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## **OPTIONAL COURSES**

Four subjects are to be chosen from the option columns - one subject from each column.  
Remember - choose a balanced curriculum.  
Courses are available at various levels.  
The levels are indicated in brackets after each subject name.

## **GCSE ART AND DESIGN**

The GCSE course is structured to build on existing, familiar working methods and to develop practical, perceptual and critical skills in Art, Craft and Design. The emphasis of the syllabus is personal research which requires a high level of self motivation. Although mainly practical, there is a theoretical aspect as students will develop an understanding of the language and conventions of past and contemporary Art. Students will investigate, analyse, experiment and document ideas in an imaginative and creative manner, informed and influenced by the work of artists, craftspersons and designers. There will be opportunities for students to use a wide range of media and processes, such as drawing, painting, 3D, textiles, IT, printmaking and new media. All students will be required to develop their ideas in a sketchbook. There may be opportunities for students to visit local galleries and exhibitions and participate in practical workshops.

### **ASSESSMENT**

- 1 Candidate Portfolio 60%  
Practical and contextual Artwork selected and presented by students from work undertaken within the course. The deadline for completion of this is the end of the Autumn term in Year 11 (December) after four terms of work.
- 2 Externally-Set Task (10 hours focused study) 40%  
This is presented to students in the Spring Term (January) of Year 11. Research and preparation time is followed by a sustained period of focused study of 10 hours (April).

Both assessment areas need to show equal evidence of the four Assessment objectives.

- 1 Contextual Understanding
- 2 Creative Making
- 3 Reflective Recording
- 4 Personal Presentation

Students will present an exhibition of their work which is internally assessed and then externally moderated.

**FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-**

**MR E ROBERTS**

## **GCSE CATERING (level 1 and level 2)**

The syllabus is designed to give an insight into the catering industry, gain understanding of healthier lifestyle choices and nutritional content. It will enable the students to develop the work covered in Years 7, 8 and 9 in Food Technology. Students will be able to extend their Design and Technology capabilities and enhance their understanding of how to meet human needs and a healthy lifestyle.

As students are required to produce a portfolio of evidence the content of the course is divided into four compulsory areas of study:-

- 1 The Catering Industry
- 2 Food Grouping
- 3 Food Production
- 4 Multicultural foods
- 5 Changes to society eating
- 6 Technological Developments
- 7 Design Development
- 8 GM, organic, locally produced, fair trade food types.

### **ASSESSMENT**

Coursework (school assessment 60%)

- 1 Two practical assessments.  
One practical assessment will be completed in Year 10 based on a four course themed menu worth 20%, the other in Year 11 a two course meal showing extended skills based on international foods worth 40%.
- 2 40% written exam paper (no Tiers)

**THIS COURSE INVOLVES A LOT OF PRACTICAL WORK AND PARTICIPATION IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT.**

**FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-**

**MISS E GRIFFITHS**

## **GCSE CHILD DEVELOPMENT (level 1 and level 2)**

The course is designed to give candidates an opportunity to extend and apply their skills, knowledge and understanding of the development and care of children from conception to the age of five years within a variety of contexts.

### **COURSE**

The course is divided into **six** compulsory core areas of study.

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

### **ASSESSMENT**

- 1 Unit 1.** Principles of Child Development. Written Paper 1½ hours. Candidates will be required to respond to short-answer, structured and free response questions. Externally set and marked. 40%
- 2 Unit 2.** Controlled Assessment. Child Study. One task to be selected from three set tasks to include investigation and production focusing on a child's development. Work must be completed in school within the given 15 hours. This work must be completed in Year 10. 30%
- 3 Unit 3.** Controlled Assessment. Child-Focused Task. One task to be selected from two to include research, planning, making and evaluating. Work must be completed in school within the given 15 hours. This work must be completed in Year 11. 30%

### **FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-**

**MRS M FERRON-EVANS**

## **GCSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (Resistant Materials)**

The specification will allow candidates to specialise in the focus area of resistant materials where they will learn about a range of materials, manufacturing processes, techniques and technologies and be able to use them as appropriate to the design and make process.

