ERASMUS +

Date: 8th October, 2018

Venue Dyffryn Taf

Set the scene and intro To Keith Towler

* Croeso i’r Cenhadledd yma
* Thanks to Mr Kennedy for allowing me to contribute
* Thanks to all the teachers for making this event possible.

The teachers have seen the potential in the young delegates here and their abilities as Change Makers. These teachers will have made sacrifices, in their workplace and in their homes to bring us to this point. Students must realise the investment and confidence that has been bequeathed them and build upon this experience as they become leaders in our future.

I have watched this programme develop and watched with interest the growth in stature and confidence of those who sit before me today. They have all shown maturity, a commitment to change indiscriminate injustice by raising issues many would simply accept as the way life is. ***But more than this they have grown in strength through their collective ideology, a passion that is pure and true.*** This ideology has grown from your own life experiences and what you have seen and experienced through your new found friends from Portugal, Spain, Finland, Italy, France and Wales.

As a collective, as a group, you have refreshingly embraced and promoted and respected in Society, Politics and the economy in each of our nations. ***You have viewed difference as an opportunity to be leveraged not a threat to be defended against. Accepting differences in people is the ultimate WIN WIN scenario.***

However, this WIN WIN view of difference **is increasingly under siege from those with a WIN LOSE mentality.** Those who believe for me to win you must lose. If you win I lose. This growing opinion which pervades across Europe and the Americas views difference as a THREAT and not an opportunity. **AND to win means to push back against** trade, to push back against immigration, to push back against multi culturalism, to push back against cosmopolitanism, to push back against all manifestations of difference.

You are all leaders of our future. Leadership is not about titles, positions and authority. It is about one life influencing another, particularly for the common good.

Remember geese can fly farther and more quickly when they fly together. In the same way together you can **break this win lose model** and we can return to the WIN WIN model where difference is an opportunity to be leveraged. Hold by your convictions and your dreams and make them a reality for all our futures. I share in your teachers confidence that you can make a difference.

It now gives me the greatest pleasure to introduce to you the Key Note speaker for this conference MR KEITH TOWLER.

Robert Newsome OBE