



Prifysgol Cymru

Y Drindod Dewi Sant

University of Wales

Trinity Saint David

ECGE5002P/C

2014382

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Part A – Cover letter

Dear Mrs Thomas,

I am excited to submit my application for the post of Behaviour Support and Well-being lead at Ysgol Penrhyn Dewi VA. During my time at YPDVA I have taken advantage of the opportunities afforded to me, which I believe have given me the skills needed to be successful within this role. Whilst I am happy in my current position, this progression in roles is in line with my career goals. As you know I am currently studying for a foundation degree in Inclusive Education on a part-time basis, whilst working.

Within my role as the Emotional Learning Support Assistant (ELSA) and current Emotion Coaching training, I am well equipped to respond to the well-being concerns of our students through effective interpersonal communication skills. Since 2001 schools have been addressing and meeting the emotional needs of our young learners, ensuring that they are in a better position to learn in our classrooms. I firmly believe that our learners thrive when learning with empathy, congruence and unconditional positive regard, as Rogers (1969) suggested.

During the recent pandemic I contributed to the planning, implementing and delivery of provision to our most vulnerable students; ensuring that the strong links developed within school were continued, despite the challenges we faced. This is in line with our RADY initiative, where we aim to raise the attainment of our disadvantaged youngsters. By raising target settings in line with our high expectations of every child. In raising our expectations, we raise awareness of their needs, so that they may raise their aspirations for their futures.

I am competent in using ClassCharts to monitor students and communicate with staff and parents/carers, ensuring that information is up to date. Working alongside the ALNCo and Head of Inclusion, I am familiar with and have experience in attending the meetings of our YPLA students and I am able to work to deadlines, recognising the importance of submitting reports within the timeframe set.

If I were to be successful in my application, I would attend and feed into meetings, ensuring continuity regarding our Behavior Policies, ready to receive information to aid my tracking of students, to ensure they are making the expected progress. This enables us to identify any concerns we may have as early as possible, so that we may monitor and track through early interventions. This is in line with the ALN reform 2022. By having these clear lines of communication, we are able to work more efficiently with families, fostering a unified approach to help students reach milestones and goals. Promoting and modelling our school policies and values is vital in encouraging the behavior and expectations we wish to see in our learners. Working closely with our attendance admin, HOPS and families, I will support and promote the attendance of all students, whilst also making reasonable adjustments where necessary in line with the Equality Act 2010. So that they may reach their full

potential, ready to become ambitious capable learners as set out in the Curriculum for Wales 2017. Also, by reinforcing our rewards and sanctions policy and in managing detentions by following up on any restorative or reflective learning need, in a nurturing environment with faith at the center. So that our learners may become good citizens and contribute to the community positively.

I enjoy working with all staff within the hierarchy of the school. I have also shown that I communicate and build positive relationships with pupils and their families, promoting the inclusive ethos of our school, to encourage positive behaviour and attendance and have participated in key meetings to discuss, plan and implement specific support strategies for our young people. Working with students to create bespoke behaviour support plans, that should be pupil lead and child centered. This ensures that children are acknowledging responsibility for their own learning, as Dewey (1896) suggests.

Promoting a growth mindset for all learners will be instrumental in my approach to this role. Emphasizing that school is a safe space, where learners are encouraged to embrace the challenges set out before them. Through support and in supporting others, learners can find inspiration in their success and the success of others.

I appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to discussing this opportunity with you at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Sian Davies

713 words

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Part B – Zander letter

Dear Sian,

Congratulations you've gained a 1st degree honours in Inclusive Education!

Little did you know what was in store when you enrolled back in 2020. Certainly, you never would have anticipated becoming such a proficient user of digital technology, all thanks to a global pandemic none the less! You have certainly tested your growth mindset along the way and I think you would agree wholeheartedly with Carol Dweck's theory, linking learners' motivation with their beliefs in their ability to achieve goals, complete tasks and function with success in life. Your motivation developed overtime and can be linked to Maslow's 1943 hierarchy of needs. After meeting all of your physiological, safety and belonging needs, boosting yourself esteem and confidence, so that after all that time of having self-limiting beliefs, finally graduate university.

One of the very first modules you worked on talked about measuring intelligence and learning about Gardener's 1983 Theory of multiple intelligences, reaffirmed a buried belief that your intelligence was multi-dimensional and very much alive. Metacognition, or learning to learn became one of the school's buzz words in 2022. When the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) talked about the high impact it has on learners, linking cognition to meta cognition and the motivation needed to combine the 24 successful self-regulated learning. This was something that was the foundation of you gaining your first honours degree. Being able to apply and identify the theories that you were learning about further reassured you that you could achieve your goal.

Although at one time you thought that you were destined to become a stay-at-home mum, working evenings and weekends in a local shop or pub, you found a spark of motivation inside of you that wanted more. More challenges, more experiences, more money that you had earned by yourself and most importantly more of an example to set to your daughter's. Building on yourself confidence by successfully gaining employment in a school as an LSA, was just the foundation you needed to get you started. This proactive step in your life was just what Stephen Covey referred to in his 7 Habits of highly effective people in 1989. Although Step 3, concerning organising your time so as to complete tasks according to priorities, remains a challenge in a busy family, you have learned that it links two step 7. Taking time for yourself to study and rest is key to your well-being and subsequently to your families also.

Thanks to your lecturers, who fostered the inner drive of you, without restricting your learning experiences by placing boundaries around your assignments, this allowed you the space to approach your work in your own style/ way. By giving us the tools we needed in lectures, that we may learn and interpret as individuals. This type of learning is what Dewey (1896) spoke about in his theories, which you found had the extraordinary link to the Welsh curriculum which came into force in 2022. Stating that, "Nothing is so essential as universal access to, and acquisition of, the experiences, knowledge and skills that our young people need for employment, lifelong learning and active citizenship". Dewey's belief experiential learning was key to children progressing in life, instead of sitting and listening to the teacher in a passive manner, merely absorbing information. For you it was extremely beneficial to study part time and work. Providing you with the opportunity to take your learning and put it into action in school. So go forth and achieve more Sian, set yourself more goals, have a growth mindset as Dweck (2017) suggests that is "not full of limiting thoughts, a fragile sense of belonging, and they believe that other people can define them".

Love Sian

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