



Academi Genedlaethol ar gyfer
Arweinyddiaeth Addysgol Cymru
National Academy for
Educational Leadership Wales

A Blog from the Chair



Meet our board members

As a former Deputy Headteacher, Sue has worked in many areas of education ranging from Local Education Authority management as an Education Officer for Special Educational Needs (SEN), a Project Coordinator for the Welsh Government to a Development Officer for Special Educational Needs in Wales.

Sue was awarded the title of Associate Professor of Social Justice in 2013 in recognition of her work in the field of social justice and inclusion, and her commitment to equality and diversity.

While much of the Leadership Academy's planned work is on hold because it is not 'business as usual', we continue to support the Welsh Government's Continuity of Learning Plan - the well-being of leaders and others in the system are of paramount importance. As we find new ways of living and working, technology plays a major part.

Those in isolation (not working from home but at home trying to work) will welcome a return to 'normal life'. However, I know I will miss some of the things I have not fully appreciated until having this time to do so.

The birdsong without the added thrum of car engines. The weed-free garden (with an understanding that the dandelions will never fully disappear). Food deliveries are like Christmas - unpacking, I find not what I thought I had ordered. Sales of alcohol has reportedly risen by 31% - I make no comment - it wasn't me!

I occasionally read a book in a day. My study is rearranged; my hallway, kitchen, utility room and garage door are painted; I sew cushion covers, finish jigsaws and shampoo carpets. My garage is tidy! The price of petrol is low - I wouldn't know - my car has been stationary in the garage for over 6 weeks.

Most difficult is not being able to visit family. Technology does not make up for the visits to London or Manchester. A video 'party' was not the same as being at my grandson's 3rd birthday party. Zoom is not the same as a cwtch!

The computer screen that hosts my work meetings also carries the extra burden of my social life - all my human contact is online. I wonder whether life will ever return to what is considered as 'normal'. (Friends who know me well know that I have never, ever wanted to be 'normal').

We clap every Thursday for the NHS and Carers. I am mindful that many school staff work on in the hubs, doing so with little recognition in the public arena.

SO - to all those who continue to support our learners and their families - I clap for you, too.

You, too, are heroes!

Further information and resources can be found at
www.nael.cymru