Delivered the 'Diamond Dividend' to our higher education sector, increasing funding to and through HEFCW by 80% since 2016.

Invested £15.5m in new Personal Learning Accounts, fully funding more than 2,000 individuals to gain higher-level skills in key economic and employment sectors.

More than 4,000 learners from years 8-13 supported through both the Diamond and Reid Reviews. This supports universities and researchers to work with industry and business.

Funded, developed and expanded an innovative national scholarships program, helping uptake of subjects such as maths, science and languages and developing students' communication and learning skills.

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Through direct funding and strategic partnerships, we have supported the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and Welsh universities, HEFCW and universities, HEFCW and universities and researchers to work with industry and business.

Our higher education sector, including all universities, HEFCW and Student Finance Wales now pay the Real Living Wage, meeting staff costs of living right across the country. This is unique in the UK.

We have delivered a progressive and equitable student support system that is unique in Europe, where we pay more than 2,000 flexible part-time undergraduates and postgraduates with living costs grants and loans.

Wales outperforms other UK nations in successful graduate start-ups and our Youth Enterprise Programme will help create 950 new businesses by the end of the year.

Thanks to our Seren Programme, there has been a 55% increase in Welsh school admissions to Cambridge and a 33% increase in admissions to Oxford.

We have widened access to international opportunities for students, researchers and institutions. This includes Wales' first ever national outward mobility scheme, with national agreements with partners such as Vietnam and NYIT.

We have recognised and supported the role that FE and HE institutions have to play in helping Wales pull through the effects of the pandemic.

Working with the FE sector, we have introduced over £5.7m to support mental health and wellbeing in colleges and universities.

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Since the 2015/16 academic year, thanks to our student support reform, there has been a 53% increase in full-time postgraduates from Wales, an 83% increase in first year, part-time postgraduates from Wales.

The existing Ser Cymru research groups are making significant impacts in their areas of research and innovation, especially for example, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Bangor Universities are making impacts in compound semiconductor developments, environmental remote monitoring and nuclear.

We are investing £20m in our innovative degree apprenticeship programme – supporting over 200 employers and 600 learners.

We have introduced a Master's bursary for STEMMA, supporting students to study STEM in Wales, or to progress at our Welsh universities, investing in developing and recruiting our own talent.

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In 2019, we invested an extra £6m in Ser Cymru to support international academic and industrial partnerships focused on research excellence.

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In 2020, we invested £5.5m for FE Teachers and WBL Professional Standards.

We lead the way on universities' civic mission – with the sector acting as stewards of community and country. The new national Civic Mission Network and Civic Mission Framework brings together projects, activities and ambitions.

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