

Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh Bacallaureate)

In the spring term of their Skills Challenge Certificate course, a group of Applied Business A-level students discussed the lack of 'community spirit' in their other A level classes. The transition to college can be insular, lonely and difficult for many students. They wanted to challenge this and improve the environments learners that studied in.



Jordan Jeffreys, Matthew Ellis, Nathan Crockett, and Harri Evans-Mason decided they needed 'something' to improve the student environment.

Harri explained "It was partly my work at other campuses and with other students that made me realise the need for a student led group to bring everyone together. I felt it was important to try and forget about the 106 miles separating our Afan campus from our Newtown campus and look to the future, building a closer-knit community at each campus and between our nine campuses.

"The Union was born! We were determined to build a stronger, closer nit student community, with the outlook of our project fulfilling our 30-hour commitment required for the Community Challenge."

"The Welsh Bacallaureate really has given me skills for life and was pivotal in the formation of a Student Union for a college with a student body of almost 14,500."

The aims and objectives of the Union include the advancement of education for members and all students at the College, to represent the interests of members and act as a channel of communication dealing with the College and bodies that affect the education environment and the wellbeing of students, to promote and protect the welfare of students, coordinate activities including clubs and societies and social activities.



They have started to be a progressive Union, hosting pizza parties in North and South Campuses to raise funds. They have assigned Executive Committee Members to sit on College groups such as the Student Support Fund Group, Student Management Group and even the Safeguarding Mangers Group. In May they ran their first election process, which saw 104 students vote across the group including at smaller sites such as Llansamlet in the South and Llandrindod in the North.

Harri added "As President of the Union and a Welsh Bacallaureate student, I have gained an unbelievably large skill set, including the ability to manage large teams, chairing video conference meetings and work with a number of external agencies."