

Item 9c: Wales Report

I have written to Ministers in Wales urging them to support the UCML campaign to preserve the British Council.

University teaching

Universities in Wales, as with the rest of the UK, have moved to distance learning in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cardiff University

The 'Working with Translation' MOOC (launched in October 2016) has completed its sixth run. Overall, it has attracted more than 49,000 participants from an average of 160 countries around the world. Individual cohorts have varied from a minimum of 4499 joiners to a maximum of 10656 recorded for an extended four-month run offered in light of the COVID19 pandemic.

Routes into Languages Cymru

Routes into Languages Cymru has appointed a project lead to develop a pack of language teaching resources to be used in primary schools, alongside a guide on how to use the resources to support the new curriculum in Wales. This aligns with one of the key aims in the Global Futures strategic plans and Routes into Languages Cymru are listed as a partner in delivering the Global Futures objectives.

Routes Cymru has benefitted from the sharing of best practice facilitated by bringing together the Routes franchises under the UCML umbrella.

Routes Cymru has adapted to the current climate by offering activities and resources through digital means.

- Routes Cymru has launched a Virtual Careers Talk Series (on YouTube) with Student Language Ambassadors producing a 30-45 minute digital session on a wide range of topics including careers with languages, language learning tips, studying languages at university, interactive quizzes and activities etc. So far, we have 6 episodes from SLA's from Cardiff, Bangor, Swansea and Aberystwyth University, which have brought over 300 views to our channel.
- Routes Cymru has made available over 40 resources to help AS/A Level students on the website. The resources include recordings and presentations from our masterclasses over the years covering important history, literature and film topics covered for French, Spanish and German.

- Currently working on releasing our LingoMap digital book containing a selection of our SLA blogs from the year abroad in both the primary and target language. The blogs cover topics covered in the curriculum at GCSE and gives students an insight into the experiences our SLA's have during their time studying or working abroad.
- Routes Cymru worked in partnership with Seren/Oxford University to organise the second 'Modern Languages Oxford Residential for year 9' where pupils from 13 schools from across Wales would benefit from this unique opportunity to taste life as a linguist at Oxford University. This event was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-9.

MFL Student Mentoring Project

Training

- Planning is underway for an **all-digital delivery** of training with mentors from across all partner universities already signing up – currently 95.
- The training will take place **across a variety of platforms** to provide the best experience for mentors. This will include Aula.
- Training will take place **over a 3-week period in September, all online**. Mentors will be expected to complete a variety of core modules which will include some preparation work, live workshops and recorded lectures. There will also be a variety of optional modules available.

Mentoring cycles

- There will continue to be **2 mentoring cycles**: October-December 2020 and February-March 2021.
- It is likely that mentoring will support schools with their blended learning approaches by **providing support for home-schooling**. We anticipate that the mentoring will largely take place when pupils are at home.
- **Teachers will decide** who is involved in the project – we are considering engaging whole classes.
- Award and Recognition Ceremonies will take place **online**.
- We are aiming to engage **approximately 60 schools**.

Year 13 Continuity of learning programme

- **Over 80 live events** for year 11-13 pupils to participate in.
- A variety of **lectures, seminars, resources and language classes**.
- **Led by mentors** from across all partner universities and academics.
- **Over 350 pupils engaged to date**.

Partnership with First Campus

- Engagement with 5 CSC schools and 10 mentors will be funded by First Campus.
- These schools have particularly high levels of socio-economic deprivation.

Research

- Members of the team have **recently published in the British Educational Research Association** on the New Curriculum:
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/curj.11>

Languages Horizons

- Funding has been discontinued as a result of Covid-19.

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