

FROM PRIMARY
TO SECONDARY

Eleri Ellis-Jones
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Myrddin



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



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Office work had never appealed to Eleri, and her aim was to get a job where each day offered different experiences.

“Teaching definitely offers that, it also makes me feel like I’m making a difference, inspiring people and being inspired by others. It was the primary sector that originally attracted me, I loved presenting a range of subjects, including art, humanities and sciences and at the time I was not keen to focus on one subject.”

So why take the step to secondary?

“I have been very fortunate during my career to be able to take advantage of a number of opportunities, and as a result I have worked across the primary sector, lectured students, been seconded to work at the National Botanic Garden of Wales and worked for the local consortium.

“This transition scheme was an opportunity to gain another experience – the secondary sector, where I hadn’t taught yet!

“It’s now lovely to focus on one area. However, my previous experience of cross-curricular

working definitely helps in preparing for the new curriculum. As primary teachers we are flexible, creative, willing to take risks, and very familiar with the pastoral aspect of the role, which is definitely helpful in the secondary sector.

“And it’s great to have a job where I can use the Welsh language in my everyday work. I hope that the pupils also see that it is possible to live and work through the medium of Welsh and that it is a living and exciting language.”

Eleri’s advice to those considering applying for the transition course is very clear.

“The aim is the same as in the primary sector, which is to create effective relationships with pupils and a positive atmosphere in the classroom, where they are happy to take risks, make mistakes and ultimately fulfill their potential.

“Go for it, there’s nothing to lose and it’s a brilliant opportunity to develop professionally.”

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