### **ASSESSMENT**

1 Project - Coursework folio 36%, Coursework Practical 24% - 60%

This will be one project completed as part of coursework in Year 11.

2 End-of-course examination - 40%

Paper 1 - 16% - A common paper taken by all Design & Technology pupils.

Paper 2 - 24% - This paper concentrates on the focus area of Product Design.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-**

**MR D NUTTALL OR MR J BLAZE**

## **BTEC IN ENGINEERING (level 2 and level 2 extended)**

The BTEC qualification offers a focused vocational qualification for those who wish to follow a course which can extend their programme of study and provide an initial experience of a vocational area.

### **COURSE DETAILS**

Working Practices in Engineering.

Using and Interpreting Engineering Information.

Using Computer Aided Drawing Techniques in Engineering.

Selecting and Using Secondary Machining Techniques to Remove Material.

### **ASSESSMENT**

The course is made up of units which are internally assessed through assignments set and marked by the school and externally moderated. As you complete each unit you will be awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction grade.

## Assessment Tasks

1A	Depth Gauge		10A	CAD ProDesktop
1B	Hazards & Risks		10B	CAD 2D Design
1C	Working Relationships		10C	Circuit Diagrams
2A	Drawing Information		14A	Table Lamp
2B	Drawings/Documents		14B	Table Lamp
2C	Production Documents			

**FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-**

**MR D NUTTALL**

### **GCSE FRENCH (level 1 and level 2)**

The two-year GCSE course is designed for candidates who have been learning languages under the National Curriculum. Four topics are studied and these form a pleasurable course of study which is relevant to candidates from a wide range of ability. The four topics are:

- Personal and Social Life
- The Local Community
- The World of Work
- The Wider World

The course aims to encourage practical communication and creativity; to offer insights into French culture and civilisation; to encourage positive attitudes to foreign language learning and towards speakers of foreign languages; to promote respect for other cultures and civilisations.

The skills assessed are:-

Listening and Responding	20%
Speaking	30% - Controlled assessment
Reading and Responding	20%
Writing	30% - Controlled assessment

Candidates may be entered for the Foundation or Higher Tier in each of the components:-

Foundation Tier will assess grades C - G  
Higher Tier will assess grades A\* - D

Pupils will have the opportunity to participate in a language study visit to France which will be an invaluable experience.

**FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-**

**MISS F JONES**

## **GCSE GEOGRAPHY (level 1 and level 2)**

This is a two-year course which will develop students as global citizens and help them to recognise how they can contribute to society in the future. There is a clear balance between physical and human themes. Students will apply their learning to the real world through fieldwork and out-of-classroom learning.

### **SPECIFICATION CONTENT**

#### **UNIT 1 – THE CORE**

Six themes are studied during the Year 10 course:-

<u>PHYSICAL WORLD</u>	1 Water
	2 Climate change
	3 Living in an active zone
<u>GLOBAL WORLD</u>	4 Changing populations
	5 Interdependence
	6 Development

#### **UNIT 2 – OPTIONS**

Three themes are studied during the Year 11 course:-

- 1 Our changing coastline
- 2 Tourism
- 3 Retail and urban change

### **ASSESSMENT**

UNIT 1: CORE GEOGRAPHY – a 1¾ hour written paper sat in June of Y10, worth 40% of the total marks.

UNIT 2: OPTIONS GEOGRAPHY – a 1¼ hour written paper sat in June of Y11, worth 35% of the total marks.

UNIT 3: GEOGRAPHICAL ENQUIRY: an enquiry based on fieldwork and a decision-making exercise, worth 25% of the total marks.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-**

**MS A CAHILL**

## **BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE** **DOUBLE GCSE (level 1 and level 2)**

This course in Health and Social Care has been designed to provide a broad education as a foundation both for training leading to employment, and for further education.

