

TURNING WORRY INTO HOPE



Report from the Academi Hywel Teifi conference

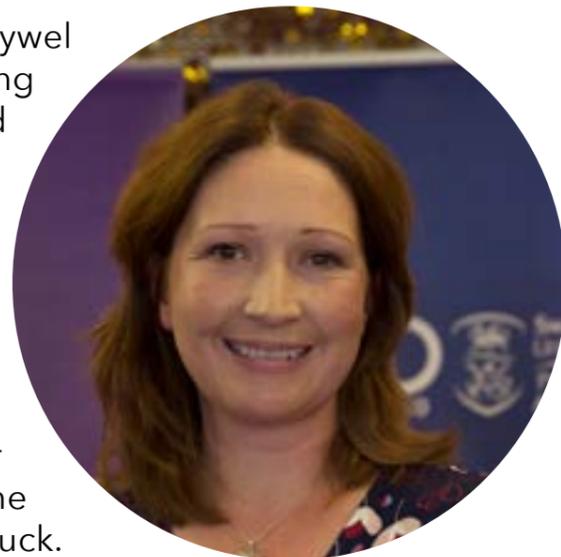
A Worry or an Opportunity:
Welsh in the “New Normal”

10 March 2021

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Introduction

As the staff at Swansea University's Academi Hywel Teifi started discussing the idea of organising this conference in autumn 2020, we all shared a feeling of curiosity, almost excitement, about how the experiences we had just lived through were likely to affect the future of the Welsh language. We saw many possibilities as well as significant challenges.



Although society had faced strict measures and restrictions and an unacceptable number of deaths from the virus, the horrific reality of the second wave of winter 2020-21 had not yet struck. High street businesses and schools had reopened and some of us had enjoyed working from home - the pain of adjusting to life on Zoom and Teams had been experienced and overcome for the time being, and the possibility of a better work-life balance was an appealing prospect. Opportunities to link up offices all over the country without having to travel for hours at great cost was a welcome reality. Adapting to greener and more sustainable living seemed easier than before. Access to cultural, recreational, or political events was easier for those with caring responsibilities or busy schedules. The loss of face-to-face contact was extremely painful, but some groups were seeing greater audiences and benefiting from meeting virtually, and attendance at training courses and meetings had certainly improved! Everyone trying to make the best of a challenging situation. In the midst of all this change, our use of the Welsh language and our ability to use it had to adapt almost overnight. Conversations moved from the community to the virtual space. New phrases or word meanings became part of our everyday conversation - including Welsh terminology, of course, for self-isolating, social distancing, bubble, R rate and lockdown.

However, the dark winter months greatly dampened the enthusiasm for the possibilities of this new normal. Huge losses were recorded daily over the winter months, schools were closed once again for many months, and the impact on businesses and the high street was disastrous. We also saw discussions about mental health and well-being needs rising to the top of the agenda, and our cultural institutions and societies were buckling, with jobs at stake, to name just a few aspects of life that were hit by the pandemic.

It was therefore even more timely for us to consider the question 'to what extent can we think optimistically about the Welsh language in the overwhelming context of the pandemic?' by the time of the conference in March 2021, a year on from the first lockdown. We were keen to explore the extent to which COVID-19 has opened up new opportunities for those of us who actually live, work and study through the medium of Welsh. To what extent has COVID-19 opened up new opportunities for people to engage with the Welsh language, or has it been snatched away from people's grasp and their ability to practise it restricted? Will our fears for the Welsh language be even greater from now on?

I would like to think that things are not all bad. Although our experiences with COVID-19 have highlighted the increasing challenges, some solutions to certain challenges have been identified and raised to the top of the priority list if not already implemented. The aim of the conference, therefore, was to provide an opportunity for serious consideration, and bring together stakeholders to discuss and share ideas on how we can turn worry into hope.

It was an extremely worthwhile day of discussions, and this follow-up report is an attempt to record and convey the topics discussed, the findings uncovered and the next steps identified. It includes recommendations for the new Welsh Government as well as for local authorities, along with next steps for delegates and Welsh language supporters to consider and implement.

