coleg y Cymoedd who's off to Cambridge with 4A\\*](#):

| [More on Wales' colleges](#)

### **College by college results**

For more information on the results of each of Wales' colleges, click on the links below. (Colleges are listed in alphabetical order.)

[Cardiff and Vale College](#)

[Coleg Cambria](#)

[Coleg Ceredigion](#)

[Coleg Gwent](#)

[Coleg Sir Gâr](#)

[Coleg y Cymoedd](#)

[Gower College Swansea](#)

[Grŵp Llandrillo Menai](#)

[NPTC Group](#)

[Pembrokeshire College](#)

[Rhyl Sixth \(Grŵp Llandrillo Menai\)](#)

[St David's Catholic College](#)

[The College Merthyr Tydfil](#)

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## A level results in the media

Local newspapers up and down the country covered colleges' results. Here's a flavour.

[NPTC Group in SW Evening Post](#)

[Gower College Swansea in the SW Evening Post](#)

[Coleg Sir Gar in the Carmarthen Journal](#)

[Grwp Llandrillo Menai and Coleg Cambria student profiles in Daily Post](#)

[Grwp Llandrillo Menai in Daily Post: Gwynedd](#)

[Grwp Llandrillo Menai in Daily Post: Denbighshire](#)

[Coleg Cambria in Daily Post: Wrexham](#)

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## WorldSkills

WorldSkills - the world's largest skills competition - took place in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from 12-16 August.

The 41 competitors that made up Team UK were among the grand total of 1,200 competitors from across the world. **Wales** and the UK achieved their best results to date.

Team UK won three gold, four silver and two bronze medals, plus 24 Medallions of Excellence (awarded for reaching 500+ competition points - deemed to mark "world class standard").

Four competitors from Wales were in Team UK (two supported by colleges - Coleg Meirion Dwyfor and Coleg Sir Gar), with three being awarded Medallions of Excellence (for Carpentry, AutoTech and Hairdressing).

In addition, four of Team UK's Training Managers were drawn from Wales' colleges (Web Design, CNC Milling, Carpentry, Manufacturing Team Challenge).

Wales' story is covered in [ColegauCymru's storify](#)

A great overview of Team UK's journey at WorldSkills Sao Paulo from beginning to end is in [FE Week's e-book](#)

TeamUK results: | [FE Week](#) | [TES](#) | [Find a Future](#)

[Official Youtube videos of WorldSkills Team UK in Brazil](#)

[WorldSkillsUK Flickr stream](#)

Coleg Sir Gar's Eleni quoted in [WorldSkills TeamUK visit to Sao Paulo school](#)

Profile of Owain Jones (Coleg Meirion Dwyfor) on [CITB website](#) before going, and in the [Daily Post 19 Aug](#)

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## WorldSkills in the UK's mainstream media

'WorldSkills warrants as much attention as the Olympics' said the trade newspaper, the [Times Educational Supplement](#). It argued that UK success at the WorldSkills competition in Brazil could bring benefits for the entire UK skills system.

Although the mainstream media in the UK isn't (yet) ready to devote so much airtime to WorldSkills, the BBC's Steph McGovern was at WorldSkills Sao Paulo 2015 and gave the event its first BBC broadcasts. She fronted a series of pieces for **BBC Breakfast, BBC 5 Live, Radio 4, and BBC Online (Business pages)**.

Of key political interest to her was why the UK doesn't give WorldSkills and technical skills a higher profile. Each Team UK competitor received a [letter from David Cameron](#) and the four from Wales got a send-off led by Welsh Government Deputy Minister Julie James. But other countries give higher profile and reward to their competitors.

Executive Vice President of Samsung, at WorldSkills for the ninth time, he told the BBC that in his home country, Korea, World Skills finalists are treated like stars, with winners receiving gifts including cash and houses.

"This is a more important area than sports. This is related to the productivity and wellbeing of people," he said.

In Brazil, the country's winners will have their university fees paid for them.

The Netherlands plans to put their finalists' faces on posters at bus stops all over the country.

| [BBC](#)

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