



DYFFRYN TAF



*Subject Options
Years 10/11*

HOW THIS HANDBOOK CAN HELP

Now that you are on the verge of entering Year 10, many decisions regarding your future have to be made. Probably one of the most difficult is that regarding what direction your career will follow. This booklet has been compiled in order to try and help you and hopefully will assist you in making the correct decisions. We suggest that you read it carefully and discuss it with your parents before you start choosing.

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January 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian

Your son/daughter has reached an important stage in his/her educational career. It is time to decide on the subjects to be studied to examination level over the next two years.

This booklet is designed to provide you with information about the various courses available. Pupils should also make enquiries with their subject teachers and other pupils in Years 10 and 11 regarding content and coursework requirements or controlled assessments. It is essential that you and your son/daughter make informed decisions to ensure the correct subject choices are made.

Every effort should be made to retain breadth and balance in every student's curriculum choice. Pupils should not specialise too early as this can restrict career and study options at a later stage. Subject choices will be scrutinised and advice offered to ensure that pupils do not follow too narrow a curriculum.

To ensure that most pupils will have the opportunity to study subjects which meet their individual interests and aspirations we have provided students with an open choice of subjects. From this information, historical data, staff availability and complimentary subjects at other schools, an option structure has been created.

*To assist the process a Parents' Meeting has been arranged for **Tuesday, 18th January 2011** to provide an opportunity to discuss subject choices with teachers at the school. The Careers Advisor has also been invited to attend this meeting and will be available for consultation if required.*

It is imperative that option choices are made on the basis of career aspirations and/or individual interest or success within a subject area. Please do not allow your son/daughter to choose a subject just because a friend has opted for it.

*After due consideration, please complete the subject choice reply slip enclosed, indicating preferences ie. One subject from each column. I would be grateful if this reply sheet could be returned to the form tutor by **Friday, 21st January 2011**.*

*I hope that you will make every effort to attend the meeting on the **18th January** and that your son/daughter's choice of subjects will assist his/her progress into the Sixth Form or continuing further education.*

Yours sincerely



Mr D R Newsome OBE
Headteacher

SUBJECT OPTIONS FOR YEAR 10

2011 –2012

Year 10 represents a real change as far as the curriculum in Dyffryn Taf is concerned. Instead of all subjects being compulsory we are able to build an element of choice into the system. The way in which we organise this is outlined below.

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

All pupils (other than those who may be disapplied) will study the following subjects:

- English (with Literature in most cases))
- Welsh (with Literature for those studying First Language))
- Mathematics) 30 of 50 periods
- Science (Double Award in most cases)) per fortnight
- Physical Education)
- Personal & Social Education/Religious Education)

Pupils will in addition choose 4 subjects from the option blocks enclosed with this publication.

Each subject will be given five one hour periods per fortnight. When filling in the appropriate form it is vital that pupils consider what they want to do very carefully as it **may be difficult** to change options at a later date.

YEARS 10 & 11

EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

You will be able to select your subjects, in the main, from two separate examination schemes, both administered by the Welsh Joint Education Committee. The first is the GCSE, the second is the Entry Level which is intended primarily for pupils for whom the GCSE is not considered appropriate and suitable.

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (GCSE)

The major features of the GCSE may be briefly summarised as follows:

- Assessment will not be based on examination alone; most subjects will also have Controlled Assessments. These are specific class based exercises that will be monitored by teachers and replaces the traditional coursework. Normally this accounts for at least 20% of the candidate's marks.
- Questions in examination papers will emphasise the skills of understanding or using information to tackle problems and not simply what can be remembered.

ATTENDANCE

The introduction of Controlled Assessments demands a high level of attendance from students to prevent losing a considerable proportion of the marks at GCSE.

VOCATIONAL COURSES

In order to broaden the options for students Vocational Qualifications, which are more specifically work-related courses, are offered in Agriculture, Hair and Beauty, Horse Care, Hospitality and Sport. In some of these subjects pupils will be transported to other locations for part of the course, where the teaching and assessment of these vocational courses will be carried out by qualified staff from other institutions. Successful completion of these courses will allow progression to a Level 3 qualification.

