

Year 9

Options Booklet

For KS4

CCYD aspires to empower our community to be collaborative, resilient and reflective individuals who have the self-confidence to embrace challenge.



Foreword / Information



Dear Year 9,

You are now at the stage where you will need to start making some choices about which subjects you would like to study in year 10 and 11.

There are some subjects which are compulsory such as Maths, English, Science, PE, Welsh and Welsh Baccalaureate. In addition to these subjects you will also choose subjects that you would like to study as options.

Between November and April I will guide you through the process and help you to make the right decision for you! If you have any questions along the way just ask!

You will already have made your 'free choice' selection based on a list of 25 possible subjects. Your teachers will be speaking to you in January and February about the subjects through assembly talks and option evening. Also during your subject lessons, I would encourage you to ask questions about the GCSE courses, gather as much information as you can, ask to see some work and make sure that you are clear about what is involved in that subject.

We believe that it is crucial that you are able to make an informed decision and our careers advisor is on hand to offer you advice and support whenever you need it during year 9. This booklet gives information about the courses we offer at CCYD.

Choosing your subjects

We have a 'free choice' survey in November which gives us an indication of pupil preferences for courses. This then allows us to plan staffing and timetables and also to put the best combination of courses together in the options columns. We endeavor every year to try to build our option blocks into the best combination to suit all but it is not always possible to be able to meet the needs of every pupil. If this is the case, we will always chat to you about other possible options that may suit you so that you know what is available to you.

Remember the school is here to support you so if you need any help with your decision making please just ask!

Mrs Justine James – Assistant Headteacher Curriculum

Contacts

Here are some contact details for staff who can assist with your decision making this year:

Justine.james@ccyd.org.uk
Tracey.wellington@ccyd.org.uk
Sarah.philpin@ccyd.org.uk
[Contact Careers Wales Website](#)

Assistant Head teacher – Curriculum
Headteacher
Pastoral Leader for Year 9
www.careerswales.gov.wales

Please also speak to your Tutor who can also support you in your decision making.

Timetable / Year 10 & 11



What will my timetable look like in Year 10 and 11?

This booklet will help you to decide which subjects are suitable for you.

Don't forget to come to our options evening in February to discuss the options with your teachers.

We will also have a number of assemblies in January where your teachers will present to you the subjects and what is involved in each one.

You can get plenty of advice and support from your teachers and from Rebecca Edmunds our careers advisor who is based in the Pastoral office.

Compulsory subjects (I have to do these):

Maths

English

Science

PE

Skills Challenge

Health & Wellbeing

Welsh / Workskills

* You will either study full course GCSE Welsh or Welsh language communication alongside Workskills (Workskills is worth a B grade).

Choices (These are subjects I will choose to take):

3 option courses

Remember the Do's and Don'ts of choosing your subjects!

The Do's

Get as much advice as you can, if unsure, ask!

Choose subjects you like and are good at.

Talk to your parents about your choices.

Think about your future and how the subjects you choose might help.

The Don'ts

Follow your friends choices, you may not even be in the same class!

Choose a subject because you think it will be easy.

Choose based on liking or disliking the teacher

Option Choices / Information



Skills Challenge (Welsh Baccalaureate) - Compulsory

Art & Design - GCSE

Business Studies - GCSE

Computer Science - GCSE

Digital Technology - GCSE

Electronics - GCSE

Engineering - BTEC

Food & Nutrition - GCSE

French (MFL)- GCSE

Geography - GCSE

Health & Social Care, and Childcare - GCSE

Hospitality & Catering - BTEC

History - GCSE

Music - GCSE

Music - BTEC

Media Studies - GCSE

PE - GCSE

Performing Arts (DRAMA) - Level 2

Photography - GCSE

Product Design (D&T) - GCSE

Psychology - GCSE

Level 2 in Public Services

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics - GCSE

Sports – BTEC

Triple Science GCSE (Physics, Chemistry, Biology)

GCSEs and BTEC Explained



GCSE

GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education.

- These are highly valued by schools, colleges and employers.
- The qualification mainly involves studying the theory of the subjects, together with some investigative work, art work or projects depending on the subject.
- GCSEs are level 1 or 2 courses (depending on the grade achieved) and are available in a wide range of academic and applied subjects.
- These are graded from A* - G and examined at the end of year 11.
- They are the most common and well known of qualifications.
- GCSE grades are used as an entry qualification for jobs, training and course

BTEC

BTEC stands for Business and Technology Education Council

- BTECs are vocational qualifications. This means they are available in subjects linked to an area of work. They are available for students who find learning difficult through to highly skilled professional workers.
- BTECs take a practical approach to learning whilst covering the theory aspects of the subject.
- BTECs have less of an examination content and pupils demonstrate their skills and knowledge through projects and assignments.
- BTEC qualifications are available in different levels ranging from BTEC Introductory Diplomas and Certificates to BTEC Advanced Diplomas, Certificates and Awards.
- The level studied in Year 10 & 11 is level 2

We recommend that you carefully consider the best combination for your ability level and particular strengths.

