



Rhifyn 36, Ebrill 2018
Cyhoeddir RhAGOLWG gan Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg,
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Y naw sir sy'n siomi

MAE cwmp wedi bod yng nghanran y plant sy'n derbyn addysg Gymraeg mewn naw sir yng Nghymru - dyna honiad yr ystadegydd Hywel Jones.

Mae gwefan Hywel Jones - Statiaith - yn nodi'r cwmp yng nghanrannau'r disgyblion 7 oed sy'n derbyn addysg Gymraeg, rhwng 2012 a 2017. Dros Gymru gyfan bu twf o 22% i 22.5%, ond methwyd â chyrhaedd targed y Llywodraeth o 25%.

Yr hyn sy'n bryderus yw bod gostyngiad wedi bod yn y ganran mewn naw sir yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw, sef: Ynys Môn, Conwy, Sir Ddinbych, Sir Fflint, Sir Gaerfyrddin, Castell-nedd Port Talbot, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, Rhondda Cynon Taf, a Blaenau Gwent.

Bu'r twf mwyaf cyson yn Abertawe a Chaerdydd, gyda thwf hefyd ym Mro Morgannwg, Wrecsam a Thorfaen.

Nid yw cwmp yn y ganran, fodd bynnag, bob amser yn golygu bod llai o ddisgyblion yn derbyn addysg Gymraeg ym mhob sir. Mae nifer y disgyblion 5 - 10 oed mewn ysgolion cynradd yng Nghymru wedi cynyddu'n gyson ers 2011, o ryw 195,00 i 210,437 yn Ionawr 2017 (Canlyniadau Cyfrifiad Ysgolion, 2017, Llywodraeth Cymru). Yn cydreded â hyn bu cynnydd yn nifer y disgyblion mewn ysgolion Cymraeg yn gyffredinol, gan gyrraedd 105,845 yn 2017 (104,959 yn 2016).

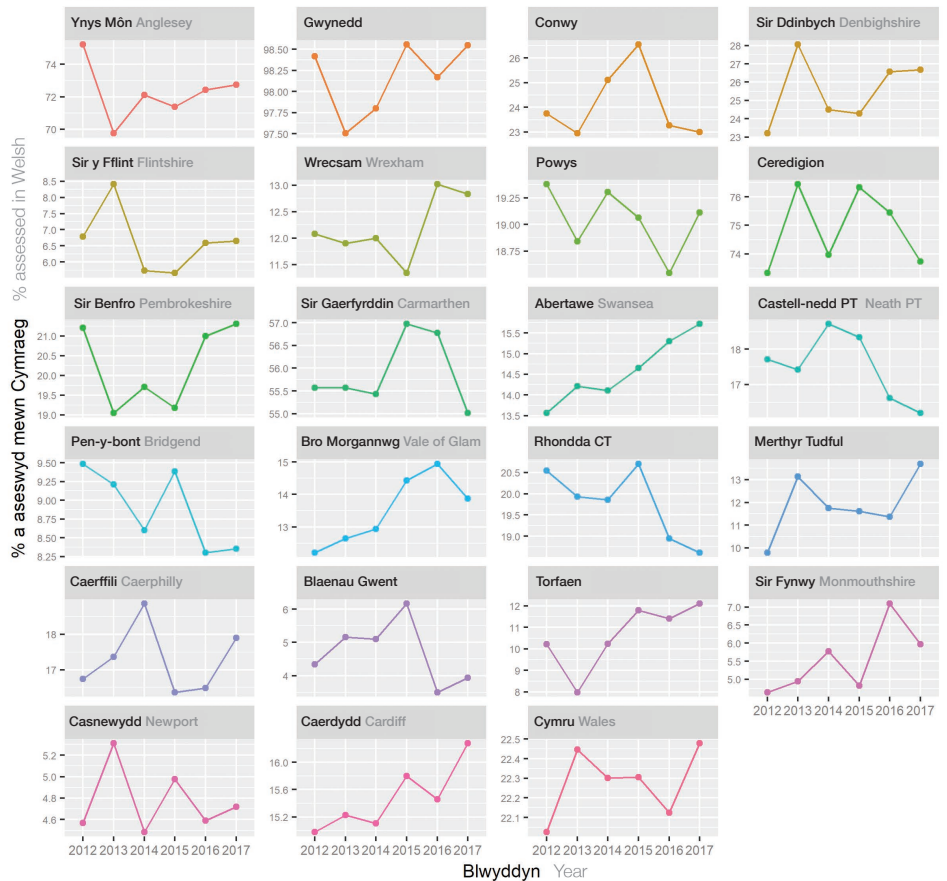
Mae'r twf mewn disgyblion i'w briodoli i gynydd yn y gyfradd genedigaethau yn bennaf, a hefyd peth mewnffido.

Yr hyn sy'n bryderus yw nad yw llawer o awdurdodau lleol wedi paratoi mewn da bryd ar gyfer y twf yn y boblogaeth. Mae ysgolion Saesneg, mewn sawl man, yn gorlenwi, fel y bu'n digwydd yn gyson gydag ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg. Canlyniad hyn yw nad oes cyflenwad o hen adeiladau ar gael ar gyfer eu trosi'n ysgolion Gymraeg.

Medd Wynn Williams, cadeirydd RhAG, "Mae'n glir bod angen cynllunio brys i gynyddu nifer yr ysgolion Cymraeg. Dim

Niferoedd mewn addysg Gymraeg (siartiau ac ystadegau: Hywel Jones/Statiaith)

Canran a aseswyd mewn Cymraeg Percentage assessed in Welsh
Cyfnod Sylfaen Foundation Phase



ond un ysgol Gymraeg sydd ym Mlaenau Gwent, er enghraifft. Os yw'r Llywodraeth o ddifrif am weld miliwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050, mae'n rhaid rhoi rhaglen o dwf cyflym ar waith, ond does dim arwydd ar hyn o bryd bod hyn i ddigwydd."

Ychwanegodd Wynn Williams, "Rydyn ni'n deall bod blaenoriaeth i ysgolion Cymraeg yn rownd nesaf cyllido ysgolion, ond fydd hyn ddim yn rhoi'r

twf cyflym angenrheidiol. Fydd dysgu'r Gymraeg mewn ysgolion Saesneg ddim yn llwyddiannus chwaith, heb fod y Llywodraeth yn fodlon buddsoddi'n helaeth mewn hyfforddiant."

"Mae angen i ni beidio â thwylo'n hunain y bydd geiriau teg y Llywodraeth am y Gymraeg - a dïolch amdanynt - yn dwyn ffrwyth heb fod gweithredu radical yn digwydd ar lawr gwlad."



