

**COUNCIL: 29 SEPTEMBER 2022**

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**DEPUTY LEADER & EDUCATION STATEMENT**

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**Food and Fun**

Cardiff's multi-award-winning school holiday programme, Food and Fun, continued to expand this summer with 29 schools (2 Welsh-medium primary schools, 1 Welsh-medium secondary school, 1 special school, 1 Pupil Referral Unit school, 3 English-medium secondary schools and 21 English-medium primary schools) delivering the programme. This year, Food and Fun was again extended to include communities beyond the targeted areas funded traditionally by the Welsh Government. The initiative, now in its seventh year, helps to ease the financial pressures on many families across the city during the school holiday period by providing healthy, nutritious meals alongside an exciting programme of education, skills, and sports provision as well as sessions in nutrition education.

This year, and in a bid to support the increased use of locally grown produce in school meals, Food and Fun has taken part in Food Cardiff's Veg Pilot. This involves the Council and its school meal supplier, Castell Howell, working with Food Cardiff and local growers to explore how more local produce can be incorporated into school meals through engagement with children and young people and the supply chain. The initiative supports Cardiff's commitment to supply two portions of vegetables in all school lunches, as well as the Welsh Government's commitment to using public procurement to increase local food production and distribution; reduce carbon emissions; benefit local economies, ecologies and communities, and connect learners with the origins of the food they eat.

More than 1,500 children accessed the provision this summer, with over 30 city-wide partners providing enrichment activities to enable them to learn new skills, socialise and have fun. Highlights from the summer holiday period included a Pentreban Primary School pupil learning to ride a bike for the first time on day one; staff from Castell Howell, Authentic Curries and World Foods stepping in to cook at two primary schools, and Panasonic providing two bread makers to each Food and Fun school so that pupils could bake their own bread.

The extensive programme of activities has included rocket making and science experiments from Techniquest, planting vegetables from Grow Cardiff, bug hunting from Action in Caerau & Ely (ACE), and treasure hunting and fun history lessons from Museum of Cardiff. Sport Cardiff, Glamorgan Cricket, Cardiff City Football Club Foundation, Golf Starz Wales, RBl Wales Baseball & Softball, Golf Wales and Tribal Basketball were just some of the organisations that provided sports sessions. In addition, dance and drama was delivered by Jukebox Collective and the cast from The Lion King at the Wales Millennium Centre.

Other highlights included sessions provided by the Council's Libraries Team and Children's Play Service, Dogs Trust, Cardiff University, RESOLVEit, Wates, Network Rail and The Royal Navy. The Welsh Ambulance Service and South Wales Fire & Rescue Service have also been providing sessions in first aid, CPR and fire safety, and South Wales Police have taught youngsters about internet safety, fingerprinting and police horses.

## **Summer of Fun**

In addition to our Food and Fun programme, the Council ran the Summer of Fun Festival this summer, which attracted over 25,000 participants who engaged in a wide-ranging programme of events and activities during the school holiday period. This included over 14,000 people visiting the festival site on City Hall Lawn, an arts and culture programme delivered by Arts Active across the city, a city-wide programme delivered through the medium of Welsh, free access to the Aqua Park in Cardiff Bay, driving lessons for 11-16-year-olds, three weeks of cycle training for primary aged children, 200 young people abseiling off the Wales Millennium Centre and 37 grants being made available to community groups.

## **Examination Results**

This year has seen the return of formal exams and assessments for the first time since 2019 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Pupils across the city should be commended for their determination, resilience and the way in which they have had to adapt over the past two years. A summary of the results achieved at A, AS and GCSE Levels is provided in the tables below against the all-Wales results and results in previous years. The results for 2020 were determined by teachers.

