

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb hwn i ymgynghoriad y [Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg](#) ar [Flaenoriaethau'r Chweched Senedd](#)

This response was submitted to the [Children, Young People and Education Committee](#) consultation on [Sixth Senedd Priorities](#)

CYPE SP 14

Ymateb gan: Yr Athro Paul Boyle, Is-Ganghellor, Prifysgol Abertawe

Response from: Professor Paul Boyle, Vice-Chancellor, Swansea University

Beth yn eich barn chi yw'r prif flaenoriaethau neu'r materion y dylai'r Pwyllgor eu hystyried yn ystod y Chweched Senedd? Os oes modd, nodwch eich barn o ran sut y gallai'r Pwyllgor fynd i'r afael â hyn.

What do you consider to be the main priorities or issues that the Committee should consider during the Sixth Senedd? Where possible, please set out your view about how the Committee could address them.

Thema 1: Addysg oedran ysgol | Theme 1: School-age education

Codi dyheadau: mae cyflwyno addysg uwch i ddisgyblion oedran ysgol drwy allgymorth, ymgysylltu â'r cyhoedd, gwyliau a digwyddiadau yn rhan annatod o ehangu mynediad a chodi dyheadau. Mae ymgysylltiad AU ag ysgolion hefyd yn cyd-fynd â Fframwaith Cenhadaeth Ddinesig Prifysgolion Cymru a grëwyd er mwyn helpu prifysgolion i adeiladu ar y ffyrdd y maent yn gweithio gyda phobl, ysgolion a chymunedau. Gofynnwn i'r Pwyllgor geisio ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cymru i barhau i gefnogi mentrau allgymorth ysgolion, yn enwedig y rheini fel y rhaglen Cymru-gyfan, Technocamps, sydd wedi elwa o gyllid Ewropeaidd ochr yn ochr â CCAUC a ffynonellau cymorth eraill.

Raising aspirations: introducing school-age pupils to higher education through outreach, public engagement, festivals and events is integral to widening access and raising aspirations. HE engagement with schools is also aligned to the Universities Wales Civic Mission Framework for Wales intended to help universities build upon the ways they work with people, schools and communities. We would ask the Committee to seek Welsh Government's commitment to continue support for school outreach initiatives, particularly those such as the pan-Wales Technocamps programme that have benefited from European funding alongside HEFCW and other sources of support.



Thema 2: Addysg bellach ac addysg uwch | Theme 2: Further and higher education

Symudedd myfyrwyr: er ein bod yn croesawu cyflwyno'r Rhaglen Cyfnewid Dysgu ar ôl colli rhaglen Erasmus, gofynnwn i'r Pwyllgor geisio ymrwymiad gan Lywodraeth Cymru i barhau l gefnogi symudedd myfyrwyr ar ôl 2026. Bydd darparu cyfleoedd i fyfyrwyr brofi gwledydd a diwylliannau newydd yn cefnogi ymdrechion i sicrhau llais cryf i Gymru ar y llwyfan rhyngwladol. Byddem yn annog ymdrech ar y cyd ac wedi'i thargedu i sicrhau bod myfyrwyr o grwpiau sy'n cael eu tangynrychioli mewn addysg uwch yn cael eu cefnogi'n weithredol i gymryd rhan yn y rhaglen hon gan sicrhau nad oes amgylchiadau personol unrhyw fyfyrwr yn ei atal rhag ymgymryd â dysgu neu brofiad gwaith dramor. Byddem yn awgrymu ymhellach bod y rhaglen yn cael ei gwerthuso ar sail ei llwyddiant wrth gefnogi myfyrwyr ar draws grwpiau heb gynrychiolaeth ddigonol.

Prentisiaethau gradd: nodwn fod y ddarpariaeth bresennol ar gyfer prentisiaethau gradd yng Nghymru yn gyfyngedig a byddem yn gofyn i'r Pwyllgor flaenoriaethu ystyried (1) ehangu'r cynllun i ystod ehangach o sectorau diwydiant a (2) nodi ffyrdd newydd o gymell cyflogwyr i ymgysylltu â'r rhaglen.

