

St David's
Coleg Catholig Dewi Sant
Catholic Sixth Form College

Prif Adeilad
Main Building

Dechrau
Section 2.5

YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP IMPACT REPORT

2024-25

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Grounded in our Catholic values and commitment to the dignity of every individual, our mission is to **enable, engage, empower, and equip** learners to realise their **full potential** as innovators, creators, and leaders. Inspired by the principles of **Catholic Social Teaching** - solidarity, subsidiarity, and care for the common good - we seek to nurture an entrepreneurial spirit that values both purpose and people.

Through guidance, mentorship, and real-world opportunities, we support our learners to **build confidence, develop enterprise skills, and explore self-employment** as a meaningful pathway to contributing to society. In an atmosphere of **love, service, and respect**, we empower young people to shape their futures with courage and compassion, transforming their ideas into ventures that serve the community and the common good.

Our dedicated staff play a vital role in this mission, **embedding enterprise and innovation across the curriculum** and extending support **beyond the classroom** through mentoring, workshops, networking opportunities, and partnerships with local businesses. Their commitment ensures that every learner not only gains practical knowledge but also the inspiration, resilience, and faith-driven confidence to pursue their ambitions with integrity and purpose.



THE LAUNCHPAD

ENABLING ENTERPRISE FOR ALL

The **Launchpad** offers a comprehensive range of opportunities designed to **Enable, Engage, Empower, and Equip** learners to explore entrepreneurship and self-employment as exciting and achievable pathways. Learners are encouraged to develop business ideas, test them through practical experiences, and consider **freelance or self-employed work** as viable career options beyond Further Education. Through this process, learners gain the skills and confidence to become **adaptable, forward-thinking, and enterprising individuals** in the modern workforce.

Our enterprise provision combines both **curricular and extra-curricular support**, including:

1-2-1 SUPPORT:

Personalised guidance from our dedicated *Enterprise Champion* helps learners develop key skills, refine their ideas, and progress their ventures.

BIG IDEAS WALES BUSINESS ADVISOR:

Regular monthly surgeries provide expert, practical advice to help learners explore and advance their entrepreneurial ambitions.

ROLE MODELS:

Successful entrepreneurs deliver inspirational talks, sharing real-life experiences and valuable insights to motivate and empower learners.

FAIRS & MARKETS:

Practical opportunities for learners to *test-trade* their ideas, build confidence, and learn essential business principles such as budgeting, marketing, and customer engagement.

COMPETITIONS:

Learners are encouraged to participate in enterprise competitions, fostering creativity, innovation, and problem-solving skills.

INTERNATIONAL TRIPS:

Learners had the opportunity to apply their entrepreneurial skills to live projects, collaborating with clients, mentors, and industry experts to gain real-world experience in an international context.

Through these experiences, **The Launchpad** led by our Enterprise Champion Sandra Brewster, not only builds entrepreneurial capability but also reflects our college's mission to nurture confident, compassionate, and capable young people - empowered to make a positive difference in their communities and the wider world.

For more information on the support available, please email:
sbrewster@stdavidscollege.ac.uk

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

32

ENABLE:

members of staff actively promoted entrepreneurial learning within their departments. **15** Role Model sessions were delivered, inspiring learners through real-life stories of innovation and success.

2327

ENGAGE:

occasions, learners took part in Engage activities that promoted entrepreneurship and enterprise awareness across the college.

384

EMPOWER:

learners participated in Empower activities, such as Insight Days, workshops, and test-trade events - developing key entrepreneurial skills and confidence.

14

EQUIP:

learners received dedicated business mentoring, taking positive steps toward self-employment.

9

learners have already launched their own businesses or are actively pursuing their business ideas.

This year also saw a noticeable **increase in learners exploring 'side hustle' ventures**, using enterprise to earn alongside their studies and gain real-world experience. We are proud of our learners' creativity, ambition, and resilience, and we remain committed to **helping every learner recognise themselves as an entrepreneur**, capable of shaping their own future with faith, courage, and purpose.

OUR HIGHLIGHTS

Key Enterprise Events this Year

GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK:

This year, we celebrated **Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW24)** under the theme “Entrepreneurship is for Everyone” by integrating enterprise learning into our **Spiritual Reflection classes**. Rooted in our Catholic ethos of service, community, and social responsibility, the initiative aimed to build awareness of **Social Enterprise** and the vital role of teamwork, communication, creativity, and problem-solving in ethical entrepreneurship.

All Lower Sixth learners attended an interactive presentation exploring entrepreneurial skills and were invited to apply for a stall at our **Christmas Market**. To build on this momentum, we delivered a series of **enterprise workshops** designed to inspire and upskill future entrepreneurs:

- **“Is Self-Employment for Me?”** – led by Michela Bloomfield (Business Wales), focused on the realities and opportunities of starting a business.
- **Marketing Strategies for Small Businesses** – delivered by Aled Nemes (CEO, Lumen SEO), offering insights into branding, target audiences, and customer engagement.
- **Pitching Your Business Idea** – hosted by Enterprise Champion, Sandra Brewster, where learners developed and presented their own 60-second elevator pitches.
- The week concluded with a **networking session** featuring Sarah Morris (Community Engagement Facilitator) and Role Model, Gemma Hallett, who offered personalised feedback and advice.

