

ST. ILLTYD'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL YEAR 9 OPTIONS 2024/25



loving
hopeful
attentive
faith-filled
generous
eloquent
intentional
truthful
learned
prophetic
discerning
curious
wise
grateful
compassionate
active



St Illtyd's Catholic High School

How will I make my choices?

The key dates are shown below, it is important that you are in school every day to view this booklet and to listen to advice from your form tutor, Assistant Head of Year and Head of Year.

Autumn Term 2024
PSE lessons focused on Careers Wales and options
5th November 2024
Options assembly with Mr Moriarty - introduction to the options process
Week beginning 18th November 2024
Options booklets sent to parents/carers electronically
Tuesday 26th November 2024
Careers Fayre in school
Thursday 28th November 2024
Parents Evening (including options choices - first trawl)
Through December 2024 and January 2025
Meeting with member of SLT to discuss options

OPTIONS 2024/25 - Choose 2 GCSE subjects

Students Name: _____

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS	OPTION SUBJECTS
<p style="text-align: center;">Mathematics (Maths & Numeracy)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">English (Literature & Language)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Science</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Religious Studies</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Welsh</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Art</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Business</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Digital Technology</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Drama</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fashion & Textiles</p> <p style="text-align: center;">French</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Food & Nutrition</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Geography</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Health & Social Care and Childcare</p> <p style="text-align: center;">History</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Media Studies</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Music</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Photography</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Product Design</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Skills Challenge</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Core Games</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Option choice 1</u></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Additional Qualifications</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sweet L2 Equality & Diversity L2 Financial Literacy L2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Option choice 2</u></p>

Signed: (Student)

Signed: (Teacher)

How to Choose

It is strongly recommended that most pupils study a balanced curriculum which includes subjects from different areas to help keep their options open after Year 11. Some pupils may have specific interests and strengths, together with a clear idea of what they would like to do after Year 11.

Making the right choice of courses at Key Stage 4 is very important because it may affect a pupil's progression after Year 11 and possibly their future career opportunities. Option choices will also determine the number, type and grade of qualifications a pupil will achieve as well as their enjoyment of Years 10 and 11. Therefore, the decision making involved in the options process deserves careful consideration of the information, advice and guidance provided by the school.

Key questions to ask:

1. What am I good at and what courses will I succeed in?

Recent scores in assessments, teacher feedback and assessment point data will all help pupils to identify their areas of strength. If pupils are unsure about their ability to succeed in a particular course, they should ask their subject teacher.

2. What am I interested in and enjoy?

It is important to make sure pupils choose a course because they find the subject interesting rather than just because they like the teacher or the group of friends in their current Year 9 class. It is unlikely that pupils will have the same teacher or group in a particular subject next year.

3. What qualifications do I need for my next step after Year 11 and beyond?

One of the most important outcomes of Key Stage 4 is that pupils achieve the qualifications that they need for progression to their desired next step after Year 11 and in their long-term career aspirations. If pupils are clear about what career they wish to pursue they should seek advice about relevant courses. At this stage, many pupils will not know exactly what career they want to pursue so it is important to choose a broad and balanced combination of courses to keep their future options open. However, it is important that pupils think ahead as much as possible and find out what qualifications they may need for their desired post-16 education. However, at this stage, pupils should not be overly concerned if they are unsure about what they want to do after Year 11, as long as they follow the advice of choosing a balanced curriculum to help keep their post-16 options open.

Art

Course outline:

- GCSE Art allows students to experience a wide range of art and artists and gives them the opportunity to explore their own personal expression and individual style.
- Pupils will produce a portfolio of coursework worth 60% in Year 10 and 11. Part of the assessment for your GCSE will be an externally set practical examination. This starts in January in Year 11 and is worth 40% of your final grade.
- In year 10 topics include skill-based techniques, natural forms and still life. In year 11 topics include portraiture, close-ups and identity.
- Pupils will be expected throughout the course to work at home in their sketchbooks for homework and to attend a weekly afterschool art session.
- Pupils will need to evaluate their own work in detail on every page of their sketchbooks throughout the whole course.

