

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



A guide to Key Stage 4

Warning – contains valuable advice for both pupils and parents.....

Many parents feel at a loss when their children enter their examination years, known in schools as Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11, but we give our learners in Y9 a chance to start sooner).

Many get confused by the complicated systems of choosing subjects and courses (GCSEs, vocational GCSEs, BTECs, - just some of the options available).

Many don't understand the terms controlled assessments, entry tiers, modular exams and practical assessments.

If you feel like this you are not alone!

The exam system has changed greatly over the past few years, and is continuing to change, and sometimes it feels as if it is best just to let the 'experts' at your child's school get on with it.

But your involvement during these crucial years can make an enormous difference - the difference between success and failure, between 'D/E' passes and 'A's and 'B's.



Parental support is eight times more important in determining a child's academic success than social class, according to a new study. The Campaign for Learning found that parental involvement in a child's education can mean the difference between an A and an 'also-ran' at GCSE. (TES, 10 October 2003)*

And the good news is - you don't have to be an expert in any of the subjects your child chooses to make a real difference, and you don't have to become a 'super-parent' giving up your own life and responsibilities - you just need to know how best to spend the time you do have, at each stage of the process.

* The word parent is used throughout, but of course you don't have to be a parent to make the *difference* - carer, older brother, grandparent or neighbour - it won't make any *difference* to the effect you can have.

Isn't it the schools' job to get them through their exams?

Yes, of course the school has an important role to play and can provide the expertise and resources to help your child acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to do their best in each subject.

There will be many new expectations of your child in Years 10 and 11 - expectations which for many children, even the very brightest, find hard to meet.

You don't need to know anything about maths, science or resistant materials to help them with these things - you've been doing it all their lives!

Demands on your child are likely to include:

- Being more self-motivated and taking more responsibility for their own learning - this can be a big change from earlier years.
- Asking when they do not understand, this requires self-confidence and some can be embarrassed to ask in front of their friends.
- Being able to overcome frustration, knowing how to persist when they are learning material that they find hard.
- Organising themselves, notes, handouts and information for different subjects, and different topics within these.
- Completing more work at home, on their own.
- Understanding the exam structure and the importance of each piece of work to their final *grade*.
- Preparing for controlled assessments.
- Planning and carrying out their revision.

Perhaps the hardest demand on pupils is that of understanding the long-term importance of doing the best they can and learning to say 'no' to social activities at times in the interest of success (not easy even for adults).

Unfortunately, from the *teenage* perspective, interest and *effort* in education and the long-term benefits these can bring often come rather a long way down the priority list, after friendships, the 'right' clothes, social life, romantic concerns and hobbies.

In addition, children will *differ* in their levels of maturity, their ability to take responsibility for their learning, organisational skills and levels of motivation. And this is where you come in.

You are the expert on your own child and have always been his or her most important teacher. Your support, encouragement and *interest can make a spectacular difference to your child's motivation and ability to cope with the academic and organisational demands of the exam years.*

When you, your child and the school work in partnership, you can be sure that your child will achieve the best results possible.

So what is my role as a parent*?

Your role may include some or all of the following:

- Attendance officer - making sure your child goes to lessons and understands the importance of making the most of lesson-times.
- Partner with school and child - attending parents' evenings, asking questions and finding out how you can best help your child at home.
- Provider of the tools for homework and revision - a quiet space, a workbox of pens, paper and other necessities.
- Study buddy - showing an interest in the subject, helping with homework (but not doing it for them), testing them when they ask you etc.
- Keeping an eye on progress and celebrating achievements, and seeing a positive way forward when things go badly.
- Homework manager - *agreeing* the rules for homework or revision (they won't work if they're imposed), helping them to make a realistic timetable, balancing work against the 'fun stuff' and revising the plans as necessary.
- *Go-between* - for your child and the school when necessary; making sure problems are nipped in the bud and asking the questions your child can't or won't.



Whatever your child's needs, your chief role will always be that of the person who cares most in the world, champion of their needs and admirer of every achievement.

The most important role you will play is that of person who will love them and be proud of them whatever happens.

GETTING OFF TO A GOOD START



What pupils should already have done (but it's not too late to start now!!)

- Find out about the structure of each course - how is it assessed? When are the exams? What percentage of the final mark does each count for? Read the information the school provides
- Written all controlled assessments dates / deadlines and modular exams on a wall-planner or similar.
- Accepted invites to all the Google Classes for their subjects
- Created a work-area where they will be comfortable (and *where they will not be interrupted*).
- Agree regular 'check-ins' with parents to discuss how they are doing!
- *Agree* the 'rules for homework' with parents - it saves endless nagging and can always be renegotiated.

