



# BACC. PAGES

## Meet the RSO – Sian Coathup

Despite being a proud Bridgend native, after an Animal Physiology degree from Queen Mary University London and a PGCSE from Bangor University, I quickly settled into teaching Science and Biology in North Wales. Meeting my husband and raising my family there, has meant I have grown to know the A470 very well.

Working in one school on the coast for 19 years, I was able to hold both departmental and pastoral positions and it was the latter, with the focus on student well-being to maximise achievement, that I really loved. I am happy to tell anyone who will listen that the best job in a school is Head of Sixth Form!



I had foreseen staying in teaching for ‘the duration’, and leaving learners to join WJEC nine years ago was a real wrench, but one I have never regretted. As a member of senior leadership, I had seen the direct impact that skill development had on our pupils and their improved prospects into higher education and employment.

I remember being asked at interview how I would manage being out of school and ‘working alone from home’. I answered that I saw the job being all about creating new networks and connections between WJEC and our centres- and it has proved to be just that. It is a great privilege to meet with schools, universities and so many organisations passionate about skills development and see how hard they all work to nurture the young people of Wales.

I am often asked if I miss being in schools at all and I honestly don’t. I spend so much time with teachers in their own schools, I feel more like I now work in 48 of them! That, alongside the great WJEC colleagues I have met and work with now, what’s to regret? Though a nice straight tunnel from Llandudno to Llandaff would be great...