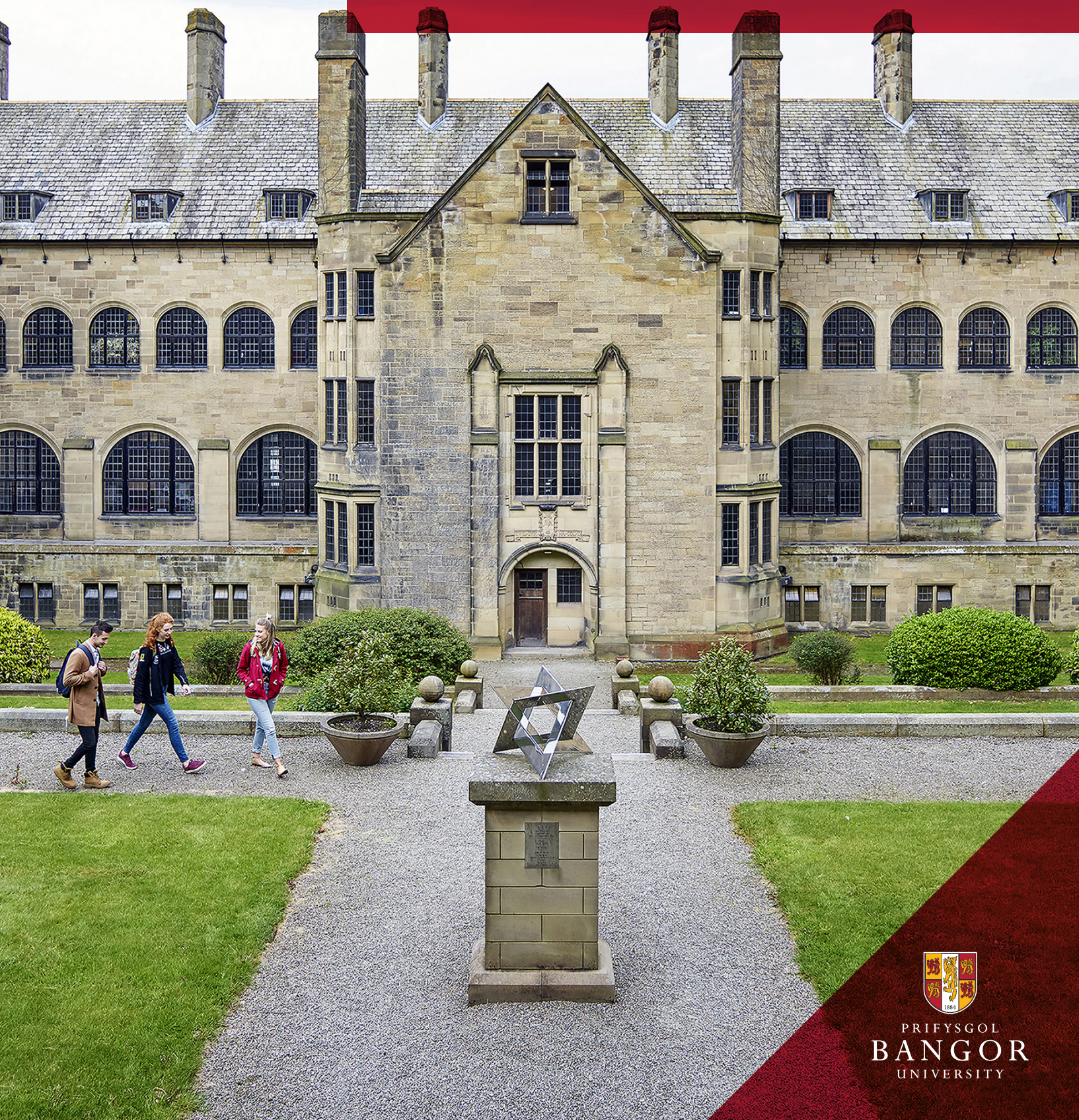


# ANNUAL REVIEW

2017-2018



PRIFYSGOL  
**BANGOR**  
UNIVERSITY





PRIFYSGOL  
**BANGOR**  
UNIVERSITY

## **GOVERNANCE**

The Council, which is the governing body of the University, met on six occasions in 2017/18 and was chaired temporarily by Dr Alwyn Roberts until the University appointed a new Chair of Council. Mrs Marian Wyn Jones was appointed as Chair in February 2018. The University Secretary is Dr Kevin Mundy. The Council is assisted by a number of sub-committees, including the Finance & Resources Committee, chaired by the Treasurer, Mr David Williams, and the Audit & Risk Committee, chaired by Dr Griff Jones, which both met on five occasions during 2017/18. Other Council committees that met during the year include the Nominations & Governance Committee, Ethics Committee, Bilingualism Committee, Remuneration Committee, Strategy Committee and the Health & Safety Committee.

Further information regarding the University's governance is available on [www.bangor.ac.uk/about/management.php.en](http://www.bangor.ac.uk/about/management.php.en)

