

CIRCULAR

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Partnership with the National Eisteddfod of Wales: Science and Technology Pavilion

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To: Heads of Welsh Higher Education Institutions, The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Advisory Group, Welsh-medium Provision Co-ordinators in the institutions

Response by: 18 September 2015

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<http://www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en/aboutus/circulars/2014-15/>

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol has established a partnership with the National Eisteddfod of Wales in relation to the future organisation of the Science and Technology Pavilion activities.

The Science Pavilion is one of the most popular stands on the Eisteddfod field. Over 20,000 people, including a large number of children, visit the Pavilion every year, and the central aim is to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) through the medium of Welsh.

The main objectives of the Science Pavilion include:

- Co-operation with Higher Education Institutions, the Welsh Government, Research Councils, Communities, Associations, Professional Sectors and the Private Sector to hold a comprehensive programme of activities to promote STEM during Eisteddfod week;
- Promote public understanding of STEM, particularly among families;
- Stimulate interest in STEM among children, young people and adults, demonstrating that the Welsh language is an appropriate medium to deal with these subjects;
- Encourage young people to consider careers in STEM and to consider higher education in those disciplines;
- Support the school curriculum, and promote the attainment of pupils studying STEM;
- Make Science inclusive and accessible to all, particularly people from Communities First areas.

The Coleg has agreed to work with the Eisteddfod to organise and hold Science Pavilion activities (in addition to our annual programme of activities at the Coleg unit on the field, which will continue). A formal agreement is being drawn up, but the Coleg's duties will mainly involve organising the exhibitions and programme, in addition to co-operating with the local committee and the Eisteddfod national panel.

The success of this venture will depend largely on our partnership with the universities, and on their willingness to contribute to the programme of activities, and to encourage companies and partners in the field of science to also participate. It might be possible to agree on a more central role for individual organisations from year to year, depending on the location of the Eisteddfod. (The Eisteddfod will be held in Abergavenny in 2016, on Anglesey in 2017 and – probably – in Cardiff in 2018).

These are early days for the project, but we would at present like to invite the institutions to respond to two questions:

- Would your institution be prepared to be part of a formal partnership with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to organise and support Science and Technology Pavilion activities at the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, beginning in 2016?
- Would your institution be prepared to play a lead role in relation to the Science Pavilion in 2016, 2017 or 2018?

We are specifically interested at present in declarations of interest in relation to the 2016 Monmouthshire Eisteddfod in Abergavenny. There will also be a number of sponsorship opportunities.

We intend to establish a Project Board which would meet occasionally to discuss progress, and all institutions invited to join the enterprise will be asked to nominate a representative.

We would be very grateful to receive your response by 18 September 2015.