

Dear Jeremy.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to your position as Education Minister and to continue the positive dialogue, relationship and support developed with your department through your predecessor Kirsty Williams.

The [Wales Council for Outdoor Learning](#) includes a diverse group of partner organisations including National Parks, environmental NGOs, charities and national bodies – a full list available [here](#).

The Wales Council for Outdoor Learning acts as a voice for the sector bringing together organisations that support and deliver high quality teaching and learning in the outdoor environment. Along with the Outdoor Learning Wales and Outdoor Learning Training Cymru networks, the partnership shares good practice and influences policy development, highlighting the many benefits of outdoor learning and its contribution to the development of ethical and informed citizens of future generations. The Council helps to raise the profile of outdoor learning, the connection to nature that fosters, and the many benefits that brings to both people and nature. In doing so, a greater understanding and appreciation of the value of outdoor learning develops and its vital contribution to our future generations and our current nature and climate change emergencies.

Together our partners cover the entire range of outdoor learning, from use of our school grounds, local parks, woodlands and beaches, field studies, environmental education, recognised accredited approaches to teaching like forest school and coastal school, residential stays and adventure education. Our partners provide expertise across a wide range of areas including:

- Initial Teacher Education,
- Professional learning and curriculum support
- Use of school grounds for play, learning, well-being and physical health improvements,
- Supporting awards,
- Land ownership,
- Residential stays,
- Overnight expeditions,
- National guidance and health and safety.

In recent years we have worked closely to provide support, advice and guidance in this field, contributing to Welsh Governments “COVID safe return to school guidance”, contributing regularly and throughout the development of the Curriculum for Wales, as well as other consultations, and engaging in ongoing dialogue to continue to support the development of outdoor learning and nature connection at this important juncture with our [High Quality Outdoor Learning for Wales](#) guide and training and CPD for teachers.

I welcome the opportunity to continue this important relationship and I look forward to supporting you at this exciting and challenging time.

Phil Stubbington – John Muir Trust

Chair, Wales Council for Outdoor Learning