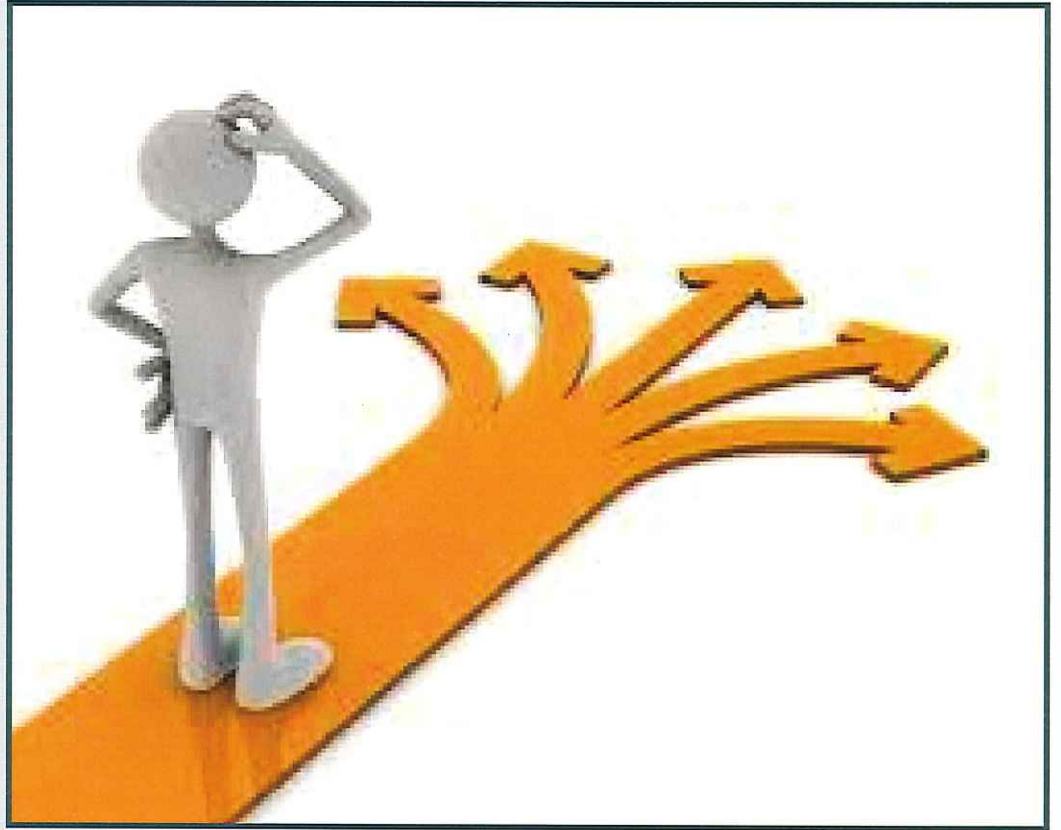


# THE MAELOR SCHOOL



Realise Your Potential—  
Cyrraedd Eich Potensial

## Year 9 Options 2020

## SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH THE OPTIONS PROCESS

It is helpful if you can discuss possible career pathways with your child and talk to them about which subjects they like best and why. As The Maelor School has a track record of sending the majority of our 6<sup>th</sup> Form students to university, we have direct and current experience of what subjects and grades universities want. If this is a route your child may be interested in, please talk to us about their best options at this stage to support their possible future choices. We have also included a helpful guide from the Russell Group on choosing subjects both pre- and post -16.

For those pupils who will not be interested in a university route, we also have plenty of experience in helping our students to find the right college courses, apprenticeships and work-based learning placements. Our Careers Advisor, Mr Nantcurvis, from Careers Wales is always happy to advise pupils too.