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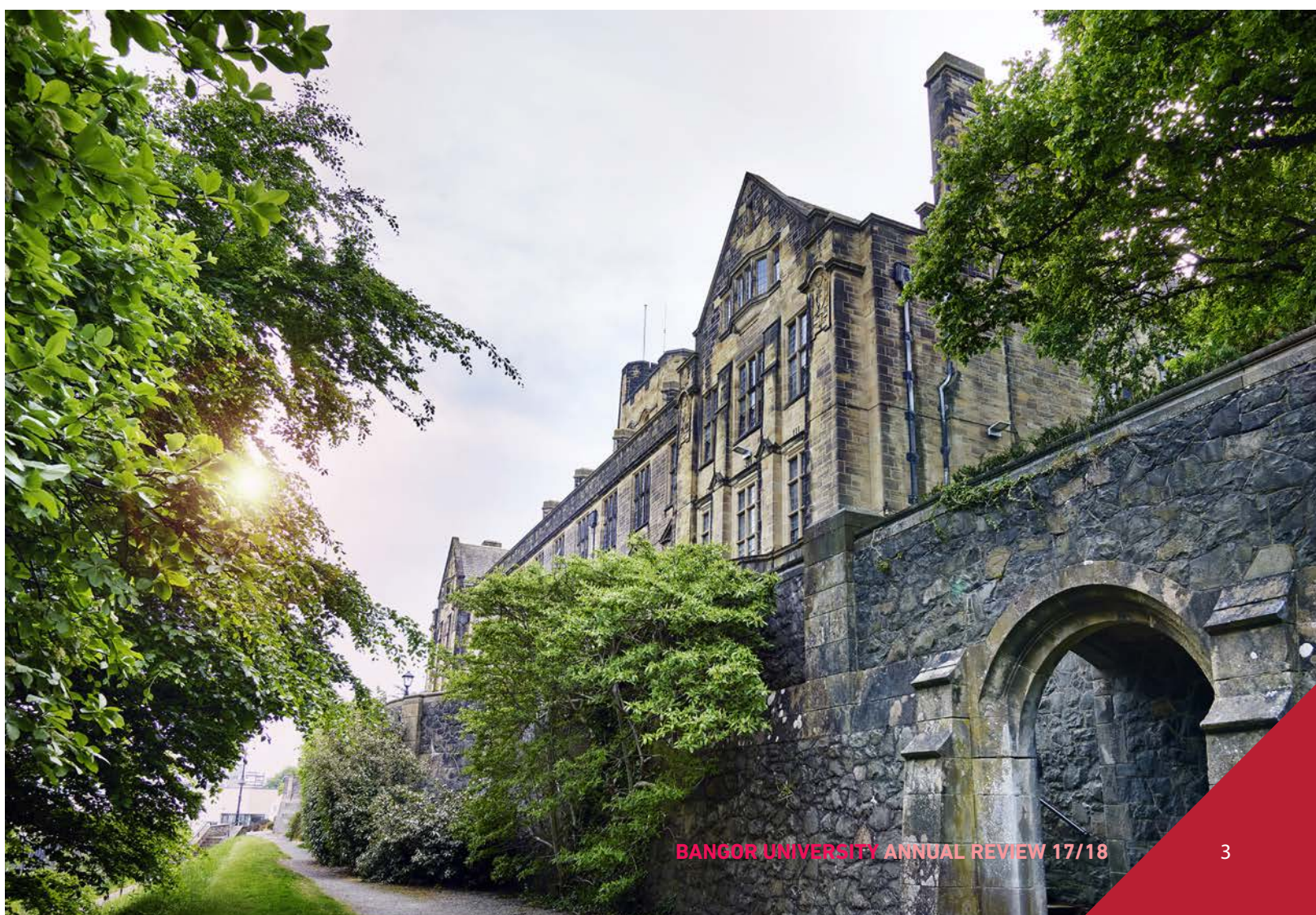
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M-SParc hits the 100  
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# HIGHLIGHTS



1

1 Marian Wyn Jones, Chair of Bangor University's Council.

2 George Meyrick, Chancellor of Bangor University.

3 Gwerfyl Roberts, with the More Than Just Words Lifetime Contribution Award.



2

George Meyrick became the new Chancellor of Bangor University, succeeding Lord Elis-Thomas, who stood down earlier in the year. He became only the 12th individual to hold this ceremonial role at the University, and will serve for an initial period of five years.

Marian Wyn Jones was appointed as the new Chair of Bangor University's governing body, the Council. She becomes the first woman to Chair the Council since the university was founded in 1884, and she succeeds Lord Elis-Thomas, who stood down last year.

Dr Gill Windle and Emeritus Professor Bob Woods of the Dementia Services Development Centre, School of Healthcare Sciences, were part of the Alzheimer's Society taskforce of leading UK clinicians and researchers in dementia, UK funders of dementia research, people with dementia and carer representatives, developing the first dementia research roadmap for prevention, diagnosis, intervention and care by 2025.

Gwerfyl Roberts, Senior Lecturer at the School of Healthcare Sciences received a Lifetime Contribution Award at More Than Just Words 2017 – an event that recognises and celebrates the importance of Welsh-language provision in health, social services and social care, and the exceptional achievements of individuals and teams.

Emma Chappell, who attended Welsh for Adults classes at Bangor University and also works for the University at The Management Centre, won the Welsh Learner of the Year title at the Anglesey National Eisteddfod.

Bangor University became the first university in Wales to be awarded the prestigious Baby Friendly Award and is the latest university to gain recognition from Unicef UK for the high levels of training in breastfeeding provided to students on its midwifery course. Student midwives enrolled on the midwifery programme at Bangor University will now graduate with an extra qualification, which will save them having to complete further training when they are employed as midwives.

The Learned Society of Wales elected Professor Tony Brown, Emeritus Professor, School of English; Professor Raluca Radulescu, Professor of Medieval Literature, School of English; Professor David Neville Thomas FRSB, Professor of Marine Biology, Head of School of Ocean Sciences and Professor Deri Tomos, Emeritus Professor, School of Biological Sciences, as new Fellows.

A volume of poetry written by Peredur Lynch, Professor of Welsh, won the Golwg360 Welsh People's Choice Award at the 2018 Wales Book of the Year Awards.



3



4

4 Hannah Powell, Harry Misangyi, Catrin Jones, Seth Casidsid and Gareth Jones made Bangor University and Wales proud at the Commonwealth Games in Australia.

5 Alys Conran, Wales Book of the Year winner.

Gareth (Gaz) Evans, a member of staff at the University's Canolfan Brailsford sport centre, secured gold in the Men's Weightlifting in the 69kg category, lifting 299kg at the Commonwealth Games. Gareth was one of six athletes from Bangor University who represented Wales at the Games on the Gold Coast, Australia.

Psychologists Emeritus Professor Bob Woods, Dr Catrin Hedd Jones and Dr Nia Williams worked closely with Darlun TV for a BBC Wales documentary that followed three days of planned activities to examine what happened when nursery children came together with people living with dementia. 'The Toddlers Who Took on Dementia' aired on the primetime 9pm slot in May and the series won the Celtic Film Festival 2018 award for Best Factual Series and the Silver World Medal in the Documentary Community Portraits category at the New York TV and Film festival in 2018.

Creative Writer and Lecturer Alys Conran's debut novel was named Wales Book of the Year 2017. She also won the Rhys Davies Trust Fiction Award, English Fiction Award and the People's Choice Award, all for her debut novel *Pigeon*. Published by Parthian, *Pigeon*, a tale of childhood memories, is also unique in having been published simultaneously in English and Welsh, with a translation, *Pijin*, adapted by Siân Northey.

