

## Making The Case for Change: Further Education's Priorities

### Annual Conference Programme 2026

| Time             | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| 8.30am - 9.15am  | <b>Registration, Refreshments and Networking</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 9.15am - 9.20am  | <b>Welcome and Scene Setting</b><br>Lisa Thomas, <b>Colegau Cymru Chair</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 9.20am - 10.30am | <b>Real Talk - Wales' Economy and Skills - State of the Nation and What Comes Next</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Why Wales' new national productivity target matters - and why it's just the beginning</b><br/>Professor Melanie Jones, <b>Cardiff Business School</b></li> <li><b>2. Systems thinking</b><br/>Alwen Williams, <b>Ambition North Wales</b></li> </ol> <b>Panel Discussion</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Michelle Matheron, <b>Learning &amp; Work Institute Cymru (Chair)</b></li> <li>2. Professor Melanie Jones, <b>Cardiff Business School</b></li> <li>3. Alwen Williams, <b>Ambition North Wales</b></li> <li>4. Mark John, <b>Tramshed Tech</b></li> <li>5. Sarah Curtis, <b>Safran</b></li> </ol> |

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| 10.30am - 10.45am | <b>Keynote Address - A New Government for Wales - The Five Big Challenges Facing Tertiary Education</b><br>James Owen, <b>Medr</b>                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 10.45am - 11.00am | <b>Refreshments and Networking</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 11.00am - 11.10am | <b>Headline Sponsor Address</b><br>Darren Howells, <b>Agored Cymru</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 11.10am - 11.40am | <b>Ministerial Keynote Address</b><br>Cefin Campbell MS, <b>Welsh Government Deputy Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education</b><br>Followed by, <i>In Conversation with</i> Lisa Thomas, <b>ColegauCymru Chair</b>                                                                                                    |
| 11.40am - 12.45pm | <b>Morning Workshops</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Artificial Intelligence - System Change</li> <li>2. Adult Learning - What Works and What's Next?</li> <li>3. Bilingual Learning and Teaching - What Next?</li> <li>4. Qualifications Reform</li> </ol>                                                |
| 12.45pm - 1.45pm  | <b>Lunch, Networking and Exhibition</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1.50pm - 2.50pm   | <b>Afternoon Workshops</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Returning to Erasmus+ - What's Next for International Collaboration?</li> <li>2. 16-19 Learning Pathway</li> <li>3. Strengthening Learner Voice - Learning from the Netherlands</li> <li>4. Apprenticeships for Wales - The Next Chapter</li> </ol> |
| 2.50pm - 3.05pm   | <b>Refreshments and Networking</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

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| 3.05pm - 3.45pm | <b>Learner Panel: What's Next? Learners Looking Ahead</b><br>Coleg Cambria, Grŵp Llandrillo Menai and St David's Sixth Form College learners<br>David Hagendyk, <b>ColegauCymru Chief Executive</b> |
| 3.45pm - 4.00pm | <b>Reflections on the Day</b><br>David Hagendyk, <b>ColegauCymru Chief Executive</b>                                                                                                                |
| 4.00pm          | Conference Closes                                                                                                                                                                                   |