

School of Education Newsletter

October 2017

Welcome from Dr Steve Atherton, Director of Undergraduate Studies

I'm delighted to share with you the good news that we've had in the School of Education lately. While our department has been recognised within the University for our dedication and committed approach to our students, our NSS results this year are the best we have ever had. This means that the School of Education receives national recognition as well. I'd like to congratulate my colleagues – this is a tribute to their hard work and effort.



98% of Satisfied Students (14% above UK average) First in Wales and second in the UK

Final year students of Childhood Studies and Education summed up their experiences in the School of Education with an overwhelmingly positive response in the National Student Survey (NSS). Published on Wednesday 9 August, it revealed that they had given the School of Education an overall satisfaction rating of 98% compared to the average UK figure for the subject of Education of 84%.

We are very proud that this not only puts us first in Wales, it also puts us second in the UK. We do our best to build supportive relationships, and in responses to our Staff/Student Consultative Committee (SSCC), students have praised our "Amazing pastoral care" and said that staff are "Always there to support whether academically or personally."

100% in employment or further study (DLHE 2017)

The School of Education has always considered that its responsibility for its students goes beyond Graduation. We would like to congratulate last year's graduates—every one of them was either in work or further study six months after graduation.

Employability Co-ordinator Dr Megan Harnett said, "We provide conferences and seminars which cover everything from teaching to starting your own business. The more events students attend, the more they realise their own potential."



The Class of 2016

Congratulations on your achievements!

Accolades from students

Every year, Aberystwyth University invites students to nominate staff and departments for awards. These are based not on the number of votes, but on what students say about us.

In the last few years, the School of Education has been Department of the Year twice (2013 and 2016). Individual staff have also been awarded the title of Personal Tutor of the Year (Dr Susan Chapman in 2016, with Dr Rosemary Cann runner-up) and Supervisor of the Year (Dr Steve Atherton in 2016).

Good teaching (NSS 2017)

We are also proud to announce that in this year's National Student Survey, 93% of our third year students were satisfied with the teaching on their course. Most pleasing of all, the NSS showed that 100% - that's all of our graduates—thought staff were good at explaining things.

We do this with our students' help

One of the main reasons why we have been able to improve our provision is because of the dialogue we have with our students. Because of their constructive suggestions, we have improved the dissertation module in Year 3. We have also made sure that we have a balance of ebooks and hard copies in the library and we have increased contact time. Most recently, we have reinstated a Reading Week because students told us why they valued this time.

In a response to our SSCC one student said, "Thank you for all the support and the improvements that have been made."

We would reply, "We couldn't do it without you."