

# Welsh Government launch first Organ Donation pack for secondary Schools.

The pack, which was first tested with pupils there, will help inform key stage 3 and 4 students about organ donation, encouraging them to discuss the subject with their friends and families.

The lesson guide is the result of collaboration between the Welsh Government and NHS Blood and Transplant, and contains a lesson plan, activities, short case study films and guidance for teachers.

The pack aims to encourage pupils to:

- Describe how organ donation saves and improves lives;
- Explain some of the reasons why people decide to become organ and tissue donors;
- Understand why it is important to join the NHS Organ Donor Register;
- Understand how to talk to people about organ and tissue donation;
- Understand what options about donating they must consider under the system in Wales;
- Understand the decision to donate is their own, and the importance of sharing that decision.

In 2015 Wales was the first country in the UK to move to a soft opt-out system of consent to organ donation. The latest statistics reveal a 72% consent rate and approximately 24.3 donors per million population, putting Wales at the top of the list in the UK.

Statistics also show that 39% of the Welsh population have registered to opt-in to donate their organs following their death. However, if individuals don't tell their family of their decision to donate, the family may not honour that decision and over-ride the organ donor registration or not support deemed consent.

In 2016-17 data published by NHS Blood and Transplant showed there were 21 cases in Wales where families either overrode their relatives' decisions to donate organs, or didn't support the deemed consent.

With an average of 3.1 organs retrieved per donor in Wales in 2016-17, this could have resulted in as many as 65 additional transplants.

The Chief Medical Officer for Wales, Dr Frank Atherton said:

“Encouraging an open and honest discussion about organ donation is key to increasing the number of people who consent to donating their organs, and more importantly, that families understand and respect their loved one's wishes.

“It's important that children and young people are given as much

information as possible, in a sensitive and engaging way, so they can make an informed decision about organ donation and encouraging their families to have the chat at home.

To make sure the pack worked in practice, it was piloted at Penyrheol Comprehensive school by PSE Coordinator Hayley Steel before being rolled out. She said:

“Having the chance to test something as important as the school pack on organ donation was a huge honour. It’s been good to see the feedback from our session help shape the pack to what it is today.

“The pupils responded so well to the activities; we shouldn’t forget that young people have the capacity to understand and discuss these huge life questions. I believe it will benefit other schools across Wales, helping to break away from some of the stigma that surrounds discussing organ donation.”

Nadine Marshall, whose son Conner tragically died following an attack in 2015, features in one of the case study films. Nadine said:

“I think it’s really important young people are listened to and given the opportunity to talk about organ donation at school and college. It’s also important people talk to their loved ones about it so families are aware of their decision, should they find themselves in that incredibly difficult situation.

“Conner was only 16 when he made his decision to be an organ donor and I am grateful we had talked about it and were aware of how strongly he felt about being a donor.

“He has given an incredible gift and we were able to do what Conner would have wanted by supporting his decision.”

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## [Minister welcomes good news on Welsh passports](#)

Early this year, the Minister wrote to the Minister of State for Immigration Caroline Nokes MP seeking assurances that the UK Government will continue to use the Welsh language in new passports that will be issued following the UK’s departure from the European Union and reminding the Home Office of its obligations to the Welsh Language under the 1993 Welsh Language Act.

Following this correspondence, the Minister has received a letter confirming

the Home Office intends to continue to provide the same Welsh provision as is currently available.

The Minister has also welcomed news that online applications for passports in Welsh will soon be available.

She said:

“The Welsh Language content that is currently included in passports was the result of discussions between the Welsh Government, the Home Office, and the European Union over a decade ago.

“Since then, the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 has given the Welsh Language official status. It is essential therefore that the Welsh Language is considered from the outset when the design and content of new passports are considered.

“I am therefore delighted to receive assurances from the Minister of State, Caroline Nokes that not only will there be no change to the Welsh that is available on passports issued after Brexit but that the Passport Office is increasing its Welsh Language services and online applications will be available in Welsh in future.”

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## [Kirsty Williams cuts the turf at the new site for Brecon High](#)

The new state-of-the art campus is due to open in September 2019 and is being funded by nearly £22 million investment from the Welsh Government and Powys County Council.

Once complete the new facility will boast excellent teaching and learning resources and has a proposed capacity for 750 pupils, with 600 places for 11-16 year old and 150 places for post-16.

In addition to the Education Secretary, the turf cutting ceremony was attended by the Leader of Powys County Council, Councillor Rosemarie Harris, Cabinet Member for Schools, Councillor Myfanwy Alexander, a range of staff and pupils from Brecon High and representatives from BAM UK Construction, which is carrying out the works.

Speaking at the event Kirsty Williams said:

“It is great to see progress being made on this new state-of-the art facility, which is benefitting from around £10 million Welsh

Government funding via our 21st Century Schools Programme.