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Dilynwch ni ar:



Cadeirydd newydd

Holi cadeirydd newydd RhAG

CAFODD Wyn Williams ei ethol yn Gadeirydd Cenedlaethol RhAG yn ein Cyfarfod Blynnyddol yn Llandrindod ar 13 Ionawr, 2018.

Felly, pwy yw Wyn Williams? Rho ychydig o dy gefndir os gweli di'n dda.

Hyfforddais fel cynhyrchydd radio yn Radio Ceredigion wedi imi adael coleg yn 1997, ble astudiais ieithyddeg ac Almaeneg ymysg pethau eraill. Penderfynais ymgychu am safonau iaith Gymraeg wedi imi gwyno am beiriant ateb Llywodraeth Cymru nad oedd yn ddwyieithog yn 2011, ac wedi cael yr ateb bod angen imi fod yn gwmni os am geisio i wella ar eu hymdrechion. Felly fe anwyd - Dai Lingual! Ar hyn o bryd dwi'n gweithio ar brosiectau cyffrous #MapioCymro ac ail-lansio papur newydd 'Y Cymro'.

Pam ymgychu dros addysg Gymraeg?

Symudais i Fro Morgannwg er mwyn i fy mhlant gael addysg cyfrwng Gymraeg fel finau, ac i raddau roeddwn i'n disgwyl bod yr agwedd at yr iaith ym Mhenarth a Chaerdydd yr un mor gadarnhaol â bro fy mhleintydod sef ardal Aberystwyth. Nid felly y bu bob tro... rhaid inni i gyd gymryd y cyfrifoldeb o wneud safiad dros ein credoau. Mae'r ymgych ddiweddar i sefydlu Ysgol Hamadrayad yn ardal Trebiwt, Caerdydd yn esiampl da.

Pa dri gair, yn dy farn di, sy'n disgrifio'r manteision o fod yn ddwyieithog orau?

Hyblyg, dysgedig, ymwybodol.

Beth yw'r prif heriau sy'n debygol o wynebu Addysg Gymraeg dros y blynnyddoedd nesaf?

Sut mae creu'r gwaith - a'r gweithle - er mwyn cyflogi'r siaradwyr Gymraeg y mae'r system addysg yn eu cynhyrchu.

Beth yw dy weledigaeth ar gyfer RhAG



dros y flwyddyn nesaf?

Rhannu ymarfer da #RhAGorol a hybu ein gwaith ni fel mudiad #RhAGweithiol (Ychwanegwch at y drafodaeth ar-lein os gwelwch yn ddal).

Oes gen ti unrhyw gyngor ar gyfer rhiant sy'n ystyried rhoi addysg Gymraeg i'w plentyn?

Erbyn hyn, diolch i'r drefn rydym yn gweld a chlywed fwyfwy am fanteision dwyieithrwydd: mae'n gwella'r cof, yn hwyluso canolbwyntio ac yn galluogi'r disgybl i weithio ar fwy nac un dasg. Hyn yn ogystal â'r manteision iechyd sydd yn ymwneud gyda chof a gweithgaredd ein hymennydd. Mae pobl ifanc yn mwynhau'r iaith, ac o ran y bwgan o waith cartref Cymraeg ar aelwyd ddi-Gymraeg, mae athrawon ac ysgolion wedi hen arfer cefnogi disgyblion o safbwynt hyn, felly does dim angen i rieni boeni am hynny o gwbl yn fy marn i. Mae'n haws hefyd dysgu ieithoedd eraill o fod yn ddwyieithog, felly pwy a wŷr ble bydd siaradwyr Cymraeg y genhedlaeth nesaf yn cyrraedd ar ben draw eu taith ieithyddol! Yn syml iawn, addysg Gymraeg yw'r cychwyn gorau i blant Cymru: amdani felly; dwi'n edrych ymlaen i glywed am waith rhagorol ysgolion cyfrwng Gymraeg ym mhob cwr o'r wlad.

Ymdrech i roi stop ar ysgol Gymraeg yn y Trallwng

RhAG yn galw ar gyngor Powys i ddiogelu addysg Gymraeg

MAE angen i Gyngor Powys ddiogelu eu cynlluniau i fuddsoddi yn y tymor hir mewn darpariaeth addysg gynradd cyfrwng Gymraeg yn Y Trallwng.

Dyma yw galwad RhAG mewn llythyr at y Cyngorydd Myfanwy Alexander, Aelod Portffolio Addysg y Sir.

Daw hyn wedi i'r mudiad gael ar ddeall bod bod cais dienw wedi ei gyflwyno i Cadw, yn gofyn iddynt roi statws adeilad rhestredig ar Ysgol Maesydre, Y Trallwng a bod gan Gyngor Sir Powys tan 2 Ionawr i ymateb. Cyflwynwyd y cais ar y sail mai dyma'r ysgol gyntaf a ddyluniwyd gan bensaer penodol ac oherwydd ei 'arddull pensaernïol'.

Meddai Ceri McEvoy, Cyfarwyddwr Datblygu RhAG:

"Rydym wedi ysgrifennu at yr Aelod Cabinet dros Addysg i fynegi pryder gwirioneddol am adroddiadau diweddar, sy'n awgrymu bod perygl i gynlluniau ar gyfer buddsoddiad tymor hir mewn darpariaeth addysg gynradd cyfrwng Gymraeg yn Y Trallwng.

"Fel un o'r safleoedd a glustnodwyd ar gyfer ailddatblygu darpariaeth ysgolion cynradd yn ardal Y Trallwng, mae'r safle o bwys sylweddol i wireddu'r cynllun ehangach hwnnw. Mae dymchwel hen Ysgol Maesydre yn elfen hanfodol o'r datblygiad ac yn golygu y caiff ysgol Gymraeg gyntaf y Trallwng gartref parhaol mewn adeilad addas gydag adnoddau o'r radd flaenaf.

"Ymddengys i ni bod hwn yn ymgais clir i danseilio ymdrechion y Cyngor i fuddsoddi'n helaeth mewn darpariaeth addysg yn y dref; cynigion sydd wedi derbyn cefnogaeth a chydysyniad rhieni, Cyngor Sir Powys a Llywodraeth Cymru.

"Roedd agor Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng ym mis Medi yn garreg filltir hanesyddol yn natblygiad addysg Gymraeg ym Mhowys. A hynny'n ymateb uniongyrchol i bolisi cenedlaethol Llywodraeth Cymru i ehangu darpariaeth Addysg Gymraeg ac yn gyfraniad pwysig at y nod o gynyddu nifer y siaradwyr i filiwn erbyn 2050.

