UCML Executive

Friday, 12th Jan, 2024

Report from the WALES Representative

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda o Gymru! Happy New Year from Wales

1. **MFL Mentoring**

Year 8/9 Mentoring

Following two very successful mentor training events in September 2023, across which 130 university students were trained to become Languages and Cultures mentors, the project has successfully delivered 3 modes of mentoring - face-to-face, blended and online - across 108 secondary schools in Wales. 113 placements have been delivered. The majority of schools have engaged via face-to-face mentoring or workshops, with only a small number engaging via blended or online mentoring. Schools have chosen whether they would like to participate for both or one semester, and have been offered one of three different streams to engage with, which are:

1. **Year 8/9 Mentoring:** The mentor will work with a small group(s) of learners over a series of up to six mentoring sessions. These learners will be unsure about taking language for GCSE and sessions will be centred around the learners' interests.

2. **Linking Language Workshops:** The mentor will deliver up to five workshops each semester with different classes each time. Whole classes can engage with this stream.

3. **Both Year 8/9 Mentoring and Linking Language Workshops:** Each semester the mentor will deliver x2 workshops with whole classes, as well as work with a small group of learners over a series of up to six mentoring sessions.

An additional mentor training event is taking place in January 2024 at Cardiff University to train circa 40 additional mentors to ensure adequate coverage for all schools requesting sessions.
Teaching and Learning Resources

The project continues to create resources in support of the Curriculum for Wales. The project team continues to finalise an expansive suite of modules that comprise of hundreds of hours of potential teaching materials for Welsh and English medium teachers in both the primary and secondary sector. The modules will provide practical support for implementing the Curriculum for Wales, offering inspiration for how to develop multilingual resources and mindsets and will encourage exploration and curiosity driven learning. A Welsh translator began working with the project in August 2023 and is supporting the translation of this suite of resources. These will be made available on the MFL Mentoring website in due course.

A Christmas resource was released to schools in December 2023. This can be accessed here for primary schools and here for secondary schools, both in English and Welsh.

Social Media Campaign

The campaign aims to raise the visibility of International Languages across Wales. Find out more by following us on our social media channels or by signing up to our newsletter which will keep you up to date with all things happening at the MFL Mentoring HQ: https://linktr.ee/mfl_mentoring

Other Updates

- The Love Reading Mentoring project commissioned by the Welsh Government has delivered mentoring sessions in 12 primary schools across Wales in the autumn term. Considerations are now being made about the continuation of the project and the delivery of a project to inspire a love of reading in Welsh as well as English.
- The project has won a small pot of funding to trial a small-scale mentoring project in primary schools in South Wales. The aim of the project is to evaluate if the project approach can support the delivery of International Languages learning in primary schools by using university students as mentors.
- The project has won money from Cardiff University Strategic Funding to collaborate with the University of Waikato in New Zealand. The project will consider how the methodologies of MFL Mentoring could be adapted to support multilingual aspirations in the Hamilton area of New Zealand.
- The project has been working with PGCE MFL providers across Wales to explore how best leverage the MFL Mentoring approaches and student engagement to support teacher recruitment and retention.

2. Language Trends

The British Council will present this year’s Language Trends Wales report on Thursday 18th of January in Cardiff.
3. Taith

Pathway 1 (the mobility of staff and learners in Schools, Further Education, Adult education and Higher Education across Wales) reopens for the 2024 round of funding on January 31st.