



Coleg y
Cymoedd

Recognition Awards

27.03.23



The Coleg y Cymoedd Recognition Awards recognises the excellent work and commitment from colleagues across the college; those that go the extra mile; those that innovate and inspire; those that truly make a notable contribution and significant impact on the learner experience, fellow colleagues or college priorities; and those whom deserve to receive recognition for the effort they put into their roles.



Welcome

I am delighted to be able to host the staff awards for 2023 and recognise the fantastic contribution of colleagues across the college. This year we received a record number of very worthy nominations and this is testament to the talent, innovative approaches and dedication we see in all areas of the college.

I would like to offer my warmest congratulations to all those receiving awards this evening.

Jonathan Morgan
Principal

Awards

Gwobr Gymraeg | Welsh Award

This award will recognise an individual or team who have not only promoted bilingualism but sought to foster a bilingual ethos where the Welsh language and bilingualism is incorporated into core values. Such activity may include investing in and supporting the capacity of staff to deliver Welsh medium/bilingual learning, curriculum initiatives that extend the opportunities for Welsh-medium/bilingual study or strategic planning for the development of a Welsh ethos. In addition, nominations are invited where someone is able to demonstrate the effective embedding of a Welsh dimension into the college's curriculum and daily life or provide innovative and successful ways of encouraging Welsh medium study.

Winner: Emyr Morgan

Emyr incorporates bilingualism into the sessions he delivers alongside offering hybrid sessions for learners who are not able to make it into class. All learners are able to access work on Teams bilingually. Emyr also finds the time to work with learners who are Welsh speaking who he does not normally teach but find the English/Welsh translations difficult. Emyr also works with his peers to share this good practice

Inclusivity Award

This award is for an individual or team who have demonstrated outstanding inclusivity within the college. The nominees will have made an impact, inspired others and contributed to the college's commitment on Equality and Diversity.

Winner: ALP Support Team Leaders

Inclusion for our learners with ALN is at the forefront of everything the STLs do. Their work with internal and external stakeholders ensures that inclusion for all learners is achieved and that the best outcomes for learners are reached. The work completed by STLs ensures that learners with ALN receive appropriate, consistent and quality support which is regularly reviewed and adjusted to meet the needs of the individual. They are instrumental in ensuring that needs are met across all campuses.

Service Excellence Award

This award will celebrate a colleague or team who have demonstrated their extraordinary commitment to continuously providing excellent service. They will have made a significant impact on learners, staff and schools/functional areas of the college and demonstrated open communication and innovative ways of doing things as well as actively promoting a customer care service culture within the college, treating all service users equally and seeking continuous improvement in service provision to an excellent standard.

Winner: Neil Evans

Neil encourages his learners to take ownership and responsibility for their qualifications. He supports the learners and employers around their working patterns and adapts assessment methods that allow learners to successfully achieve their qualifications and reach their potential. The professionalism and support Neil has demonstrated with learners and employers has inspired learners to progress and achieve their qualifications and excel in their profession. Neil's support and dedication has led to recognition from employers and learners, enhanced working partnerships and an expansion of apprenticeship programmes with Coleg Y Cymoedd.

Outstanding Dedication Award

This award will recognise an individual colleague who demonstrates outstanding dedication and commitment to Coleg y Cymoedd.

Winner: Phil Gorman

Over the year's Phil has made a valuable contribution to Worldskills. His commitment and dedication to both the learners and competition itself has been unwavering and this year has been no exception with Phil postponing celebrating a milestone birthday this month, volunteering instead to accompany learners to Scotland.

Team Achievement

This award will commend a team whose efforts and achievements have made an outstanding contribution to the college and its various partners, be that colleagues, learners or other stakeholders.

There will be an award for both Academic and Business Support areas.

