

RUMABON NEWS LETTER 496

29.10.2023

PRESS RELEASE
Ken Skates MS | Clwyd South
23/10/23
for immediate publication



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

Welsh Government grants available to help families with school costs

Members of the Senedd are urging families on low incomes to apply for a Welsh Government grant of up to £200 towards school costs.

The School Essentials Grant can provide up to £200 to help families on lower incomes with things such as school uniforms, shoes, bags and sports kit.

Last year the grant helped 100,055 children in Wales, including almost 7,500 across Wrexham and Denbighshire.

Wrexham MS Lesley Griffiths said: “I know that during the cost-of-living crisis many families will be anxious about making sure children have all they need. This grant can help children with some of the barriers to attending and feeling comfortable in school, as well as taking part in activities.

“With the cold months approaching, the grant can also help with essentials such as coats or shoes.”

Ken Skates, whose Clwyd South constituency includes Wrexham and Denbighshire, said: “Families who receive certain benefits can claim £125 per child per year to help with school costs and, because of the extra cost families might face when their children start secondary school, £200 is available for pupils going into Year 7.

“Families of children receiving Free School Meals should still check their eligibility for the School Essentials Grant, but you must register your eligibility for the grant through your local council – you won’t get it automatically. The school will also get extra funding through the Pupil Development Grant, which is used to provide extra help for children from lower income homes.”

Welsh Government figures show that 4,272 families benefited from the scheme last year, in addition to 3,197 in Denbighshire.

Clare Stephens, deputy headteacher at St Anne’s Catholic Primary School in Wrexham, said: “The School Essentials Grant can be a lifeline for our learners. It helps make sure children come to school with the equipment and uniform they need to learn.

“When families check their eligibility for support like this, it helps schools get more funding which has a really positive impact on our learners. I would urge anyone who thinks they might be eligible to check with their local authority now and apply for support.”

The grant is currently open and will close on 31st May 2024. You can find out if you are eligible and claim support by visiting www.gov.wales/get-help-school-costs

-Ends-

PRESS RELEASE
Ken Skates MS | Clwyd South
25/10/23
for immediate publication



MS raises concerns over proposals for UK’s biggest battery farm

A North Wales MS has raised concerns in the Senedd about plans for the UK’s biggest lithium-ion battery farm in the middle of his constituency.

Ken Skates (Clwyd South) used First Minister’s Questions on Tuesday 24th to voice his fears over the large-scale facilities like the one proposed by Novus Renewable Services in Bersham.

The development would primarily consist of liquid cooled batteries, the size of shipping containers, to raise and lower the voltage for export and import between the site and the National Grid, but Mr Skates said his constituents were concerned about the possible impact.

He said: "You may be aware that there are proposals to construct the United Kingdom's largest lithium-ion battery facility on the border of the villages of Rhostyllen, Rhos and Bersham in Clwyd South. A lot of the technology in these facilities is relatively new and there have been instances of similar facilities catching fire around the world, including nearby in Liverpool where the fire took more than two days to extinguish.

"What safeguards are being considered by the Welsh Government to protect against fire and toxic leakage from such facilities? And would you agree that where they are positioned is vitally important, and they shouldn't be positioned too close to dwellings or to rivers?"

First Minister Mark Drakeford responded: "I am aware of the possible application for that factory facility, and of concerns that are expressed in the Member's own constituency."

Mr Drakeford said 'the first safeguard' should be genuine engagement with local communities, both before the application is submitted and during the application process.

He continued: "Then there are the safeguards that the planning system itself provides, which has to take into account potential environmental and health and safety impacts of any development. In all of that, the proximity of proposals to dwellings and to water is a material consideration for the planning authority to take when it comes to assess the application.

"Where there is a major application, and we will have to wait to see the detail of any proposed application, then additional consents are required to control major accident hazards, to protect human safety, and to minimise environmental impacts."

The First Minister said proposals for stand-alone battery storage schemes are determined by the local planning authority, which in this case would be Wrexham Council. However, plans for large renewable energy schemes can be determined through the Development of National Significance process, which would mean it would be determined by the Welsh Government.

