



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# From Science Technician to Teacher



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## Michael

**Meet the teacher proud to be teaching STEM through the medium of Welsh.**

**Michael is a science teacher at Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun in the Cynon Valley, who's passion for the role is infectious.**

"I think I am really lucky to do the job that I do. I can't imagine myself doing anything else. It can be incredibly challenging sometimes, but it is very rewarding. There is nothing like it and when you have delivered a good lesson, it has gone well, they have enjoyed themselves and learned something, you feel so accomplished.

**And as a first-language Welsh speaker, for Michael its better still that he can imbue that passion through the language.**

"As a school we are doing a lot to try to improve our children's pride over the language. It's something that's so pedestrian to them - they are all naturally bilingual so they don't realise how incredible it is. It's trying to get them to see how incredible it is that they speak this whole other language, that they have access to a whole other culture."

**Michael started his career in education as a science technician in a Welsh medium school, before realising he wanted to train to teach.**

"I was responsible for preparing all the experiments and generally maintaining the science department - and would be dropping everything off and walking off and hearing the teachers start to teach. And that really confirmed for me that I had to teach. I just couldn't do anything else.

"So I contacted my Headteacher and said, 'this is what I'd really like to do and ideally I'd like to stay here' because I had a job and liked it."

**The Headteacher agreed, and his school sponsored Michael through the Open University's PGCE course that is taught in either English or Welsh and leads to Qualified Teacher Status.**

"I did a salaried PGCE over the two years and stayed in my school as I did it, in my second year was teaching pretty much independently with my own classes. It could be difficult and challenging but lovely.

"And then a permanent science teaching job came up in my current school and I was lucky enough to get it."

**For Michael, the new Curriculum for Wales had made it an exciting time to become a teacher.**

"Now is a really exciting time to join teaching in Wales because you can make your lessons much more relevant to your local area. I wanted to be that teacher who could help learners love science, and I'm really lucky to be doing that job."