

Adroddiad ar Gynllun Peilot
Pilot Activity Report

RDP042		Cymraeg yn y Sector Awyr Agored Welsh in the Outdoor Activity Sector	
Dyddiad Date	28/06/19	Awdur Author	Huw Thomas
Rhif Peilot Pilot Number	7	Testun Subject	Ras yr Iaith

Disgrifiwch y cynllun peilot
Outline the pilot activity

Ras yr Iaith is not a competitive race for athletes, Ras yr Iaith is a race **for the Welsh language by the Welsh people**. The idea behind the run is that the Welsh language is symbolically passed on with a relay baton. It is passed on from hand to hand as the runners pass on their support for the language. The baton was specially made for the run by Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig (the Welsh-medium high school in Aberystwyth) and sponsored by Mentrau Iaith Cymru.

Its purpose is to celebrate the Welsh language, to raise awareness, show confidence in the language and to show the world that the language has support by all, whether you speak the language or not. Ras yr Iaith 2018 was held on July 4-6, 2018 and the first time it had come to the Breconshire area.

Ras yr Iaith follows in the footsteps of similar runs in the Basque country, Brittany and the Republic of Ireland. The Ras is based on the Korrika relay run for the Basque language which was begun in 1980. The success of the Korrika led to similar runs for the languages in Brittany (Redadeg) and Ireland (an Rith).

Beth yw bwriad y cynllun peilot?

What are the objectives of the pilot activity?

- Promoting Welsh: Bringing Welsh speakers, non-Welsh speakers and learners together.
- Promoting Welsh Organisations: An opportunity to strengthen Welsh language organisations and clubs by raising profile and money at events along the race's journey.
- Connecting Wales with the Welsh language: The race will connect Welsh speaking areas and non-Welsh speaking areas, townsfolk and countryside, prosperous and non-prosperous, reflecting the variety of Welsh speakers.
- Raising Welsh language profile: This will attract attention in the Welsh media locally and nationally, and increasing the use of the language on the Internet. It is a positive way to show that the language has thousands of supporters.
- Raising communities' profile: Bringing awareness towards communal societies and organisations and awareness of the strength of communities along the race.
- Health benefits: The race promotes well-being and fitness through the medium of Welsh and is a way to bring Welsh to other sports and athletic clubs taking part.

- Raising money: Profit raised is invested back into organisations that help promote the Welsh language. The money raised is administered by Rhedadeg Ltd – a non-profit based company created specifically to support the race.

Sut wnaethoch chi osod lan y cynllun peilot?

How did you go about setting up the pilot activity?

This was the third year for Ras yr Iaith. It began in Wales in 2014 and then 2016, 2018 and the the next will happen in 2020.

The Ras yr Iaith 2018 passed through Wrexham, Llanrwst, Menai Bridge, Machynlleth, Aberystwyth, Haverfordwest, Tenby, Saint Clare, Carmarthen, Ammanford, Llanelli Clydach, Pontardawe, **Ystradgynlais**, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly and Porthcawl.

We took on the responsibility of coordinating the Ystradgynlais leg which involved contacting local schools, businesses and organisations to support the event.

Pa adnoddau oedd angen arnoch chi i gynnal y cynllun? Oedd rhaid dibynnu ar eraill?

What resources were required to set up and run the activity? Did you need to rely on others for this?

The Ras yr Iaith organisers are very familiar with the organisational work beforehand and during the race. It is the runner's safety that is at the forefront of their minds and preparations.

Stewards and Signs: Ras yr Iaith stewards are prevalent at every stage of the race wearing long sleeved high-vis jackets. There are also safety signs warning the public that the Race is taking place.

Support Vehicles: the Race is led by a vehicle making sure that the road is clear and safe. This is followed about 5 minutes later by the Race's van. The runners will be following this van and behind the runners will be the last vehicle for the Race securing safety behind.

Insurance: the Race has indemnity up to £5m for the runners and stewards. Runners: adults / teachers / carers will run with children. Everyone running needs to be of acceptable physical health.

Roads: organisers of the race are in constant contact with the police and local authorities. Everyone taking part in the race receive the race's stage info beforehand.

Beth oedd amserlen y peilot?

One month before the race:

Local schools, organisations and businesses informed.

Posters distributed in the community.

Local Police and highways authority informed.

Contact local schools to inform them of the event.

Recruit and train volunteer marshals.

Beth oedd yr heriau yn y peilot?

What were the challenges of the pilot?

Not knowing exactly how many people will take part in the race until the actual day.

Sut weithiodd y peilot yn ymarferol?

How did the pilot activity work in practice?

It was an amazing leg with over 200 runners in the race. The race started at Ysgol Maesydderwen with the batten being passed onto the local primary schools who joined the race at the half way point. It was great to see so many local residents out on the street cheering on the runners and vocalising their support. Volunteer marshals from the 6th form at Ysgol Ystalyfera were at strategic points on the route explaining to onlookers what the race was all about. Refreshments and entertainment for the primary school children was arranged at the community hall.

Os am ailadrodd y cynllun, beth fuaswch yn newid?

If repeating this pilot activity, what would you do differently?

More local publicity and local sponsorship. Funding raised is entered into a grant pot that will be available for organisations in those areas to apply for grants will be given to strengthen the use of the Welsh language in the community.

Ydy'r cynllun peilot yma yn gynaliadwy? Os na, sut allwch ei wneud yn fwy gynaliadwy y tro nesaf?

Is this pilot activity sustainable? If not, how could you make it more sustainable next time?

The race wouldn't take place without the support from county councils, town councils and police forces across Wales. The organisers are very thankful for their support and willingness to help. But the greatest thanks goes to the runners and contributors for being generous with their money and their time to support the Welsh language in their communities.

Os yn parhau'r cynllun yma, pa gamau fydddech chi'n ystyried nesaf?

If this activity were to continue, what steps would you look to take next?

The Race will again be held in 2020, concentrating in raising awareness and pride in the Welsh language, promoting well being and strengthening our communities. Importance is also placed on the Ras yr iaith 2018 message, the importance to volunteer towards Welsh.