29 Mai 2009
Datganiad i'r wasg

Taith i'r Paith

"Rydw i wedi gwirioni â'r syniad o gael mynd i wlad ble mae'r Gymraeg yn cael ei siarad y tu allan i Gymru. Mae'r syniad o'r iaith Gymraeg yn cael ei siarad mewn rhanbarth deheuol o America yn codi awydd arnaf i fynd yno i weld pa mor wahanol yw'r Wladfa i Gymru."

Dyna farn un ferch ifanc o'r gogledd sydd wedi llwyddo i ennill lle ar daith anhygoel i ymweld â Phatagonia, fel rhan o daith wedi ei threfnu gan Urdd Gobaith Cymru ar y cyd â Mentrau Iaith y Gogledd. Bydd 19 o ieuenctid yn mentro i'r paith ganol fis Hydref eleni, er mwyn profi diwylliant a threftadaeth y wlad, ond hefyd i hyrwyddo'r Gymraeg ymysg eu cyfoedion a rhannu eu profiadau eu hunain o ddiwylliant, hanes, iaith ac o fyw yng Nghymru.

Mae'r criw ifanc sy'n ddisgyblion uwchradd yn ysgolion Amlwch, Llangefni, David Hughes, Porthaethwy; Tryfan, Dyffryn Conwy, Creuddyn, Glan Clwyd, Brynhyfryd a Maes Garmon, ar hyn o bryd, yn brysur yn codi arian i dalu am eu taith.

Mae'r Urdd a'r Mentrau Iaith yn cydweithio'n agos â Menter Iaith Patagonia, menter a sefydlwyd nôl ym mis Ebrill 2008 i gefnogi'r cynllun dysgu ym Mhatagonia. Unwaith eto eleni, bydd swyddog newydd o Gymru yn treulio cyfnod yn y Wladfa yn gweithio ar ran Menter Patagonia. Bydd **Hywel Roberts**, aelod o staff Gwersyll yr Urdd, Caerdydd, yn cychwyn ar ei waith yn Ne America fis Mehefin.

Bydd Hywel yn trefnu teithiau i'r bobl ifanc yn ystod yr Hydref o amgylch y wlad i leoliadau fel Y Gaiman, Esquel a Phorth Madryn i brofi bywyd go iawn y Cymry alltud. Bydd y criw hefyd yn cynnal gweithdai a sesiynau gyda phobl ifanc ac oedolion Patagonia mewn ysgolion a cholegau lleol yn ogystal ag mewn cymdeithasau a mudiadau Cymraeg.

Yn ôl **Guto Williams**, Swyddog Datblygu'r Urdd yn Eryri, un o'r pedwar swyddog sy'n arwain y daith: "Mae cryn edrych ymlaen at y daith a llawer o waith paratoi a threfnu i'w wneud o flaen llaw. Mae'r criw ifanc wrthi'n ddiwyd, rhwng eu harholiadau Lefel A a TGAU, yn codi arian i sicrhau'r cyllid ar gyfer y daith. Y gobaith yw y bydd criw'r Urdd yn elwa'n fawr o'r profiad, yn rhannu eu cyfoeth gydag ieuenctid ac oedolion y

wladfa, ac yn dod adref wedi agor eu llygaid i realiti bywyd person ifanc ym Mhatagonia."

Yn ystod y Pasg cyfarfu'r 19 a dechrau'r broses o ddod i adnabod ei gilydd. Buont ar daith gerdded gan fwynhau golygfeydd godidog o Aberffraw i Abergwyngregyn. Yn ystod gwyliau'r haf bydd sesiwn arall i'r 19 yng Ngwersyll yr Urdd Glan-llyn, lle bydd y cynllunio a'r trefniadau ar gyfer y daith yn cael eu cadarnhau.

Dywed **Efa Gruffudd Jones**, Prif Weithredwr Urdd Gobaith Cymru: "Rydym yn falch iawn o allu rhoi cyfle i bobl ifanc ddysgu am ran arall o'r byd, a chreu cysylltiad gwell rhwng Cymru a Phatagonia. Rwy'n hynod falch bod y cynllun yn datblygu, a'n bod yn adeiladu ar brofiad y criw cyntaf a fu draw ym Mhatagonia llynedd. Gobeithio y gallwn ninnau groesawu pobl ifanc o Batagonia yma i Gymru yn y dyfodol, gan gynnig profiad o berthyn i fudiad ieuenctid fel yr Urdd tra byddant yma.''