Mr Skates recently wrote to Minister for Climate Change, Julie James, about the proposals.

While the Minister said she could not comment on specific developments in case they are ultimately determined by the Welsh Government, her response was: “Where concerns are identified regarding the nature of a proposed scheme, which could give rise to serious potential and environmental impacts in the event of a serious incident, this is a valid planning consideration.

“The planning system can consider this issue and how it impacts on the acceptability of a proposal; and whether conditions can be put in place to prevent and/or mitigate potential harms.

“It is likely that the views of key stakeholders, such as the Fire Service and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), would be sought on a proposal of this nature, and their advice should inform the decision-making process.”

The site identified by Novus covers around 37 acres of fields to the east of the Legacy National Grid substation and west of the A483, across two fields either side of the B5097.



END.



Council and Unite reach agreement to end strikes in Wrexham

Unite trade union members vote to accept employment offer

Following seven weeks of strike action, Unite – following a ballot of its members – has withdrawn industrial action and accepted the offer from Wrexham Council.

What does this mean for your bin collections?

On Friday, 27th October, Unite informed the council that its members had voted to accept the offer, call off the action and return to work on Monday 30th.

Councillor Mark Pritchard, Leader of Wrexham Council, said: “During the time of the strike, it has been difficult for everyone, including the staff who have continued to work, but I’m pleased we’ve been able to find a solution that will see staff return to work. “We now want to move forward together and get services back to normal as soon as possible for the people of Wrexham.”

What does this mean for your bin collections?

We know that, despite best efforts over the last few weeks of the strike, we haven’t managed to collect all waste and recycling.

Therefore next week (30th October-3rd November), we’ll be doing our best to give everyone a black bin AND recycling collection, on their normal collection day. Please bear with us, as these collections will be heavier than normal, resulting in our vehicles becoming full sooner.

However, we’ll do our best to get to everyone. The plan for the following week (the week starting 6th November) is that we’ll return to normal (pre-strike) collection calendars (including garden waste). Councillor Pritchard

said: “We know that people will want bin collections to get back to normal quickly, so we’re going to spend next week trying to clear everyone’s black bins and recycling, to allow us to return to normal collections the following week.

“Please bear with us as we’ll be collecting significant volumes of waste whilst also getting employees back into work, catching up and re-organising our bin wagons and teams.

“We’ll issue further updates next week. “We know this has been a really difficult time for everyone, and I’d like to thank households for their patience during the strike.”



Marks and Spencer's opening date for new Wrexham Foodhall as release 'sneak peek'.



How New Marks and Spencer Foodhall in Wrexham will look.

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Marks and Spencer has announced the opening date for its new North Wales store.

M&S revealed in February that they were closing their store at Eagles Meadow in a relocation plan in [Wrexham](#).

The retailer said it would instead open a new M&S Foodhall in the Plas Coch Retail Park, with most staff moving across.

Bosses have now released images of how the store will look and confirmed an opening date of 1st December. The high street giant had announced the relocation plan earlier this year.

The new store will be 15,000 sq ft. It will see the closure of the 35,000 sq ft. store in Eagles Meadow, in another blow to the shopping centre.

Nine day DWP warning for £300 cost of living payment.

Department for Work and Pensions payments will start paying direct to accounts of those eligible.

The DWP has managed to cut delays for people applying for PIP More than eight million households will start to receive the next £300 cost of living payment in nine days - offering many of the poorest households vital help with bills. The money will go to those who are receiving benefits and is aimed at helping some of the neediest at this time of year.

The money will be paid out to those eligible from 31st October - and it should go into their accounts automatically.

The Department for Work and Pensions has said that the money will be paid out until 19th November and if people need to know if it has arrived they should look for their National Insurance number followed by either DWP COL or HMRC COLS on their bank statement.

New digital innovations improving safety, cutting waiting times and saving NHS Wales money

Progress on digital innovations which are helping to cut waiting times and save NHS Wales money have been welcomed by the Health Minister Eluned Morgan.

Organisation: [Swansea Bay University Health Board](#)

First published: 19th October 2023. Last updated: 19th October 2023

On a visit to Neath Port Talbot Hospital the Health Minister saw first-hand how a new digital ward concept is transforming time-consuming documentation processes for healthcare staff and patients.

