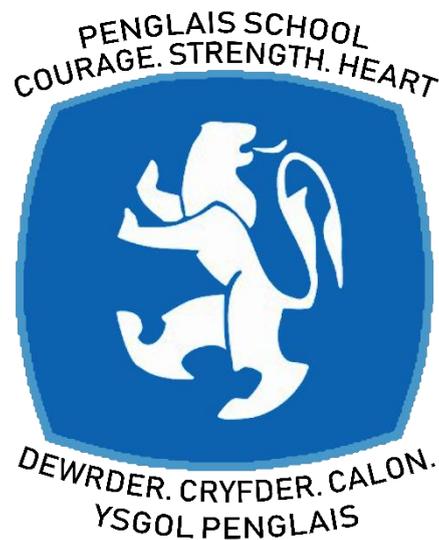


Ysgol Penglais School

Year 9 Options 2020 – 2022



Dear Student,

Firstly, thank you for reading our guide for the Year 9 options. These will be the courses you will study from June 2020 to June 2022. The next two years in Penglais are very important years in your education and we are proud to be able to offer a broad curriculum at Key Stage 4.

It is very important that you select your courses based on advice and guidance from a variety of sources. Some of the courses in Key Stage 4 have not been offered at Key Stage 3. Some of the choices you are making now may affect your option choices after Year 11.

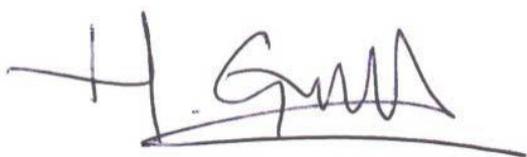
Make sure you speak to the appropriate staff at parents' evening on Thursday 6th February. All of our teachers will be able to provide advice and guidance on appropriate choices for you. There is also a Careers Advisor based in school and appointments can be made through Student Services or your Head of Year.

Please read the options form carefully and hand it in completed to your form teacher on Thursday 13th February 2020.

The school reserves the right to change the options available and this can be due to staffing or budget changes, as well as the numbers wishing to opt for a subject. The school may also need to run the options process twice so please make sure you have a second option in mind for each box.

I would like to wish you the very best of luck with your choices and hope you find our booklet informative.

Should you have any questions regarding the information in the booklet please do not hesitate to contact Mr O Daniel, Head of Year, on 01970 624811 or email: oxd@penglais.org.uk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H.G. Griffiths', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mrs H.G. Griffiths.
Deputy Headteacher

Making Decisions

For students beginning GCSE in June 2020 the following are compulsory: Most students will take:

English and English Literature
Mathematics and Numeracy
Science
Welsh Second Language or Cymraeg
Welsh Baccalaureate
PE and Games (not for examination)
Statutory Religious Education (not for examination)
3 other subjects (the options)

So what decisions will you have to make?

There will be three columns of subjects from which to select.

You must choose ONE subject from EACH column.

If you choose Engineering in Boxes 2 and 3 this will leave one option choice

Although we hope that you will be able to take the subjects of your choice, THIS CANNOT BE GUARANTEED.

When you are making your option choices please take the following points into consideration:

- In the interest of creating a broad and balanced curriculum you are encouraged to select a creative subject such as Art and Design, Music or Product Design. There are many job opportunities available in this industry and we have a varied choice on offer. These include Art, Product Design, Food and Nutrition.

- We have three humanity subjects on offer which provide the opportunity to study many interesting themes and topics and you are encouraged to select at least one from History, Geography and RE. All are extremely useful qualifications no matter what you wish to study after compulsory education ends. Humanities also provide many opportunities for developing research, evaluation and writing skills which are vital for any future study or employment opportunities.

- If you are proficient in languages you should consider taking at least one Modern Foreign Language. Again, we have a wide range on offer including French, Spanish and Mandarin.
- We have one vocational course on offer - Engineering. This is aimed at providing very practical experience for those students who wish to enjoy courses that are employment-orientated in nature. The Engineering course is delivered in school.
- Once you have made your choices check to ensure it provides a balanced curriculum.
- It is very important you ensure the courses you choose have a balance of controlled assessment and examination. Some courses have a large proportion of controlled assessment work which is continually assessed. This can lead to a large workload through the year if you choose two of these types of courses. Some courses are linear – all the assessments take place at the end of two years, some are modular where exams can be taken in Year 10 and Year 11. Please read the booklet carefully to identify these subjects.
- At this stage it is also important to check if your chosen options prevent you from pursuing certain courses in the future. For this it is worth checking the entry requirements for A Level courses, and for students with an idea of what they may want to study at College or University they can check the entry requirements at these institutions on their websites.
- It is very important that you keep your options open at this stage and do not over-specialise.
- Do not base your choices on what your friends are choosing – it is your future, not theirs. Also, do not base your choices on who may or may not be delivering courses as this is subject to change.
- If it is considered you have made any unwise decisions or combinations, you will receive further advice and be asked to choose again.
- If the numbers opting for an option are too low students will be asked to select again.

General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)

All GCSE courses and examinations follow nationally agreed guidelines known as the 'National Criteria'. These cover course objectives, content and assessment methods. The aim is to help students to benefit as much as possible from their studies.

Compulsory Subjects

ENGLISH LANGUAGE GCSE

ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE

MATHS AND NUMERACY GCSE

SCIENCE: DOUBLE AWARD OR TRIPLE AWARD GCSE

WELSH: FIRST LANGUAGE GCSE

WELSH: SECOND LANGUAGE GCSE

SKILLS CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE: WELSH BACCALAUREATE

GCSE English Language

INTRODUCTION

Achieving a good grade for English Language is very important, as employers, colleges and universities will all be looking for the skills in reading, writing and speaking and listening that this GCSE covers.

