Welsh Headlines — 9 Sep 2026

??????? Welsh News Headlines — 9 September 2026

? Top Story: Welsh Government opens consultation on restricting phones in schools — as biggest teachers' union calls for a ban

The Welsh Government launched a consultation this morning (06:00) on new national guidance that could restrict **mobile phone use throughout the school day** at schools across Wales, while Wales' largest teachers' union said it wants phones **banned outright**. The 12-week consultation — a first-100-days commitment — will seek the views of governing bodies, headteachers, staff, parents and learners before guidance is published in **early 2027**. Education Minister **Anna Brychan** said she fully supports "clear and robust restrictions… up to and including a full restriction across the school site". A government survey in June found **82% of education-workforce respondents** supported statutory restrictions, with 74.6% saying existing restrictions reduced distraction, 65% reporting a positive impact on behaviour and 60.8% on learner wellbeing. First Minister **Rhun ap Iorwerth** said earlier this year he was "determined to act" on smartphone use during school hours. **NASUWT Cymru** said the issue should not be left to individual schools and backed a national response; headteacher **Owain Gethin Davies** of Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy, whose pupils have handed phones in at the start of the day for about two years, told BBC Radio Wales' *Dros Frecwast*: "You don't see young people on their phones during the school day… there's more buzz around school." Unlike England — where the UK Government banned phones in schools this year — Wales is not going as far as a statutory ban: ministers say schools will keep the final say, with options including locking phones away at the start of the day, turning them off during lessons, or allowing use only at set times and places. The guidance will also cover pupils who need phones for health conditions such as diabetes.

□□ *GOV.WALES (00:01 release) / Nation.Cymru / BBC Cymru Fyw (NASUWT) — 9 Sep*

? Wales' papers

The **South Wales Echo** leads with "Mum died after cancer results delay", with the **Western Mail** on the same story as "Test delays cost dying mum her chance of precious months"; the **South Wales Evening Post** fronts "City 'riddled' with class A drugs". Also pictured: the **Flintshire Leader** ("Tributes paid to 'inspiration' at golf club") and the **Wrexham Leader** (care home plan to create 200 jobs — see Economy).

BBC Wales papers review (image gallery) — 9 Sep 06:26

?? Politics & Senedd

Councils ask not to be left out of new powers for Wales. The leader of the Welsh Local Government Association and Labour leader of Torfaen council, **Anthony Hunt**, said Welsh councils should not be "left behind" in further devolution, arguing council involvement would be "essential" to grow Wales' economy: "I have always been emphatic that Wales is a nation of regions." His comments follow Prime Minister **Andy Burnham's** pledge to devolve more power to English regions; Hunt said devolution "should not just be about Welsh government". The WLGA represents all 22 Welsh local authorities, which are braced for a tight budget settlement when the Welsh Government — led by Plaid Cymru since May's election — presents its autumn spending plans, potentially meaning service cuts and council-tax rises.

BBC Wales (Gareth Lewis, Elliw Gwawr) — 8 Sep 16:46

Senedd constituencies to be redrawn again under new rules. Less than four months after May's election first used the 16 six-member constituencies, the **Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru** has begun drawing the map for the **2030 Senedd election**, with initial proposals due in early 2027. Unlike May's boundaries — created by pairing Wales' 32 Westminster seats for the new 96-member, closed-list-PR Senedd — the new constituencies will not have to pair Westminster seats, giving the Commission flexibility; each must generally hold an electorate within 10% of the Welsh average. There will be three consultation rounds, with final determinations to be submitted to Welsh ministers before **1 December 2028**. Commission chief executive **Shereen Williams** said the new quota approach "does mean that some changes will be necessary… but it also gives us an opportunity to respond with greater flexibility to the public's views". The Commission will also decide the constituencies' names, in one language unless a bilingual name is acceptable.

Nation.Cymru (Mark Mansfield) — 9 Sep

Reform MS mocked after claiming her party is "in government" in Wales and Scotland. Reform UK's **Francesca O'Brien MS** (Gŵyr Abertawe) re-shared a photo with Reform Scotland's Senga Beresford captioned "strong voices now in government in Scotland and Wales" — a claim false in both nations: the SNP leads in Scotland and Plaid Cymru in Wales, with Reform the second-largest party in the Senedd. Commenters asked "Since when are you in government?"; O'Brien did

not amend the post. Her weekend conference posts — including "GB news is a fresh of breath air" — were also widely mocked. O'Brien, a former Welsh Conservative staffer who defected to Reform in August 2025, is the group's shadow minister for local government, housing and planning.