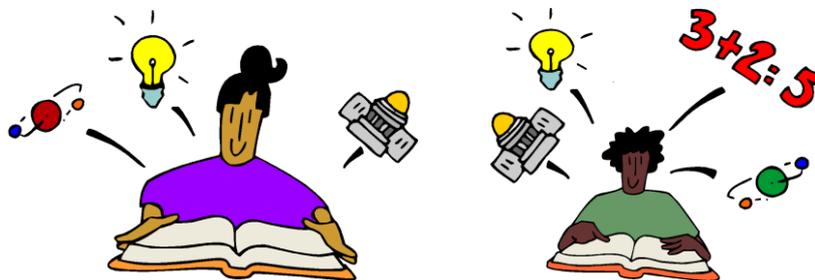
Tips for parents

- Work with your child to ensure that together you understand the course structure and requirements, such as timings of controlled assessments and exams.
- Make sure you have the name of the person responsible for your child in each of the subject areas, email addresses, and how and when they can be contacted.
- Help your child to organise a work-area, ensuring that they have all the materials and resources they need. Battles fought over missing pens or rulers are rarely worth the *effort* and are often just the distraction that a reluctant teenager is looking for!
- Talk about how much work they should be doing during the week and when the best time is to do it is.
- Talk about whether or not music/TV/phones will help or hinder them. One view is that music is usually OK, but that TV is too much of a distraction. However, as always with teenagers, be prepared to compromise - if they get the work done with the TV on, it is probably not an issue. If necessary, agree a trial period on their terms and review how they are getting on.
- *Agree* regular 'check-ins' where you are 'allowed' to discuss with your child where they are in relation to each subject's deadlines, areas they are enjoying, having difficulty with etc. Once a half-term is a good aim. Having a set time to discuss work beats 'nagging' which is often how teenagers perceive adult interest in their progress.

COPING WITH ASSESSMENTS (CATs or NEAs)

Key tasks for pupils

- Go to all your lessons
- Listen extra-carefully to any information about assessments, write it down, and ask if you are not completely clear about what you need to do, and by when.
- Keep on top of your preparations for assessments - know what is due in when, and plan in time to do it - it usually takes longer than you think.
- Make sure you know exactly what is expected for each assessment and how marks are awarded.
- Don't leave your preparation until the last minute -having 6 weeks to prepare for a test may seem like forever, but it passes quickly. Make a plan of the work to be covered, dividing it into smaller sections.
- Use Google Classrooms regularly as this is where your teachers will post work AND where you can ask them for help.
- Keep a balance between social life, work commitments and studying - if you have done the studying you will feel much better when you go out - you CAN do both!
- Remember that controlled assessments COUNT towards your final grade. Work as hard for these as you would for an exam.
- There are many online GCSE sites which you can access to help you with your studies. They can be useful for ideas about structure and key points and help to motivate you but DON'T think you will get away with copying out chunks of someone else's text – this is called plagiarism - all exam boards and teachers are very good at spotting cheating - the consequences for you can be severe.





Tips for parents

- Your most important role, as always, is to encourage and praise your child. Show an interest by trying to talk to them about what they are learning in different subjects and in their homework.
- The most important thing is that your child attends lessons. Just missing one lesson means that they miss out on key information. Absence can result in a vicious circle of not understanding, falling further behind, disagreements with teachers, an increasing dislike of the subject and giving up.
- Put key dates and deadlines in your own diary so that you can support *before* the 'panic stage'.
- If you have agreed regular 'check-ins' take the opportunity to discuss how their preparation for any controlled assessment or coursework is going, and if there are any difficulties you can help with.
- The internet can be a good source of motivation and ideas for structure and key points, but warn your child about the dangers of copying out chunks of text - examiners have sophisticated methods of detecting cheating and it is usually punished by disqualification. Note that some sites are free, while others charge a fee. Finally, NEVER allow your child to use services which offer to write essays for them.
- Let the school know if your child is experiencing any difficulties in their home circumstances or personal lives where appropriate - most schools and examination boards can be flexible in special circumstances.