"Gofynnwn i'r Cyngor roi sicrwydd y byddant yn cyflwyno dadl gref yn erbyn y cais hwn ac yn datgan bwriad clir i frwr ymlaen â'r cynlluniau arfaethedig yn eu ffurf bresennol.

"Mae hwn yn gyfle cyffrous i'r Trallwng, a mawr obeithiwn y bydd modd parhau a'r buddsoddiad hwn er budd pawb yn y dref."

Wreccsam am agor ysgol gynradd

MAE RhAG wedi croesawu'n frwd gynnig gan Gyngor Wreccsam i agor ysgol gynradd cyfrwng Gymraeg newydd yn ardal Borras.

Bwriad y Cyngor yw sefydlu ysgol 210 o leuoedd i agor ym Medi 2019 ar safle dros dro yn Ysgol Babanod Hafod Y Wern cyn adleoli i safle parhaol ym Mharc Borras.

Meddai Rhodri Davies, Cadeirydd RhAG Wreccsam, "Mae RhAG Wreccsam wedi bod yn pwyso ers cryn amser am gynyddu darpariaeth cynradd cyfrwng Gymraeg yn Wreccsam. Dros y blynnyddoedd diweddar, mae nifer o ysgolion cyfrwng Gymraeg y sir wedi bod dan bwysau mawr - roedd dosbarth derbyn pedair o'r chwech ysgol yn llawn ym Medi 2017. Mae hyn wedi golygu bod nifer o rieni wedi methu sicrhau lle yn yr ysgol agosaf i'r cartref a bod brodyr a chwiorydd wedi cael eu gwahanu.

"Rydym yn falch iawn bod yr Awdurdod

Lleol yn cydnabod yr angen i weithredu. Mae patrymau twf diweddar yn profi mai cynyddu bydd y galw am addysg cyfrwng Gymraeg yn Wreccsam yn y blynnyddoedd nesaf.

"Serch hynny, nid yw'r cynnig yn mynd i'r afael â'r heriau sydd yn bodoli ar hyn o bryd. Rydym yn erfyn ar yr awdurdod lleol, fel rhan o'r cynnig hwn, i roi mesurau dros dro mewn lle, gan gynnwys cynyddu niferoedd derbyn ysgolion a darparu adeiladau dros dro, ar gyfer Medi 2018.

"Ymhellach at hynny, mae'r twf yn y cynradd yn achosi pryderon o ran goblygiadau ar gyfer y ddarpariaeth uwchradd. Mae hi'n bryd ystyried sefydlu ail ddarpariaeth uwchradd yn Wreccsam er mwyn sicrhau dilyniant di-dor i'r niferoedd cynyddol sy'n dewis addysg Gymraeg yn yr ardal.

Iaith pob un ohonom



MAE'R iaith Gymraeg yn perthyn i ni gyd - dyna yw neges ffilm fer newydd sbon a gafodd ei lansio'n swyddogol ym mis Chwefror yn Nhŷ Hywel, Bae Caerdydd, wedi ei noddi gan Darren Millar AC a Llyr Huws Gruffydd AC.

Rhyddhawyd y ffilm, "Welsh Education - embrace it", cyn y Nadolig ac mae eisoes wedi creu cryn gynnwrf ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol.

Mae'r ffilm, sy'n brosiect ar y cyd rhwng RhAG, Ymgyrch TAG a chwmni Orchard ac wedi ei ariannu gan Lywodraeth Cymru, yn anelu i gyflwyno profiadau rhieni a disgyblion am addysg Gymraeg. Mae cyfranogwyr y ffilm yn cynnwys rhieni Cylch Meithrin Grangetown a'r Bae, disgyblion Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr a phennaeth Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Hamadryad.

Y prif ysgogiad ar gyfer cynhyrchu'r ffilm oedd agor Ysgol Hamadryad yn 2016, yr ysgol Gymraeg gyntaf i wasanaethu ardaloedd Grangetown a Thre-biwt - dwy o ardaloedd mwyaf aml-ethnig ac aml-ddiwyllynnol Cymru. Roedd sefydlu'r ysgol yn garreg filltir hanesyddol yn natblygiad addysg Gymraeg yng Nghaerdydd ac yn gam pwysig o ran sicrhau bod addysg Gymraeg ar gael yn hwylus i bob cymuned yn y ddinas.

Bydd y trefnwyr yn mynd ati i drefnu cyfres o weithdai a sesiynau gwybodaeth yn y gymuned er mwyn hyrwyddo'r ffilm a'i negeseuon craidd.

Meddai Huw Williams ar ran Ymgyrch TAG,

"Fel ymgyrchwyr iaith, rydym mor falch inni sicrhau ysgol i'r gymuned aml-ddiwyllynnol hon i adeiladu ar bresenoldeb y Cylch Meithrin. Yn ganolog i'r ymgyrch oedd ein dyhead i weld plant o bob cefndir yn derbyn addysg Gymraeg, ac er bod gwaith eto i'w wneud er mwyn lledaenu'r neges, mae'r ffilm yn dangos unwaith i'r gwaith hwnnw gael ei gyflawni, bod y Gymraeg yn agor cyfleoedd, cysylltu diwyllianau ac yn hyrwyddo goddefgarwch."

Yn ôl Ceri McEvoy, Cyfarwyddwr Datblygu RhAG, "Mae'r iaith Gymraeg yn dreftadaeth ddiwyllianol gyffredin i bawb sy'n dewis byw yng Nghymru. Hyderwn y bydd y ffilm hon yn fodd o ddathlu hynny ac yn ein galluogi i rannu neges gadarnhaol am yr iaith fel erfyn all greu undod a theimlad o berthyn. Mae siwrnai gyffrous o'n blaenau wrth i unigolion a chymunedau newydd

gofleidio'r Gymraeg am y tro cyntaf ac mae gwneud addysg Gymraeg yn hygyrch i bob cymuned yn rhan annatod o'r daith honno."

Dywedodd Llyr Gruffydd, AC Plaid Cymru yn y Gogledd a'r ysgrifennydd cysgodol addysg: "Dwi'n falch iawn o fedru cefnogi a chyd-noddi lansiad y ffilm yma. Mae'r Gymraeg yn iaith i bawb yng Nghymru - o'r brynau gwledig i ganol dinas oedd aml-ethnig. Mae 'na waith ysbrydoledig yn cael ei wneud i sicrhau fod yr iaith yn rhan naturiol o nifer fawr o gymunedau ac fel rhywun sy'n treulio'i wythnos waith gan amlaf yn Nhre-biwt dwi'n hapus iawn i weld yr iaith yn ffynnu yma cymaint ag y mae hi adre yn Nyffryn Clwyd. Gobeithiaf y bydd y ffilm yn helpu pobl i ddeall fod yr iaith Gymraeg yn perthyn i bawb."

