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# Learning in Action: The 2025 Pan Wales Hackathon & Enterprise Education

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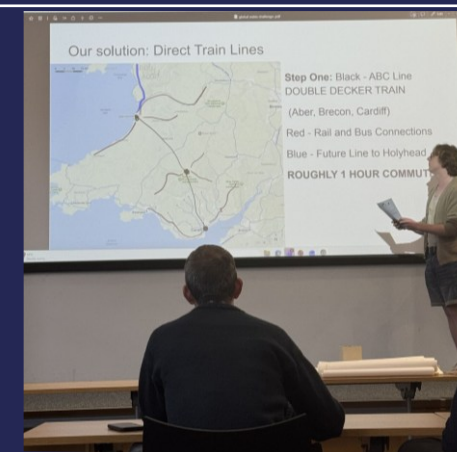
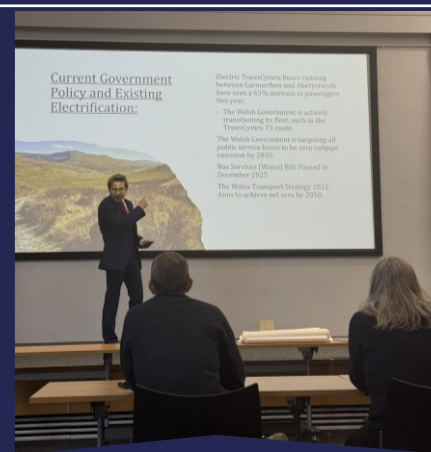
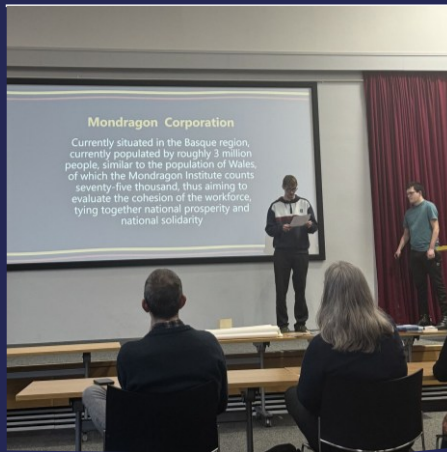
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# What we are not talking about today...

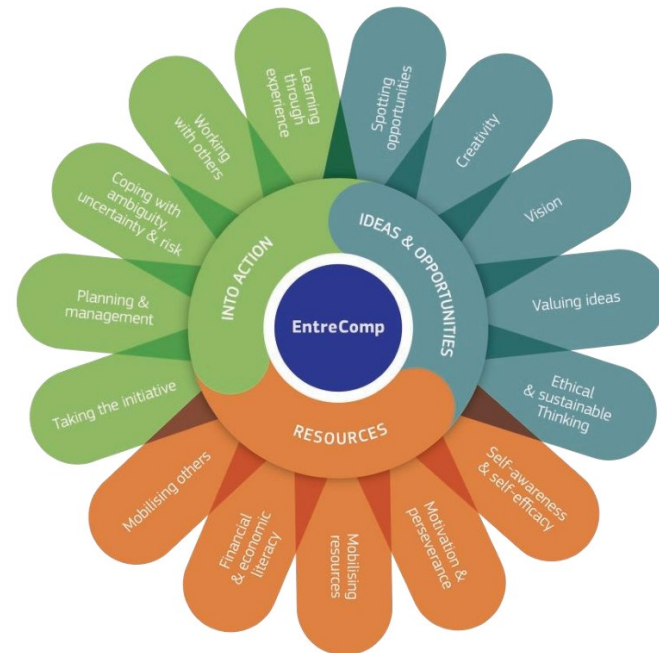
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# Entrepreneurs

## Adaptive experts?

Adaptive experts are able to approach new situations flexibly and to learn throughout their lifetimes. They not only use what they have learned, they are metacognitive and continually question their current levels of expertise and attempt to move beyond them (Bransford et al., 2000, p. 48)



# A Hackathon

## What is it?

An intensive activity where groups identify a problem and produce a solution over a half day or so

Originating from computer engineering, but transferable to a range of subjects

Like a purposefully last-minute presentation



# 2025 Pan Wales Hackathon

## What was it?

Organised by Swansea University, featuring Higher Education Institutions across Wales

Two stages: a preliminary local round where each university ran its own event, with the winners of each attending a grand final in Swansea

Featured seven challenges, each responding to the seven goals of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act



# The day

## Key checkpoints

30 minutes in – chosen a challenge

90 minutes in – developing an idea

2 hours in – receive feedback from mentors

3 ½ hours in – designed a presentation

4 hours in – delivered the presentation



# Personnel

## & workload

1 facilitator – designing the learning environment, providing resources, organising people

4 mentors – each spending around half an hour with student groups

3 judges – essentially acting as markers, providing half an hour or so of time



# The feedback

## A summary

Key aspects such as teamwork, venue and mentors were consistently rated as either excellent or good

Majority of the students indicated that the activity helped them a great deal to apply knowledge to real-world problems

It is quite clear that the key skills that students developed from this event are both interpersonal and soft skills [...] It is also very evident that it is the interpersonal aspect of the event (collaboration, team work and brainstorming) that majority of the students enjoyed the most during the event.

Make the brief more specific

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# In-curriculum hackathons

Should we do them?

The hackathon is an adaptable, transferable form

Would likely require some form of accompanying reflective assessment

Supports students in applying skills and learning in time-sensitive, pressured situations

