



Ysgol Gyfun **Porthcawl**  
**Porthcawl** Comprehensive School

# Year 9 Options

## Opsiynau Blwyddyn 9

### 2021



Perseverance Creates Success



Ysgol Gyfu

**PORTHCAWL**

Comprehensive School

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is the time when our Year 9 make their option choices for September 2021, given where we are we need to do things differently. This booklet has been produced and posted to you to assist your child with subject choices which will be made in readiness for next September. The requirements of the National Curriculum ensure that a broad and balanced curriculum is experienced in Years 10 and 11.

It is important to select subjects carefully and only after careful consideration. As you will understand the usual Year 9 parents options meeting will not be going ahead. Mrs O'Brien has set up a remote process for the option choices. Should a learner want further information on a subject they may message their subject teacher via google classroom.

Please read this booklet thoroughly and consider all advice which is given before finalising choices for next year.

Choices should be returned by Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

Yours faithfully,

A J Slade  
Headteacher

NOTE: We reserve the right to amend the subject choices offered if insufficient numbers of pupils opt for certain subjects or unforeseen changes occur in the school's staffing.

## What are GCSEs?

### General Certificate of Secondary Education

GCSEs are a system of examinations with a scale of grades from A\* - G. The examinations not only test your memory and ability to present facts, they also test your understanding, practical skills and ability to apply your knowledge.

### Examinations

Doing your very best over the next two years has become more important than ever, as the work you do during Year 10 and Year 11 counts towards your GCSE grades.

In some subjects you will be expected to sit Controlled Assessments and modules which count towards your FINAL grade.

### Curriculum Offer

All pupils will study the following compulsory core subjects:

<b>English Language / English Literature</b>
<b>Mathematics / Numeracy</b>
<b>Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)</b>
<b>Skills Challenge Certificate / Welsh Baccalaureate</b>
<b>Welsh</b>
<b>Religious Studies</b>
<b>Games</b>
<b>PSE</b>

All pupils will then choose **THREE** subjects: **ONE** subject from each **COLUMN** on the **OPTION SHEET**.

### Broad and Balanced Curriculum

The subject options provided have been designed to ensure breadth and balance in the overall curriculum, while at the same time providing flexibility to allow for individual ability, interests and learning pathway.

### What if I want to change my course?

You are urged to consider carefully your choice of subjects and to consult with your subject teachers, parents / carers and careers advisor, before making any decisions.

There will be a window of opportunity to apply to change a course in September. Any changes will be minimal and requests must be supported by teachers and parents / carers. Acceptance into another class will not only depend on ability, aptitude and your preference but also on the existing size of the group. There is an application process for any request for option changes in September organised by Mrs A. O'Brien (Deputy Head Teacher).

### Examination Information

The courses offered at Key Stage 4, Years 10 and 11, are planned for two years and pupils sit the majority of their examinations in the May/June of Year 11. Pupils are expected to complete the full two years in their chosen subjects. In some subjects the examination structure allows modules to be sat at various times during the two years (see individual subjects for details). In such cases, there is sometimes a re-sit facility. The Governing Body has decided that it is reasonable to expect the school to pay for the first sitting of any modules but for any re-sits that a pupil may request they will be charged to the pupil.

Learning materials, e.g. textbooks, may be issued in some subjects. In such cases it is expected that the materials are returned in such a condition that they are reusable by future classes. Any damage caused by misuse will be charged for. Full details can be viewed on the school website and all pupils will be issued with an information booklet and individual examination timetable before the examination season begins.

## **COMPULSORY CORE**

**Pupils will follow all courses in this section.**

### **GCSE English Language**

**ALL** pupils will study English Language GCSE. The GCSE English course will enable learners to develop their ability to use English as active and informed citizens and be able to speak, listen, read and write fluently, appropriately, effectively and critically – for a wide range of personal, functional and social purposes.

Throughout the course, students will respond to a wide range of written texts, including challenging and dynamic texts. They will develop the knowledge and skills required to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices.

Writing - Pupils will produce clear and coherent written texts for different purposes and audiences e.g. explain, instruct, recount, inform, discuss, persuade, and argue. Half of the marks awarded will be for technical accuracy.

Reading – Pupils will analyse and respond to texts and their subtexts, using inference and deduction and linking ideas within or across texts.

#### **Assessment:**

**Unit 1 (Oracy 20%)** – Individual presentation based on a specified theme and a group discussion – Recorded for the WJEC

**Unit 2 (Exam 40%)** – Reading and Writing Sections: Descriptive, Narration and Exposition

**Unit 3 (Exam 40%)** – Reading and Writing: Argumentation, Persuasion and Instructional

### **GCSE English Literature**

Pupils' performance in Language will determine whether or not they study GCSE Literature. The English Literature GCSE aims to extend pupils' interest in, and enthusiasm for, literature as they develop an understanding of the ways in which literature is rich and influential. The course encourages students to appreciate how texts from different cultures and traditions may reflect or influence values, assumptions and a sense of identity. Pupils will become critical readers of fiction and non-fiction prose, poetry and drama.

#### **Assessment:**

**Unit 1 Exam: Prose (different cultures) and poetry (contemporary) 35%**

**Section A** - requires study of a prose text from a different culture. e.g. Of Mice and Men

**Section B** - pupils respond to and compare two contemporary unseen poems

**Unit 2 Exam: Drama and Prose 40%** ('Heroes' – Robert Cormier and 'An Inspector Calls')  
Extract analysis and essay responses about characters, themes and key events.

