

THE AWARDS 2021

Widening Participation or Outreach Initiative of the Year

Institution name	Cardiff University
Submission title or project name	MFL Mentoring
Nominee/key personnel	Professor Claire Gorrara (Academic Lead); Lucy Jenkins (Project Director); Tallulah Machin (Operations Manager); Rebecca Beckley, Glesni Owen and Rebecca Kirkby (Project Coordinators).
URL	www.mflmentoring.co.uk
Submission	<p>The number of students studying a modern language at GCSE in Wales has fallen by 64% since 2002. The MFL Mentoring Project led by Cardiff University shows that mentoring programmes change learners' attitudes to languages, improving aspirations for languages and Higher Education, amongst learners from our most deprived communities.</p> <p>Over the last 6 years more than 10,000 pupils across 143 secondary schools (of 205 in total) have engaged with the project, with 45% choosing a GCSE language on conclusion. Of the 143 schools, over 25% of these have higher than average levels of FSM.</p> <p>The project's impacts are far wider than GCSE uptake with key stakeholders highlighting how the project has also supported equity of access to languages by giving pupils in highly deprived areas "an opportunity to engage with other cultures and languages that would not otherwise have been accessible".</p>