Winner (Academic): A Level Centre co-ordination team

2022 saw the best set of A-Level results at CyC, with a 99.6% per cent overall pass rate being achieved. A*-C grades increased by an outstanding 28% compared to 2019, whilst the number of learners attaining the top A* and A grades at A2 increased by an exceptional 22%. The team regularly go above and beyond the parameters of their job roles to provide outstanding and timely care, support, guidance and advice to all our A-Level learners. The team has supported more than 400 learners to achieve their best set of A-Level results, to access the widest range of undergraduate courses (many at Russell Group universities) and to receive the highest number of Oxbridge offers of any post-16 provider in RCT/Merthyr.

Winner (Business Support): People and Culture

Following a department restructure, the team has gone from strength to strength, consistently delivering strong results. Support for wellbeing has been exceptional and CPD events such as the Festival of Wellbeing and Festival of Inclusion (the first of its kind in a Welsh FE college) have been sector leading. The overhaul of the college's recruitment processes has enabled the college to attract some of the best talent around! Feedback from managers and peers has been overwhelmingly positive and the team have worked hard to be more visible and accessible to the people they support.

Teaching and Learning

This award will recognise a colleague who creates a climate for teaching and learning in the classroom which is characterised by enthusiasm for learning, high expectations, and outstanding results. They will show a commitment to teach every learner, including challenging learners, to aim high and supports them in pursuit of their aspirations. They will actively monitor the experience and progress of each class and adjust their approach to take account of the needs of individual learners and the class as a whole. They will engage others in supporting learners' learning and development, including colleagues, parents, learning support and other professionals. They will show a continuing commitment to their own professional personal development.

Winner: Cara St. Clair

Cara aims to talk about topical 'real life' situations during her classes which engage her learners. Cara understands the sensitivity of some of the topics she covers and always ensures that plans are put in place to support learners should the need arise. Cara's learners thrive within her sessions. There is a relaxing, calming atmosphere within her sessions where learners can express their own opinions and experiences and learners look forward to attending Cara's classes.

Supporting Learner Wellbeing

This award recognises a team or School who has demonstrated exceptional effort in supporting the pastoral care of learners. This award is for a team or school who have gone above and beyond their duties to make a real difference to the learners' time in the college.

Winner: Dan Owens

Dan supports colleagues and learners at all levels across college with all aspects of their digital wellbeing. He always leads by example, setting a positive tone in discussions, tutorials & workshops and continually inspires and informs others. Dan is passionate about educating learners on the long-term implications and impacts of their online behaviours. He has given support directly to individuals as well as groups of learners, during some very challenging times. Dan is also proactively engaged with college working groups as well as national government and public bodies such as TARIAN Cyber Crimes.

Inspiring Learners

This award is for a person who is recognised by learners as demonstrating exceptional qualities as a Lecturer or member of the non-teaching staff. The nominee will have inspired and motivated learners with their enthusiasm, understanding and friendly manner to enable them to achieve their aspirational goals.

Winner: Mark James

Mark has consistently and persistently identified the potential of each individual learner and stretched and challenged them, in different ways, to support them to excel in their educational journey. He actively encourages peer learning and support, arranges additional curriculum activities to enhance the learner journey and seeks the potential in each individual and stretches them to achieve things they never thought possible. Mark accepts all learners who have demonstrated an interest in progression and strives to inspire them. His unrelenting dedication to and focus on each learner mean that they become the best Chef and person they can possibly be.

Positive Impact

This award recognises individuals or teams who have demonstrated tenacity and resilience in the face of challenge and adversity to make a difference, achieving goals for themselves, learners and/or the college community.

Winner: Holly Richards

Holly has opened doors for A Level Centre learners from underprivileged demographic areas with less opportunities to achieve their full potential, including pathways into professions they may otherwise struggle to access. Holly has supported our MAT learners in their Oxbridge and Russell Group applications, set up a Girls Mentoring scheme for those wishing to enter the legal profession, set up debate club and runs the Seren programme. With Holly's guidance our learners are levelling up and putting Coleg y Cymoedd on the map with offers to study at prestigious higher education institutions, including Oxford and Cambridge.

Outstanding Newcomer Award

This award recognises anyone who has demonstrated an exceptional attitude towards their chosen professions and who have made a significant contribution to the college since joining. Nominations will be able to evidence how they have supported improvements to services and been an effective member of the college to support colleagues or learners.