diwedd

Manylion pellach: Siân Eleri Davies 07976 330360 neu Manon Llwyd 07976 330361

- Urdd Gobaith Cymru yw prif fudiad ieuenctid Cymru.
- Mae'r Urdd yn cynnig cyfleoedd penigamp i blant a ieuenctid Cymru ers dros 80 mlynedd.
- Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd yw un o wyliau ieuenctid celfyddydol mwyaf Ewrop.
- Mae 40,000 o bobl ifanc wedi cystadlu mewn amrywiaeth o gystadlaethau gan gynnwys llefaru unigol, corau, dawns, celf a chrefft, cyfansoddi a barddoniaeth.
- Ar lwyfan yr Eisteddfod y gwnaeth sêr fel Bryn Terfel, Ioan Gruffudd, Cerys Matthews, Aled Jones, Shân Cothi a Daniel Evans fwrw eu prentisiaeth.
- Mae'r Eisteddfod yn denu 100,000 o ymwelwyr, 15,000 o gystadleuwyr a bron i filiwn o wylwyr teledu.
- Mae'r Eisteddfod yn cynnal rhaglen lawn o gystadlaethau yn ddyddiol rhwng 11.00 y bore hyd at 5.00 y prynhawn, a chystadlaethau gyda'r nos ar y nosweithiau Llun, Iau, Gwener a Sadwrn.
- Cynhelir Eisteddfod 2010 ar dir Llanerchaeron yng Ngheredigion, ac Eisteddfod 2011 ym Mae Abertawe.

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol
Urdd Gobaith Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
25 – 30 Mai 2009

29 May 2009
Press Release

Patagonia Awaits

"I'm so excited at the concept of visiting a country where the Welsh language is spoken outside of Wales. The notion of the Welsh lanugage being spoken in a

southern region of America increases my desire to visit and see how different both countries really are."

That is the opinion of one young girl from north Wales who has succeeded in securing a place on this once in a lifetime trip to Patagonia, as part of an expedition organised by Urdd Gobaith Cymru and Mentrau Iaith y Gogledd (North Wales Language Enterprise). 19 youngsters will venture to the prairie this October to experience the country's heritage and culture, but also to promote the Welsh language to their peers, and share their experiences of Welsh culture, history, language and of living in Wales.

The young group are all secondary school pupils from Amlwch, Llangefni, David Hughes, Porthaethwy, Tryfan, Dyffryn Conwy, Creuddyn, Glan Clwyd, Brynhyfryd and Maes Garmon schools, and they are currently raising funds to pay for their trip.

Both the Urdd and Mentrau Iaith are working closely with Menter Patagonia, an enterprise established in April 2008 to support Patagonia's current educational plan. Once again this year, Menter Patagonia are employing an officer from Wales to promote the Welsh language. Hywel Roberts, a staff member at Urdd's Cardiff City Centre will begin his duties in South America in June.

In October, Hywel will arrange trips for the youngsters, giving them the opportunity to visit Y Gaiman, Esquel and Porth Madryn so they can experience the life of real Welsh exiles. The group will also host workshops and sessions for Patagonia's adults and youngsters at schools, colleges, societies and organisations.

Guto Williams, the Urdd's Development Officer for Eryri, and one of the adults leading the trip said: "There is great anticipation for the visit, and a lot of ogranising and preparation to carry out before we leave. The young people are very busy, in between their A Level and GCSE exams, raising funds to budget for the trip. It's hoped that the group will benefit immensely from the expedition, share their wealth of knowledge with adults and youngsters in Patagonia and come home having gained an insight into a young person's way of life in one part of Argentina."

During the Easter break, all 19 pupils met one another and began the process of getting to know each other. The group walked from Aberffraw to Abergwyngregyn during their day session, taking in the splendour of the North Wales coastline. During the summer holiday, all 19 will stay at the Urdd's Glan-llyn Centre to discuss, plan and organise the last details of their trip.

Efa Gruffudd Jones, Urdd Gobaith Cymru's Chief Executive said: "We are pleased to be able to give young people the opportunity to learn about a foreign country, and

build stronger links between Wales and Patagonia. I'm extremely pleased that this project has developed and that we are building upon the experiences gained by the youngsters during last year's trip. I hope we can welcome young people from Patagonia to Wales in the future, and offer them the opportunity of participating in Urdd activities whilst they are here in Wales.''

Ends

Further information: Siân Eleri Davies 07976 330360 or Manon Llwyd 07976 330361

Editor's Note:

- Urdd Gobaith Cymru is Wales' leading youth organisation.
- The Urdd has given children and young people exciting opportunities for over 80 years.
- The Urdd National Eisteddfod is one of the largest cultural youth festival in Europe.
- 40,000 young people have competed in various competitions including recitation, choral singing, dance, arts and craft, composition and poetry.
- The Eisteddfod attracts over 100,000 visitors, 15,000 competitors and almost a million television viewers.
- Welsh stars such as Bryn Terfel, Ioan Gruffudd, Cerys Matthews, Aled Jones, Shân Cothi and Daniel Evans all gained valuable performing experience on the Urdd stage.
- The Eisteddfod offers wall to wall competitions between 11.00am - 5.00pm and evening competitions on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
- The Eisteddfod will be held in the grounds of Llanerchaeron in Ceredigion in 2010 and in Swansea in 2011.