When completing the form:

- ◆ Only one subject per column can be selected for first choice; sometimes, given sufficient numbers, a course will later become available in more than one option line so please indicate clashes in the box on the form as we can sometimes accommodate those later;
- ◆ A second choice must be selected in the unlikely event of your child's first choice being oversubscribed or the course not running due to insufficient numbers. We will always contact you before placing them in their second choice subject but it is necessary to express a preference now;
- ◆ Please make sure that you as a parent have signed the form or we will not be able to accept it; if you need to make correction, please sign against the correction too so we know you are aware of the change made;
- ◆ Although there is no advantage in sending the form back to us early, pupils who give the form in before or on the deadline date will have priority if courses are oversubscribed.

## CHOOSING YOUR OPTIONS ADVICE FOR PUPILS

Choosing the optional subjects you are going to study for the next two years is a very important decision. It is crucial that you get the necessary help and information for you to make sensible choices. If you have a career in mind now, you should make sure you know which subjects will help you to reach your goal. Take your time to research – it's not always obvious which subjects will help you. For instance, you might think GCSE Law is appropriate for a career in Law, actually History is the more important. If you are looking for an apprenticeship at 16, you might be surprised to find out how important it is for most of these that you have C grades in Maths and English Language.

If you don't have a career in mind at the moment, you should listen to the advice of the staff who teach you so that you make sure you are picking subjects you will be successful in. Try to keep a broad range of subjects at this stage. You should not pick subjects because your friends are taking them or because you like the teacher – these aren't good reasons. Some subjects will have lots of coursework and deadlines set are agreed with the examination boards for moderation purposes. It is important to realise that these deadlines must be met and you cannot hand work in late.

In your options pack you will find:

- ◆ Subject information sheets for your core subjects and the options you can choose from, including collaborative courses;
- ◆ A guidance leaflet from the Russell Group to give you information on courses at university;
- ◆ An options form which must be returned to school by Friday 7th February; you can only pick one first choice from each column. Sometimes, given sufficient numbers, a course will later become available in more than one option line so please indicate clashes in the box on the form as we can sometimes accommodate those later.
- ◆ You will have a Parents' Evening and a talk on Options by Mr Ellis and Mrs Preston on Tuesday, 14th January.

There will be Options talks in the library from:

5:00pm—5:45pm

6:00pm—6:45pm

Teaching staff will be available for the parents evening between 4:30pm and 6:30pm.

# CORE SUBJECTS

**All pupils will study the subjects below at Key Stage 4**

English Language and English Literature

Mathematics—Numeracy & Mathematical Techniques

Science /Applied Science (Double award) - *includes Biology, Chemistry and Physics*

Skills Challenge Certificate

Welsh

Games

PSHE includes RE

**As ICT and Computer Science are similar subjects only 1 should be selected.**

**All pupils will be taught Religious Studies as part of their PSHE and Skills Challenge curriculum.**

# OPTION SUBJECTS

All students will pick their options from the list below. Those most able who intend on applying for a top university in the future should look at picking at least one of the underlined facilitating subjects.

Option A choice	Option B choice	Option C choice
<u>History</u> <u>Triple Science</u> * Art Business Studies Drama Food Prep & Nutrition Religious Studies Link Course - ( <i>please indicate which link course and level if chosen as an option</i> )	<u>History</u> <u>Geography</u> I.C.T. Music P.E Media Studies	<u>French</u> <u>Geography</u> <u>Computer Science</u> * Art I.C.T Product Design

\* Both **Triple Science** and **Computer Science** will be limited to a maximum of 30 places. The department will use test scores to determine the most able if more than 30 apply. Pupils may choose **either** Computer Science **or** ICT but **NOT** both. *Please ensure you include a second choice if picking these options.*

# A QUICK GUIDE TO KS4 TERMINOLOGY

**KS4** – key stage 4; years 10 & 11

**GCSE** – the most commonly known exam at KS4; grades range from A\*-G

**Level 1 courses** – a way of classifying non-GCSE courses that give a qualification equivalent to grades D-G at GCSE

**Level 2 courses** – a way of classifying non-GCSE courses that give a qualification equivalent to grades A\*-C at GCSE

**Level 3 courses** – a way of classifying A level standard courses

**BTEC courses** – these courses are available at Level 1 or Level 2. Usually coursework based. May have an examined module(s).

