# Husband and wife accused of defrauding Cardiff Sixth Form College of over £5 million



A husband and wife have appeared in court facing serious allegations of defrauding one of Britain’s top private schools out of over £5 million. Yasmin Sarwar, 43, and her husband Nadeem Sarwar, 49, are accused of multiple theft and fraud offences linked to Cardiff Sixth Form College, a renowned establishment known for its academic excellence and record A-level results.

Founded by Ms Sarwar in 2004, Cardiff Sixth Form College quickly rose to prominence, claiming to have aided over 800 students in securing placements at prestigious universities across the UK and beyond. The college was particularly celebrated for its impressive performance, boasting that 95 per cent of students achieved A or A\* grades in the previous academic year. As a reflection of its status, it attracted pupils from various countries, including Albania and China, with fees reaching up to £26,000 for international boarding students.

However, an official investigation by South Wales Police and the Charity Commission revealed financial irregularities at the college between 2012 and 2016. Allegations emerged that the couple misappropriated substantial sums from the school, using over £496,000 to purchase a property in a desirable area of Cardiff, alongside additional funds for renovations. Furthermore, they reportedly transferred hundreds of thousands of pounds into various bank accounts and are accused of being involved with £4.1 million in student fees during the specified period.

At the time of their charges, a police spokesperson indicated that the investigation into the college was extensive, with implications for its former trustees. The college has since changed ownership and rebranded itself as Cardiff Educational Endowment Trust, distancing its operations from the previous management amid the ongoing scrutiny. The current leadership has assured that the college continues to provide high-quality education, unhindered by the allegations affecting its former management.

During the court proceedings, Mr Sarwar pleaded not guilty to fraud, three counts of theft, and five counts of possessing criminal property, while Ms Sarwar denied similar charges, asserting her commitment to her students throughout her tenure. Ragu Sivapalan, a third party linked to the case, also denied charges of false accounting. Judge Tracey Lloyd Clarke has scheduled a trial for September next year.

The Sarwars’ story contrasts sharply with the image Ms Sarwar has previously projected. Having moved from Malaysia to the UK at the age of 17 to pursue her education, she presented herself as a dedicated mentor—often referring to herself as a "Tiger Mum" who nurtures students both academically and personally. Her efforts were aligned with a broader narrative of parental involvement and investment in education, aiming to create a nurturing environment for her students.

The broader implications of this case touch upon issues in the private education sector, where high tuition fees and the pursuit of academic success can generate immense pressure. It raises questions about regulatory oversight and the safeguards necessary to maintain integrity within educational institutions. As the trial approaches, the education community will be watching closely, given the college’s historic standing and the significant trust placed in its leadership by students and parents alike.

Despite the turmoil, Cardiff Sixth Form College remains operational, reaffirming its commitment to excellence. The allegations against its former management, however, serve as a stark reminder of the challenges faced in maintaining accountability in the rapidly evolving landscape of private education in the UK.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
2. Paragraph 2
3. Paragraph 4
4. Paragraph 4
5. Paragraph 2
6. Paragraph 6
7. Paragraph 2

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14707105/Tiger-mum-defrauding-Britain-private-school-court.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/education/cardiff-college-once-named-britains-13150931> - Cardiff Sixth Form College, once dubbed 'Britain’s Brainiest School,' has been sold to London-based education group Dukes Education. Former trustees remain under investigation for suspected fraud, with South Wales Police and the Charity Commission involved. The college, known for its high academic standards, is now operating under new ownership, with the investigations no longer involving the current management.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-37935798> - An investigation into Cardiff Sixth Form College has been launched over 'high value transactions' that may not have been properly authorised. South Wales Police and the Charity Commission are involved, with Emma Moody appointed as interim manager. The college continues to deliver high-quality education, and there is no question of anything untoward in its teaching and learning activities.
4. <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/education/top-cardiff-college-investigated-suspected-12154553> - Cardiff Sixth Form College, once dubbed 'Britain’s Brainiest School,' is under investigation for suspected fraud. South Wales Police officers are looking into the college on Newport Road. The Charity Commission has appointed an interim manager to take over the administration of the college. The college continues to deliver high-quality education, and there is no question of anything untoward in its teaching and learning activities.
5. <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/lifestyle/tv/students-pay-up-26000-year-10834492> - Cardiff Sixth Form College, known as 'Britain's Brainiest School,' charges students up to £26,000 a year. The college, established by Yasmin Sarwar, has over 300 students from around the world. Applicants need around eight A*s in their GCSEs to gain a place, with £30,000 scholarships offered to those with nine A*s. The college has topped the independent schools league table, attracting pupils globally.
6. <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/local-news/pupils-worked-hard-its-paid-2158342> - Students at Cardiff Sixth Form College celebrated some of the best A-level grades in Wales, with 67% achieving at least three A grades. The college achieved a 100% pass rate, with all students securing places at universities in courses such as dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary, and radiotherapy. Yasmin Sarwar, associate principal of the college, praised the students' hard work and success.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-15171830> - The University of Wales announced it would stop validating degrees from other institutions, including Rayat London College, following a BBC investigation exposing a degree and visa scam. The university referred the allegations to South Wales Police, the Metropolitan Police, and the UK Border Agency. The decision was in response to changes in higher education in Wales and concerns over the validity of degrees.