Ychwanegodd Darren Millar AC Ceidwadwyr Cymreig,

"Rwy'n hynod falch o fod yn noddi lansiad y ffilm Addysg Gymraeg: Ewch Amdani. Hoffwn ddioch i RhAG am hwyluso'r digwyddiad hwn, sy'n gam pwysig wrth ymestyn allan a hyrwyddo ein hiaith a'n treftadaeth diwylliannol. Dylid canmol RhAG am eu gwaith wrth helpu i alluogi amcanion 2050 a chyrraedd miliwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg."



Sayra
Parent
Cylch Meithrin Grangetown a'r Bae



Primary School
Ysgol Hamadryad



Dominic
Teaching Assistant & Former Pupil
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr

Y Gymraeg yn mynd yn angof

MAE RhAG wedi galw ar gabinet Cyngor Caerdydd i wrthod argymhellion all fod yn andwyol i dwf addysg Gymraeg yn y ddinas.

Mewn llythyr at y Cynghorydd Huw Thomas, Arweinydd y Cyngor, y Cynghorydd Sarah Merry, Dirprwy Arweinydd ac Aelod dros Addysg a holl aelodau'r Cabinet, mae Nona Gruffudd-Evans ar ran Pwyllgor RhAG Caerdydd yn beirniadu'r adroddiad am "ddiffyg ystyriaeth i'r Gymraeg" ac am "fethiant llwyr i amgyffred anghenion penodol addysg Gymraeg."

Meddai'r llythyr, "Yn dilyn cyfarfod a gawsom gydag Arweinydd y Cyngor a'r Dirprwy Arweinydd nôl ym mis Gorffennaf, roedd RhAG yn obeithiol bod Cyngor Caerdydd yn bwriadu gweithredu'n rhagweithiol dros Addysg Gymraeg yn y ddinas. Ymysg y pwyntiau a drafodwyd, yn adeiladol iawn, oedd yr angen am dwf sylweddol mewn llefydd, a'r angen dybryd am aildrefnu'r dalgylchoedd yn Ne'r Ddinas."

"Roedd yn gryn dipyn o siom felly i ddarllen yr adroddiad dan sylw, sy'n trafod dalgylchoedd a mynediad i ysgolion, a hynny am fwy nag un rheswm. Yn ei gyfarwydd, mae'r diffyg ystyriaeth i'r Gymraeg yn yr adroddiad a'r argymhellion yn dormalon, yn wir, prin yw'r gyfeiriadaeth at Gynllun Strategol y Gymraeg mewn Addysg 2017-20 Cyngor Caerdydd, sy'n ddogfen statudol o ran cynllunio darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y ddinas."

"Ar sail hyn, teimlwn nad yw'r Gymraeg yn cael chwarae teg, yn wir mae'r driniaeth yn ymddangos yn gyfangwbl ddilornus."

"Rhaid inni dynnu sylw yn arbennig at y goblygiadau, o ran newid rheolau, i deuluoedd mewn dalgylchoedd Cymraeg mawr, fel Grangetown. Mae'r argymhelliad i hepgor y maen prawf sy'n blaenoriaethu brodyr a chwiorydd yn rhwym o greu problemau enbyd i rai teuluoedd, lle bydd gofyn mynd a phlant i wahanol ysgolion Cymraeg."

"Honnir bod y ffocws ar addysg uwchradd, ond byddai gweithredu'r argymhellion yn effeithio ar addysg trwyddi draw. Mae llunio adroddiad sydd i bob pwrpas yn rhoi blaenoriaeth amlwg i ysgolion uwchradd Saesneg, yn gogwyddo'r holl adroddiad mewn ffordd sy'n diystyru'r anghenion gwahanol sydd gan addysg gynradd Gymraeg yn arbennig."

DIWEDDARIAD

Mae Cyngor Caerdydd wedi penderfynu peidio â bwrw ymlaen gyda'r newid i'r maen prawf brodyr a chwiorydd.

Rhaid wrth ddeddf â danedd

MAE angen i unrhyw Ddeddf iaith newydd gynnwys mesurau statudol i gryfhau achos addysg Gymraeg.

Dyma yw galwad RhAG mewn ymateb i bapur gwyn y Llywodraeth sy'n cynnig diwygio deddfwriaeth mewn perthynas â'r Gymraeg.

Meddai Wynn Williams, Cadeirydd RhAG, "Mae RhAG yn cefnogi'n llwyr uchelgais y Llywodraeth i gael miliwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050. Mae'r amcanion yn gloddiw, ond nid yw'r papur dwyn dan sylw yn llwyddo i ddatrys y bylchau yn y seilwaith deddfwriaethol presennol. Mae dyfodiad deddf iaith newydd yn gyfle i drafod sut y gall unrhyw fframwaith cyfreithiol newydd fod yn gerbyd i ganiatáu i addysg Gymraeg ddatblygu.

"Mae'n gydnabyddedig bod dyfodol yr iaith Gymraeg yn ddibynnol ar sicrhau'r

amodau gorau i addysg Gymraeg ffynnu. Felly credwn fod angen llunio dyletswyddau penodol er mwyn sicrhau bo'r awdurdodau lleol yn ymateb yn briodol i'r galw am Addysg Gymraeg ac yn cynyddu'r ddarpariaeth.

"Rhaid osgoi sefyllfa lle mae deddfu ym maes yr iaith yn gorwedd ar wahân i addysg."

"Cyfrifoldeb Llywodraeth Cymru yw arwain ar bolisi addysg cenedlaethol. Ond yn nwylo'r awdurdodau lleol y mae'r cyfrifoldeb o weithredu, a dyma'r gwendid ar hyn o bryd. Hyd yn hyn, rydym wedi cael 6 mlynedd o Strategaeth Addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg heb unrhyw ddannedd, a'r cynnydd a gafwyd o ganlyniad i hynny

yn fach, os o gwbl. Ni allwn barhau i wneud cyn lleied o gynnydd os yw'r Llywodraeth o ddifrif am gyrraedd targed Cymraeg 2050.