The majority of the course (80%) is based on two exams that will be taken at the end of Year 11. Each exam has a reading and a writing section. The rest of the course (20%) is based on two speaking and listening tasks that are completed in Year 10 & 11. Both aspects of the course are described in more detail below.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Non-Examination Controlled Assessment: 20%
External Assessment: 80%

Unit 1: Oracy (Non examination assessment) 20%

This Unit will consist of two tasks: an individual research presentation (40 marks) and a group discussion (40 marks). All themes and topics will be provided by the WJEC examination board and will be carried out within a set time frame and in controlled conditions. There will be a particular focus on verbal and grammatical accuracy in this unit.

The written papers are divided into two units.

Unit 2: Reading and Writing (external assessment). (40%.) Description, Narration and Exposition

This Unit will take the form of a two hour examination paper in two sections.

-Section A will test understanding of a range of texts with structured questions and will include an editing task. (40 marks)

-Section B will be a descriptive, narrative or exposition writing task with half the marks being awarded for language, grammar, spelling and punctuation. A proof reading task will also be included. (40 marks)

Unit 3 Reading and Writing (external assessment). (40%) Argument, Persuasion and Instruction.

This Unit will be presented as a two hour examination paper in two sections.

-Section A will test understanding of a range of texts and structured questions. (40 marks)

- Section B will require two writing tasks focusing on argument and persuasion. (40 marks)

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Please see Mrs J Davies (English Faculty Leader) in D13 for further information.

GCSE English Literature

INTRODUCTION

The English Literature GCSE focuses on the study of different novels, plays and poems. The course is split into two exams and two controlled tasks (explained in more detail below). It is likely that a controlled task and the Unit 1 exam will be completed by the end of Year 10. The Unit 2 exam and second controlled assessment will be completed in Year 11. Although the Literature GCSE is separate from the Language GCSE, the skills used in studying and analysing different texts will also help students with the reading and writing sections in the English Language exams.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

External Assessment: 75%

The written papers are divided into two units.

Unit 1 – Students will study “Of Mice and Men” by John Steinbeck and will compare two contemporary unseen poems. (35%)

Unit 2 – Students will study “An Inspector Calls” by J.B. Priestley and “Heroes” by Robert Cormier. (40 %)

Unit 3 Non Examination Assessment: 25%
This unit will be divided in to two sections.

-Section A requires the study of a set theme on a Shakespeare play

-Section B requires the study of 15 poems from “One Hundred Poets from Wales”.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Please see Mrs J Davies (English Faculty Leader) in D13 for further information.

GCSE Maths & GCSE Numeracy

INTRODUCTION

Students in Wales will study for two GCSEs in Mathematics called GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy. The examining board will be WJEC. Students in set 1 will study for the Higher tier, with grades of A* to C available, whilst those in lower sets will study for Intermediate tier, with grades of B to E available. Students will be assessed frequently in order to decide the most appropriate set and tier of entry. If, towards the end of Year 11, it is felt that a student will not achieve at least a grade E, then they will be entered for the Foundation tier which has grades of D to G. In rare cases, if it is felt that GCSE Mathematics is inappropriate, it is possible that a few students may concentrate on GCSE Mathematics - Numeracy

COURSE CONTENT

The course content for both examinations is broadly similar, with the mathematics course having all the content of the numeracy course plus an increase in Algebra and Probability. The Numeracy GCSE focuses on the candidates' ability to choose appropriate mathematical techniques to real-life scenarios, whereas the Mathematics GCSE is more focused on mathematical knowledge and is a little more abstract in nature. There is too much detail to list all the subject content here but a detailed specification can be found via the link at the bottom of the page. The subject content will naturally follow the work done at KS3.

ASSESSMENT:

Both qualifications are entirely exam based with the exams sat at the end of Year 11. Each qualification has 2 exams, each lasting 1 hour 45 minutes, with one exam for each qualification being a calculator paper and one being a non-calculator paper. (Foundation exams are each 1 hour 30 minutes).

Full details of both courses, and specimen papers, are available at <http://www.wjec.co.uk/supporting/gcses-from-2015/>.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Please see Mr O Bentley in B9 (Key Stage 4 Co-ordinator) or Dr J Devlin in B6 (Maths & Numeracy Faculty Leader) for further information.

GCSE Science: Double Award

INTRODUCTION

The Double Award course encourages learners to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards science and to recognise its importance in their own lives and to society, providing the foundations for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity, and all learners will be taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science.

They will be helped to appreciate how the complex and diverse phenomena of the natural world can be described in terms of a small number of key ideas relating to the sciences which are both inter-linked, and are of universal application.

COURSE CONTENT:

Year 10 Biology:

Cells and movement across membranes
Respiration and the respiratory system in humans
Digestion and the digestive system in humans
Circulatory system in humans
Plants and photosynthesis
Ecosystems and human impact on the environment

Year 10 Chemistry:

The nature of substances and chemical reactions
Atomic structure and the Periodic Table
Water
The ever-changing Earth
Rate of chemical change

Year 10 Physics:

Electric circuits
Generating electricity
Making use of energy
Domestic electricity
Features of waves

Year 11 Biology:

Classification and biodiversity
Cell division and stem cells
DNA and inheritance
Variation and evolution
Response and regulation

Disease, defence and treatment

Year 11 Chemistry:

Bonding, structure and properties
Acids, bases and salts
Metals and their extraction
Chemical reactions and energy
Crude oil, fuels and carbon compounds

Year 11 Physics:

Distance, speed and acceleration
Newton's laws
Work and energy
Stars and planets
Types of radiation
Half-life

ASSESSMENT:

Students will be entered for the Higher (A* - D) or Foundation (C- G) courses based on ability and performance.

GCSE Science (Double Award) is a suitable preparation for A Level exams in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It is worth two GCSEs.

Students will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately taught by subject specialist teachers in sets according to students' prior achievement.

90% of the GCSE is based on six exams, two each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each exam will be 1 hour 15 minutes long and contributes to 15% of the full qualification. The remaining 10% is determined by two practical assessments.

Assessment of student's progress throughout the course will be made through end of module tests.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Please see Mr S Jones (Science & Digital Competence Faculty Leader) in C3 or the WJEC website (<http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/science/gcse/science-double-gcse-2016/>) for further information.

