25.02.2021

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Erthygl i'r Wasg Press Release

Steve Backshall yn dechrau ar ei antur i ddysgu Cymraeg

Co' ni off - eto! Mae **Iaith ar Daith** nôl ar yr hewl gyda chwe seleb sydd ar dân i ddysgu siarad Cymraeg, chwe mentor adnabyddus i'w helpu ar eu taith a llwyth o sialensiau i brofi eu sgiliau newydd.

Pob wythnos, yn dechrau ar nos Sul, 7 Mawrth, bydd un seleb ac un mentor Cymraeg ei iaith, yn teithio i fannau gwahanol o Gymru er mwyn dysgu mwy o'r iaith.

Ac yn cymryd rhan y tro hwn mae'r anturiaethwr a chyflwynydd rhaglenni natur **Steve Backshall;** yr actores adnabyddus **Joanna Scanlan;** y cyn-chwaraewr rygbi **James Hook**; y ddigrifwraig **Kiri Pritchard McLean**; Cyn-reolwr tîm pêl-droed Cymru **Chris Coleman** a'r actores ffilm, teledu a theatr **Rakie Ayola**.

A dyma'r mentoriaid sydd wedi bod ar yr hewl gyda nhw i helpu datblygu eu gallu i siarad Cymraeg drwy gynnig ychydig o gefnogaeth - a gosod yr heriau! Bydd y naturiaethwr **Iolo Williams** yn fentor i Steve; yr actor **Mark Lewis Jones** yn fentor i **Joanna** a'r dyfarnwr rygbi **Nigel Owens** yn fentor i James. Y drag cwîn **Maggi Noggi** fydd yn mentora Kiri; y cyn-beldroediwr a'r cyflwynydd **Owain Tudur Jones** yn mentora Chris a'r actores **Eiry Thomas** yn mentora Rakie.

Steve Backshall yw'r seleb cyntaf sy'n derbyn yr her i ddysgu Cymraeg. Mae Steve yn enwog am ei gyfresi fel 'Deadly 60' a 'Blue Planet Live' ac mae o wedi teithio'r byd fel rhan o'i waith ond mae Cymru yn agos iawn at ei galon ar ôl iddo dreulio amser yma pan yn blentyn ac yn ddiweddar mae o wedi derbyn swydd fel darlithydd gwadd ym Mhrifysgol Bangor.

Meddai Steve: "Dw i wedi bod wrth fy modd gyda Chymru ers imi fod yn fachgen ifanc iawn. Mae gan Gymru deimlad gwyllt, mae yna hanes, mae yna fywyd gwyllt, mae yna arfordir anhygoel ...

"Pan o'n i'n ifanc, dw i'n cofio fy rhieni yn pacio'r car ac yn gyrru'n syth i'r Cymoedd a Bannau Brycheiniog neu i Eryri. Ac mae llawer o fy atgofion i fel plentyn yn dod o'r nosweithiau yna yng Nghymru, mewn pabell, gyda lefel y dŵr yn codi uwchben y llawr a ni yn nofio i ffwrdd ar ein *airbeds*!

"Pan dw i'n ymweld â gwledydd eraill, dw i pob tro yn astudio'r iaith. Mae Cymru wedi bod yn rhan enfawr o fy mywyd a dw i ddim yn siarad yr un gair o'r iaith a dydy hyn ddim yn iawn. Dyma fy nghyfle i wneud yn iawn am hyn - beth yn y byd gallai fynd o'i le?!"

Ar ôl dim ond diwrnod o wersi Cymraeg a chwrs ar-lein mae Steve yn barod i fynd - ond bydd angen iddo gael rhywun i ymuno â fe ar ei daith i'w fentora a'i helpu gyda'r iaith. A phwy well i'w helpu na brenin bywyd gwyllt Cymru, Iolo Williams?

Mae taith Steve a Iolo yn dechrau ym man geni Iolo sef Llanwddyn ym Mhowys. Fel rhan o **Iaith ar Daith**, mae rhaid i bob un o'r selebs gyflawni nifer o sialensau a'r her gyntaf i Iolo osod i Steve oedd iddo ddod i nabod enwau Cymraeg adar gwyllt yn ardal Llyn Fyrnwy. Cafodd Steve ei swyno gyda'r enwau disgrifiadol fel cnocell-y-coed, titw penddu a'r ji-binc.