#### **Controlled Assessment 25%**

**Section A:** Shakespeare - A thematic essay question on a Shakespeare play (2hrs)

**Section B:** Welsh Writing in English - Assessment will be based on a group of 15 thematically linked poems taken from the Library of Wales anthology, Poetry 1900-2000: One Hundred Poets from Wales (2 hr essay)

## Mathematics (Numeracy and Mathematical Techniques) GCSEs

Mathematics is a core subject and is regarded, alongside English, as one of the key subjects in which to gain a qualification in order to enhance career prospects.

At the end of Year 9, students sit an examination which is allocated a National Curriculum level. Along with teacher assessment which is moderated, the student is allocated an overall level. This will influence their GCSE level/tier of study.

Two mathematics GCSE qualifications are offered. It is expected that all pupils will be entered for **Mathematics – Numeracy GCSE**. This qualification covers mathematics applied to everyday problems. There are three tiers of entry with the following grades available:

Higher Tier	Grades A* - C
Intermediate Tier	Grades B – E
Foundation Tier	Grades D – G (C for exceptional performance)

A high percentage of marks will be awarded for applying mathematical skills to problem solving.

In addition to the Numeracy qualification it is envisaged that all pupils will be entered for a **GCSE in Mathematics**. This qualification will be examined by two further examinations at the same tiers (and grades) as shown above. This GCSE prepares pupils more for progression in mathematics and mathematically related disciplines or employment routes.

Mathematics GCSE and Numeracy GCSE will normally be examined in Summer of Year 11. For some classes if good progress is made through the course then Mathematics can be sat early in the November of year 11 or sometimes the summer of year 10.

It is the aim of the department to get pupils to reach the highest standard they can possibly achieve and to ensure that they are well prepared for both internal, external examinations and the world of work or higher education. The mathematical skills and knowledge taught should also enable pupils to transfer them to other subjects in the school e.g. Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Economics, Geography and also to everyday situations.

Either Mathematical Techniques GCSE or Mathematics – Numeracy GCSE counts towards the Welsh Baccalaureate.

## Additional Mathematics GCSE

It may also be possible for more able students to study for this qualification alongside the two qualifications mentioned above. This qualification is taught to those interested in A level Maths after the November entry.

## **Science**

### **Double Science GCSE**

This course counts as two Science GCSE qualifications. The course is taught as three separate Sciences. The grades obtained are an average of all three Sciences.

There are three 1 hour exams at the end of year 10, one exam for each Science. There are a further three 1 hour exams at the end of year 11. Each of these exams contributes 15% to the total result. The remaining 10% is a practical assessment completed in lesson time during year 11. Pupils will be awarded two GCSE grades at the end of the course. The grades obtained at the end of the course depend on all three Sciences so it is very important to do well in each Science.

### **Applied Science GCSE (Double Award)**

This course counts for two Science GCSE qualifications. It is aimed at pupils who will not be continuing with Science after GCSE.

There are three written exams, one task based assessment and one practical assessment completed during the two year course.

### **GCSE Single Applied GCSE Applied Science (Single Award)**

GCSE Applied Science (Single Award) utilises a context led approach to science learning and assessment. The qualification combines all three elements of Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) and applies them to the modern world. You will develop your practical and problem-solving skills and understand the important role that science has in society.

This course counts for one Science GCSE qualification. It is aimed at pupils who will not be continuing with Science after GCSE.

There are two written exams, one task-based assessment and one practical assessment completed during the one year course. After completing the qualification in Year 10, pupils will study a non-scientific qualification in Year 11.

## **Welsh Baccalaureate**

The Welsh Baccalaureate will help learners develop the skills they will need for college, university, employment and life. It will have a clear focus on the following skills:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Digital Literacy
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Planning and organisation
- Creativity and innovation
- Personal effectiveness

Pupils will develop and use these skills, and the skills will be assessed by completing:

- An individual investigation
- Global citizenship challenge
- Enterprise and employability challenge
- Community challenge

Successful completion of these four elements will result in a 'Skills Challenge Certificate' qualification.

In order to achieve the full Welsh Baccalaureate qualification pupils will also need to achieve GCSE English Language, GCSE Mathematics – Techniques/GCSE Mathematics - Numeracy and a minimum of three further GCSE or equivalent qualifications (at the appropriate grade/s), in addition to the above Skills Challenge Certificate. The Welsh Baccalaureate qualification will be available at two tiers for Year 11 pupils (National/Foundation) and will be graded.

## Welsh Second Language – GCSE Full Course

This course will enable you to understand and use Welsh in a variety of situations. We will cover a wide range of areas which are relevant to Wales and modern society, giving you the opportunity to research and participate in theatre visits, cultural activities, school trips, leading to an improved and increased knowledge of Welsh and Welsh society within modern Wales today. Welsh GCSE is perceived as a qualification which is both relevant and important for those seeking employment.

All pupils will study 4 units with the majority of the assessments taking place in Year 11. The Internal Oral and Aural assessments will be conducted in pairs / groups of three.

### Assessment

External Assessment: 50% - Reading and Writing

Internal Assessment: 50% - Oral and Aural

What are the advantages of speaking Welsh?

- It enriches your identity
- It improves your communication skills
- It makes it easier to learn other languages
- It's an additional skill
- It gives you a better chance of getting a job

With so much competition for each job, it's important that you offer the maximum amount of skills you can to employers. Opportunities for those with a Welsh qualification are increasing due to the Welsh Language Act and the Welsh Government's 'Un iaith i bawb' policy. National and state organisations are seeking candidates who are bilingual or who have a working knowledge of Welsh. Local government in all parts of Wales has an obligation to provide a service in Welsh as well as English and staff are needed to fulfil that role. The media frequently values journalists who can report in Welsh and theatre companies are becoming involved in bilingual productions. Schools, particularly the primary sector, need to recruit Welsh speaking staff as the study of Welsh is compulsory until the age of 16. With the National Assembly for Wales, staff with varying degrees of proficiency in Welsh are required – from senior staff to those answering the phone. Banks and Building Societies are currently paying staff to attend Welsh lessons, thus underlying the importance they are giving to the increased demand for services by the Welsh speaking customers. Tourism is another area where a public body is calling for greater use of the language to emphasise the distinctive nature of Wales as a marketing tool.



