



22 September 2015

Dear Headteacher

In my capacity as the new Director of the North and Mid Wales Centre of Teacher Education I am writing to you with regards to developments that have taken place over the summer months.

As our existing Centre Strategic Plan was reaching its end date in 2014-2015 it was therefore a priority to draft a new Strategic Plan that sets out a vision that is challenging, strives for high standards in all the Centre's partnership operations, as well as engaging with the vision and priorities of the Welsh Government to raise standards in education. Consequently, I am attaching the **new draft Centre Strategic Plan for 2015/16 – 2019/20**, that provides a Mission Statement for the Centre, overarching goals, core strategic priorities, and the principal key performance indicators (KPIs) that the Centre needs to attain. As this plan is a draft it serves as a starting point for consultation and therefore **I would encourage you as a school within our Centre partnership to consider and comment on the new Centre's vision**. You can do this either by commenting in an e-mail to me (Prof Malcolm Thomas at mlt@aber.ac.uk) and/or by inserting comments into the attached pdf by utilising the *Comments* tab at the top right of the pdf. As this strategic plan evolves it will become the driver for change within our Centre to which we will be held accountable to.

As a result of this new draft Centre Strategic Plan, we have reviewed the channels of accountability within the Centre in conjunction with two universities. In doing so, a new **NMWCTE Strategic Accountability and Quality Assurance and Enhancement Structure** has been agreed. A diagram outlining this structure is attached. In brief, the key changes to the previous structure are as follows:

- The previous Academic Board has been changed to become the **Performance Review Board**. This Board will hold the Centre to account and will review how we are engaging and delivering the Strategic Plan. It will serve to challenge the Centre to deliver its high standards. This Performance Review Board will meet on 5 occasions during 2015-16 in the

first instance. The Performance Review Board will constitute the following: Pro-Vice Chancellor (Chair & member of the Aberystwyth Bangor Strategic Planning Board); Centre Director; Centre Deputy Director; Head of Schools (Aberystwyth & Bangor); Pro-Vice Chancellor (member of the Aberystwyth Bangor Strategic Planning Board); Directors of Teaching & Learning (A & B); University Council Members (A & B); Directors of Programmes; Partnership School Representatives (Primary & Secondary); and Local Authority Representatives.

- The introduction of a new **Centre Quality Assurance and Quality Enhancement Group** that will be responsible for safeguarding standards as well as striving to attain the highest standards across the Centre as a whole. This Group will meet monthly. The QA & QE Group will constitute the following: Centre Director (Chair); Centre Deputy Director; Director of Teaching & Learning (Bangor); Directors of Programmes; Lead (Enhancing Trainee Skills); Lead (Raising & Safeguarding Standards); Lead (Enhancing Mentoring); Lead (Enhancing Trainee Well-being); Centre Data Manager; and Partnership School representatives (P & S).
- The previous Primary & Secondary Steering Committee no longer exists in this new structure. Instead, **Partnership Schools representatives now play a more central and integral role** in the strategic vision accountability (via the Performance Review Board), and in the safeguarding and raising of standards (via the Centre Quality Assurance and Quality Enhancement Group).

Consequently, in light of the above changes **I would encourage and welcome schools within our Centre Partnership to nominate:**

- a) A Head teacher or Senior Mentor to be a member of the **Performance Review Board**. From the nominations received 4 nominees will be selected: two representing Primary schools and two Secondary schools;
- b) A Senior Mentor or Subject Mentor to be a member of the **Centre Quality Assurance and Quality Enhancement Group**. From the nominations received 6 nominees will be selected: three representing Primary schools and three Secondary schools.

You can forward your nominations by e-mail to me (Prof Malcolm Thomas at mlt@aber.ac.uk).

Finally, owing to these changes as noted above **we are holding Mentor Training workshops on the 7th and 8th October (1-4pm) at Bangor and Aberystwyth respectively**. During these training

workshops we will be going through the new protocols, procedures and expectations of trainee's lesson planning and assessment of trainee's lessons. Therefore, we would be grateful if mentors could be released to attend these important sessions.

Please note that the nature of training at both Aberystwyth and Bangor will be the same and common to both Primary and Secondary schools. Hopefully, this will enable schools to attend the training that is closest to them. **To facilitate the organisation of these training events can you let Rachel Pople (r.pople@bangor.ac.uk) know who will be attending from your school and at which location (either Aberystwyth or Bangor).**

Thank you for your willingness to continue to be part of the Centre Partnership and your cooperation to engage with the challenging and exciting developments that are taking place in education in Wales. Together we will ensure a successful and bright future for our Centre in the north and mid Wales region, as well as being proactive in leading and responding to change in education, professional development and research in Wales.

We look forward to continue working with you.



Professor Malcolm Thomas
Director
North and Mid Wales Centre of Teacher Education



Ysgol Addysg a Dysgu Gyddol Oes
School of Education & Lifelong Learning
Aberystwyth
SY23 3UX

Ffôn/Tel: +44 (0)1970 622104 E-bost: addysg@aber.ac.uk
Ffacs/Fax: +44 (0)1970 622258 E-mail: education@aber.ac.uk

www.aber.ac.uk



Yr Ysgol Addysg
School of Education
Bangor
LL57 2PZ

Ffôn/Tel: +44 (0)1248 383082 E-bost: addysg@bangor.ac.uk
Ffacs/Fax: +44 (0)1248 383092 E-mail: education@bangor.ac.uk

www.bangor.ac.uk