The certificate course equates to –

BTEC Level 2 Certificate – 15 credits = 1 GCSE pass.

BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate – 30 credits = 2 GCSE passes.

The assessments are all portfolio/coursework – selected from a number of units.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-**

**MRS C BALLAMY**

## **GCSE HISTORY (level 1 and level 2)**

History at GCSE focuses on Modern 20<sup>th</sup> century history, looking at key events in Wales, Europe and which have shaped the world in which we live.

The GCSE History course consists of four units. Each unit is worth 25%.

- 1 Germany in Transition 1929-47 – study in depth.
- 2 China under Mao Zedong, 1949-76 - study in depth.
- 3 The development of the USA, 1929-2000 – an outline study.
- 4 Controlled assessment based on local, Welsh or Welsh/English history and involving an enquiry-based approach.

### **ASSESSMENT**

Assessment will be by examination for units 1-3. External examinations account for 75% of the overall marks.

- Units 1 and 2 will assess knowledge, understanding, interpretations and sources of the two studies in depth. The papers are one-hour each in length. These examinations will be completed in the summer of year 11.
- Unit 3 assesses knowledge and understanding of the outline study. This paper is one-hour in length. This examination will be completed in the summer of year 10.

Controlled assessment accounts for 25% of the overall marks.

- Unit 4 is the controlled assessment. Pupils will carry out two assignments in controlled conditions in class in Year 11. These assignments will be internally assessed by the child's teacher.

**FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-**

**MRS K ELLIS OR MS A NAVARRO**

### **OCR NATIONAL IN INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY** **(level 2)**

The OCR Nationals suite of qualifications provides students with high quality, industry-relevant qualifications geared to the specific requirements of key sectors. They are vocationally-related qualifications that provide valuable opportunities for individuals to develop skills and gain underpinning knowledge and understanding which will support entry into work or progression to further studies through Further Education or Higher Education.

The OCR Nationals are attractive, practically-based qualifications intended to stimulate and interest students. They support achievement of Key Skills and relate to national occupational standards thereby providing an ideal progression to National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) once individuals are in suitable employment.

OCR Nationals are structured in such a way that they allow progression from a one GCSE-equivalent course (the OCR Level 2 National First Award in ICT), through to a four GCSE-equivalent course (the OCR Level 2 National Certificate in ICT), depending on the number of modules covered in the year.

**It is envisaged that students choosing this option will follow a two GCSE- equivalent course (the OCR Level 2 National Award in ICT).**

The course is 100% coursework meaning that there is no final exam at the end of a two-year period of study. Instead, the students compile a portfolio of work throughout the two years and are assessed on this at regular intervals. OCR offer 23 Units giving an extensive "a la carte menu" to choose from to build up the relevant number of modules for required qualification.

These modules include units in:

- Unit1 ICT - Skills for Business (a mandatory unit)

## Optional Units

- Unit 2 Webpage creation
- Unit 3 Digital imaging – plan and produce computer graphics
- Unit 4 Design and produce multimedia products
- Unit 5 Desktop publishing
- Unit 6 Spreadsheets – design and use
- Unit 7 Databases – design and use
- Unit 8 Technological innovation and e-commerce
- Unit 9 Customer support
- Unit 10 Planning and supporting telecommunications
- Unit 11 Career planning for IT
- Unit 12 Work experience in IT
- Unit 13 IT systems and user needs
- Unit 14 Installation of applications
- Unit 15 System testing and maintenance
- Unit 16 Repair and decommission of IT equipment
- Unit 17 CAD and CAM
- Unit 18 Application of computer control
- Unit 19 Application of data logging
- Unit 20 Creating animation for the WWW using ICT
- Unit 21 Creating computer graphics
- Unit 22 Creating sound using ICT
- Unit 23 Creating video