## Religious Studies - GCSE (Full Course)

Religious Studies is an invaluable subject in personal development and preparation for life beyond school. The subject enables and encourages pupils to communicate with, and develop an understanding of those who are members of a different faith or culture, which is essential in today's multi-faith and multi-cultural society. In addition, pupils are challenged to develop their own opinions about these issues.

"Religious Studies has helped me to think more about my own life than any other subject." – Year 13 student

"I've learnt more about life through doing Religious Studies than any other subject in school." – Year 12 student

"RS has helped me to assess the needs of different individuals I meet in my working environment." – Dyfed Powys Police Officer

### Frequently asked questions

#### Do I need to be religious to study RS?

Certainly not! The more people with different beliefs, including those with no belief, the better. Life would be boring if we all thought the same. What is needed is for you to be prepared to listen to the viewpoints of others and to find out why people believe what they do.

#### What can be done with a qualification in RS?

Many past pupils who studied RS are now doctors, nurses, social workers, lawyers, police officers, members of the Armed Forces, actors, journalists...and don't forget teachers and religious leaders!

#### Why is RS so useful and important?

As well as developing your knowledge and understanding of the views and beliefs of members of different faiths and cultures, you will develop a number of essential skills highly valued by colleges, universities and employers. These skills include self-discipline, motivation, understanding, respect, the ability to develop and justify an argument as well as evaluating the viewpoints of others.

The course studied is provided by the WJEC. There is no coursework and there will be two examinations, which will be sat at the end of Year 11.

### Years 9 and 10

#### Unit 1: Religion and Philosophical Themes

**Part A:** All candidates will study the two specified core beliefs/teachings and the two specified practices of Christianity AND Hinduism.

**Part B:** All candidates will study the two philosophical themes (below) from the perspective of Christianity AND Hinduism: Life and Death AND Good and Evil

Candidates must also consider non-religious beliefs, such as those held by Humanists and Atheists (this will be explicitly assessed in the (d) questions in the Life and Death theme).

### Year 11

#### Unit 2: Religion and Ethical Themes

**Part A:** Candidates will study further elements of the two specified core beliefs/teachings and the two specified practices of Christianity AND Hinduism.

**Part B:** Candidates will also study the two ethical themes (below) from the perspective of Christianity AND Hinduism: Relationships AND Human Rights

## **Core Games**

The Core Games curriculum provides a balanced and varied physical activity programme and, where possible, gives equal opportunity to boys and girls.

The curriculum includes all major sports which include hockey, netball, rugby, football, basketball and athletics together with gymnastics, swimming, badminton, lacrosse, volleyball, tennis, baseball, rounders, cricket and health related exercise.

At KS4 the curriculum is broadened so pupils experience activities other than the major sports.

Our aim is to provide enjoyment, enthusiasm and opportunity for pupils to take part in physical education both in school and when they leave.

## **PSE**

For learners aged 14-19 this is part of their Learning Core entitlement and is a requirement at Key Stage 4.

PSE is delivered by wider opportunities in the curriculum and the Welsh Baccalaureate. Input from a number of outside agencies including the All Wales Police Core programme and the school nurse support the pupils.

At Key Stage 4, learners build on the skills, attitudes, values, knowledge and understanding they have acquired and developed at Key Stage 3. PSE reflects the fact that learners are moving towards an independent role in adult life, taking on greater responsibility for themselves and others.

Learners are equipped with the skills to manage changing situations with increased confidence and to become financially capable. PSE provides pupils with opportunities to develop their awareness of careers and the world of work and to examine how their studies prepare them for their working life.

Pupils are given opportunities to promote their health and emotional well-being and moral and spiritual development; to become active citizens and promote sustainable development and global citizenship; and to prepare for lifelong learning.

\* \* \* \* \*

## FREE CHOICE OPTIONS

These option columns allow pupils to choose subjects which meet their individual needs in any combination in which they are interested.

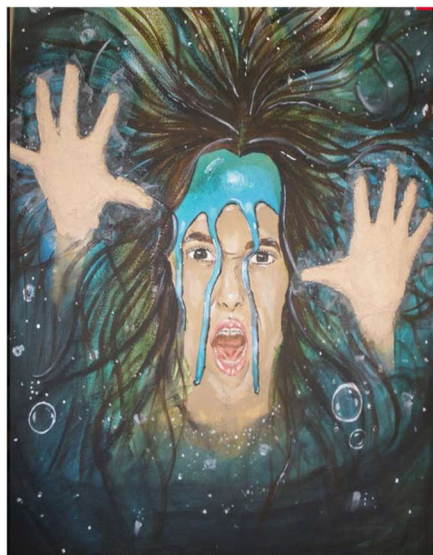
Pupils are required to choose **ONE** subject from each of the option groups A, B and C. The subjects from these option columns are listed alphabetically below.

## GCSE Art and Design

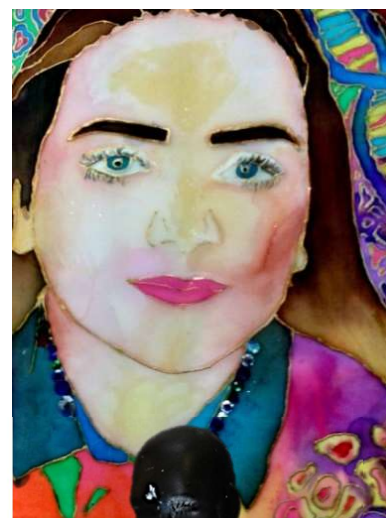
The GCSE course is interesting and varied, designed to encourage our learners to develop creativity and critical thinking skills.

