



THE COLLEGE MERTHYR TYDFIL

Annual Enterprise Impact Report



2024 – 2025

Introduction

During the 2024–2025 academic year, Merthyr College continued to champion enterprise and entrepreneurship through the E2 Employability and Enterprise Bureau. Learner-focused initiative that played a pivotal role in embedding entrepreneurial thinking across the college community.

The Bureau acted as a strategic driver, connecting learners with real-world opportunities, fostering essential business skills, and supporting the transition from education into self-employment and enterprise.

Through a combination of strategic partnerships, learner-led initiatives, and targeted interventions, the Bureau delivered a comprehensive programme of support that aligned with the Welsh Government's vision for youth enterprise and employability.



Strategic Partnership With Big Ideas Wales (BIW)

The Bureau's partnership with Big Ideas Wales remained a cornerstone of its enterprise delivery.

This collaboration brought entrepreneurial role models and expert-led sessions directly into the classroom, offering learners authentic insights into business development.

Over the year, more than 200 learners participated in BIW workshops focused on branding, communication, and resilience skills critical to entrepreneurial success.

Notably, three learners progressed to the prestigious Tafflab entrepreneurship programme, a testament to the Bureau's ability to translate aspiration into action.



BIW was also embedded into internal competitions, fostering a culture of innovation across departments. These activities helped learners visualise their entrepreneurial futures and access tailored support through the Bureau's visible and accessible channels.



Inspiring Skills Wales Competitions

The Bureau proudly hosted and promoted 14 Inspiring Skills Wales competitions, positioning Merthyr College as a hub for vocational excellence and enterprise development.

These competitions provided learners with platforms to showcase both technical and entrepreneurial skills and inspire their peers.

Workshops and preparatory sessions ensured learners were equipped to compete confidently. A standout achievement was the Gold medal in Painting and Decorating—an accolade that reflected the Bureau's commitment to nurturing talent and promoting enterprise as a viable career pathway.

ISW competitions also cultivated transferable skills such as innovation, teamwork, and time management, all of which are essential for self-employment and business ownership.



Tafflab

Bridging Education and Enterprise

The Bureau played a key role in supporting learners through the Tafflab programme, which offers incubation and funding support for aspiring entrepreneurs.

Through targeted mentoring and 1-2-1 guidance, three learners secured places on the programme, marking a significant milestone in their entrepreneurial journeys.

This support bridged the gap between enterprise education and real-world business development, reinforcing the Bureau's role as a launchpad for learner-led start-ups.



Internal Enterprise Competitions & Workshops



To build practical business skills in a safe and supportive environment, the Bureau designed and delivered a series of internal enterprise competitions and workshops.

These initiatives provided learners with hands-on experience in pitching, planning, and problem-solving.

Twelve learners received personalised enterprise guidance, while digital campaigns and staff engagement ensured broad participation across the college.

These activities not only prepared learners for external competitions but also boosted their confidence and entrepreneurial mindset.



Youth Enterprise Officer Partnership

The Bureau maintained a strong working relationship with the Local Authority's Youth Enterprise Officer, creating a seamless link between college-based support and community resources.

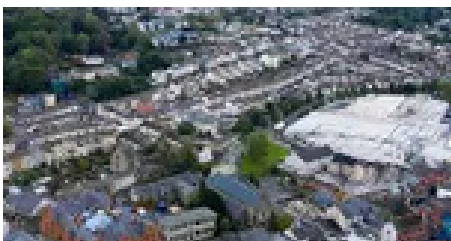
Together, delivering tailored workshops, mentoring sessions, and funding access, expanding the scope of enterprise opportunities available to learners. This partnership ensured that learners benefited from a coherent and joined-up enterprise ecosystem that extended beyond the classroom.



Merthyr Tydfil Enterprise Centre (MTEC) Collaboration

M-TE³C

Enterprise – Entrepreneurship – Employment



The Bureau's collaboration with MTEC provided learners with direct access to business mentoring, start-up guidance, and local enterprise networks.

The highlight of this partnership was the *One Stop Shop* event, which attracted over 70 students to a central hub of enterprise advice and resources.

Regular MTEC presence on campus ensured learners could engage with enterprise support services conveniently, helping to build sustainable pathways into incubation and funding.

Youth Enterprise Champion

Learner – Led Leadership

To embed a peer-led enterprise culture, the Bureau introduced the role of Enterprise Ambassador. the first to hold this role at the college.

They actively promoted entrepreneurship across the college and shared their journey, including the development of their Business *Parcel Portal*.

The Youth Enterprise Champion's leadership inspired other learners to view entrepreneurship as a realistic and exciting pathway.

The Bureau's support empowered learners to become enterprise champions, amplifying the message that business ownership is within reach.



Impact At A Glance

1,792

Further Education learners engaged in enterprise awareness activities during induction week

12

learners received Enterprise 1-2-1 advice and guidance.

324

learners participated in capacity – building workshops and live projects.

14

Inspiring Skills Wales Competitions were coordinated and hosted by the Bureau.

4

learners launched their own business:
Beaus Bakes, Parcel Portal, Em Broidery and Parcel Portal.

Enterprise Awareness & Engagement Highlights

A total of 1,792 learners participated in induction sessions introducing the E2 Hub and inspiring Enterprise support.

These sessions significantly increased awareness of local and regional expertise opportunities. Additional targeted sessions included:

**BIW
Role Model
Sessions**

160 learners

**Youth
Enterprise
Sessions**

22 learners

**Future
Digital
Sessions**

32 learners

**Business
Smartphone
Workshop**

8 learners

**Barclays
Enterprise
Session**

17 learners

**AMBE Construction Academy:
Becoming Your Own Boss**

19 learners

One Stop Shop Enterprise Event

70 learners

Conclusion

The 2024–2025 academic year marked a period of growth, innovation, and impact for the E2 Employability and Enterprise Bureau.

Through strategic partnerships, learner-led initiatives, and a commitment to inclusive enterprise education, the Bureau empowered hundreds of learners to explore entrepreneurship, build essential skills, and take meaningful steps toward self-employment.

The Bureau's work continues to align with national and regional priorities and demonstrates Merthyr College's leadership in fostering a culture of enterprise that is both aspirational and achievable.