I glywed mwy am daith Steve Backshall i ddysgu Cymraeg gwyliwch **Iaith ar Daith** ar nos Sul, 7 Mawrth am 8.00.

Mae Boom Cymru, cynhyrchwyr Iaith ar Daith, wedi dilyn yr holl ganllawiau, deddfwriaeth a phrotocolau mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'u gosod i sicrhau fod y gwaith yn parhau mewn ffordd ddiogel. Roedd Steve, Iolo a'r criw ffilmio wedi eu hynysu mewn swigen yn ystod ffilmio.

Iaith ar Daith
Nos Sul 7 Mawrth 8.00, S4C
Isdeitlau Saesneg
Ar alw: S4C Clic, iPlayer a llwyfannau eraill
Cynhyrchiad Boom ar gyfer S4C

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Erthygl i'r Wasg **Press Release**

Steve Backshall embarks on an adventure to learn Welsh

Here we go again! **Iaith ar Daith** (Welsh Road-trip) is back on the road with six celebrities who passionately want to learn Welsh, six well-known mentors to help them on their journey and a load of challenges to test their new skills.

Every week, beginning on Sunday, 7 March, one celeb and their Welsh-speaking mentor travel to different parts of Wales in order to learn more of the language.

Taking part this time are adventurer and nature TV presenter **Steve Backshall**; the well-known actor **Joanna Scanlan**; former rugby player **James Hook**; comedian **Kiri Pritchard McLean**; former Wales football team manager **Chris Coleman** and the film, television and theatre actor **Rakie Ayola**.

And these are the mentors who have gone on the road with them to help develop their ability to speak Welsh by offering their support – and issuing the challenges! Naturalist **Iolo Williams** is Steve's mentor; actor **Mark Lewis Jones** is Joanna's mentor and rugby referee **Nigel Owens** is James's mentor. Drag queen **Maggi Noggi** is Kiri's mentor; former footballer and presenter **Owain Tudur Jones** is Chris's mentor and actor **Eiry Thomas** mentors Rakie.

Steve Backshall is the first celeb to accept the challenge to learn Welsh. Steve is famous for series such as 'Deadly 60' and 'Blue Planet Live' and his work has taken him all over the world but Wales is very close to his heart after spending a lot of time here as a child and most recently as a guest lecturer at Bangor University.

Steve said: "I have loved Wales since I was a very young boy. Wales feels really wild, there's history, there's nature, there's an amazing coastline ...

"When I was young, I remember my parents packing the car and driving straight to the Valleys or the Brecon Beacons or Snowdonia. And a lot of my childhood memories come from those nights in Wales, in a tent, with the level of the water rising above the floor and us floating away on our airbeds!

"When I visit other countries, I always study the language. Wales has been a huge part of my life, yet I don't speak a word of the language and that isn't right. This is my chance to make up for this – what could possibly go wrong?!"

After just a day of Welsh lessons and an on-line course Steve is good to go – but he needs someone to join him on the journey to mentor him and help him with the language. And who better than the godfather of Welsh wildlife, Iolo Williams?

Steve and Iolo's journey begins in Iolo's birthplace Llanwddyn in Powys. As part of **Iaith ar Daith**, each celebrity has to complete a number of challenges and one of the first ones Iolo sets Steve to learn some Welsh birdnames. Steve was enchanted by the descriptive names for woodpecker (cnocell-y-coed – literally 'tree knocker'), coal tit (titw penddu – black-headed tit) and the chaffinch (ji-binc – after the sound of the bird's call).

To find out more about Steve Backshall's journey to learn Welsh watch **Iaith ar Daith** on Sunday, 7 March at 8.00pm.

The producers of Iaith ar Daith, Boom Cymru, have followed all Welsh Government guidelines, legislation and protocols to ensure that filming was carried out safely. Steve and Iolo and the film crew were isolated in a bubble during filming.

Iaith ar Daith
Sunday 7 March 8.00, S4C
English subtitles available
On demand: S4C Clic, iPlayer and other platforms
A Boom production for S4C