This information is correct at the time of printing; however there is a new specification due out at any time. Whether this new specification starts with the current Year 9 or the current Year 8 is at present unknown.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-**

**MR D T JONES**

### **GCSE MEDIA STUDIES (level 1 and level 2)**

The course aims to:-

- (i) offer students the opportunity to develop a critical understanding of the media;
- (ii) encourage and develop a range of communication skills appropriate to the context of media studies;
- (iii) encourage and develop an investigative approach to the media;
- (iv) allow students to engage with a broad range of issues as they occur in the study of the media including economic and moral issues;
- (v) encourage students to become creative media producers for different audiences.

This will involve students studying a wide range of media texts, as well as undertaking practical and investigative work.

## **ASSESSMENT**

The assessment of Media Studies will consist of:

- (i) one examination paper (40%)
- (ii) coursework (60%).

## **FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-**

**MRS S COOPER**

### **GCSE MUSIC (level 1 and level 2)**

GCSE Music is a practical course which allows students to develop further their performing, composing and listening skills. Through a range of activities students acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding to:

- 1 make music, both individually and in groups
- 2 develop a lifelong interest in music
- 3 progress to further study at A/AS level.

The course also gives students opportunities to develop broader lifeskills and attributes including critical and creative thinking, aesthetic sensitivity and emotional and cultural development.

The course is based on four areas of study:

Music for stage and screen  
Musical forms and devices  
Music in Wales  
Music Evolution

## **ASSESSMENT**

Students are assessed and examined in three parts.

- 1 Composing – 30%. Internal assessment. Students compose a folio of music in a style of their own choice.
- 2 Performing – 30%. Internal assessment. Students perform individually and as part of a group (own choice of piece.)
- 3 Listening examination – 40%. Externally marked. Students will sit one listening exam at the end of the course.

**Previous Experience:**

The course is a continuation of work and experiences already encountered during KS3 Music lessons.

Additional instrumental lessons are not needed to pass the examination, however students will be required to develop their keyboard skills to the required level for performance and composition work.

Candidates are advised that performing before the class is an essential element of the course.

**FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-****MR G ERLANDSON****BTEC LEVEL 2 EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN PERFORMING ARTS**

This qualification will allow you to look into different areas of the performing arts, leading you into a whole range of professions and sectors and allowing you to explore your creativity in many different ways.

The course consists of one core unit plus a choice of specialist units totalling 30 credits. The structure of the course allows you to focus on your talents and interests and explore areas, such as acting skills, devising plays and performing scripted plays.

**COURSE DETAILS**

Unit B4: Acting Skills and Techniques (Mandatory)      10 credits

Unit B6: Devising Plays      10 credits

Unit B7: Performing Scripted Plays      10 credits

**ASSESSMENT**

The course is made up of units which are internally assessed through assignments set and marked by the school and externally moderated. As you complete each unit you will be awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction grade.

The certificate course is the equivalent to -

Pass grade = 2 x GCSE passes at grade C

Merit grade = 2 x GCSE passes at grade B

Distinction grade = 2 x GCSE passes at grade A

**FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-****MISS N DAVIES AND MRS F ROBERTS**

## **GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES (Full Course) (level 1 and level 2)** **plus GCSE CITIZENSHIP (Short Course) (level 1 and level 2)**

If you think outside the box and enjoy being challenged, this is the subject for you. Religious Studies gives students the chance to look at many contemporary issues in depth using discussion, debate and role play. There is also an opportunity to gain an additional Short Course GCSE in Citizenship through this option. Students will cover three main topics: Power, Politics and the Media, Human Rights and The Global Village. There is no demand that the students should have religious beliefs of their own, just an interest in life.