GCSE Science: Triple Award

INTRODUCTION

Students following the Triple Award Science course will complete all the units contained in the core Double Award Science course along with additional topics which deepens and broadens their scientific knowledge.

The course provides students with three separate GCSE's in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It has been designed for the most able students and is widely considered as a valuable option for students wishing to go on to study science or science-related courses at post 16 or degree level.

It is expected that all students opting for Triple Award Science will sit the Higher Tier exam with grades A* to D available for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

COURSE CONTENT:

Students will complete the Double Award content and the following separate science content which includes:

Kidneys and Homeostasis, Micro-organisms, Disease, Defence and Treatment, Limestone, Reversible Reactions, Important Chemicals, Total Internal Reflection, Seismic Waves, Kinetic Theory and Electromagnetism. Students will also study Double Award topics to a greater depth.

ASSESSMENT:

Two written exams will count for 90% of each of the science GCSEs. These exams will be in the summer of Year 10 and Year 11 and each exam will be 1 hour 45 minutes long.

The remaining 10% is determined by a practical assessment which takes place during January of Year 11. Assessment of student's progress throughout the course will be made through end of module tests.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Please see Mr S Jones (Science & Digital Competence Faculty Leader) in C3 for further information. or the WJEC Triple Award Science Specifications at: <https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/science/gcse/>

GCSE Welsh: First Language

INTRODUCTION

This course is aimed at students who have studied the Cymraeg (Welsh First Language) Programme of Study in KS3.

The WJEC Welsh First Language course aims to ensure that students are given the opportunity to :

- Show interest, pleasure and enthusiasm whilst studying the Welsh language;
- Communicate confidently, correctly and fluently in oral and written work, in a wide range of situations and contexts;
- Show their ability to contribute to discussions, giving relevant consideration to ideas, circumstances and the role of others;
- Respond to a wide range of reading materials – stimulating texts to encourage interest and enthusiasm and respond orally or in writing to poetry, prose and plays paying attention to detail;
- Write in a wide range of styles giving attention to purpose, audience and grammatical correctness.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The content of the course is based on the following topics: Cymru a Chymreictod (Wales and Welshness) Ieuenctid (Being Young in the Modern World)/ Cyfathrebu (Communication) Natur a Dynoliaeth (Nature and Humanity) Pigo Cydwybod (Conscience provoking topics) Rhyfel a Thrais (War and Violence)

ASSESSMENT:

Unit 1

Oral Tasks (30%) - Controlled Assessments

Task 1 (15%) - Individual Presentation based on research - Presentation on a topic of their own choice within one of the following themes : Cymru, Hamdden, Byd Gwaith, Byd Gwyddoniaeth/Technoleg, Dinasyddiaeth. (Summer Term in Year 10).

Task 2 (15%) - Response and Interaction Group Task – Expressing their opinions on a variety of topics (Spring Term in Yr 11).

Unit 2

External Assessment : Descriptive, narrative and explanation.

Reading and writing (35%) - May of year 11

Written Exam Paper : 120 minutes consisting of 2 sections :

- Section A (15%) - Reading Comprehension, using and comparing texts.
- Section B (20%) - Written Task, either descriptive, narrative or explanation. This section will also include a proof reading and correcting task.

Unit 3

External Assessment : Discussion, Persuasion and Information for a specific purpose

Reading and Writing (35%) – May of Yr. 11

Written Exam Paper 120 minutes consisting of 2 sections :

- Section A (15%) - Reading Comprehension, using and comparing texts.
- Section B (20%) - Written tasks, one discussion and one persuasive piece.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Please see Miss Davies (Leader of Cymraeg a Llythrennedd) in A5 for further information.

GCSE Welsh: Second Language

INTRODUCTION

This course is for students who have studied the Cymraeg Ail Iaith (Welsh Second Language) Programme of Study in KS3

This course aims to ensure that candidates are aware of the importance of the Welsh language in the modern Wales by nurturing a positive attitude to the Welsh language and its culture.

Following this course should encourage students to :

- understand and use the language for a variety of purposes and audiences
- develop language skills and strategies in order to enable candidates to communicate and interact confidently and spontaneously in relevant situations and specified contexts.
- develop language learning skills and strategies to enable candidates to develop their use of Welsh further.
- develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in an integrated manner, emphasising listening and speaking skills.
- use Welsh in further studies, in the workplace and in their communities
- develop curiosity about the Welsh language

COURSE CONTENT:

Students study 3 very broad contexts over the two years Cyflogaeth (employment), Ieuenctid (Youth), Cymru a'r Byd (Wales and the World)

ASSESSMENT

UNIT 1 : Oracy Response to Visual Stimulus (25%)

- Non examination assessment. 1 task. Speaking (10%) and Listening (5%).

This will be a task for a group of 2 or 3 based on a visual stimulus for discussion. Students will watch a visual clip and fill in a related sheet. They will then discuss what they have watched.

UNIT 2 : Communication with other people (25%)

- Non examination assessment. 1 task. Speaking (20%) and Listening (5%).

A discussion based on three triggers such as a combination of graphs, pictures and short reading texts.

UNIT 3 : Narrative, specific and instructional (25%)

- Written examination (1 hour and 30 minutes). Reading (15%) and Writing (10%).

Reading tasks with non verbal and written responses. One translation task from English to Welsh. One proof reading task and writing tasks.

UNIT 4 : Descriptive, creative and imaginative (25%)

- Written examination (1 hour and 30 minutes. Reading (10%) and Writing (15%).

Reading tasks with non-verbal and written responses and writing tasks.

Learners are not permitted to use dictionaries or any other resources in any part of the assessment.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Please see Miss Parr (Leader of Cymraeg ail iaith) in A1 for further information.

Skills Challenge Certificate

INTRODUCTION

The main aims of the Welsh Baccaalaureate are to develop a wide range of essential and employability skills and to promote the value and development of skills for education, life and work.

COURSE CONTENT

The qualification is based on a Skills Challenge Certificate and Supporting Qualifications and will be awarded at National or Foundation level.

- Skills Challenge Certificate

The Skills Challenge Certificate is made up of an Individual Project and three Challenges.

