



**PRESS RELEASE - April 2016** - The NACE Cymru Spring conference was held on **April 21<sup>st</sup> 2016 at St David's Hotel and Spa in Cardiff.**

*"A fast paced day full of real school journeys and lots of helpful advice and tools. Gave me confidence that our school is working in the right direction but inspired me to take it so much further"* **NACE Cymru delegate**

**NACE Cymru's recent spring conference saw schools from across Wales come together to discuss best practice in teaching for the more able and talented learner. Delegates were joined by presenters Simon Weston CBE, Professor Tom Crick, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Emma Williams, Deputy Director, Support for Learners Division, Welsh Government and Sinead Gallagher, SEREN network as well as schools and other organisations presenting best practice workshops.**



Opening the conference **Emma Williams, Deputy Director, Support for Learners Division, Welsh Government**, reminded delegates that teaching professionals need to lead on content and broaden student horizons. Lastly Emma reminded schools that Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) is intended to help children from deprived backgrounds reach their potential so can be used to support MAT where appropriate.



**Dr. Tom Crick** said we need to be *"equipping people with the skills to operate in a highly digital world"*, everyone, leaving school should be *"digitally competent and capable."* Crucially the message was that technology transcends subjects. *"We must prepare our children to understand that every sector depends on technology and that everyone should have a basic understanding of coding"*.



**Simon Weston CBE, NACE Patron**, reminded us that young people can often have talents that are overlooked. He encouraged teachers to allow students to develop at their own pace and importantly give them an understanding that they have a relevance. Experience had taught him that individuals often create their own barriers to success. He reminded teachers at the conference that they are the *"belief givers"*.



**Sue Riley**, chief executive of NACE and who was attending the conference for the first time, said she was delighted delegates had gained so much from the day, and noted that NACE Cymru would work to develop further networking opportunities for schools in the coming months.

### Comments from delegates:

My first NACE  
Cymru conference  
& I will be back

String quartet was  
a lovely touch

Excellent  
organisation as  
usual

An outstanding,  
exciting and  
inspirational day

Great to see so  
many ideas from  
enthusiastic  
professional  
committed schools

A very informative  
day, thank you,  
brilliant workshops to  
get me started on the  
journey



**NACE Team, Fiona, Katharine, Sian, Sue with NACE Patron Simon Weston CBE, Sue, Hilary, Karen and Johanna.**

**Notes to Editors:** NACE is a not for profit organisation set up in 1983 specialising in working with schools and teachers to improve learning for More Able and Talented children. In Wales, **NACE operates as NACE Cymru and has contact with over 1,000 schools in Wales.**

It is recognised nationally and internationally as the UK's leading independent education organisation in the field of education for able learners. NACE membership is made up of teachers and schools. Through this network NACE is able to provide high quality guidance, support and training to enable teachers to get the best from able learners in the everyday classroom while helping all learners to flourish and achieve.

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