Level 1	Level 2
GCSE grades G – D	GCSE grades C – A*

BTEC grading system

GCSE	C grade	B grade	A/A* grade
BTEC	Pass	Merit	Distinction

ENTRY LEVEL

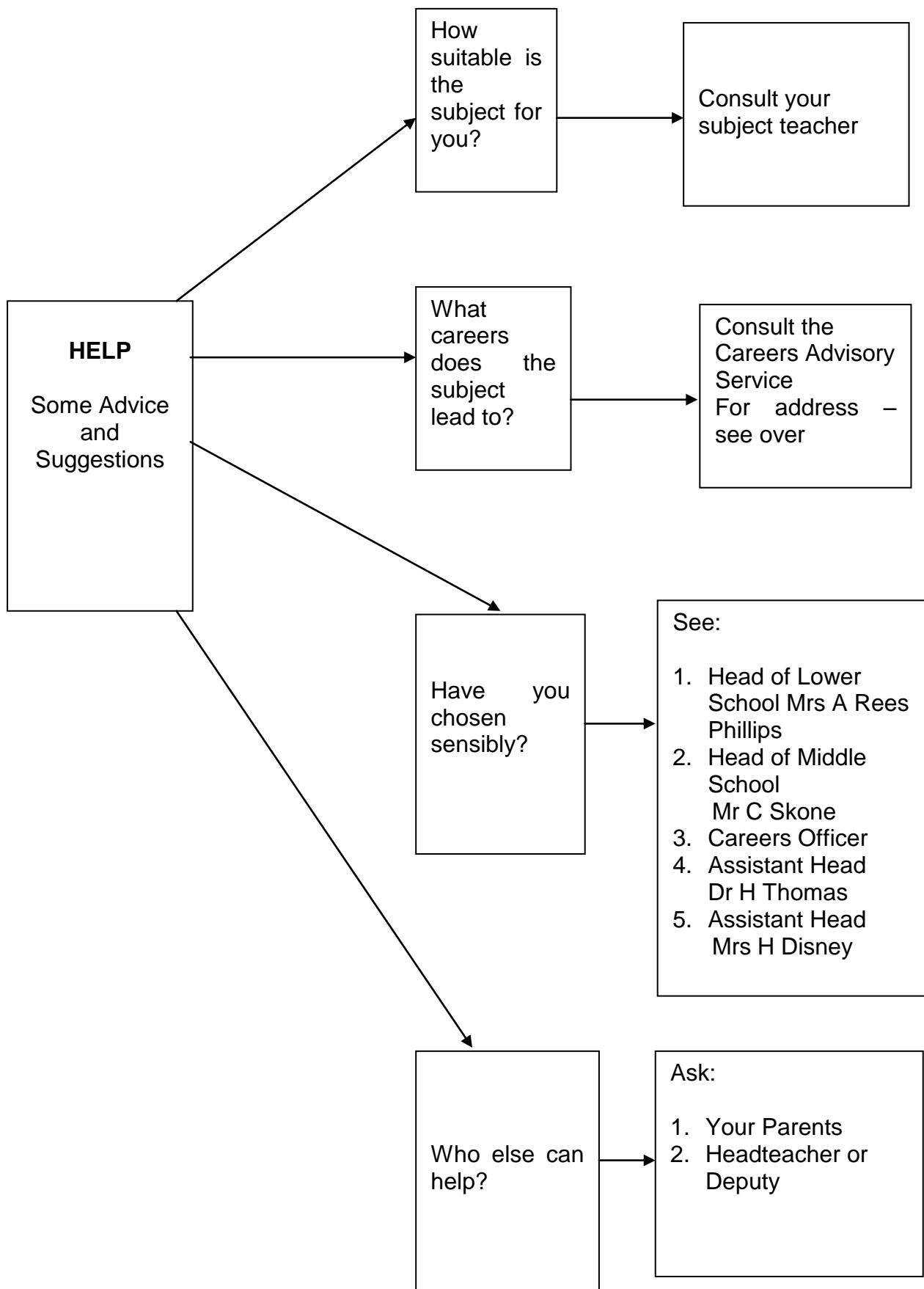
The courses are designed for candidates who are deemed not suitable for entry for the GCSE examinations. As with GCSE, assessment is based on coursework, end of module tests and examinations.

WORK EXPERIENCE

During Year 10 all pupils will be required to undertake one week's work based learning. This enables you to have further insight into various choices of employment and helps you choose for your future. It will also enable you to understand the expectations of future employers and will assist you in making the transition from school to the world of work.

PROGRESS FILE

At the end of Year 11 you will receive an **e -Progress File**, which will record details of positive achievement in all subject areas as well as in extra curricular activities, work experience and out of school activities. This should be a valuable document which you will be able, in the future, to show to employers/colleges/ universities.



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GENERAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

By law, namely *The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts*, Religious Education must be taught in schools. The aim of the General Religious Education course is to meet the requirements of the locally agreed syllabus at Key Stage 4.

Pupils seeking a qualification in the subject should opt for GCSE Religious Studies in the Humanities option block.

PSE

All pupils will take part in Personal and Social Education lessons which take place once a week with your form tutor. You will explore topics in Health Education, the Environment, Citizenship, Careers and Economic Awareness, as well as being given advice about Study Skills.

We will aim to provide you with clear information and the opportunity to discuss attitudes and values in an atmosphere where differing view points are respected and where you will be encouraged to make informed decisions.

The PSE programme is intended to help you acquire important social and coping skills that are essential in developing positive and meaningful relationships.

Health Days are an important part of the PSE programme.

ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

Examination Board : WJEC

Content of Course

The majority of pupils in Years 10 and 11 follow courses in both English and English Literature and so obtain **two** separate GCSE Certificates.

Both courses involve controlled assessments; a range of assignments, including short stories, poetry, play scripts, brochures, newspaper reports and essays on novels read in class.

Your teachers will decide if you should concentrate on the English course only, although still reading a wide range of literature.

Most employers want young people who can communicate well both in writing and speaking. English is needed for entry into Higher Education and for jobs such as journalism, teaching and for administrative posts.

Assessment

The English controlled assessments account for 40% of the final mark; the Literature folder 25%.

Your oral contributions to class and group discussions will be noted during the two years and this assessment accounts for a further 20% of your final mark for English.

You have to sit **two** examinations for English and **two** for English Literature. The English papers test comprehension and writing skills and the Literature examination tests your knowledge of two set novels, a set play and your response to unseen poetry. You will be well prepared for your examinations during the course. You are not allowed to take the Literature texts into the examination room with you.