MAINTAINING MOTIVATION

Key tasks for pupils

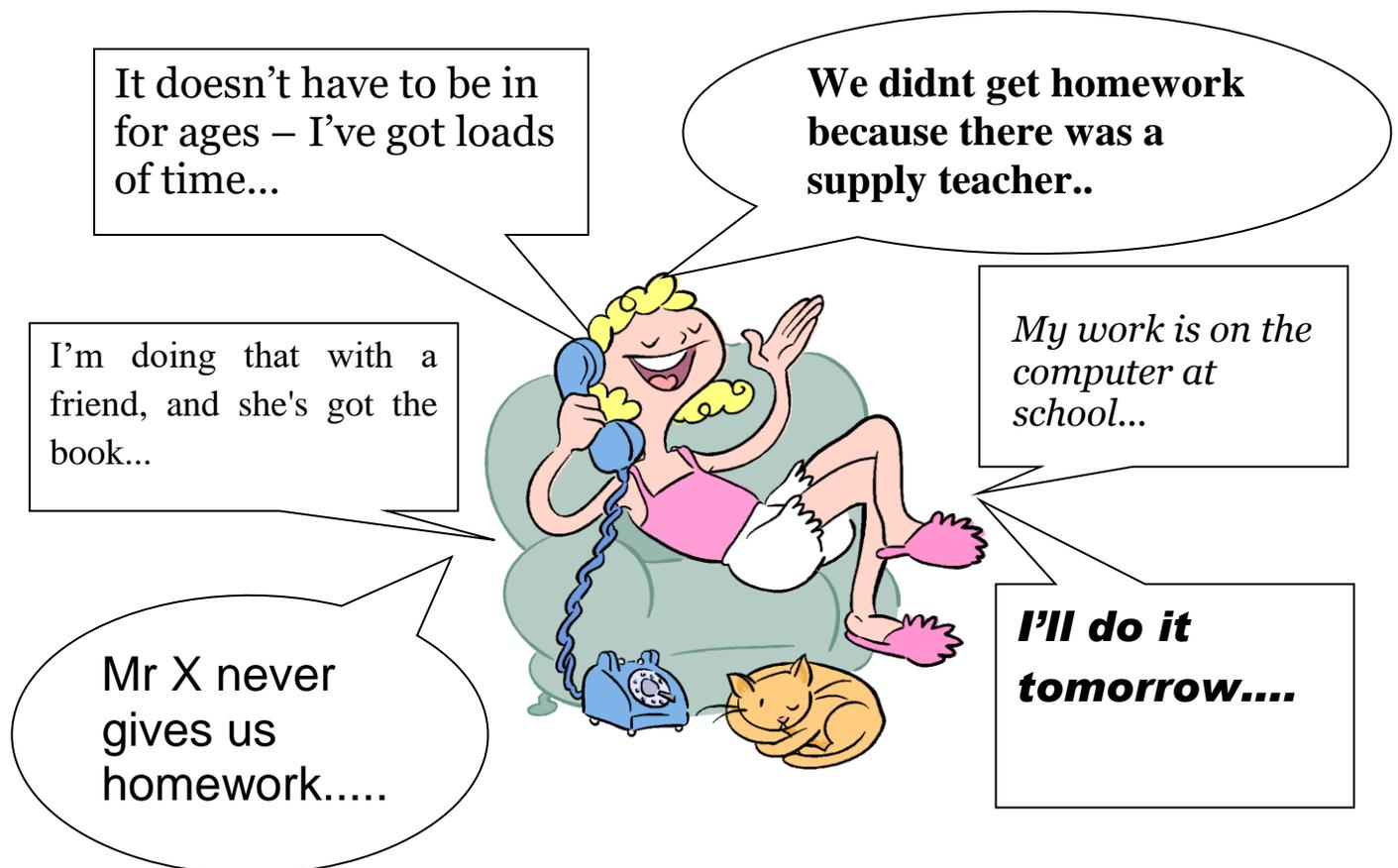
- Don't stop going to, or working in, lessons you find hard or dislike - talk to someone about any difficulties you are having - there is always a solution!
- Revise your homework plan if necessary and stick to it - even when you don't feel like it. Don't wait until you are in the mood - the further behind you get the less you will be in the mood. (Agree the plan with your parents for a hassle-free life.)
- Resist the temptation to bury your head in the sand if things are getting out of hand - talk to your parents/ mentor/ subject teacher.
- Ignore what friends and others are doing or saying -you are working for an easy life for YOU now and later.

Tips for parents

- Agree the balance between work and social life and stick to it. Again, flexibility is the key - if a special night comes up, *agree* that they can make up the work at another time.
- All pupils will fall behind, feel overwhelmed, or struggle with the balance of social and school demands at times. When your child feels like this, arguing with them will not help. Talk to them about the issues, understand their feelings and help them to find a solution.
- Consider using a reward to motivate your child. This is NOT bribery. Rewards do not have to be financial or very big - talk to your child about what they would value - an extra night out, an extension to the time they can come in, a trip with friends, being let off household chores etc. Little and often (for small achievements) is more motivating than one big reward for good results in the future.
- Be flexible - use the 80/20 rule. If your child is sticking to what they are supposed to be doing 80% of the time, they will be doing OK!
- If they say they've got no homework in Year 10/Y11, they are lying. This needs sensitive handling as teenagers tend to attack when backed into a corner. See next page 'A strategy for dealing with excuses' for some ideas if excuses become a way of life
- If your child is anxious or withdrawn, encourage them to talk to you or a trusted adult, and let them know you are there for them, and proud of them whatever.

A strategy for dealing with excuses....

