

# Pennaeth Addysg Head of Education

Dewi R. Jones

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2 December 2013

To school headteachers:

Dyffryn Ogwen, Friars, Tryfan, Brynrefail, Syr Hugh Owen, Dyffryn Nantlle,  
Y Berwyn

Dear Colleagues

## ***Re: Post- 16 grant 2014/2015***

May I first of all thank you all for your contributions to the discussion that was held last week, and above all for your meaningful comments. The greatest handicap as regards this field this year is that no prior warning was given or an opportunity provided to plan beforehand for the change that faces us that compels us to take a reactive instead of a pro-active approach.

Prior to the meeting, I wished to ensure a scenario whereby the LEA would be willing to support a fair and inclusive dissemination method for all our schools, bearing in mind that no money has thus far been disseminated. That was my intention, - my apologies that I did not make that wholly clear and that two of my comments contradicted one another to an extent.

Since the meeting, I have deliberated on this based on your opinion as well as on my personal viewpoint, through consultation and discussion with Dafydd Edwards, Head of Finance, and Hefin Owen, Finance Manager. I thank both of them for their guidance and desire to try and support you as headteachers in your efforts to ensure the best possible provision for our young people.

Based on this, I have presented my comments and opinion about this field to the Cabinet Member for Education that has in turn led to the decision for which an explanation is provided below. This is the dissemination plan for 2014/2015 that is of course a 'once and for all' plan.

1. Distribute Post-16 Grant Total based on statistics on 22 October 2013, recognizing the BAC as full A level, the financial value of Welsh Government programmes, and include the 3 'uplift' as obtained. As the total produced far exceeds the available grant, the amount of allocation for each school 'pro rata' must be reduced so as to reconcile with the total grant available. For 2014/2015, the full allocation is adjusted either up or down in accordance with the once and for all protection plan outlined in no 2 below. (See supplementary spreadsheet).
2. Establish a once and for all protection plan for 2014/2015 through investing £160,858 of Gwynedd Council money in addition to the Post-16 Grant, due to the substantial and unexpected grant reduction in real terms between 2013/2014 and 2014/2015.
3. If approval is given to our application to the Government, based on the letter sent, any additional funding received will be reimbursed to Gwynedd Council up to the cost of the

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protection plan of £160,858. Any amount received above that will be disseminated on a 'pro rata' basis to the final allocation including the protection.

4. Following further consideration, I will not ask you to submit any additional evidence or information to justify the need for additional investment.
  5. We all realise that this additional once and for all investment will not bridge the financial gap in our organization or the implications. However, I hope that it will assist you to make more considered preparations for September 2014.
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## **2015/2016 and beyond**

In case we lose sight of forward thinking and planning, we share head teachers concerns about the new funding formula for 2014/2015 that has led to a grant reduction of over £5m for schools in Wales. Here are the most obvious elements:

- contents of statistics based on average future number projections
- no clear recognition of the BAC
- Possible implications if the BAC becomes mandatory as from September 2015 as expected.

Following our meeting, the Finance Manager has already contacted the designated officers of the Welsh Government to share our concerns, requesting a meeting as soon as possible to discuss grant distribution for 2015/2016. Heflin Owen will provide you with an up-date on developments.

Yours sincerely

*Dewi R Jones*

**Dewi R Jones**  
**Head of Education**

**Copy:** Cllr Sian Gwenllian, Cabinet Member for Education  
Harry Thomas, Chief Executive  
Dafydd Edwards, Head of Finance  
Heflin Owen, Finance Manager  
Owen Owens, Senior Manager Education  
Gwynedd Secondary School Head teachers