MATHEMATICS

Examination Board : WJEC

Content of Course

The course covers all aspects of Mathematics. The pupils continue with work in four main areas and they are : (i) number work; (ii) algebra; (iii) geometry and measure and (iv) statistics. These areas can be sub-divided to enable the course to be accessible to all pupils. The method of delivery of the information is varied and incorporates the ideas of using and applying Mathematics.

Mathematics is required for most jobs and for entry into Higher Education. It is an advantage for careers in engineering, architecture, construction, nursing and medicine, teaching, science and industry.

Assessment

At present the overall structure of the course is that the work is organised into two tiers and they are assessed as follows :

Higher Tier : 2 x 2 hours (Grades A* - E)
Foundation Tier : 2 x 2 hours (Grades C - G).

The course followed is split into 3 units which are assessed by means of examination only. The three units are:

(i) Mathematics in Everyday Life	1 ¼ hours
(ii) Non-Calculator Mathematics	1 ¼ hours
(iii) Calculator-Allowed Mathematics	1 ¾ hours

Foundation : 1 ½ hours
Higher : 1 ¾ hours

For those students who do not achieve level 3 at the end of Key Stage 3 there is the opportunity to sit the Entry Level Course.

WELSH

Examination Board: WJEC

Welsh Language GCSE

Content of Course

Reading, writing, speaking and listening to the language. Learning to communicate effectively for various purposes. Viewing television programmes and films, group and class discussions, drama work, all play a vital part in the course. You will be encouraged to discuss contemporary issues and express your opinions orally and in writing, and you will also need to read widely and make good use of the school library. You will also have an opportunity to use a computer.

Assessment

- Controlled assessment **Oral** work (Group and Individual) : 30%
- Final assessment of **Reading** and **Writing** (2¼ hour exam) 40%
(Reading, Writing and Use of Language)
- Controlled assessment of **Reading** and **Writing** : 30%
(1 Reading and 2 Writing)

Two examination papers will be set for the final Reading and Writing assessment -

- **Foundation Tier** for grades C - G
- **Higher Tier** for grades A* - D

Most employers in Wales want bilingual young people who can communicate well both in writing and speaking through the medium of Welsh. Welsh is needed for careers in the Welsh media, journalism, teaching and administrative posts.

Welsh Literature GCSE

Content of Course

You will study poetry and a novel for the two questions on the written examination paper. For the oral element you will need to study literature as film (on video). For the first coursework task, theatre visits will be necessary in order to produce one task based on a play. The second coursework task involves reading short stories, therefore it is important that you read a variety of novels/selections of prose in order to prepare for this task.

Assessment

<i>Final Written Examination</i> - 2 hours	: 45%	Question 1	Poetry
		Question 2	Novel

Foundation Tier Paper for grades C - G

Higher Tier Paper for grades A* - D

<i>Final Oral Examination</i> – 20 minutes	: 30%	Film
<i>Controlled Assessment</i>	: 25%	2 tasks
		i Short Stories ii Play

Welsh (Second Language) GCSE Full Course

Content of Course

Speaking, listening, viewing, reading and writing Welsh. These are the skills we will try to develop during the course. You will have to work on your own, in a pair, in a group. You will study topics such as:

1. Myself and the family
2. Leisure time
3. Work – part time/voluntary/work experience
4. Teenage problems.

Assessment

Unit 1	Written Examination 4 questions -	1 hour 2 writing (10%) 2 reading (15%)	25%
Unit 2	Controlled Assessment Oral 20% Task 1 – Individual Presentation (10%) Task 2 – Pair/Group (10%) Writing (5%)		25%
Unit 3	Oral Examination Oral (20%) Reading (5%) Group/Pair work.	10 minutes	25%
Unit 4	Written Examination 4 questions -	2 writing (15%) 2 reading (10%)	25%

SCIENCE

Examination Board : AQA

Content of Course

How many of the following questions can you answer ?

- How does blood help fight infection ?
- What can I do if a person has stopped breathing ?
- Can we make super animals and plants ?
- What is DNA ?
- What is it like on other planets ?
- What is inside an atom ?
- What is North Sea oil and why is it so useful ?
- How do rockets work ?
- How can Physics explain many sporting activities ?
- What use are electromagnetic waves in medicine ?
- What affects the price of a metal?
- What are smart materials and where do we use them?

Over the next two years you will follow the new

GCSE SCIENCE A and
GCSE ADDITIONAL SCIENCE

All pupils will complete the two courses – this is equivalent to TWO GCSE subjects and you will obtain TWO GCSE grades at the end of the courses – 1 grade for each course. There will be two different tiers available in each GCSE:

Foundation Tier G-C and Higher Tier Grades D – A*.

Assessment

GCSE SCIENCE A

Your final grades will be determined by how well you do in the following two parts :

1 Coursework (25%)

Practical Skills Assessment and Investigate Skills Assessment (45 minute test)

It will be marked by your teachers. A sample will be sent to an external moderator.

2 Module Tests (75%)

End of module tests will be set by AQA for six modules.

Modules Biology 1a&1b, Chemistry 1a&1b and Physics 1a&1b.

Each test (12.5% each) will consist of 36 marks and will last for 30 minutes.