Key to this are two new digital systems which are being rolled out across Wales, the Welsh Nursing Care Record (WNCR) and Electronic Prescribing and Medicines Administration (EPMA).

They are saving time and improving efficiency, bolstering patient safety and quality of care, and saving money for Health Boards.

EPMA provides an electronic system for the prescribing and administering of medicines for patients in hospital.

In the Swansea Bay University Health Board area it has:

- Saved more than 2000 hours of prescriber time each year from re-writing lost, missing or full medication charts at Neath Port Talbot, and a further 3,600 hours a year at Singleton Hospital.
- Reduced the time spent on individual drug rounds per nurse, per ward by 10 minutes at Neath Port Talbot and 6 minutes at Singleton.
- Saved 3,300 nursing hours per year searching for medication charts at Neath Port Talbot and 5,600 hours per year at Singleton.
- Significantly reduced errors associated with medicine prescribing and administration.

All other Health Boards and Trusts will start implementing the system from 1st April 2024.

The WNCR allows staff to record, share and access patient information electronically across wards, hospital sites and Health Board areas. It has also standardised information collected about adults in hospitals, eliminating variation across Health Boards.

All Health Boards and most hospitals across Wales are now using the electronic nursing records, with the remainder set to come on board by March 2024.

One piece of research found that across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health board area, between August 2021 and July 2023, WNCR saved 1,357,827 pieces of paper documentation – the equivalent of 135 trees. It also saw an estimated £1.66 less spent on printing per patient – resulting in annual savings of around £132,800.

Swansea Bay University Health Board has also developed its own electronic system for patient flow, called Signal. This is further helping to improve patient safety and remove delays in patient care. Other Health Boards in Wales are interested in adopting the system.

Signal keeps a digital eye on patients from their admission to hospital, to their discharge. It makes staff involved in their care aware of any support they need to leave hospital as soon as they can. This includes details of a package of care they might need before they can leave.

The system is used across Swansea Bay to support on-line board rounds carried out by clinicians looking after patients. It means every member of the team involved in a patient's care has the information available digitally, in real time, no matter where they may physically be.

Signal also provides hospital management with an overview of what's going on in all the clinical areas. It gives vital real-time information about capacity across all health board sites, and helps to identify areas which may require additional support.

Health Minister Eluned Morgan said:

The benefits of the new digital systems we are funding are clear to see. They are streamlining administrative processes for healthcare staff and allowing them more time to focus on patient care.

As well as improving quality of care they are also saving health boards money during extremely challenging financial times.

I'm very pleased to see Swansea Bay has developed its own digital system to help speed up safe discharge from hospital, which is vital to improving flow through hospitals and cutting waiting times.

Innovations such as this are exactly the sort of solutions we need to implement to ensure an NHS that is fit for the future.

Matthew John, Director of Digital at Swansea Bay University Health Board, said:

Signal is an excellent example of clinicians and digital professionals working together to deliver digital solutions that enable better care for our patients.

Clinicians in Swansea Bay are now able to identify critical information about their patients along with outstanding actions that need to be taken, in real time from any device. This is eliminating administrative delays and blockages.

Fran Beadle, Chief Nursing Information Officer for Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW) – which developed WNCR in partnership with all health boards and trusts in NHS Wales – said: “WNCR has transformed nursing in Wales by standardising documents and providing a digital solution in practice, to enhance patient safety and experience.

Collaboration, engagement and listening to feedback from nursing staff has been the true success of this project.”



Wrexham Libraries



From 30th October, 2023, Wrexham Council will be offering a Warm Welcome in all of our public libraries amid the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

With many residents worried about heating their homes throughout the colder months, the council is utilising existing heated spaces where people are welcome to come to get

warm and enjoy a tea or coffee.

Cllr David A Bithell, Lead member for housing and Chair of the cost of living working group said:

“The cost-of-living crisis has left many local people worried about staying warm at home and this is only going to worsen as we move towards the winter months.

“Rising energy prices are putting real pressure on families, so having community warm places in Wrexham is something to help during a very challenging time.”

