



# OLEVI

## Case Study of Impact



**Charlotte Leaves**  
Headteacher  
Tredegar  
Comprehensive School

# Our journey



**In 2016, we began working with OLEVI. The school was in difficulty, and we needed to improve the quality of teaching, learning and outcomes.**

OLEVI offered us high quality professional learning that, initially, improved the mindset and pedagogical practice of our teachers.

However, when we engaged with Outstanding Teaching Assistant Programme (OTAP), the culture of the school really started to transform.

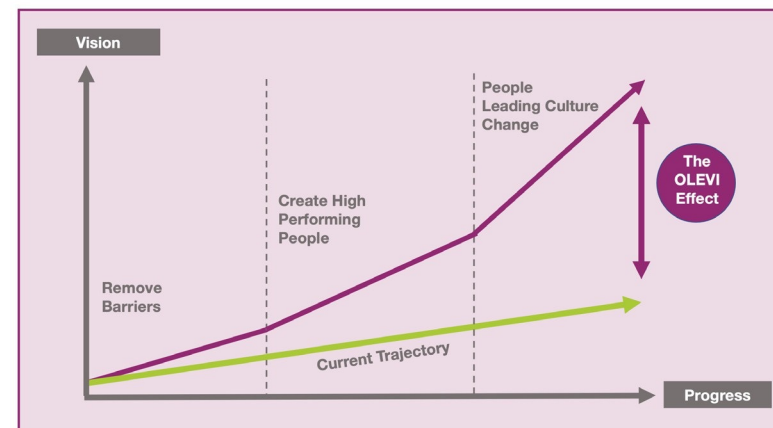
For the first time, all staff were talking in the same language, sharing strategies and had the highest expectations and aspirations for the pupils.

We quickly saw student outcomes improve and we secured our first Good in our Estyn inspection.

In 2018, we were designated an OLEVI Facilitation Centre, and our own facilitators started using the OTAP to support our local primary and special schools.

This really improved the quality of discussions in the sessions, sharing ideas from different contexts really challenged our staff's expectations of what was possible for our students.

We now work with two regional consortiums, offering the OTAP as professional learning for Teaching Assistants in over 100 schools and colleges in South Wales.



“The OTAP has raised the profile of the teaching/learning assistant to a position in schools where they are being taken seriously as a profession and valued. It is having a very positive effect on our children’s learning and creating excellent working relationships with other staff members across the school.”

Charlotte Leaves,  
Headteacher, Tredegar Comprehensive School



“The OTAP has proved to be the key to building a better more constructive working relationship between teaching assistant (TA) and teacher. This programme has enabled TAs to engage pupil in a way which makes learning more meaningful and support the teacher to achieve learning outcomes.”

Ceri Prosser, Deputy Headteacher, Tredegar Comprehensive School

# The OLEVI effect

## MORE EFFECTIVE PROFESSIONALS

By providing high quality professional learning for our Teaching Assistants, the impact on their classroom practice was tremendous.

The OTAP exposed them to research informed strategies, that they implemented instantly. This was from feedback methods to tools to improve questioning.

The blend of facilitated activities, learning walks, audits and structured discussion, their expectations were raised, and they had the reflection and planning to think about what they needed to do now to improve their effectiveness.

## BETTER WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

Our Teaching Assistants feel valued!

Now that our TAs have the understanding and language, the level of discussion between teachers and teaching assistants improved dramatically.

TAs started asking questions of the teacher. For example, **“How can I make this activity more challenging?”** This helped improve the quality of teaching and learning for everyone.

They had the clarity, confidence and motivation to challenge colleagues professionally to get the best outcomes for the pupils they worked with.

## CONFIDENT COACHES & MENTORS

By starting with our best teaching assistants, we created a group of motivated professionals who were ready, willing and able to grow other colleagues.

Our teaching assistants now coach and mentor one another, offering them invaluable insight and guidance.

They are also running CPD on specific areas of SEND practice not just for other Teaching Assistants, but for teachers too.

The OTAP has grown our capacity and has allowed us to tap into a valuable resource we did not utilise.



## A leadership journey

I joined Tredegar, as its new Headteacher, after the school had been engaged with OLEVI for many, many years. It was clear the school's partnership with OLEVI was very important to the Leadership Team. They passionately explained its central role in transforming the quality of Teaching and Learning across the school. I was interested to learn more. To this end, I quickly enrolled myself on the Outstanding Facilitator Programme.

It is not an understatement to say it was the best CPD I had ever attended. It challenged me to really think what I want to achieve as a leader and honestly reflect on my own strengths within a very supportive environment. This is clearly OLEVI's winning formula and one we have embedded within the school to ensure we continually challenge one another to grow and improve.



“I have found a whole new enthusiasm for how I approach work. I now believe in myself, and I am more aware of how I encourage children to develop their learning.”

OTAP delegate, Tredegar Comprehensive School



To find out more about  
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