I would like to thank all the contributors who shared their experiences and presented their findings at the conference. I would also like to thank Osian Rhys at Nico, and Lynsey Thomas at Academi Hywel Teifi, for their work in compiling this report with me, and for tidying up the recordings of all the sessions which are now available on the Academi Hywel Teifi website.

I hope you find, in the contents of this report and the contributions of our speakers, the inspiration to continue the work of protecting and developing the Welsh language to withstand the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and any similar adversity in the future.

Dr Gwenno Ffrancon, Director, Academi Hywel Teifi

1 The challenges and opportunities in education and the early years

"Read the national Welsh language strategy, Cymraeg 2050, and it becomes quite clear that a significant proportion of the Welsh Government's thinking is based on the assumption that the creation of new speakers, through the education and care system, is fundamental and key to their vision."

Dr Gwenllian Lansdown Davies, Mudiad Meithrin

"The Cymraeg 2050 strategy cannot be implemented without purposefully planning and creating a Welsh-medium workforce."

Lowri Jones, Mentrau Iaith Cymru

As schools and childcare settings closed due to the restrictions, it was important to face the reality that the majority of the children would be speaking English at home. Nationally, only around 6% of children are now learning Welsh at home. This period has reminded us of the importance of Welsh-medium education in terms of creating speakers, and highlighted more than ever the need to support parents whose children are in Welsh-medium education in order to ensure the growth and success of the sector. RhAG (parents for Welsh-medium education) created a questionnaire to gather parents' experiences of Welsh-medium education during this period, and a dedicated 'Welsh 4 Parents' website has been created to offer them support during the pandemic.

The pace of the growth of Welsh-medium education needs to be significantly increased in order to reach the target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050. There are some local authorities who have not opened a single Welsh-medium primary school since they were established in 1996. It is also the case that a clear path from Welsh-medium early years - from the baby and toddler groups, the playgroups, Flying Start, childcare - into school, is just as important as the development of Welsh-medium statutory education. That needs to be recognised by local authorities and national government, and increased investment in Welsh-medium early years is vital.

The budget of the National Centre for Learning Welsh was cut significantly as a result of the pandemic, and the Work Welsh schemes in particular had to be adapted, retaining the intensive learning ethos in moving to self-study methods. The sector as a whole underwent a transformation as all learning moved online, accelerating developments that were already in train creating digital materials and new blended courses. The most important aim is getting people to use the Welsh language, which is particularly difficult given the current restrictions - this means the need to create virtual communities, all the while looking forward to returning to face-to-face engagement in due course. By embracing the opportunities that were new to everyone, there is now more unity in the sector, better internal communication, and an increase in the numbers learning Welsh this year. However, the conference also heard that the Basque Country's budget for Basque for Adults is three times as much as our investment in Welsh for Adults.

Recommendations for the new Welsh Government

- Introduce a Welsh-medium Education Act with the long-term aim of making Welsh the language of the whole education system
- In the meantime, insist on more ambitious targets in the county Welsh in Education Strategic Plans in terms of moving schools up the language continuum - creating new Welsh-medium schools and turning bilingual and English-medium schools into Welsh-medium schools
- Invest to ensure that every child in the country is able to experience a Welsh-medium playgroup and ensure that every new Welsh-medium school includes a cylch meithrin playgroup
- Invest substantially in training for the education and childcare workforce, including training and time away from work to become fluent in Welsh
- Prepare a professional programme for teachers to empower them to encourage and support the parents of children who are in Welsh-medium education
- Develop comprehensive plans for parents to learn Welsh, including resources to support all parents to be able to read Welsh confidently with their children in the first instance
- Announce another significant capital programme to support the growth of Welsh-medium education along similar lines to the 2018 programme

Action for delegates

- Join your local authority's Welsh-medium education forum to press for more ambitious action in developing Welsh-medium education over the next ten years
- Volunteer on the committee of a local cylch meithrin playgroup
- Join Siarad, the National Centre for Learning Welsh's scheme for fluent speakers to support learners to practice their Welsh

