

Moving to Wales to teach secondary – A teacher’s experience



Sian

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf

Biology teacher Sian saw the Cynllun Pontio as the perfect opportunity to take the next step in her career and encourages others to apply.

Sian grew up in Wales, before training to teach and working in London.

When she decided to move back to Wales, the Cynllun Pontio gave her the tools to make the transition as smooth as possible.

“I was thinking about moving to Wales and I emailed my old biology teacher, and asked if it was a good idea to go for Welsh language jobs.

He told me about the Pontio programme, that it could give me the time I needed to focus on my language skills and improve them, ready for me to step up and teach through the medium of Welsh.”

For a long time, Sian felt disconnected from her ability to speak Cymraeg.

Now, she’s passionate about being able to teach her subject through the medium of Welsh.

“I can now share two things that I’m passionate about, biology and the Welsh language!

What I love about the Welsh language is the fact that I’m using the language of my family and where I come from. I love the fact that I can describe myself as bilingual, and now I feel really connected to my community in Wales.

We’re trying to increase the number of Welsh speakers and one of the ways we can do that is bringing in the enthusiasm students have for a subject such as biology and bringing in the Welsh element to it. I love that challenge.”

Sian would encourage anyone considering the Cynllun Pontio to apply.

“My advice for anyone thinking about applying for the Pontio programme is to just go for it.

I’ve learnt so much from it, and it’s given me lots of confidence. Everyone has been so supportive and welcoming.

I am so proud of the fact that I can use the language. I feel like I belong here.”

www.educators.wales/conversion

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