[The list of public libraries offering a warm welcome and a hot drink are:](#)

- Brynteg Library • Cefn Mawr Library • Chirk Library • Coedpoeth Library

- Gwersyllt Library • Llay Library • Overton Library • Rhos Library
- Ruabon Library AND • Wrexham Library.



Sunday 29th October

Halloween Party Diddi Dance, Halloween dancing, games and crafts.

Children aged 1-6

10.20-12.00 in Rossett Village Hall

Bookings to be made on www.diddidance.com, please email Kristina.jones@diddidance.com or @diddidancenewales on social media.

Monday 30th October

Breakfast Club Free breakfast and games, first come first served.

09.30-11.00 (last entry 10.45)

Hightown Community Resource Centre

Halloween Crafts Autumn and Halloween children's crafts.

From 15.30-16.30

Call today to book your place! Brynteg Library 01978 759523.

Haunted Happenings Spooky walk led by the ghosts of times past
Hot chocolate and a craft activity.

17.30

Minera Lead Mines

£5 Booking essential via info@groundworknorthwales.org.uk

Monday 30th – Tuesday 31st October

Halloween Thriller Workshop 2 days of dance, physical theatre and creative prop making.

2 day workshop £39 October 30th-31st 10.00-14.00

Ty Pawb Wrexham LL13 8BB

Ages 6+

To book phone 01978860300/07944402474

danceworkshops@yahoo.co.uk

Halloween kids craft event Suitable for age 3-11 (can bring younger but must be accompanied by an adult).

Halloween Fancy Dress Optional

Hightown Community Resource Centre

09.30-11.30

Call Annette 07969814442

[RAeS Event: Aerospace, Aviation, Defence and Space - Addressing the skills gap, the challenges and opportunities for the tier supply chain.](#)

23rd November 2023

[ICC, Wales](#)

Thank you to RAeS Corporate Partner, the Welsh Government, who we are pleased to collaborate with, for this event.

[Overview](#)

The aerospace, aviation, defence and space industries are subject to rapid change and development, so much so that businesses must be especially agile and ever evolving to access and capitalise on new opportunities. This makes it particularly challenging as Tier Suppliers must possess an extensive suite of skills and qualifications to remain competitive.

This includes knowledge and experience in System Design, Verification & Validation, Software Engineering, Manufacturability, Testing and Supplier Management.

In the aerospace industry, traditional supply chains such as the sourcing, manufacturing, and distributing of components and assemblies are now becoming more advanced and are incorporating innovative technologies like digitalisation, advanced design tools and new technologies, such as 3D printing, robotics and AI which are transforming the industry.

With the increased demand arising from the space and defence industry, smartly investing in the right skills can provide tremendous opportunities and advantages whilst also ensuring strict safety and environment control regulations; organisations must be very mindful in adhering to and meeting these standards. Doing so profoundly increases chances of success and allows organisations to become trusted partners and collaborators.

About the event

We will hear from the **Minister for Economy of Wales, Vaughan Gething MS** with an overview of the opportunities in the aerospace, aviation, defence and space sectors for Wales and skills from the Government's perspective. With a panel of experts and audience participation, we will discuss and look to provide solutions for the industry skills gap, now and in the longer term, including encouraging young people to join the industry. We will also discuss the current challenges and opportunities for companies in the supply chain. There will also be an exhibition area for companies to showcase their products and services along with plenty of networking opportunities.

Event programme

- 12.00 Arrival, networking lunch and exhibition
- 12.45 Minister for Economy of Wales, Vaughan Gething MS - Overview of Aerospace Aviation, Defence and Space in Wales
- 13:00 Addressing the skills gap – panel discussion and audience Q&A
- 14:45 Refreshments and exhibition
- 15:15 The Tier Supply Chain – challenges and opportunities and audience **Q&A**
- 16:45 Drinks reception, exhibition and networking
- 18:00 Close

Speakers/panelists include:

- Vaughan Gething MS, Minister for Economy, Welsh Government
- Damon Ballinger, Technical Training Leader, GE Aerospace
- Professor Ben Evans, Head of Aerospace Engineering, Swansea University
- Martin Smith, Head of Dept, International Centre for Aerospace Training, Cardiff & Vale College
- Viv Compton, Founder and Director, Industry Learning Solutions Ltd (ILS)
- Richard Pitts-Robinson, Commercial Director, CaerDav

Why attend

- Hear from the Minister for Economy of Wales on the latest industry developments and initiatives in Wales.
- Understand and contribute to the discussion and solutions to the skills gap – have your say.

