

**Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc
ac Addysg**

**Children, Young People
and Education Committee**

David Hagedyck
Chief Executive, ColegauCymru
22 April 2025

Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN
SeneddPlant@senedd.cymru
senedd.cymru/SeneddPlant
0300 200 6565

Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN
SeneddChildren@senedd.wales
senedd.wales/SeneddChildren
0300 200 6565

Request for information about the Junior Apprenticeships programme

Dear David,

Thank you for appearing before Committee on 26 March, for your written evidence, and for supporting our engagement visit to Cardiff and Vale College on 20 March as part of our inquiry 'routes into post-16 education and training'.

We have now finished gathering oral evidence for our inquiry. However, there are some specific issues that we would like to follow up in more detail to help us come to conclusions and make recommendations in our final report.

I would therefore be very grateful if you could reply to the following questions by 16 May 2025. The questions relate to the Junior Apprenticeships programme (or similar vocational provision for children aged 14-16):

1. Approximately what proportion of children in the participating schools are currently eligible for the Cardiff and Vale College Junior Apprenticeship programme? Who assesses eligibility and how? Are there significant numbers of children who are at risk of disengaging from education or training who are not currently able to access this provision due to capacity/funding limitations (and if so, approximately how many)?
2. Based on the numbers of pupils currently participating in the Cardiff and Vale College Junior Apprenticeship programme, what would be the approximate cost per annum of scaling up:
 - a. the Junior Apprenticeships provision that is currently offered at Cardiff and Vale College to all colleges across Wales? On whom would these costs fall?

- b. an alternative 14-16 provision comprising a mixture of in-school and in-college learning (for example, provision whereby pupils spend 2 days per week in college, and the rest of the week in school)? On whom would these costs fall?
3. Do you have any other observations or comments about the Junior Apprenticeships programme or similar school/college partnerships specifically as a way to improve engagement with young people who are disengaging from education or training, and/or struggling within a school setting? Are there any practical implications of delivering Junior Apprenticeships/similar provision for FE colleges' wider post-16 provision?

If you have any questions about the information that the Committee is requesting, or have any concerns about the timetable, please don't hesitate to contact our clerks at any time by emailing SeneddChildren@Senedd.Wales.

Yours sincerely,



Buffy Williams MS
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.