### **Assessment**

Religious Studies (Full Course) – Two exam papers, each 1 hr 50 mins  
Citizenship (Short Course) – 40% Project portfolio  
60% Exam Paper, 1 hr 30 mins

### **Religious Studies Content Full Course:**

Unit 1: Religion and Conflict (Issues of peace, forgiveness and conflict)

Unit 2: Religion and Medicine (Issues of medical ethics)

Unit 3: Religious Expression (Issues of expressing one's faith)

Unit 4: Religion and the State (Issues of law and order in religion and society)

### **FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-**

**MRS H SAVVA**

## **GCSE SOCIOLOGY (level 1 and level 2)**

The GCSE Sociology course is designed to give pupils a broad understanding of the society in which they live, including a focus on the family, education, poverty, social control and crime. Students may study a short or full course in this subject.

### **ASSESSMENT**

- 1 Short course – examination 1½ hours covering the topics of studying society, families and education (Unit 1).
- 2 Full course – Unit 1 examination plus a further examination of 1½ hours covering the topics of crime and deviance, mass media, power and social inequality.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-**

**MRS S COOPER OR MS A NAVARRO**

## **BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN SPORT**

The BTEC First Certificate in Sport has been designed to build on learning from Key Stage 3, for those who may wish to explore a vocational route throughout Key Stage 4. The BTEC First in Sport also provides a good foundation for learners in post-16 education. It provides a suitable foundation for further study within the sector through progression on to qualifications such as the Edexcel Level 3 BTEC Nationals in Sport and Sport and Exercise Sciences.

The BTEC First Certificate in Sport enables learners to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable progression within specific areas of employment such as exercise and fitness, leadership support and Sport and Leisure facility operations. Learners completing these qualifications may seek employment within the sport sector at a junior level in a range of roles including recreation assistant or sports leader.

The qualifications provide opportunities for learners to focus on the development of personal, learning and thinking skills, functional skills, and wider skills in a sport context, such as environmental issues and health and safety considerations.

The assessment approach for the BTEC First Certificate in Sport allows learners to receive feedback on their progress throughout the course as they provide evidence towards meeting the unit assessment and grading criteria.

It is important that during the course learners take on the role of being employed within the sport and active leisure industry when completing assignments/activities. This can be achieved by setting assignments/activities with a scenario which reflects tasks/projects that sports employees would be undertaking in the workplace. For example, a health fitness instructor conducting client health and fitness assessments.

Evidence for assessment may be generated through a range of activities including workplace assessment, role play and presentations. Learners should be encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and achievement, taking into account industry standards for behaviour and performance.

The BTEC First Certificate in Sport has been developed in the sport and active leisure sector to:

- provide education and training for sport, leisure and recreation employees
- give opportunities for sport, leisure and recreation employees to achieve a nationally recognised Level 2 vocationally specific qualification.
- give full-time learners the opportunity to enter employment in the sport and active leisure sector or to progress to vocational qualifications such as the Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Sport and Sport and Exercise Sciences.
- give learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.

Students can follow either the

Level 2 Certificate in Sport (Equivalent to 1 GCSE)

or

Level 2 Extended Certificate in Sport (Equivalent to 2 GCSEs)

<b>Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Sport (15 credits)</b>			
Unit	Mandatory unit – the following unit must be taken:	Credit	Level
1	Fitness Testing and Training	5	2
Unit	Mandatory specialist units – 10 credits must be taken from:		
2	Practical Sport	10	2
3	Outdoor and Adventurous Activities	10	2

