



# Vale School Governors' Association Cymdeithas Llywodraethwyr Ysgolion y Fro and Governor Support Unit **Newsletter**

## Note from the Chair

These are troubling and unsettling times. I was talking to an old friend yesterday who said she had always looked forward to watching television news, but now found it too upsetting. She had even given up on Have I got News for You because Brexit and Trump no longer feel amusing.

And in Wales for Governors we have the news that the Welsh Government has decided to stop its funding to Governors Wales at the end of March, raising the serious prospect that it may not be able to continue to provide much-needed support for Governors in Wales.

The Governors Wales website - [www.governorswales.org.uk](http://www.governorswales.org.uk) has always been an excellent source of unbiased advice, with easily accessible articles on all aspects being a Governor and all the minutiae of running an effective Governing Body. There is also the helpline and the conferences, not to mention its role liaising with Government on our behalf.

Governors have more and more responsibilities and good quality advice is essential so that we can carry out our

role as well as possible for the benefit of the learners in our care.

Feel free to raise concerns about this withdrawal of support for Welsh Governors to AMs, Ministers and other decision-makers.

On a brighter note, I always enjoy the end of the Autumn term as schools gear up for Nativity Plays and Carol Concerts. They are lovely opportunities to remind ourselves that children need more than academic excellence. I am sure your schools are full of enthusiastic musicians, singers and actors who are enjoying showing off their talents to parents and carers. Look at their happy faces and remember that this is what all the boring Governor meetings are for.

May I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you will return revived for the challenge of setting the Budgets in the Spring Term.

**Dr Martin Price**  
Chair of VSGA and Vice-Chair of Governors, St Richard Gwyn Roman Catholic High School, Barry

## Issue 40 Autumn Term 2017

### Special points of interest:

- AVAGO was formed in 1996 and re-launched in 2006 as Vale School Governors' Association (VSGA)
- The Management Committee is made up of 15 elected governors together with 2 elected parent governor representatives

### VSGA was set up to:

- Promote best practice in governance in schools within the Vale of Glamorgan LEA
- To promote partnership amongst schools and between schools and the LEA
- To work with stakeholders to ensure adequate resources for schools within the LEA
- To represent the Association's views on issues relating to school governance and the management and resourcing of schools to relevant authorities and organisations

In association with the  
Vale of Glamorgan Council's  
Governor Support Unit

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VSGA has an email address that you may contact us on.  
It's [VSGA@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:VSGA@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

alternatively you can contact VSGA by post at:

**VSGA**  
Governor Support Unit  
Learning & Development Dept.  
Vale of Glamorgan Council  
Provincial House, Kendrick Road  
Barry CF62 8BF



# Creative Pathways at Wales Millennium Centre



The interactive careers event took place in two rehearsal rooms and a theatre at Wales Millennium Centre, the event saw over 1000 Key Stage 4&5 pupils from schools and FE Colleges all over South Central Wales attending along with their Creative subject teachers. There was a real buzz throughout the day with a large range of activities for pupils to choose from.

48 employers and providers attended offering information, demonstrations, presentations, panel discussions and workshops on a range of careers within the creative industry. There was an emphasis on Apprenticeships with many current Apprentices being available to talk with. There were also work based training providers, colleges and universities there on the day.

The event took place in Rehearsal Rooms 1&2 and the Weston Studio:

RR1 had exhibitors on tables and live performances by Cardiff & Vale College Music Students (whose performances were assessed by the college); Radyr and Stanwell schools rock groups, St Cyres 'Scenes from The Jungle Book' and University of South Wales Dance Workshop.

Weston Studio (200 seat theatre) had presentations by Wales International Documentary Festival on Film Editing; The Producer of Bear Grylls and Human Planet on 'Getting in to Telly' and two Panel Discussions; one on Apprenticeships and one on Freelancing.

RR3 was the main exhibition area for employers, training providers and colleges/Universities. There was also a workshop area with two workshops from The Atrium on Computer Game Design/Animation and Fashion; two workshops from Royal College of Music & Drama on Studying Design/Stage Management and Acting and a workshop from Into Film on Stop Motion Animation.

Staff setting up the rooms were a mixture of volunteers from a homeless scheme and Apprentices from the Millennium Centre and Blackwood Miners Institute.

The event was filmed by Made in Cardiff TV Station, by students from Cardiff & Vale College and a number of other organisations.

