



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Learning Welsh opened new doors



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Angharad

Meet the teacher who learned Welsh in a year and now helps others.

Learning Welsh has been a turning point for Angharad in both her life and career. A primary school teacher for 24 years, she had limited knowledge of the Welsh language until signing up for the Cymraeg Mewn Blwyddyn course at Cardiff University in 2021.

“I literally did learn ‘Welsh in a year’ – not just to speak the language but the pedagogy of how to teach the language and how to teach young people the language patterns.”

Since then, a whole world of new opportunities has opened up for the 47-year-old, who is now Head of Bilingual Development at a secondary school in Monmouthshire.

“Following my course, I went back to a primary school for a year and realised how much I loved my new skill of using the Welsh language. I was so excited about it, that when a job came up at Chepstow as Head of Bilingual Development, I thought, ‘this is exactly what I want to do’. I applied, got the job, and started working there in September 2022.”

Thanks to her new skills and knowledge of Welsh, Angharad is particularly happy to be able to expose students to the language and give them opportunities she didn’t have herself when younger. Since learning Welsh, she also now feels more connected to the country and its culture and wants to help others benefit from that same bond.

“I feel that I’m giving the students the opportunity that I never had, because Welsh was not compulsory when I was at school and I didn’t even have one Welsh lesson.”

“It’s really important to bring Welsh back into families, even just a basic level, because it is part of our heritage and culture. And it may sound weird to people that haven’t been through the process I have, but I feel more connected to Wales and the culture now.”

Angharad supports her fellow staff, whom she praised for their enthusiasm.

“The staff here are phenomenal, they’re so open to Welsh. They ask, ‘How can I say this? How can I get more Welsh in?’ I’ve made a ‘Welsh cheat sheet’ that every teacher has on their desk. It has a QR code that they can scan to listen to me actually saying phrases in Welsh like ‘come in’ and ‘get the books out’ – and hear the pronunciation.”

When asked what advice she would give to others considering a career in teaching, or starting out on their teaching journey in Wales, Angharad had a simple message.

“If you feel that you’re good at supporting people to learn, go for it. It’s the most rewarding job. No one day is ever the same.”

As a final comfort for budding teachers who aren’t very confident with their Welsh, Angharad explained that there’s a whole host of resources and support available, and that it’s really never too late to learn:

“I was 45 when I learned Welsh – so if I can do it at that age, anyone can.”