

Welsh Bacc a big success

11/9/2008

The Welsh Baccalaureate qualification is going from strength to strength and more schools are being urged to use it by Education Minister Jane Hutt today.

Jane Hutt said: "Our Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification is going from strength to strength and is a major success which we are extremely proud of. More importantly, those who study it say they have increased confidence and improved "life skills" as a result.

"We now want to extend the opportunity to offer the qualification to more learning centres across Wales, so that other students can benefit from what is being increasingly recognised across the UK as a highly beneficial, high quality qualification, said the minister."

She has invited schools, colleges and learning providers across Wales to apply to join the third phase of roll-out of the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification at post 16 Intermediate and Advanced level that begins from September 2009.

Schools, Colleges and learning providers will also be able to apply to take part in the first tranche of roll-out at Foundation level 14-19 and Intermediate level in pre-16 provision. In addition 14-19 Networks have been invited to submit applications for consortia of providers to offer the Welsh Baccalaureate with new applied learning - the Principal Learning and Project Qualifications that were initially developed for the 14-19 Diplomas in England.

The Welsh Baccalaureate is a uniquely Welsh qualification designed to prepare students for higher education, further study and the world of work. It combines personal development skills and existing qualifications (such as A-Levels and GCSEs) in an award that is valued by employers and universities.

This next phases of roll-out will help ensure that the broader based baccalaureate promised in OneWales becomes a reality and will move us closer to our aim that at least 40% of full-time post-16 students will be participating in the Welsh Baccalaureate by 2010/11.

"This summer saw the first Welsh Baccalaureate students graduate from Higher Education and I was delighted to meet a few at the Senedd to hear their experiences. The summer also saw encouraging results across the Welsh Baccalaureate range, as the qualification increasingly becomes a key feature of education and training in Wales.

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