



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

From Toolmaker to Teacher



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EDUCATION WALES
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Julian

Julian transitioned from industry to teaching, having started his career as an apprentice toolmaker. He now teaches Design and Technology at Willows High School.

Julian shares how his teacher inspired him to make this career change.

“One of the lecturers said to me: one day, you could be standing doing what I’m doing, teaching and educating the future. It was then that the seed was planted in my head.”

Julian is not just a teacher, but also a mentor. He goes beyond sharing his expertise and strives to guide and inspire his students.

“The best thing about being a teacher is the opportunity to pass on my skills and knowledge to the younger generation, to become a role model, and a mentor, and just be there to support them.”

Julian appreciates the impact role models made on his career journey, having attended a primary school that had a very notable first for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic teachers in Wales.

“I was very fortunate to go to Mount Stuart Primary School, which had the first Black Headmistress – Betty Campbell. That was the first contact I had with a BAME teacher at all.”

Because of this, Julian knows first-hand the lasting impact of seeing Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic role models in the classroom, for the benefit of both students and staff.

“Learners and staff benefit from representation in the classroom because they get to see role models that reflect and look like them. And by seeing those positive role models it allows them to see or realise that they can be everything that they want to be.”

And to those considering a career in teaching?

“I would just say to them: know that you are making a difference.”