

**COUNCIL: 25 OCTOBER 2018**

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## **EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS STATEMENT**

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### **Schools Update**

I am pleased to report that a number of schools have now moved into their newly built accommodation – these schools include: Ysgol Glan Morfa, Howardian Primary School and Gabalfa Primary School & Ysgol Glan Ceubal.

The type of Special Educational Needs provision at Meadowbank Special School has changed from speech, language and communication needs to speech, language, communication needs and complex learning disabilities. Ty Gwyn Special School has also increased places from 150 to 198.

A Specialist Resource Base (SRB) has been established at Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch providing up to 20 places for children aged 4–11 with complex learning disabilities and autism spectrum conditions in the Welsh-medium sector. A further SRB has also been established at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf providing up to 30 places for children aged 11–19 with complex learning disabilities and autism spectrum conditions in the Welsh-medium sector.

### **Cardiff Education Convention 2018 – Shaping the New Curriculum**

The Cardiff Education Convention 2018 is due to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 at Sophia Gardens Cricket Ground, which will bring together educators and partners from across the city to capture perspectives around shaping a new curriculum for Wales. This is a once in a generation opportunity to ensure that we are preparing children and young people for the uncertainty of the future, and to foster creativity and resilience to enable our learners to respond to change. It is promising to see the continued commitment of partners and stakeholders, including employers, children and young people, communities and parents, to this enterprise.

### **School Holiday Enrichment Programme**

I am delighted that the Schools Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) won the Corporate and Social Responsibility Award at the Foodservice Catey Awards on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018. I want to congratulate all the team on their hard work in making this programme a great success.

## **Period Dignity Programme**

Cardiff Council has accessed Welsh Government funding to implement a Period Dignity programme across the city. This includes revenue grant funding of £23,778 in 2018/19 for feminine hygiene products, which is being matched in 2019/20. In addition, a one-off capital grant of £70,385 will be spent on improving the provision of sanitary equipment and toilet facilities in schools.

We are using a child rights based approach to pilot a programme from September to November 2018 in two primary schools (Adamsdown Primary School and Grangetown Primary School) and two secondary schools (Eastern High School and Cathays High School) in the city. This seeks to ensure that young women are treated with respect and dignity, including having access to free feminine hygiene products.

A Period Dignity Task & Finish Group, including Public Health and School Nursing representatives, has been established and is using survey data from school staff and female students in secondary schools across the city to help shape the pilot programme. Alongside piloting access to free sanitary products, the Task and Finish Group is working with students to ensure that education on menstruation is meeting the needs of young people and starts to address the historic stigma associated with this subject.

The Council is also considering how this work can be extended beyond schools to ensure that feminine hygiene products are available to people who would otherwise be unable to afford them or who face difficult choices in what essentials they can afford for their families.

## **Bee Friendly City**

As part of the Cardiff Commitment, the Council has embarked upon an innovative school outreach programme in partnership with Cardiff University and Wilmott Dixon, which aims to inspire the next generation of Welsh scientists, promote the take-up of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects and help keep Cardiff a green and pleasant city.

This exciting collaboration with the School of Pharmacy at Cardiff University will introduce pupils to the award-winning Pharmabees project, which aims to encourage the production of super-honey and aid research by placing bee hives around the city. Children will learn about the importance of pollinators and biodiversity by enjoying first-hand experiences that they can share with their families and communities.

So far, nine bee hives or bug houses have been placed in Cardiff schools, highlighting the importance that these creatures have in an urban environment, whilst also helping to establish Cardiff as a Bee Friendly City. Science sessions are currently being delivered in five primary schools and the high school within the Cathays cluster to pilot the programme of work. Our intention is to develop a city-wide programme next year.

## **Summer Arts Learning Festival of Workshops**

During the school holidays, Llanover Hall hosted its first Eco-themed Summer Arts Learning Festival of Workshops, which was open to all children aged 5 and above for three weeks. Each week focused on a different theme: 'Nature and the Garden' (Week 1); 'Arts around the World' (Week 2); and 'Artsci Fun' (Week 3). Morning sessions for under 8's ran from 8.45am to 12 Noon for £12.50 per day. Over 8's were able to stay for a full day from 8.45am to 4:00pm for just £25 per day.

Llanover Hall also ran the ever popular "Lights, Camera, Action" course for children aged 8+ who had the opportunity to become film stars for the week by devising a fantastic storyboard, rehearsing and creating their own movie, "The Lost Souls". Family and friends were invited to the big screen premiere on the final day and were also given a copy of the film to keep.

Feedback on these workshops was fantastic. Tutors and staff also received many lovely comments as the children proudly presented their pottery and art & craft creations.

**Councillor Sarah Merry**  
**Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills**  
**19 October 2018**