

# ACE UPDATE

Keeping you in touch with what we are doing!

## On Reading

Book Club has slowed down, due to the current Tier 4 lockdown and the closure of libraries. However, before the end of term in December, Fran Pears, one of the ACEonline Facilitators, read "We're all going on a Bear Hunt" to 6 ESOL students, as a pilot for the the Book Club

## START BACK

Our online provision re-started on Mon Jan 11th with the Reading Group, which had 7 young people attend. Wed had 14 and 9 on Thurs.

This isn't bad for first sessions, but Saeed and John will be contacting parents to remind them that we have re-started.

## English for Butetown Mothers

Our 'English for Butetown Mothers' is the name we have given to the free Learning English sessions we run (ESOL) funded by the National Lottery. This takes account of the periods when mothers maybe unable to come online, for whatever reason. If you know someone who'd like to know more - let us know?

## New Year, new situation!

**We are faced with a similar situation to last March, with regard to young people and their schooling! It would seem possible that they may not go back until March, depending upon vaccination rollout! We find we are working on a 'week by week' basis, with our small provision, so our hearts go out to the schools and how much they have to organise. It is unlikely that we can help, but if ACE can, we are more than happy to give any support we can!**

**We're concerned about the effects 'lockdown' is having on young people's mental health. The Planning Team agreed that we need to ensure that there are 'Playground sessions', when they have games and chat with their friends, albeit with supervision. Our online time already had some and did projects, but we felt it necessary to expand this, to increase the 'free time' youngsters could have to chat with their friends!**

## Newsflash!

**We also had a piece about ACE Cardiff's provision in the area on the Wales Online 'in your area feature', which highlighted that we were helping young people access our online provision, thanks to Coronavirus Resilience Fund, managed by Community Foundation Wales.**

**We have received additional support during last year from both the Waterloo and Moondance Foundations, which has enabled us to make continuous provision throughout last year. Thank You!**

**We also wish to thank the National Lottery, who agreed to the changes we had to make for our ESOL provision. This, also became 'online provision, due to the pandemic and thanks to Kate Cassidy and her team.**





## Who's who?

### Robyn Mercer

Robyn has been with us for four years, initially as a volunteer, more recently as one of our two Facilitators. She is well known to all our students.

Robyn was born in Hampshire before moving to Launceston in Cornwall, at the age of 9. So, it was here that she continued her education, doing GCSEs and A levels at Launceston College.

She came to Cardiff in 2010 and studied English and Creative writing at Cardiff Metropolitan University and achieved a Bachelor of Arts degree.

However, this wasn't enough for our Robyn, so she went on to Cardiff University to do a Masters Degree in Creative Writing. This was when she first came across ACE Cardiff!

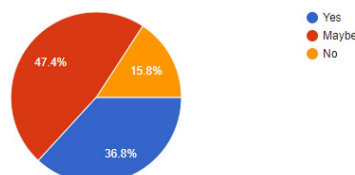
Robyn started by volunteering at our 'Homework Club', which we ran for those who needed support with their GCSE exams. Having gained her degree she found a job in Cardiff. Later, and thanks to a John e-mail, she got back in touch with us again!

We are pleased to say that Robyn is back at college for a teaching certificate, as well as continuing as one of our team.

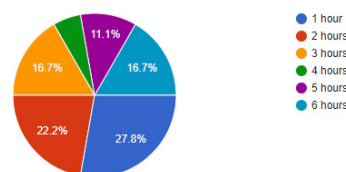
## Questionnaire Results

In Jan we carried out a survey amongst our students to find out what their 'learning from home' set up was, so that we could offer complementary provision.

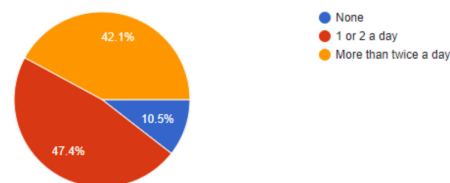
Would you attend a drop in session with ACE if it was to help you with your school work?  
19 responses



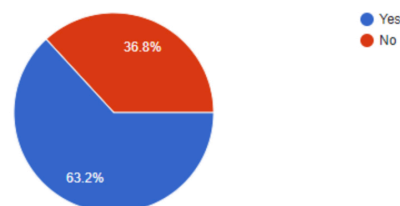
How long do you think you spend on the computer doing school work?  
18 responses



How much face to face online time do you have with your teacher?  
19 responses



Do you come to the reading sessions?  
19 responses



## Revised Website goes live

Our revised website went live last week! We were hoping to make a 'Splash' of it, but in the current climate, felt it was better to have it out in the world as soon as possible.

Maybe we can make the splash later in the year? The address is still [acecardiff.org.uk](http://acecardiff.org.uk) take a look and let us know what you think?