"Mae'r deddfwriaeth bresennol mewn perthynas ag addysg Gymraeg yn ddiffygiol iawn, nid oes unrhyw beth ar hyn o bryd sy'n sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn gweithredu, yn eu dwyn i gyfrif os nad ydynt yn gweithredu nac ychwaith yn rhoi hawliau penodol i rieni i herio'r drefn. Nid yw cyfundrefn y safonau, hyd yn hyn, wedi cyfrannu mewn modd ystyrlon at unioni'r sefyllfa honno. O ganlyniad, mae hawliau cyfredol rhieni o safbwynt addysg Gymraeg yn parhau'n amwys ac aneglur.

"Mae RhAG eisoes wedi galw am lunio Bil Addysg Gymraeg (Maniffesto Etholiadau'r Cynulliad 2016). Rhaid osgoi sefyllfa lle mae deddfu ym maes yr iaith yn gorwedd ar wahân i addysg."

y Gymraeg yn cipio'r aur

Gan Dr Dafydd Trystan, Cofrestrydd, Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol

YMYSG un o'r newidiadau mwyaf ym mhrifysgolion Prydain dros y ddegawd diwethaf oedd cyflwyno'r Fframwaith Rhagoriaeth Addysgu (y FfRHA). Pwrpas y fframwaith oedd cynnig gwybodaeth i fyfyrwyr am safon yr addysgu mewn prifysgolion a dyfarnwyd 'Aur, Arian neu Efydd' i bob Prifysgol a fu'n rhan o'r ymarferiad. Yn dilyn gwaith manwl gan y Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol penderfynodd Llywodraeth Prydain gynnwys elfen sylweddol am ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg yn yr asesiad ar gyfer Prifysgolion yng Nghymru.

Bu disgwyl eiddgar am y canlyniadau - ac wrth ddadansoddi'r canlyniadau daeth i'r amlwg bod astudio yn y Gymraeg yn y Brifysgol yn cyrraedd y safon uchaf. Roedd cyfres o fesuriadau yn ymwneud ag addysgu - ac ar bob un ohonynt roedd y ffigyrau cyfrwng Cymraeg yn well na'r rhai oedd yn astudio yn Saesneg. Am addysgu ar y cwrs roedd y myfyrwyr Cymraeg yn fwy bodlon (89-86) na'r myfyrwyr Saesneg; felly hefyd o ran cefnogaeth academiaidd (85-82) ac roedd myfyrwyr Cymraeg bron i 50% yn llai tebygol o adael eu cwrs ar ei ganol.

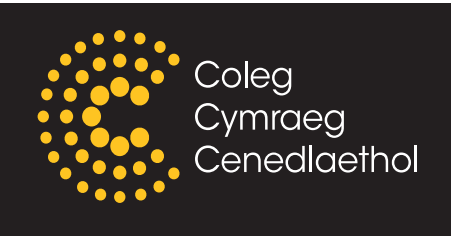
Tra bod y newyddion yma yn galonogol i'r sawl sy'n hybu addysg Gymraeg, roedd y ffigyrau cyflogaeth hyd yn oed yn well. Roedd mantais clir i'r sawl a fu'n astudio yn y Gymraeg o ran sicrhau cyflogaeth (96-93) ond roedd y fantais honno yn uwch wrth ystyried cyflogaeth sy'n gofyn am sgiliau lefel uwch - yno roedd bron i dri chwarter y myfyrwyr Cymraeg mewn swydd uwch neu astudio'n bellach, tra mai ond deuparth y myfyrwyr cyfrwng Saesneg oedd yn

mwynhau'r un llwyddiant. Cafwyd sawl sylw am y Gymraeg yn y dyfarniadau am brifysgolion Cymru ond fe nodwyd yn benodol llwyddiant Prifysgol Bangor gan gynnwys yn ngeiriau'r Panel: "Optimum levels of student engagement and commitment to learning secured through excellent teaching and assessment practices; and an approach to bilingual learning that enhances educational outcomes."

Roedd cyfres o fesuriadau yn ymwneud ac addysgu - ac ar bob un ohonynt roedd y ffigyrau cyfrwng Cymraeg yn well na'r rhai oedd yn astudio yn Saesneg.

Dyfarnwyd 'Aur' i Fangor, ac mae eu data nhw yn dangos fod myfyrwyr sy'n astudio yn y Gymraeg 12% yn fwy tebygol o gael swyddi uwch wrth raddio!

Anaml daw cyfle i fesur yn eglur mantais addysg Gymraeg ar hyd y wlad - a bod y gwaith hynny yn cael ei gyflawni gan lywodraeth Prydain. Mae'r neges a ddata o'r Fframwaith Rhagoriaeth Addysgu yn eglur - taw astudio'n Gymraeg sy'n ennill yr aur i'r myfyrwyr o ran safon yr addysgu a chyflogaeth wedi astudio.



Cofio Jim Criddle

YCHYDIG wythnosau cyn ei ben-blwydd yn 70 oed, bu farw Jim Criddle.

Roedd yn un o bedwar o blant ac yn bolymath o berson ag ymroddiad llwyr i addysg gydol oes. Yn ei awydd i ddysgu Cymraeg aeth i Nantgwrtheyrn ac yna i Oxford House a chyfarfod â Rhian Heulyn o Synod Inn, Ceredigion. Ymhen y rhawg priododd y ddau a ganwyd iddynt dri phlentyn, sef Betsan, Geraint a Branwen.

Roedd yn un a frwydrodd dros addysg Gymraeg a priodol fod y teulu wedi rhoi rhodd o £1000 i RhAG er cof amdano.

Mae'r Parchedig Denzil John yn talu'r deyrnged ddilynol i Jim:

Gorffennodd dair gradd, a'r rheiny mewn Cemeg, Mathemateg a Ffrangeg. Roedd yn gweithio ar ei ddoethuriaeth ar hanes dinas Casnewydd pan oddiwyddwyd ef gan gancr a hawliodd ei fywyd.

Bu'n addysgu mewn tair ysgol, sef Sant Teilo a Fitzalan yng Nghaerdydd ac Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn agosach i'w hoff Drecelyn a'r Coed-duon.

Yn ystod ei oes bu'n chwarae rygbi i sawl tîm yng Ngorllewin Gwent, ac hefyd i Brifysgolion Prydain.

Roedd yn angerddol o blaid trenau stêm ac heb fawr o amynedd gyda threnau diesel. Byddai'n cerdded cymaint ac y gallai ac wrth ei fodd yn canfasio. Bu'n gynghorydd ar gyngor Y Coed-duon am flynyddoedd ac ymgeisiodd dros Blaid Cymru mewn etholiadau cyffredinol.

Roedd yn gawr tyner ei wedd ond yn awyddus i osgoi unrhyw amharch at ei wrthwynebwyr gwleidyddol.

