

Born and raised in Anglesey in a family of teachers, there was no real surprise that Lois aspired to be a teacher. Following her time at Ysgol David Hughes, Lois crossed the Menai straits to Bangor University where she studied for an education degree with a view to a career in the primary sector.

However, as her teaching practice period came to an end she saw the conversion course advertised along with opportunities to work at Ysgol Tryfan, Bangor and she called the Headteacher for a chat.

"Throughout my time at school I loved Science and Maths and even though I did my teaching practice in the primary sector I felt that if I focused on my favourite subjects, I could have a greater impact on young people."

In addition to the satisfaction of being able to focus on her favourite areas of interest Lois also enjoys working with older learners.

"In a typical day I see six different sets of pupils of different ages and that variety gives me such a boost – every class is like a breath of fresh air."

Lois is also appreciative of the support offered as part of the conversion.

"The school has been extremely supportive and I meet weekly with my mentor. The timetable was also modified for me - initially teaching only three classes and gradually increasing over time.

"The scheme's own officers have also been offering online sessions to discuss any issues that might be of concern or answer questions - so I always have someone to turn to if needed."

So what would her advice be to someone who is thinking of following a similar path?

"You need to think first of all about how comfortable you are with older children - they can be challenging in terms of behaviour but for me the rewards are most definitely worth it.

"I also feel that there are more opportunities in the secondary sector to develop your interests - I am involved with an after school engineering club for example, and there is a team of people around you to offer advice and support.

"I love secondary school and love teaching through the medium of Welsh - without a doubt the best decision I ever made!"