Lisa Blower, a Creative Writing Lecturer at the School of English Literature was one of ten authors long-listed for the prestigious 2018 Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award, which promotes and celebrates the excellence of the modern short story and attracts entries from the world's finest writers.

Bangor University was chosen as the best in the UK for its Students' Union Clubs & Societies as well as its Student Accommodation in the 2018 WhatUni.com Student Choice Awards. The University was also placed third in the UK in the University of the Year category and second in the UK for Courses and Lecturers.

The first textbook on ocean renewable energy was published by Dr Simon Neill, Reader in Physical Oceanography at the School of Ocean Sciences, in collaboration with Dr Reza Hashemi from the University of Rhode Island. The book covers a range of marine renewable energy topics, including the fundamentals of energy conversion, the physics of wave and tidal energy, and how to measure, model and optimize the ocean energy resource.



5





6 Catrin Jones with her father and coach, David Jones, Fitness Manager at Canolfan Brailsford.

7 Dr Zoë Skoulding receiving the Cholmondeley Award for her contribution to poetry from Stephen Fry.



Dr Zoë Skoulding, poet and Reader in Creative Writing, received a Cholmondeley Award for the achievement and distinction of her body of work and her contribution to poetry.

The Urdd Aelwyd at Neuadd John Morris-Jones had many notable successes on the main stage at the Urdd National Eisteddfod, winning medals in all of the voice competitions for groups, parties or choirs, whilst Osian Owen won the Chair and Erin Hughes won the Crown. Both are students at the School of Welsh.

Research from Bangor University showing the effectiveness of extra funding to schools has enabled the Welsh Government to increase funding in order to tackle poverty in Wales. The collaborative research commissioned by GWE and ERW, two school improvement services providers, provided Welsh Government with evidence on which to base its decision to increase funding to schools under the Pupil Development Grant, by a further £90 million in 2018-19. Educationalists, psychologists, social scientists, and legal experts who have amassed vast experiences of working with schools, pupils and children, worked together to conduct a comprehensive review of how poverty could be affecting educational achievement in Wales.

First year Psychology student and weightlifter, Catrin Jones, won the BBC Wales Carwyn James Young Sportswoman of the Year 2017 award. Catrin represented Wales at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, competing in the 53kg category.

A world-leading scientific facility will be developed at Bangor University following a £5m EU funding boost by the Welsh Government's Energy and Rural Affairs Secretary, Lesley Griffiths AM. The funding will help create the Centre for Environmental Biotechnology, which will position the University at the cutting edge of research into how natural materials can be utilised within industrial products and processes.

Bangor University were victorious at the Inter-Collegiate Eisteddfod 2018, winning for a third time in a row. The Eisteddfod is a highlight for Welsh students in Wales, and this year it was held at Lampeter by the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. Osian Owen, studying a BA Welsh degree, won both the Chair and the Crown; music student, Alistair Mahoney won the Musicians' Medal and Nia Hâf, a BA Welsh student won the Drama Medal, with both Alistair and Nia winning for the second year in a row.



8

8 Geraint Wilson-Price, Director of Teaching, Cymraeg Gwaith presenting the award for the best use of Welsh in Human Resource to Nia Meacher, Deputy Director HR; Tracy Hibbert, Director of HR and Mari Ellis-Roberts, HR Officer.

9 Professor Chris Freeman who received an International Fellowship from the Society of Wetland Scientists.

Bangor University has won a national award for the best use of Welsh in Human Resources. The Award, sponsored by Cymraeg Gwaith, was presented at the Wales Cymru HR Awards organised by the Wales HR Network. Bangor University's submission demonstrated the Human Resources Department's constant commitment to providing a comprehensive bilingual service to staff and to those who interact with the team from outside the University.

Chris Freeman, Professor of Wetland Science, received an International Fellowship from the Society of Wetland Scientists in recognition of his pioneering work. Prof Freeman has been conducting research on the subject for over 20 years and has seen his work feature in the world's top scientific journals and on the pages of newspapers around the globe.

Bangor University's students have again given the University a resounding testimonial in the annual National Student Survey, placing the University ninth among the UK's non-specialist universities.

The University was included among the top 100 European Universities in the Times Higher Education (THE) European Teaching Rankings, the first university league table to focus solely on teaching and learning.

Gary Carvalho, Professor in Zoology, was

awarded the Fisheries Society of the British Isles (FSBI) Beverton Medal for his ground-breaking research and lifelong contribution to fish and fisheries science.

The Welsh Government announced that it plans to expand medical education across Wales, which includes new opportunities to study in north Wales. From 2019, through collaboration between Cardiff and Bangor Universities, students will be able to study for their medical degree in north Wales.

The Speaking Hands scheme was established to offer British Sign Language to all Welsh-medium nursery schools in Wales (Mudiad Meithrin) and with the financial support of the University's Widening Access Centre, a series of short films were produced, introducing one word and one sign weekly to the 18,000 prospective viewers under 4 years of age.

For the fourth year running, Bangor University won Varsity - the annual sporting extravaganza against Aberystwyth University - with an overall final score of 33-10 to Bangor.



9





Rev Dr Alwyn Roberts

Several individuals attended the University degree ceremonies to receive Honorary Fellowships. They were:

**Ann Catrin Evans**, an internationally renowned sculptor and jeweller who has been a leading light on the Welsh craft scene for over 25 years;

Alumnus, engineer and entrepreneur, **Howard M Clarke**, who is Chairman of Morgan Innovation & Technology;

Renowned musician, **Llio Rhydderch**, who is recognised as the foremost exponent of the Welsh Triple Harp;

**Lord David Lloyd-Jones**, a distinguished judge and legal scholar, who was recently appointed as Justice of the Supreme Court, and has shown his active support of the University's Law students in a variety of ways;

**Dr Philip Trathan**, Head of Conservation at the British Antarctic Survey has three degrees from Bangor University; having graduated with a BSc in Botany in 1979, and a PhD in Plant Population Ecology in 1983. He received a DSc for an outstanding contribution to Antarctic Science in 2012.