### **A Level Results**

	<b>2022 Cardiff LA</b>	<b>2022 Wales (All boards)</b>	<b>2021 Cardiff LA</b>	<b>2019 Cardiff LA</b>
% A*-E	98.1	98.0	99.9	98.2
% A*-C	88.4	85.3	90.9	79.1
% A*-A	48.9	40.9	55.3	30.7

*\*NB Cardiff analysis is just based on WJEC examinations. Wales includes all exam boards.*

### **AS Level Results**

	<b>2022 Cardiff LA</b>	<b>2022 Wales (all boards)</b>	<b>2021 Cardiff LA</b>	<b>2019 Cardiff LA</b>
% A*-E	94.8	92.7	99.2	91.7
% A*-C	77.3	69.8	90.9	65.9
% A*-A	40.0	30.7	55.3	23.6

*\*NB Cardiff analysis is just based on WJEC examinations. Wales includes all exam boards.*

## **GCSE Results**

	<b>2022 Cardiff LA</b>	<b>2022 Wales</b>	<b>2019 Cardiff LA</b>
% A*-G	97.5	97.3	96.3
% A*-C	73.5	68.6	66.3
% A*-A	31.9	25.1	23.1

## **Curriculum for Wales**

From September 2022, all primary schools and special schools across Cardiff have begun the implementation of their adopted curriculum in line with the new Curriculum for Wales Framework. Eleven secondary schools have also begun their implementation in Year 7, with all other secondary schools continuing the designing and trialling of their curriculum to be taught first in Years 7 and 8 from September 2023. Schools must keep their adopted curriculum and assessment arrangements under review. A school's curriculum should continue to evolve and be refined, reflecting its effectiveness to meet the needs of all learners and ensuring the legal requirements are met.

## **Universal Primary Free School Meals**

On 17 December 2021, the Welsh Government announced that the implementation of free school meals for all primary school pupils would begin in September 2022 for the youngest learners in primary schools. The roll-out would then continue in September 2023 so that all learners in primary schools can benefit from a free school meal. On 20 June 2022, the Welsh Government defined 'youngest learners' as Reception age pupils from September 2022 and Years 1 and 2 pupils from Easter 2023.

Although there are a range of kitchen and dining facilities in schools across the city, none were constructed to be able to provide school lunches for all the pupils attending the school. To enable the introduction of universal free school meals for Reception pupils in September 2022, additional catering equipment and minor works have been required at 19 primary schools in the city. This work commenced at the start of the summer holiday period and was completed in time for the start of the Autumn Term earlier this month. Work is ongoing in preparation for the further roll-out of free school meals later in the academic year. This work is very much welcomed, particularly in the light of the current cost-of-living crisis.

## **Period Dignity**

I met with Molly Fenton from the "Love Your Period" campaign during the summer holidays to discuss a survey that was undertaken with young people in Cardiff. I will continue to work with officers and schools to ensure that accessibility to period products is sustained in our schools. I would very much welcome the support of those Councillors who are school governors in ensuring that appropriate support and access to these products is provided right across the city's schools.

## **Cardiff Influencers Programme**

I was delighted to take part in the Cardiff Influencer's summer programme last month, which involved and engaged with young people on key issues associated with the Council's School Organisation Programme. The 18 Influencers, comprised of pupils from all areas of the city and from a mixture of English and Welsh medium, community, and faith schools, enjoyed a series of activities and workshops designed to give them a platform to express their opinions on key decisions on education strategy and how the Council will invest millions of pounds over the next 10 years. The young people examined current and progressive approaches to education and visited the new Fitzalan High School site, as well as some high-profile locations in the city, including the new BBC Cymru Wales building and Cardiff City Football Club. At the end of the week, the Influencers put into practice all they had learnt during a series of interviews with me. The feedback from the week has been overwhelmingly positive, with the majority indicating that they want to continue to engage with the programme in the future; initially, with another meeting taking place this month and later providing their input into live proposals.

## **UNICEF Child Friendly City**

I am pleased to inform you that officers from across the Council and wider partners have submitted their comprehensive evidence to showcase all the hard work that has taken place to embed children's rights in policy and practice in Cardiff over the last four years. The Child Friendly Cardiff Team will now collate this information into a Child Friendly City Evaluation Report, which will then be presented to a committee of children and young people to gather their feedback. This will then be added to the final submission to UNICEF-UK next month when a panel of experts will then assess our progress towards becoming the UK's first UNICEF Child Friendly City. As part of the evaluation process, a survey was circulated to Councillors last month, which can be completed anonymously. This will assist in evidencing the positive culture and leadership that is provided by Councillors. I would urge colleagues to complete the survey **by 9:00am on Friday 30 September 2022** if you have not already done so. Your collective assistance in completing this survey will provide essential evidence to support Cardiff becoming the first Child Friendly City in the UK.

**Councillor Sarah Merry**  
**Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education**  
**23 September 2022**