Art and Design should enrich the lives of the students and a major contribution is that of arousing interest in their immediate environment and in encouraging responses to it through a range of creative activities. Pupils are encouraged to experiment with a wide range of techniques and media including drawing, painting, print-making, textiles, mixed media, 3D/ceramics and CAD.

We introduce pupils to the theme of Identity, with a series structured activities initially, which aims to build on skills and develop confidence. Students are then equipped to start developing their own responses, becoming increasingly independent.



Pupils are also actively encouraged to study the work of other artists and designers, past and present, as well as referencing relevant cultural sources.



### ASSESSMENT

Coursework Portfolio 60%  
Externally Set Task 40%

Internally marked and externally moderated.



### Career Opportunities

Fashion Designers, Art Therapist in Hospitals, Interior Designers, Lay-out Artists, Architects, Fashion Journalist, Teachers, Lecturers, Graphic Designers, Advertising, Media, Animation, Photography, Film/TV, Jewellery design, Gallery and Museum work.

## GCSE Business

This GCSE specification introduces learners to the business world, empowering them to develop as commercially minded and enterprising individuals. Learners will have the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills, enabling them to use business information critically, to develop arguments, to make justified decisions and to prepare them for further study and career pathways.

**The content is presented in six clear and distinct topic areas:**

- Business activity
- Influences on business
- Business operations
- Finance
- Marketing
- Human resources

2019 results - the department was very pleased with an excellent set of results. Business pupils at PCS achieved grades 15% higher than the WJEC average of all centres.

## SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

<b>Unit 1: Business World</b> <b>Written examination: 2 hours</b> <b>62.5% of qualification</b>	<b>100 Marks</b>
A mix of short answer and structured questions based on stimulus material covering all of the specification content	
<b>Unit 2: Business Perceptions</b> <b>Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes</b> <b>37.5% of qualification</b>	<b>60 Marks</b>
Data response questions covering all of the specification content	

<http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/business/r-business-gcse-2017/>



## GCSE Computer Science



Computer Science has an immense impact on modern life. In the age of the laptop, smartphone and tablet, it should be obvious that young people want to develop their own apps, write programs and contribute to technological innovation. Despite reports in the media, professionals with computing training have never been more in demand in the UK and worldwide, than they are today. This course provides a superb stepping stone to higher study and a career in the field of Computer Science.

Computer Science is a discipline to complement traditional Science. Progress in science has always been linked with progress in technology and vice versa. Computer Science also complements the Visual Arts, being used for visual effects and new media opportunities. Many pupils will find this subject a fun and interesting way to develop skills that are valuable well beyond the Computing classroom.

GCSE Computer Science differs from GCSE ICT by utilising a programming language to solve problems, but the two subjects complement each other and provide pupils with a balanced set of skills, when chosen together.

### Course Structure

#### Unit 1: Understanding Computer Science

**Written Paper:** 1.5 hour (worth 50%) – 100 marks

This examination will assess understanding of the theory content of the specification with a mixture of short, medium and longer answer questions.

#### Unit 2 Solving Problems using Computers

**External Assessment:** 2 hours (worth 30%) – 60 marks

This assessment consists of a series of tasks set and marked by WJEC and completed on-screen. The tasks will assess the practical application of knowledge and understanding.

#### Unit 3 Developing Computing Solutions

**Controlled Assessment:** 20 hours (worth 20%) – 80 marks

Pupils will develop a piece of work using programming software following a task brief from a choice of two issued by WJEC.

### Software Used

Pupils will learn to use a range of programming software which can be downloaded legally and free, including traditional programming languages and more game-oriented software.

### Programming Exercises in Year 10

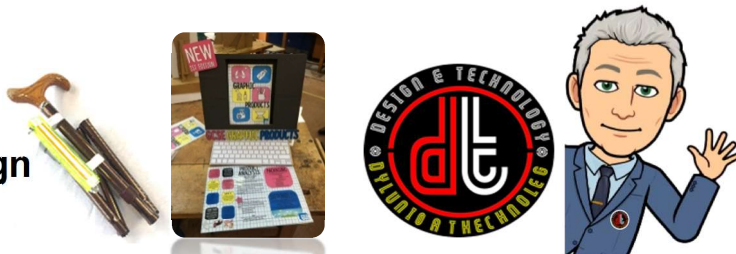
- Develop an App to countdown the number of days until Christmas.
- Produce a Trivia Quiz that could be used on a smartphone or tablet.
- Using random number generating code, create a 'Guess the Number' app and get your friends to test it.

### Skills Gained

- Ability to critically analyse problems, design and implement computer programs which solve these problems.
- Look at the implications of different and emerging technologies.
- Understand how computer technology works and look at what goes on "behind the scenes".
- How to apply logical and algorithmical thinking to solve problems using computers.
- All fundamental programming concepts which are transferable to any programming language.



## WJEC GCSE Product Design



### Is it the right course for you?

If you enjoy thinking creatively, problem solving, designing products for the future, making models and products, electronics, CAD/CAM, testing your own ideas and Dragon's Den.... Then GCSE Product Design is for you.

### What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking the course?

Throughout years 7,8 and 9 you have produced a wide range of exciting projects in Design & Technology including Graphics, Resistant Materials and Product Design.

