

COUNCIL: 28 MARCH 2019

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS STATEMENT

Period Dignity

The Period Dignity programme is being rolled out this term to promote dignity and respect and tackle period poverty in school, helping girls and young women to reach their potential. The programme contributes to our commitment to becoming a Child Friendly City, where the views and priorities of children are at the heart of decision making. Full details and guidance have been provided to schools, including a letter for parents/guardians to enable schools to communicate details of the programme.

All primary, secondary and special schools will be involved in the programme and the roll-out follows on from the successful pilot in four schools (Cathays High School, Eastern High School, Adamsdown Primary School and Grangetown Primary School). Schools have been provided with a small grant to enable them to extend sanitary bin provision, purchase spare underwear and appropriate storage boxes. This will enable each school to hold a box of spare, new underwear, along with extra sanitary products, which female pupils can access via a member of staff.

Free feminine hygiene products will be accessed in toilet cubicles, along with funding for additional sanitary bins in Cardiff schools. This will ensure that girls and young women have easier access when needed.

School Inspections Update

The following schools have been inspected since September 2018:

- Bishop Childs Primary School – judged as ‘Good’ in all inspection areas
- Cardiff West Community High School – placed in the Estyn follow-up category of ‘Estyn Review’
- Grangetown Primary School– report not yet published
- Marlborough Primary School – judged as ‘Good’ in all inspection areas
- Meadowlane Primary School – judged as ‘Good’ in four of five inspection areas and ‘Adequate and needs improvement’ in one other (Teaching and learning experiences)
- Millbank Primary School– report not yet published
- Radyr Primary School – judged as ‘Good’ in all inspection areas
- St. Illtyd’s Catholic High School – report not yet published
- St. John Lloyd RC Primary School– report not yet published
- St. Peters RC Primary School – placed into the Estyn follow-up category of ‘Special Measures’

- Tremorfa Nursery School – report not yet published
- Ysgol Pen Y Pil – judged as ‘Good’ in four of five inspection areas and ‘Adequate and needs improvement’ in one other (Teaching and learning experiences)

Film Club of the Year Award 2019

Congratulations to The Hollies School on winning the Into Film ‘Film Club of the Year (Primary)’ Award 2019, which is a fantastic achievement for the pupils and staff at the school. They are also the first special school to have ever won an Into Film Award. Children from the school attended the awards event on 4th March 2019 in London and were presented with the award by Welsh actor Luke Evans and screenwriter & director Amma Asante.

Cardiff West Community High School

The transition of Cardiff West Community High School to the school’s new building and location will commence on 25th March 2019 and should be completed on 2nd April 2019. The Council has worked in partnership with the school, pupils and community stakeholders alongside the successful contractor, Willmott Dixon, to successfully open the latest 21st Century education facility in the west of the city. Work commenced on site in September 2017 and construction of the new school was completed at the end of last month.

I was pleased to join the Leader of the Council and the local ward members for Caerau in visiting the school on 8th March 2019 to see the new facilities at the school. The new school building is a truly inspirational learning environment, which will improve learning and teaching for all young people at the school and ensure that they have the best opportunity to develop successful future careers.

The new 8 Form Entry facilities cater for 1200 pupils in the main school building and up to 320 in the post-16 facility. In addition, sports facilities with 3G, two additional pitches, internal sports hall and activity studio, as well as a refurbished Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). There are a host of impressive internal and external spaces at the new school, including open plan learning zones for up to 90 pupils to work together and Faraday style science labs and classrooms, with an external science classroom for experiments.

A number of areas of the main building will also be accessible by the public during and after school hours for community access to sports facilities and community rooms. The school will have the ability to zone access to the school by the public and methods by which to close down the building and site securely.

Pencaerau Primary School – Children’s Rights Project Visit

I was very pleased to host a visit by Year 4 pupils from Pencaerau Primary School in Ely last week. The class had been working on a term-long project to learn about children’s rights in order to help them improve their literacy skills. The project involved working with a creative practitioner for 10 weeks learning about their rights, writing and recording a song, learning how to make short films and developing their interview skills.

The visit to County Hall involved the class interviewing me about my role and how the Council enables children to have their voices heard and provides education to all pupils, including those who do not go to school. The class will now work on editing their interviews into a short film, which will be published on the school’s YouTube channel.

This is a great example of a school on their rights respecting journey involving a creative practitioner to explore a subject and enhance the curriculum by providing new experiences. For some pupils, it was the first time visiting Cardiff Bay and for others it was their first time in a lift. We cannot underestimate the positive impact our schools can have when delivering a wide and interesting curriculum.

I would like to thank the staff and pupils of Pencaerau Primary School and wish the best of luck to all our 60 schools that are involved in the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools programme.

February Half Term Activities at Llanover Hall

Llanover Hall hosted half term activities for children last month, which ran from 25th to 27th February 2019. Over 160 children signed up to a variety of sessions, which included various crafts, block printing, pottery and theatrical make up. Every one of the courses proved popular and most were fully subscribed.

Actors Workshop tutor Jamie Lee delivered a two day course “Lets Act” for children ages 7 and above. They learnt a wealth of acting skills and then got the opportunity to perform the exciting drama scenes to friends and family on the final afternoon, with light, props and costumes. This course was sold out and the theatre was full with people coming to watch and encourage their children.

Parents and carers gave great feedback saying what good value for money these activities were and how they encouraged individual creativity and confidence in art. The children also said they did not want to leave and couldn’t wait for the next one.

Councillor Sarah Merry
Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills
22 March 2019