Links

- [Mudiad Meithrin's manifesto for the 2021 Senedd elections](#)
- [Gwenllian Lansdown Davies's interview with the Welsh Language Commissioner, Aled Roberts](#)
- [The 'Welsh 4 Parents' website created by RhAG to offer support during the lockdown](#)
- [The Welsh language Popat resource, from which a similar resource could be developed for non-Welsh speaking parents](#)
- [The National Centre for Learning Welsh's Siarad scheme](#)
- [Learn Welsh Statistics 2019-2020](#)



2 Challenges and opportunities in housing and migration

"We need a positive response to the lack of affordable housing in traditional Welsh-speaking areas in order to avoid a detrimental change to the linguistic profile of some of our communities"

Lowri Jones, Mentrau Iaith Cymru

"In my view, we are not trying to get rid of second homes – it's vital that we understand this... What I'm arguing for is that we should aim for stability in relation to second homes. We don't want any more second homes, or actually, from a social justice perspective, we want to reduce their numbers, but in a gradual way that is responsibly managed... The public policy aim is stability. But to reach that stability, more radical steps will need to be taken [following Brexit and COVID-19] than we would have otherwise taken."

Dr Simon Brooks, Swansea University

"Over 5,000 Welsh speakers leave Wales every year"

Dr Tamsin Davies, Cymdeithas yr Iaith

Before the advent of COVID-19, it was known that house prices in some areas were well beyond the reach of local people, with even 'affordable' housing becoming increasingly unaffordable. Second homes are a serious problem in some parts of the country, and to add to this pressure, more and more houses are now being bought in Welsh-speaking communities specifically to let as holiday accommodation on websites such as Airbnb.

The change in people's working patterns as a result of the lockdowns means that people will be able to work from home for parts of the week, which is expected to lead to a significant increase in the demand for second homes. Combined with Brexit, which has made it more difficult for people to move to other European countries, there is a danger that this will have a significant impact on coastal and rural areas of Wales.

Some of the aims in calling for a Property and Planning Act are to bring empty homes into use, cap the percentage of second homes in certain communities, change the definition of affordable housing, control rent prices, devolve planning to the most local level possible, and return more houses to public hands in the form of social housing.

Outward migration needs as much attention as inward migration, and a lack of employment opportunities is having a serious impact in this regard, as well as house prices. The conference also heard about some of the Government's policies that promote the outward migration of Welsh speakers, such as the Seren Network which attracts our brightest students to study at universities mainly in England.

These problems existed long before the pandemic. In 2015-16, 3,670 of Ceredigion's young people left the county, meaning that nearly 20% of all 15-29 year olds left the county in one year. More recently, in the year to June 2020, Land Registry data show that Ceredigion's house prices rose by 11.8%, the largest increase in Wales. The average house price in the county in June 2020 was £207,261. The concern is that the impact of COVID-19 on people's mobility is going to exacerbate this crisis.

Recommendations for the new Welsh Government

- Give local authorities powers to control the housing market through amendments to the planning system.
- Tackle the concerns in Gwynedd that people are avoiding council tax on second homes by turning them into 'businesses'
- Introduce a local land transaction tax where second homes are a problem
- Change the planning system so that planning permission is required to convert a dwelling into holiday accommodation, and trial the need for planning permission before converting a dwelling into a second home
- Introduce a Property and Planning Act
- Review the Seren Network which promotes outward migration from Wales
- Reduce or abolish tuition fees for Welsh-domiciled students studying at Welsh universities
- Devolve hundreds of public sector jobs from Cardiff, and set up new bodies in the north-west and south-west whose internal administration will be conducted in Welsh
- Introduce a substantial programme of learning Welsh specifically for people moving to areas in the north-west and south-west of Wales.
- Establish a commission to officially investigate the fate of Welsh as a community language in the wake of Brexit and COVID-19 and to make national policy recommendations

Recommendations for local authorities in the north-west and south-west

- Follow the example of Cyngor Gwynedd local authority in terms of the policy of a council tax premium on second homes
- Extend Gwynedd and Anglesey's Local Market Housing policy to more areas