Why you should study Art:

- The creative industries are responsible for 1/11 jobs in the UK. Not only can a creative GCSE give you the skills for a career in Art and Design but also in areas such as manufacturing, engineering and health.
- While completing the course you will gain skills in resilience, courage, self-awareness, the ability to reflect and collaboration.
- Creativity can help with wellbeing and improve health and happiness. Art lessons can act as an outlet for releasing academic pressures.
- Art encourages self-expression and creativity and can build confidence as well as a sense of individual identity.



Business Studies

Course outline:

- The BTEC Business course is designed to introduce pupils to the world of business, how it operates, market research, finance, trends and branding.
- The course has 1 exam, 1 hour online, and it is worth 25% of the qualification. The exam is held in Year 10. Additionally, you will complete 3 units worth 75% of your final grade.
- The topics studied in Year 10 are; Unit 1 - Introduction to Business; exploring how businesses operate, considering market research and the marketing mix. Unit 2 - Finance for business; understanding costs involved in businesses, how businesses plan for success, how they measure success and identify areas for improvement.
- The topics studied in Year 11 are; Unit 3 – Enterprise in the Business World; knowing why trends and current business environment may impact on a business, plan an idea for a new business and presenting a business model for a business start-up.

Why you should study Business Studies:




- Business is a diverse subject with many job opportunities, these include setting up your own business; managing finance; accountancy; marketing and customer service.
- The skills developed include: teamworking, working from a prescribed brief, working to deadlines, presenting information effectively, accurately completing administrative tasks and processes.
- Business is always developing and how customers shop, experiences they have and new brands and technology is an important part of this course.
- Close links exist with subjects such as ICT, Maths and Design Technology.



Digital Technology

Course outline:

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 courses involving digital technologies.

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
The Digital World	Digital Practices	Communicating in the Digital World
40%	40%	20%
Theory Data Digital technology systems Digital communications Impact of digital systems on organisations and individuals Securing data and systems Changing digital technologies	Interrogating spreadsheet data Data informed digital products Planning, development and testing of animation & website Adobe Illustrator, Animate and Dreamweaver Evaluation	Compose a report outlining the forms and impact of online marketing communications Plan and develop a video to promote a product Log all progress Evaluate final product
		
On-screen examination End of Year 11	Non-examination assessment In class	Non-examination assessment In class

Why you should study Digital Technology:

- It will help you become a more independent, confident and knowledgeable user of new technologies.
- To develop knowledge of different technology systems and develop an understanding of how society and individuals can bring about change.
- To become creators of digital products.
- To develop transferable skills in using a range of hardware and software.
- To develop understanding of the systems development cycle and how ideas can become products.
- To support pupils who want to begin a career that utilises digital skills.

THIS COURSE DOES NOT INCLUDE PROGRAMMING.

Drama

Course outline:

- GCSE drama is an exciting, inspiring and practical course. It is designed to enable pupils to develop skills in creativity, confidence, devising, performing, researching, group work, characterisation, script work, analysis and evaluation.
- Pupils will be given the opportunity to develop not only their performance skills but also their design skills in areas such as lighting, sound, set, costume, hair and makeup.
- The course is made up of 70% practical performance with written coursework and 30% written exam.
- In year 10 and 11, pupils will study a variety of different theatre genres such as Theatre in Education, Physical Theatre, as well as theatre practitioners such as Stanislavski, Brecht and Berkoff.
- Pupils will collaborate in creating their own piece of theatre based on the theatre practitioners and genres they've studied, as well as perform a published play.
- Pupils will write a portfolio and evaluation based on their own piece of theatre.
- For their written exam, pupil will develop their analytical and evaluative skills covering many areas of drama including characterisation, staging, performance skills, design elements and director influences.
- Pupils will watch a variety of live theatre productions.

