

Discover Lisol Voyager...

Teachers are discovering the fast, flexible and easy-to-use solution to transition and moderation.

Lisol Voyager is set to transform the way schools work, easing teachers' workloads and ensuring complete faith in teacher assessments.

The software is already up and running across one Welsh LEA where teachers helped IT experts create the best system for staff.

And that cooperation is at the heart of Lisol Voyager. It is because it was developed in conjunction with teachers that the education community can be assured it is created with their needs in mind.

Lisol, the developers behind Voyager, are education-focussed, seeking to create solutions that work from the school's point of view.

Lisol's groundbreaking IT system, Pathways, is already making life easier in a growing number of schools across Wales.

Lisol Voyager started its journey as discussions between Lewis School, Pengam, and Caerphilly County Borough Council.

The mission was to find ways of dealing with problems at transition - such as passing information from feeder primary to secondary schools, and halting the fall in work standards for pupils in Year 7 - and trying to come up with ways to ensure accurate moderation of teaching assessments.

Teachers and council officers knew the challenges were immense. But they had worked with Lisol on Pathways and called the experts in to find a way forward.

The way forward is Lisol Voyager. And, as Mark Baker, deputy headteacher at Lewis School, says: "Voyager has very much been developed with teachers in mind

... the complete solution to the demands of primary/secondary transition and to the moderation of teacher assessments.



because we had input along the way.

"Nobody else has come up with an idea which deals with transition in this way. Nobody else has solved this problem and this technology allows for so much to be done so very, very quickly."

Problems faced at Lewis School are familiar across the country. It needed to get better academic and pastoral information from primary schools about every pupil arriving in Year 7.

In addition, the demise of Key Stage 2 tests also meant it needed to be sure the same levels of assessment were being used across its feeder schools.

Lisol Voyager makes all the difference.

"With Voyager we can look at a class of Year 7 pupils and know what it is they can do," said Mr Baker. "We can look at a maths class, for instance, and know if they have done long multiplication. We can move them along quicker in Year 7 without

repeating things from primary school.

"Schools in Caerphilly will now be able to accurately say, as the Welsh Assembly Government wants of all authorities, that we can produce teacher assessments which are consistent for every pupil."

Information on all of the children joining Lewis School in September will be transferred using Voyager. Lewis School will have click-of-the-mouse access to examples of every child's English and maths work, and information about their academic and pastoral needs.

Debbie Harteveld, headteacher of Tir-Y-Berth Primary, explained the software had "massive benefits" for primary heads.

"It not only serves as a management tool for my school, but also as a system that allows communications between my cluster and LEA and a point of access for parents and pupils.

"The environment is safe and reliable. Voyager also offers me the

ability to be able to 'post' pieces of work that as a staff we can moderate together and that historically would have been done paper-based, and to store the activities for future usage.

"Because this system is electronic we know that the secondary schools are getting up-to-date and valid information from us about the pupils and that the information is going to the person it needs to get to.

"It is an excellent tool for induction of new staff."

She added: "Voyager's facility to work on the consistency of teacher assessments is very important to all schools in Wales at the moment because we no longer have SATs testing at Key Stage 2 to validate teacher assessment. That means we need to be able to accurately assess children's attainment, all staff must be confident to accurately moderate pieces of pupils' work.

"Voyager offers the opportunity to moderate a piece of work as an LEA, as a cluster and as an individual school, therefore ensuring complete accuracy across schools.

"Accurate moderation is the key to successful transition and progression in Year 7. We already have excellent moderation procedures, Voyager enables it to be far more time efficient process, therefore supporting the workload agenda."

Lisol's partnership with Caerphilly County Borough Council has been invaluable in producing the innovative system.

Lisol's Helen Atton believes Voyager will now be at the heart of education across Wales.

"With Lisol Voyager we have found the complete solution," she said. "It is, quite simply, the only way forward."

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