Cefnogodd yr achos Cristnogol ac Ysgol Sul Gymraeg yn Sant Luc yn Abercarn gyda Rhian, ac roedd yn falch o arddel y ffydd. Cynhaliwyd ei angladd yn y capel hwnnw, chwarter canrif ar ôl angladd ei briod, a man priodas ei ferch. Cof da ohono.



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Counting the counties

THE PERCENTAGE of children receiving Welsh-medium education has fallen in nine counties in Wales - that is the claim made by statistician Hywel Jones.

Hywel Jones' website - Statiaith - notes the fall in the percentages of 7-year-old pupils receiving WM education, between 2012 and 2017. Across Wales as a whole, growth rose from 22% to 22.5%, but failed to reach the Government's target of 25%.

What poses the greatest concern is that there has been a reduction in the percentage in nine counties during that period, namely: Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taf, and Blaenau Gwent. The most consistent growth has been in Swansea and Cardiff, with growth also in the Vale of Glamorgan, Wrexham and Torfaen.

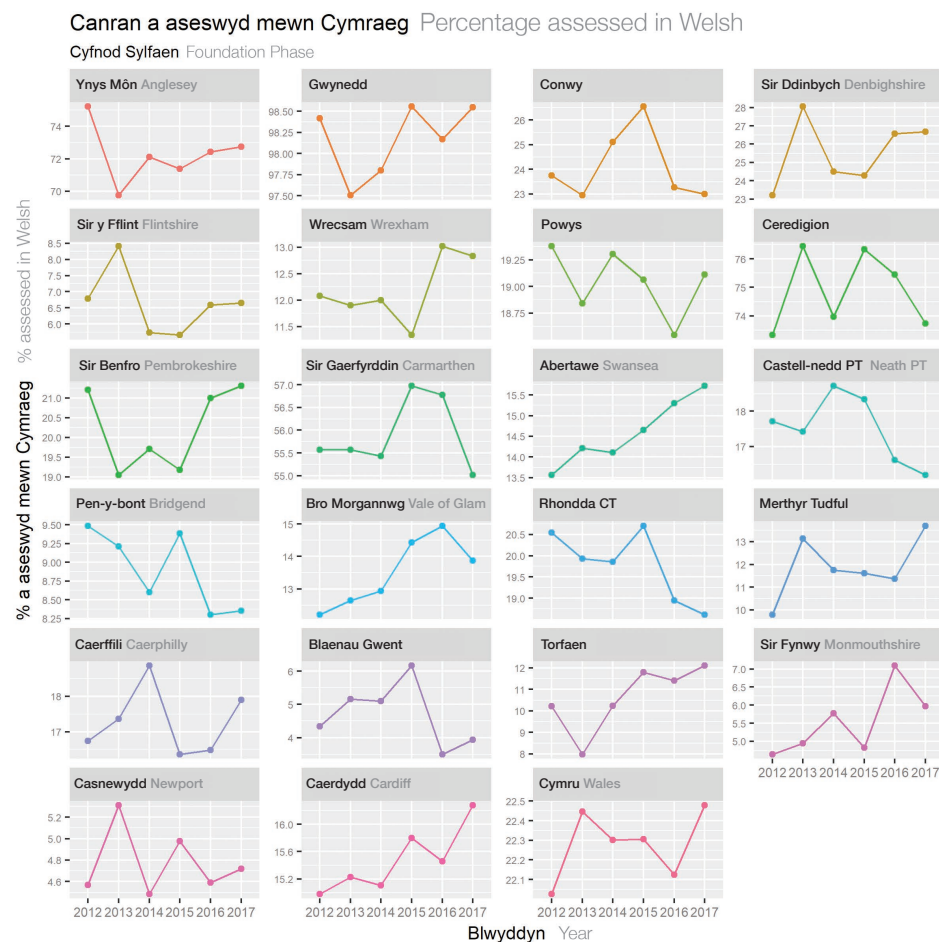
The fall in the percentage, however, does not always mean that fewer pupils receive WM education in each county. The number of 5-10 year olds in primary schools in Wales has steadily increased since 2011, from around 195,000 to 210,437 in January 2017 (School Census Results, 2017, Welsh Government). In line with this, there has been an increase in the number of pupils in WM schools in general, reaching 105,845 in 2017 (104,959 in 2016).

Pupil growth is attributable to an increase in the birth rate mainly, and also some immigration.

What is worrying is that many local authorities have not prepared in good time for the growth in the population. English medium schools, in many places, are overcrowded, as has happened consistently with WM schools. The result is that there is no supply of old buildings available for conversion into WM schools.

RhAG chair Wyn Williams said, "It is clear that urgent planning is needed to increase the number of WM schools. For example, currently there is only one WM school in Blaenau Gwent. If the Government

Numbers in Welsh medium education (charts and statistics: Hywel Jones/Statiaith)



is serious about having a million Welsh speakers by 2050, a rapid growth program must be put in place, but there is no indication that this is going to happen. "

Wyn Williams added, "We understand that there is a priority for WM schools in the next round of school funding, but this will not ensure the rapid growth that is necessary. Learning in Welsh in English

medium schools will not be successful either, without the Government willing to invest extensively in training. "

"We should not deceive ourselves into thinking that the Government's warm words about the Welsh language - nice as they are - will yield results without radical action taking place on the ground."



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New chair for RhAG

We put him through his paces...

WYN WILLIAMS was elected as National Chair of RhAG at our AGM held in Llandrindod on January 13, 2018.

So who is Wyn Williams? We asked him to give us a little bit of his background...

I trained as a radio producer at Radio Ceredigion after leaving college in 1997, where I studied linguistics and German among other things. I decided to campaign for Welsh language standards after I complained in 2011 that the Welsh Government's answering machine was not bilingual, and received the response that I needed to be a company if I wanted them to improve their efforts. So my new alias was born - Dai Lingual! I'm currently working on a number of exciting projects, which include #MapioCymro and re-launching 'Y Cymro' newspaper.

Why campaign for Welsh medium education?

I moved to the Vale of Glamorgan so that my children could have a Welsh-medium education like myself, and to a certain extent I expected that the attitude towards the language in Penarth and Cardiff was equally as positive as that of my childhood home, namely the Aberystwyth area. However, this has not always been the case... We must all take responsibility for making a stance for our beliefs. The recent campaign to establish Ysgol Hamadrayad in the Butetown area of Cardiff is a good example of this.

Which three words, in your opinion, best describes the benefits of being bilingual?

Flexible, educated, aware.

What do you think are the main challenges likely to face Welsh medium education over the next few years?

How to create the work - and the



workplace - to employ the Welsh speakers the education system produces.

What is your vision for RhAG over the next year?