Why you should study Drama:

- You will gain confidence and have fun
- You will learn to work in a team and balance a range of ideas
- You will have a mix of practical and written work
- You will get a chance to go to the theatre and watch theatre productions
- In a world where effective communication and creative skills are vital, drama will help you to succeed in a range of different jobs, with transferable skills that will be important to future employers.



Fashion & Textiles

Course Outline:

- The qualification is designed for learners who wish to develop and explore their creative skills through sewing and textiles techniques.
- The GCSE Fashion and Textiles course is split up into two sections.

Unit 1 is worth 50% of the overall GCSE grade which is a written examination lasting 2 hours. This is a written paper which contains a mixture of short and extended writing questions that will assess your knowledge and understanding of fashion and textiles.

Unit 2 is worth 50% of the overall GCSE grade which is a coursework assessment, with a time limit of 35 hours. For this, the WJEC will provide a subject context for your work where you will then have to explore and produce a final piece.

- Throughout this course, you will explore a variety of different skills and techniques from Computer Aided Design skills to garment making.
- There will be an opportunity for industry visits so that you are able to understand the possibilities of future career.

Why you should study Fashion and Textiles:

- The course will help you build and develop transferable skills that will be beneficial throughout life.
- The course will allow you to explore your creativity by designing and making tasks.
- Careers routes including textile design, fashion design and fashion buying.
- Close links with Art and Drama which will allow opportunities to explore costume design.



French

Course outline:

- The GCSE course is a course designed to develop an understanding of the French language and culture whilst improving communication and problem-solving skills.
- There are 4 exams (Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing) worth 25% of the final mark which take place year 11.
- In year 10 topics studied include family, friends and relationships, school life, sports, leisure and holidays.
- In year 11 topics studied include social issues, future employment and training, work experience and healthy lifestyle.
- A good basic knowledge is required to start the course but, most of all, a positive attitude towards languages.

Why you should study French:

- Languages open the whole world to you and there are hundreds of great career opportunities for people who are able to speak more than one language. Skills you will develop include problem solving, communication, presenting, better understanding of English and other languages and an appreciation of foreign cultures.
- French is the second most spoken language in Europe and it is spoken in more than 30 different countries.
- As well as learning the language, you will develop an understanding of the education system in France, youth culture, festivals, celebrations and some history.
- Speaking another language makes you really stand out in a crowd. Fewer students are taking languages in Britain every year and those that do are in higher demand.



Food and Nutrition

Course Outline:

- GCSE Food and Nutrition is a science-based subject that equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.
- Practical tasks will be based around theory of nutrients and science experiments in order to understand ingredients and their function in recipes. Practical tasks will take place 3 times a term and you will be expected to bring in your own ingredients.
- There is one exam at the end of year 11 worth 40% of your overall mark. 60% of your mark will cover two controlled assessment tasks, one involving a science experiment.
- In year 10 the topics are nutrients, the science of cooking, special diets, cooking methods and health and safety in food.
- In year 11 there are two controlled assessments, and the topics are the function of ingredients, food spoilage and the function of cooking equipment.

Why you should study Food and Nutrition:

- If you enjoy biology and chemistry and want to understand human nutrition this course will be suited to you.
- You will learn about how to feed yourself and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.
- You explore a variety of diets and explore cuisine from other cultures.
- Careers routes include dietitian, nutritionist, retail food development, food and service industry as well as personal training.



