



Academi Genedlaethol ar gyfer
Arweinyddiaeth Addysgol Cymru
National Academy for
Educational Leadership Wales

A Secondee's View



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I'm now three weeks into my secondment with the National Academy for Educational Leadership as Leadership Development and Quality Assurance Adviser for Schools, and I thought it timely to post some impressions of my secondment so far.

As a teacher for over thirty years, twelve of those as a Headteacher, I've gained a wide range of experience in many aspects of education. I'm really keen about developing leadership across Wales and my appointment as a member of the first cohort of Associates with the Leadership Academy in 2018 was a real privilege. Two years on, with the opportunities I've been given and experiences I've gained as an Associate, the opportunity to become a secondee for twelve months was one I couldn't resist.

Motivation and Challenge

I'm passionate about being a Headteacher but I'm also passionate about developing educational leadership, so being able to try something new through this secondment is really exciting and motivating. It's challenging too, in terms of being able to let go of my substantive role for a little while. I could only consider taking this opportunity because of the leadership capacity within my school and knowing the professional learning opportunities that all of our senior leadership team will gain as a result.

Opportunities

Some great opportunities have already arisen to participate in a wide range of leadership experiences: an improved understanding of Appreciative Inquiry as a tool and framework for enabling change; facilitation at the Leadership Academy's new on-line Innovation Workshops; and revising policy and guidance for Endorsement and Quality Assurance, to name but a few...

Insight

The secondment has given me a different perspective on the corporate side of leadership development. I really appreciate being able to experience the strategic side of establishing the Leadership Academy as an organisation with robust governance arrangements and a clearly articulated and well-understood role in the Welsh education system.

Networking

Through working at the Leadership Academy, I have already made links with new colleagues from across Wales who I know will be key contacts for the next stages of my work. Collaboration will play a key role in ensuring we fulfil our aim to improve the quality, range and accessibility of leadership development provision across Wales.

Time to Reflect

Inevitably, the pace of my new role is very different to the hands-on experience of leading a busy school particularly through the current challenges of Covid-19. I really do appreciate having some time to reflect and plan in my new role and I really hope my insight, experience and enthusiasm will add value to both the Leadership Academy and to leadership development across Wales.

Full guidance and application forms can be found at
www.nael.cymru