- Understand the current challenges and opportunities in the tier supply chain
- Exhibit and showcase your products and services
- Networking opportunities

Who should attend

OEMs; Tier Supply Chain Companies; Academics, Civil Servants, Training providers and all those with an interest in the Aerospace, Aviation, Defence and Space industries.

Attendance fees

Delegates

- RAeS Corporate Partners: free to attend.
- Non RAeS Corporate Partners: £55 + vat

Delegate fees include access to the presentations/talks and exhibition, lunch, refreshments and drinks reception.

Exhibitors

- RAeS Corporate Partners: £120 + vat
- Non RAeS Corporate Partners: £295 +vat (includes one delegate place)

Exhibitor fees include space to exhibit, (one table and two chairs), access to the presentations/talks, lunch, refreshments and drinks reception.

Book online using the **BOOK NOW** button at the end of this page or enquire at events@aerosociety.com for more information.

If you are Interested in becoming Corporate Partner of the Royal Aeronautical Society and benefiting from our event discounts, plus much more, visit our [website](#) or get in touch via email partners@aerosociety.com

Speaker Details



Vaughan Gething MS, Minister for Economy of Wales

Vaughan Gething MS, Minister for Economy of Wales was born in Zambia and brought up in Dorset. He was educated at Aberystwyth and Cardiff universities. He has one son with his wife, Michelle and is a largely retired cricketer who is also a fan of both rugby and football.

Vaughan was a solicitor and former partner at Thompsons. He is a member of the GMB, UNISON and Unite unions, and was the youngest ever President of the Wales TUC. He has previously served as a county councillor, school governor and community service volunteer – supporting and caring for a student with cerebral palsy. Vaughan is also a former president of NUS Wales.

Between 1999 and 2001, Vaughan worked as a researcher to former AMs Val Feld and Lorraine Barrett and between 2001 and 2003, was the chair of Right to Vote – a cross-party project to encourage greater participation from black minority ethnic communities in Welsh public life. He is also a current member of the Co-operative Party.

Vaughan has held the following roles in government, before taking up his current role as Minister for the Economy in May 2021:

Cabinet Secretary/Minister for Health and Social Services May 2016 to May 2021

Deputy Minister for Health September 2014 to May 2016

Deputy Minister for Tackling Poverty June 2013 to September 2014

[Book Now](#)

ICC Wales, Coldra Woods, Newport NP18 1HQ



**The Rainbow
Foundation**

MUSIC MEMORIES

Come and join in singing, playing, making, and enjoying musical memories at this FREE session.

An inclusive and dementia friendly hour singing some well known songs from the past and making your own accompaniment with a variety of shakers, and percussive instruments provided.

No need to book, just drop by.

**TUESDAY 14TH
NOVEMBER**

1:30PM - 2:30PM

Ruabon Village Hall
Maes Y Llan Lane
Ruabon

FREE



Sent in by Angie Cunningham



Crefftau'r Nadolig Christmas Crafts



Ymunwch â'n sesiwn Crefftau'r Nadolig am ddim.

Come and join us for free Christmas Crafts.



05/12/23 and 12/12/23 12.30pm - 2.30pm

Neuadd Bentref Rhiwabon, Maes y Llan, Rhiwabon, LL14 6AD
Ruabon Village Hall, Maes Y Llan Lane, Ruabon, LL14 6AD



Rhaid archebu ymlaen llaw!



Booking is essential!



Cysylltwch â | Contact
training@groundworknorthwales.org.uk
www.groundworknorthwales.org.uk



www.groundworktraining.org.uk

Sent in by Angie Cunningham



Children's University

Friday, 27th October 2023

[Children's University](#) is a charity that is working in partnership with Ysgol Rhiwabon to develop a love of learning in children. This is done by encouraging and celebrating participation in extra-curricular activities in and outside of school. The impact of these activities is proven to be positive which is why we are committed to creating a level playing field of opportunity.

