

FROM STUDENT
TO TEACHER...

Case study Vicky Williams



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



ADDYSG CYMRU
EDUCATION WALES
cenhadaeth ein cenedl | our national mission

Vicky is training to be a teacher at Bangor University and hopes she can transfer her passion for biology to students in Wales. Originally from Durham and a member of the traveller community, she is now a confident Welsh speaker and looks forward to standing in front of a classroom of students.

“I came to Bangor originally to study sport, health and physical education, and if I’m honest it is not that usual for members of traveller families to follow an academic career, so I’m probably quite unique in that I’ve come this far, but I just enjoy it so much.”

Having settled in North Wales, Vicky quickly realised that to feel truly part of the community, she’d need to speak Welsh.

“I signed up to a Welsh language course and I can now converse fairly fluently with others. Attending a school in the north of England I learnt biology myself in English, and with so many technical terms used in it at the moment it’s a step too far to get my head round those in Welsh. But I realise a lot of my students will speak Welsh and it’s definitely good knowing I’ll be able to chat to them in their language even if I can’t teach in it (yet!).

“After I graduated I wasn’t too sure about what I wanted to do next. I just worked for a while as a part time slimming consultant, which definitely gave me greater confidence as I had to stand in front of people and present information and help them. I think that helped me decide to become a teacher, because I really enjoyed using those skills.”

So Vicky went straight back to university, but this time to do a PGCE course.

“I’m fortunate to be able to do my training course at Bangor University because I know it so well already, and I’ve had very positive experiences during my training at Eirias and Bryn Elian schools at Colwyn Bay. I had already fallen in love with the area as a student the first time round, so I knew it’s where I’d want to start my teaching career.”

She’s also aware of the need to attract more girls to study STEM subjects and that will be one of her core aims when she starts teaching for real.

“I feel strongly that children and young people should have the best experience possible in school, to help them in later life, and I want to transfer my passion for my subject to them – especially other female students.

“Research shows there is a link between children studying scientific subjects if the mother in the household is scientifically minded, and I have an aspiration to get families involved in science so it becomes more of a natural development for the young people and not such a ‘scary’ subject.”

#TeachingWales
www.educators.wales