

Case study: Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini



ChangeMakers Evaluation

May 2015

THE IMPACT OF CHANGEMAKERS

Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni is a large secondary school situated just north of Blackwood in the south Wales Valleys. Pupils are taught through the medium of Welsh.

They have participated in the ChangeMakers programme since Y2. The work is led by Lisa Williams, who is the school's Senior Pedagogy Leader. Lisa encourages her year 12 Welsh Baccalaureate students to participate in the programme, and they sign up on a voluntary basis.



"We signed up for ChangeMakers because it fitted so well with the work we were already doing with the Global Learning Programme in Wales. Our school is a lead school for the GLP and we wanted to bring our pupils in on that, to help them spread the word too"

Lisa Williams, Senior Pedagogy Leader

In Y3, the ChangeMakers were recruited from pupils studying for Economics, Geography, Textiles and the Welsh Baccalaureate.

The pupils at Cwm Rhymni had the opportunity to take part in focus groups to plan a conference for other young learners to attend. These ChangeMakers were supported and trained by staff from Christian Aid.

The ChangeMakers learnt how to organise an event, and the types of positive action that have the greatest impact. They learnt how to work well as a team, how to share responsibility, and

think critically about the most effective ways to engage with their peers.

The ChangeMakers organised a huge conference, with a packed schedule of engaging activities and learning opportunities for their peers. The event drew an incredible 250 young learners.

The ChangeMakers also developed and delivered workshops with year 7 pupils from their school. The year 7 pupils took part in a roleplay activity about life in a sweatshop,

with one pupil at a sewing machine, another being the overseer and a third asking the group questions and providing background information.

Pupils at the school also held a competition to design a Fair-Trade T Shirt. Once the competition was over the T-Shirts were sent as gifts to pupils at Cwm Rhymni's partner school in Ghana.



Once the conference had been delivered, the ChangeMakers took their resources out and starting working with younger pupils in the local primary schools. They have now reached over 200 of their younger peers, and the programme is still ongoing, with a further 140 pupils from local primaries due to take part this year.

The ChangeMakers programme has supported teachers too. Staff at Cwm Rhymni have the chance to participate in an ESDGC Professional Learning Community co-ordinated by the school.

“ChangeMakers has had such a positive impact on the pupils taking part. I’ve seen them blossom and gain so many skills. And I have really enjoyed the CPD events, as have my colleagues. It has been a springboard to so much action by our pupils, which is exactly what we hope to encourage in our school”

Lisa Williams

WHAT IT MEANS TO THE YOUNG CHANGE-MAKERS

“ChangeMakers has helped me become so much more confident. Before, I was too shy to speak in front of people. But the workshops have helped me be less nervous of speaking to people”

“I like how we’re helping younger children learn to act sustainably. I hope that they’ll grow up and act differently, and make the world a better place”

“It’s really good how we have been able to talk to adults too, especially the teachers. I would never have believed I could go to a conference and be up on stage, but doing this project has shown me I can”

They used the teacher training part of ChangeMakers to ensure all the staff had a good understanding of supporting the young ChangeMakers in their planned activities. All the staff in the school, including Teaching Assistants and managerial staff, have had training on the role ESDGC can play in supporting literacy and numeracy.