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Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P/KW/4329/18

Lynne Neagle AC
Chair, National Assembly for Wales
Children and Young People's Committee

25 January 2019

Dear Lynne

Developing the new curriculum for Wales

Thank you for the opportunity to update the Children Young People and Education Committee on progress with our programme of reforms, specifically developments within the new curriculum for Wales. During the session I agreed to provide Committee members with the following information.

How the draft curriculum will look

I outlined that we will make the draft curriculum available online as a single 'document'. We have developed the online platform working with pioneers and it will comprise of the overarching guidance for all professionals as well as the six Areas of Learning and Experience. I believe the first iterations of the web content really bring the curriculum to life and I would be happy to facilitate a session for Committee members to demonstrate how the web versions are currently looking.

If members would also like to go through one of the Areas of Learning and Experience to see the curriculum in context, I would be happy to extend the opportunity to cover this.

Programme engagement with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and the Association of Directors of Education in Wales (ADEW)

Our Change Board provides strategic oversight of the education reform programme with specific focus on key areas of reform: the curriculum, professional learning and accountability. Membership of the Board includes senior representation from the middle tier including ADEW and the WLGA. A summary of attendance at Change Board is provided.

2018

27 November	Attendance from WLGA and ADEW
18 September	Attendance from WLGA
20 July	Meeting cancelled
16 May	Attendance from WLGA
17 January	No attendance from WLGA or ADEW

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

2017

27 September	Attendance from WLGA
21 June	Attendance from WLGA
29 March	Attendance from WLGA and ADEW
25 January	Attendance from ADEW

Engagement with business

The Strategic Stakeholder Group (SSG) is kept informed of, and involved in, developments across the whole of the education reform programme. There is a responsibility on all members to represent and engage with their sectors and to support the communication of key messages to their individual networks. The Group also provides a formal opportunity for members to provide feedback or raise concerns from their sectors. For example, membership of the SSG Children and Young People sub group was strengthened to better engage with stakeholders from a range of ethnic minority groups following discussion around Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic representation across the curriculum.

Membership of the SSG includes a representative of business in Wales through the Federation of Small Businesses. They have played an active part in the group and whilst their engagement more recently has been limited, this is to be expected due to the nature of the current phase of work. We fully expect renewed engagement over the spring term into the feedback phase. We have already undertaken initial engagement with the Business Wales Strategic Board directly on the curriculum and the Regional Skills Partnerships. This will now be followed up in more detail by officials. We also have business representation on the Independent Advisory Group (IAG), chaired by Professor Graham Donaldson. My officials regularly review the membership of these groups to seek to ensure comprehensive coverage and we are open to consider other nominations.

In February I will be attending the Institute of Welsh Affairs Wales launch event for their project research on the experiences of Further Education, Higher Education, Business and Skills communities in Wales and Scotland in curriculum reform. I look forward to their findings on practical ways to ensure curriculum reform is integrated with and supported by the four communities.

Opportunity for Committee members to engage with pioneer schools

Last summer I invited members to engage with some of our Pioneer schools to see first hand the good work they are doing. I understand there were some difficulties in finding convenient dates for members and schools, but I hope the visits which took place were useful. I would like to refresh this invitation to members who have yet to hold their visits including new Committee members who did not receive the original invitation. My officials will contact your offices shortly and I would like to encourage you to take up the opportunity to see first hand the work being undertaken.

I hope this update and the session on the 10 January are useful for the Committee and look forward to our ongoing engagement as we progress our programme of reforms.

Yours sincerely



Kirsty Williams AM
Minister for Education