
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS STATEMENT

Estyn Inspections Update

Since the introduction of the new inspection framework at the start of the academic year, ten primary schools and two secondary schools have been inspected and had reports published. Two schools, Ysgol Y Wern and The Bishop of Llandaff High School, have been judged to be excellent in all five inspection areas. Seven of the eleven schools have been asked to submit case studies for their excellent practice.

Under the new framework, two primary schools have been judged as requiring improvement by Estyn. Progress is being reviewed in the areas of recommendation. Of the schools inspected under the previous framework, three primary schools and one secondary school are requiring Estyn monitoring. One primary school is in Special Measures.

Although this represents a decrease in the number of schools requiring Estyn follow-up, there is no room for complacency. The Local Authority, in partnership with the Central South Consortium, is committed to building on the progress of recent years to make sure that every school in Cardiff is a good or excellent school.

Period Poverty

The Council has received a grant from Welsh Government to provide free feminine hygiene products to primary and secondary schools in Cardiff, with the aim of reducing the growing issue of period poverty/dignity. In response, we are inviting a number of colleagues, including schools and young people, to join a task & finish group to develop the approach in Cardiff. In addition, we will be inviting young people to participate in an online survey to ascertain their views in relation to period dignity. Schools will receive a live link to the online survey at the beginning of the week commencing 18th June, which will have a closing date of 6th July. Hearing the voices of young people on this issue prior to deciding how to spend the grant is central to our Child's Rights approach. The programme is being led jointly by our Healthy Schools Lead and Child City link officer.

Adamsdown Primary School

I was delighted to officially open the new extension at Adamsdown Primary School on 11 June 2018 alongside the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams AM. Work on the new £3.6m standalone extension took 11 months to complete and was funded jointly by the Council and Welsh Government through investment as part of Band A of the £164m 21st Century Schools programme in Cardiff.

The construction of the new 1,150 square metre block has meant that Adamsdown Primary School has doubled in size, becoming a two form entry school, which is able

to accommodate up to 420 pupils between Reception class and Year 6 age, plus nursery children. The extension to the school also includes classrooms and toilets for the lower school, a new main hall, new catering facilities, a multi-use sports pitch, climbing frame, landscaped gardens and environmentally friendly facilities.

Eastern Community Campus

I was pleased to join the previous Lord Mayor and the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams AM, on 23 May 2018 in officially opening the new Eastern Community Campus, which is the new shared home for Eastern High School and Cardiff and Vale College. The £26m project was funded jointly by the Council and Welsh Government through investment as part of Band A of the £164m 21st Century Schools programme in Cardiff.

The new Eastern Community Campus can accommodate up to 1,200 Eastern High and 320 Cardiff and Vale College students. There are distinct areas for the school and college to use, but the site also allows for cross-working between the two institutions. The new facilities include flexible learning spaces that can be configured for a variety of uses, and the very latest in Design and Technology, science and IT facilities. The campus also features excellent outdoor sport facilities, including a full-size, floodlit, 3G+ pitch.

Young People Not In Education, Employment or Training

The strengthened focus on transition between education and employment through the Cardiff Commitment is having a positive impact. Final figures published by Welsh Government show that the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) has reduced to 1.6%, in line with the Wales average. In 2010, Cardiff's year 11 NEET figure was 8.8%.

In addition, the Junior Apprenticeships programme, launched in September 2016 in partnership with Cardiff and Vale College, recently won an Association of Colleges (AoC) Beacon Award for Transition into Post-16 Education and Training. The pioneering programme has been successful in offering a full-time, career-focused learning programme for a select number of 14 to 16 year old students in Cardiff, and is now being rolled out across Wales.

Cardiff Commitment

On 20th April 2018, the Council and Cardiff and Vale College (CAVC) organised the 'Your Cardiff. Your Career. Your Future event', as part of the Cardiff Commitment. The event brought together more than 400 young people (aged 14-18) from across the city with 30 major employers at the CAVC campus in Dumballs Road. The event was designed to inspire and inform young people by raising awareness of career opportunities in key priority sectors, including health & social care, ICT, financial & professional services, creative industries, construction, advanced materials and manufacturing, life sciences, hospitality and catering. The event included representation from Careers Wales, CAVC careers advice and guidance team and local universities. A registration point was also provided for the new 'Digital Profile' platform, which enables schools, young people post-16 and employers to keep in touch to share opportunities and requests.

The close working partnership between the Council and CAVC not only provided excellent opportunities for Cardiff's young people to see what career paths are

available to them, but it was also a chance to open their eyes to alternative vocations in some of the capital city's biggest organisations. This was the first in a series of Cardiff Commitment events to respond to requests from young people themselves and to open up pathways to work.