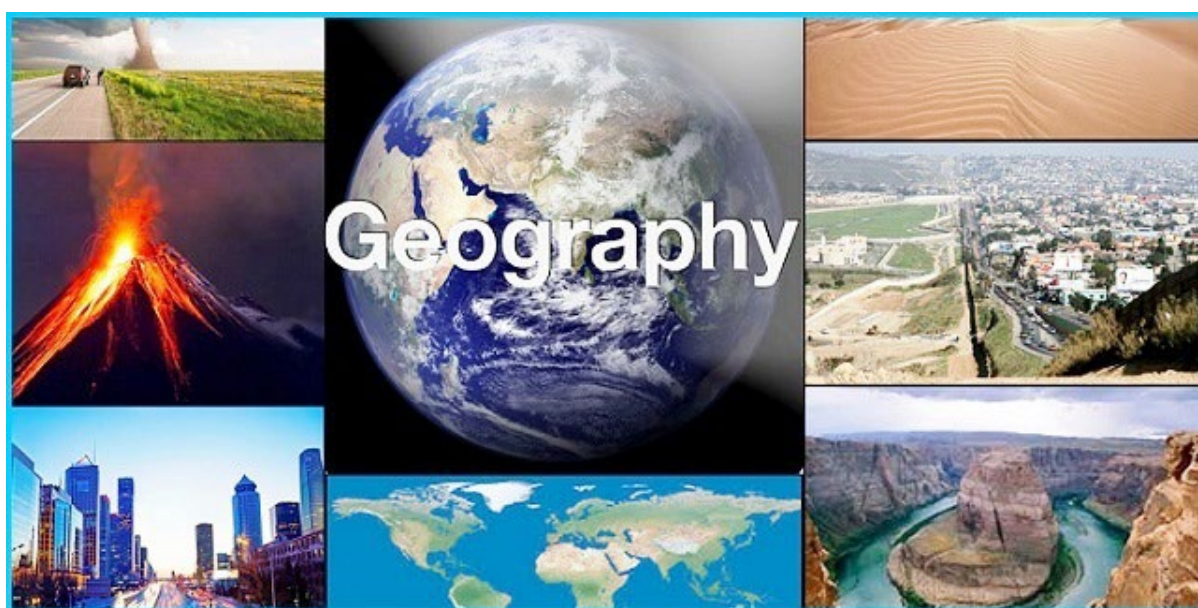
Geography

Course outline:

- The GCSE Geography course is designed to encourage an investigative approach to the study of Geographical issues and concepts.
- There are 2 exams, 1hour 30mins each, at the end of Year 11 both are worth 30%. At the beginning of Year 11 there is a controlled assessment exam worth 20% of the GCSE.
- A fieldwork assessment worth 25%, where pupils will be required to take part in data collection. A Decision-Making Exercise worth 15% where pupils will have time to research and prepare a response to set of questions.
- The topics studied in Year 10 are; rivers, coasts, migration and settlement change.
- The topics studied in Year 11 are; inequality, weather, climate change and managing global challenges.

Why should you study Geography?

- A versatile subject that could be applied to a number of fields; town planning, environmental studies, teaching, engineering and agriculture.
- The skills that will be developed throughout the course will range from understanding physical process, mapping trends, understanding the distribution of key features and linking human activities and the effect they have on natural processes.
- Geography will help you to understand the world you live in and how that is going to change in the future.
- Close links exist with many different subjects such as Science, History and Maths.
- In Year 10 each pupil will attend 2 days of fieldwork, in association with Margam Fieldwork centre, so that data can be collected to complete the controlled assessment.



Health and Social Care and Childcare

Course outline:

- The GCSE course is designed to introduce learners to the health and social work sector as well as build knowledge of childcare.
- Learners will build their knowledge of how to care for individuals throughout the life cycle from conception to later adulthood.
- On the course you will study human growth, development and well-being and how to promote and maintain health and well-being.
- For this single award GCSE there is an exam worth 40%, this is focused on human growth, development and well-being.
- Learners will complete two coursework tasks worth 60% of the qualification. These are based on the topics of promoting and maintaining health and well-being.

Why you should study Health and Social Care and Childcare:

- This is a valuable course for anyone looking to progress into a wide range of career pathways in the health and care sectors including nursing, social care, health administration, teaching, youth work, childcare, counselling.
- You will develop the skills to recognise aspects of development across the life cycle and understand how circumstances can affect individuals and how to actively develop and maintain health and wellbeing.
- This subject gives a valuable insight into the human lifecycle and promotes a positive attitude towards maintaining health and wellbeing for both ourselves and others.