**You should be perfectly capable of achieving a good grade if you've achieved a Level 5+ in the subject in Year 9**

### What will I learn? Why should I take it?

GCSE Design & Technology covers a wide range of activities based upon designing and making products that are manufactured using the materials of wood, metal and plastic. As well as using hand skills, numeracy skills from measuring and marking out, you will gain experience in using CAD & CAM to design and produce modern products, as designers would in industry. You will also understand how designers work, by using problem solving strategies and trial and error you will develop your thinking and problem solving skills. These are all the transferable skills employers, colleges and universities want you to be able to demonstrate you have; Design & Technology allows you to do that. Design & Technology is also a STEM subject (Science Technology Engineering Maths) and as such should be held in the same regard as these, as a subject which will open doors and provide opportunities in highly paid careers and courses at top universities.



### How will I be assessed?

**Unit 1: Design and Technology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**  
**Written examination: 2 hours - 6 Questions**  
**50% of qualification**

A mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing candidates' knowledge and understanding of Product Design.  
The exam is sat at the end of Year 11.

**Unit 2: Design and Make Task**  
**Non-exam assessment (NEA): approximately 35 hours**  
**50% of qualification**

A sustained design and make task, based on a contextual challenge set by WJEC, assessing candidates' ability to:

- Identify, investigate, analyse and outline design possibilities
- Design and make prototypes and evaluate their fitness for purpose.

Starts in June of Year 10 and finishes in the Spring Term of Year 11.

Each learner will therefore study four areas of content:

1. Core knowledge and understanding
2. In-depth knowledge and understanding of product design
3. Core skills
4. In-depth skills of product design



## GCSE Drama

GCSE Drama involves the study of plays, developing new techniques and learning about different styles and genres. You will develop a good knowledge of theatre history and understand drama terminology and expressions.

The course requires hard work, focus and commitment but most of all love and passion for the subject.

Following a course in GCSE Drama will enable students to:-

- actively engage in the process of dramatic study;
- work imaginatively and creatively in collaborative contexts, generating, developing and communicating ideas;
- reflect on and evaluate their own work and the work of others;
- develop performance skills;
- prepare and present scripted and unscripted material.

The final grade in Drama will be based on three units:-

Unit One	<b>Devising Theatre (40%)</b>
Unit Two	<b>Performing Theatre (20%)</b>
Unit Three	<b>Written Examination – Interpreting Theatre (40%)</b>

The aim of the department is to ensure all pupils achieve and work to their full potential. During the course we hope all pupils gain confidence in performance work and further their knowledge of the subject leading into 'A' Level Theatre Studies or BTEC Performing Arts.

**Many careers are available from this subject:-**

Performance, Acting, Drama Therapy, Stage Management, Set/Costume/Lighting Designer, Teaching, Directing, Events Management, Advertising just to name a few.



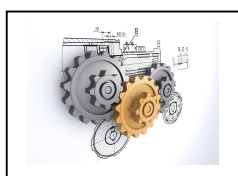
## WJEC Engineering Certificate Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE)

This course will develop your Engineering skills to keep up with rapidly developing technologies. It will give you the knowledge and skills you will need to meet the needs of modern engineering industries.



Engineers can have a major impact on industry and society. The achievements they have made have improved the quality of everyday life, from the buildings we live and work in to the transport we use to get around and how we enjoy our leisure time. Engineers are able to find solutions to problems, whether it is adapting or combining materials used to produce a product to make it withstand severe weather conditions or fixing materials in a different way to make something more portable. Problem solving is critical to working in engineering. This reflects twenty-first century engineering practice, enabling students to progress to more advanced study of engineering. Finding solutions to problems to ensure a product is fit for purpose.

Engineering course structure, there are three main units:



**Computer Aided Design** - Students will use industrial methods of designing resulting in 3D screen drawings, which can be sent to a variety of different machines such as CNC and 3D printers. Students will experience designing a wide range of products.

(Internal centre based assessment)

**Producing engineering products** – Students will acquire a range of making skills using modern industrial methods including the use of CNC, digital scanning and 3D printer technology. Traditional making methods are highly valued in industry and students will experience the use of a wide range of hand tools and processes. (Internal centre based assessment)



**Solving engineering problems** - Students will be given Engineering drawings and will be expected to translate them into final products. The importance of working accurately is essential and a highly valued skill in the world of work. Students will also have the opportunity to experience computer controlled technology. Programming machines to undertake a set task. (External assessment)

This course can provide a pathway to further study, provide learners with the awareness of the work of different types of job roles in the sector such as design engineers, civil engineers, technicians and mechanical engineers. As a result, they may wish to start an apprenticeship or continue with their studies into higher education in order to pursue those job roles.

**Coursework:** Engineering Design (25%) & Engineering Product (Practical) (50%)

**Examination:** Solving Engineering Problems (25%)

**Graded:** Distinction, Merit, Pass, Fail

Students on the course will develop their Engineering design and practical skills in Year 10 by doing a variety of design and make tasks. In Year 11 students will design and make an engineered product within a set of tolerances. There is a design portfolio outlining the design and manufacture of the product and an evaluation suggesting improvements to manufacture. Independent working and displaying the ability to problem solve is encouraged by staff delivering this course

## GCSE Food and Nutrition

Food and Nutrition is a practical GCSE which encompasses a number of different topics such as nutrition, food commodities, food preparation, food safety, alongside relevant issues such as food provenance, its environmental impact and the way we as a society consume food. It is an essential option for students who wish to work within the food industry or want to learn to cook.

### Assessment:

#### Unit 1 Principles of Food and Nutrition:

Written exam, 1hr 30mins (40%)

The themes we will explore for the exam:

- Principles of nutrition
- Diet and good health
- Science of cooking food
- Food provenance and food waste
- Cultures and cuisine
- Technological developments
- Factors affecting food choice
- Commodities (ingredients)

#### Unit 2 Cooking and Nutrition in Action:

NEA 1: The Food Investigation Assessment: 20% of the total marks. A scientific food investigation will assess learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.