GCSE ADDITIONAL SCIENCE

Your final grades will be determined by how well you do in the following two parts :

1 Coursework (25%)

Practical Skills Assessment and Investigate Skills Assessment (45 minute test)

It will be marked by your teachers. A sample will be sent to an external moderator.

2 Examination Paper (75%)

There will be 3 written papers (45 minutes each), each worth 45 marks.

SCIENCE (Set 3)

Examination Board: Edexcel

Content of the Course

Do you want to learn:

- ◆ what causes genetic disease like cystic fibrosis and how these diseases can be passed on to your children?
- ◆ how drugs, vaccines and diseases can affect human health?
- ◆ how the giraffe got its long neck and other interesting evolutionary examples?
- ◆ how to use chemicals safely?
- ◆ how industrial reactions are controlled?
- ◆ about the environmental impact of industrial processes?
- ◆ how we use and power the gadgets in our everyday lives?
- ◆ how our world has been revolutionised by communication?
- ◆ how we are able to learn about our universe?

Over the next two years will follow a Level 2 BTEC Firsts (Extended) which is the equivalent of two GCSE grades.

Assessment

There are no examinations.

The assessment is continuous and students must build up a portfolio with evidence that they have completed the Tasks set for them.

The portfolio will need to be kept up to date throughout the course.

As with all courses, good attendance is vital.

GEOGRAPHY

Examination Board : WJEC

Content of Course

If you have enjoyed studying Geography so far, you will enjoy it in Years 10 and 11. We follow the WJEC course, which looks at a wide range of issues relevant to the modern world :

- ◆ Can we control floods?
- ◆ Why do people live near volcanoes and earthquakes?
- ◆ How do tsunamis happen?
- ◆ How will HIV affect population in sub-saharan Africa?
- ◆ Can we reduce global poverty?
- ◆ How might sea level rise affect Bangladesh and the UK?
- ◆ How can eating chicken lead to the deforestation of the rainforest?
- ◆ What are the Millennium Development goals (MDGs)?

Classwork, map work, field trips to the Pembrokeshire coast amongst others all help to cover these and other topics.

If you are interested in what is going on in the world, then Geography will help you to make sense of it all!

The subject is a useful one if you are interested in careers in planning, the environment, tourism and leisure, transport, agriculture, forestry etc. It is a good subject for broadening your knowledge of the world and its people and therefore useful for journalism, management and many other careers.

Assessment

Two examinations at the end count for 75% of your GCSE mark. You sit the 'Foundation Tier' or 'Higher Tier' paper. The other 25% is based on two controlled assessment tasks, one of which will be based on fieldwork, the other a decision making exercise.

HISTORY

Examination Board : WJEC

Content of Course

Modern History Syllabus

We have chosen a new 20th century History course for pupils to follow in which we study a range of interesting topics: a mix of local, national and international History. We want to develop not just knowledge, but also useful skills for any future career.

These skills include :

<i>Writing</i>	-	How to present an argument
	-	How to analyse the importance of different factors
	-	How to summarise
<i>Interpretation</i>	-	Understanding different points of view
<i>IT</i>	-	Using CD Roms, Word Processors and the Internet
<i>Research</i>	-	Learning to find out answers independently

The topics we study include :

- Changes in 20th Century Britain
- Nazi Germany
- USA History 1930 - 2000

These skills are particularly useful for those considering a career in Law or Administration or Management. Most History graduates follow careers in these areas together with Finance.

Assessment

The GCSE Examination : This examination consists of two written papers. The first will test the topics on Britain and Nazi Germany. The second paper will test USA History 1930-2000. Both papers will have a mixture of knowledge and some questions. The controlled assessment consists of exercises, set as classwork. They account for 25% of the total marks.

FRENCH

Examination Board : WJEC

Content of Course

The language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in French which you gained at KS3 will be further developed at GCSE level. You will be able to understand and use the language effectively in your studies, work and leisure, which we hope will provide you with enjoyment, intellectual stimulation, a sense of achievement and offer you an insight into cultures and civilisations other than your own.

Learners should:

- Develop understanding and knowledge of the Language and Language Learning Skills;
- Develop the ability to communicate.

You will also have the opportunity to visit France and have a French student to stay as your guest as part of the department's Exchange Programme. You may also be able to work with a Foreign Language Assistant. This should help you to develop awareness and understanding of France.

A qualification in a Foreign Language is increasingly seen as essential for a variety of careers. Traditionally people think of teaching and translating as the only jobs available within languages, but recent research shows that language graduates have a distinct advantage in that they gain in confidence and maturity and have better communication and interpersonal skills.

Assessment

The weighting is as follows:

20% listening, 30% speaking, 20% reading and 30% writing.

Examination: Listening, Speaking and Reading will be assessed in the end of course examinations. Coursework will be submitted to assess writing (30%).

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Examination Board: WJEC

Content of Course

GCSE Religious Studies is a new and exciting course which offers a broad study of religion. During the two year course, two options are studied:

1. Christianity
2. Christian Philosophy and Ethics

Pupils will explore a range of religious, personal, social, ethical, moral and philosophical issues and the varying attitudes of Christianity to them eg. The life of Jesus, What it means to be a Christian? Pilgrimage, the Existence of God, Evil in the World, War and Conflict, Pacifism, Capital Punishment, Child Labour, Sustainable development, Euthanasia and Abortion.