**Professor Julie Williams**, a leading figure in the field of Alzheimer's disease research and recently Chief Scientific Officer for Wales;

**Professor Robin Grove-White**, an academic and Chair of the University's Institute for the Study of Welsh Estates. A resident of Anglesey, Professor Grove-White is a committed and active environmentalist.

**Stavros Ioannou**, alumnus and Deputy CEO of Eurobank has made an overwhelmingly positive contribution to Greece's banking sector through managerial roles in major financial institutions;

**Dr Margaret Wood**, an academic and co-author of the first full *Geology of Anglesey*, has demonstrated a passionate commitment to her profession and to furthering geological science.

**Rev Dr Alwyn Roberts**, former Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University was involved in the life of the University for over 50 years as a student, member of staff, and member of Council. Sadly Rev Dr Roberts passed away shortly after graduation week.





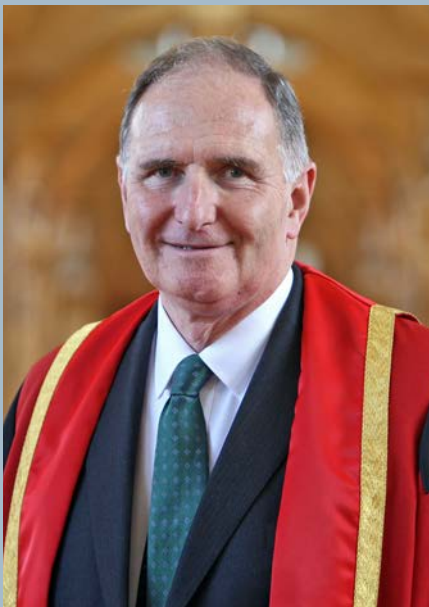
**Ann Catrin Evans**



**Howard M Clarke**



**Llio Rhydderch**



**Lord David Lloyd-Jones**



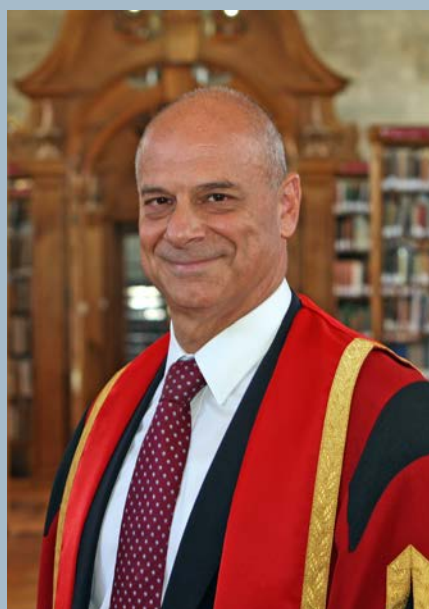
**Dr Philip Trathan**



**Professor Julie Williams**



**Professor Robin Grove-White**



**Stavros Ioannou**



**Dr Margaret Wood**



## “LOST” KUBRICK SCREENPLAY DISCOVERED

Stanley Kubrick expert Nathan Abrams, Professor of Film Studies, discovered a 1956 screenplay by Stanley Kubrick that was believed to have been lost. Titled *Burning Secret*, it was an adaptation of Viennese novelist, Stefan Zweig’s 1913 novella of the same name.

The novella is told from the perspective of a twelve-year-old Jewish boy. He is befriended by a suave but predatory baron at an Austrian holiday spa resort as a means of seducing the boy’s married mother. The child acts as an unwitting go-between for his mother and her would-be lover, making for a disturbing story with sexuality and child abuse churning beneath its surface.

Back in 1956, the young Stanley Kubrick was still relatively unknown, having just wrapped his crime heist film *The Killing*. Together with his producing partner, James B. Harris, he was looking for a new project to boost his fledgling reputation. MGM offered the pair first refusal of any property.

“For a long time, the script was lost. It was not even known if it was completed,” said Professor Abrams, who has published *Stanley Kubrick: New York Jewish Intellectual* with Rutgers University Press. “This literally just fell into my lap as I was researching my next book.

“From what I have seen, the screenplay looks authentic. Dated October 24, 1956 it bears the stamp of the Script Department of MGM. It was to be produced by James B. Harris, directed by Kubrick and was written by Kubrick and Calder Willingham.”

“Kubrick aficionados know he wanted to do it, [but] no one ever thought it was completed. We now have a copy and this proves that he had done a full screenplay.”

# RESEARCH

## FIRST NUCLEAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN WALES OPENED

The Nuclear Futures Institute was established with funding from the Welsh Government’s *Sêr Cymru* programme, which is helping to attract world-leading researchers to Wales, with funding also coming from the European Regional Development Fund and from Bangor University.

This £6.5m programme will be led by distinguished and internationally renowned research leaders specialising in two key areas for the nuclear sector. Professor Bill Lee joins from Imperial College London, and brings a wealth of expertise in Materials Sciences, in particular its application in extreme environments such as in nuclear reactor technologies and aerospace.

The second area of expertise is in sensitivity analysis and predictive modelling of complex systems to address challenges such as those found in the nuclear sector and environmental systems. This aspect will be led by Professor Dan Cacucci.

The *Sêr Cymru* programme will also enable the University to build teams around the *Sêr Cymru* stars and establish Bangor University as a new centre of excellence in the UK.

This investment is already playing a key role in attracting long-term private sector strategic investment and high-value jobs in the nuclear sector to north Wales, and also supports the development of Bangor University’s low-carbon energy science park, M-SParc Ltd, by helping to attract supply chain companies within the nuclear industry.

As new nuclear technologies are introduced to the UK and elsewhere in the world, significant research effort is required to understand and ensure the optimal design and deployment of those new technologies.

Bangor University’s computational expertise will be used to create an institute that will make north Wales a global centre in predictive modelling and materials in the nuclear sector and complement the experimental research being undertaken elsewhere in the UK.