- Keep track of the 'excuses' (they won't be able to!), writing them down with the date and subject.
- Agree or suggest a solution - e.g. that he or she brings the work home and shows you the next day.
- Follow up without fail.
- In the last resort, explain that you are concerned about the problem, for example that the school 'isn't giving you homework' and that you will need to contact them.
Remember the aim is to get the work done, not win the battle. Let your child save face, as long as they agree to do the work and stick to it



REVISION

Key tasks for pupils

Setting yourself up for revision

- Keep all your exercise books and notes / handouts somewhere safe – an old shoe box comes in useful here!
- Start revision early. The sooner you start, the less you will have to do each day and the less stressed out you will be.
- The most important thing is to make a realistic revision timetable that you will stick to.
- Don't rush out to buy loads of revision guides -check with your subject teacher first, they will be able to provide you with what you need.

Doing the revision

- Go to all lessons to make the most of the teacher's knowledge about the subject, revision and exam techniques.
- You will find out about good and bad revision techniques as you progress through the year, try them out - find out what works for you. The key thing is to reduce your notes to a few A4 pages - look briefly at the notes you make a day later, a week later, and just before the exam. This WORKS!
- When you are given past papers, don't lose them.
- Have a clear goal for each revision task, for example - 'at the end of this hour, I will be able to label a diagram of the heart and answer a question on how the heart works'.
- Have a start and finish time and stick to them.
- Do a revision plan - even if you only work for fifteen minutes at least you will have done fifteen minutes.
- STOP and take a break if you are becoming frustrated, angry or overwhelmed. Don't waste time struggling - note down anything you are finding hard or don't understand when you are revising and take it into your next lesson.
- Don't be influenced by friends who talk about how little work they are doing and get your head down -your results don't matter to them, but they will be crucial for you. Tell yourself it's not for long and think of that long summer holiday!
- Last minute revision is worth it as long as it's not the only revision you do! By the day *before* the exam, your revision notes should be short enough to read through in one session. The final read-through will help key words and concepts to stick in your mind.

Tips for parents

Supporting your child in setting themselves up for revision

- Talk to your child about how you can support them and what they would find helpful.
- Encourage your child to empty their bag and save handouts and information from lessons at the end of each day. They won't seem important until they need them, at which point they are likely to be lost under a mountain of random papers... And yes, you may need to help them do it!
- Help your child to plan their revision timetable

Supporting your child in doing the revision

- Support your child in sticking to their revision plan and keeping to the start and finishing times they have *agreed*. Praise them when they do it, and if necessary agree a reward structure.
- Don't make rewards dependent on certain results - it will only add to their feelings of disappointment if they don't do as well as expected.
- Provide favourite snacks and water for revision periods.
- Be flexible - if they want to go out to a party on a revision night, agree when they will make the time up.
- Be sensitive to the pressure your child is feeling - let them know that if they are really not up to it on odd days, it isn't the end of the world - let it go when it really matters to them, and remind them of all the good work they have done, and will continue to do. It's the big picture that will count in the end.
- Keep up with regular 'check-ins' (see 'Getting off to a good start') and don't nag in between times. Show an interest in how the revision is going, talk through any difficulties and be prepared to help them reschedule their planning as necessary.
- Keep things in perspective - your child may not be doing things the way you would do them, or as often as you would like but they are doing it the best they can in the way that works for them at the stage they are at.

TROUBLESHOOTING - What to do when it goes pear shaped!

Tips for parents

I hate this subject - I'm going to drop it.

- Children at exam age are often prone to 'all or nothing' thinking, leading them to exaggerate the importance of incidents and resort to extreme strategies such as 'giving it all up', running away or having an all-out argument in an effort to solve a problem. This is because their emotions are so strong at this age, and their strategies for dealing with them limited.
- Try to find out exactly what is causing the problem by encouraging your child to talk about what happens in the class, what is it about the subject that your child objects to. Don't minimise the feelings that your child is experiencing as this leads to the 'you just don't understand' response - accept that the feelings are real and that the problem to be sorted out is one of finding a less extreme strategy.
- For teenagers, problems often seem to have no solution ('I will never be able to understand this subject'), ('Everything about this subject is boring/difficult/stupid). The trick is to talk to them using language that makes the problem more manageable, ('What is it that you find difficult/don't like about what the subject?') or ('How long have you been feeling like this about the subject?') or ('What would you like to happen? What would make it more bearable?')
- If, after discussion, the work really does seem to be beyond him or her, it is always a good idea to talk to the teacher concerned, where your child's worries can be explained in a calm environment. The teacher will be understanding and will appreciate helping to solve a problem together. If this doesn't work, it is worth following up the matter with the Pastoral Officer.

I've left it too late to revise

- The key point to *remember* is that it is never too late until you enter the exam room - with revision, a little knowledge is better than none, and could make the difference between a pass and a fail.
- Put in place a damage-limitation plan. Help your child to make use of the time they have got, however little, by helping them to prioritise and structure revision tasks into manageable chunks. Help them to identify a few key areas and encourage them to revise these as thoroughly as possible.
- Keep up motivation and self-esteem by reminding them of how they have coped with difficult situations in the past, that the exam period will soon be over and by talking about the strengths and qualities that they have which will contribute to the best outcome in the circumstances.