Winner: Hannah Hallett

Since joining the team in December 2021, Hannah has transformed the operational side of the People and Culture team. She made a conscious effort to get to know the current team whilst mentoring new team members. She has worked hard to take the team from being Human Resources to People and Culture and has introduced some amazing new initiatives, including the Pathways Programme and a new counselling and occupational health provision. Hannah is a problem solver and influencer and an amazing role model to her team – and for Hannah it's all about the team!

Winner: Morgan Evans

Since joining Coleg y Cymoedd, Morgan has had a huge impact on the ethos of the whole college community. His creative and comical posts on Teams are a breath of fresh air and have undoubtedly, to most, changed the perceptions of the People and Culture team – colleagues now recognise that the team are there to help and support everyone in the college. Morgan has demonstrated an exceptional attitude and has not only made a significant contribution to his team but the wider college. By overhauling the college's recruitment processes, Morgan has enabled Coleg y Cymoedd to attract and retain some of the best talent there is.

Winner: Sean Morgan-Brewer

Sean has been a pioneer in stepping away from using non-environmentally friendly practices on the Estate grounds. He has reviewed how we look at alternative ways of weed and pest control and implemented new ways of working. He has utilised spare ground to grow vegetables and encourages the rest of the Estates Team to get involved to enhance their wellbeing. His interest in wildlife has been an asset when considering how we do things onsite and as a result has made adaptations to maintain the existing wildlife and encourage new. Sean thrives on what he does and gets such a buzz from knowing that his contribution is paying dividends towards the college's sustainability and net zero carbon approach.

Outstanding Leader

This award recognises an excellent leader with a proven record of working with their team to achieve outstanding results within their area of responsibility. The nominee should have strong leadership skills and be able to demonstrate a commitment to, and be proactive in, delivering continuous improvement. Key attributes should also include a forward-thinking approach to customer focus and service delivery, be visible, approachable and responsive to their team and be able to inspire, motivate and engage others, treating everyone with fairness and consistency. In addition the nominee should be able to demonstrate the ability to encourage others to reach their full potential, through supported development and moreover recognise individual and/or team contribution to given tasks.

Winner: (Academic) Lee Davies

Lee is an outstanding leader who strives for excellence in everything that he does. Lee treats his team with thought, empathy and equality. He supports and pushes them to achieve their absolute best. Under his leadership the department has grown more closely as a team, a team that is working towards and achieving excellence.

Winner: (Business Support) Dorian Adkins

The ALNCO role has been very challenging for all ALNCOs across the FE sector during the planning and implementation of ALNET. Dorian secured his role at a pivotal point during this process and was required to hit the ground running. Dorian has gone above and beyond during this time to ensure that he has the knowledge and ability to meet the challenges that this would bring. Dorian absolutely understands the valuable role his department plays and has secured additional roles to ensure that the college is meeting the needs of its learners. Under his leadership the team feel valued, that they have a voice and are listened to, and Dorian actively encourages them to shape and have an input into how the college offers support. As a result, Dorian's department came out as one of the happiest in the college's recent People Survey.

Distinguished Employee Award

This award will recognise an individual colleague who demonstrates outstanding performance and achievement in a Business Support or Academic Area showing initiative, innovation or creativity.

Winner: Nia Wyn Williams

With almost 40 years' service, Nia's contribution and commitment to the development of the curriculum and learner welfare has been invaluable. She is relentless in her pursuit of learner achievement and on learners achieving their full potential, often giving up her own time to provide her learners with any extra support needed. Nia is 100% committed to her learners and is a key member of the Creative team, often taking ownership of supporting and mentoring new colleagues. She cares and we all know it! Despite some personal setbacks over recent years, Nia's strength of character, work ethic and zest for life has been nothing short of inspirational. She is our very own Super Woman!

Principal's Award

Winner: Kelly Howells

This award recognises someone chosen by the Principal, for demonstrating outstanding performance and commitment to the college. It's a special privilege to be selected for the Principal's Award, one that's thoroughly deserved by Kelly. Congratulations Kelly - a worthy winner!