**Controlled assessment** – coursework which has to be done under exam conditions or other teacher supervision

**Coursework** – work produced for submission to the exam board as part of the qualification and moderated externally

**Pass, Merit, Distinction** – the grades awarded for BTEC/OCR Nationals where Pass is equivalent to a C grade at GCSE, Merit to a B and Distinction to a A/A\*

**Russell Group universities** – a group of the most prestigious universities in the UK

**Wrexham 14-19 Network** – a collaboration between schools in the Wrexham area and Coleg Cambria, offering courses that students can take alongside students from other schools

**Skills Challenge Certificate** - worth one GCSE and contributes to Welsh Baccalaureate; now compulsory across Wales

**Welsh Baccalaureate** - compulsory across Wales; comprises the Skills Challenge Certificate along with English Language and Mathematics - Numeracy plus three other supporting qualifications

## IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 14th January	4:30pm—7:00pm	School Options Evening
Tuesday 21st January	5:00pm—7:00pm	Coleg Cambria (Grove Park site) (all link courses except Engineering and Construction)
Wednesday 22nd January	5:00pm—7:00pm	(Bersham Road site) (Engineering & Construction link courses only)
<b>Friday 7th February</b>	<b>Deadline for handing in completed Option Forms</b>	
Monday 16th March	Course selection Construction and Engineering L2	
Tuesday 17th March	Course selection for all other courses	
Thursday 2nd April	Course confirmation	

## RUSSELL GROUP GUIDE

We would like to bring to your attention the list of facilitating subjects on **page 29** of the Russell Group guide 'Informed Choices' and to the subjects required for different degree courses on **pages 32—51** or visit the on-line information: [www.russellgroup.ac.uk](http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk)



# ART

**GCSE Art and Design** is an enjoyable and rewarding two year course, which encourages pupils to develop their creative abilities. Using a wide range of techniques and media, students' will gain the ability to observe, select and interpret with imagination, feeling and a deeper understanding to their themes. GCSE Art, is examined through WJEC. GCSE Art consists of two elements. A practical exam 40% and coursework 60%.

## Career Options

Architecture, Animator, Ceramics, Film, Game Designer, Graphic Designer, Interior Design, Journalism, Starting your own business, Product or Theatre Design, Teaching, Prosthetics, Set design, Sculpture or Museum work.

## Why Take Art

- UK and European trips to gallery's.
- 2017 100% of Pupils gained GCSE A\*-C (Top 3% in schools nationally)
- 2016 A Level pupils gained 80% (A\*-A = Top 1% in the UK)
- 2015 96% of pupils gained GCSE A\* - C (Top 3% in schools nationally)
- Many of the lessons are practical based.

# BUSINESS STUDIES

## GCSE WJEC Business

There are those who argue that increasingly, as business is conducted on a global scale, in the future everyone will need to have some form of business education. Whatever you choose to do in your life, the chances are that it will involve some 'business'.

This is a vibrant and stimulating subject which can help you understand the world in which we live. You will investigate real-life businesses and have the opportunity to build your own experience of the business environment. It will help you develop a wide range of skills such as communication, analysis, presentation, problem solving and decision-making, which will help you succeed in the world of work. If you have these skills it will put you at a distinct advantage as they are much sought-after by employers, since they build commercial awareness and will allow you to start contributing to an organisation quickly.

This course has been developed to further your knowledge and understanding of the economic environment in which a business operates. This includes a study of how a business manages activities such its organisation, Human Resources, Marketing, Production and Finance and how all these elements work together to create a successful global business. The course is assessed by two external exams in the final year of study.

Students who study this subject will gain knowledge that will empower them to develop as a commercially minded, enterprising individual.

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computing is of enormous importance to the economy as an 'underpinning' subject across science and engineering. Young people will develop skills that will enable them to pursue a career in Computer Science if they so choose, and which will also help them gain valuable skills for life - for example, in innovation, reasoning, logic, resourcefulness, precision, problem solving and clarity. These skills will enable them to become authors of computational tools rather than simply users.