Nation.Cymru (Emily Price) — 9 Sep

? Health

Woman still waiting for knee surgery despite Ombudsman intervention. Joanne Roberts, of Abergele, has waited more than three years for a knee replacement through Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) after being referred in **March 2023**, removed from the surgical waiting list without being told, reinstated after a Public Services Ombudsman for Wales investigation, then later told she was "not on anybody's list". The Ombudsman ruled BCUHB's service fell below standard and ordered a written apology and reinstatement — the board wrote that "your position on the list will be protected" — yet months later Orthopaedics told her otherwise, citing "capacity issues", and she has now been referred outside the board, most recently to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital in Oswestry. Roberts called the process "devastating": "I shouldn't have to keep investigating my own treatment pathway." Welsh Conservative leader **Darren Millar MS** said the case showed BCUHB "can't even reinstate someone onto a waiting list... just how dysfunctional it is", renewing his call for an independent inquiry into north Wales NHS failures.

Nation.Cymru (Emily Price) — 9 Sep

Wales has worst workforce mental health in the UK. A Mental Health Foundation report estimates **26.2% of employed people in Wales — about 372,000 workers — are experiencing poor mental health**, almost double the 14.1% of 2009/10 and the worst of the four UK nations across all four measures examined. Around 19.1% (about 273,000 people) reported being unhappy or stressed in their jobs; 48.9% were dissatisfied with their income (UK average 42.7%, up sharply from 36.2% three years earlier) and the share struggling financially almost doubled from 5.7% to 10.6%. Foundation Wales director **Catherine Razzell** said for too many people "work is instead becoming a source of stress and insecurity", and called for childcare to be treated as economic infrastructure and closer integration of employment support with health services. The Welsh Government pointed to its In-Work Support Service (nearly 13,000 people and more than 500 businesses helped since April 2023) and the Healthy Working Wales programme.

Nation.Cymru (Mark Mansfield) — 9 Sep

? Economy & Business

North Wales Growth Deal five years in: 121 of 4,000-plus promised jobs delivered. Figures presented to Wrexham councillors show the **£240m North Wales Growth Deal** — backed by the UK and Welsh governments and aiming to deliver more than 4,000 jobs over its 15-year life,

underpinning the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone — has so far created just **121 jobs: 63 full-time and 58 construction roles** across seven projects now in full delivery (10 more are approved but not under way), with £15m spent plus £2m in match funding. Cllr **Andy Gallanders** challenged the pace: "The actual number of jobs delivered is very low compared to the ambition… Can you give us a realistic timetable of delivering the 4,000-plus jobs?" Ambition North Wales portfolio director **Hedd Vaughan-Evans** said numbers would "ramp up significantly over the next two to three years", with the total achieved "towards the end of the growth deal period". Councillors pressed hardest on **Wrexham Gateway** — the transport hub expected to account for about 700 jobs — where land and property manager David Mathews conceded "there's no legally binding arrangements as yet" with any occupier. The committee asked for a further Gateway update in November.

□□ *BBC Wales / Nation.Cymru (Alec Doyle, LDR) — 8 Sep*

£15m dementia care home planned for Wrexham — with 200-plus jobs. Pendine Park — the award-winning care organisation run by proprietor **Mario Kreft MBE** — has unveiled plans for **Pen-y-Don**, a 77-bed dementia care home on its 12-acre Summerhill site in Wrexham, creating more than 200 new jobs. The two-storey "next generation" home — a development of its Bryn Seiont Newydd home in Caernarfon, named the UK's best new care home at the 2016 Pinders Healthcare Design Awards — will care for residents in small family-sized units of eight to 10, with AI, radar movement monitors and virus-spread-reduction systems. Construction starts in 2027 with first residents expected around 15 months later, taking Pendine's workforce past 1,000 staff and beds beyond 500. The name honours the Rhyl hotel run by Kreft's grandparents, Fred and Rene Warburton. Kreft — marking Pendine's 40th anniversary — said the home should be "the flagship, not just for Wrexham but for the whole region".