A course in Religious Studies is a valuable preparation for any job where an understanding of people is required. The ability to examine every day moral issues, evaluate them, then use powers of self expression, is bound to be an asset in occupations where communication with the public is essential.

Assessment

Pupils will be required to demonstrate their ability to:

- Describe, explain and analyse, using knowledge and understanding
- Use evidence and reasoned argument to express and evaluate personal responses, informed insights and differing viewpoints.

Pupils are assessed by Two Written papers of 1 hour 45mins.
There is no coursework.

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

Examination Board : AQA

Content of Course

The main emphasis for the GCSE Drama course is on the practical work. Students will be required to work with others to devise, create and perform theatre for an audience and will evaluate their own work and that of the group. They will also be encouraged to be creative, to reflect on the world around them and to develop a passion for theatre as a vehicle for expressing their opinions and to promote social change. They will develop an interest in a range of drama and will be given opportunities to visit the theatre and to see the skills and theories explored in lessons being used in the real world. Throughout the course they will develop imaginative, creative communication, thinking and social skills.

Students opting for Drama must have a genuine interest in the performing arts and enjoy the subject as they will be required to attend rehearsals during their free time to rehearse and develop their creative ideas. Written tasks linked to the practical work are also set on a regular basis.

Assessment

- Pupils are required to do two practical examinations where they can choose either acting or lighting and sound as their performance skill. The first practical exam is a piece of theatre devised by the pupils and the second exam is a performance of a published play.
- A written examination is sat at the end of the two year course where pupils are required to discuss a set text or review a live theatre performance.

Drama is an enjoyable, creative and rewarding course which helps to develop friendships, confidence, communication and leadership skills.

Give it a go! - "*All the World's a Stage!*".

ART AND DESIGN

Examination Board: WJEC

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Content of Course

The course is exciting and challenging. The work undertaken for GCSE does rely heavily on drawing; therefore pupils will need to ensure they practice their drawing skills on a regular basis to develop their skills. Their drawings are then developed into a wide range of ideas and media, including paint, print, collage, sculpture, ceramics and weaving etc. The work that pupils produce throughout their GCSE will include research and it must include written and visual links to the work of others, including Artists, Craft workers and Designers.

Assessment

The course now consists of ONE unit of coursework. This unit will be presented as a portfolio and is worth 60% of their final mark. Pupils will select work themselves for their portfolio. Within their portfolio pupils will need to show an understanding of the topics/subject chosen, thorough research which includes the work of others and demonstrates skills in a wide range of media, both 2D and 3D.

Unit Outline

As part of the GCSE course pupils will need to develop a wide range of skills. At the end of the coursework, pupils will need to select work from their unit to use in the portfolio. A portfolio is a folder of work that best shows a unit of work. Sketchbooks should be included in this folio as well as a good range of studies demonstrating skills with materials and ideas for outcomes. 3D work can also be included as preparation studies for a final outcome. The portfolio will be submitted for their GCSE in Art at the end of the course. Work not selected for their portfolio must be kept safe as the examiner may also wish to see this work. For the first 4-6 weeks of their GCSE course, pupils will work on a skills based mini project. This will enable them to develop their confidence with a range of materials and processes, as well as their direct observational drawing skills ready for their chosen theme.

Themes:

Pupils will be given 7 themes. They will need to choose either ONE theme only. This will be their unit for the rest of the course, so it is vital that they think carefully about which ONE they choose. They will need to produce research for this unit and use a wide range of materials. They should ensure that the work of others is clearly seen in their work, both visually and through notes and cover all of the exam criteria.

Choose ONE from the list of Themes below:

Multiculturalism; Emotions; Seasons; Close up; Conflict; Landscape/Environment and Fragments.

External Examination

This is worth 40% of the final marks and the questions are set by the Exam Board. Pupils are given approximately 6 weeks preparation time and then they will have a 10 hour examination, to produce a final outcome based on their preparation work.

Careers

There are many careers which involve and stem from the study of Art. These range from Fine Artists to Designers, e.g. Graphic Designers, Fashion Designers etc, Art Therapy, Costume Design and many others.

MUSIC

Examination Board : WJEC

Content of Course

Music at GCSE falls into three main categories and requires a degree of practical ability. You will receive tuition on one of a selection of instruments and you will be expected to practise regularly and take part in practical musical activities within the school.

Throughout the course you will be expected to compose a variety of work. You will be expected to produce a composition folio containing 2 pieces lasting approximately 4 minutes.

You will study a range of music from the following areas:

- Stage and Screen Music
- Musical Forms and Devices
- Welsh Music
- Music Evolution

The following opportunities could be available to you if you choose Music GCSE: Sound Technician, Teacher (Primary or Secondary), Professional Musician, Music Therapist, and the Armed Forces.

Assessment

Assessment of your performing skills takes place in the form of a performance examination usually in March of the final year of the course. You will be expected to perform a solo piece and to work as part of an ensemble. The practical element of the course is worth 30%.

Your composition folio is assessed by your music teacher and moderated by an external moderator. This element is worth 30%.

You will also be examined in your listening skills by a 1½ hour paper at the end of the course. This element is worth 40% of the total mark.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Examination Board : WJEC

Content of Course

Practical : There are 4 practical areas which include many different practical options.