Our advice is:

- MAT learners in SET 1 choose either 3 GCSE's or 2 GCSE's plus 1 BTEC
- All other learners will be given the opportunity to choose from a range of GCSE'S and BTEC's
- SET 9 will study our Vocational Studies courses at level 1

****ALL pupils will study GCSEs' in English Language and Literature, Maths, Numeracy, Welsh, Science and the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification in addition to these courses.***

Junior Apprenticeship : Bridgend College - Selected pupils will study a Full time vocational based course at the College during year 10 & 11 but will remain on roll at CCYD.

Pupils will be identified by each Head of College and follow an admissions process with the College.

Subject Choices



Subject / Skills Challenge (Welsh Baccalaureate)

This qualification is compulsory and is studied alongside GCSE and Vocational qualifications.

It allows pupils to develop a range of personal and employability skills to add to their qualifications.

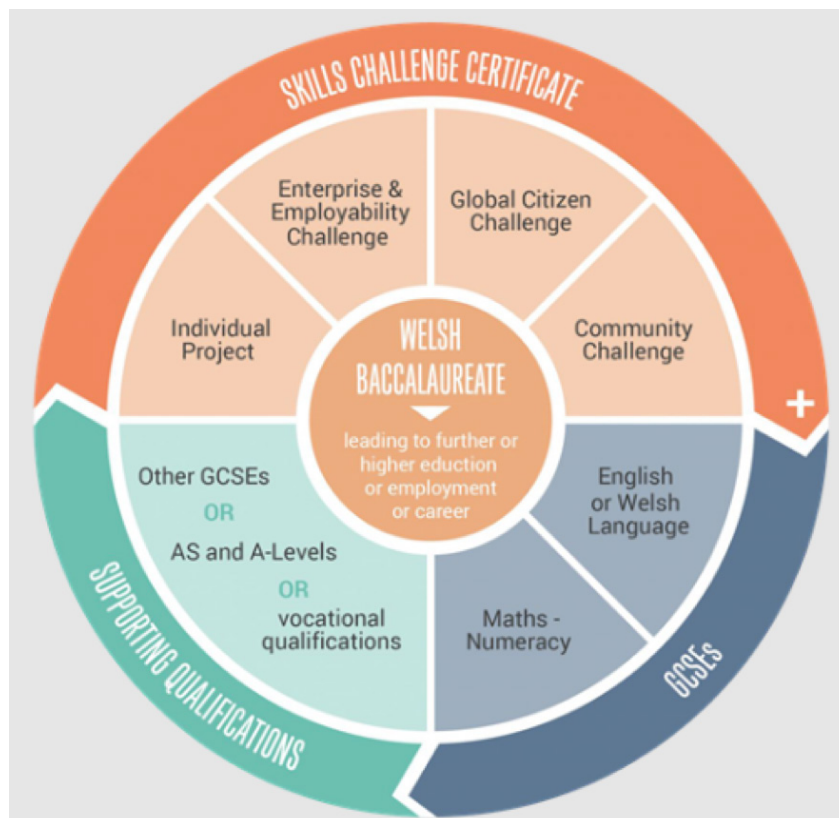
The aim is to:

- Make them better equipped for the world of work
- Develop a range of skills eg critical thinking, problem solving and creativity
- Develop active and informed citizens of the world

There are 3 main challenges that make up the Skills Challenge Certificate:

- Community Challenge
- Global Citizenship Challenge
- Enterprise and Employability Challenge

In addition to this they will also undertake an Individual Project. This is a 2000 word research project which is worth 50% of the overall grade. Pupils will choose a topic of their choice to research in depth.



Welsh Baccalaureate

Subject Choices



Subject / **Art & Design**

Qualification / Level - **GCSE**

Course Description

G.C.S.E. Art & Design is a broad course which aims to develop your skills such as drawing and painting, printmaking, ceramics, digital photography, 3D design and textiles through a succession of workshops. Students work to set themes. However, you are encouraged to develop your work individually. Sketchbooks and design boards are an important aspect of the course. Tuition will be given in presentation and layout.

You will also study a range of artists, designers and craft workers in order to inform and inspire your creativity. This subject will require a great deal of self motivation and dedication due to the large amount of coursework involved.

Assessment

Coursework	%	Assessment
1 Unit	60%	Internally marked, Externally moderated.
Examination	40%	Internally marked, Externally moderated.

The examination includes a six week preparatory period followed by a 10 hour period to produce your final piece.

Career Opportunities

Advertising, Computer Graphics, Film and Video, Graphic Designer, Fashion Design, Costume Design, Art Therapy, Art Teacher, Web Design, Jewellery Design, Ceramicist, Architect, Textile Designer and Media Development.

Art & Design

Subject Choices



Subject / **Business Studies**

Qualification / Level - **GCSE**

Course Description

Modules that are covered include:

Marketing – How and why businesses research customer opinions. The importance of having the right product, price, method of promotion and place.

People in Business – How businesses recruit, train and motivate their staff.

Finance – What sources of finance are available to businesses? The construction of financial statements.

Production – How products are made. The importance of quality and stock control. We use computer software, the internet, practical exercises and business programmes throughout the course.

Assessment

There is no coursework in this subject. Instead there will be two externally marked exams as follows:

Unit 1 - The Business World - 2 hours and worth 62.5% of the qualification.

Unit 2 - Business Perceptions - 1 hour 30 minutes and worth 37.5% of the qualification.

Career Opportunities

Business knowledge is useful for all occupations. Career possibilities include accountancy, purchasing, human resources and management.

