

# Cymru Wales

## *Classics Hub*

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### Developing Classics in Wales

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The Cymru Wales Classics Hub was founded in 2015 to support and promote the teaching and learning of Classical subjects in Wales. The hub is led by Swansea University in collaboration with schools and councils in Wales, Classics for All, and the Classical Association. Our focus for the moment is twofold: first, we are helping those schools already offering Classics to continue their provision (which in many schools is under threat), for example through communication with head teachers or support from Swansea University; secondly, through events, we are working on increasing access to Classics in schools that do not currently offer Classical subjects. Through our events, more schools across Wales are now finding that Classics is more accessible than they had thought.

January 2017 was a busy month for us. We organised our first teacher training weekend in the beautiful snowy (!) grounds of Gregynog Hall in Mid Wales, with thirteen non-Classics teachers in attendance. Our weekend provided them with basic information concerning Classics pedagogy, resources, funding, and support available. All participants were provided with a mentor at the end of the weekend who will provide them with continued support in their development of Classics in their school. We also provided a one-day workshop for the Modern Foreign Language PGCE students at Trinity Saint David on a similar topic. Both groups of participants were very excited about the possibilities. And so we are looking forward to Classical subjects being introduced in more schools, particularly in a cluster in North Wales, and are currently preparing for a workshop with Primary PGCE students. You can read a report of the teacher training weekend by one of the participants [here](#).

In collaboration with Classics for All, we continue to advise the Welsh Government on the practical ways in which access to Classics can be increased in the new Welsh curriculum (to be rolled out around 2018), particularly in the Languages and Humanities strands. We had a constructive meeting with the Welsh Minister for Education, Kirsty Williams, and will continue to work with government officials further this year, for example in addressing pioneer schools and creating Welsh-medium resources.



**Fig. 1. SHARE with schools volunteers demonstrate how to teach through object handling**

Our latest event was our second annual conference on Teaching Classics in Wales, which took place on 4th February 2017. We provided an action-packed, practical day on Classical languages and cultures, at which mentees and mentors, and current and prospective Classics teachers, met in an inclusive environment. After sessions on how to teach through object-handling, Mair Lloyd and Anne Wright provided talks on Living Latin and primary school Greek respectively. In the afternoon, we held small-group workshops on ICT in the Classics classroom, ancient language teaching, Classical Civilization teaching, and student retention. OCR also came over to talk to us about their qualifications. You can find a summary of the day [here](#).

We have organised a [schools' competition](#) open to all primary, secondary schools and sixth-form colleges in Wales, with a deadline of the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017, on the topic of 'the environment in antiquity.' Future events will include our annual inset day, further teacher training and PGCE student events, a working group on Welsh-medium provision, and the development of further hubs throughout Wales. These will aim to address the ongoing issues concerning Classics in Wales, such as lack of Welsh-medium resources, lack of space in the curriculum for Classics, and a lack of teachers.

Our website: [www.cymruwalesclassicshub.weebly.com](http://www.cymruwalesclassicshub.weebly.com)

If you are interested in any of our events or would like to find out more, please contact:

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