Examples are:

- 1 3 individual sporting activities e.g. a maximum of 3 games or three gymnastics activities.
- 2 A maximum of three activities can be chosen from either dance or adventurous activities (outdoor pursuits).
- 3 One (only) can be an exercise activity.
- 4 Only 2 options can be supervised off site ie. not taking place in school.

Students can also choose to be assessed as a leader or official in one activity.

Theory : This includes health, fitness, fitness training and testing, nutrition, Human Biology, the effects of exercise on the body system. The social concept of sport, Psychology, skill acquisition and muscle/skeletal anatomy are new elements to the syllabus.

Once you have successfully completed the GCSE PE course there is the option of following an A/AS level PE course in school. Qualifications in this subject can lead to careers in Leisure, Sports Science and Sports Medicine.

Assessment

60% of the marks are Practical based (15% each practical option which is marked by the teacher/coach and moderated by a WJEC examiner).

40% of the marks are on a two part written paper.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Examination Board : WJEC

Content of Course

A course in Design and Technology offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for candidates to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems in a wide range of contexts relating to their personal interests. Design and Technology develops candidates' interdisciplinary skills, all six Key Skills and their capacity for imaginative, innovative thinking, creativity and independence.

The specification is based upon the view that design and technology is essentially a practical activity involving the combination of skills with knowledge and understanding in order to design and make quality products. It is intended to develop candidates' design and technological capability through a flexible and broad-based approach. You can opt for one focus area only.

Focus Areas Offered

- ◆ **Food Technology**
- ◆ **Resistant Materials Technology**
- ◆ **Textiles Technology**
- ◆ **Systems and Control Technology**

Candidates should have the opportunity to analyse and evaluate situations, design and make products and then appraise their performance. They should be provided with the opportunity to work with a range of materials and ICT.

Assessment

Written paper 40% (2 hours)

Section A

This section consists of four questions which address the Key Stage 4 Programme of Study. The questions are designed to be accessible to candidates from four focus areas and cover the topics of product analysis, recycling issues, design process and designers.

Section B

This will consist of four separate papers with questions in each paper relating to one of the four focus areas. Candidates answer only one of these papers. Each has a consistent format of four questions, all based on the chosen focus area covering topics such as materials, designing processes and CAD/CAM with use of ICT.

Controlled Assessment Task 60% (30 guided hours)

This involves **one** integrated design and make project, of approximately thirty hours' duration, based on one of the four focus areas. This is carried out in Year 11.

HOME ECONOMICS - CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Examination Board : WJEC

Content of Course

The syllabus is designed to enable pupils to acquire appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding of the development and care of children from conception to the age of five years. Pupils will gain an understanding of the social, emotional, physical and intellectual development of the child which is interlinked through the study of the family, community and responsibilities of parenthood.

The specification content is divided into six compulsory core areas of study which must be inter-related whenever possible. The following content should be taught in the context of the assessment objectives.

1. Family and child
2. Food and Health
3. Pregnancy
4. Physical Development
5. Intellectual Development
6. Social and Emotional Development

The subject provides a suitable basis for further study at 16+ offering progression on to academic and vocational courses including GNVQ Health & Social Care. This course is very relevant for anyone who is thinking of a career involving children e.g. Nanny, Childminding, Nursing and Teaching.

Assessment

Assessment for GCSE Child Development (Home Economics) is un-tiered, ie all components cater for the full range of ability and allow access to grades A-G*.

The scheme of assessment will consist of:

Unit 1 Written paper (1 ½ hours 40%)

An un-tiered paper which will be externally set and marked at the end of the course.

Candidates will be required to respond to short-answer, structured and free response questions, drawn from all areas of the specification. Some questions will require extended writing and will assess the quality of written communication. The examination paper will be presented in the form of a question and answer booklet.

Controlled Assessment (30 hours 60%)

Unit 2 (Child study) (30%) One task to be selected from a bank of **three** tasks set by WJEC. Internally assessed using WJEC set criteria and externally moderated.
Duration: 15 supervised hours to commence in the first half of the course.
(Year 10)

Unit 3 (Child Focused Task) (30%) **One** task to be selected from a choice of **two** tasks set by WJEC.
Internally assessed using WJEC set criteria and externally moderated.
Duration: 15 hours to commence in the second half of the course. (Year 11)

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Examination Board: Edexcel

Content of Course

DiDA - a 21st century course designed to equip pupils with the skills and knowledge needed for future employment in the Information Age.

Students are taught for five lessons a fortnight.

The **Diploma in Digital Applications** is an applied course and consists of up to four modules, each of which is equivalent to one GCSE.

Students can complete:

- ONE module (AiDA);
- TWO modules (CiDA);
- THREE modules (CiDA+)
- FOUR modules (DiDA).

The five available modules are:

D201 - Using ICT (Compulsory); - How do we manage all the information we receive? How do we judge if it's useful? How can we present it clearly and effectively.

D202 – Multimedia; - You'll learn how to collect your own multimedia products; music, images, photographs, video and then manage the process of putting them together to create something new.

D203 – Graphics; - In this unit, you'll look at the ways in which graphics are used and create your own original designs. You'll investigate the range of graphic 'products' on websites, photographs, magazines and others, and learn how to capture material to use in your own work.

