

## UCML ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

### Item 9c Wales report

#### Student Mentoring programme

The programme has gone from strength to strength, and in 2018-19 59 schools received face-to-face or Digital Mentoring during the academic year, exceeding the commitment to provide support to 40 schools. Award ceremonies have been held across Wales to celebrate the pupils' achievements, with 700 pupils taking part in the ceremonies.

For 2019-20 funding has been awarded to deliver mentoring to 40 schools, along with additional funding to pilot a project to encourage uptake between GCSE and A level, given the attrition that has been identified between the two phases. This will be trialled in 10 schools across Wales.

#### Routes into Languages Cymru

Since April, Routes into Languages Cymru activities have included:

- Routes into Languages Cymru, in partnership with the EAS consortium, piloted a successful 'International Languages Superhero Training Day' at Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni on the 5th June. 60 year 4/5 pupils from 16 schools from across the consortia attended the lively international carousel of activities delivered by colleagues from Cardiff University, the Institut Français, the Goethe Institut and the Confucius Institute, Cardiff University. The aim of the day was to inspire these 'superheroes' to become the voice of international languages at their primary school. Their mission: to champion the benefits of bilingualism and multilingualism, an aim that complements the new Curriculum for Wales' 'Languages Literacy and Communication' ethos and the four purposes.
- Another event targeted at the primary sector this summer, will be the 'Language Feast' at Bangor University, on the 1st July. The 'Feast' will offer information sessions and workshops aimed at year 5 and 6 primary pupils to broaden their horizons and to leave with a greater awareness of what it means to be an informed global citizen.
- A video was released by the Seren Network of the 'Year 9 Modern Languages Oxford Residential' that Routes Cymru co-organised. View the video here: <https://bit.ly/2XGbITc>
- Routes Cymru provided support to the Cardiff Commitment's 'Open your Eyes Week' visiting Albany Primary Schools World of Work Week. The aim of the session delivered by Routes

Cymru was to open the pupil's eyes to the wide range of opportunities and occupations where languages can be an advantage.

- The Spelling Bee National Final will be held at Bangor University on Friday, 28th June.

### **Bangor**

We have managed to defend all staff positions in ML at Bangor, despite threats of cuts this year (and indeed initial proposals to cut one member of full-time staff in ML). We will lose one GTA post (in Italian), but feel that this is by far the preferable option.

### **UCML Wales event**

The inaugural UCML Wales event will take place on Friday September 13<sup>th</sup> in Cardiff. The aim is to rotate the event around Welsh HEIs. The focus of the event has changed, given overlap between the previous theme and other events taking place in Wales. The new theme is 'Transitions: Supporting students across their stages of learning'. This event seeks to bring together colleagues from across Welsh institutions and modern languages sectors to explore how we can support students as they move through different levels of study, how we can develop the languages pipeline, and how we can learn from each other.

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