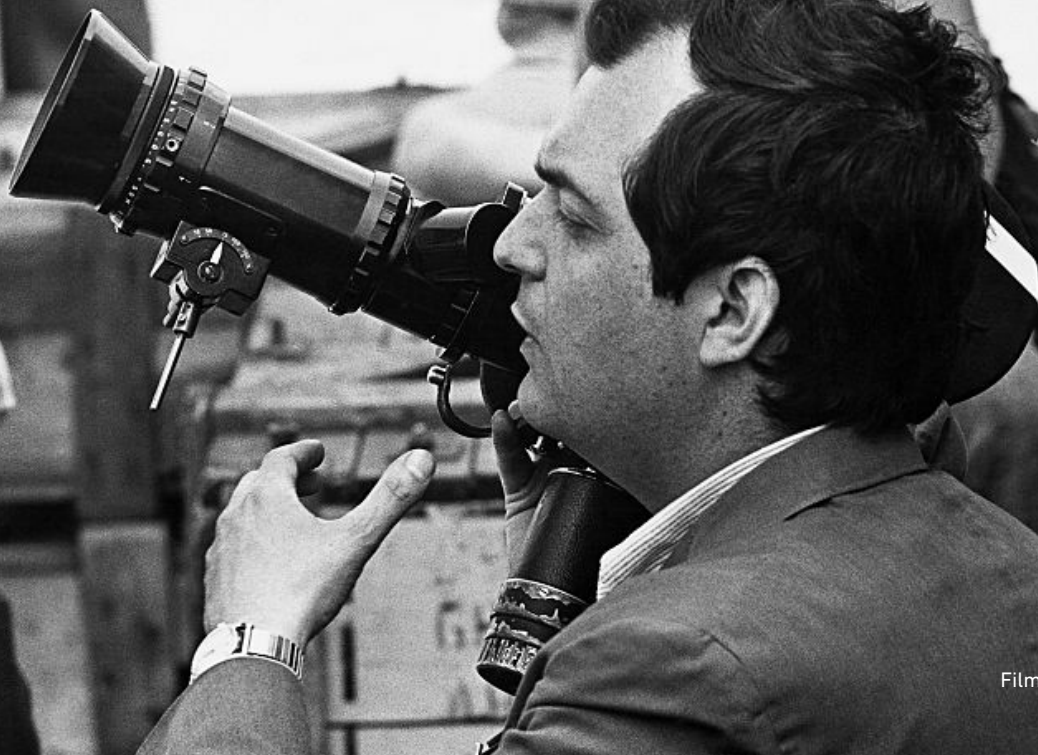
Earlier in the year, the UK Government announced that Bangor University has been chosen to lead a Science and Innovation Audit of the North West Nuclear Arc Consortium and follows on from last year’s launch of the Boiling Water Reactor Research Hub and Network. This is a joint venture with Imperial College, London, with support

from Hitachi-GE Nuclear and the Welsh Government.

Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport Ken Skates AM said: “The nuclear sector is strategically important for Wales, providing low carbon energy for homes and businesses while also offering job opportunities in a highly skilled industry. The Welsh Government is committed to developing a suitably skilled workforce for the nuclear sector, and my officials have already been working closely with industry as this Strategic Plan has been developed.”

Professor Jo Rycroft-Malone, PVC for Research said: “We are very excited about the potential that the Nuclear Futures Institute will offer for the University, our future students, and also to businesses active in nuclear and other energy-related areas that are being increasingly attracted to North Wales.”





Film Director Stanley Kubrick.  
© Getty Images

## DEVELOPING NEW LONG-RANGE MICRO BACKPACKS FOR BEES

An ecologist and a microsystems engineer are working together to develop micro-backpacks for bees that will enable the insects to be followed by small drones as they fly from plant to plant. This will enable scientists to learn more about where the bees collect nectar and what might be affecting their numbers. The lightweight, long-range bee-tracking device will harness the bee's own electrical energy to power the backpacks.

Dr Paul Cross, Senior Lecturer in the Environment explains:

"Bee populations, our vital crop and fruit pollinators, are in serious decline; their survival faces challenges on several fronts - insecticides and varroa mites to name a few.

The ability to track bees or other insects over their entire foraging range will be useful in various circumstances. Other applications include tracking Asian hornets (a serious threat to many bee species) in Europe with a view to controlling or eradicating them before it's too late."

Dr Palego, Senior Lecturer in Microwave Instrumentation explains:

"Existing bee monitoring devices are limited by their weight, range, and how long their power source lasts, and these are the problems that we've set out to resolve using cutting-edge micro-technology.



"We have proven our ability to harvest the bee's electrical energy to enable us to eliminate the need for a battery and our end product will weigh only a third of the bee's body weight, or less than a raindrop.

"Our next step is to develop a mobile receiver to track and follow the bee's transmitted signal as it forages."

The initial project is funded as a Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS) Programme. The partner organisation is the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association (BIBBA), who are keen to fund research into honey-bee tracking in temperate environments to identify the foraging range of the bee under differing climatic and environmental conditions. This will provide the association with more robust viability assessments before establishing new apiaries.



# TEACHING & LEARNING



## A GLOWING REPORT BY THE QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY

Bangor University welcomed the findings of the Quality Assurance Agency's (QAA) Institutional Review, which commended the way the university manages academic quality.

Bangor is the first university to undergo this new Welsh Quality and Enhancement Review, and we found it to be a very detailed and thorough process. The findings reflect the high academic standards that are to be found at Bangor.

The University received a number of commendations that highlighted particular areas of strength, including the way in which Bangor uses a data-driven approach to inform and enhance the student experience.

Other areas that received commendations were the University's deeply-embedded, extensive, and culturally-valued partnership with students, and the fact that bilingualism is embedded within all aspects of the student experience, and positively impacts upon it.

The QAA stated: "The University's approach to enhancing the student learning experience is effective, student-led and student-focused."

Professor Oliver Turnbull, Pro Vice-Chancellor, said:

"The report is a clear evidence of the excellent way that academic quality is managed at Bangor University, and I'd like to thank all of our staff for their outstanding efforts over the years in maintaining such high standards.

"I'm delighted to say that the QAA were so impressed with our provision that they produced a report which, quite exceptionally, included no formal recommendations on how we might improve."



QAA  
Cymru

UK Quality Assured

Sicrwydd Ansawdd y DU



## LECTURER SELECTED AS MICROSOFT INNOVATIVE EDUCATOR EXPERT

Owen Davies, Lecturer in Education, was recognised as a global leader in using technology to transform education and was named a Microsoft Innovative Educator (MIE) Expert, joining more than 6,700 educators in the MIE Expert worldwide programme.