We're very keen to make this an annual event for Careers Wales as are Wales Millennium Centre, the exhibitors and the schools. We've had some great feedback about the day on Twitter at #CWCreative16. Some other examples of feedback are:

*"Really good presence from employers and plenty of young people. Good Buzz, massive potential."*

Nick Batchelar (Director of Education Cardiff Council)

*"It was great to see so many young people engaged in activities and conversations about their possible career paths."* – Humie Webbe (Work Based Learning Equality & Diversity NTFW)

*"It was so well organised, had a lot to offer and from where we were standing was good fun too. I hope we've inspired our industry's next generation."* – Lizzy Ferguson (NoFit State)

*"Really impressed with students attitudes and ambitions today. The next generation is really switched on."* Chris Brown (Company Director G39 Art Gallery)

*"I thought it was great, and it was particularly good to see that it was so well attended."*

Andy Warnock (Regional Officer Musicians' Union)

*"Really good event and well attended by schools and a great range of organisations. It was really inspiring to see how engaged and motivated the majority of the pupils were."*

Loveday Williams Senior (Learning & Participation Officer National History Museum)

*"Great to see so many young people, thanks for having us."*

Kelly Harris (Youth Engagement officer National Assembly Wales)



# Pearson Teaching Award for Ysgol y Deri Teacher

Lisa Rees-Renshaw was suggested for a Pearson Teaching Award by a pupil and his parent. She was then nominated by the school's deputy Head along with the support of the staff. Judges visited the school and talked to pupils, parents and staff and saw examples of her innovative work using technology to facilitate and assist teaching. This visit led to Lisa, from amongst thousands of nominees, to be one of five recipients to receive the Silver Award in June. These five were then the finalists at last month's ceremony in London to celebrate teachers and teaching which was broadcast by the BBC. Lisa and her work were the worthy recipients of the Gold Award.



The BBC had spent a day at the school prior to the Award ceremony and filmed Lisa at work where her adaptive use of technology was shown enabling pupils to communicate or control the environment in which they were learning. For one family Lisa had adapted a program which enabled a pupil to use eye-tracking software and technology to play notes on a guitar fret and from this join in with her family's love of music. This clip brought tears to the eyes of many at the ceremony and I must admit also to those of us watching at home. It was a pleasure to hear that one of the finalists on the night commented "after seeing that I know why she won".

Lisa is quiet and modest about her accomplishments, yet her work was also singled out by Estyn as exceptional. We, as Governors, have been privileged to experience and support the work she is doing for our pupils and their families. To see our pupils find a voice through technology, is an amazing aspect of our role. Lisa thoroughly deserved the Award for the life changing difference she has made to the lives of the pupils yet she saw it as a reflection of the dedication and commitment of the team of staff at our school. The mark of an inspirational teacher.

**Tim Exell**  
Chair, Ysgol y Deri

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## 'Food and Fun' for children in the Vale of Glamorgan Summer 2017 as part of the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP)

Vale Catering Services facilitated another Summer of fun filled activities and healthy eating in conjunction with the 'Food & Fun' project again this year. The Vale of Glamorgan was part of an initial pilot scheme in 2016 and match funded resources from the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA). Additional funding was secured for the project which ran during Summer 2017 and again match funded by the Vale. SHEP ran at Cadoxton Primary School and Ysgol Dewi Sant from 24th July to 18th August. Each school was open for 12 days over 3 weeks.

The project saw the Vale of Glamorgan Council Catering department work with the dedicated SHEP Coordinators at the two schools to give access to healthy food and physical activity during the summer holiday. Not only did the children benefit from the physical activities, they also took part in the Nutrition Skills for Life™ a programme of quality assured nutritional skills training and initiatives developed and coordinated by dietitians working in the NHS. Approximately 80 pupils and 40 parents attended the sessions across the two sites over the 3 weeks.

The 'Food and Fun' programme is part of a larger programme that is achieving great things across Wales and the feedback that we have received from those taking part here in Barry has been very positive. Schools provide a familiar and safe environment for children attending 'Food and Fun' clubs, which have been set up and run by existing school staff and partners over the school summer holidays.

This programme has funding from WLGA for the next two years. Applications for schools wishing to take part closes on 26 January 2018

To find out more about the 'Food and Fun' programme, please visit <http://wlga.wales/food-and-fun> or contact Carole Tyley, Catering Manager, Vale Catering Services on 029 20673037 [ctyley@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:ctyley@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)



# Dafydd Treharne

## – Governor on Ysgol Gwaun y Nant Retires

Dafydd Treharne who has strongly supported Vale schools for many years as a governor and as a member of the Vale School Governors' Association (VSGA) recently retired from the governing body of Ysgol Gwaun y Nant.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council thanks Dafydd for the support he has given to the school over 21 years. In 1996, the school was initially based at Ysgol St Curig before moving to its current site in 2001 with 80 pupils. The school now has 240 pupils. Over that period Dafydd's support for the school has been unwavering and he was instrumental in establishing it at the centre of the community.