D204 - ICT in Enterprise; - In this unit you'll learn ways of identifying potential opportunities, financial planning, market research and creating a visual identity for an enterprise.

D205 – Digital Game Authoring; - In this unit you are required to design and produce a game for your friends to play. This gives you plenty of scope to use your imagination!

The key features of the DiDA course:

- Is fun;
- It is practical, you learn by carrying out a series of tasks to develop skills and knowledge;
- It promotes creative use of digital applications;
- It will include learning how to create professional looking web sites, create animations, edit videos and sound files;
- It has a flexible structure;
- It has no exams, you create a portfolio of work, presented as a web site;

The DiDA qualifications have been designed:

- To develop your ability to select and use digital applications appropriately and produce high quality outcomes;
- To enhance creativity and communication;
- To equip you with skills that you will need in the workplace or in further education or training;
- To develop project management skills;
- To free your work from paper, making it organised, searchable, dynamic and transportable;
- To encourage you to reflect critically on your own and others' use of digital applications;

Assessment

Students can be successful at four levels; Pass (Grade C), Credit (B), Merit (Grade A) and Distinction (Grade A*). Success in the modules also gives students a pass at either Level 1 or Level 2 of the ICT Key Skill. This means they will have less work to do in Year 12 or if they go to College.

It is hoped that ALL students will complete module D201 in year 10 and Module D202 in Year 11 giving everyone TWO GCSEs. Those who wish to complete THREE or FOUR modules, therefore getting THREE or FOUR GCSEs, will be encouraged to do so.

APPLIED BUSINESS

Examination Board: Edexcel

Content of Course

Applied Business is not about reading how big businesses are managed.

Applied Business is a course that helps you to learn how to set up and manage your own successful business.

Anyone can start his or her own business but staying in business is hard work. It requires a good understanding of the keys to success and the potential pitfalls.

So, what are the keys to success?

- Spotting opportunities
- Knowing what you want to achieve
- Showing Enterprise skills
- Focussing on customer needs
- Getting the right employees
- Getting finance & managing cash
- Know what external pressures there are

How do you learn about these things?

You will take part in practical activities:

- Run and manage your own business enterprise as part of a group
- Take part in role plays, eg recruiting a new member of staff
- Writing a business plan

You will also use traditional learning materials:

- Textbooks
- Case studies
- News articles

You will undertake individual work and have the opportunity to work in groups.

Assessment

60% of the assessment is through a controlled assignment. You must research a local business and a national business and then produce a comparative report.

40% of the assessment is through an examination that tests your understanding of financial documents and management.

ECONOMICS

Examination Board: OCR

Content of Course

Economics is the study of how we make decisions both as individuals and as a society.

If you enjoy thinking logically then GCSE Economics is for you. You will learn how economic decision making is modelled and how you can use models to interpret what happens in the 'real world'.

Have you wondered what the 'Credit Crunch' is and why it is happening? Why is the Bank of England cutting interest rates?

Why does Unemployment rise and fall? Does it matter? What can be done by the government to help the unemployed back into work? Can tax & spending policies make a difference?

There is a lot of concern about the power of supermarkets. Are they competitive? Why is competition important?

What is Globalisation? Why is the UK in the EU? But, why do we not use the Euro? Why do some countries not benefit from trade? Why is there poverty in some part's of the World?

If you are interested in understanding these issues then GCSE Economics will help you to make up your own mind as to what is important and how to deal with economic problems.

How will you learn?

You will use examples taken from current news, as well as case studies. You will analyse statistical data and interpret graphical information. You will be working individually and in groups. You will make presentations and learn from the presentations of other members of the class. Throughout the course you will be expected to think!

Assessment

50% of the assessment for GCSE Economics takes place in Year 10 with examinations of Microeconomics and Macroeconomics.

50% of the assessment takes place at the end of Year 11 with an examination in Applied Economics.

ASDAN AWARD SCHEME

Examination Board : ASDAN

The broad aim of the ASDAN Award Scheme is to offer an activity based curriculum for those of all abilities, together with a framework for assessment which facilitates the development, demonstration and accreditation of personal and social skills within a variety of contexts.

The emphasis is on co-operation, rather than on competition, on negotiation between students and teachers and on rewarding achievement.

The scheme offers a progressive series of awards:

- Bronze
- Silver
- Cope level 1 (25 points > E Grade at GCSE)

All students will be able to achieve the Bronze and Silver awards with some going on to follow Cope Level 1 and Cope Level 2.

Opportunities are available for meeting Key Skills and provide evidence of:

- Improving Own Learning
- Working with others
- Problem Solving
- Communication
- IT
- Appreciation of number

Assessment

Each award is divided into a number of modules containing a choice of challenges. Each module or section of challenges, is given a credit rating based on the national amount of time required on average for a learner to complete the challenges and achieve the defined outcomes at the specified level.

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN HOSPITALITY

Examination Board: Edexcel

Content of Course

The course is designed to offer an opportunity for candidates to explore different aspects of the industry. It consists of two core unit plus two specialist units.

The Units

Unit 1 Core – Investigate the Catering and Hospitality Industry. This is an interesting unit looking at all aspects of the industry from Hotels, to B & B's, restaurants and pubs. It allows candidates to gain insight into how these businesses are run and what is the job potential within each sector.

