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Welsh Government

FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY – A TEACHER'S EXPERIENCE



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LISA WOODROW YSGOL GYFUN GYMRAEG LLANGYNWYD

As Deputy Headteacher and a mentor, Lisa Woodrow strives to inspire confidence in individuals making the transition from primary to secondary through the Cynllun Pontio.

According to Lisa, the most important thing is that teachers feel supported at all times.

“The most important part of my role as a mentor is to make sure they are confident in the role that they are doing. They will have the expertise from primary of being a teacher, but of course coming to secondary they may not have the confidence with the older children.

“Making time to make sure that they have support, that’s the main thing. To have meetings on a regular basis so that they have a forum to voice any concerns. Then if they have concerns, to make sure that we address those by either putting observations in, or to put them on relevant training - especially for Key Stages 4 & 5 where they may feel less confident.”

As a mentor, Lisa thinks the benefits teachers bring from primary to secondary are particularly relevant with the new Curriculum for Wales.

“When teachers convert from primary to secondary, they bring with them many skills. They also bring with them their methodology and pedagogy that perhaps we don’t always consider as relevant for older children. However, particularly for us now with the Curriculum for Wales, they are bringing their understanding of the curriculum at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 through to Key Stage 4, so we have a continuum of learning throughout.

“We’ve also really benefitted from having an experienced member of staff who has the skills to be able to deliver one of the key subjects for us.”

And what would Lisa’s advice be to anyone considering applying for the Cynllun Pontio?

“The advice I would give to anyone wanting to apply this year is to be confident in yourself and to realise that there is plenty of support available. We all want this to work, and we all need this to work. Therefore, we will be supportive and ensure that you feel comfortable in your new role.”