Dealing with stress

- A degree of stress is normal and actually necessary for successfully tackling exams. If you or your child feel that they are becoming too stressed you can encourage them to talk about the underlying issues.
- Some of the symptoms of stress are listed below. However, you know your child best so any marked changes in behaviour are worth checking out.
- Difficulty getting to sleep or waking up
- Tiredness
- Poor appetite
- Loss of interest in things they used to enjoy
- Headaches and other unexplained aches and pains
- Irritability and frequent angry episodes

If your child is stressed, try to encourage them to take time out away from work, doing something that they enjoy. Exercise promotes hormones that actively counter stress, so try to encourage this. Ensure your child eats well, and let them know that you are always there to listen. What stressed people most need is somebody to listen and empathise with the feelings they express.

- Remind them of when they have overcome difficulties in the past.
- Set them to focus on what they have achieved, despite this 'blip'.
- Point out that little is achieved without hard-work and mistakes being made - it's part of life and learning and adults frequently make mistakes too.

When GCSE progress is affected by adverse circumstances.

If your child misses an exam or doesn't do as well as he or she could have done because of illness, bereavement or other serious adverse circumstances, or if they are unable to prepare for or sit controlled assessments or to complete coursework for similar reasons, the most important thing to do is to let the school know immediately. Examination boards may give special consideration in these circumstances, and the school will be able to let you know the procedures to follow.

What do I need to know? Tips on working in partnership with the school

Sometimes it seems easier not to get involved when you are not sure who to call, when or why. These tips offer some suggestions to help you through the maze.

General tips

Y11 Parents evening is on November 11th 2021

Y10 Parents evening is on February 10th 2022

Y10 and Y11 Mock exams start on 22nd November and run for 3 weeks.

The school will use the website to publish important and useful information. Please check it regularly.

You child will be part of a Google Classroom year group where important Year group messages will be posted.

Your child will be in a Google Class for most subjects they study, ask them to show you this so you can see what work has been set for them.

If you need to speak to a teacher, ring the school to find out when would be a good time - don't expect to speak to them straight away. Remember that most of the time they are in classrooms teaching.

When to contact the school

Contact the school:

- If your child consistently tells you they have no homework.
- If you are worried about your child's behaviour, for example if they often do not want to go to school, *become* withdrawn or aggressive.
- If your child is clearly worried about schoolwork.
- If a particular subject is causing your child particular difficulties over an *extended* period of time (half a term or more). This meeting should be with the subject teacher.
- If you do not *receive* any information from your child
- If there are any circumstances that might be affecting your child's schoolwork.
- If you need to take your child out of school for any reason. Remember that only the most serious situations should warrant time off, as every lesson is so crucial.

What a GCSE is worth.

GCSEs can be full qualifications (1 GCSE), double qualifications (equal to 2 GCSEs), or half GCSEs (usually called 'short courses' and equal to one half of a GCSE).

Compulsory subjects.

Some exam subjects must be taken - these are the compulsory subjects and include: English, Maths, Science, Welsh, Religious Studies and Welsh Baccalaureate.

The Welsh Baccalaureate (WBacc) is a qualification which involves the teaching and development of essential skills for working life. The WBacc is an important qualification which does not involve exams, only work completed over the 2 years.

Options.

As well as the compulsory subjects, your child has had the choice of taking a number of other subjects which will lead to qualifications. These are often referred to as 'options'. Most of these will be worth one GCSE although some are equal to 2 GCSEs.

Grades and pass marks.

Grades awarded for GCSEs go from A* to G. This grade takes account of grades given for controlled assessments (coursework carried out under supervision within school), any coursework and examination marks.

GCSE grades D - G mean that the pupil has passed their GCSEs at Level 1.

Grades C - A* represent passes at Level 2. (Level 3 is A-level standard).

If your child would like to go on to do A-levels, they will usually need 5 passes at Level 2.

Some subjects have more 'coursework' and less exams so are called vocational subjects. Grades for these are Distinction *, Distinction, Merit and Pass.

Tiers.

In some subjects all pupils sit the same paper. Other subjects however, have different papers representing different levels of difficulty - usually higher and foundation. These are called 'tiers'. Within each tier pupils can only get a certain range of grades. Schools will decide which tier your child is most likely to do well in.

Controlled assessments / Non examined assessments.(CATs / NEAs)

Many subjects depend on both exam marks and marks for coursework which are called NEA (Non-examined assessments). Preparation for this can be usually done in lessons and as homework and can take many different forms - essays, art-work, scientific investigations, or practical tasks. NEAs then have to take place in school under supervision and often within a set period of time.

Study leave

In order to provide as much support as possible to students, we believe that sending them home on their own to study is not productive in most cases. Study leave in its traditional sense has somewhat disappeared.