Aspects of this course have links with PE, Biology, Skills Challenge, Food and Nutrition



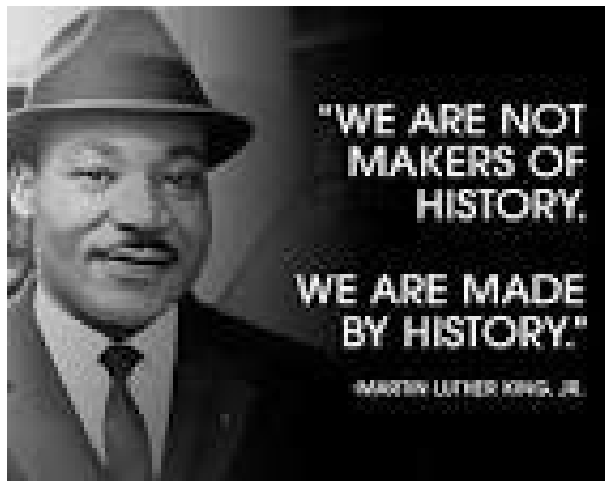
History

Course outline:

- The GCSE History course is designed to encourage students to develop their historical skills by completing a variety of units covering several different time periods.
- There are 2 exams, 1 hour each, with one sat in Year 10 and one at the end of Year 11.
- There are two controlled assessments each worth 20% of the final GCSE grade.
- In Year 10 the pupils study changes in America 1880-1980 followed by a controlled assessment on a Welsh history topic.
- In Year 11 the pupils study Welsh history with a focus on the civil war era (1603-1660) followed by a study of Genghis Khan (1162-1227)

Why you should study History:

- History is a literacy focused subject that develops several thinking skills suitable for many areas of employment.
- Studying History provides a student with skills which are not confined to the study of the past. Skills of analysis are invaluable in many jobs, and the ability to analyse and then prioritise information is vital to decision making.
- The skills that will be developed throughout the course will range from understanding Historical concepts, source analysis and the development of extended written work
- History will help you to understand the world you live in and how it is affected by the past
- In Year 10 each pupil will have the opportunity to complete a residential trip to Berlin to support their studies.



Media Studies

Course outline:

- Our lives are shaped by media and it forms part of all aspects of our lives. This exciting course offers students the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of the key issues in media and give them the ability to debate important questions about the media.
- Learners will draw on their existing experience of the media but will also extend their appreciation and critical understanding through the study of products with which they may be less familiar, including products for different audiences.
- The course includes creating media products themselves, so students can use their creativity to apply what they have learnt. The course will cover the music industry and its promotion, TV and film, social media video games and advertising. Students will look at representation and identity in these areas.
- **Unit 1 Exploring the Media** provides an important foundation for analysing media products, introducing learners to media language and representation through the study of a range of media forms, such as advertising, video games, newspapers, magazines, music videos, radio, websites and social media
Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 30% of qualification
- **Unit 2 Understanding Television and Film** involves the in-depth study of two contrasting audio-visual media forms: British television and Hollywood film. Previous examples have been **Gavin & Stacey**, the **Marvel** franchise and the **Harry Potter** franchise.
Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 30% of qualification
- **Unit 3 Creating Media** Learners will apply their knowledge and understanding of media language, representation and audience to a production of their own media example for a specified audience. *Controlled Assessment (coursework): 40% of qualification*

Why you should study Media Studies?

- To develop critical thinking and decision-making skills through consideration of issues that are important, real and relevant to learners and to the world in which they live.
- To develop their appreciation and understanding of the importance and role of the media in their daily lives.
- To develop their practical skills through opportunities for personal engagement and creative media production.
- Studying Media Studies will equip you for a wide range of jobs. For example, advertising, journalist, writer and presenting.



Music

Course outline:

- Music is open to any student regardless of ability. However, if you opt for music you must be prepared to sing or play an instrument.
- The course is made up of three units, performing 32.5%, composing 32.5% and appraising 35% .
- These units mirror and are an extension of our schemes of learning in years 7 to 9.
- 65% of the course is coursework (performing and composing) and 35% of the course is a final listening digital exam. The exam is based on the elements of music which have been covered in lower school but are explored in greater depth at GCSE.