As adult workers, young people will be applying for jobs that have not yet been invented. Technology changes but the principles and concepts upon which they are built remain constant. A good grounding in Computer Science will teach young people how to deal with change later in life and play an active and effective role in the digital world. Employers want workers with an understanding of rigorous principles that can be applied to changing technologies.

This course in Computer Science offers candidates a unique opportunity to gain an understanding of how computers work and to create and troubleshoot computer programs for real-life purposes relating to personal interests. Computer Science develops valuable programming and computational thinking skills, which are increasingly relevant to a wide variety of jobs.

Computer science encourages candidates to explore how computers work and communicate in a variety of contexts, therefore, the course would suit students who excel at mathematics and science.

## DRAMA

GCSE Drama is an exciting course which encourages you to study Drama through a wide range of practical and creative activities. The course allows you to pursue your interests and develop your skills in a range of practical drama elements including acting, directing, costume, mask and technical design. The course also allows you to work to your strengths, giving you the freedom to choose both the content and style of your final presentation.

Working as part of a team you will develop your performance skills in improvisation, devising, physical theatre and script work. You will also have the opportunity to explore technical theatre and pursue your interests in theatre design through set design, make-up, costume, mask and puppetry.

The Drama department also takes advantage of the ample opportunities we have to see excellent professional theatre, with regular visits to see live productions provided as an exciting stimulus to your work. Students also regularly get to work with professional actors and theatre practitioners who are often invited into school to lead workshops with our GCSE and A Level classes. You are also encouraged to participate in national theatre initiatives such as The School Shakespeare Project, National Theatre Connections and the National Youth Theatre of Wales.

GCSE Drama enables you to study Drama at A Level.

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

In English, students will study for two GCSE qualifications: English Language & English Literature.

English Language GCSE is an essential qualification to have and underpins achievement across all subjects. Across Year 10 and Year 11, students will develop their skills in the three main areas of assessment; reading, writing and oracy. Reading and writing are assessed through the Unit 2 and Unit 3 examinations at the end of Year 11. Oracy is assessed through two controlled assessments; an individual presentation and a group discussion which are completed in year 10 and 11 respectively.

English Literature GCSE is the study of prose, drama and poetry. Across Year 10 and Year 11 students will develop strong analytical skills, in addition to academic writing skills which are essential when students move into Sixth Form. 35% of this qualification is assessed in January of Year 11 and 40% is assessed in May of Year 11. There are two pieces of coursework to be completed for this GCSE. A Shakespeare essay and a poetry comparison, both worth 12.5% of the overall qualification, will be completed in year 10 and 11.

Both subjects prepare students for achievement in any subject but a particular interest in either language or literature can lead to a career in journalism or education. A 'B' grade in English is however a requirement for any university or college course and most apprenticeships ask for it as well.

# FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

**GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition** . Learning a life skill while earning a qualification.

Find something that you enjoy doing and get someone to pay you for doing it which means you will never have to do a day's work in your life! Food preparation and nutrition is an enjoyable and exciting two year course which is examined through the WJEC. It is a fundamental subject which gives students the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook, apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. Written examination will make up 40% of the course and 60% is coursework.

## **Career Options**

Chef, Baker, Nutritionist, Teacher, Wedding cake designer, food science specialist, Catering business, Nutritional Therapist, Product/Process, Development, Scientist, Technical Brewer, Toxicologist

## **Why Take Food and Nutrition**

- An exciting and practical subject based in a lively atmosphere.
- To develop essential skills for life.
- To explore the areas of Food Commodities, Principles of nutrition, diet and good health.
- The Science of food and where it comes from.
- Cooking and Food Preparation.

# FRENCH

For GCSE French we study 3 areas:

Identity and Culture

Wales and the World

Study & Employment

French is spoken by nearly 400 million people worldwide and is an official language in 30 countries. Learning French marks you out as someone who both understands your native language and who is clever enough to learn a new one. You will find that you also really improve your skills of communication, presentation, problem solving and organization, all of which are highly prized by employers.

