

Minecraft Education worlds now available in Welsh through Microsoft UK and The Crown Estate collaboration

Tuesday 9 July 2024

New Minecraft Education worlds are now available to Welsh speaking youngsters in an initiative that has been welcomed by educators, pupils and parents.

The two worlds, which were a collaboration between Microsoft UK and The Crown Estate, are now available in the Welsh language, are making the exciting worlds of Minecraft accessible to more people across Wales.

As part of The Crown Estate's focus on developing skills to support the energy transition, students across Wales can test their green skills and learn more about planning offshore wind farms and protecting the marine environment in Minecraft Education world, 'Offshore Wind Power Challenge'. In a second world, they can learn about conservation and ecology.

The new Minecraft worlds are aimed at inspiring primary and secondary school students to better understand climate change and the natural environment, and to consider careers in engineering, sustainability and conservation. In the 'Offshore Wind Power Challenge', students will see if they can power a coastal village by designing and building an offshore wind farm.

The Crown Estate recently delivered a demonstration of the new Minecraft world to a group of Year 8 pupils at Ysgol Bro Teifi, a Welsh medium school in Ceredigion. The lesson allowed pupils to hone their IT skills and learn more about offshore wind and the sector's important role in driving the UK's energy transition.

Renewable energy is a growing industry in Wales. A new generation of floating offshore windfarms is set to be developed in the Celtic Sea with the Crown Estate's current seabed leasing round, with the new floating turbines capable of generating up to 4.5GW of electricity – enough to power more than four million homes.

In its Celtic Sea Blueprint¹ published in February, The Crown Estate highlighted research which showed up to £1.4bn and over 5,000 jobs could be added to the UK's economy through the development of floating offshore wind off the coast of South Wales and South-West England.

The two new worlds created for Minecraft Education are available in Welsh and English, each with supporting lesson plans and teaching materials aligned with the curriculum of schools in Wales.

Ensuring that the Welsh language is relevant in the digital world is central to the Welsh Government's goal to reach one million Welsh speakers by 2050, and to achieve this there are calls for more digital and interactive resources in Welsh².

Jeremy Miles, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy & Welsh Language, said:

"I welcome this exciting collaboration with Microsoft. It is so important that students are able to use the Welsh language in all digital contexts without having to ask or go out of their way to do so.

"The renewable energy sector provides some of the greatest prospects for Wales' economic future. This innovative resource will allow our young people to grapple - in Welsh and in English - with the challenges and opportunities the sector presents. It will also introduce them, from an early age, to the possibility of a future career in renewable energy in Wales."

¹

https://assets.ctfassets.net/nv65su7t80y5/nDXSS9l3qvtscyxa1rlwq/ded23422bbc04bf6a8753cc3623f0016/Celtic_Seas_Blueprint_final_report_Feb2024.pdf

² <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-12/cymraeg-2050-welsh-language-strategy.pdf>

Rebecca Williams, Cyfarwyddwr Cymru / Wales Director at The Crown Estate, said:

“This is an exciting opportunity to collaborate with Microsoft UK and bring new Welsh language educational content to schools through the best-selling game of all time. These Minecraft worlds provide students and teachers with a fun way to explore the opportunities and challenges involved in delivering our energy transition whilst protecting and restoring our natural environment, through the language that is most relevant to them.

“The Crown Estate is committed to creating partnerships and bringing people together to make a positive impact. With a leasing round for floating offshore wind in the Celtic Sea already underway, we hope this initiative will help to inspire the next generation of young people develop their skills and passion and introduce them to some of the green career opportunities needed to achieve our renewable energy and net zero ambitions.”

Leah Slaymaker, Digital Competency Co-Ordinator at Ysgol Bro Teifi, said:

“It’s fantastic that our children have the opportunity to learn about important subjects such as the environment and climate change through digital means. The students thoroughly enjoy using Microsoft Minecraft Education – not only is it fun and enjoyable but through the different activities they learn and develop a number of important skills such as problem solving, collaboration and creativity. It is an extra bonus to be able to develop digital knowledge and skills through the medium of Welsh.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Minecraft is the best-selling game of all time, with over 140 million monthly active users in 112 countries, and is especially popular with younger players. Minecraft Education provides educational content for schools globally where students can learn through immersive and interactive game-based learning. The team at Mojang Studios, the creators of Minecraft, believes it has a responsibility to use Minecraft to build a better world and inspire generations of game changers, especially around themes of global citizenship and sustainability.

All schools in Wales now have access to this new creative and interactive Welsh language digital resource.

Links to resources

The [Celtic Sea Blueprint](#) forecasts that up to 5,300 new jobs and up to £1.4 billion could be generated for the UK economy by galvanising the supply chain and infrastructure opportunities arising from the development of new floating wind farms off the coast of South Wales and the South West England, according to independent research commissioned by The Crown Estate.

About The Crown Estate

The Crown Estate manages a diverse £16bn portfolio that includes urban centres and development opportunities; one of the largest rural holdings in the country; Regent Street and St James’s in London’s West End; and Windsor Great Park. We also manage the seabed and much of the coastline around England, Wales and Northern Ireland, playing a major role in the UK’s world leading offshore wind sector.

We are an independent commercial business established by an Act of Parliament, occupying a space between the public and private sectors. We are tasked with growing the value of the portfolio for the nation and returning all of our net profit to government for the benefit of public spending. This has totalled £3.2bn over the last ten years.

Through our activities and investments, The Crown Estate creates environmental, social and financial value both for now and into the long term. This includes:

- Playing a significant role in unlocking renewable energy for millions of homes through sectors such as offshore wind and creating opportunities for new technologies like CCUS and hydrogen to deliver the UK's energy security transition, resulting in thousands of jobs for communities across the UK.
- Supporting the sustainable transformation of land use in the UK through diversified, regenerative agricultural and environmental best practice alongside a thriving natural world.
- Becoming recognised as a centre of excellence for environmental and ecological best practice across the Windsor Estate.
- Identifying and creating opportunities for thriving and resilient communities across the country to support regeneration, housing and innovation.
- Ensuring London retains its global city status, by fostering a more vibrant, greener and inclusive destination for millions of visitors and businesses.

For further information please contact The Crown Estate press office: www.thecrownestate.co.uk / 0845 241 2342