NEA 2: The Food Preparation Assessment, 40% of the total marks, assessing learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of dishes to form a menu.



## **GCSE French**

### **What is the course about?**

We cover a wide range of topics in your language classes, so as well as learning a language you also learn all about the culture and lifestyle of foreign countries; school life, food, travel, sports, famous people, traditions and customs. Your classes will focus on improving your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. There are two tiers of examination – Higher (covering grades A\* - E) and Foundation (covering grades D-G). The appropriate tier of examination is decided in Year 11.

### **Why Languages at GCSE?**

Languages are really important in the world we live in and give you great skills for the rest of your life. The internet has brought everyone much closer together so chatting, blogging and networking with people of different languages from all over the world is really easy. Imagine all the other people you could communicate with and all the amazing places you could travel to or work at and all because you can speak their language.

### **What good is a Foreign Language?**

Languages are an invaluable skill to have. You may need languages for all sorts of career destinations – and not just the obvious ones of teacher, translator or interpreter! Doctors, Psychologists and Physiotherapists need language skills to communicate effectively with their patients. Businessmen, Bankers and Entrepreneurs all need language skills to make deals on the global market. Politicians, Historians, Geographers and Holiday Reps all need language skills. The list of possibilities is endless! Having a language can increase your salary by 8-20%. It gives you a head start on other potential employees as by speaking other languages, you're vital to any company who does international business (and there are a lot of them!). Just think about how many foreign-owned companies there are in South Wales! Languages are the key to the new, exciting multinational world we live in; so don't miss out!

### **Top 10 Reasons why Languages are great!**

1. English is not enough! Not everyone speaks or wants to speak English (75% of the World's population speak no English).
2. A language will always be useful, no matter what you do.
3. In class, you get to study a wide range of topics all about different people and cultures, not just how to speak.
4. You can read books, watch films and listen to songs in their native language - and understand them too!
5. Languages mean business - being able to speak a language will make you really stand out.
6. They're good for you! Speaking more than one language increases your brain capacity, improves your memory and you'll be at less risk of developing Alzheimer's.
7. It's really impressive to be able to speak a foreign language. It's a real achievement that your friends will envy and employers will love!
8. You can understand and talk to lots more people when you go abroad.
9. Using a language at work could raise your salary from 8-20%.
10. Learning languages really improves your communication skills.

## **GCSE Geography**

Geography GCSE is the world subject. It helps us to make sense of the world. Geography gives you powerful knowledge of the world. It even helps you to understand some of the other subjects that you are studying too.

Geography starts with you and extends to the furthest parts of the earth. It takes you to places and helps you understand them and how they are connected.

Geography is current and topical. Where else would you expect to discuss the impact of a changing climate and the importance of choosing what to buy in a supermarket?

With the WJEC syllabus, each pupil will have the opportunity to look at what the impacts of deforestation short term and long term. Do you ever wonder why in recent years our weather is getting so extreme and can the lighthouse cope with another winter of storms attacking it? These are examples of some of the issues of physical geography we examine.

In human geography you will discuss why China introduced the 'One Child Policy' and look at Cardiff's shopping centre – why did they build St David's 2? You will also look at development, why are richer countries having to financially support the renewable energy development of other poorer countries? And is this fair?

Assessment is two examination papers and coursework which is completed in class.

Choosing Geography at GCSE will provide you with plenty of opportunities for further progression at A level, at university and in the work place. It is a very versatile subject having a wide range of job skills that employers are looking for. A recent survey of employers in the north of England showed that after Maths and English, Geography is rated as one of the most useful subjects.

Geographers are able to present ideas; Geographers have great enquiry skills; Geographers are good at observing changes. More importantly, Geographers are flexible- they recognise that the world is rapidly changing and can adapt to new ideas and new situations.

Geography is therefore a very relevant subject to study for GCSE, now and in the future – so why not join us in the department and study Geography GCSE.

## **GCSE German**

### **What is the course about?**

We cover a wide range of topics in your language classes, so as well as learning a language you also learn all about the culture and lifestyle of foreign countries; school life, food, travel, sports, famous people, traditions and customs. Your classes will focus on improving your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. There are two tiers of examination – Higher (covering grades A\*- E) and Foundation (covering grades D-G). The appropriate tier of examination is decided in Year 11.

### **Why Languages at GCSE?**

Languages are really important in the world we live in and give you great skills for the rest of your life. The internet has brought everyone much closer together so chatting, blogging and networking with people of different languages from all over the world is really easy. Imagine all the other people you could communicate with and all the amazing places you could travel to or work at and all because you can speak their language.

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## **Level 2 VRQ in Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy (NOT a GCSE course)**

VRQ stands for Vocationally Recognised Qualifications. This is a vocational course offered by an external training school, The Academy of Hair and Beauty.

### **Level 2 VRQ in Hairdressing (Equivalent to 2 GCSEs)**

This course is suitable for candidates wishing to pursue a future career in hairdressing. The students will be expected to participate in both practical and theory lessons within Porthcawl's Hair salon and will be expected to complete a portfolio of evidence they have carried out throughout the two years.

The course will cover the following units:

- Working in the hair industry
- Health and safety practice in the salon
- Client consultation for hair services
- Shampoo and condition the hair and scalp
- Promote products and services to clients in a salon
- The art of dressing hair
- Create an image based on a theme within the hair and beauty sector
- Provide scalp massage services
- The art of colouring, plaiting and twisting.

For each module students will have to carry out a practical assessment and an online test.