Unit 2 Core – Products, Services and Support in the Hospitality Industry. This unit looks at what different aspects of the industry provide – such as accommodation, food and drink.

Unit 7 Specialist Unit – Applying Workplace Skills. This unit deals with practical culinary skills, as well as their knowledge and understanding of a range of food preparation and cooking methods and the use of a range of different food items. It also looks at the process of how businesses purchase goods and how documents are used to control stock etc.

Unit 8 Specialist Unit – Prepare, Cook and Finish Food. This unit develops candidates' knowledge, skills and understanding of serving food and drink. It should encourage learners' enjoyment and enthusiasm for serving food and drink in a variety of hospitality businesses. This includes how to prepare the service area and lay up tables, including selecting the correct service equipment.

Assessment

Assessment of the qualification is ongoing over the two year course with candidates completing assignments and tasks to a given set of criteria. There is a range of evidence available for candidates to produce in order to pass the unit or achieve the higher grades. These allow pupils to achieve a Pass, Merit and Distinction grade on their completion. There is no examination at the end of the two years.

The qualification is equivalent to 2 GCSE's.

BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN AGRICULTURE

Examination Board: Edexcel

Content of Course

Successful completion of the course will allow progression to employment on farms or/and to a Level 3 qualification such as a National Diploma/Award in Agriculture or Level 3 Diploma in Work Based Learning.

The BTEC Extended Certificate in Agriculture requires you to study 3 units. The units that are most relevant and provide a wide range of experience are:-

Land Based Machinery Operations. This is an essential unit for learners who are considering a practical career in the land-based sector, where the use of tractors or other self-propelled land-based machine will be required.

Practical Land Based Skills. The ability to undertake simple maintenance tasks is an essential skill for any person working in the land-based sector. This is a 'hand-on' unit that develops practical skills and knowledge.

Farm Animal Production. The primary objective of agriculture is to produce food for human consumption. This unit is relevant to anyone seeking to work with farm animals. It introduces learners to the products, production methods and the health and welfare requirements of farm animals.

Assessment

Assessments for this qualification will be graded as Referral, Pass, Merit, Distinction and these grades will determine the overall grade for the qualification at the end of the course.

Evidence will be gathered in a Portfolio and will come from some of the assignments, practical tests and observations at school and observations at your placement farm plus witness testimonies from your supervisor.

This course is run in partnership with Coleg Sir Gar. A tutor from the College delivers the theoretical aspects at Dyffryn Taf and the practical elements at farms in the Whitland area.

BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN SPORT

Examination Board: Edexcel

Content of Course

The BTEC Extended Certificate in Sport Level 2 offers a specialist qualification that focuses on aspects of employment within the sport and active leisure sector.

Learning is designated to be experimental so that concepts are developed and applied in a practical sport context student will extend their skills in a range of team and individual sport activities.

The course covers the following:-

Year 10

- Practical Sport
- Fitness Testing

Year 11

Selection from:

- Diet and Nutrition
- Body in Sport
- Sports Injuries
- Training for Sport

Assessment

All work is internally assessed and will be awarded a pass, merit or distinction according to the achievement of the specified learning outcome.

BTEC L2 EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN HORSE CARE

Examination Board: BTEC

Content of Course

If you are interested in horses and the Equine Industry this offers the opportunity to obtain a good foundation on caring for horses, which could lead to furthering your education in the equestrian world. This course promises to be an interesting and challenging one.

Units of Study

The three modules being offered on the course are:

1. Introduction to Horse Care - of which the learning outcomes are:
 - a) Being able to undertake routine stable management duties safely
 - b) Knowing signs of health in horses
 - c) Being able to identify, select, use and maintain horse clothing and saddlery
 - d) Understanding the basic principles of feeding horses
2. Horse Preparation and Presentation – of which the learning outcomes are:
 - a) Being able to prepare a mane and tail
 - b) Being able to undertake appropriate show preparation
 - c) Understanding clipping and trimming
 - d) Being able to plan for a competition day
3. Riding Horses – of which the learning outcomes are:
 - a) Being able to correctly mount and dismount a horse
 - b) Being able to ride a horse safely at walk, trot and canter on the flat
 - c) Being able to carry out single jumps
 - d) Understanding how to ride a horse safely on roads

Assessment

Continual assessment will be made throughout the modules.

At the end of each year a show will be held during which time the skills learnt can be put into practice!

This course is run in partnership with Marros Riding Centre.

LEVEL 1 CERTIFICATE IN INTRODUCTION TO THE HAIR AND BEAUTY SECTOR

Examination board: City & Guilds

Content of Course

Designed to build on your interest and passion for the hair and beauty industry, an Introduction to the Hair and Beauty Sector provides you with an ideal, practical introduction to prepare you for further learning or training.

You can take a short qualification specialising in a particular area like hair plaiting, make-up or nail art. Or you can go into more depth and develop your skills in a whole range of hair and beauty therapy techniques

Units of study

Depending on which qualification you choose, you'll cover areas like:

- hand care, skin care, nail art and shampooing
- make up application and face painting
- women's hair styling
- using colour to create an image.

Assessment

For these qualifications you will complete practical demonstrations and assignments

Grading & Marking

Detailed marking and grading criteria are provided in the Marking and Grading Criteria section of each assignment.

Assignments are externally set and internally marked and graded.