Subject Choices



Subject / **Computer Science**

Qualification / Level - **GCSE**

Course Description

This exciting course will provide students with a stimulating and motivating study of computer science fit for the 21st century.

The course offers students the opportunity to gain an understanding of the way computers work, and to create and review computer programs for real-life purposes based on their own interests. It encourages them to create their own games, applications and other systems, rather than simply use those designed by others.

The depth of coverage means that it provides a solid foundation for either the study of A level Computer Science or employment.

Assessment

Module	Percentage	Assessment
Unit 1: Understanding Computer Science	50%	Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes
Unit 2: Computational Thinking and Programming	30%	On-screen examination: 2 hours
Unit 3: Software Development	20%	Non-exam assessment: 20 hours

Career Opportunities

There are a variety of jobs in the computer industry such as: Graphic Designer, Database Manager, Technical Support, Network Administrator, Software Developer, Computer Forensics, Computer Security, Webmaster, Etc., and this qualification can act as a stepping stone towards any of them.

Computer Science

Subject Choices



Subject / **Digital Technology**

Qualification / Level - **GCSE**

Course Description

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.

This WJEC GCSE specification in Digital Technology will enable learners to:

- become independent and confident users of existing, new and emerging digital technologies.
- develop knowledge of different digital technology systems used across a range of occupational sectors.
- understand the impact digital technologies can have on individuals and wider society and the ways in which they can bring about change.
- develop skills in organising and analysing data to identify trends and audiences.-become creators of digital products, in a variety of formats and for a variety of purposes, that meet specified, authentic needs including website design and animation.
- develop transferable skills in using a range of hardware and software.

Assessment

Module	Percentage	Assessment
Unit 1: The Digital World	40%	1 hour 30 minutes on-screen exam
Unit 2: Digital Practices	40%	45 hr NEA
Unit 3: Communicating in the Digital World	20%	15 hr NEA

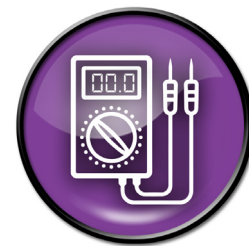
Career Opportunities

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.

Most occupations require the use of digital technologies in some way. GCSE Digital Technology is particularly useful to pupils who would like to progress to A level or who expect to use digital technology in their careers. These include engineering, design, electronics, banking, accountancy, nursing, office work, armed forces, manufacturing....

Digital Technology

Subject Choices



Subject / **Electronics**

Qualification / Level - **GCSE**

Course Description

GCSE Electronics is a modern and interesting course that mixes theory and practical elements and provides learners with the skills to understand how circuits are constructed. Electronics is a different course from the standard offerings, it provides a solid understanding of how each micro component works. The course is suitable for learners of any ability. Electronics as a subject is more relevant than ever and in the technological society we live in, provides the skills that the learners can take into the next phase be it college, 6th form or an apprenticeship. There are opportunities to develop the literacy and numeracy skills of the learners throughout the duration of the course. The GCSE Electronics course provides an excellent platform to progress onto the A Level Electronics course.

Assessment

Component 1: Discovering Electronics	Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of qualification	A mix of short answer questions, structured questions and extended writing questions, with some set in a practical context Component
2: Application of Electronics	Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of qualification	A mix of short answer questions, structured questions and extended writing questions, with some set in a practical context Component
3: Extended system design and realisation task	Non-exam assessment 20% of qualification	An extended system design and realisation task to assess electronics skills

Career Opportunities

Industries that recruit electronic engineers include electronics, vehicle manufacture, aerospace, oil, gas and mining, computing, electricity generation and supply, the water industry, construction, finance, advertising, the Armed Forces and telecoms.

- Acoustic consultant • Aerospace engineer • Broadcast engineer • CAD technician
- Control and instrumentation engineer • Design engineer
- Electrical engineer • Electronics engineer • Nuclear engineer
- Sound engineer • Special effects technician

Electronics

Subject Choices



Subject / **Engineering**

Qualification / **BTEC LEVEL 2 Engineering**

Course Description

This qualification is the same size and level as a GCSE and is aimed at everyone who would like to find out more about engineering by undertaking their own projects. On this course, you will:

- Learn about the different sectors of engineering, new technologies and sustainability within engineering.
- Investigate engineered products, learning about design specifications, materials and manufacturing processes.
- Learn about Health and Safety within Engineering and legislation.
- Investigate engineering materials including smart and modern materials.

The Course is split up into 4 separate Units.

- **Unit 1** – The Engineering World (Online theory examination)
- **Unit 2** – Investigating an Engineered Product (Assignment based)
- **Unit 3** – Health and safety in Engineering (Assignment Based)
- **Unit 5** – Engineering materials (Assignment Based)

Units 1 and 2 are completed within year 10 followed by units 3 and 5 in year 11.

Assessment

You will build up a portfolio of assignments based on 3 units of coursework (units 2,3 and 5). These assignments will be assessed using Pass, Merit and Distinction criteria.

GCSE equivalent being:

Pass – C Merit – B Distinction – A

Unit 1 is completed in the form of an online theory examination and is externally assessed by the exam board. (Pass, Merit, Distinction).

Career Opportunities

Engineering qualifications are invaluable for anyone who wishes a career in that field. The key skills that you acquire will make you a valuable addition to a range of employers. There is a shortage of skilled people generally and your transferable skills will be vital to your chances in successful future careers.