Action for delegates

- The changes to working patterns mean it will be easier for Welsh speakers to live in the north-west and south-west while working in the public sector from home

Links

- [Dr Simon Brooks' report, Second homes: Developing new policies in Wales](#)
- [Report by Dyfodol i'r Iaith on the rush for housing in the context of the challenges of COVID-19](#)
- [Local Market Housing - Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan](#)



3 Challenges and opportunities in public policy

"The hope of course is that we have a national strategy that should put the Welsh language at the centre of the debate as we try to rebuild. The policy making standards require all public sector organisations to ensure that the Welsh language is part of the consideration as we try to rebuild... The challenge of course is making sure the strategy is implemented, and that is where the energy will be needed in the months to come."

Aled Roberts, Welsh Language Commissioner

"The budget that sits with the Welsh Language Minister is a very small part of the budget that is needed to promote the Welsh language... If we can't reconfigure the budgets of other Ministers [to prioritise the Welsh language], we are not going to get the necessary investment."

Helen Mary Jones MS, Chair of the Senedd Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

"As a minority language, the Welsh language needs more support than the English language needs to survive the changes at the scale we've seen over the last year..."

Dr Lowri Hughes, Bangor University

Several cases over the last period have shown that there is still a culture in public policy of treating the Welsh language as an add-on rather than something that is core to all policy areas. Although there is an understanding in the field of language policy of the importance of the economy to the Welsh language, for example, the conference heard that the Government's economic recovery plan hardly refers to the language at all. Similarly in education, English-medium education is seen as 'normal', while Welsh-medium education is seen as a specific and special matter. It was reported that the Welsh Language Minister, Eluned Morgan MS, had acknowledged her concern that the Welsh Language Division as it stands is not sufficiently influential. The civil service across all departments, and in all local authorities, need to understand their role in promoting the Welsh language. This is not the responsibility of dedicated officials in some departments, or of one Minister, but of all Welsh Ministers and budgets across Government. A holistic effort is required in order to succeed.

The health service is a public service that has received much attention during the pandemic. The lack of health services through the medium of Welsh is an injustice experienced across the country – in a sector where 'language need' is a more appropriate term than 'language choice' given the nature of the service.

One positive consequence of the pandemic may be a heightened awareness of the

status of Wales as a separate country but also as a bilingual country, as the First Minister Mark Drakeford has been interviewed in both languages during his regular briefings, which are often broadcast throughout the UK.

Some public bodies have used COVID-19 as an excuse to row back on their Welsh language commitments. The answer to this issue is to enforce the Welsh Language Standards in the context of those bodies. The conference heard that of all the Welsh Language Standards, Standard 145 may be the most important of all, being the Standard that places a responsibility on local authorities to create a five-year strategy to maintain or increase the number of Welsh speakers in their area. The full potential of this Standard has not yet been realised, but it could be far-reaching in aiming for Welsh language growth.

Recommendations for the new Welsh Government

- Ensure that the Welsh language is mainstreamed across all areas of the Government's work and is the responsibility of all policy areas
- Ensure that the budgets of all Welsh Ministers prioritise the Welsh language in their respective fields in order to achieve the Welsh language targets of the national strategy, Cymraeg 2050
- Call for the devolution of broadcasting powers from Westminster to Wales, as a step towards establishing a broadcasting system that serves Wales and the Welsh language
- Invest to develop the Welsh language in digital technology
- Extend the scope of the Welsh Language Standards to more organisations and companies
- Establish a medical school in Bangor to train a bilingual health and care workforce
- Set targets for training health workers who can work through the medium of Welsh

Links

- [The report of the Senedd Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee: The impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the Welsh language](#)
- [The Welsh Language Commissioner's manifesto for the 2021 Senedd election](#)
- [Cymdeithas yr Iaith's vision document, More than a Million: Welsh language citizenship for all](#)



4 Challenges and opportunities in procedures and the workplace

"I'm a learner so sometimes I feel happier using Welsh in informal conversations, rather than formal meetings... and I've missed every opportunity for watercooler chats etc."