□□ *Nation.Cymru — 9 Sep (also the Wrexham Leader front page)*

? Environment

Campaigners call on Senedd to restrict bird-killing poisons. Following public outcry over sea eagles in Britain being poisoned by rat poison, Wales-based **Wildlife Poisoning Research UK (WPRUK)** has urged the Senedd's Environment Committee to restrict poisons that enter the food chain, arguing anyone can buy amateur-use poisons with no training or safety-code requirement. It says the industry-run Rodenticide Stewardship Scheme has "totally failed to protect the environment": new WPRUK data found **more than 60% of buzzards tested (2020-24) had Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide (SGAR) levels above lethal thresholds**, with exposure to the most toxic SGAR, brodifacoum, up 1,026% over 20 years. The group wants a ban on public sale and professional use limited to indoors. Dr Ed Blane of WPRUK said: "The killing of our threatened wildlife by these poisons has to stop and the Welsh Government now has the powers to achieve this." The Welsh Government said it takes wildlife protection "extremely seriously", works with the Health and Safety Executive and will "continue to consider emerging scientific evidence".

□□ *Nation.Cymru (Stephen Price) — 9 Sep*

Fly-tippers could face £5,000 fines under proposed crackdown. The Welsh Government is consulting on proposals to raise the maximum fixed penalty notice for fly-tipping from **£400 to £5,000** — a tenfold increase — to act as a deterrent and ensure parity with England, where the UK Government has announced the same rise. Cardiff Council has been lobbying for the change: leader **Chris Weaver**, Cardiff Central MS **Huw Thomas** and cabinet member for waste **Ed Stubbs** (all Labour) argued revenue from higher fines could fund CCTV and drones. Thomas noted "Andy Burnham recently announced that fines in England are increasing, and I want to see the same happen in Wales"; Stubbs said the change "does not need to wait for a review. It simply needs to happen." Cardiff has added specially trained officers and trained 60 further street-cleansing officers to investigate fly-tipping.

□□ *Nation.Cymru — 9 Sep*

?? Crime & Justice

Cardiff man jailed for sexually assaulting young girl. Liam Hobbs, 27, of Ely, Cardiff, was jailed at Cardiff Crown Court after being convicted of two counts of sexually assaulting a girl under 13 and found with more than 100 child sexual abuse images and videos. He admitted three counts of possessing indecent photographs but denied two counts of assault by penetration; a jury found him guilty on 1 July. Recorder **Simon Hughes** described a "deep-seated and long-held sexual interest in children" and categorised Hobbs as a dangerous offender, imposing 14 months for the images plus a consecutive seven-year extended sentence for the sexual offending — five years in custody and two on licence, with two-thirds of the five years to be served before parole consideration. The victim said: "I feel relieved that justice has been done, and I was believed in court." DC Emma Partridge of South Wales Police praised the victim's bravery.

□□ *Nation.Cymru — 9 Sep*

? Culture & Heritage

Sir Tom Jones: "I was fired from The Voice — I didn't want to leave." The 86-year-old from Treforest in Pontypridd said ITV "fired" him as a judge on The Voice and that he did not want to go because he "loves the show", having appeared as an on-off coach since the series premiered in 2012. He told the BBC the broadcaster decided "a while ago" but that he "was told recently", and that he had been offered a reduced role — one he was "not thrilled" about. An ITV spokesperson said he will no longer be a full-time coach on series 15, but "we continue to talk to Sir Tom and his team about his involvement in the next series". *(Yesterday's UK file flagged the tabloid version of this story; the BBC interview adds his own account.)*

□□ *BBC Wales (Miriam Barker) — 8 Sep*

Tory councillor brands Michael Sheen a "nationalist rent-a-mouth". *(Update to the 03-09 coverage of Sheen's Prince of Wales title comments.)* Conservative councillor **Calum Davies** — Radyr and Morganstown ward, Cardiff, and a former Senedd candidate — used a Conservative Home piece to attack the Port Talbot actor over his suggestion that Welsh people be asked whether to keep the Prince of Wales title, accusing the BBC of reporting "his every utterance". Davies, who praised Sheen's screen work, argued the title now represents "Wales' central place in the Crown", said an investiture should go ahead for Prince William "to consolidate royal support", and questioned the politics behind Sheen's BBC series *Buried*, which investigates alleged toxic PCB dumping from a South Wales landfill. No direct response from Sheen was reported.

□□ *Nation.Cymru — 8 Sep*

Oasis' Cardiff reunion gig was "hugely emotional", say film-makers. Directors **Will Lovelace and Dylan Southern** — makers of the documentary *Don't Look Back In Anger*, charting Oasis' 2025 world tour — told BBC Radio Wales that the band's Principality Stadium show in Cardiff took **Noel Gallagher** by surprise: "You saw grown men who probably rarely express their emotions crying and hugging each other… Noel says in the film that he completely underestimated what it would be like, and it really did kind of hit him hard." They recalled the brothers — estranged for 15 years — rehearsing "Columbia" first at Noel's instruction before Liam walked in and asked "should we do this then?", and said that during the tour "they became like friends and more importantly family".