Why you should study Music:

- Music is a major source of joy and achievement that can improve wellbeing and will help you develop self-confidence, discipline and commitment.
- You will regularly adjust your work and ideas to produce high-quality finished products in performing and composing.
- It also develops transferable skills in decision making, critical thinking, working with others, courage, self-awareness and resilience.
- Music foster creativity – the World Economic Forum for business leaders claimed creativity as the most important workplace capability to help businesses survive and grow. Businesses employ people who have studied a creative subject.
- Career paths include marketing, events manager, sound engineering, musical director, music therapist, radio DJ, session musician, teacher, producer, music journalist, recording artist and music agent.



PE

Course outline for GCSE PE:

- Learners will cover 5 main topics theoretically of health, training and exercise, exercise physiology, movement analysis, physiology of sport and physical activity and socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport.
- They will also complete a logbook based on their strengths and weaknesses of their main sports.
- Learners will also sit a 2 hour written exam at the end of year 11.
- Practically learners will be graded on their practical ability to take part in 3 sports (1 individual sport, a team sport and another). Learners will need to compete in at least 1 sport to be able to progress with this course

Why you should study Sport:

- To study Level 3 Sport in both St. David's and Cardiff and Vale College or A-Level PE at local Sixth Forms. You may then also choose to pursue this avenue in University.
- Jobs from this course include PE Teacher, sports coach, physiotherapist, class instructors, gym instructors, personal trainers and leisure centre work.
- You will develop communication skills, teamwork, the knowledge and understanding of coaching practices, problem solving, the human body, literacy skills and how to develop a training plan.

All students will begin with components of fitness, methods of training, goal setting and will be tested both practically and theoretically throughout the first term in year 10. The 2 courses overlap in content until this point and then a decision will be made based on learners attainment.



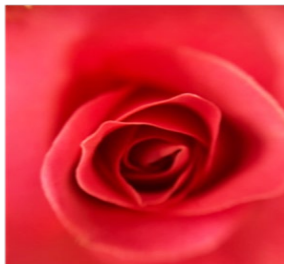
Photography

Course outline:

- The Photography GCSE course allows pupils to explore the technical skills of digital and manual photography creatively using iPads and DSLR cameras.
- Pupils spend the first term learning how to use the manual settings on a DSLR to create images as well as how to enhance their photographs with lighting and editing software. Pupils will be assessed on a coursework project and an externally set project.
- In both projects' pupils will respond to a theme demonstrating their knowledge of equipment, techniques and artists. The coursework projects amount to 60% of the overall grade and will span Year 10 and 11. The externally set project amounts to 40% and is completed during the spring term of Year 11.
- Pupils are encouraged to choose themes that are relevant and personal to them whilst using a wide array of materials to refine their skills, this will mean they develop projects that are reflective of their experiences, identities, cultures and aspirations.

Why you should study Photography:

- Photography GCSE will enhance your creative, analytical and digital skills. All of which are invaluable in the current job market.
- GCSE Photography will give you the technical base for a career in the Arts but more specifically, the vast expanse of jobs as a photographer could peak anyone's interests. This is not limited to: fashion, film, journalism, medical, pet, portrait, product, sport and wedding photography.
- Creative subjects encourage self-expression and creativity and can build confidence as well as a sense of individual identity.
- While completing the course you will gain skills in resilience, courage, self-awareness, the ability to reflect and collaboration.
- Creativity can help with wellbeing and improve health and happiness. Photography lessons can act as an outlet for releasing the pressures.