Whenever possible, the school will suspend the normal timetable just prior to exams and arrange specialist subject revision sessions instead.

Subject revision sessions may be arranged during breaktimes and after school. It is important that you encourage your child to take advantage of these sessions, making sure they are in school revising as much as possible.

On the following pages you will find specific information on each subject.

AND FINALLY.....

GCSE examinations start in early May and run until the end of June.

Please do not plan any family holidays during these weeks.

If your child does not take the exam, there is no second chance or resit.

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Art
Director of Faculty	Miss H Lowe
Subject title	Art and Design
Examination board	WJEC
Qualification description/title	GCSE Art and Design
Internet link	WJEC Art and Design link
Summary of course	
<p>GCSE Course - Pupils complete work over three years which is internally assessed and externally moderated. Assessment 1 - 60% candidate portfolio, encourages adventurous and open programmes of study that provoke personal exploration, experimentation and opportunities for productive personal expression. Assessment 2 - 40% the examination, is completed in Year 11. All units, in each year of study, develop the four assessment objectives.</p> <p>Year 11 focuses on the completion of the coursework unit and final examination project. It continues to build on the skills developed in Years 9 and 10, and continues to provide evidence of the understanding of the four assessment objectives. Current Year 11 coursework theme is Identity. Pupils choose their examination question from the paper received in January.</p> <p>All work produced this year is marked as part of the final coursework and examination submission.</p>	
Important dates	Events
December 2021	“Mock” examination – final outcome for the Identity project.
January 2022	Examination paper issued followed by six weeks of preparation
Examination (two days)	To be sat in 2022 (end of March)
Revision links	
WJEC website	

Covid 19 - Important Update

It is expected that the GCSE Art process will be back to normal for 2022. All coursework & exam work will be internally marked and externally moderated.

Other useful information:

Pupils are expected to continue with their projects with a minimum of two hours a week of home study.

Pupils are encouraged to attend extra art opportunities to extend their knowledge and understanding. This will enable them to further develop their skills and enhance their portfolio.

- Pupils will have to purchase an A3 sketchbook at an approximate cost of £5.00 for their Year 11 coursework.
- Pupils will be expected to have a memory stick. This should have been bought for Year 9.
- Pupils will be expected to print off colour images of art work for their research into artists.
- Pupils will be expected have basic art equipment to use at home, such as water colours, colour pencils, chalk pastels. These should have been bought for Year 9. Art packs can be bought from school at an approximate cost of £20.00

Year 11 Course Information 2021–2022

Department	ICT and Business
Director of Faculty	Mrs B Merritt
Subject title	Retail Business
Examination board	WJEC
Qualification description/title	Level 1/2 Award Retail Business
Internet link	WJEC Retail Business course information
Summary of course	
<u>Content Covered:</u>	
<u>Unit 3 - Retail Operations.</u>	
<p>The purpose of this unit is for pupils to apply their knowledge and understanding of retail operations to propose responses to change.</p> <p>Pupils will gain an understanding of functional areas and their activities, the rights of retail employees, responsibilities of retail employees, the effects of legislation on retail operations, the methods used by retail businesses to encourage sales, how technology is used to interact with customers, the effects of seasonality on retail operations, the measures retail businesses use to prepare for unplanned situations in daily retail operations, identify issues to resolve and actions required.</p> <p>Unit 3 will be assessed via the completion of a controlled assessment task.</p> <p>If required, pupils have the opportunity to resist Unit 1 and Unit 2 during Year 11.</p>	
Important dates	Events
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• January 2022 to March 2022• February 2022• January and June 2022 (1hr 15mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completing controlled assessment tasks for Unit 3 - Retail Operations.• Unit 1 - Customer Experience• Unit 2 - Retail Business examination.
Revision links	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theory topic electronic workbooks available to pupils via Google Classroom• All pupils have access to the Retail Business Resources folder on Google Drive which contains the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">o past paperso mark schemes	

Other useful information:

The Business department runs a weekly catch-up/revision session for pupils who need additional support or just want to do more themselves.

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Design and Technology
Director of Faculty	Mr T Meiring
Subject title	Food and Nutrition
Examination board	WJEC
Qualification description/title	Food and Nutrition
Internet link	www.wjec.co.uk
Summary of course	
<p>The course comprises of 3 parts: a written examination (worth 40%) of the qualification, a food science investigation (20%) and a practical investigation including practical work (40%). Pupils will complete their science investigation during September and October 2020, this is worth 20% of their final grade. This work will need to be written up in a report, it is vital that pupils meet deadlines given for the completion of this work.</p> <p>Pupils will be working towards their NEA 2 task, completing research, trialling recipes and then preparing, cooking and presenting three final dishes under examination conditions. This will take place during February 2021. This project will need to be submitted by the deadline given. Theory work for the written examination will continue throughout the year in preparation for the external examination in June 2021. This will include: health and safety, nutrition, diet and good health, food commodities, the science of food and where food comes from. There will be regular classroom tests to check understanding.</p>	
Important dates	Events
November 2021 February/March 2022 June 2022 Additional interim dates will be set throughout the year.	NEA: Practical Investigation Exam
Revision links	
www.foodafactoflife.org.uk BBC Bitesize Senecalarning.com Illuminatedigital/WJECfood www.nutrition.org.uk	

Other useful information:

Participation in practical sessions is essential to success, students will be issued with recipes well in advance to enable ingredients to be purchased / inform school.
 School will provide resources for the food investigations.

