

ST. ILLTYD'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL YEAR 9 OPTIONS 2023/24



loving
hopeful
attentive
curious
faith-filled
wise
generous
learned
prophetic
grateful
eloquent
discerning
intentional
compassionate
truthful
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 2023
PSE lessons focused on Careers Wales and options
7th November 2023
Options assembly with Mr Moriarty - introduction to the options process
18th November 2023
Options booklets sent to parents/carers electronically
Tuesday 28th November 2023
Careers Fayre in school
Thursday 30th November 2023
Parents Evening (including options choices - first trawl)
Friday 8th December 2023
Deadline for options choices

OPTIONS 2023/24 - Choose 2 GCSE subjects

Students Name: _____

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS	OPTION SUBJECTS
<p>Mathematics (Maths & Numeracy)</p> <p>English (Literature & Language)</p> <p>Science</p> <p>Religious Studies</p> <p>Welsh</p>	<p>Art</p> <p>Asdan</p> <p>Business</p> <p>Digital Technology</p> <p>Drama</p> <p>Duke of Edinburgh/Prince's Trust</p> <p>Fashion & Textiles</p> <p>Food & Nutrition</p> <p>Geography</p> <p>Health & Social Care and Childcare</p> <p>History</p> <p>Media Studies</p> <p>Music</p> <p>PE</p> <p>Photography</p> <p>Product Design</p> <p>Skills Challenge</p> <p>Spanish</p>
<p>Core Games</p> <p>PSE</p>	
<p><u>Additional Qualifications</u></p> <p>Sweet L2</p> <p>Equality & Diversity L2</p> <p>Financial Literacy L2</p>	<p><u>Option choice 1</u></p> <p> </p> <p><u>Option choice 2</u></p> <p> </p>

Signed: (Student)

Signed: (Parent/carers)

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.



ASDAN

Course outline:

- The ASDAN qualification is available at Level 1 and Level 2. The course is designed to develop and demonstrate a range of personal, key and employability skills.
- There are no exams. The qualification is assessed via a portfolio of evidence that is externally moderated and then available for pupils to take with them when they leave school.
- Across year 10 and 11, modules are completed from a challenge directory that includes options on Beliefs and Values, Health and Wellbeing, International Links and Vocational Preparation.
- There are also three mandatory units to be completed for the Award, which are 'developing myself and my performance, as well as 'working with others' and problem solving.' For the Certificate, there is an additional mandatory unit on 'delivering a project.'

Why you should study ASDAN:

- The ASDAN course recognises personal achievements and helps pupils manage their own learning.
- The portfolio showcases pupil skills and acts as a record of achievement.
- ASDAN enables pupils to manage their learning in a variety of real-life contexts and encourages pupil choice.
- The skills developed in ASDAN lessons can support pupils in their wider Key Stage 4 lessons. There is a focus on supportive and formative feedback until a candidate reaches the level required for summative assessment.



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. Unit 4 – Branding includes advanced features of the marketing mix – pupils use the research to create a brand for their business developed in Unit 3.

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 programmes of learning involving digital technologies.
- There are three units with one on-screen assessment and two non-exam assessments.
- The unit titles are – The Digital World, Digital Practices and Communicating in the Digital World.
- Activities include interrogating data and creating a website with either an animation or game.
- One non-examined assessment focuses on marketing digital assets using social media. Pupils will create digital assets related to a set context and then formulate an online digital communications campaign around them.

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.



Drama

Course outline:

- The GCSE course is an exciting, inspiring and practical course. It is designed to enable pupils to develop skills in creativity, devising, performing, researching, group work, characterisation, script work/analysis and evaluation.
- The course is made of a 60% practical performance with written coursework elements exam, you can choose to be assessed on acting or design.
- In Year 10, the topics are: basics of performance and characterisation, exploring theatre practitioners (e.g. Brecht, Stanislavski and Boal); experimenting with different theatre types (e.g. Theatre in education and Physical Theatre); devising your own performance and performing in front of an audience; visiting theatre productions; and critically reviewing theatre.
- In Year 11, the topics are: preparation for the devised (what you've created) practical exam, supported with a written portfolio and followed by a written evaluation of the performance, the scripted performance, where you perform extracts from a text; the study of a set text; and evaluation of live performances.

Why you should study Drama:

- Studying drama could support a career path in acting, theatre, film, production, drama therapy, teaching, media studies and journalism.
- You will develop skills in: communication; creativity; leadership; organisation; problem-solving; initiative and decision making. Drama also nurtures self-discipline, confidence and teamwork.
- In a world where effective communication skills are vital, drama will help you to become a "well-rounded" individual with a wide range of transferable skills that will be attractive to a future employer.
- Close links exist with subjects such as English, Music, Art and PE.
- You will get the chance to attend a variety of theatre or film productions organised by the Performing Arts department.