Being an effective governor is not an easy task attending many meetings, reading numerous documents and improving your school governance knowledge through training. As Chair for many years, Dafydd played a key role in helping the governing body work as a team to challenge, support and contribute to the strategic leadership of the school, and to build and maintain an effective positive relationship with the Headteacher and the local authority.

Ysgol Gwaun y Nant presented Dafydd with gifts at an assembly at the school where the school choir also entertained. Brenig Davies, new Chair of Governors said that Dafydd's role in creating the very special ethos that exists at Gwaun y Nant was pivotal and that all pupils, parents and staff were very grateful of his dedication and hard work over the years

Mr Rhydian Lloyd, Headteacher said that he has been very grateful of Dafydd's support and that he always had pupils welfare at the forefront of his mind and has played an instrumental role in the development of Welsh Medium Education in Barry.



■ Dafydd Treharne with new Chair of Governing Body - Brenig Davies.



■ Dafydd Treharne, Rhydian Lloyd (Head teacher) and Brenig Davies with pupils Carys, Aron, Danny and Mia.



■ Dafydd Treharne with staff and governors.





## Vale Governors commend

# Youth Service's Pupil Voice Support for Schools

The Vale Youth Service in the Vale of Glamorgan has been working hard to support Pupil Voice this term. They have hosted two events: one for Primary school children and staff; and one for school Governors.

The Primary School event was held on 24th October 2017 at Barry Memo. Young people from the Vale Rights Ambassadors project co-hosted their Annual Vale Super Ambassadors Summit with representatives of the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Professor Sally Holland. The summit was planned by the young people and had its highest ever turnout. The event brought together children who are Super Ambassadors for the Children's Commissioner in their schools. The role of Super Ambassadors is to raise awareness of the Commissioner and Children's Rights, and complete a special mission each term that enables primary pupils to directly feed into Professor Holland's work.

The Vale Rights Ambassadors project is funded by the Children and Young People's Partnership and run by the Vale Youth Service. The project enables young people from across the Vale to receive accredited training on the UNCRC and to undertake work as the Children's Commissioner's Community Ambassadors in the Vale. Professor Sally Holland said in a video message she sent to the summit "The Vale Rights Ambassadors are really important Ambassadors for my work".

On Thursday 16th November, school Governors from primary and secondary schools throughout the Vale of Glamorgan attended Pupil Voice training delivered by the Vale Youth Service at the Civic Offices in Barry. Governors were able to learn about the legislative context and legal requirements for Pupil Voice in their schools. Furthermore, they had the opportunity to explore the benefits of pupil participation as part of their schools decision-making processes, and how it can be effectively embedded within a school's culture. Governors also reviewed the results and recommendations from the Vale of Glamorgan's latest School Council audit.

For more info contact the Vale Youth Service participation team by emailing [thepoint@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:thepoint@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)





# Management Committee Membership 2016-18

The Management Committee is comprised of elected governors plus the two Parent Governor Representatives (one each from the Primary and Secondary sectors).

No.	Title	Initial	Surname	School
1	Mr	R	Bailey	Peterston-Super-Ely C/W Primary
2	Mr	N	Craggs	Gwenfo C/W Primary
3	Mrs	H	Drew	Cowbridge Comp
4	Mrs	M	Gibbs	Llantwit Major Comp & Romilly Primary
5	Mr	W	Hennessey	Ysgol Sant Baruc
6	Mrs	K	Kemp	Llancarfan Primary
7	Mr	C	Laity	Cadoxton Primary
8	Mrs	A	Males	Cogan Primary & St Cyres Comp
9	Mrs	A	Malkin	Gladstone Primary
10	VACANCY			
11	Dr	M	Price	St Richard Gwyn R/C High
12	Mr	R	Simpson	Wick & Marcross C/W Primary
13	Mr	R	Smith	Wick & Marcross C/W Primary
14	Mr	D	Treharne	Llansannor C/W Primary & Ysgol Gwaun-y-nant
15	Mrs	S	Williams	All Saints C/W Primary
16	CLlr Mr	M	Wilson	Victoria Primary
PGR - Prim	Mrs	J	Lynch-Wilson	St Athan Primary
PGR - Sec	Dr	C	Brown	Llantwit Major Comprehensive

## 2018-20 School Term Dates

The 2018-20 School Term dates are now confirmed until Summer 2020. Full details can be accessed here: <http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/schools/School-Term-Dates.aspx>



*Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year  
from the  
Governor Support Unit*