After school sessions available.

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Design and Technology
Director of Faculty	Mr T Meiring
Subject title	GCSE
Examination board	WJEC
Qualification description/title	Product Design
Internet link	www.wjec.co.uk
Summary of course	
<p>Year 11 will initially focus on the completion of the 50% Controlled Assessment Task (NEA)* outlined by the exam board. Once complete, revision sessions for the 50% Written examination (May 2021) will begin.</p> <p><i>*All assessed work is carried out under supervised conditions within a rigid time frame.</i></p>	
Important dates	Events
September 2021	Issue of the design brief – commence 'NEA' Working on NEA throughout the term including practical and written tasks.
January 2022	Day on practical work under examination conditions "Mock" written examination
On-going	Working through the design process completing the controlled assessment task. Interim deadlines will be issued by individual focus teachers.
April 2022	NEA deadline
May 2022	External written examination
Revision links	
<p>All students will be given the opportunity to join the associated GOOGLE Classroom, through which, lesson notes, revision notes and all other guidance will be available.</p> <p>GCSE Bitesize</p>	

After school practical and revision sessions are available.

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Design and Technology
Director of Faculty	Mr T Meiring
Subject title	GCSE
Examination board	WJEC
Qualification description/title	Design Technology Fashion and Textiles
Internet link	www.wjec.co.uk
Summary of course	
<p>Year 11 will initially focus on the completion of the 50% Controlled Assessment Task (NEA)* outlined by the exam board. Once complete, revision sessions for the 50% Written examination (May 2021) will begin.</p> <p><i>*All assessed work is carried out under supervised conditions within a rigid time frame.</i></p>	
Important dates	Events
July 2021	Issue of the design brief - commence 'NEA' Working on NEA throughout the term including practical and written tasks.
January 2022	Day on practical work under examination conditions "Mock" written examination
On-going	Working through the design process completing the controlled assessment task. Interim deadlines will be issued by individual focus teachers.
April 2022	NEA deadline
May 2022	External written examination
Revision links	
GCSE Bitesize Pgfl/ngfl Google classroom	

Other useful information:

Taking part in practical activities is vital for success.

Pupils may be asked to provide some materials.

After school sessions available.

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Drama
Director of Faculty	Miss H Lowe
Subject title	Drama
Examination board	WJEC
Qualification description/title	GCSE

<p>Summary of course</p> <p>There have been some changes to the requirements for Drama GCSE due to COVID-19. The elements of the course are now as follows;</p> <p><u>Unit 1 - Devising Theatre - Internally assessed, externally moderated</u> Pupils will be participating in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre based on either the work of a theatre practitioner or a genre in response to a stimulus set by WJEC.</p> <p>Pupils will be completing a written evaluation under controlled assessment conditions.</p> <p><u>Unit 2 - Performing a set text</u> Pupils will need to perform one extract from a text as a group. It is undecided as of yet if this will be live in front of an examiner, or if it will be recorded. We are expecting a decision on this from WJEC imminently.</p> <p><u>Unit 3 - Interpreting Theatre - Written Examination</u> Section A: Set Text A series of questions on Two Faces by Manon Steffan Ros, explored as an actor, designer and director. This year, an extract from the text chosen will be released in advance to allow pupils to prepare for the exam.</p> <p>Section B: Live Theatre Review One question, from a choice of two, requiring analysis and evaluation of one live theatre production seen during the course. <i>This will now be a review of a recording of a live performance if a live performance is unable to be seen.</i></p>	
Important dates	Events
Unit 1: Devising Theatre Exam & Coursework handed in – September 2021 Unit 2: Performing Theatre Exam – March 2022 Unit 3: Written Exam – June 2022	Extra-Curricular events throughout the year. Houseplays & School Musical Productions. TBC – will be notified by letter.
Revision links WJEC Assessment Material Examples GCSE Bitesize Drama Revision	