One of the participants in the ARFer programme discussing the impact of working from home on their use of the language

"The process of forming, reviewing, consulting on and sharing policy would usually take many months. But that was not, and is not, an option during this period. "Speed not perfection" as the world health organisation said. That mantra has been close to my heart throughout."

Dr Gwenllian Lansdown Davies, Mudiad Meithrin

"It is very important for us as a [bilingualism team in a further education college] to take a positive approach to Welsh and bilingualism, and providing an accessible translation service is one of the most effective ways of influencing the attitudes of our staff."

Rebecca Lavis, Swansea University and NPTC Group of Colleges

The workplace is an area that has changed for most people as a result of lockdown, and this is a policy area that is central to the Government's vision of having a million Welsh speakers and increasing the daily use of the language. The workplace is one of the domains that offers the opportunity to use the Welsh language every day; it is a way of nurturing new speakers and developing the skills of fluent speakers. As the transition to working from home has fundamentally changed the way we interact with each other, we have lost the informal engagement inherent in everyday office working and hearing the language being spoken by others daily.

The ARFer programme aims to apply the principles of behaviour change to drive greater use of Welsh in the workplace, helping workplaces move from passive bilingualism to active bilingualism. So far, the results have been very promising.

The change to remote working has also led to new ways of conducting meetings, and many meetings that were previously held bilingually are now conducted in English without simultaneous translation. The Senedd were pioneers in holding the plenary session via Zoom with simultaneous translation since the start of the first lockdown. However, there is no simultaneous translation facility on the Teams platform, and there has been pressure on Microsoft to introduce such a facility as a matter of urgency.

In the context of the justice system, the conference heard about Aberystwyth University's research into simultaneous translation in court proceedings and the additional complexities that arise by conducting remote hearings, beyond mere technical

difficulties. This includes the need for the interpreter to be able to see the speaker clearly and for good general communication between the interpreter and the speaker, the need to engage more than one interpreter when there is more than one speaker, and a potential feeling of alienation for speakers who are completely reliant on an interpreter without being in the same geographical location as their solicitors. Although there are ways to overcome some of the difficulties, and despite the fact that the development has advantages as well as disadvantages, remote simultaneous translation is not appropriate to ensure justice in court proceedings in all cases and other solutions must be found.

Due to the need to respond to the challenges posed by the pandemic, there has also been increased engagement between local and central government over the last year. The conference heard that local government officials who wished to speak Welsh at meetings were given the impression by Welsh Government officials that they were a "nuisance", which raises concerns about a basic lack of understanding of the importance of the Welsh language in the civil service.

Recommendations for the new Welsh Government

- Increase the budget of the National Centre for Learning Welsh for Work Welsh schemes specifically, beginning by undoing the substantial cut made to that budget recently and ensuring that full face-to-face provision is available in the future as well as the current self-study options
- Provide language awareness training to civil servants
- Review language policies if they do not currently consider Welsh language requirements for meetings held in virtual communication spaces
- Continue to put pressure on Microsoft to provide a translation channel on Teams

Action for delegates

- Highlight our desire to speak Welsh on virtual communication platforms by showing the orange speech bubble on our profile to signify that we speak Welsh or updating our 'status' to encourage people to speak Welsh with us, and encourage colleagues to do the same

Links

- [Bangor University's ARFer Programme](#)
- [The Welsh Language Commissioner's advice on holding bilingual video meetings](#)
- [Helo Blod's Welsh language technology pages](#)
- [A language improvement course for fluent Welsh speakers](#)



5 Challenges and opportunities in our communities

"For the [Welsh-medium community] groups, ensuring safety [of face-to-face interactions], support to use technology, additional funding and support to promote their activities would help them survive and thrive into the future."

Lisa Walters, Welsh Government

"We often deprive our poorest communities of contact with our language as well as the culture and heritage associated with the Welsh language... We need to ensure that the Welsh language is an integral part of the support that helps communities overcome economic challenges and develop aspirations and ambitions for the future."