<b>Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Sport (30 credits)</b>			
Unit	Mandatory unit – the following unit must be taken:	Credit	Level
1	Fitness Testing and Training	5	2
Unit	Mandatory specialist units – 10 credits must be taken from:		
2	Practical Sport	10	2
3	Outdoor and Adventurous Activities	10	2
Unit	Optional units – 15 credits must be taken from:		
4	Anatomy and Physiology for Sport	5	2
5	Injury in Sport	10	2
6	Sports Development	10	2
7	Planning and Leading Sports Activities	10	2
8	Technical Skills and Tactical Awareness for Sport	10	2
9	Psychology for Sports Performance	10	2
10	Nutrition for Sports Performance	10	2
11	Development of Personal Fitness	5	2
12	Lifestyle and the Sports Performer	10	2
13	Work Experience in the Sports Industry	10	2
14	Exercise and Fitness Instruction	10	2
15	Sport and Leisure Facility Operations	10	2
16	Leading Outdoor and Adventurous Activities	10	2
17	Expedition Experience	10	2
18	Effects of Exercise on the Body Systems	5	2
19	Business Skills in Sport	10	2
20	Planning and Running a Sports Event	10	2

**FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-**

**MR E PARTRIDGE OR MISS A JONES**

## **GCSE WELSH SECOND LANGUAGE (FULL COURSE) (level 1 and level 2)**

The course is aimed at students:

- whose first language is not Welsh
- for whom Welsh is not the everyday language of the home.

Students are assessed in three major skill areas – oracy, reading & understanding and writing.

The course is divided into three units:

<b>Unit 1: (25%)</b>	Writing paper 4 questions:	2 writing questions (10%) 2 reading questions (15%)
<b>Unit 2: (25%)</b>	Oral assessment 2 tasks:	individual presentation (10%) role play (10%) Written response to the work (5%)
<b>Unit 3: (25%)</b>	Oral exam (20%)  Written response to exam (5%)	
<b>Unit 4: (25%)</b>	Writing paper 4 questions	2 writing questions (10%) 2 reading questions (15%)

The course will be based on the following study topics:

### **Unit 1 and 2:**

Holiday  
Sports  
Fashion/shopping  
Welsh Stars  
Cinema/Films  
Pop Music  
Charity work/part time work  
The area  
Welsh culture  
Wales  
About me  
Special occasions/events

**Unit 3 and 4:**

Alcohol, drugs and smoking

The environment

Keeping fit/healthy

Family and friends

The home

Weekend

The Media

Technology

Celebrating

School experiences

There are two tiers of study:

- i) The Foundation Tier will assess grades C - G
- ii) The Higher Tier will assess grades A\* - D

**FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-**

**MISS H OWAIN OR MRS L STEEN**

## **COURSES AVAILABLE IN THE WREXHAM NETWORK**

A limited number of places is available for courses being provided within the Wrexham Network. Placement on these courses will be by interview either in school or by course providers in Wrexham.

Courses available:

### Able students programme – half day

A double GCSE - students will study two subjects from Law/Economics/Psychology. There will also be the opportunity to study GCSE Computing in Year 10 followed by a Level 2 Award in Interactive Media in Year 11. (Please note that these courses are only available to students who are currently working at National Curriculum Level 6/7 in the Core subjects of Mathematics, English and Science in Year 9.)

### Vocational Courses – half day

Level 1 Certificate in Engineering

Level 1 Certificate in Basic Construction Skills

Level 1 NVQ Certificate in Customer Service

Extended Certificate in Public Services

Extended Certificate in Hospitality (including Catering)

Level 1 Certificate in an Introduction to the Hair and Beauty Sector

GCSE Electronics

Extended Certificate in Animal Care

### Twilight Courses

Students who are studying French in school may have the opportunity to study German or Spanish 4.30 – 6.30 pm at Yale College.

**FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-**

**MRS P GOODING**

## **CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT COURSES**

Some students will have the opportunity to attend college for one full day a week. These courses will be offered at Entry Level and Level 1. Students who are interested in these courses will be interviewed by staff in school. The courses on offer currently in Year 10 are:

Child Care and Retail	Entry Level/Level 1
Horticulture	Level 1
Sport and Leisure	Entry Level
Beauty Therapy	Level 1
Horticulture and Agriculture	Entry Level
Catering	Entry Level

**FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-**

**MRS P GOODING OR MRS J WILLIAMS**