The week not only enhanced learners’ entrepreneurial confidence but also reinforced our belief that **enterprise can be a force for good**, empowering every learner to act with creativity, purpose, and compassion in shaping their future.



CHRISTMAS MARKET:

Our second **Christmas Fair** took place in December and, due to its growing popularity, was relocated to the **sports hall** to accommodate more participants. The event featured **40 stalls** showcasing a vibrant mix of learner enterprises, from second-hand comic stalls and handmade aprons to crochet crafts, cake stalls, and social enterprises raising funds for the local homeless shelter. Former learners were also welcomed back to expand their **start-up businesses**, demonstrating the ongoing impact of our enterprise community.

Learners reflected positively on the experience, sharing comments such as:

- "I liked the atmosphere and that everyone I met was friendly. I also enjoyed the process of making and selling my products and having people wanting to buy them."
- "I enjoyed being able to create my own fundraiser. It taught me a lot of skills that will help me in the future."

The Christmas Fair continues to be a highlight of our enterprise calendar, **bringing together creativity, community, and compassion**, while giving learners the opportunity to put their entrepreneurial skills into meaningful

INSPIRING SKILLS EXCELLENCE IN WALES COMPETITIONS:

This year saw a **record number of achievements** in the Skills Competitions, with learners earning **1 Gold, 2 Silver, 2 Bronze, 2 Highly Commended awards**, and an **East Wales Regional Award**.

A special congratulations goes to **Will Landricombe**, who won the **Gold Medal** and **Southeast Wales Regional Award** in the IT Support Technician category. Alongside his studies, Will runs his own IT support business and has been working closely with our **Enterprise Champion** to develop his entrepreneurial skills. The competition provided an invaluable opportunity for him to showcase his talent and professionalism, supported by **IT Systems Administrator, Arran Byron**.

These outstanding results highlight the dedication, skill, and enterprise of our learners, demonstrating how classroom learning, practical experience, and entrepreneurial ambition come together to drive excellence.



WOMEN IN STEM & ESPORTS TRIP, BARCELONA:

In June, twelve talented young women took part in a **Women in STEM and eSports trip to Barcelona**, an inspiring week that encouraged them to think creatively, connect globally, and explore future-focused career pathways. Through visits to leading organisations such as **El Templo (eSports)**, **EcoVadis (sustainable tech)**, and **Juno House (female leadership)**, learners gained valuable insight into innovation, entrepreneurship, and diversity in technology.

Workshops and guest talks, including sessions with **Estamos al Mando** and **AllWomen**, highlighted the importance of collaboration, networking, and soft skills for success in modern industries. The group demonstrated exceptional professionalism, curiosity, and confidence, leaving a lasting impression on every organisation with which they engaged.

This transformative experience, funded by **Taith** and supported by **NextGen Careers**, was made possible through the dedication of staff members **Kojo Hazel**, **Sandra Brewster**, **Kate Davey**, and **Olivia McLaren**. It stands as a testament to our commitment to **empowering young women to lead with innovation, confidence, and compassion** in the fields of STEM and eSports.



LOOKING FORWARD

As we look ahead, we remain committed to **building on the success** of our enterprise provision and strengthening our mission to **enable, engage, empower, and equip** every learner to realise their potential as creative, confident, and compassionate entrepreneurs. Guided by our Catholic ethos, we will continue to nurture an inclusive environment where **enterprise is for everyone**, a place where ideas grow, confidence flourishes, and opportunities are shared.

In the coming year, we aim to:

- **Expand enterprise learning opportunities** through new workshops focused on key entrepreneurial skills such as networking, marketing, innovation, and financial literacy.
- **Embed entrepreneurship across Insight Days** that align with emerging and sustainable sectors, including the **Green Economy** and digital industries.
- **Strengthen partnerships** with local entrepreneurs, alumni, and business networks to provide learners with authentic, real-world experiences and mentorship.
- **Provide targeted support** for learners from underrepresented backgrounds, ensuring fair and equitable access to enterprise education and opportunities.
- **Champion Social Enterprise** in line with our Catholic values, inspiring learners to use their skills for the common good.
- **Encourage learners to test-trade ideas** in a supportive, low-risk environment that builds confidence and practical experience.
- **Showcase learner success stories** through an enhanced online presence for The Launchpad, celebrating innovation and inspiring future entrepreneurs.
- **Empower staff** to continue embedding enterprise education across all curriculum areas, ensuring its relevance and accessibility for every learner.
- **Promote Welsh language and culture** through enterprise initiatives, encouraging collaborations with Welsh-speaking entrepreneurs, and celebrating Wales' rich cultural identity as an integral part of our enterprise journey.

Together, we will continue to grow a **culture of innovation, inclusion, and impact**, ensuring that every learner finishes college equipped not only for employment or higher education, but with the **confidence and courage to create their own opportunities** and contribute positively to society.



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