Engineering

Subject Choices



Subject / **Food & Nutrition**

Qualification / Level - **GCSE**

Course Description

This is a new GCSE course to replace the previous Catering qualification. The course is designed to develop learners cooking skills using a variety of commodities through different techniques and equipment. Learners will gain knowledge and understanding of the different properties and characteristics of food as well as the nutritional content and the impact of diet on health.

Areas of study include:

1. Food commodities
2. Principles of nutrition
3. Diet and good health
4. The science of food
5. Where food comes from
6. Cooking and food preparation

Assessment

Exam paper (40%)

Coursework (60%)

1. The Food Investigation Assessment – (20%) Pupils will be given a brief and are required to conduct an investigation into a specific food looking at characteristics, function and properties through experimental work.
2. The Food Preparation Assessment – (40%) Pupils are required to research, investigate, plan, cook and evaluate 3 dishes and accompaniments, along with producing a portfolio of evidence.

Career Opportunities

This course provides opportunities to enter the catering profession, hospitality industry or further study into food science, food and nutrition, dietetics. Potential future careers through further study include Chefs, Nutritionists, Food Scientists, Waiters, Restaurant managers, Food developers.

Subject Choices



Subject / **French (MFL)**

Qualification / Level - **GCSE**

Course Description

Learning a language and learning about the world around us is always an exciting opportunity! Learning French can be an aim in itself (should you wish to carry on with at A'level and university level) or it can be a stepping stone to learning other languages. Opting for French will enable you to develop language learning skills you will need to learn other languages (Spanish, German...) along with your key skills (communication, IT, improving your own learning...).

Assessment

ASSESSMENT: All tasks are tiered (foundation or higher tier)

SPEAKING - end of two year course oral test conducted by teacher - 25%.

LISTENING - end of two year course exam - 25%

READING - end of two year course exam - 25%

WRITING - end of two year course exam - 25%

Who is it for?

This course is best suited for students who enjoy learning a language. Do approach your teachers for more details.

Career Opportunities

The ability to communicate in a language other than English is a valuable skill in any occupation. Doctors, nurses, primary school teachers, office workers, long-distance lorry drivers, cabin crew, travel couriers, lawyers, restaurant employees, journalists, hotel staff, bank workers and coach-tour operators are just a few examples of people who regularly come into contact with foreign companies and/or visitors ...why not be one of the above ... in the sunshine! Don't get left behind!

MFL (FRENCH)

Subject Choices



Subject / **Geography**

Qualification / Level - **GCSE**

Course Description

The GCSE geography course is designed to help students develop their knowledge and understanding of the world around them, to encourage them to look at what is happening in both the natural and human environments, to be able to understand why things have developed the way they have and to question what is happening. There are 6 compulsory modules that build on work completed in KS3 and a choice of modules to extend that learning further. There will be an opportunity to complete fieldwork during the course; a vital component that will show how your class work relates to what is actually happening in the real world.

Assessment

Unit 1: Changing Physical and Human Landscapes 1.5 hr examination 40%

Unit 2: Environmental and Development Issues 1.5 hr examination 40%

Unit 3: Fieldwork enquiry 20%

Career Opportunities

Geography helps to develop skills that are useful in a huge variety of careers; problem solving, team work, data collection and analysis, ICT, asking questions to name but a few. Specific career opportunities include environmentalist or conservationist, armed services, police, town planning, meteorologist, archaeology, travel agent, teaching, surveyor, architecture and estate agent.

Subject Choices



Subject / Health and Social Care, and Childcare

Qualification / Level - GCSE

Course Description

This GCSE focuses on the developing learners knowledge, understanding and skills related to the development and care of individuals throughout the life cycle from conception to later adulthood. Learners have the opportunity to develop their understanding of influences on human growth, development, behaviour and well-being. They will also gain an understanding of the social, physical, emotional, and cultural needs of people who use care and support services, and recognise that each individual has a unique blend of abilities and needs.

Assessment

Unit 1: Human growth, development and well-being

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of qualification

Unit 2: Promoting and maintaining health and well-being

Non-exam assessment: 60% of qualification

Task 1: Service Provision 40% of the marks within this unit are allocated to a service provision investigation which will assess the learner's knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to health and social care, and childcare service provision locally and nationally.

Task 2: Health Promotion 60% of the marks within this unit are allocated to a task which assesses the learner's knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to promoting and maintaining health and well-being.

Career Opportunities

Health and Social Care, and Childcare is an excellent course to study if you are going to follow a career as a nurse, midwife, child psychologist, speech therapist, paediatrician, health visitor and many roles in the field of health and care. It is also a subject that will be of benefit to everyone later on in their life.

Health & Social Care, and Childcare

Subject Choices



Subject / Hospitality & Catering

Qualification / Level - Level 1 / 2 Award

Course Description

Hospitality and catering is Britain's fourth largest industry and accounts for around 10% of the total workforce. Since 2010, over 25% of all new jobs have been within the hospitality and catering sector with the majority of new roles falling within the 18-24 age groups. The ability to plan, prepare and present food is an essential skill within the hospitality and catering industry. Hospitality and Catering equips learners with theoretical knowledge about the industry as well as enabling them to develop practical skills in planning, preparing and cooking a variety of dishes. The course is made up of two mandatory units:

Unit 1 - The Hospitality and Catering Industry (40%)

The content to be delivered includes:

- Understand the environment in which hospitality and catering providers operate
- Understand how hospitality and catering provision operates
- Understand how hospitality and catering provision meets health and safety requirements
- Know how food can cause ill health
- Be able to propose a hospitality and catering provision to meet specific requirements

Unit 2 - Hospitality and Catering in Action (60%)

- understand the importance of nutrition when planning menus
- understand menu planning
- be able to cook dishes

Assessment

Unit 1 - 90 minute written exam, externally assessed by the exam board. (Pass, Merit, Distinction).