- The Individual Project

This is an independent, research-based assignment on an individually selected subject. Learners demonstrate the knowledge and skills to produce a written investigation.

- Enterprise and Employability Challenge

This Challenge will enable learners to develop enterprising skills and attributes and prepare them for the workplace.

- Global Citizenship Challenge

This Challenge will help learners to understand and respond appropriately to a global issue.

- Community Challenge

This Challenge will enable learners to identify, develop and participate in opportunities that will benefit the community.

The combined results of the challenges and project will determine whether the Skills Challenge Certificate is awarded at National or Foundation level.

SUPPORTING QUALIFICATIONS

The Supporting Qualifications include GCSEs in English Language or Welsh Language together with Mathematics or Mathematics Numeracy. A further three GCSEs are also required, two of which may be of equivalent qualifications (e.g. BTEC).

To meet the National Welsh Baccaalaureate requirements all five of the Supporting Qualifications must be achieved at grades A* - C.

For the Foundation Welsh Baccaalaureate the Supporting Qualifications must be achieved at grades A* - G.

To achieve the Welsh Baccaalaureate you must meet the requirements of both the Skills Challenge Certificate and the Supporting Qualifications.

ASSESSMENT

There is no final examination. All marks are gained from controlled assessments.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Please see Miss K. Davies (Welsh Bacc Faculty Leader) in A8 for further information.

Optional Subjects

GCSE ART

GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

GCSE FOOD & NUTRITION

GCSE DRAMA

GCSE FRENCH

GCSE GEOGRAPHY

GCSE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

GCSE HISTORY

GCSE ICT

GCSE MANDARIN

GCSE MUSIC

GCSE P.E

GCSE PRODUCT DESIGN

GCSE R.E

GCSE SPANISH

NVQ LEVELS 1 / 2 PERFORMING ENGINEERING OPERATIONS

SKILLS ANELA

CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL IN ENTERPRISE AND MARKETING

GCSE Art

INTRODUCTION

An ability to work from direct observation and an ability to develop work creatively and imaginatively. A determination to work consistently is essential, both in school and in own time.

Students must produce work for their projects at home as well as in class. The work must be done on a regular basis as it is an essential part of the course and handed in at the beginning of each week.

CONTENT

Coursework is organised into projects - these will cover a wide range of activities: painting, drawing, printing, graphics, 2D and 3D designs, photography, ceramics and textiles. Themes will be set by the teacher.

Throughout all the projects there is additional emphasis on written work and individual research.

ASSESSMENT

Coursework – portfolio 60%. This will be assessed at regular intervals. Practical Examination 40%. (A 10 hour exam over 2 days in March of Year 11, chosen in January of Year 11).

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Please see Mrs T Harper (Leader of Art) in B3 for further information.

GCSE Business Studies

INTRODUCTION

Business Studies is relevant to the world of work. Employers value the qualification. There are real opportunities to progress –in education or employment.

When you leave school and wish to get a job, you will understand a little more about the way a business works. If you choose not to become an employee, you will perhaps have the skills and knowledge to start your own business.

COURSE CONTENT

The content is presented in six clear and distinct topic areas:

- Business activity
- Influences on business
- Business operations
- Finance
- Marketing
- Human resources

ASSESSMENT

Unit 1: Business World Written examination:
2 hours 62.5% of qualification 100 Marks. A mix of short answer and structured questions based on stimulus material covering all of the course content.

Unit 2: Business Perceptions Written examination:
1 hour 30 minutes 37.5% of qualification 60 Marks. Data response questions covering all of the course content.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Please see Mrs Bentley (Leader of Business) in F3 for further information.

GCSE Food & Nutrition

INTRODUCTION

GCSE Food and Nutrition enables you to learn about the food we eat every day in an interesting and exciting way. We cook, experiment and research about the foods available to us and look at the relationship between diet and good health. You will gain an understanding of the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability and production processes. We develop cooking skills so that by the end of the course you will be confident in making meals for your family and friends!

Further training in this subject can lead to a wide variety of career opportunities – food scientists, dieticians, food technologists, food journalism, food manufacturing and farming, chefs and cooks in a range of establishments and a range of opportunities in hotels and restaurants including management.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Unit 1: Principles of Food and Nutrition

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes - 40% of qualification

Areas of content:

Food commodities

Principles of nutrition

Diet and good health

The science of food

Where food comes from

Cooking and food preparation

Unit 2: Food and Nutrition in Action

Non-examination assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated.

Assessment 1: The Food Investigation Assessment: 20% of the total marks available will be allocated to a scientific food investigation which will assess the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.

Assessment 2: The Food Preparation Assessment 40% of the total marks available will be allocated to a task which assesses the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of dishes to form a menu. Whilst this is a practical subject it must be stressed that there is a lot of written work required in the coursework. You must be prepared to provide ingredients and cook on a regular basis.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Please see Mrs Wells in D20 (Leader of D&T) or Mrs Hague (Teacher of D&T) in D18 for further information.

GCSE Drama

INTRODUCTION

Do you want to study a course that is challenging, yet utterly rewarding? Do you want to learn new transferable skills that can be used in any workplace and on any career path you choose? Do you enjoy watching and critiquing live theatre? Do you, perhaps, want to gain confidence in public speaking? Or do you want to sit a GCSE that is fun and inspiring?

The WJEC GCSE Drama course is exciting, inspiring and practical. With both actor and designer pathways to choose from, there is something for everyone on this course.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Unit 1: Devising Theatre (Practical: internally assessed, externally moderated)

40% of the overall mark (60 marks)

In this unit, you will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre, in groups of up to five, based on either the work of a theatre practitioner or a genre in response to a stimulus set by the WJEC.

This performance will take place in November of the second year of the course.

In addition, you will complete a short, written evaluation of the devised performance under examination conditions.