Product Design

Course outline:

- GCSE Product Design is a wide ranging and versatile qualification intended for Learners who are curious and engaged in careers in any aspect of science and technology.
- The GCSE course is designed to develop and to help understand how products, designers, materials and technology shape the modern world and how products are manufactured on a global scale.
- In year 10, learners will develop knowledge of manufacturing processes and of wide-ranging materials. They will have the opportunity to develop their computerised and traditional design and making skills.
- Learners will use a range of designing equipment, specialised hand tools and computer aided manufacturing equipment such as laser cutters and 3D printers to produce products; and to support the theoretical content of the course.
- In year 11 you will complete a NEA task (Non-Exam Assessment) worth 50%, this involves the development of an informal sketchbook, manufacturing a product and a formal portfolio and evaluation.
- There is an exam in year 11 worth 50%, this is focused on Design and Technology in the 21st Century: Product Design.

Why you should study GCSE Product Design:

- You should consider product design if you are considering any career in any science, design, technology, engineering or maths subject area.
- GCSE Product Design is a bridge between the academic and practical world where application of knowledge learned is turned into functioning products.
- If you are interested in product design, engineering, architecture, furniture design and construction then product design is a subject you should study.
- You will develop hand manufacturing skills and learn how to cut, shape, drill, form and join various materials. You will also carry out a variety of designing and skill-based tasks such as analysing, designing, prototyping and manufacturing.
- In GCSE Product Design we aim to prepare our students for the ever-changing technological developments of the modern world by giving them the opportunities to be creative and learn a range of modern skills in order to design and manufacture products that solve real world problems.



Skills Challenge Certificate

Course Outline:

The Skills Challenge Certificate is designed to ensure that you develop the necessary skills that are essential for employers, further education, life and work. It provides opportunities to develop these skills through purposeful, meaningful and engaging learning experiences; making your learning relevant and set in real-life contexts for real-life purposes.

The objectives of the Skills Challenge Certificate are for students to be able to:

- Develop an appreciation of the importance of skills development as a key aspect of life-long learning.
- Engage in active, creative, open-ended and student-led opportunities.
- Enquire and think for themselves, plan, make choices and decisions, solve problems and reflect on and evaluate these.
- Broaden their experience through engagement with external organisations.
- Develop as effective, responsible and active citizens ready to take their place in a global society and in the workplace.
- Develop initiative, independence and resilience.
- Increase their confidence and their motivation for learning and skills development.
- Work independently, take on responsibilities and work effectively with others.

What will I study?

Your skills will be developed, applied and assessed through the completion of three 'challenges' to achieve the GCSE Skills Challenge Certificate. These are:

- Individual Project.
- Global Citizenship.
- Enterprise and Employability.

The qualification also contributes to the Welsh Baccalaureate along with English Language, English Literature, Mathematics - Numeracy and two other supporting qualifications.



English Language and Literature

Course Outline:

- The GCSE English Language and Literature qualification will enable you to appreciate how language connects you to the world around you.
- You will study a rich range of texts from different periods and diverse writers.
- You will learn how to develop and apply your own use of language, through written and verbal communication.
- The qualification is assessed through written exams (60%) and non-examined assessments. (40%)
- You will study a range of units which will include Shakespeare, analysing and creating texts, developing oracy skills and poetry.

Skills you will develop:

- Communication Skills – expressing yourself through clear and creative use of language.
- Reading Skills – reading, listening to and researching a range of texts, analysing meaning and scrutinizing reliability.
- Contextual Analysis Skills – engaging with the significance of purpose, audience, and contexts of speaking, reading and writing.
- Literacy Skills – developing and applying an understanding of grammar and uses of vocabulary.

Careers using English Language and Literature:

A GCSE in English Language and Literature can lead to a variety of career paths. These include jobs such as:

- Law related occupations
- Journalism
- Media production
- Advertising
- Marketing
- Teaching
- Politics
- Public relations
- Publishing

Mathematics & Numeracy

Course Outline:

- The GCSE Maths and Numeracy enables you to build on the knowledge and understanding you have of topics within number, algebra, geometry and data.
- You will be taught the key financial aspects of everyday adult life, such as dealing with pay slips, bills and savings.
- The qualification is a perfect platform for those who want a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. (STEM)
- The course has 3 units:
 - Unit 1: Financial Mathematics and other Applications of Numeracy
 - Unit 2: Non-calculator paper
 - Unit 3: Calculator-allowed paper

Skills you will develop:

- You will develop an understanding of the different areas of mathematics and how they relate to each other.
- You will extend your range of mathematical skills and techniques and be able to apply them to a range of real-life contexts.
- You will gain a strong foundation in financial mathematics to prepare for your life and work.