Learning French to GCSE, and even more so to AS/A and degree level, can often lead to well-paid careers particularly in business, tourism, politics and teaching. The Russell group [top 20] of universities looks very favourably on applications from pupils who have studied GCSE French.

For further information speak to any of the French teachers in school or go to

<http://www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk/>

# HISTORY

**“Who controls the past controls the future.” (George Orwell)**

GCSE History is an ideal choice for students who want to develop a better understanding of the world we live in today. Through the study of recent events, students will gain a widely respected qualification. This would be highly useful for a student wishing to pursue a number of occupations, or for those wanting to enter higher education as it is a well regarded course amongst top universities.

History is a “facilitating” subject — a qualification which impresses employers. It teaches students transferable skills — research, making judgements, arguing a case and evaluating the reliability of information.

The History course comprises three exam units and two non-examined assessments (completed in the classroom). The topics we study are:

**Britain 1951-1979 (examination topic)**

**Germany 1919—1939 (examination topic)**

**Health and Medicine 1340—the present (examination topic)**

**Britain in the First World War (Non—Examined Assessment)**

# GEOGRAPHY 2020-2021

**For way too long, the politicians and the people in power have gotten away with not doing anything to fight the climate crisis, but we will make sure that they will not get away with it any longer.**

Greta Thunberg (15 years old Swedish climate change activist)

There has never been a *better* or more important time to study Geography. Our **environment** is very important to us because it is where we live and share resources with other species and studying GCSE Geography enlightens us on how to conserve our **environment**.

We have recently changed the modules that we study at GCSE as more pupils wanted to learn about what we are doing to the environment and what they can do about it. So we now study a unit called 'Environmental Challenges' which looks at:

- What are the impacts of increasing consumer choice on environments, such as tropical rainforests, from food miles and e-waste ?
- How will climate change affect people, on Pacific islands, and the environment, such as the Arctic and how can we reduce these impacts through changing our lifestyles?
- How can damaged environments, like coral reefs, be managed and restored ?

**In addition there will be 2 fieldtrips as part of the 'Fieldwork Enquiry' element of the course.**

**The study of GCSE Geography can help you to:**

- Develop a knowledge and understanding of current events from the local area to the global.
- Investigate the earth and its peoples using a range of technologies.
- Study the features of the earth - such as mountains, rivers and seas - and how they were formed.
- Develop a range of useful skills such as numeracy, map reading, data collection, ICT and problem-solving.
- Gain an understanding and appreciation of the cultures and backgrounds of people from all over the world.

**Where will Geography take me?**

Well for a start - you will probably visit lots more countries than your parents and travel to areas of the world only normally seen on television

Search **@maelorgeography** on Twitter for our tweets and see how we stay in touch with each other. Geography could lead you to exciting career prospects - remember Geography achieves good examination results nationally and is one of the most versatile subjects.

**Geography** is described, by the 20 universities in the Russell Group, as an example of a facilitating subject – a subject that is required more often than other A-levels to get onto degree courses. Therefore in choosing it you will have a much wider range of options open to you at university including Law and Medicine amongst others.

# I.C.T.

## WJEC ICT

ICT is an optional subject and it is essential for students to have the necessary knowledge, understanding and skills in this subject to cope with a rapidly changing employment scene where the ability to use ICT is crucial for their future prospects within further education and work. The course focuses on the ICT skills needed for the modern workplace. The course is assessed through both exam and coursework portfolios. It teaches students important skills of time management and taking responsibility for their own learning. Students at The Maelor School have an impressive track record of achievement in ICT which gives them a solid base for future success.

Having studied ICT, students can continue to take ICT at level 3 in the 6<sup>th</sup> form or they could study Computing at 'A' level. The skills they will acquire in ICT will give excellent preparation for any ICT work they are required to do in other subjects now and in the future.

# MATHEMATICS

GCSE Mathematics continues your studies from year 9. It will give you the mathematical and numeracy skills to understand everyday life including understanding finances and solving problems. From 2017 in Wales pupils sit two separate GCSEs, Mathematics and Mathematics-Numeracy. Each will be examined by a calculator and non-calculator paper with three different tiers of entry, foundation (grades D-G), intermediate (grades B-E) and higher (grades A\*-C).

