

PROVIDING A
HELPING HAND

Rhian
Carruthers
Ysgol Bro
Myrddin



Llywodraeth Cymru
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As a mentor to education students and those wishing to make the transition from primary to secondary, Rhian Carruthers has a vital role in ensuring that the process is as fluid and easy as possible.

According to Rhian, the most important thing is that support is available at all times and that they do not feel isolated.

“In putting an induction plan in place we need to remember that the experience of transferring from primary to secondary can be a worrying one as the culture is often quite different. What I do is introduce them to the school, go for a tour, prepare an information pack for them, arrange regular meetings and ensure that I’m available at any time to support them.

“But I also encourage them to throw themselves into school life so that they get a better understanding of everything that’s going on.”

From her experience as a mentor Rhian is also aware of the benefits to the secondary sector of primary teachers transitioning.

“Certainly when dealing with year 7 pupils the primary teachers have the ability to identify with them – to understand how they are feeling when

making the step from year 6 – that can be key when considering children’s wellbeing.

“Their experience in the primary sector also means that teachers are very flexible, their cross-curricular skills are excellent and definitely beneficial given the upcoming new curriculum. They’ve also usually done a lot of extra-curricular work, and that infectious enthusiasm transfers to secondary, which is lovely to see.”

And what would Rhian’s advice be to anyone considering applying for the transition programme?

“I would certainly suggest starting at key stage 3 as the change is not as significant, especially as we prepare for the new curriculum, and it will give you the opportunity to settle in more easily. But my main comment would be – just go for it – securing more Welsh-medium teachers in the secondary sector is essential and this opportunity is unique – and don’t be scared as there is plenty of help and support at hand.”

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