You can choose to be assessed as an actor or a designer (lighting, sound, set or costume)

Unit 2: Performing Theatre (Practical: assessed by visiting examiner)

20% of the overall mark (60 marks)

In this unit, you will participate in a performance based on two 10 minute extracts from a performance text of your own choice. You will work in groups of up to five. You can choose to be assessed as an actor or a designer. This performance will take place between February and April of the second year of the course.

Unit 3: Interpreting Theatre (Written examination: 1 hour, 30 minutes)

40% of the overall mark (60 marks)

This written examination is split into two sections:

Section A requires you to answer questions based on one set text. You will be expected to answer from several different points of view, encompassing acting, directing and designing.

Section B requires you to write a review of two live pieces of theatre that you have watched during the course.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Please see Mr. Stott (Leader of Drama) in E1 for further information.

GCSE French

It is a multi-lingual world...English is not enough!

INTRODUCTION

Did you know that:

Knowledge of a foreign language can raise one's salary by between 8-20%?

Lots of universities ask for a language GCSE for entry?

Foreign language skills are the second thing employers look for on job applications?

This course would suit students who want to improve their:

- Communication skills
- Problem solving skills
- Confidence

Being able to speak other languages is a skill that gets you ahead.

Being successful at another language shows good communication skills and shows employers you are willing to learn new skills and welcome a challenge.

A GCSE in a language is increasingly valued by universities and colleges of further education.

You can combine languages with lots of other things at University (e.g. Business, Law, Economics, Engineering, Marketing, Tourism) which leads to excellent career prospects.

COURSE CONTENT

You will develop the language skills, grammar knowledge and vocabulary you have learned in KS3 to learn to speak and write and understand French in greater detail and with greater accuracy in the following topic areas:

Personal and Social life, the Local Community, the World of Work and the Wider World.

ASSESSMENT

The GCSE will be assessed by final exams at the end of Year 11 in Speaking (7-12 minutes), Reading (1 hour approx), Listening (35-45 minutes) and Writing/translation (1 hour approx).

Each exam will be weighted equally at 25%.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE :

Please see Mrs L Carver (Cymraeg & MFL Faculty Leader) in E7 for further information.

GCSE Geography

INTRODUCTION

GCSE Geography enables you to learn about the dynamic and exciting world around you. We look at the opportunities, challenges and constraints facing people in different environments together with the reasons for the development of different landscapes on the surface of the earth. Geography also allows you to develop very useful skills such as problem solving, investigative work, fieldwork, map reading and information and communication technology. Geographers go on to find opportunities in a wide range of careers because of the number of skills they acquire and their knowledge and understanding of present day issues in a constantly changing world. All students will sit common papers.

COURSE CONTENT

The course is divided into three units:

Unit 1: Changing Physical and Human Landscapes

The core themes assessed in this unit are:

Landscapes and physical processes

- Distinctive landscapes in Wales
- Landform processes and change in the UK

2. Rural-urban links

- The links between rural and urban areas in Wales
- Population and urban change in the UK
- Issues in contrasting global cities

All students will study these two themes. The students will also study one of the following topics:

· Tectonic processes and landforms or Coastal hazards and their management

This unit is 40% of the GCSE and is examined in the summer of Year 11.

Unit 2: Environmental and Development Issues

The core themes assessed in this unit are:

1. Weather, climate and ecosystems

- Climate change
- Weather patterns and processes
- The processes and interactions within ecosystems
- The impact of human activity on ecosystems

2. Development

- Measuring global inequalities
- Causes and consequences of uneven development Water resources and their management
- Regional economic development

All students will study these two themes. The students will also study one of the following topics: Social development issues or Environmental challenges. This unit is 40% of the GCSE and is examined in the summer of Year 11.

Unit 3: Fieldwork enquiry

Students will complete an enquiry based on fieldwork worth 20% of the GCSE qualification. This will be completed as a controlled assessment under exam conditions.

Assessment

80% of the course will be examined through units sat at the end of Year 11.

20% of the course is a Controlled Assessment (fieldwork enquiry).

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Please see Mr D Johnson (Leader of Geography) in B14 for further information.

GCSE Health & Social Care

INTRODUCTION

If you want to learn more about human development, how people are affected by poor health, and how we can best look after people of all ages who need health and/or social care, you will find the WJEC GCSE Health and Social Care very interesting.

Qualifications in health are useful to everyone. Many students use their newly-acquired knowledge to make important changes to the way they lead their lives, but qualifications are also very useful in helping students to obtain jobs in the Health and Social Care sector. The

NHS is the largest employer in Europe, and has a constant need for hard-working people with a range of different skills and an interest and knowledge of health to keep it working properly. This is why we are providing students in Penglais the option of studying Health at GCSE.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

In Year 10 all students will gain knowledge and understanding of Unit 1, Health, Social Care and Children's Services, and will be assessed by controlled assessment (which accounts for 60% of the GCSE).

In Year 11 students will study Unit 2, Human Growth and Development, which is assessed externally by examination (this accounts for 40%). You will be required to work hard and be expected to show initiative throughout the course by reading newspaper and magazine articles related to the subject.

Health is a fascinating and fast-moving area as new treatments, diseases and ways of providing care evolve.

It is always in the news and you will enjoy the course more if you keep up to date with developments. If you are successful at GCSE you will be able to progress onto the GCE Health course at sixth form level.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Please see Mrs A Trotter (Leader of Social Sciences) in E5 for further information.

GCSE History

INTRODUCTION

History is a qualification valued and respected by universities and employers alike. History develops high levels of literacy and critical thinking abilities; skills essential for a wide variety of careers, including law, politics, journalism and teaching. Don't just think about the obvious; a surprising number of historians have also reached the top in business, media and across a wide range of careers. The value of History has been underlined by the Higher Education Statistical Agency which places History in the top five disciplines in terms of successful employability within six months of graduation.

COURSE CONTENT

The History Department will be teaching the popular WJEC GCSE History course and all students will sit common papers. The four units to be taught are:

1. Depression, War and Recovery 1930-1951

For this unit we will study Britain during a time of tremendous challenge and change. The key focus will be on the Second World War and how the people of Britain coped with the horrors of the Blitz and the challenges of evacuation. We will also study the impact of the Great Depression in the 1930s and the setting up of the NHS in the post-war period.