DRAMA

Duke of Edinburgh / Prince's Trust

Course outline:

- These qualifications will develop pupil's employability and life skills.
- In the Prince's Trust Achieve Award pupils will undertake a range of project based and practical work developing ICT skills, healthy lifestyle, teamwork and planning for personal development.
- The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award includes expeditions, skills development and volunteering.
- The lessons will be in ICT rooms, classrooms, and involve practical sessions in school and the community.
- There are no formal examinations.

Why you should study the Prince's Trust and Duke of Edinburgh

- Skills you will develop include ICT skills, healthy lifestyle, teamwork and planning for personal development.
- The Duke of Edinburgh qualification develops life skills in leadership, teamwork, communication and problem solving.
- The Princes Trust qualification involves a work experience placement which will develop a pupil's employability and person skills.
- Both qualifications are relevant for the modern world as pupils develop a variety of skills which can carry them through the world of work and life as a global citizen.
- Both courses have cross curricular links with a variety of subjects including the Welsh Baccalaureate and ICT.



Prince's Trust

YOUTH
CAN
DO IT

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 2 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.



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 of 1hour 30mins each at the end of Year 11. Both are worth 40%. At the beginning of Year 11 there is a controlled assessment exam worth 20% of the GCSE.
- The topics studied in Year 10 are rivers, glaciation, coasts, population and global cities.
- The topics studied in Year 11 are climate change, weather, ecosystems, global inequalities, resources management and social development.

Why you should study Geography:

- A versatile subject that could be applied to several fields such as 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.



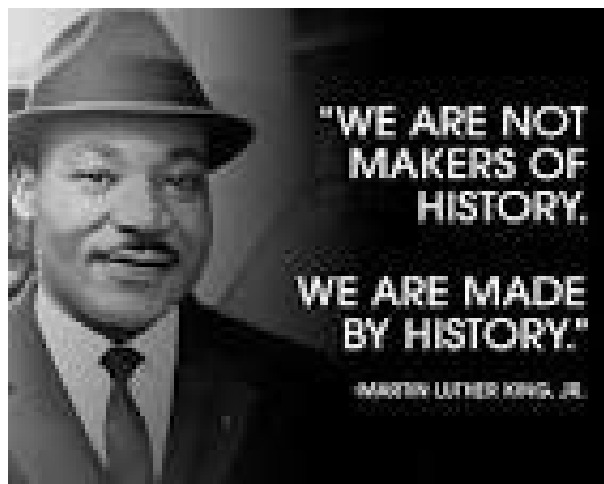
History

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 3 exams, 1 hour each, with one sat in y10 and two at the end of y11. At the beginning of Year 10 there is a controlled assessment exam worth 20% of the GCSE.
- The topic studied in Year 10 is Nazi Germany
- The topic studied in Year 11 is Crime and Punishment, which is an outline study of 500 years of History

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



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 whether they play an instrument or not. However, if you do not play an instrument, you must be prepared to sing or play a classroom instrument.
- The course is made up of three units, performing, composing and appraising. 70% of the course is coursework and 30% is a final listening exam.
- Unit 1 – Performing – Coursework Section A = 30%. You will have to play or sing two pieces of music. Section B = 5%. You must write a detailed programme note for one of your performances.
- Unit 2 – Composing - Coursework Section A = 30%. You will have to produce two compositions. Section B = 5% A written evaluation of one of your compositions.
- Unit 3 – Appraising Exam 30% - 1 hour listening examination to be sat at the end of year 11.
- In year 10 and 11, students will study film music, popular music, music for ensembles and musical forms and devices.

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.



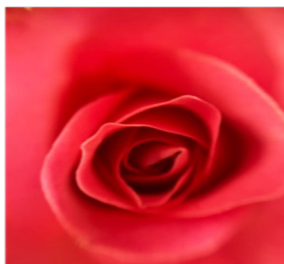
Photography

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.



Spanish

Course outline:

- The GCSE course is a course designed to develop an understanding of the Spanish 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 in 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 Spanish:

- 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.
- Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world as it is spoken in more than 25 different countries.
- As well as learning the language, you will develop an understanding of the education system in Spain, 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.



English Language

Course Outline:

The English Language course will enable students to:

- Demonstrate oracy (speaking and listening), reading and writing skills that are instrumental in communicating with others confidently, effectively, precisely and appropriately.
- Demonstrate their proficiency in accessing and retrieving information from a wide range of written and dynamic/digital texts, forming a broad general understanding of the text, summarising and synthesising content, inferring intended meaning and evaluating its purpose.
- Understand the patterns, structures and conventions of oral and written language.
- Understand the impact of variations in language, selecting and adapting speech and writing to different situations, purposes and audiences.
- Develop their skills in order to meet their own personal needs as well as the needs of employers and further education so that they can fully participate in society and the world of work.
- Develop their verbal reasoning and their ability to think constructively and critically in response to written and digital/dynamic texts.
- Develop their proofreading and editing skills.

