

Colegau Cymru Annual Conference 2025


Growth, Opportunity and Fairness

Event Details	
Date	23 October 2025
Time	8.30am - 4.00pm
Location	Cardiff City Stadium

Event Overview

This year's Conference will focus on **Growth, Opportunity and Fairness** - and how the FE sector can drive positive change for learners, communities, and the economy in Wales.

With the Senedd 2026 election on the horizon, the Conference will explore what the sector needs from the next Welsh Government to thrive and to deliver on its full potential.



Agenda

Time	What?	Who?
8.30am - 9.15am	Registration, Refreshments and Networking.	
9.15am - 9.25am	Welcome address.	Lisa Thomas ColegauCymru Chair Principal and Chief Executive, The College Merthyr Tydfil
9.25am - 9.40am	Keynote Address: Less than 200 days to the Senedd election: The case for rebalancing the system.	David Hagendyk ColegauCymru Chief Executive
9.40am - 10.25am	Panel Discussion: Improving participation and progression in post-16 education, and helping young people to make the right choices about their future and be ready for the world of work.	Bethan Lewis, BBC Wales Education Correspondent (Chair) Batool Akmal, St David's Catholic Sixth Form College Assistant Principal Professor Elwen Evans KC, Universities Wales Chair Viv Buckley, Bridgend College Principal College Student Union President (TBC) Cllr Lis Burnett, Education Spokesperson, Wales Local Government Association
10.25am - 10.35am	Headline Sponsor.	Darren Howells, Agored Cymru Chief Executive
10.35am - 11.05am	Keynote Address: The Case for Change. Followed by a Q&A.	Cefin Campbell MS, Plaid Cymru Education Spokesperson With Lisa Thomas, ColegauCymru Chair
11.05am - 11.35am	Refreshments, Networking and Exhibitions.	

11.35am - 12.35pm	Morning Workshops <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understanding and tackling misogyny in FE - Learnings from Canada. 2. WorldSkills UK - Using international best practice to raise standards in apprenticeships and technical education. 3. Barriers to participation - the learner view. 4. Engaging learners in a culture of belonging. 	
12.35pm - 1.35pm	Lunch, Networking and Exhibitions.	
1.35pm - 2.35pm	Afternoon Workshops <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creating a Lifelong Learning Entitlement for Wales. 2. Celebrating diversity, challenging hate. Building and Anti-Racist Wales 2030. 3. Equipping the workforce for technological change - Lessons from Seattle. 4. Bridging the Gap: Strengthening ALN provision through innovation and collaboration. 	
2.35pm - 3.00pm	In conversation with Medr Chief Executive , James Owen.	
3.00pm - 3.50pm	Keynote Address: The Minister for Further and Higher Education. Followed by a Q&A.	Vikki Howells MS With Lisa Thomas, ColegauCymru Chair
3.50pm - 4.00pm	Closing Address.	David Hagendyk, ColegauCymru Chief Executive
4.00pm	Conference Closes.	