



VOICE

VOTE

FUTURE

Presents

Learn Real Life

Cyngor
Ieuenctid
Sir Gâr
Carmarthenshire
Youth Council

Welcome to our zine




Why this project matters

This Zine is a summary of the 'Our Voice, Our Vote, Our Future' project.

'Our Voice, Our Vote, Our Future' is a youth consultation that gives 11-18 year olds across Carmarthenshire the chance to have their say on what matters to them.

Over the past 18 months, we conducted research, surveys, ran focus groups, held ballots and organise events to hear directly from the young people of Carmarthenshire.



Our goal? To ensure our voices shape the decisions that affect our lives.



Our Voice, Our Vote, Our Future Timeline

October 2023

Secondary schools across Carmarthenshire submit two motions/topics that matter most to their students.

January 2024

Vote Opens

November 2023

School's representatives debate the motions submitted followed by a vote for the top 10 issues.

February 2024

Vote Closes

April 2024

No. 1 topic is announced at the Carmarthenshire Youth Council's Annual General Meeting.

April 2024

Convention one - campaign action plan.

July 2024

Convention 2 - campaign action work continues.

August 2024

Summer residential - project planning.

February 2025

Our Voice; Learn Real Life event.

March 2025

Project report completion.

June 2025

Project report presentation at the head teachers meeting.

What Young People told us

Our Voice Our Vote Our Future Ballot

"The 2025 'Our Voice, Our Vote, Our Future' ballot revealed that, out of 5221 votes collected, 'Teaching real-life lessons in schools' was the top priority for young people in Carmarthenshire. In response, we created the 'Our Voice: Learn for Life' event."



Our Voice: Learn Real Life event

The day was packed with opportunities to learn, share, and connect. We invited schools to demonstrate how they're using the curriculum to teach practical, real-life lessons. The attendees had the chance to discuss these approaches and exchange ideas. The event also featured stalls and workshops hosted by public services such as Army Cadets, WCMC, Careers Pathways.... and other organisations offering an interactive and hands-on experience.

"The 'Our Voice: Learn For Life' event brought together young people from 14 secondary schools across Carmarthenshire. They participated in activities designed to gather their feedback on their experiences with real-life lessons being taught in schools.



What life lessons have I learnt in school?

We asked young people to provide us with feedback on what life lessons they have learnt in school.

Health and wellbeing

Nutrition, self-care, stress/time management, patience, staying calm under pressure.

Personal Growth

Self-regulation, confidence, perseverance, adaptability, courage, and stepping out of comfort zones.

Thinking & Learning

Creativity, self-expression, problem-solving, accepting mistakes, curiosity.

Social & Emotional Skills

Communication, teamwork, kindness, honesty, respect, diversity, and building relationships.

Practical Life skills

First aid, financial management, technology use, public speaking, fire safety, sewing, recycling, and programming.

"I now know how to cook a balanced meal."

"I learnt about recycling and how to keep our planet safe!"

"I learnt to fix my own clothes by sewing."

"I learnt about finances for when I leave school."

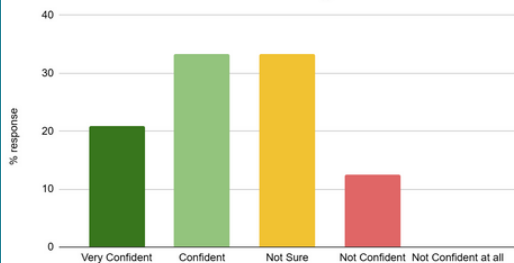
"I was taught how to deal with my emotions when they get too much."



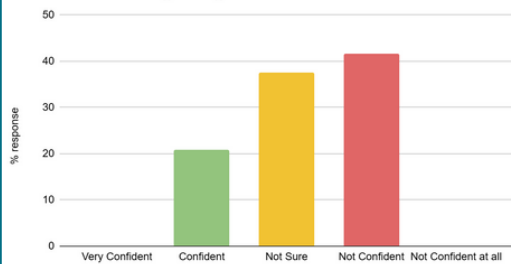
Confidence scale results

We asked the young people to position themselves on a confidence scale based on how they felt about their real-life learning experiences taught in their educational setting.

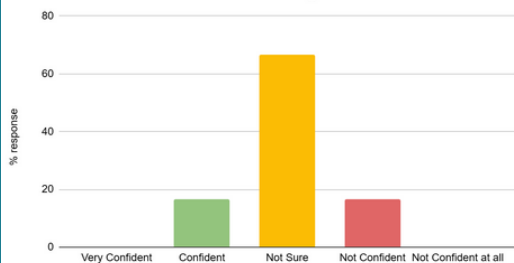
How Confident are you that your education prepares you for real life challenges?



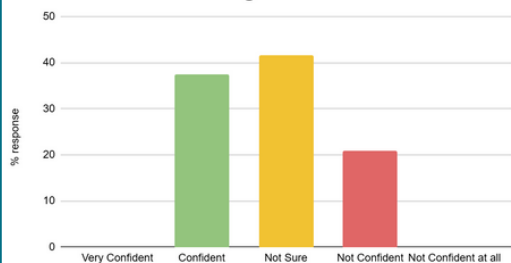
How confident are you that your education prepares you for the digital age and the future of work?



How confident are you that education prepares you for the emotional and social challenges of adulthood?



How confident are you that you're being taught resilience and dealing with failure?



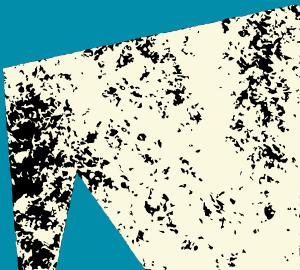
Dessert Island Task Results

We designed the Desert Island task as a powerful metaphor for challenges and opportunities we need to navigate through in everyday life.

Desert Island Data



- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Wellbeing | First Aid |
| Resilience | Creative Thinking |
| Communication | Practical Skills |



Conclusion

Our Voice: Learn Real Life collected valuable findings on the importance of real life lessons, by showcasing what schools are covering and areas of improvement.

The data collected highlights that young people feel they are being taught life skills such as nutrition, self regulation, confidence, self-expression, diversity, first aid and building positive relationships in schools.

However, the data also illustrates that some areas such as digital skills in future work, social and emotional challenges and dealing with failure need to be further emphasised.



Acknowledgments

On behalf of Carmarthenshire Youth Council, would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service for generously funding this project through the Shared Prosperity Fund. Your support has been instrumental in making this initiative possible.

We also wish to thank the schools and organisations that attended and supported the Our Voice – Learn Real Life event. Your engagement and commitment are greatly appreciated, and your contributions have played a vital role in the event's success.