Each year, Microsoft selects innovative educators to share ideas, try new approaches and learn from each other as a global community, dedicated to improving student outcomes through technology.

Owen said: "I feel privileged to be part of the worldwide MIE community, my goal is to bring outstanding professional tools and pedagogy to Education students so that they can inspire learners and promote effective collaboration in their classrooms."

As an MIE Expert, educators build their capacity for using technology in both the classroom and curriculum to improve student learning. They also advise Microsoft and educational institutions on how to integrate technology in pedagogically-sound ways and be an advocate at conferences, events and training courses for how Microsoft technology can improve learning.

"Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts are inspiring examples of educators applying new ways of teaching and learning in their classrooms that motivate students and empower them to achieve more," said Anthony Salcito, Vice President, Worldwide Education, Microsoft. "We celebrate and support the work they do every day!"

Owen Davies joins a global group of Microsoft Innovative Educators.



## DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS IN PRACTICE

Across the UK, clinical academic careers are a key area in the development of forward-looking health services that support highly-skilled practitioners to engage with academic research that could also drive forward improvements in the organisation and delivery of healthcare, in an increasingly complex environment.

The School of Health Sciences has worked in partnership with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) and Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (CCC) to generate an innovative pathway for clinicians across a wide range of multidisciplinary professions to develop clinical academic careers, initially focussed on nursing and medicine.

The initiative was a collaborative effort between multidisciplinary clinicians in BCUHB and academics at the School of Health Sciences. It also includes an innovative 'first-into-teaching and research' route for new graduates with the CCC, advancing Welsh-medium provision in the School and the 'Active Offer' for care through the medium of Welsh in clinical practice.

The new Clinical Academic pathway enables a variety of clinicians to follow a flexible route, embedded in the School to support the development of clinical academic careers in north Wales. The Clinical Improvement Programme focusses on stimulating and developing innovations in everyday clinical practice, using implementation work centred on the School's 'Improvement Hub'.

The Clinical Academic Programme centres on completing research work. Importantly, the Clinical Academics on the pathway will benefit from working with a range of the University's research centres.

The Clinical Academic pathway provides a scaffolding for innovation in practice and enables clinicians to continue within practice, whilst completing a postgraduate degree and bridging university with clinical life. Importantly, as part of this initiative, a 'Community of Scholars in Practice' provides peer support for Clinical Academics, facilitating shared learning and enterprise.



## BANGOR INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE LAUNCHED

Last year, Bangor University signed a new partnership with Oxford International Education, a unique accredited education provider, and a world leader in education in the UK and Canada. In November 2017, the Bangor International College, an Embedded College on the Bangor University campus, was officially launched. Students will be able to undertake the first part of an extended degree programme combining academic and study skills and English improvement courses at the new College.

Bangor International College will deliver the first stages of the International Incorporated undergraduate and the International Incorporated postgraduate programmes in subjects including Business, Management, Finance, Investment Banking, Electronic Engineering, Computer Science, Law, Media, Psychology and Social Sciences. Following successful completion of Part 1 at Bangor International College, students can then continue their studies in Part 2 directly at Bangor University.



Staff and students at the Bangor International College launch event.

An impressive 100% of the first cohort of Bangor International College students progressed onto Part 2 in 2017/18 and the partnership will celebrate its first set of graduates in December 2019.

Mark Stanton, Chief Executive Officer of OIEG, said at the launch event:

"We are pleased to work with institutions that have a significant profile and commitment to international education

such as Bangor University. Our students benefit from being able to progress directly onto a range of highly-regarded degree programmes with Bangor University. We look forward to working with the University to expand the range of subjects available and provide seamless progression onto degree courses for our students."

# INTERNATIONALISATION

## NUS INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Postgraduate student, Charu Dada from India, won the National Union of Students' 'International Student of the Year 2018' award. This award is given to an international student who has demonstrated the dynamic and positive impact international students can have at their institutions and on their local communities. The winner is expected to have shown a commitment to maximising international students' experience in the UK and in improving the experience of others.

Throughout her time at Bangor, Charu dedicated herself to helping international students on campus. As an International Student Ambassador, she devoted her spare time assisting with airport pickups, campus tours and Welcome Week activities. Charu also spent a large portion of her time volunteering for environmental causes, celebrating Welsh culture, and working with asylum-seeking and refugee students in the UK.

Alan Edwards, Head of International Student Support, said:

"Charu has been an enthusiastic supporter of Bangor's International Office for many years as an International Student Ambassador. She also assisted with several initiatives such as supporting students more widely across the University, as a Halls Warden, Students Union representative, School representative and a leader of the University Indian Society. Her supportive role has been highly appreciated as she has helped many students to settle in to life in a new country, culture and University."

Charu graduated with an EDD Doctoral Degree in Education in July and her main aim is to continue working in the field of education at a university in India or abroad.





## FIRST COHORT OF BANGOR COLLEGE CHINA STUDENTS GRADUATE



Staff and Students at the Bangor Graduation Ceremony.

Bangor College China reached a key milestone in July 2018 with the graduation of the first cohort of students. BCC opened its doors in 2014 offering BSc degrees in Accounting and Finance, Banking and Finance, Electronic Engineering, Forestry and Environmental Management,

In a partnership between Bangor University and Central South University of Forestry and Technology in Changsha, China, students gain a double degree – a bachelor degree from both institutions, enhancing their knowledge, skills and future employment prospects. Students are taught by leading academics from

both institutions and may choose to undertake their entire studies in China or alternatively to commence in China and complete in the UK.

Of the 227 graduates across both campuses in 2018, 88 transferred to Bangor University. An impressive 91 students in this first cohort from across both campuses achieved first-class honours.

China-based students graduated in an 8th July ceremony in Central South University of Forestry and Technology and the UK-based students on the 16th July at Bangor University. Both

ceremonies were attended by the leaders of both Universities; Vice Chancellor Professor John Hughes of Bangor University and Professor Zhao, Party Secretary of Central South University of Forestry and Technology.

Staff and Students at the China Graduation Ceremony.





