

EARN WHILE YOU
LEARN WITH
THE OU...

Case study Beth Linton



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



ADDYSG CYMRU
EDUCATION WALES
cenhadaeth ein cenedl | our national mission

Musician Beth from Magor realised the one thing she loved more than music and performing: sharing her passion and knowledge with others and helping young people learn new things. Thanks to the new flexible teacher training options from the Open University in Wales, she was able to turn her dream into a reality.

“Since graduating from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama over twenty years ago, I’ve always worked in an educational setting as part of my local authority’s Music Services. I’ve taught woodwind to children and young people from primary school age right up to Sixth Form – flute, saxophone, oboe, but my favourite is the clarinet.

“Over the years I started to realise more and more that what I enjoyed most about my job was the working with young people and teaching them part, as opposed to simply the music itself.

“I decided it was time to take the plunge and train as a qualified teacher – but when I looked into my options a few years ago, I wasn’t able to find a suitable solution for me. At the time I couldn’t afford to leave my job to go back to university for a year to complete a traditional PGCE, and I also wasn’t able to commit to that full-time learning experience because I had a young family to look after.”

Beth may have had to put her teaching dream on hold for a bit – but it was never far from her mind. So when she had some extra time to start researching teaching again during the COVID-19 lockdown, she was really excited to discover the new courses on offer via the OU.

“Having that time to think during lockdown about my career and spend time researching was such perfect timing for me because I had chance to discover the

new OU flexible training options. I was over the moon to think I could get back on track to teach!

“The school that I currently teach at has offered to sponsor me to complete the part-time salaried route, which is great because it means I already know the school, the staff and the children and I think that will help me feel much more comfortable and confident during my training.

“Being able to earn a salary while I train, and complete distance learning rather than having to be physically in a university setting, is exactly what I need to be able to take this step.”

Now she’s set to start her OU course in the new school year, Beth can’t wait to finally start fulfilling the ambition she’s been harbouring for so many years.

“I am really excited to be part of the school community, because that feeling is one of the things I enjoy most about being in school with the children. I’m also really looking forward to working within the new curriculum in Wales because of my creative background in music, and I think it will enable me to use my creativity as a central part of my teaching.

“These new routes into teaching are so welcome – I just don’t know how I would have followed by ambition to teach without them. They have meant that I can now start the next chapter in my life as a qualified teacher at last, and I’m so excited to begin!”

#TeachingWales
www.educators.wales