Unit 2 - To safely plan, prepare, cook and present nutritional dishes to a specified brief.

Career Opportunities

After completing the WJEC Award in Hospitality and Catering learners might be interested in progressing to other qualifications relevant to working in the sector, such as: WJEC Level 3 Applied Certificate / Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition Level 2/Level 3 Diplomas in Hospitality and Catering Level 2/Level 3 Diplomas in Professional Cooking Level 3 Diploma in Hospitality and Tourism Management.

Careers into Barista, Catering manager, Consumer scientist, Food manufacturing inspector, Food Scientist, Head chef, Restaurant manager, Tourism and leisure sector and many, many more.

Hospitality & Catering

Subject Choices



Subject / **History**

Qualification / Level - **GCSE**

Course Description

GCSE History offers students the opportunity to study a variety of British and world History. The course is designed to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of key periods of the twentieth century, focusing on the 'Jazz Age' of 1920s America, including the rise of celebrities and the era of Al Capone. Pupils will examine Britain's experiences during World War One and Two and the Depression and recovery of the interwar years. The course also offers a wider thematic study, tracking crime and punishment from the sixteenth century to the present day. GCSE History allows pupils to make judgments and weigh up evidence while creating questioning and analytical minds. It provides opportunities to develop literacy skills by creating balanced arguments and developing extended writing, while broadening their knowledge of the wider world.

Assessment

Module Assessment Percentage

1. Depression, War and Recovery 1930-51	Exam 1 hour	25%
2. The USA :A Nation of Contrasts 1910-29	Exam 1 hour	25%
3. Changes to Crime and Punishment c.1500 to the present day	Exam 1 hour 15 mins	30%
4. Non-Examination Assessment (NEA)	(Controlled Assessment)	20%

Career Opportunities

History is a highly respected and worthwhile qualification for pupils to possess and will open many new avenues up to them. Specifically, History is required for those wishing to pursue careers in Law, Teaching, Commerce, Management, Accountancy and Clerical positions, among many others!

Subject Choices



Subject / **ICT**

Qualification / Level - **GCSE**

Course Description

The course aims to develop students' knowledge, skills and understanding of ICT beyond the level developed in key stage 3 and is most appropriate for those students intending to study ICT to AS/A level. Students will continue to use word processors, desktop publishers, databases and spreadsheets in their coursework as well as multimedia applications to produce animations, web pages, videos, podcasts and graphics.

They will study the applications of ICT in the wider world and learn to reflect critically on the way others use ICT. They will also become more aware of the social and ethical impact of ICT on society; understand the importance of e-safety and keep up-to-date with emerging technologies.

Assessment

Module	Percentage	Assessment
1 - Understanding ICT	20%	1½ hr written exam
2 - Solving Problems with ICT	30%	22½ hr controlled test
3 - ICT in Organisations	20%	1½ hr written exam
4 - Developing Multimedia ICT Solutions	30%	22½ hr controlled test

Career Opportunities

Most occupations require the use of ICT in some way. GCSE ICT is particularly useful to pupils who would like to go on to study ICT at A level or who expect to use ICT in their careers. These include engineering, design, electronics, banking, accountancy, nursing, office work, armed forces, manufacturing....

Subject Choices



Subject / **Music**

Qualification / Level - **GCSE**

Course Description

The GCSE Music course is an ideal choice for those who have a fundamental enthusiasm for music in all its forms. The course enables learners to develop knowledge and understanding of music through four interrelated areas of study:

Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices

Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble

Area of study 3: Film Music

Area of study 4: Popular Music

The course has three units based on the three skills of performing, composing and appraising. An integrated approach to the three skills is encouraged through each area of study and serves to highlight the importance of the relationship between composer, performer and audience.

Assessment

Unit 1: Performing (35%)

Learners will perform a minimum of two pieces, one of which must be an ensemble (in a group). The other piece(s) may be either solo and/or ensemble. Learners are not expected to perform to an audience. Their performances will be recorded and assessed by their teachers.

A sample of recordings will be moderated by an external examiner.

Unit 2: Composing (35%)

Learners will produce two compositions, one of which must be in response to a brief set by WJEC. Learners will choose one brief from a choice of four, each one linked to a different area of study. The second composition is a free composition for which learners set their own brief.

There is no requirement for learners to notate their compositions e.g. they may prefer to submit an audio/GarageBand recording.

Unit 3: Appraising (30%)

This unit is assessed via an external listening examination (a written exam paper to be completed along to a Music CD.)

There are eight questions in total, two on each of the four areas of study outlined above.

Two of the eight questions are based on prepared extracts set by the WJEC.