## Darlithfa / Lecture theatre



# WELSH-MEDIUM

Recent statistics have revealed that almost half of all students studying a degree through the medium of Welsh now do so at Bangor University. In addition, the largest number of lecturers teaching through the medium of Welsh is at Bangor University.

Welsh-medium education is one of the Welsh Government's top priorities, and is crucial in achieving the Government's strategy of having a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Professor Jerry Hunter, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Welsh Medium and Civic Engagement) said: "Having a comprehensive Welsh-medium education system, which allows the children and young people of Wales to learn and study through the medium of Welsh all the way from nursery to higher education, is absolutely crucial to the prosperity of the language.

"In aiming to reach a million by 2050, it is essential that our higher education institutions give young people the opportunity to continue their education through the medium of Welsh. In this regard, it is heartening to see Bangor University leading the field in Wales and providing numerous opportunities for students to study full degree programmes and individual modules through the medium of Welsh."

Professor Hunter added: "Although the number of Welsh speakers has been distributed across Wales, it is amazing that 44% of all students studying a degree course wholly through the medium of Welsh are doing so in Bangor.

"Being able to study some subjects entirely through the medium of Welsh is great, naturally, but it should also be remembered that elements of all subjects taught at Bangor can be studied through the medium of Welsh."

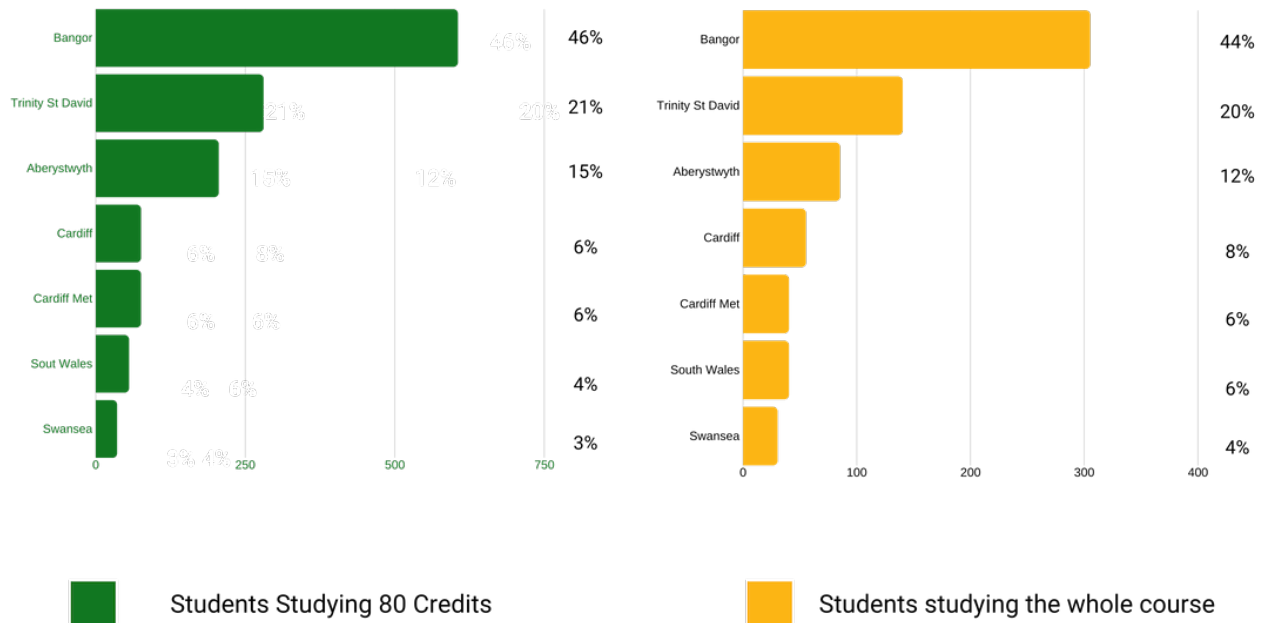
Recently, numerous examples have shown that Bangor University is leading in many areas related to the Welsh language and culture. The *Cydymaith i Gerddoriaeth Cymru* ('The Companion to Welsh Music') was published in September 2018 and is an authoritative directory that covers all aspects of music in Wales, from the 6th Century to the present day. And in the context of the present day and the place of technologies in our daily lives, attention has been given by the European Parliament to the research and specialist resources of Canolfan Bedwyr's Language Technologies Unit recently.

In addition, the Language Technologies Unit has been responsible for contributing their expertise to the Welsh language action plan published by the Welsh Government in October 2018, leading on the development of Welsh versions of digital personal assistants and artificial intelligence systems that will allow these machines to understand



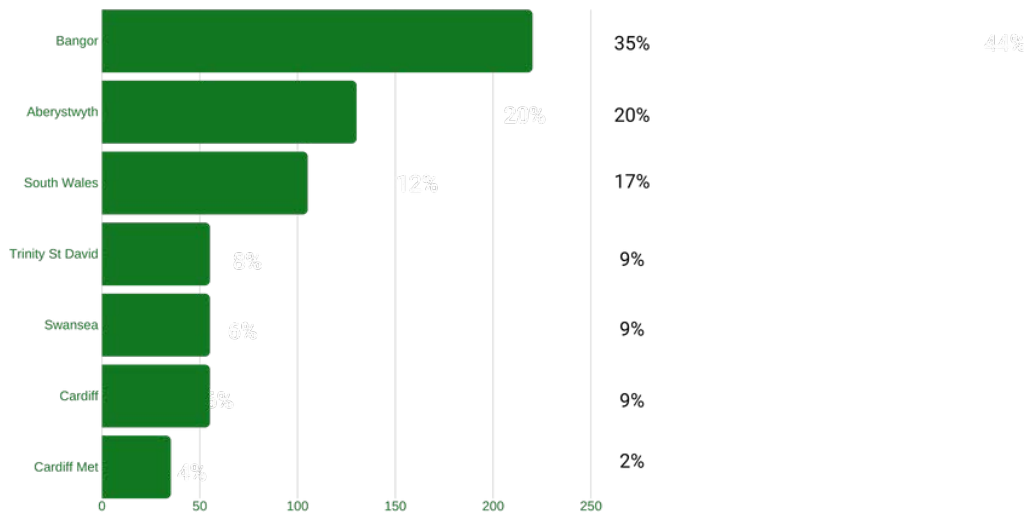
## WELSH MEDIUM NUMBERS

Source: Welsh Government Statistical Bulletin (July 2018)



## STAFF TEACHING THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF WELSH

Source: Welsh Government Statistical Bulletin (July 2018)



Welsh. In addition, as a result of Bangor University's specialisms, technology can be used to develop a machine translation system, which will lead to increasing the number of Welsh texts available for reading and for audio consumption.