Open Your Eyes

Some of the biggest names in business, arts and culture are visiting schools in Cardiff over this week and next to speak to children about the career opportunities the city has to offer. Now in its fourth year, Open Your Eyes is designed to raise career aspirations, and involves 38 businesses and organisations from Cardiff and the wider city region are visiting 16 schools in the cluster areas for Cardiff West Community High School and Fitzalan High School. Using links created through the Cardiff Commitment, this year's Open Your Eyes will see more businesses and organisations, visiting more schools and speaking to more children and young people than ever before. The aim is to raise aspiration and encourage our young people to consider a far wider range of careers.

Internationalising Education Conference, 8th June 2018

The Council recently hosted its third Internationalising Education Conference at City Hall on 8th June 2018. I was pleased to welcome attendees from Wales and international visitors from across Europe, Mexico and USA. Presentations and workshops were delivered by teachers from international projects, partners involved in international education and experts in fields of interest to the 21st Century classroom. Topics ranged from languages to robotics to even a presentation from the New York Police Department regarding their community education programme.

Visit by Australian Government Representative

Cardiff hosted a visit by Jacinta Evans from Canberra in Australia on 15th May 2018. In her current role for the Australian Government she has responsibility for Inclusion and Participation. Her main interests lie in the interface between school and family, disability education and inclusive education strategies more broadly. She visited Wales as part of an 8-week tour of several countries, including Canada and Finland. She had received funding from the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust to support her research fellowship relating specifically to managing complex behaviour in schools and improving pupil outcomes.

She visited Eastern High School and Fitzalan High School in Cardiff. In both schools, the head teachers shared their vision for the education of their pupils and the practical, successful approaches to inclusion that they are implementing to improve well-being and attainment outcomes. She was impressed with her visits to classes where she saw vulnerable pupils fully engaged in learning. She also spent time with council officers who shared the underpinning policy and practice for inclusion that supports schools in Cardiff. It was a successful visit and a great opportunity for Cardiff to share its excellent practice.

'Britain's Refugee Children' Documentary – Cathays High School

Cathays High School is a successful, multi-faith, multi-ethnic secondary school in the heart of Cardiff, which is attended by pupils from all over the world. The school has been chosen for a documentary project looking at the journey that a refugee family makes from when they arrive in the UK until they are settled and happy and integrated into the local community. It charts the progress that the children/young people make from their first admission meeting and the experiences they have in their new school to help them learn English and gain qualifications that will see them become happy integrated citizens. The documentary follows a number of students at Cathays High School of various ages from age 15 to 18 and showcases the hard work and dedication of our teachers and all the adults that work with refugee families.

Digital Leaders – Gladstone Primary School

A team of Year 6 Digital Leaders at Gladstone Primary School in Cathays won first prize in the inaugural all Wales coding competition organised by Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor in Dolgellau. The young people were required to use the computer programme, Scratch, to create a game that celebrated 'Welshness'. Gladstone Primary School decided to enter teams in the Key Stage 2 (KS2) competition and submitted seven entries to the competition organisers. The Digital Leaders worked every day on their games, producing instructions as well, so that the judges would understand how to play them.

In March 2018, the school was formally notified that one of the girls' teams had been shortlisted for the KS2 Team Award and were then delighted to find out that they had gone on to win their section. The three girls in the winning team wrote the computer coding for a game called "Escape from Cardiff Castle". The girls were each presented with a laptop as their prize, as well as a beautiful glass trophy, by the Assistant Director (Education & Lifelong Learning) at a special assembly held at the school in May 2018.

Yale Young Global Scholars Summer School

In January 2018, Welsh Government established a unique partnership between its Seren Network (an initiative to raise attainment among Wales' brightest sixth formers) and Yale University's Young Global Scholars summer school programme. The partnership provides a scholarship of \$6,000 per student (co-funded by Welsh Government and Yale Young Global Scholars) to Welsh sixth form students to study at the Yale Young Global Scholars summer school at Yale University's campus in New Haven, Connecticut, USA.

This is the pilot first year of the partnership, which will provide Seren Network students with a great opportunity to live and work with Yale academics and international students for a fortnight. The sessions will be delivered between 17th June and 9th August 2018 and 17 Welsh students will have this amazing opportunity. These 17 students represent 9 of the 11 hubs across Wales and include Yousuf Bakshi, Fitzalan High School; Carys Bill and Rhys Morris, Ysgol Plasmawr; Rianna Man, Radyr Comprehensive School; and Maya Hoffer, Cardiff High School.

They will form a part of the 1,768 cohort from 126 countries across the world and 50 US States who will stay on campus at Yale University learning from world-renowned professors and practitioners. They will also take part in a highly rigorous academic programme in one of the following areas: Applied Science & Engineering; International Affairs & Security; Frontiers of Science & Technology; Sustainable Development & Social Entrepreneurship; Biological & Biomedical Science; and Politics, Law & Economics.

Councillor Sarah Merry
Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills
15th June 2018