Career Opportunities

This course builds on the subject content taught at Key Stage 3 and provides a suitable foundation for the study of Music at either AS or A level. Many learners may wish to take up a career in performance or embark on a Performing Arts or teaching course at College or University. In addition, the specification provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for learners who do not progress to further study in this subject.

Music

Subject Choices



Subject / **Music**

Qualification / Level - **BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate**

Course Description

The music industry offers many opportunities for employment and is not limited to those who are able to play a musical instrument. The choice of units in this course reflects this, with units on the music industry, developing as a musical performer and working as part of an ensemble.

Taking the BTEC Level 2 Music course as an option will give you the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge and understanding of all aspects of the music industry and develop skills in performing both individually and as a member of an ensemble (group.)

Assessment

The qualification is made up of 4 Units:

- Unit 1** - Working in the Music Industry
- Unit 2** - Professional Development in the Music Industry
- Unit 3** - Solo Musical Performance
- Unit 4** - Working as a Musical Ensemble

Each unit has specified learning outcomes and assessment criteria. All units are assessed internally through portfolios of evidence. To pass an internally assessed unit, learners must meet all of the learning outcomes.

The qualification outcome is Pass or Fail, with a Pass being equivalent to two Level 2 B Grades.

Career Opportunities

This qualification will provide learners with a good grounding in a range of musical skills as well as broader skills and knowledge recognised as important by society and future employers. It will support their development and preparation for progression into employment, either directly or after further education.

The BTEC Music course provides the potential opportunity to enter employment within a wide range of junior jobs roles across the music industry e.g. runner, roadie, stage crew, venue staff, music promotion and retail and sales roles.

Music

Subject Choices



Subject / **Media Studies**

Qualification / Level - **GCSE**

Course Description

The WJEC specification is designed to introduce learners to the key concepts for studying media - media language, representation, media industries and media audiences – in relation to examples from a wide range of media forms. Through this study, learners gain a good understanding of the foundations of the subject, enabling them to question and explore in a critical way aspects of the media that may seem familiar and straightforward from their existing experience. This exploration extends learners' engagement with the media to the less familiar, including products from different historical periods or those aimed at different audiences, providing rich and challenging opportunities for interpretation and analysis.

Potential topics for study:

- Gavin & Stacey
- Weatherman Walking
- Rownd a Rownd
- Pobl Port Talbot
- D.C. Universe franchise
- Harry Potter franchise
- Hunger Games franchise
- Marvel franchise
- Star Wars franchise

Assessment

Unit 1: Exploring Media 30%

Section A- Representations: Advertising, Video Games and Newspapers

Section B- Music: Language, Representation, Industries and Audiences

Unit 2: Understanding Television and Film 30%

Section A- Wales on TV- Choice of contemporary texts.

Section B- Contemporary Hollywood- Film franchise from the last decade.

Unit 3: Creating Media 40%

This unit builds on previous learning by requiring learners to develop and apply their knowledge and understanding of the media through practical production.

Career Opportunities

The course provides many skills that can be adapted to a whole range of careers. These include: journalism, web and graphic design, directing, photography, advertising, education and many careers in film & television.

Media Studies

Subject Choices



Subject / Physical Education

Qualification / Level - GCSE

The GCSE in Physical Education includes both theory and practical elements. It requires students to develop their knowledge and understanding of physical education in relation to balanced healthy lifestyles and performance, including:

- Developing theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and using this knowledge to improve performance.
- Understanding how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport.
- Understand the contribution which physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and well-being.
- Understand key socio-cultural influences which can affect people's involvement in physical activity and sport in Wales and the wider world.

In addition, the GCSE in Physical Education requires students to develop their physical skills to:

- Enable them to perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas
- develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance in physical activity and sport

All students should regularly participate in sport both inside and outside of school.

Assessment

Theoretical Assessment: 50% of Qualification

Unit 1: Introduction to physical education

- This unit is assessed by an external written examination
- The Exam is 2 hours and consists of a total of 100 marks
- Learners will be assessed through a range of short and extended questions.
- The questions will be based on audio- visual stimuli and other sources.

Practical Assessment: 50% of Qualification

Unit 2: The active participant in physical education

- This unit is assessed under controlled conditions and is externally moderated.
- Learners will be assessed in three different activities in the role of performer in at least one individual sport, one team sport and one other.
- One activity will be a major activity which will have a personal fitness programme (PFP) linked to the activity.
- The total number of marks available is 100; 28 for each of the three sports and 16 for the PFP.

Career Opportunities

A GCSE in PE would support the learner in gaining a career in the Sports & Leisure Industry as a coach, performer, official or instructor. Also it could lead to other career strands which could include the Police Force, Fire Brigade, Army, Royal Navy, sports physiotherapy and Teaching.

Physical Education

Subject Choices



Subject / Performing Arts (Drama)

Qualification / Level - WJEC Level 2 Vocational Award

The Performing Arts course is a great choice for those with a passion for performance. Are you a budding actor, dancer or musician? Do you want to discover more about the fantastic roles behind the scenes – from costume design and make-up, to set design and lighting? If so, it's time to uncover your potential.

Assessment

Each unit has specified learning outcomes and assessment criteria. There is no exam in this course as all units are project based with a range of tasks to complete. Units 1 and 2 are internally assessed through practical work and a portfolio of evidence whereas Unit 3 is externally assessed through practical work and a portfolio of evidence.

