

COUNCIL: 22 MARCH 2018

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS STATEMENT

International Women's Day 2018

Almost 100 young people from St Mellon's Primary School and Willowbrook Primary School performed with the Welsh National Opera (WNO) at the Senedd on 8 March 2018 as part of the celebrations for International Women's Day. The young people, who have been involved in the WNO outreach programme, performed two songs from the WNO's 'Rhondda Rips It Up!', which was written to celebrate the life of Newport suffragette, activist and entrepreneur, Margaret Haig Thomas, Lady Rhondda. Lesley Garrett and Madeline Shaw also performed songs from the opera in front of an invited audience. The WNO will be showcasing Lady Rhondda's fight for equality in a number of ways throughout the summer across Wales and England, including community events, talks, school workshops and exhibitions, as well as the production itself.

Celebrating the Commonwealth

On 13 February 2018, Cardiff Youth Council was invited by Children in Wales to meet with Lord Ahmad, Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the UN. The Minister wanted to engage with young people and develop his understanding of their priorities ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in April 2018. Some of the policy areas that are being raised as priorities by young people include youth unemployment; climate change and its impacts on oceans; disability rights; and youth mental health.

On 12 March 2018, as part of Commonwealth Day, David Abadir from Cardiff Youth Council travelled to 10 Downing Street to meet with the Prime Minister for questions before attending a 'Commonwealth Big Lunch'. At the same time, three other members of the Youth Council attended a similar event at the Wales Office in Cardiff Bay hosted by the Secretary of State for Wales.

School Holiday Enrichment Programme

The Council received official notification from the WLGA on 26 February 2018 confirming match funding for the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) in Summer 2018. The Local Steering Group has committed to deliver SHEP in accordance with the 19 criteria and 10 recommendations of the programme, together with the implementation of a Quality Assurance Framework. During the coming months, the Local Steering Group will be working closely with the 16 schools in Cardiff to provide training, advice, information and support during the planning process. A stakeholders' meeting is also arranged for 1 May 2018.

Estyn Inspections

Since the introduction of the new Estyn inspection framework at the start of the 2017-18 academic year, five primary schools and one secondary school in Cardiff have been inspected and had their reports published. All have been judged to be good or excellent for standards, and three have been asked to submit case studies for their excellent practice. Under the new framework, one primary school has been judged as requiring improvement in teaching and learning experiences, and leadership and management. Progress is being reviewed in the areas of recommendation.

Of the schools inspected under the previous framework, four 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 Council, 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.

National School Categorisation

National School Categorisation outcomes for Cardiff schools continue to improve. In the primary sector, the proportion of schools in the green and yellow categories is higher than the Wales figures (89.7% in Cardiff, compared to 85.3% in Wales). In the secondary sector, the proportion of schools in the green and yellow categories is also higher than the Wales figures (88.8% in Cardiff, compared to 68.3% in Wales). There has been a corresponding decrease in the number of schools in the amber and red categories in both sectors.

In the special sector, there has been a slight increase in the proportion of schools in the green and yellow categories, and a corresponding decrease in the number of schools in the amber and red categories. However, these figures are slightly below the Welsh averages. Improving and extending provision for learners with Additional Learning Needs, both in mainstream and special schools, remains a priority for the local authority.

Believe: Organ Donation Support Charity

A Cardiff mother whose husband and young son died tragically two years ago is bringing her 'Fraser Bear' to life through an animation that is to be screened in schools across Wales, encouraging families to talk about organ donation.

Anna-Louise Bates set up the *Believe: Organ Donation Support* charity after her husband Stuart and 7-year old son Fraser were fatally struck by a car in December 2015. She has been working with Mike Young, the Welshman and animation producer behind iconic 80s children's show, 'SuperTed', and the more recent 'Norm of the North', to create an animated film to help spread the charity's message. The short film, scripted by Anna-Louise and voiced by two local Cardiff schoolchildren in English and Welsh, shows an animated version of the Believe charity mascot, 'Fraser Bear' – the nickname Anna-Louise and Stuart had given to their son – explaining how his organs have gone on to save the lives of four people.

The charity's aim is for the animated film to be made available as a teaching resource to all primary schools in Wales, in an attempt to de-stigmatise the subject of organ donation and get young children and their families talking about it. I would also like to encourage Members to access the video through the following social media channels:

- Website: www.believe-ods.org.uk
- Facebook: fraserbear2015
- Twitter: @fraserbearbates
- YouTube: Believe TV
- Hashtag: #FABGiftOfLife

An event is also scheduled to take place at the Senedd on Wednesday 13th June 2018.

Success of Radyr Comprehensive School Alumna

Former Radyr Comprehensive School pupil (1981-1988), Carole Cadwalladr, won the Technology Journalist of the Year award at the British Journalism Awards in December 2017. The judges said that her investigation into the role of tech companies in elections was outstanding journalism, which raised a huge number of important issues for democracy and society.

On 13 March 2018, Carole went on to win the Specialist Reporter of the Year award for her reporting on Cambridge Analytica and Brexit at the National Press Awards, which are organised by the Society of Editors. She was also shortlisted for her reporting on Brexit in the Distinguished Reporting Award category at the European Press Prize 2018, which recognises excellence in journalism across all 47 countries of Europe.

Mini Me Yoga School

Bryn Hafod Primary School in Llanrumney has become the first school in Wales to successfully achieve Mini Me Yoga accreditation, which is used around the world. The school's success has ensured that Wales is now part of a list of 30 countries to embrace Mini Me Yoga, which provides children with the tools to understand and take control of their feelings, using breathing, meditation and mindfulness. It increases the children's capacity to learn and be gentle to one another, and teaches respect for nature and how to grow strong both mentally and physically.

In order to meet the requirements for Mini Me Yoga accreditation, the school has involved 80 members of staff, including teachers, teaching assistants, support staff and catering staff. Following extensive training, the school is now using the Mini Me Yoga programmes as part of their weekly schedule of lessons.

The Mini Me Yoga programme is slightly different to those provided by other children's yoga organisations, in that it trains parents and teachers to share a simple 15-minute programme with their children. This means that yoga can be incorporated into children's everyday lives.

Tongwynlais Primary School

The Pear Tree Federation between Tongwynlais and Coryton Primary Schools is due to be established on 27 March 2018. This process was initiated and driven by Councillor Jones-Pritchard, working with the staff and governors, and it offers many benefits for the schools, their staff and pupils.

In addition, one of the teachers at Tongwynlais Primary School, Mrs Stockdale, has won a Primary Science Teacher Trust – Teacher of the Year Award 2017; one of only two teachers in Wales to have received it. This includes a cash award for the school and also access to resources and expert practitioners in primary science from across the UK.

Leonard and Marian Jones Music in the Community Prize

I want to congratulate the Cardiff Council and Vale of Glamorgan Foundation Orchestra on being awarded this year's Leonard and Marian Jones Music in the Community Prize by Cardiff University. The prize, which is awarded annually for outstanding contributions to music in the community, was presented on 15th March 2018 at the University. Several children attended the event and Anna, a pupil from Lakeside Primary School, accepted the award on behalf of the Orchestra.

Councillor Sarah Merry
Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills
21 March 2018