GCSE	Mathematics – Numeracy	Mathematics	
Content	Number, Measure and Statistics plus <u>some aspects of</u> Algebra, Geometry and Probability	All the content of GCSE Mathematics - Numeracy	<u>Additional</u> Algebra, Geometry and Probability
Assessment focus	The application of the above content in context	–	The application of the <u>above</u> content in context
		Procedural skills in situations that are context-free or involve minimal context for <u>all</u> content	

GCSE Mathematics and Mathematics-Numeracy will be a requirement for most post 16 courses and many jobs, particularly at 'C' and above. Grade A or A\* is usually required for studying A level maths. It is seen as extremely important by employers.

# MEDIA STUDIES

Media Studies GCSE is a stimulating and creative qualification that will complement the English Language and Literature GCSEs. The course covers all aspects of the media in order to develop the students' wider understanding of information in the digital age. It will enable them to take a more analytical approach to advertising, video gaming and newspapers, together with gaining a knowledge of the film industry and TV. Additionally, this qualification offers the students the opportunity to create their own media product and write reflectively about the outcome. The GCSE improves analytical and writing skills and is excellent preparation for Film and Media Studies at A Level.

## Unit 1: Exploring the Media (30% of qualification)

**Section A: Representations – advertising, video games and newspapers** This section will assess knowledge and understanding of the representation of gender and events in relation to any of the media forms studied – advertising, video games and newspapers.

**Section B: Music** This section will assess knowledge and understanding of media language, representation, media industries and audiences.

## Unit 2: Wales on Television (30% of qualification)

**Section A: Wales on Television** This section will assess knowledge of media industries, audiences, media language and representation.

**Section B: Contemporary Hollywood Film** This section will assess knowledge and understanding of media industries, audiences and media language.

## Unit 3: Creating Media (40% of qualification)

A media production, including individual research and planning, created in response to a choice of briefs set by WJEC, and applying knowledge and understanding of key concepts.

# MUSIC

Music in Years 10 and 11 is a development of the work covered in Years 7-9.

- ◆ You will perform vocally or on an instrument, in a group and individually. You will perform during the course and in a final assessment. **(30% + 5% evaluation)**
- ◆ You will compose as you did in Year 9, but on your own using notation and will have the opportunity to use Sibelius software. You will submit two compositions for your assessment. **(30% + 5% evaluation)**
- ◆ You will listen to and appraise music from four areas of study including two set works. You will sit an exam for one hour approximately at the end of year 11. **(30%)**

Areas of Study: Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music and Popular Music.

Studying music has many benefits, some subject-related and others more general. You can learn to: perform and compose music; listen to features in music; develop your creative skills; develop your analytical skills; make decisions; work in teams; develop your communication skills. Studying Music at GCSE level will prepare you either for further study in the 6th form or will help you to enjoy music more fully in your leisure time. During the course you will develop your creative and analytical skills which will assist you in your chosen career path.

Many respected universities and employers value a qualification in Music, even if this is not linked to their area as it shows an ability to study and develop depth of skill. Music is also a discipline recognised as being good for the brain and development of thinking skills.

All pupils studying GCSE Music are expected to play an active role in the musical life of the school and join the school band or choir. **You should be taking on one instrument or voice (or expected to start at the beginning of Year 10)**

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GCSE Physical Education is an ideal opportunity for students who have been successful and enjoyed participating in their Year 7, 8 & 9 PE lessons to further develop their practical skills and learn about a whole new theoretical aspect of Physical Education. The course is a fantastic starting point for any student who may wish to move onto further studies in sport and any possible future career across the sports spectrum. Students aiming to achieve a C grade at GCSE should expect to achieve a minimum level 6 end of Key Stage 3 level and show signs of level 7 performance in some activities. Due to the nature of the practical assessments it is also strongly advised that students must be regularly participating in sport or physical activity outside of school.

## SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

**Unit 1:** Written examination (50% of qualification). Pupils will be assessed through a range of short and extended questions. The subject content focuses on five key areas:

1. Health, training and exercise
2. Exercise physiology
3. Movement analysis
4. Psychology of sport and physical activity
5. Socio-cultural issues in sport and physical activity.

**Unit 2:** Practical component (50% of qualification). Pupils 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 of the selected activities will also have a written controlled assessment to demonstrate a personal fitness programme linked to that activity.

# PRODUCT DESIGN

Study design and become a highly skilled, creative and innovative designer.

**GCSE Product Design** is an exciting and rewarding two year course which is examined through the WJEC. The course seeks to develop your knowledge, understanding and skills to design and make new and better solutions to real problems. You will learn how products and systems are designed and manufactured, how to be innovative and to make creative use of a variety of resources including digital technologies, to improve the world around you.

The GCSE consists of two elements, a written exam 50% and coursework 50%.

## Career Options

Product design opens the door to a wide range of careers in the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries such as; Architecture, Automotive Design, Engineering, Civil

Engineering, Armed Forces, Graphic Design, Teaching, Product Design, Interior Design Furniture, Jewellery Designer, Web designer and many more.

It is also an excellent preparation for careers in many other fields e.g. medicine, law and computer science.

## Why take Product Design?

- National competitions and links with companies.
- Product Design will encourage you to use a range of communication skills, including verbal, graphical, ICT and develop lots of practical skills.
- Develop skills such as teamwork and time management.



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Anyone who has questions to ask and opinions to give will enjoy Religious Studies. The course will be of interest to people who are interested in others and in human beliefs and behaviour. This course is not about making you religious. It is about enabling you to think for yourself about religious and moral issues. The skills you develop will support you in further studies and employment. It helps you consider and explore moral issues such as euthanasia and abortion.

As you enter the world of work you will be expected to work alongside people with various beliefs. Religious Studies will teach skills and understanding needed to work with people of all faiths and cultures. These skills are vitally important in all careers especially the police, retail, teaching, the law, the caring professions and the armed forces. In fact any profession that brings you into contact with other people.

Topics include:

- An introduction to the study of Religion
- An introduction to Religion and Ethics
- An introduction to the Philosophy of Religion

# SKILLS CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE

The SCC aims to enable learners to develop and demonstrate an understanding of, and proficiency in, essential and employability skills. These are the skills that employers and next-stage educators value and which learners need for learning, work and life. By adding personal development skills to academic study, the SCC helps young people achieve more. It makes them better equipped for the world of work, better informed and more active citizens. It allows for more flexibility in their studies, whatever mix of courses they are following.

It is important that pupils recognise that the skills, knowledge and understanding they develop are relevant. Applied learning gives pupils 'real-life' purposeful experiences within and outside the school environment.

In Year 9 and 10 pupils will be undertaking 3 challenges:

**Enterprise and Employability Challenge**

**Global Citizenship Challenge**

**Community Challenge.**

In Year 10 and 11 pupils will be planning, researching and writing a 2000 word project. The Skills Challenge Certificate components are internally assessed and externally moderated and is equivalent to one GCSE.

## SCIENCE—DOUBLE AWARD

All students study Science throughout years 10 and 11 as part of their compulsory education; they have the opportunity to gain two GCSEs in Science subjects. This reflects the importance of Science in the modern world and helps young people to understand about the world in which they live. Physics, Chemistry and Biology are integrated into the courses and the qualifications gained will be in Double Award Science rather than the separate disciplines.

The course is split into a series of units numbered 1- 7. Units 1- 3 are external examinations in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and will be taken in the summer term of year 10. Units 4- 6 are also external examinations to be taken in the main exam period in year 11. The practical unit is an assessment that will take place in January of year 10.

Students who perform at a high academic level, but do not wish to opt for Separate Sciences will be able to study the higher tier course which still provides access to A-level Sciences.