Ysgol Rhiwabon is currently part of the North Wales Pilot for Children's University where pupils earn a stamp per hour in their Passport for Learning, for each of their extra-curricular activities, accumulating to Bronze (30 stamps), Silver (65 stamps) and Gold (100 stamps) awards at their graduation ceremony.

For every child that takes part in Children's University, we want the following outcomes:

- They feel they have grown in confidence and self-belief
- They have enjoyed new experiences, in new places and want to keep exploring
- They believe they have a broader range of essential skills
- They feel empowered to make positive choices about their future
- They see that learning is fun, aspirational and lifelong
- They feel their eyes have been opened to a multiplicity of learning activities and opportunities
- They feel celebrated for their commitment to learning by their family, school and community

With the wide range of extra-curricular activities accredited by Children's University at Ysgol Rhiwabon and in the wider community, pupils are

spoilt for choice in trying out new skills and experiences whilst also developing their confidence in hobbies they already love.

Year 11 Mock Interviews

Thursday, 26th October 2023

Year 11 had their main Mock Interviews today with 20 local employers.

Each student had their CV, and allotted time slot, for an interview with an employer, as a taste of what interviews in the work place may feel like.

Careers Wales, led by Lesley Lloyd, helped arrange for the employers to attend, and co-ordinated with Mrs Helen Sava, Assistant Headteacher, on arrangements for the day.

Mrs Helen Sava said,

‘Feedback from employers was very positive about the students, their CV’s and the event. I was delighted that so many local companies could attend and lend ‘real world’ experience to our students, and I thank them for their time and commitment’.

Here are some pictures from the event







Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Additional Learning Needs Bulletin

£20m to improve learning spaces for those with additional learning needs

During a visit to Ysgol y Bedol in Carmarthenshire, the Minister for Education and the Welsh Language, Jeremy Miles, announced the £20m for schools to transform the experiences of disabled children and those with additional learning needs.



The £20m of capital funding for 2023 to 2024 is allocated to improve the inclusivity of learning environments, create quiet or sensory areas, upgrade or purchase new equipment such as specialist sensory aids, and for works to improve additional learning provision through the medium of Welsh.

This is in addition to the £20m of capital funding the Welsh Government invested in 2022 to 2023 to support disabled learners and those with additional learning needs.

Ysgol y Bedol in Garnant, Carmarthenshire used the grant of £120,000 in 2022 to 2023 to develop a new sensory room and two classrooms specifically equipped to meet the needs of pupils with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), as well as a new outdoor playing area.

Gethin Richards, Headteacher at Ysgol y Bedol, said:

This development has ensured that our pupils have access to their education in an inclusive environment. The sensory room provides opportunities for pupils to relax and the teaching rooms accommodate the needs of pupils with autism. There are specific areas where they can develop awareness of their emotions and areas for learning, research and playing.

The outer area is a place for the pupils to explore the world around them in a way that is completely safe for them. In a short time, the pupils have settled into the new classes and made huge progress in their development.

The resource also allows us to offer expertise and provision to pupils with autism through the medium of Welsh, which is absolutely vital for Welsh-speaking families and children in the area.

The Minister for Education and the Welsh Language, Jeremy Miles said:

This £20m investment will lead to a real difference for disabled learners, and those with additional learning needs, by making sure that our schools are accessible, and have the facilities to support inclusive learning.

Every child in Wales deserves access to high quality education. I want to make sure every learner can fulfil their potential.

The investment will support the implementation of education reforms in Wales, including the Additional Learning Needs Act, the Curriculum for Wales and the aim to increase the number of Welsh speakers.

Local authorities will determine the improvements to schools and settings based on local need.

C.W. COMPUTER SERVICES

CHRIS WILLIAMS
I. T. Consultant & Support

- 01978 846 967
- 07815 478 664
- chris@cw-cs.co.uk
- www.cw-cs.co.uk

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Take care everyone and best wishes

Sybil (Bremner)