



**YR YSGOL JOHN FROST
THE JOHN FROST SCHOOL**

Headteacher
Jonathan M Wilson BA Msc

11 November 2016

Ms L Neagle AC / AM
Chair
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

Dear Ms Neagle

**Pioneer Schools - Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales:
Implementation**

The John Frost School believes the overall experience has been positive. The school has worked to develop staff to improve their teaching and leadership skills. The following have been our areas of focus:-

- Developing leadership at all levels across the school
- Developing a new skills based curriculum in Key Stage 3
- Developing pedagogy to deliver the new skills curriculum with a focus on differentiation, assessment for learning, Flipped Learning and Philosophy for Children
- Developing a range of opportunities for staff to develop their teaching skills. These include coaching and mentoring, INSET and sharing good practice
- Supporting staff to gain higher level professional qualifications
- The Headteacher leading on the development and delivery of an Aspiring Headteacher course (42 leaders)
- Working with five other schools in developing school leadership at all levels
- Delivering a professional learning programme across the region
- Sharing good practice in teaching and leadership with other schools

Cont'd

The issues that have arisen are:-

- The limits of staff time and energy to engage in professional development with all of the other demands
- The long term provision of funding to support staff professional development
- The requirements of accountability which do not always align to the risk taking requirement of the new curriculum
- A concern with the timeframe of the new curriculum implementation with all of the other demands e.g. new GCSE specifications, Key Stage 3 assessments
- The concerns with the sustainability when work is linked to short term grant funding
- The lack of clarity in how all the good practice will be shared across all schools.

The John Frost School is very excited about the opportunities provided by the new curriculum and we look forward to continuing to work with all agencies to support a successful implementation.

Yours sincerely



Mark Tucker
Deputy Headteacher