

Training of young professionals to work on Swachh Bharat in districts Launched

During his “Mann Ki Baat” address on September 25th, 2016, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, had made an appeal to the corporate world, to

First Minister celebrates the inspiring winners of the 2017 St David Awards

The national awards celebrate the great deeds and extraordinary achievements of Welsh people from all walks of life – from saving lives to inspiring a nation.

Congratulating the winners, First Minister of Wales Carwyn Jones said:

“What a truly inspirational group of winners – I feel incredibly proud that we in Wales can call such an exceptional group of people our own. You make Wales what it is.

“Congratulations to everyone who has won an award and to all the finalists who made the award’s shortlist. You are a credit to your families, friends and the nation. I hope you are rightly proud of your achievements.

“I would also like to remind everyone that if you have been inspired by the winners and finalists, nominations are now open for St David Awards 2018.

“The terrible events that unfolded in Westminster this week remain close to my mind. Tonight, we have heard so many uplifting stories showing us everything that is good about human nature. Stories about bravery, about sacrifice, and about hope.

“These awards are a poignant reminder of the kindness of humanity, and an important opportunity to say thank you to those people who go above and beyond – often endangering their own lives – to keep us safe.”

The winners of the 2017 St David Awards are:

Bravery – Firefighters Gary Slack and Billy Connor

In August 2016, oncall firefighters Gary Slack and Billy Connor braved strong currents at Castle Beach, Tenby, to save 2 children from drowning.

Young person – Savannah Lloyd, mental health volunteer

Having battled mental health problems since she was 11 years old, Savannah uses her experiences to reach out and help others in similar situations.

Sport – Wales Football Team

The Wales Football Team, led by Chris Coleman, reached the semi-final of the Euros 2016. The squad were first class ambassadors for Wales, both on and off the pitch, and their strapline of “Together Stronger” has inspired the nation and captured worldwide interest.

Culture – Professor Jen Wilson, jazz musician and archivist

For more than 50 years, Jen has played a central role in promoting jazz music in Wales and in documenting its history and social impact – and in particular the role of women in jazz.

Enterprise – David Banner, Video Games Company Director

As well as being a multi-award winning games director and Managing Director of Wales Interactive, Dai has been instrumental in the growth of Wales’ games industry. He founded the annual Wales Games Show in 2012 and created the GamesLab project, a digital development initiative for the University of South Wales, which has nurtured hundreds of students and provides a global platform for Welsh digital companies.

Innovation, Science and Technology – Professor Meena Upadhyaya OBE

Britain’s first female British-Indian professor in medical genetics within the UK, Meena’s career focused on identifying genetic disorders. Meena has made a difference to people’s lives either through her medical research or community and charity work and received an OBE in 2016 for services to medical genetics and the Welsh Asian community.

Citizenship – Special Constable Cairn Newton-Evans, Dyfed-Powys Police

Having been a victim of a violent homophobic hate crime, Cairn joined the police to try to stop such attacks happening to others. Cairn is a regular volunteer and a passionate advocate for LGBT rights.

International – Dr David Nott OBE

Each year for the past 23 years, David has taken unpaid leave from his job as Consultant Surgeon at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital to work for aid agencies and provide surgical treatment to the victims of conflict and

catastrophe. David and his wife, Elly, have also established the "davidnottfoundation", raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for charity and providing surgical training to frontline medics.

First Minister's Special Award – Sir Karl Jenkins and Dr Mererid Hopwood

The 21 October 2016 marked the 50th Anniversary of the Aberfan disaster, which tragically claimed the lives of 116 children and 28 adults.

Sir Karl Jenkins and Dr Mererid Hopwood were commissioned by S4C to compose a new choral piece in memorial of this disaster for this concert called Cantata Memoria and its world premiere was held at the Wales Millennium Centre.

The concert commemorated a very difficult time in Welsh history but it was handled in such a way that it took the families with it. It reflected the pain of loss while at the same time looked to the future. It was a very difficult balance to achieve but the piece succeeded and allowed our nation the opportunity to remember the day in a sensitive and dignified way.

Speaking about the First Minister's Special Award winners, Carwyn Jones said:

"What Sir Karl and Dr Mererid accomplished was incredible. Through their music, they brought together not only the community, but so many people from Wales and the world to share in this commemoration."

[Ruth pays tribute following Westminster terror attack](#)

- [Home](#)
- [All News](#)
- Ruth pays tribute following Westminster terror attack

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Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson has paid tribute to the victims of yesterday's London terror attack.

At First Minister's Questions, she offered the party's sympathy with those killed and injured in and around Westminster.

Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson said:

“Yesterday, a coward killed and injured innocent people in an attempt to attack the symbol of our country’s democracy.

“His attack on our values failed as he died – by the paramedics who demonstrated what a civilised society is by trying to save him.

“Once again we express our gratitude to the police officers and security guards who at Westminster – and here at Holyrood – work to keep us safe, whose bravery we only truly appreciate at a time like this.

“People like PC Keith Palmer, who lost his life yesterday doing his job, doing his duty.

“The lesson here is not to tar one religion or one group in the coming days – but to tackle the evil of terrorist ideology itself.

“Not to vilify or blame whole communities, but instead to show we all stand united against terror, and stand united in defeating it.”

Policy paper: Reducing flood risk in Oxford: environmental surveys and archaeological investigations

The project team has carried out various surveys to gain a better understanding of the scheme area and help plan for construction.

Education Secretary praises Newport school’s role in developing Wales’ digital curriculum

Changes to the curriculum mean digital skills will now be developed and taught through all parts of a pupil’s schooling and not just isolated to specific ICT or computer science classes.

The Welsh Government’s Digital Competence Framework is now available to all schools and follows two independent reviews that recommended changes.

The new approach means more than just using computers and aims to equip

pupils with the digital skills they need and can apply in the real world in the years to come.

St Julian's is a Digital Pioneer School which worked to develop the Digital Competence Framework.

Visiting the school, Kirsty Williams said:

"Pioneer Schools such as St Julian's are essential to the success of the Digital Competence Framework and the wider new curriculum and I want to thank everyone for their hard work."

"This radical new approach is about embedding digital skills and knowledge in everything our pupils do as they progress through school. No longer will such issues be isolated in weekly computer classes; instead these vital skills will be applied across our curriculum. They're now as crucial to our pupils' development as learning to read and write. This is a key part of our move to create a curriculum fit for now and the future and not the late 20th century."

Luke Mansfield, Deputy Head-teacher, St Julians Primary, said:

"The entire purpose of the Digital Competence Framework is to equip our learners in Wales with the necessary skills and understanding they will need not only to thrive but to survive in the increasingly digital world in which they are growing up. Being able to effectively use technology to communicate, collaborate, produce and handle data are important life skills and will significantly increase employment opportunities for our young people but more importantly, it is crucial for pupils to have a good understanding of the potential risks involved with using technology and the effects that it can have on their health. The entire first strand of the DCF aims to help children understand the importance of limiting screen time, knowing how to protect themselves from cyberbullying or identity theft, being able to evaluate the reliability of online information."

"With our pupils being immersed in this digital world at such a young age and technology developing at such a rapid rate, all of these skills are vital and schools, parents and the media must work together to educate pupils and raise awareness of these issues."

The Education Secretary also visited Lliswerry High School to see how the school is helping an ethnically diverse range of pupils. Lliswerry has welcomed learners from Eastern Europe and with Welsh Government funding has employed a Roma Heritage Link person, to help develop a strong relationship with the Roma community.