## APPLIED SCIENCE—DOUBLE AWARD

This GCSE course enables students to develop their scientific knowledge through real life contexts. As a result the units are not organised in the traditional scientific disciplines. The first three units are externally examined units:

- Unit 1 – Energy, Resources and the Environment and Unit 3 – Food, Materials and Processes are assessed through traditional examinations.
- Unit 2 – Space, Health and Life is an examination based on pre released material that students can work on beforehand.

The remaining units are still externally assessed, but they are either task based or practically based and carried out in lessons under controlled conditions. The reduced focus on traditional examinations and the contextualised learning can make this qualification a more accessible route through compulsory science education. Students who follow this route will still be able access level 3 qualifications of Medical Science or Environmental Science in the sixth form if they gain the entry requirements of a C grade or apply to follow a level 3 BTEC in Applied Science at college.

## TRIPLE SCIENCE

The three Sciences WJEC Physics, Chemistry and Biology

Science continues to become ever more important in the modern world. Many excellent career opportunities are available for all abilities, and pupils who are genuinely interested in following a career in the sciences should consider this option. The course is an excellent preparation for the study of Physics, Chemistry and Biology at Advanced level, giving a wider subject knowledge and a deeper understanding of scientific principles than following Double Award Science.

Those who choose this option will study for three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, using their core science time to supplement the two and a half hours of option time. The course looks at many of the big issues that are challenging us in Wales and across the world.

The course provides a sound basis from which to move on to a career in health care, engineering, manufacturing, wildlife, energy and environmental work, to name but a few. It is considered to be excellent preparation for A-level sciences.

There is a maximum of 30 places on this course; selection will be based on achievement during KS3 and successful students are usually those who achieve level 7.

## WELSH / CYMRAEG (FULL COURSE)

“In Wales, being able to communicate in Welsh and English is a significant advantage for students looking for work. Over 560,000 people, 19% of the population in Wales speak Welsh and research shows that employees with bilingual skills are more likely to earn a salary 8-10% higher than workers without bilingual skills. Having the ability to use Welsh in the workplace can give you an edge over your competitors.” (UCAS). Having an additional language will give you the edge in the ever increasing competitive world of work. GCSE Welsh will give you the opportunity to develop your language skills which will enrich your experience of living in a bilingual country. You will also have the opportunity to go on residential courses to Glan-Ilyn.

What will I study in this course?

In Welsh (Full Course) GCSE three broad themes will be covered:-

- ◆ Employment
- ◆ Wales and the World
- ◆ Youth

The course comprises of 4 units. In year 10 an oral assessment worth 25% and in Year 11 2 written exams worth 25% each and an oral exam worth 25%.

# LINK COURSES

Collaborative provision

**Tuesday** afternoon half day courses

Level 2	<b>First Award in Business</b>		Coleg Cambria
Level 2	<b>First Certificate in Performing Arts</b>		Coleg Cambria
Level 2	<b>Technical Award Certificate in Engineering</b>		Coleg Cambria
Level 2	<b>First Award in Construction and the Built Environment</b>		Coleg Cambria
Level 1	<b>Certificate in Engineering</b>		Coleg Cambria
Level 1	<b>Certificate in Basic Construction Skills</b>		Coleg Cambria
Level 2	<b>Extended Certificate in Animal Care</b>		St. Christopher's School
Level 2	<b>First Certificate in Public Services</b>		Coleg Cambria
Level 2	<b>Agored Cymru-Hospitality and Catering</b>		Coleg Cambria
Level 2	<b>Certificate in Hairdressing &amp; Beauty Therapy</b>		Coleg Cambria
Level 1	<b>Certificate in Hair &amp; Beauty Sector</b>		Coleg Cambria & St. Christopher's School
Level 2	<b>GCSE in Health and Social Care</b>		Coleg Cambria
<b>Able Students programme</b>			
Level 2	<b>GCSE Computing</b>	1 GCSE A*-C	Coleg Cambria
Twilight courses (4.30—6.30): There will be a separate process for these courses in May.			
Level 2	<b>GCSE Spanish</b>	1 GCSE	Coleg Cambria