2. The USA 1910-1929: Gangsters, Jazz and the KKK

For this unit we will study America in the Roaring Twenties (1920s) and we will explore the horrors of racism and the KKK. We will look at Al Capone and the rise of the gangsters. On a lighter note we will experience the heady days of the Jazz Age, with a study of the dance crazes, films, fashions and sports that were popular at the time.

3. The Developments of Warfare c.1250 to the present

In this exciting new unit we will be exploring changes in warfare over the past 750 years. We will be looking at how wars start, how they are fought and there will be a strong focus on the impact of war; both on soldiers and on civilians. This course will take us from the age of castles, swords and knights in the Middle Ages, through to the destructive conflicts of the First and Second World Wars of the Twentieth Century.

4. Controlled Assessment

This unit will allow students to produce one assessment in two parts. This will be based on an aspect of history that has provoked historical debate or controversy. The topic will be based on the Civil Rights movement in America during the 1950's and 1960's. Part A is a source evaluation exercise based on the treatment of black people during the 1950's and 1960's. Part B is an interpretation exercise focusing on Martin Luther King's role in the Civil Rights movement.

ASSESSMENT

Unit 1: 1 hour exam worth 25%

Unit 2: 1 hour exam worth 25%

Unit 3: 1 hour 15 minutes exam worth 30%

Unit 4: Controlled Assessment worth 20%

The exams will use stimulus and source-based questions requiring some developed answers. There will also be questions requiring more extended writing.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Please see Miss Leighton (Leader of History) in A11 for further information.

GCSE ICT

INTRODUCTION

Information and Communication Technology gives students the opportunity to identify and solve real problems by designing information and communication systems in a wide range of contexts related to their personal interests. Information and Communication Technology develops students' interdisciplinary skills and their capacity for imaginative, innovative thinking, creativity and independence.

The course builds upon the knowledge, understanding and skills established at KS3, enabling students to become competent users of word processing, spreadsheet modelling, data handling and multimedia software and to be autonomous users of information and communication technology.

Students also become familiar with the different applications and effects of information and communication technology at home, in school, in business and in industry.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The specification is divided into a total of 4 units and is the equivalent of 1 GCSE:

Unit 1: Understanding ICT. (20%) 1 1/2 hour examination.

This examination will assess the requirements of the Key Stage 4 Programme of Study for Information and Communication Technology and the functional elements of ICT in a home and school context.

Unit 2: Solving Problems with ICT. (30%)

This controlled assessment consists of a portfolio of work which shows students' attainment in obtaining and interpreting different types of information; using, developing and communication information to meet the purpose of their studies and presenting the results of their work. This assignment will assess the practical aspects of the functional elements of ICT.

Unit 3: ICT in Organisations. (20%) 1/2 hour examination.

This examination paper will assess the 'application' content of ICT in a business and industry context.

Unit 4: Developing Multimedia ICT Solutions. (30%) This controlled assessment will give students the opportunity to develop a piece of work using multimedia software following a single task brief issued by the WJEC.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Please see Mr A Vaughan (Leader of Digital Competency) in A4 for further information.

GCSE Mandarin

It is a multi-lingual world.....English is not enough!

INTRODUCTION

The course will aim to enable students to understand Chinese in a variety of contexts and to communicate effectively in Chinese. It will further develop a cultural understanding of countries and communities where Chinese is spoken.

Mandarin is the most widely spoken language on earth, and China is becoming a major player in the world's economy, being predicted in a few years to become the world's biggest economy, surpassing that of the U.S. Further, with thousands of years of history, Chinese culture is endlessly fascinating, whether it be its history, architecture, music, or cuisine, and knowledge of Mandarin will enrich an understanding of Chinese culture.

A GCSE in language is increasingly valued by universities and colleges of further education, and Mandarin can be combined in degree courses with Business, Law, Economics, Engineering, Marketing, and Tourism, leading to excellent career prospects. Being able to speak Mandarin will certainly give a competitive edge, as employers view the ability to communicate in Mandarin an asset in building positive relations with partners in China and other parts of Asia.

From the pedagogic side, due to the pictogram script and the use of tones to convey lexical meaning, Chinese is a language that uses the brain in ways other languages do not, and consequently learning it helps build different neural connections. Its grammar is relatively simple with no verb tenses, conjugation or subject/verb agreement, and the visual nature of the script bypasses problems with spelling.

COURSE CONTENT

Students will learn to talk, read and write about themselves, their family and friends, the area in which they live and travel, education, the world of work and business, media and culture.

ASSESSMENT

The GCSE will be assessed by final exams at the end of Year 11 in Speaking (7-12 minutes), Reading (1 hour approx), Listening (35-45 minutes) and Writing (1 hour approx). Each exam will be weighted equally at 25%.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Please see Mrs L Huws (Teacher of Mandarin) in E4 for further information.

GCSE Music

INTRODUCTION

"I can't take GCSE music. I've never played an instrument – and I'm not one of the 'music-y' kids..."

Not true! GCSE music is for anyone – regardless of prior experience. If you've...

- (i) had a go on your Uncle's piano/guitar etc, but never had a proper lesson
- (ii) been having violin lessons since the age of six
- (iii) never played an instrument, but would like a new challenge

....then GCSE music is for you! All are welcome, regardless of experience or background.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The course is divided up as follows:

Performing: You will be recorded performing a minimum of two pieces - one of which must be in an ensemble (eg a rock band or a string quartet). This will not be in front of an audience – the performance is recorded, and then internally assessed and externally moderated.

This part of the course is worth 30%. In addition, you'll also need write a short programme note about one of the pieces. This is worth an additional 5%.

Composing: During the course, you will compose a minimum of two pieces - which will be internally assessed and externally moderated. One of these will be a 'free choice' (where you can choose your brief and instrumentation), whilst the other will be to a brief set by the exam board.

Don't forget that our composing is done in lessons (rather than as homework) – so you won't be left on your own to do this.