You will develop your ability to use English as active and informed citizens and be able to speak, listen, read and write fluently, appropriately, effectively and critically – for a wide range of personal, functional and social purposes.

What will I study?

Following the course will prepare learners to use language effectively in society and employment. It will enable learners to:

- Demonstrate skills in Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing necessary to communicate with others confidently, effectively, precisely and appropriately.
- Express themselves creatively and imaginatively.
- Use reading to develop their own skills as writers.
- Understand the patterns, structures and conventions of written English.
- Select and adapt speech and writing to suit different situations and audiences.



English Literature

Course Outline

The English Literature course is based on the conviction that the study of literature should centre on an informed personal response and a critical understanding of a range of texts in the genres of prose, poetry, and drama.

Throughout the course you will:

- Understand that texts from English, Welsh or Irish literary heritage have been influential and significant over time and explore their meaning today.
- Explore how texts from different cultures and traditions may reflect or influence values, assumptions and a sense of identity.
- Connect ideas, themes and issues, drawing on a range of texts.
- Become critical readers of fiction and non-fiction prose, poetry and drama.
- Experience different times, cultures, viewpoints and situations as found in literary texts.
- Foster an appreciation of Wales' cultural heritage through the study of Welsh writing in English.

What will I study?

The content of the course will allow you to develop your knowledge, skills and understanding over a range of literature as outlined below. It will require you to study a minimum of five texts, at least three of which are from the English, Welsh or Irish literary heritage. Texts must include prose, poetry and drama (including a play by Shakespeare), and will be sufficiently rich and substantial to engage readers intellectually and emotionally.

The range of texts studied will include:

- Texts from the English, Welsh or Irish literary heritage.
- Texts from different cultures and traditions.
- Welsh writing in English.
- Texts by contemporary writers.



Mathematics - Numeracy

Course Outline:

Mathematics - Numeracy is a new course from 2015. It will build on and progress from the numeracy skills you have developed throughout Key Stage 3 and will assess the mathematics that you will need in your everyday life, in the world of work, and in other general curriculum areas.

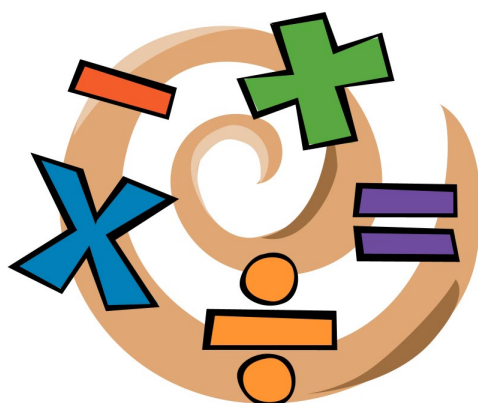
It will help you to develop confidence in, and have a positive attitude towards, mathematics and to recognise the importance and relevance of mathematics to everyday life and to society.

The emphasis will be on those aspects of mathematics which are of most relevance to you within the twenty-first century. It will prepare you to make decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices. Solving problems in the real world and the problem-solving cycle will feature within the course as well as the more numerical aspects of mathematics. There will also be opportunities for you to make informed decisions about the use of technology, the management of money and the use of statistics.

What will I study?

The Mathematics - Numeracy course will enable you to:

- Develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical and statistical methods, techniques and concepts required for everyday life, in the world of work, and in other subject areas.
- Select and apply appropriate mathematics and statistics in everyday situations and contexts from the real world.
- Use mathematics to represent, analyse and interpret information.
- Acquire and use strategies for problem solving and modelling in context.
- Understand that models may need refining and that there may be more than one way to solve a problem.
- Interpret mathematical results and draw and justify conclusions that are relevant to the context.
- Communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms.



Mathematics

Course Outline:

Mathematics will build on and progress from the levels of achievement at the end of Key Stage 3, and extend this to aspects of mathematics needed for progression to scientific, technical or further mathematical study.

It will enable you to appreciate the coherence, creativity, elegance and power of mathematics. It will prepare students to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices.

The course will have an emphasis on those aspects of mathematics required for progression into mathematics or mathematically-related disciplines or employment routes. It will feature problems set both in real-world contexts and within mathematics itself and will encourage learners to employ and evaluate different mathematical techniques.

What will I study?

The Mathematics course will enable you to:

- Develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods, techniques and concepts required for progression into mathematics or mathematically-related disciplines or employment routes.
- Make connections between different areas of mathematics.
- Select and apply mathematical methods in both mathematical and real-world contexts.
- Reason mathematically, construct arguments and simple proofs, and make logical deductions and inferences.
- Develop and refine strategies for solving a range of mathematical and real-world problems.
- Communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms.
- Interpret mathematical results and draw and justify conclusions that are relevant to the context.
- Communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms.

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 7 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)