### **Level 2 VRQ in Beauty Therapy (Equivalent to 2 GCSEs – NOT a GCSE course)**

This course is suitable for candidates wishing to pursue a future career in Beauty. The students will be expected to participate in both practical and theory lessons within Porthcawl's salon and will be expected to complete a portfolio of evidence they have carried out throughout the two years.

The course will cover the following units:

- Working in beauty related industries
- Health and safety in the salon
- Client care and communication in beauty related industries
- Provide facial skincare
- Provide manicure treatments
- Provide pedicure treatments
- Apply make-up
- Shaping and contouring eyebrows
- Provide nail art and head massage

For each module students will have to carry out a practical assessment and an online test.

## **GCSE History**

At GCSE, you will study elements of British, European and World History, from a range of historical periods. Through the study of these diverse and interesting topics, you will gain vital key skills, such as analysis, problem-solving and communication. The development of these essential skills, means that History compliments the vast majority of other subjects studied at GCSE.

Choosing History at GCSE will also provide you with numerous opportunities for further progression. For example, studying History can lead to future careers in a variety of different areas, including law, politics, journalism, broadcasting and the civil service.

History remains an extremely popular option at AS and A Level. According to Tes, in 2018 History was the most opted for GCSE subject nationally, outside of the subjects that are currently compulsory for pupils in PCS. This is also the case at PCS, where History is continually one of the most opted for subjects at GCSE.

At PCS, History is taught through a range of different methods and resources. For example, class notes will be provided, primary sources will be analysed, and documentary footage will be reviewed. In addition to this, the interactive methods of teaching used in KS3 will be continued, with a focus on pair and group work, as well as an emphasis on class discussion.

History is a very well-respected academic subject, which helps to develop essential knowledge, whilst enhancing key skills. It is a subject that allows us to learn from the mistakes of the past and provides us with a much more balanced outlook on the World.

Here is a breakdown of the topics covered as part of the GCSE course:

Unit 1 – Depression, War and Recovery, 1930-1951 – 1 hour examination (25%)

Unit 2 – The USA: A Nation of Contrasts, 1910-1929 – 1 hour examination (25%)

Unit 3 – Changes in Health and Medicine, c.1340 to the present day – 1 hour 15 minute examination (30%)

Unit 4 – Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) – The role and significance of Adolf Hitler in history (20%)

## GCSE Digital Technology (ICT)



"It's Sunday night and you've had a big weekend. You've been socialising on **Twitter**, **Facebook**, or **MySpace**. You caught up with friends to watch **YouTube** and battled it out for first place on the **your Xbox or Playstation**. Once again, you had to help your dad with **downloading music** and surprisingly even remembered to **Wikipedia** that info you need for school".



**Digital Technology is the new, updated qualification that has replaced ICT.  
Why study it?**

The qualification will allow learners to develop their understanding of the range of digital technology systems at use in our connected and globalised society. It will also allow learners to explore the ever-evolving nature of digital technology systems and how these systems can be used productively, creatively and safely

**GCSE Digital Technology is not how you use technology but how it works and the effects it has** – not just on our daily lives but in everything from commerce and communication, to politics and the music industry. The world is becoming increasingly dominated by the use of digital systems which influence every aspect of our everyday lives.

Just **THINK** - what skills are employers expecting and needing?

**Maths, English .....**

**And you are Digitally literate – and I just don't mean on consumers but actual creators of content.....?**

This is a practical, modern exam – even the exam is online!!

**It's the way of the future for all careers** – so whether you're looking at heading towards business studies, fashion, engineering, graphic or game designing, health or the environment, you will need to be able to create digital content, taking into account the impact it has.

So, whatever career path you are thinking of choosing,  
**explore ICT to help get the future you want...**

### What will you learn?

**You will learn to build on the skills you have already:**

**You will develop knowledge, skills and understanding in:**

- Social media and online marketing communications
- Creating digital assets and planning digital communications
- Analyse data and plan and produce a product of your choice to solve the problem highlighted in the data.
- Adapt some of the qualification to your interest such as gaming or multimedia

### Assessment - 3 Modules

#### **Unit 1 - Online theory exam – 40%**

looking at a digital technology and its value in society and industry

#### **Unit 2 – Digital Practices - 40%**

Practical exam done in class. You will use data to find a problem with an industry and then prepare a digital product of your choice to solve it.

#### **Unit 3 – Communicating in the digital work - 20%**

Practical exam in class to design and create a multimedia marketing campaign

**60% of the qualification is within your control**



## **Progression**

- Can you think of a career where digital content is not used or created?

These skills can be utilised and looked for within many industries, can you afford not to have this qualification?

The qualification is designed for learners who wish to begin their journey towards a career that utilises digital technologies or to progress onto advanced level programmes of learning involving digital technologies.

## GCSE Music

GCSE Music is designed to offer all pupils a creative and interesting course based on the three primary musical activities of PERFORMING, COMPOSING and APPRAISING. During the course pupils will be encouraged to develop their performing skills and will be given the opportunity to take part in a wide range of musical activities. They will also be encouraged to develop an appreciation and enjoyment of various different musical styles.

The skills acquired through the study of Music can be used as a basis for further study or for leisure time. Many of the skills sought by employers are the ones learned in Music and are easily transferable to many walks of life.

### Music:-

1. Gives a good basic education as it contains elements of Maths, Physics, History, Modern Languages, Literature, Art, Drama & Movement;
2. Trains you to follow detailed directions;
3. Trains the mind to think logically, analyse situations and solve problems;
4. Has to be clear and precise and therefore encourages accuracy;
5. Gives lots of opportunities for decision making;
6. Encourages you to be 'on time' and 'in time';
7. Helps develop reliability and loyalty to others;
8. Helps you to communicate and to work with others in a constructive way;
9. Stretches the imagination and develops confidence;
10. Encourages the use of IT skills through use of computers/music technology.