□□ *BBC Wales — 8 Sep*

Fancy buying a 742-year-old school? It's yours for £5m. Ruthin School in Denbighshire — which survived plagues, civil war and two world wars before closing — is on the market with a guide price of **£5m** via Sanderson Weatherall: all 12 buildings, sports pitches and more than 24 acres. Its origins trace to **1284**, when Edward I built a castle and garrison chapel in Ruthin; it was refounded as a school in 1574 and moved to its present site in the early 1890s, later visited by the Queen. Bought in March 2023, the school's new owners injected £6.4m over three years to cover losses, but it entered administration in **July 2026**, with pupils told of the closure the day before breaking up for summer. The main building is Grade II-listed, dating to the 1850s.

□□ *BBC Wales (Rowenna Hoskin) — 8 Sep*

Shakin' Stevens' grandson cast as young Voldemort. Billy Barratt — grandson of Welsh music legend Shakin' Stevens — will play Tom Riddle (young Voldemort) in season two of HBO's Harry Potter series. The youngest-ever International Emmy winner (aged 13, for the 2019 BBC Two drama *Reasonable Child*), whose credits include *Mary Poppins Returns* and Apple TV's *Invasion*, joins new castings including Lenny Rush as Dobby, Bonnie Hill as Ginny Weasley and Kit Harington as Gilderoy Lockhart. *(Brief.)*

□□ *Nation.Cymru — 8 Sep*

Also in culture: The **St Fagans Food Festival** returns this weekend (Sat 12 & Sun 13 September) with 80-plus food, drink and craft traders, live music and cookery demos — entry free, parking charges apply. The **Iris Prize** published its full programme for its 20th edition (12-18

October, Cardiff): a record 16 features, 15 Best British Short contenders and an opening night of five new shorts by Welsh filmmakers (shortlist was covered 01-09). S4C's five-part series **Athrawon** premiered today, following eight newly qualified teachers through their first year at five Welsh-medium schools, including Ysgol y Creuddyn (Conwy) and Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur (Port Talbot). *(Briefs.)*

□□ *Nation.Cymru — 8/9 Sep*

? Sport

Championship roundup: Swansea's unbeaten start ends; Cardiff and Wrexham draw. **Swansea City** lost their first league game of the season, going down **1-3 at Southampton** — Finn Azaz, Cyle Larin and Leo Scienza scoring for the Saints, with **Zan Vipotnik** netting his first of the season for the Swans. Head coach Vitor Matos said his side "lacked our intensity and aggressiveness in the first half". **Cardiff City** remained winless after a **1-1 draw with Stoke** at Cardiff City Stadium — Ben Johnson (on a season-long loan from Ipswich) put the visitors ahead, Joel Colwill headed in Chris Willock's cross after 63 minutes, and the Bluebirds hit a post three times. The point — Cardiff's fourth draw in six games — lifted them out of the relegation zone; Stoke, who took a first away point since January, dropped to 15th. Krystian Bielik started for Cardiff with the Fratton Park fan altercation still under Hampshire Police investigation (see 06/07-09). **Wrexham's** wait for a home win went on as they drew **1-1 with Burnley** at the Racecourse — Zeki Amdouni put the Clarets ahead, Jacques Ekomie headed the equaliser; Burnley stayed winless, one off the bottom, but ended a run of seven straight away defeats. New signing Jamie Vardy watched from the stands, suspended.

□□ *BBC Sport Wales / Nation.Cymru (PA) — 8 Sep*

Wales squad "Bluebird" aiming to fly in WXV. BBC Sport Wales profiles **Amy Williams, 21, from Pontypool** — a former Cardiff City Women footballer who switched to rugby after being spotted at Coleg Gwent, then scored two tries on her uncapped debut as Wales beat the Barbarians at Twickenham. She is in Sean Lynn's WXV squad for the autumn Tests, starting against South Africa at Cardiff Arms Park on 18 September. *(Brief.)* And in lighter news, **Clwb Rygbi Caernarfon** won the UK's first "Rugby Kitchen of the Year" award — a year's supply of Pierre Koffmann's chips — after 50-plus-year volunteer and kitchen head **Keith Parry, 84**, impressed the judging chef. *(Briefs.)*