Careers in Mathematics:

A GCSE in Maths and Numeracy can lead to a variety of career paths. These include jobs such as:

- Financial analyst
- Computer programmer
- Medical scientist
- Software developer
- Economist
- Data / research analyst
- Accountant
- Teacher

Religious Studies

Course Outline:

The Religious Studies course will enable students to:

- Adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion.
- Explore Roman Catholicism and Judaism, reflecting on fundamental questions responding intellectually and personally.
- Enhance their spiritual and moral development and contribute to their health and wellbeing.
- Enhance their personal, social and cultural development, their understanding of different cultures locally, nationally and in the wider world, and to contribute to social and community cohesion.
- Develop their interest in and enthusiasm for the study of religion and relate it to the wider world.
- Reflect on and develop their own ethical values, opinions and attitudes considering their learning.

What will I study?

Students will follow two units:

Year 10: Catholic Christianity and Judaism

Year 11: Catholic Christianity and Ethical Themes



Science

Course Outline:

The Double Award Science course is designed to develop knowledge and understanding about the material, physical and living worlds. Students will learn about the application of Science in everyday life and the relationship between Science and society as well as developing their skills in problem solving, mathematics, use of technology and the evaluation of risks and benefits. There are also many opportunities for students to develop their practical skills through laboratory and field-based experiments. Two grades will be awarded at the end of this course.

What will I study?

The Science course is split into 8 units, which focus upon the three main scientific disciplines:

Year 10

- Biology 1 – Cells, body systems, plants and human impact on the environment.
- Chemistry 1 – Fundamentals of chemistry, the Earth and its resources.
- Physics 1 – Energy, electricity and waves.

Year 11

- Biology 2 –Biodiversity, inheritance and human response and regulation.
- Chemistry 2 – Atoms, bonding and chemical reactions.
- Physics 2 – Laws of motion, space and radiation.
- Practical Assessment – Obtaining and analysing scientific data.

Throughout the course, students will learn how science works. This underpins the science in the course and ensures that candidates understand scientific method, including the formulation of hypotheses and the collection and analysis of experimental data.

A Triple Science pathway will also be available to a small number of pupils particularly interested in pursuing Science as a career.



Cymraeg

Course Outline:

The GCSE specification in Welsh second language will enable candidates to:

- Understand and use the language for a variety of purposes and audiences.
- Develop language learning skills and strategies in order to enable candidates to communicate and interact confidently and spontaneously in relevant situations and specified context.
- Develop language learning skills and strategies to enable candidates to develop their grasp of Welsh further and develop curiosity about the language.

What will I study?

Students will further develop their understanding of spoken and written Welsh and their ability to express themselves through the medium of Welsh. Students will continue to develop their Welsh language skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Students will also study a range of topics based around the three broad themes of **Youth, Wales and the World** and **Employment**.

Topics will include, but not be limited to:

- Part time and voluntary work: Duke of Edinburgh award, in school, in the local area, career choices, 6th form, college, work, careers
- Bilingualism: signs, polices, image, advantages, organisations that promote the Welsh language, career pathways, benefits, learning Welsh in school, the use of Welsh in schools, adult classes, language centres
- Friends, family, the area, holidays, interests, modern technology, healthy lifestyle

The new syllabus comprises 4 units of work, all worth 25% of the overall GCSE grade. There are no controlled assessment or coursework elements.

Unit 1 – Pair/Group speaking – non-examination assessment
(Oracy response to visual stimulus)

Unit 2 – Pair/Group speaking – non-examination assessment
(Communicating with others - infographic)

Unit 3 – Reading and Writing examination
(Narrative, specific and instructional)

Unit 4 – Reading and Writing examination
(Descriptive, creative and imaginative)