Unit 1: Performing (30%)

You will undertake a project (not exam) with various practical tasks and learn the skills and techniques needed to produce a successful performance of an existing work, such as a piece of music or an extract from a play or show.

This could include: Dramatic text, musical theatre (which may incorporate dance), music

Unit 2: Creating (30%)

You will learn how to create and refine your own original work in performing arts, such as choreography, designing costumes or composing music through practical project work (not exam). This unit can be completed through any one of the following disciplines: Devised drama, Choreography, Composition, Composition using technology, Costume design, Lighting design, Make-up and hair design, Set design, Sound design.

Unit 3: Performing Arts in Practice (40%)

This unit will prepare you for the Performing Arts industry. You will be treated as professionals as you learn about areas of the industry that need to be considered when planning and responding to a commission. You will complete a range of practical projects (not exam) in response to a brief. You will pitch and plan your ideas and finally bring your event to life, welcoming in the community.

Career Opportunities

This course builds upon subject content being taught in KS3 and will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including: communication, confidence, learning independently, organisation, problem solving, research, self-discipline, stamina, taking on responsibility and time management. This course offers a suitable foundation into the performing arts industry that can offer a wide range of exciting opportunities which includes but are not limited to: actor, arts administrator, community arts worker, choreographer, composer, dancer, designer, director, drama / music therapist, front of house manager, lighting / sound technician, musical theatre performer, musician, stage manager, teacher.

Performing Arts (Drama)

Subject Choices



Subject / **Photography**

Qualification / Level - **GCSE**

Course Description

This GCSE endorsed course is an exciting way to express yourself in terms of - Developing ideas through investigation informed by examining Photographers from all over the world. Refining your ideas through experimenting with both traditional and digital photography. Learning how to document your observations and how to present your end responses. You will require a great deal of self-motivation and dedication due to the independent nature of this subject. Written explanation and analysis of your own and other photographer's work is also an extremely important section of this course. The course is closely linked to the GCSE Art & Design Course and pupils will have the opportunity to express themselves through other creative outcomes

Assessment

Portfolio

This is a collection of your best coursework - 60%

External examination - 40%

This is set by the examination board and allows a 6-week preparatory period. This time allows for research into photographers and time to develop your project in time for the 10 hour examination.

Career Opportunities

General or social - weddings and portraits,
Advertising and editorial - advertisements, magazines and photo libraries,
Press and photojournalism - newspapers and other publications
Fashion - photographing models and clothing for magazines and catalogues.
Corporate (industrial.commercial) - company promotional material
Scientific or medical - recording scientific research or medical conditions and treatment.

Photography

Subject Choices



Subject / **Product Design**

Qualification / Level - **GCSE**

Course Description

The WJEC GCSE in Design and Technology offers the opportunity for learners to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems. Through studying GCSE Design and Technology, learners will be prepared to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world; and be aware of, and learn from, wider influences on design and technology,

- develop an appreciation of the importance of creativity and innovation to good design practice
- actively engage in the processes of design and technology to develop as effective and independent learners
- understand the key principles of designing and making
- use their knowledge, skills and understanding to make design decisions in order to make a quality prototype
- analyse existing products and produce practical solutions to meet needs, wants and opportunities, recognising their impact on quality of life
- critically analyse links between the principles of good design, existing solutions and technological knowledge
- understand the underlying technical principles within design and technology within their chosen focus area, with emphasis on emerging technologies, materials and practices.

Assessment

Unit 1 : 50 % Formal examination - A mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing candidates' knowledge and understanding of Product Design

Unit 2 : 50% 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.

Career Opportunities

This course provides opportunities to enter the field of D&T which is diverse. Such careers could be in Graphic Design, Product Design, Engineering, Interior Design, Web Design and Computer Aided Design. The portfolio which is built up through Year 11 incorporates the whole design process and this will provide evidence of your problem solving and creative skills allowing you to demonstrate these skills at interviews.

Product Design

Subject Choices



Subject / **Psychology**

Qualification / Level - **GCSE**

Course Description

Have you ever wondered why a person behaves in a certain way? Why one person has a mental illness and another doesn't? Why we walk past someone on the street who is in need of our help? Psychology is the study of the brain and human behaviour and can help to answer questions such as these. The GCSE covers a range of different topics including how children develop and learn. You will study different behaviours such as conformity, obedience and language, thought and communication. You will also study a number of psychological problems

including depression and addiction as well as the therapies used for treating people with mental health issues. The GCSE introduces research methods and you will learn about the various ways psychologists gather data.

Assessment

There is no coursework for this subject. There are two 95 minute examinations which are both worth 50% of the overall GCSE.

Career Opportunities

Studying Psychology at GCSE level can help you to further your studies in sixth form or college. Psychology might be of interest to those who wish to pursue a career in medicine, counselling, therapy, teaching, care work, research roles and the working in the media.

Psychology

Subject Choices



Subject / Level 2 in Public Services

Qualification / Level - Level 2 Double

Course Description

The specialist BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community course offer pupils the opportunity to learn about and demonstrate skills needed to be in uniformed organisations, research the roles and responsibilities of uniformed organisations in the community and develop their knowledge of the jobs and careers available in uniformed organisations. This qualification is suitable for pupils who wish to pursue a career in the uniformed organisations or want to improve their teamwork and communication skills.

