

FROM PRIMARY
TO SECONDARY
– A VIEW FROM
THE TOP

**Owain Gethin
Davies**
Ysgol Dyffryn
Conwy



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



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As a new headteacher, since September 2020, of Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy in Llanrwst, Owain Gethin Davies has already seen the benefit of the primary to secondary transition scheme and wants to encourage other teachers to consider applying.

He undoubtedly feels that the school has benefitted from new blood from the primary sector.

“What is pleasing with this scheme is that the individual already has teaching experience that is extremely valuable but what they offer is a new perspective. Having someone who has specialised in the primary field and understands those procedures is to our advantage when considering the transition of pupils from the 14 primary schools that feed us.

“They also have the ability to teach more than one subject which is extremely beneficial especially given the needs of the new Curriculum for Wales.”

There is therefore a natural benefit for the school, but there is also a significant benefit for the individual according to Gethin.

“Firstly, I feel that any new experiences in our careers benefit us – I have personally been able to experience secondments that have

improved my skills and enriched my knowledge and this scheme offers something similar.

“The secondary culture is quite different from the primary – the primary schools in our area are fairly small and coming to a site with over 600 children requires some adjustment and as a result expectations vary.

“But we offer continuous support along the journey, a professional mentor is on hand to assist and weekly meetings are held to air any issues. We are also taking our time to develop their timetable to respond to their demands so that everything develops gradually and that works well for everyone.”

And what would Gethin’s advice be to someone considering taking the step?

“Go for it – it’s a great opportunity to develop professionally with appropriate support and I’ve always felt it’s good, and important, to broaden one’s horizons.

“At a more far-reaching level the Welsh Government has a target of one million Welsh speakers, and increasing the number of Welsh-speaking teachers in the secondary sector is key to contributing towards achieving that target.”

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