Ymgynghori â myfyrwyr: byddem hefyd yn gofyn i'r Pwyllgor ymrwymo i gynnal ymgynghoriad wedi'i dargedu gyda myfyrwyr addysg uwch fel grŵp penodol ochr yn ochr â gweithgareddau wedi'u cynllunio i ymgysylltu â phlant a phobl ifanc. Mae barn myfyrwyr yn aml yn wahanol i farn plant a phobl ifanc eraill ac mae'n bwysig bod eu lleisiau'n cael eu clywed a'u hystyried ac y rhoddir sylw i'r materion sy'n bwysig iddynt ac sy'n effeithio ar eu bywydau.

Student mobility: while we welcome the introduction of the Learning Exchange Programme following the loss of the Erasmus programme we would ask the Committee to seek commitment from Welsh Government to continue support for student mobility beyond 2026. Providing opportunities for students to experience new countries and cultures will support efforts to ensure a strong voice for Wales on the international stage. We would encourage a concerted and targeted effort to ensure that students from groups underrepresented in higher education are actively supported to participate in this programme while ensuring that no student's personal circumstances prevents them from undertaking learning or work experience overseas. We would further suggest that the programme is evaluated on its success in supporting students across underrepresented groups.

Degree apprenticeships: we note that current provision for degree apprenticeships in Wales is limited and would request that the Committee prioritises consideration of (1) expansion of the scheme to a broader range of industry sectors and (2) identifying new ways to incentivise employers to engage with the programme.

Student consultation: we would also request that the Committee commits to



undertaking targeted consultation with higher education students as a distinct group alongside planned activities to engage with children and young people. Students' views are often distinct from those of children and other young people and it is important that their voices are heard and consideration given to the issues that matter to them and impact on their lives.

Thema 3: Iechyd a lles, gan gynnwys gofal cymdeithasol (i'r graddau y maent yn ymwneud â phlant a phobl ifanc) | Theme 3: Health and well-being, including social care (as they relate to children and young people)

Lles myfyrwyr: er i ni groesawu cyllid ychwanegol Llywodraeth Cymru i gefnogi iechyd meddwl myfyrwyr yn ystod y pandemig, mae hon yn broblem barhaus gyda galwadau cynyddol ar wasanaethau prifysgol i gefnogi'r rhai sy'n cael trafferth gyda'u hiechyd meddwl.

Fel prifysgolion eraill, rydym wedi gweld cynnydd yn nifer y myfyrwyr sy'n ceisio cymorth gyda'u hiechyd meddwl cyn y pandemig. Mae'r gwasanaethau presennol wedi bod dan bwysau cynyddol ers y pandemig, gyda'r her ychwanegol o ddarparu cymorth mewn ffyrdd newydd. Felly, byddem yn gofyn i'r Pwyllgor annog Llywodraeth Cymru i flaenoriaethu cyllid digonol a pharhaus i gefnogi lles ac iechyd meddwl myfyrwyr ar draws sector addysg uwch Cymru.

Student well-being: while we welcomed Welsh Government's additional funding to support student mental health during the pandemic, this is an ongoing issue with increasing demands on university services to support those struggling with their mental health.

Like other universities, we have seen an increase in students seeking support with their mental health prior to the pandemic. Existing services have been further stretched since the pandemic, with the additional challenge of providing support in new ways. We would therefore ask the Committee to urge Welsh Government to prioritise sufficient and ongoing funding to support student well-being and mental health across the Welsh higher education sector.

Thema 4: Plant a phobl Ifanc | Theme 4: Children and young people

Nid oes gennym sylwadau pellach i'w gwneud y tro hwn ond hoffem fanteisio ar y cyfle hwn i atgoffa'r Pwyllgor bod gan Brifysgol Abertawe adnoddau sylweddol ym meysydd hawliau plant, iechyd meddwl, yr agenda ddigidol, dysgu ar-lein, addysg STEM, ymgysylltu â'r cyhoedd ac iechyd y cyhoedd.

Hoffem gynnig ein cefnogaeth i'r Pwyllgor yn eu gwaith dros y Chweched Senedd yn ôl yr angen ac fel y bo'n briodol. Cysylltwch â ni os oes unrhyw ffordd y gallwn helpu yn eich cynllunio a'ch rhaglen waith yn y dyfodol.



We have no further comments to make at this time but would like to take this opportunity to remind the Committee that Swansea University has significant resources in the areas of children's rights, mental health, the digital agenda, online learning, STEM education, public engagement and public health.

We would like to offer our support to the Committee in their work over the Sixth Senedd as needed and appropriate. Please get in touch if there is any way we can assist in your planning and future work programme.