Share good practice #RhAGorol and promote our work as an organisation #RHAGweithiol (please join the online discussion!).

Do you have any advice for parents currently considering Welsh medium education for their child?

By now, thankfully, we increasingly see and hear about the benefits of bilingualism: it improves memory, facilitates concentration and enables pupils to work on more than one task. This as well as the health benefits that are related to the memory and activity of our brains. Young people enjoy the language, and in terms of the concerns often held about Welsh language homework in a non-Welsh speaking home, teachers and schools are well equipped and used to supporting pupils in this respect, so parents do not need to worry about that at all in my opinion. Being bilingual makes it also easier to learn other languages. Put very simply, Welsh-medium education offers the best start for the children of Wales; and I look forward to learning more about the excellent work of Welsh medium schools throughout the country.

Efforts to hold back Welshpool development

RhAG calls on Powys Council to protect WM education

POWYS should safeguard its long term investment plans in Welsh medium primary education provision in Welshpool.

RhAG has written to Cllr Myfanwy Alexander, cabinet Member for Education, expressing this view which comes after we were made aware that an anonymous application has been submitted to Cadw asking them to place a listed building status on Ysgol Maesydre, Welshpool, and that Powys County Council had until January 2 to respond. The application to list the site was submitted on the basis of the school being the first designed by a specific architect and due to its 'architectural style'.

Ceri McEvoy, Director of Development of RhAG, said: "We have written to the Cabinet Member for Education to express our genuine concern about these recent reports, which suggests that there are serious risks to the plans for long-term investment in Welsh medium primary education provision in Welshpool.

"As one of the sites earmarked for the redevelopment of primary school provision in the Welshpool area, the site is of great significance in terms of delivering the wider plan. The demolition of the old Maesydre School is an essential part of the development and means that Welshpool's first Welsh-medium school will be permanently housed in a purpose-built building with first-class resources.

"It seems to us that this is a clear attempt to undermine the Council's efforts to deliver major investment in education provision in the town; proposals that have received the consent and support of parents, Powys County Council and the Welsh Government.

"The opening of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng in September was a historic milestone in the development of Welsh-medium education in Powys. This was a direct response to the Welsh Government's national policy to expand the provision of Welsh medium education and an important contribution to increasing the number of speakers to a million by 2050.

"We ask the council to give assurances that they will present a strong case against this application and declare a clear intention to proceed with the proposed plans as they stand.

"This is an exciting opportunity for Welshpool, and we hope that this investment can continue for the benefit of everyone in the town."

Wrexham in favour of new school

RhAG HAS enthusiastically welcomed proposals by Wrexham Council to open a new Welsh-medium primary school in the Borras area.

The council intends to establish a 210 place school to open in September 2019 on a temporary site at Hafod Y Wern Infant School before relocating to a permanent site at Borras Park.

Rhodri Davies, Chairman of Wrexham RhAG said, "We have been calling for some time to increase Welsh medium primary provision in Wrexham. Many parents have failed to secure a place at the nearest school to their home and that siblings have been separated. We are very pleased that the local authority recognizes the need to act in order to alleviate the increasing pressure in the north of the County and respond to the tremendous

growth in the general demand for Welsh-medium education in the area. Recent growth patterns prove that the demand for Welsh-medium education in Wrexham will increase in the next few years; developing this new provision will be an important step in ensuring that more parents are able to choose WM education and that provision is more locally available.

"However, the proposal does not address the immediate challenges. We urge the local authority, as part of this proposal to put in place temporary measures, including increasing admission numbers and temporary building provision, for Sept 2018.

"Further to that, the growth in the primary sector has implications for secondary provision. It is time to consider establishing a second WM secondary provision in Wrexham."

Welsh belongs to all



THE WELSH language belongs to us all! This is the message of a brand new film launched in February at Tŷ Hywel, Cardiff Bay, sponsored by Darren Millar AM and Llyr Huws Gruffydd AM.

The film was released before Christmas and has already attracted a great deal of interest on social media.

This project, a joint venture between RhAG, the TAG Campaign and Orchard and funded by the Welsh Government, aims to present parents' and pupils' experiences of Welsh medium education.

Participants in the film include parents from the Grangetown and Cardiff Bay Cylch Meithrin, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr pupils and the Headteacher of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Hamadryad. The main motivation for the production of the film was the opening of Ysgol Hamadryad in 2016, the first WM school to serve the Grangetown and Butetown - two of the most multi-ethnic and multi-cultural areas of Wales.

Establishing the school was a historic milestone in the development of WM education in Cardiff and an important step in ensuring that WM education is properly accessible to every community in the city.

Following the launch, organisers have arranged a series of workshops and information sessions to promote the film and its core message in the community.

Huw Williams, on behalf of the TAG Campaign said, "As language campaigners, we are very glad that we have secured a school for this multi-cultural community, building on the establishment of a Cylch Meithrin in the area. At the heart of our campaign was a desire to see children from all backgrounds receiving Welsh medium education, and while there is still work to be done to spread the message, the film shows once this is achieved, the Welsh language opens up opportunities, links cultures and promotes tolerance."

Ceri McEvoy, Director of Development of RhAG, added, "The Welsh language is a common cultural heritage for everyone who chooses to live in Wales. We hope that this film will be a means of celebrating that and enable us to share a positive message about the language as a tool that can create unity and feelings of belonging. We have an exciting journey ahead of us as new individuals and communities embrace Welsh for the first time and making Welsh medium education accessible to all

communities is integral to this."

Llyr Gruffydd, Plaid Cymru AM for North Wales and shadow secretary for education, said, "I'm very pleased to be able to support and sponsor the launch of this film. Welsh is a language for everyone in Wales - from the rural hills to the centre of our multi-ethnic cities. Inspirational work is being done to ensure that the language is a natural part of a large number of communities and as someone who spends his working week in Butetown, I'm very happy to see the language thrive here as much as it is in my home area in the Vale of Clwyd. I hope the film will help people to understand that the Welsh language belongs to everyone."

Darren Millar Welsh Conservative AM for Clwyd West and Education spokesperson added, "I'm delighted to be sponsoring the launch of the film: Welsh Medium Education: Embrace It. I'd like to thank RhAG for facilitating this event, which is an important step in reaching out and showcasing our Welsh language and cultural heritage. RhAG should be praised for their work in helping enable the objectives of Cymraeg 2050 to reach a million Welsh speakers."



Cardiff forgets its Welsh

RhAG HAS called on Cardiff Council to oppose plans that could endanger WM education in the city.