“Our national mission is to raise standards, reduce the attainment gap and deliver an education system that is a source of national pride and confidence. Our 21st Century Schools and Education Programme plays a key part in this and is the largest investment in our schools and colleges since the 1960s.

“The design of this new facility will create a 21st Century learning environment and includes learning spaces that can be easily and quickly adapted, which will also help the school to be able to meet the changing and evolving needs of its pupils and staff.”

The Cabinet Member for Schools, Councillor Myfanwy Alexander said:

“This is a major step forward in the process of giving Brecon the High School its learners deserve. All of us who have been fortunate enough to see the plans for the new building will appreciate that as well as providing excellent facilities for teaching and learning, it will be an enhancement to the built environment of the area.’”

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## [Economy Secretary in China to strengthen trade links](#)

He is joined by 25 Welsh companies and organisations including Aircovers in Wrexham, Cradoc’s Savoury Biscuits in Brecon and Teddington Engineered Solutions in Llanelli who are part of the largest Welsh trade delegations to travel to China for 10 years.

The Economy Secretary will host St David’s Day themed receptions in Shanghai and Hong Kong to promote Wales as an outward facing and forward looking nation, keen to build and cement links with global trading partners. He will meet potential investors into Wales and attend a special Advanced Manufacturing event.

He will also meet representatives of the Shanghai and Hong Kong Governments, and the British Consulate and will attend a special performance by the Welsh National Opera.

Ken Skates said:

“I am pleased to be visiting Shanghai and Hong Kong to build on our already strong links with a country that boasts one of the strongest economies in the world.

“Along with a strong trade delegation, I will be extolling Wales’ virtues as a first class trading partner, an excellent tourism destination, a diverse cultural partner and a great place to live, study and do business.

“Our new Economic Action Plan is clear about our commitment to prioritising exports and trade, and to helping businesses retain their existing trading partners while supporting them to branch out into other global markets.

“And with Welsh exports to China having grown significantly from nearly £194m in 2012 to nearly £313m in 2017 there is no doubt that it is a hugely significant market and one that has much to offer our exporters.

“This is a challenging time and one when we are all seeking to navigate the opportunities, challenges and complexities of Brexit.

“Now more than ever it is important that we reach out to China and our other international partners to build a stronger and fairer economy for all. This week’s visit is part of our ongoing and multi-faceted work to achieve this.”

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## [A vibrant industry rewarded at the National Tourism Awards for Wales](#)

The winners were chosen from 44 regional winners, which were selected from more than 400 nominations. Among the businesses awarded were the best places to stay and eat, the best activity and best attraction which ranged from food safaris; staying in a castle; to adrenaline fuelled zip rides. Awards were also received for best practice in innovation and for the Young Tourism Person of the Year which went to Kathryn Colling of Cambria DMC.

During an evening which celebrated the best Wales has to offer, the Brecon Beacons were recognised as Best Destination and a Visit Wales Special Award for International Achievement went to North Wales.

Tourism Minister Lord Elis-Thomas attended the Awards, and said:

“The National Tourism Awards are a showcase of the quality and

variety of experiences which can be had here in Wales – and also show the commitment and professionalism of our vibrant tourism sector in delivering these experiences and welcoming our visitors to Wales.

“The industry does an incredible job, and I am so proud of everyone who works in this sector, helping showcase Wales to the World. We have every reason to have confidence for the future – confidence in what we have to offer, confidence in how we are offering it and confidence that those who visit Wales will experience a high quality, memorable experience. Congratulations to all on your well deserved recognition.”

Celtic Manor Resort Chief Executive Ian Edwards said:

“We were delighted to be able to provide the venue for the 2018 National Tourism Awards for Wales which was a fantastic evening celebrating the very best of Welsh tourism. We offer our congratulations to all the winners and also to the finalists on the night – we know that we are blessed with many amazing destinations, venues, attractions and tourism professionals in Wales, but events like this remind us just how fortunate we are and just how large a role tourism plays in the Welsh economy.”

The award winners were as follows, further information on the categories and winners can be found on: [National Tourism Awards 2018](#) (external link).

- Best Activity – Loving Welsh Food
- Best Attraction – Zip World
- Best Bed & Breakfast – Roch Castle
- Best Caravan, Camping or Glamping – Celtic Holiday Parks
- Best Destination – Brecon Beacons Tourism and Brecon Beacons National Park
- Best Event – Visit Cardiff (UCLF’17)
- Best Hotel – St Brides Spa Hotel, Saundersfoot
- Best Place to Eat – Ynyshir Restaurant and Rooms, Eglwys Fach, Machynlleth
- Best Self-Catering Monmouthshire Cottages LLP
- Tourism Business Innovation Award- The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales

- Young Tourism Person of the Year Kathryn Colling – Cambria Tours Ltd / Hafan Epic
- Visit Wales Special Award for International Achievement – North Wales.