Pupils will have the opportunity to study:

- Musical Form and Devices
- Popular Music
- Film Music
- Music for Ensembles



### Performing (35%)

At the end of the course, all pupils will be required to sing/play as part of the performing element. This will be teacher assessed and externally moderated. Pupils will write a short programme note based on one of the pieces performed. The total performance time should be between 4-6 minutes, and can be made up of both solo and ensemble pieces.

### Composing (35%)

During the course, pupils will compose several pieces in class, linked to different 'Areas of Study'. Two pieces will be submitted as coursework and will be teacher assessed and externally moderated – one of which will be in response to a brief set by WJEC, the other being a 'free' composition. Pupils will write an evaluation of the composition based on the brief set by WJEC.

### Appraising (30%)

In the listening/written examination, pupils will respond to musical extracts heard on a CD e.g., recognising instruments, styles, musical characteristics etc. The examination lasts for approximately 1 hour.



## **GCSE Physical Education**

This course allows pupils to build on the experience gained in the previous Key Stages.

It is designed to:

- encourage the purposeful and enjoyable practice and study of Physical Education
- allow pupils to participate in a broad and balanced course in Physical Education
- allow pupils to select practical activities that take account of previous achievement, personal interest and individual levels of motivation
- enable pupils to acquire self-esteem, respect for themselves and others and develop a commitment to an active lifestyle
- enable the teaching of the theory elements of the course to arise from and during the practical activities

The theory aspect of the course involves a wide range of interesting topics. These include components of health and skill related fitness, methods of training, developing exercise programmes and factors affecting participation in physical activity.

It also looks at how the body responds to exercise plus sports psychology and technological developments.

### **Summary of Assessment**

Written Examination Paper (1 hour 30 minutes) – 50%

Practical Assessment (controlled) – 50%

Here the pupil is assessed in their best three practical performances.

### **Career Opportunities**

'A' Level PE, teaching, coaching, leisure management, health and fitness industry, sport, psychology & physiotherapy.

## GCSE Art Endorsed Textiles

Art Endorsed Textiles encourages an adventurous and enquiring approach to the subject. Pupils produce a personal response that embraces a range of ideas and techniques. This course follows a creative approach to the subject and will include a range of skills – construction, dying, printing, embroidery, pattern cutting, decoration techniques etc.

The GCSE Art endorsed Textiles course demands a positive attitude and a great deal of commitment from pupils. On no account should it be regarded as a soft option. We encourage pupils to be self-motivated and build on technical skills developed in Key Stage 3 Textiles, as well as creative skills developed in Key Stage 3 Art.

Is this the right subject for me? This course is suitable for students who are: keen to develop their creative skills, are enthusiastic and imaginative. Pupils will be encouraged to undertake a personal investigation to explore a range of techniques, as well as being able to make their own choices on how to progress and make improvements.

## Summary of Assessment

- Controlled Assessment 1 (Portfolio 60%) Internally set and developed from personal and/or given starting points. A coherent body of work representing 45 hours of work which must be selected and presented by the candidate for moderation.
- Controlled Assessment 2 (Sustained Focus 40%) The examination paper issued to pupils will include images (picture starters), themes (one-word starters) and tasks (An explanation that may be of guidance but which will not be compulsory)

The course leads to 'AS' and 'A2' Art Endorsed Textiles and provides excellent links into careers in fashion, designing for stage: textiles design, fashion journalism, graphic design, craft, fine art, media, film, photography, games design, architecture, retail, teaching. It also links into further and higher educational courses e.g. Art Foundation, BA (hons) Fashion, Textiles, Costume Design, Fashion Journalism.

Art Endorsed Textiles would complement Art or Product Design very well.



## **Triple Science GCSE**

In this very popular course pupils gain three separate grades at GCSE, one for each Science. These courses and the grades obtained are independent of each other and they provide an excellent basis for the further study of the Sciences. The course structure is identical for all three Sciences.

For each Science there is an external exam in the summer of year 10 and year 11. These exams are 1hr 45 minutes long and each contributes 45% of the final result. The remaining 10% consists of a practical assessment completed in lesson time during year 11.

The results in this course are excellent.

## Further Information - Contacts

After reading the information in this booklet further information is available from the class teacher in the subject or from staff listed below.

### CORE

English	Mrs A Withers
Mathematics	Miss E Pugh
Science	Dr G Wellington
Skills Challenge Certificate	Mr A Thomas
Welsh Second Language	Mrs A Lloyd
RS	Mrs L Cartwright
Core Games	Mr A Stradling

### FREE OPTIONS

Art & Design	Mr R Pettit / Mrs J Willcox
Beauty Therapy/Hairdressing	Mr M Booth
Business	Mrs S James
Computer Science	Miss H Christopher
DT – Product Design	Mr R Pettit
Digital Technology (ICT)	Miss H Christopher
Drama	Mrs K Poole
Engineering	Mr R Pettit / Mr M Evans
Food & Nutrition	Mrs H Thelwell-Davies
French	Mrs J Brown
Geography	Mrs A Mackey
German	Mrs J Brown
History	Mr E Holt
Music	Mrs R Giles
Physical Education	Mr A Stradling
Textiles	Miss T Lambert / Mrs S Carson
Triple Science	Dr G Wellington

**Careers Information:** Mrs D Silk  
School Careers Officer  
Email: [info@porthcawlschool.co.uk](mailto:info@porthcawlschool.co.uk)

For further general advice pupils can log onto the internet site [www.careerswales.com](http://www.careerswales.com)

