



# case STUDY

## Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg

### Ithel Davies Assistant Headteacher and Project Leader



ithel davies

Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry, South Wales opened its doors for the first time in 2000 and has been using *Pathways for Schools* for four years. As a new school, they were keen to adopt new methods to address teacher workload. They wanted a holistic approach to school processes and pioneered the *Pathways for Schools* project, in partnership with Lisol, to produce an integrated tool that could be used by all members of the school community.

The school now uses all of the pathways offered by the system and is an ambassador for the software, demonstrating its capabilities to other schools in the area who come to visit.

Ithel Davies, Assistant Headteacher and *Pathways for Schools* Project Leader comments on the system: "Schools across Wales are facing huge challenges managing workload and communication in their school. By pioneering this project with Lisol, we are heading towards a paperless environment and vastly improving communication between teachers, pupils and parents. The system has been in place for more than four years now and supports perfectly the way we wish to run our school."

"So many off-the-shelf school software packages don't really cater for all your needs so you end up only using certain parts of the package, we were attracted to working with Lisol as *Pathways for Schools* is very flexible in its approach and we could mould the system to work for us and not the other way round."

A recent ESTYN report on the school praised the technology used to address key issues of workload management and found the effective recording of assessments, reporting to parents, pupil monitoring and identifying under achievement as **'very good'**.

Ithel talks about some of the most useful aspects of the system: "In our first year, we wrote all school reports by hand, one full and two interim reports. Our entire admin team were seconded to fulfill this task for about two weeks in term time. Once we'd started working with Lisol, the transition to on-line report writing was seamless and we've never looked back. Now only one member of our admin staff is charged with managing the system and looking after staff at report writing time.

"Another great benefit to us is the fact that our staff can access the system from home which means that they don't have to stay in school to complete tasks."

“ we are heading towards a paperless environment and vastly improving communication between teachers ”

In 2004 Bro Morgannwg set up a test group of parents to implement the use of the *parental pathway* at the School.

The *parental pathway* allows parents to check out lesson timetables, homework due dates, targets, grades, attendance figures and much more besides. Having also worked with Lisol to develop Bro Morgannwg's external website, parents can visit the site and access the system via a secure area after being given a login name and password.

Ithel now visits primary schools in the surrounding area to talk with year six parents who may be sending their children to Bro Morgannwg. Parents are told of their ability to log on at home to check homework, timetables and announcements which proves a great tool in the school's marketing strategy.