□□ *BBC Sport Wales — 8/9 Sep*

? Local & Community

Cowboy builder "tore my home apart and disappeared with £14k". Cardiff's **Sheri Ingram** told BBC Wales how a builder recommended by "a serving police officer" gutted the Aberbeeg, Blaenau Gwent home she bought in 2015 aged 21 and vanished with **£14,000** after six weeks of

work. She links him to **Lee Slocombe, from Swansea** — jailed in February for **six years** after defrauding nine victims of £400,000 (costing them more than £547,000 including rectification work) over an 11-year career that continued while he was on bail under the false name "Lee Lewis"; he once brought a fake, unqualified gas engineer to a property, leaving it in a "potentially lethal state". Slocombe, of Delhi Street, Swansea, previously jailed in 2015 and 2023 for fraud, was banned from building, maintenance and gardening work in the UK for life. The piece marks the UK Government's August plan for a trusted-traders database and safeguarded payments after PM **Andy Burnham** said cowboy builders "leave families with months of stress" — Ingram called it "a good step in the right direction" but questioned the incentive to join a voluntary scheme. A separate Flintshire couple, Barry and Shelley Sawkins, lost more than £30,000 to rogue builder Christian Williams, 54, now serving two years.

□□ *BBC Wales (Danielle Herbert) — 9 Sep 06:00*

Mum's plea to find son who disappeared aged 15 as his 40th birthday approaches. The mother of **Robert Williams**, who vanished from his home in **Resolven, Neath** on **22 March 2002** aged 15 and was last seen at a house party in nearby Aberdulais the following day, appealed for information ahead of what would have been his 40th birthday. **Cheryl** Williams said: "Every minute of every day I think about Robert... don't be afraid to come forward." Det Ch Insp **Danielle Thorne** said Cheryl had endured "over two decades of anguish" and that "numerous leads and tip-offs have all, devastatingly, come to nothing". Two people — a 59-year-old woman and a 35-year-old man — were arrested in September 2023 in connection with the case, but South Wales Police said in February 2025 that no further action would be taken.

□□ *BBC Wales (Miriam Barker) — 8 Sep*

? Quick Summary

Section	Key story
□□ Top Story	WG consultation on restricting phones in schools launched; NASUWT Cymru wants a ban
□□ Politics	Councils seek role in new powers; Senedd map redrawn for 2030; Reform MS mocked over "in government" post
□□ Health	Abergele woman still waiting for knee surgery despite Ombudsman ruling; Wales worst for workforce mental health
□□ Economy	North Wales Growth Deal: 121 of 4,000+ jobs after five years; £15m Wrexham dementia care home
□□ Environment	Calls to restrict bird-killing poisons; fly-tipping fines could rise to £5,000
⚖ Crime	Liam Hobbs jailed for sexually assaulting girl under 13
□□ Culture	Tom Jones says ITV fired him from The Voice; Sheen attacked as "rent-a-mouth"; Ruthin School for sale £5m

Section	Key story
◫ Sport	Swansea's unbeaten start ends (1-3 at Southampton); Cardiff & Wrexham both draw
◫ Local	Cowboy builder warning (£14k, jailed conman); Resolven mum's plea before son's 40th

---

Compiled 9 Sep 2026 ~09:40 BST by Emrys (Hermes cron) · Sources: BBC Wales, BBC Wales Politics, BBC Cymru Fyw, BBC Sport Wales, Nation.Cymru, GOV.WALES, PA, LDR. SearXNG: all three queries full garbage mode again (Wikipedia/Visit Wales/WorldAtlas spam, zero news links) — sources swept directly via the Playwright fetch service (192.168.178.100:8090), 30+ pages fetched by three parallel fetch subagents. Top story: GOV.WALES 00:01 phones consultation + same-morning NASUWT reaction; UK file's 08:15 compile preceded the papers review (06:26) and cowboy builder detail. Skipped as repeats: Pisa results, Pakistan-flag row, faith leaders letter, Penyberth 90, Glyndŵr Day castles, Severn Bridge 60th (all 08-09); Bielik clash + police probe (06/07-09, only noted his starting berth); Sheen Prince of Wales title comments (03-09, only the new Tory attack covered); Iris Prize shortlist (01-09, programme detail only); energy company consultation (07-09); Michael Sheen Buried findings (11-08). No weather note carried (no Wales-specific detail in UK file).

Revision #3
Created 2026-09-09 08:09:56 UTC by Admin
Updated 2026-09-09 08:10:57 UTC by Admin