This part of the course is worth 30%. In addition, you also need to write an evaluation of one of your compositions. This is worth an additional 5%.

Appraising: At the end of the course, you will sit a listening exam. Essentially, you will listen to music - then answer questions on it.

There are eight questions in total - based on four areas of study.

- Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices
- Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble
- Area of study 3: Film Music
- Area of study 4: Popular Music

During the two years of the GCSE course, we look at past papers and 'exam-style' questions - to make sure that you are prepared for the exam. The written exam is worth 30% of the overall course.

We use a variety of software in the music department, to support the composition aspect of the course. We have a separate music IT suite (comprising of 13 computers, equipped with MIDI keyboards – funded by the Lillian Ball Trust Fund), where students can use the 'Sibelius' programme to notate their compositions.

GCSE students are allowed access to the suite during break and lunchtimes, to complete their various pieces of work as required. They also receive free instrumental tuition through Ceredigion County Music Service.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

If you have any questions, ask Mr Budd (Subject Leader for Music) in D1.

GCSE Physical Education

INTRODUCTION

Studying GCSE PE will enable learners to engage in a course, designed to inspire, motivate and challenge students by the subject and enable them to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career pathways.

Lessons are divided into theory and practical lessons which are mainly fitness based and designed to consolidate candidates learning of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Theory:

Written examination: 2 hours

50% of qualification (100 marks)

Learners will be assessed through a range of short and extended questions. The questions will be based on audio visual stimuli and other sources.

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.

Practical:

50% of qualification (100 marks)

Learners will be assessed in three different activities in the role of performer in at least one individual sport, one team sport and one other (team or individual). One activity will be a major activity which will have a personal fitness programme linked to the activity (coursework).

Coursework:

Students will plan and perform a personal fitness programme for one of their chosen practical activities over 8-10 weeks.

Activities for assessment such as football, athletics, dance, netball will NOT be taught during GCSE PE lessons.

Practical activities will be assessed during core PE lessons, tournaments and extra-curricular fixtures.

It is vital that students attend extra curricular practices and engage in competitive sport throughout the two years.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Please see Mrs. Phillips (Leader of PE) in the PE Department for further information.

GCSE Product Design

INTRODUCTION

Design and technology is shaping the world we live in and this exciting industry has grown at a rapid rate. We interact with design throughout everyday of our lives and new careers continue to emerge where the focus is on using creative and practical skills to develop new products. These include product and furniture design, fashion, engineering, construction, graphic, web and marketing design, plus the food and drink industries. As well as the subject knowledge you will gain many transferable skills like logical and creative thinking, problem solving, teamwork, research, analysis, ICT, planning and evaluating.

Product Design

Projects will include designing a range of innovative products from furniture and lighting to new technology products. Students will learn how to use CAD 3D computer software to design and present their ideas, develop ideas through to a final design proposal and make it in the workshop.

COURSE CONTENT

The course will be based on the 'design and make' process, where students will be asked to design, make and evaluate solutions to real problems.

In Year 10 students will undertake a series of short projects covering all aspects of the course in preparation for the controlled assessment task in Year 11.

ASSESSMENT

These take place in Year 11.

Unit 1 Written paper (2 hours) 50%.

Unit 2 Design and Make Task (35 guided hours in school) 50%.

Part A: Analysis of a problem, generation of a range of ideas and fully

developed into a final solution.

Part B: Plan for making, then make and evaluate the task.

Coursework will involve a single substantial design and make task undertaken during Year 11. Whilst this is a practical subject it must be stressed that there is a lot of written work required in the coursework and in preparation for the exam.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Please see Mr J Evans (Creative & PE Faculty Leader) in D5 for further information.

GCSE Religious Studies

INTRODUCTION

Are you curious about the world around you? Do you want to find out why people do what they do? Do you want to have the opportunity to develop your own understanding of why you make the choices you make? If so, then GCSE RS is exactly the qualification that you are looking for.

Whether you believe in God or not (or even if you are somewhere in between), religion is one of the most powerful social and cultural forces in human history. And think of the world today—84% of people on our planet have faith. In some countries such as Sri Lanka and Malawi, this figure is as high as 99%. In the last UK census, 60% of people stated that they were Christian, and Christian beliefs and traditions shape and influence all areas of our lives. Have you ever wondered why we have school holidays over Easter and Christmas? Why the death penalty was abolished? Why people campaigned to have UK laws about marriage changed?

GCSE RS will help you to explore what religions teach, and how that influences believers' lives and actions. But you'll also have the opportunity to explore non-religious views, including humanist and atheist beliefs without 'God' or religion, how do people make decisions about right and wrong? How do they mark important events such as life and death?

In addition to the benefits you will gain whilst studying RS, it's also important to know that this qualification is well respected by educational establishments and employers: students with qualifications in RS go on to be successful in a wide variety of jobs and careers, including the media, advertising, finance, the law, healthcare, marketing and education.

COURSE CONTENT

We teach the WJEC Religious Studies specification. The two units are:

1. Religion and Philosophical Themes

In addition to learning about key beliefs, teachings and practices in two religions (Christianity and Judaism), you will have the opportunity to explore different religious and non-religious attitudes to controversial philosophical themes such as the death penalty, euthanasia, life after death and war.

2. Religion and Ethical Themes

This unit helps you to build on your understanding of key beliefs teachings and practices in the two religions, and then use your understanding of both religious and non-religious attitudes to debate ethical themes such as issues around gender and equality, human rights and relationships.

ASSESSMENT

Each unit is worth 50% of the total GCSE. Each unit is examined, and the exams use a variety of question types to test your learning. Some questions require short answers, and some give you an opportunity to write extended answers that show developed thinking.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Please see Mrs Jacques-Butterworth (RE Subject Leader) in M1 for further information.

GCSE Spanish

It is a multi-lingual world.....English is not enough!

INTRODUCTION

Did you know that:

Knowledge of a foreign language can raise one's salary by between 8-20%?

Lots of universities ask for a language GCSE for entry?

Foreign language skills are the second thing employers look for on job applications?