Assessment

You will create a portfolio of work that will be internally assessed by your teacher. It is graded on a pass/fail basis and once achieved the qualification is the equivalent of 2 'B' grades at Level 2.

The units you will study are:

Unit 1 - Teamwork and Communication Skills

Unit 2 - Employment Skills in Uniformed Organisations

Unit 3 - Career Planning and Self-Assessment for Uniformed Organisations

Unit 6 - Land Navigation by Map and Compass

Career Opportunities

This qualification will equip learners with the skills and knowledge recognized as important by society and employers. It will support their development and preparation for progression into employment in the future, either directly or after further education.

Having completed the qualification learners could progress to Level 3 qualifications or go onto explore opportunities for entry to uniformed services as long as they meet entry criteria requirements.

Public Services

Subject Choices



Subject / Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

Qualification / Level - GCSE Full Course

Course Description

Everyone has beliefs. They may not be religious, but everyone has a belief about how the world was created, what happens after this life and how we should act while we are on this earth. After all ... what is the purpose of this life?

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics is a unique subject that holds importance in the modern world. Equipping students with both subject specific knowledge and skills, RPE allows students to look at the world in a different light and to take a more open-minded approach to issues that permeate the media, news and everyday life.

In today's world, it is easy for us to interact with people all over the world. We have the ability to communicate through travel, business and the use of the internet. Understanding other beliefs and cultures is vital for modern life and social cohesion, especially with the multi-cultural nature of twenty-first century Britain.

Assessment

The course is assessed through two examinations. Unit 1: Religion and Philosophical Themes will be examined at the end of Year 10 and Unit 2: Religion and Ethical Themes will be examined at the end of Year 11. Both examinations are two hours long and are each worth 50% of the overall grade.

Career Opportunities

Religious Studies is a valuable qualification which is respected and beneficial in many employment areas such as counselling, journalism, social work, teaching, the police and armed forces.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

Subject Choices



Subject / **Sport**

Qualification / Level - **BTEC Level 2**

Course Description

The Pearson BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Leadership Through Sport is suitable for learners who are interested in sports. It is a nationally recognised level 2 qualification that looks to develop the learners' engagement in learning. Throughout the course the learners will develop their skills and abilities as well as undertaking numerous tasks to help prepare them for a range of careers associated with sports leadership.

The course is designed to give learners the opportunity to:

- Develop their knowledge related to sports leadership
- Learn about key aspects of sports leadership, such as dealing with injuries, sports psychology, sports nutrition and how to plan and run a sports event.

Assessment

Students will need to complete 3 units of work in order to gain the qualification.

The units comprise of 1 mandatory:

- 'Planning and Leading Sports Activities'

and 2 additional units from the following:

- 'Injury in Sport'
- 'Nutrition for Sport'
- 'Technical Skills and Tactical Awareness for Sport'
- 'Lifestyle and the Sports Performer'

The BTEC Specialist course is an internally assessed course. All work is assignment based with no exams. Pupils will need to complete assignments for each of their units. Some of these will be practical assignments (where pupils will need to bring kit), and some are written assignments.

Career Opportunities

The Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Leadership Through Sport (QCF) provides the starting point for a route to employment into many diverse areas of sport, including junior roles in the sport and active leisure sector, such as recreation assistant or sports leader. It can also give learners the opportunity to progress to other vocational qualifications, such as the Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Sport, or on to AS or A level. It allows learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, as well as personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.

Sport

Subject Choices



Subject / **Triple Science**

Qualification / Level - **GCSE**

Course Description

This course will lead to 3 separate GCSE qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The course allows pupils who enjoy science to explore the individual subjects in depth. The topics are designed to inspire and motivate pupils and there will be lots of opportunity to carry out practical work, which will develop investigative skills and enhance the overall enjoyment of science. Pupils will have exams in the summer term of year 10 (Unit 1) and year 11 (unit 2), along with 1 practical exam (unit 3) in the spring term of year 11. Pupils will cover a wide and varied curriculum. Examples of some of the topic areas covered are listed below.

- Biology: Heart and circulation; Disease and immunity; Lungs and respiration; Ecosystems; Kidneys; DNA and inheritance.
- Chemistry: Chemical reactions; Extraction of metals; Rates of reaction; The ever changing earth; Acids and bases; Fuels.
- Physics: Electricity and circuits; Seismic waves; Radioactivity; electromagnetism; Stars and planets; The universe.

Assessment

Written exam papers are tiered (higher or foundation) and comprise of short answer questions and extended responses. The practical assessment is untiered.

Subject	Year 10 Unit 1 written exam (1hr 45minutes)	Year 11 Unit 2 written exam (1hr 45minutes)	Unit 3 (practical assessment)
Biology	45% (80 marks)	45% (80 marks)	10 % (30 marks)
Chemistry	45% (80 marks)	45% (80 marks)	10 % (30 marks)
Physics	45% (80 marks)	45% (80 marks)	10 % (30 marks)

Career Opportunities

Whatever career you are considering, taking triple science GCSE will set you up well for later life. Employers are keen to recruit candidates with science-based skills. Specifically, qualifications in science could lead to careers in medicine; nursing; engineering; forensic science; sports and fitness; physiotherapy; construction; research and teaching. However, the practical and analytical skills developed in science will also lend themselves to many other non-science based careers.

Triple Science