

Lesley Griffiths MS  
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice  
Welsh Government

28 June 2024

## **Closure of Junior Conservatoire at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama**

Dear Lesley,

The Committee has received correspondence outlining concerns about the plans to close the Junior Conservatoire of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (Young RWCMD) at the end of this summer term. I write to express our worry about this situation, and to ask whether the Welsh Government has any powers to help prevent this from happening.

The closure will affect a number of specialist teaching staff, as well as the 340 students from across Wales who currently attend its weekend programme of lessons and classes. As Wales's only conservatoire, the access provided by the junior programme to bespoke training, state-of-the-art facilities, diverse performance opportunities, and hands-on experience within the arts is irreplaceable. I am very worried that the loss of this junior programme will create a significant void in music education for some of our most gifted young people. These individuals are the next generation of performers and artists, and their absence will profoundly affect the vibrant music and performance culture and ecology in Wales for many years to come. I am urging the Welsh Government to do all it can to safeguard this provision, and to do so before it is too late.

I acknowledge that your ministerial portfolio is not responsible for the higher education sector – but given the wider impact the closure of this programme will have on the culture sector, I would like to ask the following questions:

1. What discussions have you or your officials had with the College about their decision to close Young RWCMD?

2. Do you have an estimate as to how much funding is required to continue the programme?
3. Have you or your officials, across Welsh Government, had any discussions about providing financial support to the College to continue the programme?

I am sure that you will share my concerns about the closure of this vital programme and how it will affect young people now and in the future. I would be grateful if you could consider this issue as a matter of urgency, given the imminent closure of the programme.

In view of the crossover of remit, I am copying this letter to the Children, Young People and Education Committee, and to the Cabinet Secretary for Education.

I look forward to receiving your response at the earliest available opportunity.

Yours sincerely



**Delyth Jewell MS**  
**Committee Chair**

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.