

## **Thousands more to benefit from Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification**

The Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification, which aims to produce better undergraduates and recruits, has been extended and will now be available to 30,000 learners across Wales.

Education Minister Jane Hutt announced today that the qualification - popular with students and highly regarded by both HEIs and employers alike - will be extended to even more schools, Further Education Institutions and training providers.

A total of 168 centres are now poised to offer the Welsh Baccalaureate and are ready to welcome 9,000 more students. The qualification, unique to Wales includes both vocational and community based experiences, creating well-rounded individuals prepared for employment or further learning.

Minister for Education Jane Hutt said:

Students, teachers, education institutions and employers all recognise the value of the Welsh Baccalaureate, and how it can prepare individuals with skills that they can use throughout their future – wherever that may be.

The transferable skills that the Welsh Baccalaureate provides, whether this is through practical work experience, volunteering in the community, or any of the other elements of the programme makes the transition from education to the workplace more fluid.

It is excellent to see that so many institutions are now recognising the demand for the qualification. By working together we can be confident that Wales' educational and economic future is well placed to withstand any challenges that lie ahead.

I am delighted that roll-out now covers all three levels of the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification, Key Stage 4 provision and new applied Principal Learning and Project Qualifications. The Assembly Government is implementing a “broader based baccalaureate”, as promised in One Wales.

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