



Paul Davies MS

3 June 2026

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your written question.

How will the Welsh Government ensure parity between academic and vocational education?
(WQ98517)

Improving learner journeys throughout the education system in Wales is one of my priorities. Central to this is ensuring parity of esteem between academic and vocational pathways, recognising that both offer high-quality and equally valuable routes into further learning and employment.

The Welsh Government will continue its work to improve access to vocational pathways through better impartial advice and guidance, supporting more confident and informed choices. This includes challenging long-standing perceptions that vocational routes are less prestigious than academic ones.

Work is also underway to foster collaboration between providers to increase learner choice, including how representatives from colleges, work-based learning providers and universities engage with learners to inform them of the opportunities available post-16.

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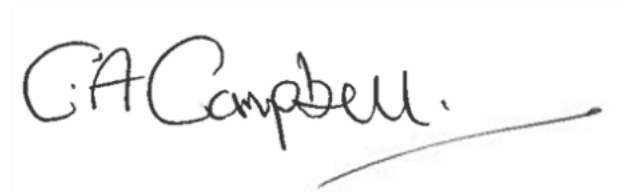
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn yr iaith honno ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The introduction of new VCSE qualifications from September 2027 will simplify the vast range of pre-16 vocational qualifications currently available into a set of fifteen consistent subjects with the same value as GCSEs. They will provide learners in mainstream schools with a taste of vocational education to inform their next steps once they leave compulsory education.

Cofion cynnes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. A. Campbell." followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Cefin Campbell AS/MS

Dirprwy Weinidog dros Sgiliau ac Addysg Drydyddol
Deputy Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education