In a letter to Councillor Huw Thomas, Leader of the Council, Councillor Sarah Merry, Deputy Leader & Member for Education and all Cabinet members, Nona Gruffudd-Evans of Cardiff RhAG criticises the report for a "lack of consideration for the Welsh language" and for "a fundamental failure to fully grasp the specific needs of Welsh medium education."

The letter states, "Following our meeting earlier this year with the leader and deputy leader, it was our hope that the council intended to adopt a proactive approach towards WM education. Among the many points constructively discussed was the need for significant growth in places, and the urgent need for reorganisation of catchment areas in the South of the City - especially given the limited awareness about WM education in Butetown, due to a historical lack of provision in the area.

"So it was with real disappointment that we read the report discussing catchment areas and access to schools - for more than one reason: the overall lack of consideration for Welsh in the report and its recommendations is shameful, indeed, there is little reference to the council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020, a statutory document for planning WM provision. Indeed, we are not aware that these documents have gone before the Welsh Education Forum, which is responsible for monitoring progress.

"On this basis, we feel that the Welsh language is not treated fairly. There is a fundamental failure here to fully grasp the specific needs of Welsh medium education.

"We draw particular attention to changes in admission criteria for families in large catchment areas, such as Grangetown. The recommendation to omit the criterion that prioritises siblings is bound to cause significant problems for some families, where children will be required to go to different WM schools.

"It is alleged that the focus is on secondary education, but the implementation of the recommendations would have an effect on all education sectors. Producing a report which effectively gives priority to English-medium secondary schools, places a bias on the report in a way that disregards the differing needs of the WM sector in particular."

UPDATE

Cardiff Council has decided not to go ahead with the proposed changes to sibling criteria.

Make Act more than just an act

ANY NEW Welsh Language Act should include statutory measures to strengthen the case of Welsh medium education.

This is RhAG's call in response to the Welsh Government White Paper that proposes to amend Welsh legislation.

RhAG Chairperson, Wyn Williams, said, "RhAG fully supports the Government's ambition for a million Welsh speakers by 2050. The objectives are commendable, but the White Paper does not resolve the gaps in existing legislation. A new Language Act is an opportunity to discuss how a new legal framework can allow Welsh medium education to develop.

"It is recognized that the future of the Welsh language is dependent on achieving the best conditions for Welsh medium education to flourish. We therefore believe that specific duties are required to ensure

that local authorities respond appropriately to the demand for Welsh medium education and increase the provision.

"It is the responsibility of the Welsh Government to lead on national education policy. But responsibility for action is in the

"A situation in which Welsh language law sits apart from education law must be avoided."

hands of local authorities, and this is the main weakness at the moment. So far, we have had six years of a Welsh Medium Education Strategy which has had no real teeth, and progress has been slow. We cannot continue to progress at such a slow pace if the Government is serious about

reaching its 2050 target.

"Current legislation in relation to Welsh medium education is very flawed, there is nothing at the moment that ensures that local authorities act, holds them to account if they do not act or that empowers parents to challenge inaction. The Standards system, to date, has not contributed in any meaningful way to rectify that situation. As a result, current parental rights in terms of Welsh medium education remain vague and unclear.

"RhAG has previously called for a Welsh medium Education Bill (Assembly Election Manifesto 2016). We urge in the strongest terms that Welsh-medium education is included within the compass of any new legislation. A situation in which Welsh language law sits apart from education law must be avoided."

Welsh takes first place

**By Dr Dafydd Trystan,
Registrar, Coleg Cymraeg
Cenedlaethol**

ONE OF the biggest changes in British universities over the last decade has been the introduction of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). The purpose of the framework was to provide feedback to students about the standard of teaching in those universities that took part in the exercise on a scale of "gold, silver or bronze". Following detailed input by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (the body which works through universities in Wales to provide Welsh language courses), the British government agreed to include a significant element in the assessments on Welsh medium provision.

The results were keenly awaited - and in analysing them, it became clear that by studying through Welsh in the university students could expect the highest standards. In each of the measurements of teaching excellence, Welsh medium figures were consistently better than those for English. With regard to course teaching, WM students were more satisfied (89%-86%) than English medium students. That was also the case in academic support (85%-82%) and WM students were nearly 50% less likely to abandon their course part-way through.

Whilst this news is heartening for Welsh medium education generally, there was also a clear advantage to studying through Welsh from the point of view of gaining employment (96%-93%). That advantage was even higher when considering employment requiring higher level skills - in this case, nearly three quarters of WM

students were in a higher level job or further study, compared to only two thirds of EM students.

Among the universities, particularly successful was Bangor which included, in the words of the panel: "Optimum levels of student engagement and commitment to learning secured through excellent teaching and assessment practices; and an approach to bilingual learning that enhances educational outcomes."

"In each of the measurements of teaching excellence, Welsh medium figures were consistently better than those for English."

Bangor was awarded 'gold', and their data shows that students who study through Welsh are 12% more likely to gain high level jobs on graduation.

It's rare that there is such an opportunity to measure objectively the advantages of WM education across the country, especially when the British government is doing the measuring. The message and from the Teaching Excellence Framework is clear: that studying through the medium of Welsh is a gold medal winner for students from the point of view of teaching and employment after study.



Coleg
Cymraeg
Cenedlaethol

Remembering Jim

A FEW weeks before his 70th birthday, the death was announced of Jim Criddle.

Jim was one of four children and a polymath with a life-long commitment to education. In his eagerness to learn Welsh he went to Nant Gwrtheyrn and then Oxford House where he met Rhian Heulyn of Synod Inn, Ceredigion. Eventually the two got married and had three children, Betsan, Geraint and Branwen. He was always a fighter for Welsh medium education, so it was fitting that the family gave a gift to RhAG of £1,000 in his memory.

The Rev'd Denzil John paid the following tribute to Jim:

He completed three degrees in Chemistry, Mathematics and French. He was working on his doctorate on the history of the city of Newport when he was overtaken by the cancer that claimed his life. He taught in three schools, St Teilo's and Fitzalan in Cardiff and then Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni nearer to his beloved Fleur-de-lis and Blackwood. In his time, he played rugby for a number of teams in Western Gwent, and also for British Universities. He was passionately interested in steam engines and had little patience for diesel trains. He walked as much as he could and loved canvassing. He was a councillor on Blackwood council for years and a candidate for Plaid Cymru in general elections.

He was a gentle giant in appearance but anxious to avoid any disrespect towards his political opponents.

He supported the Welsh Sunday School at St Luke's in Abercarn with Rhian, and was faithful to the Christian cause. His funeral was held in the same chapel, a quarter of a century after his wife's funeral, and where his daughter had been married. He is fondly remembered.