Professor Jerry Hunter explained the importance of the University's expertise and knowledge:

"As well as being a major Welsh-medium higher education provider, it is great to see Bangor University leading on all those supplementary elements - research, policy and technology - which

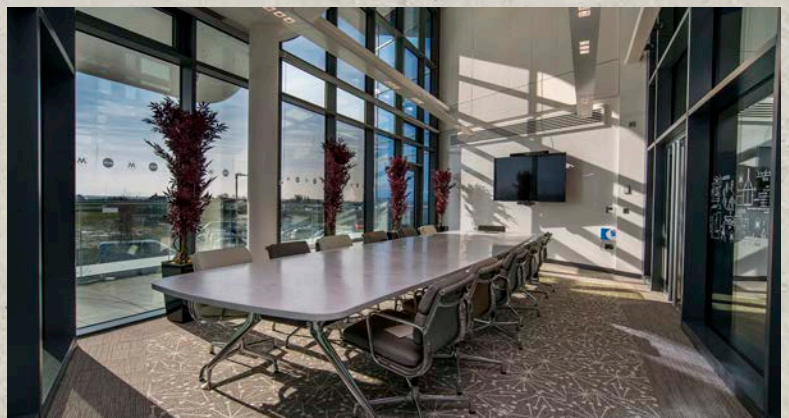
contribute to the Welsh Government's goal of having a million speakers of Welsh by 2050. These are not separate aspects, developed in silos, but rather the infrastructure we need as we head towards this ambitious goal."

"There is no doubt that Bangor is leading the way in developing and increasing the opportunities available to use Welsh. Our contribution to scholarship through the medium of Welsh is unique, but perhaps even more importantly is our contribution towards protecting and increasing the number of Welsh speakers.

"It must be remembered that Bangor students are developing to be future teachers, healthcare professionals, business people, scientists and civil servants - and the fact that so many of them have achieved their degree through the medium of Welsh is crucial to the success of the Government's strategy to have a million Welsh speakers by 2050," added Professor Hunter.



# COMMUNITY





The Menai Science Park, located at Gaerwen, Anglesey. Inset - the board room.

## M-SPARC HITS THE 100

The Menai Science Park, M-SParc, which is wholly owned by Bangor University, opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2018, and has already hit a key milestone with 100 people now working in the first building.

The £20m facility, part-funded by European Regional Development Funding through the Welsh Government, was completed on time and on budget, with 40% of the building now let, and achieved ahead of target. Based on a typical Science Park business model, the company anticipated 15% occupancy in the first few months, building up to full capacity over a number of years.

M-SParc has laboratory, office and workshop space available for let, four meeting rooms, and a hot-desking area - 'Ffwrnes', as well as Tanio, the open café area where anyone can make use of the facilities and free Wi-Fi.

Discussions are ongoing with several University departments, to see how further collaboration with M-SParc could work.

Managing Director, Pryderi ap Rhisiart, who took over from Ieuan Wyn Jones in May following his retirement, said: "We want to attract the brightest minds in the region, and retain the talent here in North West Wales. M-SParc will help them prosper, providing full business support and space for them to grow. Being able to announce that we have 13 tenants, in addition to daily enquiries, is very exciting news."

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS GO GREEN

The International Student Support Office launched a new initiative, 'Internationals Go Green', with two main aims - to help international students integrate with UK students on a social level, and to contribute to the University's sustainability agenda.

The initiative consisted of a series of trips and events throughout the academic year, raising awareness of environmental issues, sustainability and wellbeing among international students. The initiative has helped local communities, and promoted ways of ensuring a greener present and future, whilst contributing to Bangor University's aim of becoming 'The Sustainable University'.

Various trips and events were organised, including a beach clean at Cricieth. Together with the North Wales Wildlife Trust, a team of 50 international students collected 26 large bags of rubbish.

Dawn Thomas, North Wales Wildlife Trust said: "I was so impressed by the turnout and the enthusiasm of the group. I found it really interesting to hear about their impressions of marine litter and what's happening in their own countries to tackle this global issue."



International students at a beach clean in Cricieth.

Other events included decorating the University's Christmas tree with recycled materials, a film night, supporting local Syrian refugee families and a litter-pick session in Bangor city centre.

All the events were organised by securing the co-operation and support of other University departments, local organisations and charities. The project successfully engaged international students in raising awareness of environmental issues, in the hope that they would take what they have learnt back to their home countries.



## VOLUNTEERING IS A WAY OF LIFE FOR ELAN

Sports, Health & Exercise Science student, Elan Môn Gilford, was one of only 20 people worldwide to receive a Diana Legacy Award for her volunteering work.

The Diana Award is given out in Diana, Princess of Wales' name to young role models who are selflessly transforming the lives of others. The Award recognises young people who go above and beyond in their daily lives to create and sustain positive change.

A keen sportswoman, Elan was rewarded for her passion and enthusiasm in sharing her sports with others. Elan spends over 2,000 hours a year volunteering. She shares her coaching, mentoring and organising skills with a range of children's sports clubs and teams, including netball, athletics, hockey and rugby.

Elan began volunteering with the Urdd (a Welsh-medium youth organisation) and was a Millennium Sport Leader with the Urdd and a Sport Wales' Platinum 5x60 Young Ambassador.

She said: "I volunteer because it continuously teaches me something new about other people, about co-operation, about compassion and about myself.

"I have faced many challenges as I was diagnosed deaf at the age of three. Volunteering was a huge step for me to take, especially as I rely on lip-reading and what I can hear from my hearing aids. Lip-reading around 20-30 children all talking at once in a leisure centre has been my toughest challenge yet!

"Through volunteering I have been able to demonstrate to others that disability doesn't have to affect what you can do, there's always a way around difficulties if you are prepared to work hard."

Elan Gilford with HRH Prince Harry and the Duke of Cambridge.