Lowri Jones, Mentrau Iaith Cymru

"Creating opportunities [to speak Welsh] is not what we need to do. What people need is a reason, a purpose. And what better purpose than to participate in the process - in the adventure - of creating and re-creating society?"

Euros Lewis, Prosiect Fory

A Welsh Government survey of the impact of COVID-19 on Welsh language community groups suggests that the vast majority of activity ceased completely after the first lockdown, and that the sector generally is quite fragile. A minority of groups were successful in running online activities, which meant a significant change for them given that only 2% of the groups had carried out online activities before the pandemic. However, most groups did not expect their activities to change significantly in the long term if restrictions were relaxed, with only 13% saying they would adopt several new approaches. The mentrau iaith were most likely to say they would adopt several new approaches.

Inevitably, there has been much less community activity over the last year. However, in the Senedd's experience during the pandemic, digital outreach events can be more effective in reaching new people, as well as reaching people across the whole country.

When everything ground to a halt with the first lockdown, it was an opportunity for everyone to pause and ask ourselves, what kind of life are we living? Prosiect Fory started facilitating conversations with communities, mainly in the three counties of the south-west, to ask what kind of society we want to live in after the crisis is over. The aim of the project is not to provide for communities but to give guidance and inspire them to act for themselves, by motivating, enabling and supporting.

Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog is a network of 14 social enterprises, which are all independent

but come together under the 'parasol' of Cwmni Bro. The income made from trade is retained within the businesses rather than distributed as profits to individuals. It includes all kinds of enterprises, from hotels and restaurants to environmental and poverty reduction projects; altogether, they employ 150 people. An impact analysis demonstrates that the money generated largely circulates in the community, meaning that the local economic impact is amplified.

Drawing inspiration from Radio Beca, BROcast Ffestiniog has been communitizing the media, with people in the area working to create their own media. By combining the environmental, economic, social and cultural elements of the community, Cwmni Bro has begun to drive a cultural change in Bro Ffestiniog - as people move away from a mindset of dependence to a mindset of doing things for themselves.

Recommendations for the new Welsh Government

- Create a network of social enterprise officers to establish Welsh language workplaces across the country
- Completely change the current emphasis in community development expenditure so that community enterprises and small businesses receive the majority of the investment rather than large corporations
- Provide support to establish a 'Senedd of the Communities' on a model similar to Landsbygdsriksdag in Sweden to give a voice to communities across the country
- Work with grassroots Welsh language organisations when designing national community programmes, including tackling poverty and economic development programmes, so that the Welsh language is a central consideration from the outset
- Speed up the work being done on closing the digital divide
- Provide financial support for organisations who create local Welsh language activity, for example local eisteddfodau, to rebuild these networks which are important spaces for the everyday use of Welsh

Action for delegates

- Take inspiration from the activities of Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog and Prosiect Fory and actively work in our communities

Links

- [Mentrau Iaith Cymru's manifesto for the Senedd elections](#)
- [The effects of COVID-19 on Welsh language community groups: results of the Welsh Government survey](#)
- [Welsh Government policy on Welsh language transmission and use in families](#)
- [Cynllun Cyfaill Cymru \(Friends in Wales Scheme\) which was established in August 2020 as a phone line for older people who wanted a chat in Welsh](#)
- [Prosiect Fory](#)
- [Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog](#)
- [Partneriaeth Ogwen](#)
- [Prosiect Fory's draft guidance "Dod ynghyd"](#)

To Conclude

“Nothing is more comforting than giving up hope”, said Saunders Lewis nearly 60 years ago. Is the situation hopeless? It is “if we are content to give up hope”, said the revolutionary scholar. It will take a great deal of energy, perseverance and determination not to lose hope and to ensure that we see opportunities not worries as we respond to the challenges of the pandemic.”

Dr Gwenllian Lansdown Davies, Mudiad Meithrin

“Let none of us allow the pandemic to be used as an excuse for not implementing the Cymraeg 2050 national language strategy. We must keep the faith, strengthen the arrangements we have in place... and create solutions.”

