



## Colegau Cymru Annual Conference 2025

### Growth, Opportunity and Fairness

Event Details	
<b>Date</b>	23 October 2025
<b>Time</b>	8.30am - 3.45pm
<b>Location</b>	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 and scene setting	Lisa Thomas <b>ColegauCymru Chair</b> <b>Principal and Chief Executive, The College Merthyr Tydfil</b>
9.25am - 9.40am	<b>Keynote Address:</b> Less than 200 days to the Senedd election: The case for rebalancing the system.	David Hagendyk <b>ColegauCymru Chief Executive</b>
9.40am - 10.25am	<b>Panel Discussion:</b> 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, <b>BBC Wales Education Correspondent (Chair)</b> Batool Akmal, <b>St David's Catholic Sixth Form College Assistant Principal</b> Professor Elwen Evans KC, <b>Universities Wales Chair</b> Viv Buckley, <b>Bridgend College Principal</b> <b>College Student Union President (TBC)</b> Cllr Lis Burnett, <b>Education Spokesperson, Wales Local Government Association</b>
10.25am - 10.35am	Headline Sponsor.	Darren Howells, <b>Agored Cymru Chief Executive</b>
10.35am - 11.05am	<b>Keynote Address:</b> The Case for Change.  Followed by a Q&A.	Cefin Campbell MS, <b>Plaid Cymru Education Spokesperson</b> With Lisa Thomas, <b>ColegauCymru Chair</b>
11.05am - 11.35am	Refreshments, Networking and Exhibitions.	

11.35am - 12.45pm	<b>Morning Workshops</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. International Community of Practice (Wales and Canada) - Understanding and tackling misogyny in Further Education</li> <li>2. WorldSkills UK - Using International best practice to raise standards in apprenticeships and technical education</li> <li>3. Barriers to participation and engagement - the learner view</li> <li>4. Engaging learners in a culture of belonging</li> </ol>	
12.45pm - 1.45pm	Lunch, Networking and Exhibitions.	
1.45pm - 2.55pm	<b>Afternoon Workshops</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 'A Citizens' Curriculum for Wales</li> <li>2. Celebrating Diversity, Challenging Hate. Building an Anti-Racist Wales 2030</li> <li>3. Equipping the workforce for technological change - Lessons from Seattle and beyond</li> <li>4. Bridging the Gap: Strengthening ALN Provision through innovation and collaboration</li> </ol>	
2.55pm - 3.35pm	In conversation with <b>Medr Chief Executive</b> , James Owen.	
3.35pm - 3.45pm	Closing Address.	David Hagendyk, <b>ColegauCymru Chief Executive</b>
3.45pm	Conference Closes.	