This course would suit students who want to improve their:

- Communication skills
- Problem solving skills
- Confidence

Being able to speak other languages is a skill that gets you ahead.

Being successful at another language shows good communication skills and shows employers you are willing to learn new skills and welcome a challenge.

A GCSE in a language is increasingly valued by universities and colleges of further education.

You can combine languages with lots of other things at University (e.g. Business, Law, Economics, Engineering, Marketing, Tourism) which leads to excellent career prospects.

COURSE CONTENT

You will develop the language skills, grammar knowledge and vocabulary you have learned in KS3 to learn to speak and write and understand Spanish in greater detail and with greater accuracy in the following topic areas:

Personal and Social life, the Local Community, the World of Work and the Wider World.

ASSESSMENT

The GCSE will be assessed by final exams at the end of Year 11 in Speaking (7-12 minutes), Reading (1 hour approx), Listening (35-45 minutes) and Writing/translation (1 hour approx). Each exam will be weighted equally at 25%.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Please see Mrs L A Carver (Cymraeg & MFL Faculty Leader) in E7 for further information.

NVQ Levels 1/2 Performing Engineering Operations

The course we will provide is “**Performing Engineering Operations**” NVQ Levels 1 and 2. NVQ Level 1 is equivalent to two GCSE subjects at grades D-G. NVQ Level 2 is equivalent to two GCSE subjects at grade A* - C. The NVQ course will take the place of two optional subjects.

The course will be taught on site at Penglais in our refurbished fully equipped engineering workshops.

The work will be mainly practical. Students will choose from a list of options such as sheet metal work, use of lathe and milling machines, welding, wrought iron work and maintenance units.

There will be regular practical assessments throughout the course. There will be a maximum of 18 students.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE

Please see Mr J Evans, Faculty Leader for DT & PE

Skills

The skills option provides students with the opportunity to have extra literacy and numeracy support. This is delivered in two ways:

- Support is given for the completion of outstanding work in other curriculum options
- Individual literacy and numeracy interventions are used to support the development of basic skills

Each lesson is based on the individual needs of the student, this allows the lesson time to be used effectively by making sure that all of the work for the subject options are kept up to date.

Students will be following the IDL programme for literacy and will have numeracy support, as required.

Students also have the benefit of being able to drop in to the skills department when they need support between lessons.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Please see Mrs Karina Shaw, SENCO for more information.

Anela

INTRODUCTION

Anela is Ceredigion County Council's Personal and Social Development (QCF) qualification, which gives learners opportunities to develop and apply functional skills while building on their strengths. Anela will teach the personal skills and techniques needed to progress to working life. Learners who achieve this qualification will gain self-esteem and confidence for employment or to be able to progress to Level 3 BTEC qualifications.

The qualification gives learners the opportunity to:

- engage in learning which is relevant to them and which will provide opportunities to develop a range of skills and qualities and attributes which will be essential for successful performance in working life
- achieve a nationally recognised Level 2 qualification (Equivalent to 1 GCSE B Grade)
- develop their own personal growth and engagement in learning.

COURSE CONTENT:

Working Towards Goals
Managing Social Relationships
Healthy Lifestyles
Understanding
Personal Identity
Applying for a Job
Exploring the impact of diversity in our communities
Managing your own Money
Self-development for Your Learning and Career
Searching for a Job

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE

Please see Mrs H Griffiths, Deputy Headteacher for more information.

Cambridge National in Enterprise and Marketing

INTRODUCTION

This is a vocational qualification that will allow you to get to grips with key aspects of running small businesses with a focus on enterprise and marketing. You will learn how to work collaboratively and creatively, solve problems and have an awareness of businesses and customers. These skills will then be used when you complete your coursework.

COURSE CONTENT

Unit 1

You will learn about the technique's businesses use to understand their market and develop products, investigate what makes a product viable and understand how businesses attract and retain customers. You will also learn about key aspects of small businesses, including ownership and functional activities.

Unit 2

You are provided with a business challenge. From this you will create a researched and costed business proposal. You will need to undertake activities such as conducting market research, presenting data, using idea generation tools, seeking and acting on feedback, and costing proposals.

Unit 3

You will prepare for and pitch your own business proposal that you developed in unit 2. Alongside developing a brand identity, you will investigate how to best promote your product and then plan and prepare your pitch. You will review your own performance and business proposal.

ASSESSMENT

Unit 1

This unit is assessed by a 1 hour 30 minutes examination. A range of different types of questions will be used, including multiple-choice, short/medium answer questions and extended response analysis and evaluation questions.

Units 2 and 3

Both units are assessed through coursework. The emphasis is on you doing practical activities, showing how you can put your learning to use.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE

Please see Mrs Bentley in F3 for further information.

Gwasanaethau Cymorth Dysgu / Learner Support Services

Every student has the entitlement to receive the following learner support services:

The school's arrangements are:

All students can speak with their Tutor at anytime.

Individual departments mentor some students.

Mynediad i'r Gwasanaeth Cefnogaeth Personol:

Access to the Personal Support Service:

The school's arrangements are:

Student Services provide personal support, guidance and advice. Additionally, each student has access to their Tutor and Head of Year.

The Head of Year may also refer students to Hafan for additional support.

The Head of Year can also access outside agencies to work with students, this is subject to parental consent.

Mynediad i Gyngor a Chyfarwyddyd Gyrfaoedd

Access to Careers Advice and Guidance:

The school's arrangements are:

Specific PSE sessions are delivered on topics that cover sexual exploitation, domestic abuse and alcohol issues. These are arranged with the police officer who is linked with our school.

The students also get the chance to explore future career options during the 'Your Future Your Choice' day, which is a whole day of interactive activities organised by Careers Wales. They get to speak to entrepreneurs and hear how they have set up their own businesses. Students and lecturers from Aberystwyth University are available to discuss university subjects and options. They also get to experience skills that they could learn in college such as a virtual digger, interactive babies and childcare, catering, tyre balancing, virtual welding, plumbing, electrician, building, carpentry, art and design, alternative energy and hair and beauty.



