



November 9th, 2022

Dear Parents / Guardians,

It's with great pleasure that I announce that Ysgol Aberconwy is trialling the *Siarter Iaith Uwchradd* (*The Welsh Language Charter for Secondary Schools*) on behalf of Conwy County schools. You may have heard about the *Siarter Iaith* or *Cymraeg Campus* schemes when your child was at primary school. The *Siarter Iaith Uwchradd* is an exciting continuation to those schemes. **The Welsh Government has a target of a million Welsh speakers by the year 2050** which is possible with the support of the *Siarter Iaith*, schools and parents.

The simple objective of the *Siarter Iaith Uwchradd* is to provide a clear framework which can be used to promote and increase the use of the Welsh language amongst children and young people in a whole school context. In a nutshell, the *Siarter Iaith's* main aim is to promote a strong Welsh ethos in schools and to provide clear guidance regarding the Welsh language within secondary schools, in the hope that it will inspire children and young people to use their Welsh skills in all aspects of their lives.

As a part of the *Siarter Iaith Uwchradd*, there are three awards to achieve. Back in September, our journey to the bronze award began with an inspiring inset presentation for staff from the *Cyngor Iaith* (Welsh Language Council) pupils, explaining what the expectations are. At the end of the summer term, the school Governors also enjoyed the presentation introducing the new framework. We are very grateful to the *Cyngor Iaith* crew for coming in on their day off and providing such a comprehensive introduction to the scheme.

In order to support the *Siarter Iaith Uwchradd* awards, we've created a bespoke system of unique targets to address the needs at Ysgol Aberconwy. It challenges and rewards teachers and departments for using the Welsh language in lessons and for encouraging the pupils to use their Welsh language skills beyond their Welsh lessons. Our scheme will help us meet the requirements of Conwy County Council policies: *Welsh in Education Strategic Plan*, *A Strategy for Promoting the Welsh Language* and the *Bilingualism Policy*. There are three tiers to complete that support the needs of the three levels of award which are a part of the *Siarter Iaith Uwchradd*. Local landmarks have been used as a symbol for reaching a specific goal:

- **'Croesi'r Bont i Wobr Efydd' Efydd'** (Crossing the Bridge to a Bronze Award),
- **'Esgyn y Grisiau i Wobr Arian'** (Ascending the Steps to Silver Award) and
- **'Dringo'r Mynydd i Wobr Aur'** (Climbing the Mountain to a Gold Award)

referencing the Suspension Bridge, the Castle Walls and Mynydd y Dref, Conwy mountain.

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate a number of departments on succeeding in reaching halfway to ***Croesi'r Bont i Wobr Efydd***. The Art Department, Design and Technology

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Department, Y Copa (the library), Religious Education Department, the ABCD unit, Yr Hwb (6th form centre) and of course the Welsh Department have reached halfway over the bridge! There are several departments nearing the halfway point too - it's just a matter of time! We would like to congratulate these departments and express our thanks to the Bilingualism Coordinator and to the hardworking *Cyngor Iaith* pupils for monitoring, encouraging and supporting the various departments.

I would also like to congratulate all of the staff who have been endeavoring to learn Welsh along with staff who have been eager to improve their Welsh skills. They have succeeded through various Welsh courses. Some chose the *Say Something in Welsh* course, and others chose a course from <https://learnwelsh.cymru>, and a few took advantage of the Sabbatical Welsh Course [The Welsh Language Sabbatical Scheme, Canolfan Bedwyr, Prifysgol Bangor University](#). There is definitely a suitable course out there for every kind of learner.

Please take a look at our new webpage that explains our approach to the Welsh Language and includes information about bilingualism and the *Siarter Iaith Uwchradd*. You will also be able to follow and celebrate the successes of staff and pupils alike on our exciting journey to the *Siarter Iaith Uwchradd*'s bronze award. You can find it here at:

https://www.aberconwy.conwy.sch.uk/en_gb/welsh-language-charter/

We do hope it will be of help to you when considering the advantages of bilingualism and that it encourages your child to speak both Welsh and English.

At Ysgol Aberconwy, we strongly believe that the Welsh language belongs to us all; fluent speakers, learners and those who are shy about their Welsh. It's our language and it's our place to look after it and nurture it for future generations. Therefore, come with us on our journey. **The Welsh language is alive at Ysgol Aberconwy!**

Yours sincerely,

l. Davies Parry

Mrs Luned Davies Parry
Deputy Head of Welsh and *Siarter Iaith* Coordinator

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