

FROM OFFICE
TO CLASSROOM...

Case study Ceri John



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Having been born and brought up in Aberystwyth, Ceri John embarked on a wide-ranging career in Cardiff that took in a variety of jobs – from media monitoring to election coordinating. But he always had an urge to teach and thanks to the Welsh Government's incentives to train, as well as his love of French, he is now fulfilling his calling.

"My parents were both teachers and I think some of that must have rubbed off on me. I very much enjoyed the jobs that I had, but there was always a niggling feeling that what I really wanted to do was to teach – the big question was just how to go about it from a practical perspective.

"I did some research and found that I could do my training while being employed, on the job as it were, which meant that I would get a salary, an important factor considering I had a young family at the time."

An added bonus for Ceri was that he could undertake the training in his hometown – and even at his old school.

"I was always keen to return to Ceredigion, as I love it there and was keen to raise my own family there. It was slightly strange returning to Penweddig, my former school, at the beginning, as some of my old teachers were still around! But it didn't take me long to settle down and I am now thoroughly enjoying it."

Ceri's subject is Modern Foreign Languages, specialising in French, and he loves seeing his students' minds being opened up to new languages and cultures.

"I think I have an advantage in that I teach through the medium of Welsh, and as a result, all my students are fully aware of bilingualism and can converse in more than one language. So French is just another language to take on board – they take it in their stride.

"I have to say the trips abroad are also great – although a significant responsibility – it's such a buzz to see your students holding a conversation with a local resident on a street in Paris, or ordering a meal in a restaurant. It sounds silly but things like that can fill you with such pride."

And what would Ceri's advice be for anyone else considering changing their career to become a teacher?

"Do your research first of all – there are various incentive options out there so see what works for you. But I can honestly say you will not regret it – it can be such a rewarding career. For me it's been one of the best decisions of my life."