

MEURIG JONES YSGOL GYFUN GYMRAEG LLANGYNWYD

Headteacher Meurig Jones has seen the benefit of the Cynllun Pontio and encourages others to apply to continue teaching through the medium of Welsh.

Meurig has seen first-hand the benefit that primary teachers can bring to a secondary school.

"I think primary teachers have brought that understanding of how learners progress across their whole curriculum learning. Where we are looking at a new curriculum here in Wales, it does give that benefit that they are able to use their skills not just in one area, but they can go cross-curricula to offer many different subjects. For a small school like us it's important that we've got people who can teach in different areas. That was one important thing that we found from this crossover."

Bringing more teachers into the secondary sector through the Cynllun Pontio also has a wider-reaching benefit to the Welsh language.

"It's great that the Welsh Government has a target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050, and this scheme is building on people's experience of using the language. We do need people to come into education - there are so many opportunities to use Welsh in all walks of life and employment now, but it's so important that we get them here teaching, to inspire the next generation of Welsh speakers."

And what would Meurig's advice be to someone considering the Cynllun Pontio?

"What we do have to take into consideration is that secondary may be a bit daunting – that they maybe hadn't planned to train in this field. So, what we want to give them is a gradual experience, in secondary education, more than anything. Giving them the opportunity to observe and to work with others, but also have a mentor within the school that they can go to for advice... so that they know that they are fully supported and not just thrown in at the deep end."