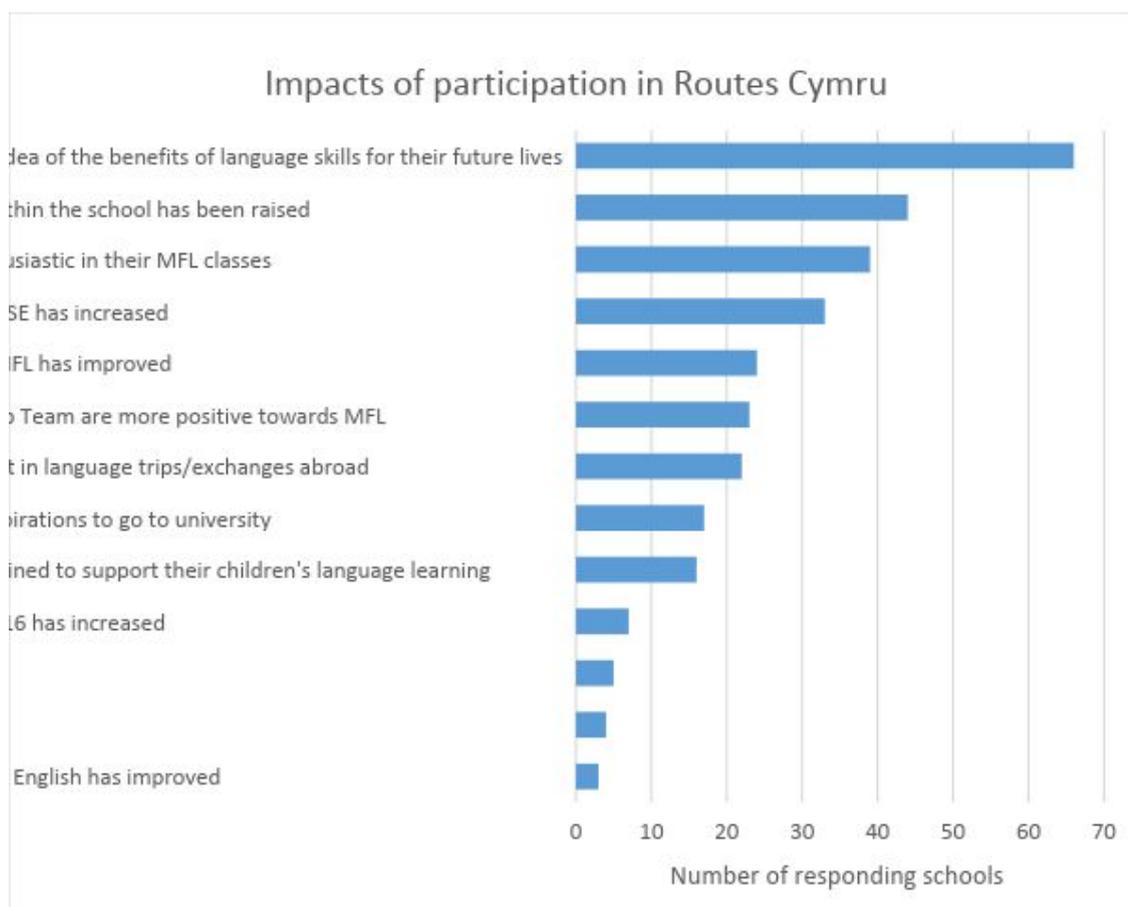


UCML Wales report January 2019

Routes into Languages Cymru

A report has been released evaluating the 2016-18 phase of Routes into Languages Cymru. The full report is appended to the Wales pages, and the key findings are:

- The activities organised by Routes into Languages Cymru are greatly appreciated and have achieved a wide range of positive impacts in partner schools and colleges:
 - Three quarters of schools/colleges involved report a change in perception by pupils of the importance of language skills in their future lives.
 - More than a third report that take-up for MFL at GCSE has already increased.
 - Nearly half report that pupils are more enthusiastic in their MFL classes and 27% even report higher attainment.
- The scheme has raised the profile of MFL both within and beyond schools and has provided conduits through which a wide range of partners are contributing, or contributing more intensively, to the objectives of *Global Futures*.
- The low priority given to MFL within the curriculum and among senior managers in some schools has limited opportunities for pupils and teachers to engage with Routes Cymru activities. In some cases, school policies (e.g. on option choices) have proved a barrier to improved take-up of MFL, despite an improvement in pupil perceptions of the value of the subject.
- The Routes Cymru scheme has provided a mechanism for increased community engagement by universities, has contributed to their widening access agendas and provided valuable employability experience for the undergraduates involved.
- The Routes Cymru model of partnership working provides a foundation on which the Higher Education sector can build to contribute more broadly to Welsh Government policy initiatives such as the Donaldson curriculum and the Cymraeg 2015: A Million Welsh Speakers strategy.



MFL Student Mentoring Project Wales

The scheme is currently in its 4th year of funding and is working with 66 schools through a mixture of face-to-face mentoring, turbo-mentoring and digital mentoring via Digi-Languages. The project proposal for a fifth year of funding is under consideration.

The project is trialling partnership with the Student Teaching Module at Cardiff University via international partnerships with Leuven and Belgium.

Swansea University

The Department of Modern Languages, Translation and Interpreting and the School of Education at Swansea University will be offering a BA in Modern Languages with Education from 2019/20.

The BA Modern Languages with Education degree is aimed at prospective students who are considering a career in education and/or languages (e.g. secondary school teachers) who would like to know more about and experience linguistic professional practice and/or teaching as part of their degree before committing to a particular career trajectory.

Cardiff University

The School of Modern Languages at Cardiff continues to work closely with Routes into Languages Cymru and the Student Mentoring Scheme to support uptake of MFL. The School has launched a new Research Seminar Series, bringing together events run by the research units within the School.

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