A PASSION FOR WELSH HISTORY...

Case Study
Edward

Roberts



Originally from St Asaph in Denbighshire, Edward has a passion for history and is eager to share it with others. This passion was awoken within him thanks to his secondary school teachers at Denbigh High school, and he has never forgotten how they went to great lengths to make their subject as engaging and thought provoking as possible.

Now he wants to emulate them, and is currently studying to become a secondary school teacher at Aberystwyth University:

"The reason I want to teach history now is because of the inspirational teachers I had – they were constantly looking for new and engaging ways of presenting history and they demonstrated such passion for their subject – it was impossible not to be inspired."

Edward is part of a new course at Aberystwyth University that allows students to have experience in the secondary and primary sectors, an opportunity that, as Edward thinks, can only be beneficial:

"Although I know my heart is in secondary teaching, having the opportunity to spend time in a primary setting too allows me to develop my skillset and also makes me consider how to present my subject to younger secondary school pupils, as they make the transition from primary to secondary. With so many more 3-18 schools being established in Wales, having this practical experience could be very advantageous as I begin looking for work in a few months' time."

Edward is also excited by being part of the first cohort of teachers who will deliver the new curriculum for Wales and he is enthused by the opportunities available to present Welsh history in a local context:

"History can often be a challenging subject to make relevant to learners but the new curriculum gives us as teachers the freedom to deliver history in the context of the learners' own local heritage. The concept of Cynefin as outlined in the curriculum allows teachers to place history in a local, relevant context but relate that to world issues.

"This is what the new curriculum offers, a less prescribed subject agenda and greater freedom to be creative in how a subject is delivered."

Having attended an English medium secondary school himself, Edward is keen to teach through the medium of Welsh and is currently studying for his Welsh Language Skills certificate through Y Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol:

"I fully support the Welsh Government's aspirations for one million Welsh speakers by 2050 and I believe that our education system can play a key role in attaining that target.

"I cannot wait to begin teaching and instilling my passion for history in the next generation.

"I can't think of another job where there's so much good-feeling about what you do – and it could be yours! It is absolutely doable – don't be afraid to make that move up, because you really can do it."