Aled Roberts, Welsh Language Commissioner

“Responding to this latest challenge for the language is mainly our own duty as Welsh speakers. Welsh may be in silos in our institutions, but it doesn’t need to be that way in our daily lives. Our aim should be to motivate, enable and support our fellow Welsh citizens, including those who have chosen to come here to Wales, to use their Welsh... The title of the conference asked if COVID-19 offered more worry than hope for the language. I feel that there is hope for us, and if you didn’t share that view, I hope you found inspiration today, to keep going and to fight for the Welsh language.”

Dr Gwenno Ffrancon, Academi Hywel Teifi

Conference schedule

9.30am	Welcome from Dr Gwenno Ffrancon, Director of Academi Hywel Teifi
9.40am	Panel 1: Educational Challenges and Opportunities Welsh and the Early Years during COVID-19 Dr Gwenllian Lansdown-Davies, Mudiad Meithrin Facing the Challenge for Welsh-medium Pupils during Lockdown Elin Maher, RhAG The Impact of the Pandemic on Learning Welsh Helen Prosser and Dona Lewis, National Centre for Learning Welsh Chair: Dr Alex Lovell
11.00am	Panel 2: Community Challenges and Opportunities The Impact of COVID-19 on Welsh-medium community groups: the findings of the Welsh Government survey Welsh Government (December 2020) Lisa Walters, Welsh Language Division, Welsh Government Creating opportunities for people to use Welsh Lowri Jones, Mentrau Iaith Cymru Chair: Professor Daniel G. Williams
11.50am	BREAK
12.00pm	The Impact of the COVID-19 Outbreak on the Welsh Language Discussion on the findings of the report of the Senedd Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee with Helen Mary Jones MS, Committee Chair Chair: Sioned Williams
12.30pm	Second Homes and COVID-19 Dr Simon Brooks, Swansea University Chair: Dr Gwenno Ffrancon
1.00pm	LUNCH BREAK
2.00pm	COVID-19 - The Worry and Hope Aled Roberts, Welsh Language Commissioner Chair: Professor Elwen Evans QC, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Swansea University
2.45pm	Panel 3: Challenges and Opportunities for Communities The rush for housing in the context of the COVID-19 challenges for Welsh-speaking communities Heini Gruffudd, Dyfodol yr Iaith The Shadow of Covid: strategies for restoring the Welsh language in dark times Tamsin Davies, Cymdeithas yr Iaith Chair: Dr Osian Elias

This report is intended to provide a snapshot of some of the day's impressions.

For a more comprehensive account, you can watch recordings of each of the papers here:

<https://tinyurl.com/59apzerm>

Conference schedule

3.35pm	<p><u>Panel 4: Challenges and Opportunities for Procedures</u> Breaking New Ground: the Senedd's response to the Pandemic Arwyn Jones, Senedd Cymru Challenges and solutions for remote translation of court cases Dr Catrin Fflûr Huws, Dr Rhianedd Jewell, Dr Hanna Binks, Aberystwyth University Chair: Professor Gwynedd Parry</p>
4.25pm	BREAK
4.30pm	<p><u>Panel 5: Challenges and Opportunities for Workplaces</u> Regulations, Constraints, Reality: From Theory to the Workplace: The Significance of the Pandemic in the Context of Public Bodies in Wales Rebecca Lavis, Swansea University Remote working and Welsh: implementing the ARFer programme in the new normal Arwel Williams and Dr Lowri Hughes, Bangor University Chair: Dr Robert Bowen</p>
5.20pm	<p><u>Panel 6: Social Challenges and Opportunities</u> Prosiect Fory: Looking Locally. Seeing Far. Euros Lewis, Prosiect Fory Combined Community Development and the Welsh Language Sel Williams and Ceri Cunnington, Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog Chair: Lynsey Thomas</p>
6.15pm	CLOSE

Publication date: June 2021
 Publisher: Academi Hywel Teifi
 Swansea University
 Talbot Building
 Singleton Park, SWANSEA SA2 8PP
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