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	English
Director of Faculty	Mr J Algieri
Subject title	English Language English Literature
Examination board	WJEC
Qualification description/title	GCSE
Internet link	www.wjec.co.uk
Summary of course	
<p>Literature Unit 2a <i>Heroes</i> by Robert Cormier and <i>An Inspector Calls</i> by J.B. Priestley</p> <p>Language: Unit 2 & 3 Reading Unit 2 Writing Unit 3 Writing</p>	
Important dates	Events
Nov	Mock exam: <i>Heroes</i> and Unit 2 Language paper
March	Mock exam: <i>An Inspector Calls</i> and Unit 3 Language paper
May/June 2021	GCSE Language exams Unit 2 and Unit 3 GCSE Literature exam Unit 2a
Revision links	
<p>Google classroom Sparknotes YHT School student website BBC bitesize</p>	

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Geography
Director of Faculty	Mr A Lewis
Subject title	GCSE Geography
Examination board	WJEC
Qualification description/title	GCSE Geography A
Internet link	http://www.wjec.co.uk/index.php?subject=58&level=
Summary of course	
Pupils will have 4 areas to complete in Year 11:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate, Weather and Ecosystems• Resources and development• Environmental Challenges	
NEA worth 20% will be conducted through November and December 2021	
Important dates	Events
November/December 2021	Mock Exam
November December 2021	NEA
Revision links	
There are many GCSE Geography revision websites including: BBC Bitesize; s-cool; revision world. etc	
Revision/Catch-up club runs every week on a Wednesday after the Christmas break.	

Year 11 Course information 2021-2022

Department	Health and Social Care and Childcare	
Director of Faculty	Mr A Davies (Health and Well-Being)	
Subject title	GCSE Single Health and Social Care and Childcare	
Examination board	WJEC	
Qualification description/title	GCSE Single Health and Social Care and Childcare	
Internet link	https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/gcse-health-and-social-care-and-childcare/#tab_overview	
Summary of course		
4 lessons per fortnight		
2 Units		
Unit 1 - Human growth, development and well-being		
Written examination: 1.5 hours		
40% of qualification - Normally taken in year 10 exam season		
Unit 2 - Promoting and maintaining health and well-being		
NEA (Non-exam assessment: Approx. 25 hours		
60% of qualification - normally undertaken in year 11		
Important dates	Events	
Mock exam in Nov	Internal	
Mock exam in Jan	Internal	
Unit 1 Exam - 25th May 2022	External am	
Revision links		
https://www.healthandcarelearning.wales/resources/?l=GCSE&se=Health%20and%20Social%20Care&su		
=		

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	History
Director of Faculty	Mr A Lewis
Subject title	History
Examination board	WJEC
Qualification description/title	GCSE
Internet link	www.wjec.co.uk
Summary of course	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 2 x controlled assessments to be completed in class▪ Revision of USA 1910 - 1929▪ Revision of Elizabeth 1558 - 1603	
Important dates	Events
May and June 2022	Two WJEC examinations on the above units (one hour each.)
Revision links	
JohnDClare.net (excellent revision site) www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize	

Other useful information:

www.wjec.co.uk – examination board website. Useful information, eg examination timetables, History information for parents and students.

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	ICT and Business
Director of Faculty	Mrs B Merritt
Subject title	GCSE ICT
Examination board	WJEC
Qualification description/title	GCSE ICT
Internet link	WJEC GCSE ICT course information
Summary of course	
In Year 11 pupils will complete a controlled assessment task on Unit 4 - "Multimedia". They will also study Unit 3 - "ICT in Organisations", a theory section of work, and sit the final examination in June.	
Important dates	Events
<ul style="list-style-type: none">September 2021 to December 202110th June 2022 (pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Completing controlled assessment tasks for Unit 4 MultimediaUnit 3 ICT in Organisations examination (90 minutes)
Revision links	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Theory topic electronic workbooks available to pupils via Google ClassroomAll pupils have access to the GCSE ICT Resources folder on Google Drive which contains the following<ul style="list-style-type: none">past papersmark schemeswww.teach-ict.com web site (great resources and tutorials)	

Other useful information:

The ICT department runs a weekly catch-up/revision session for pupils who need additional support or just want to do more themselves.

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Mathematics
Director of Faculty	Mrs B Merritt
Subject title	GCSE Mathematics
Examination board	WJEC
Internet link	https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/u3rbzz1p/wjec-gcse-maths-spec-from-2015-r-e.pdf
Summary of course	
<p>All students will sit two GCSEs in Mathematics and they are titled GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Mathematics-Numeracy. Both of these will build on and progress from the levels of mathematics and numeracy expected at the end of KS3. Whilst the GCSE in Mathematics-Numeracy will assess the mathematics that learners will need in their everyday lives, in the world of work and in other general curriculum areas, GCSE Mathematics will extend to aspects of mathematics needed for progression to scientific, technical or further mathematical study. Both specifications will encourage learners to be inspired, moved and challenged by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. They will help learners to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, mathematics and to recognise the importance and relevance of mathematics to their everyday lives and to society.</p> <p>GCSE Mathematics will enable learners to appreciate the coherence, creativity, elegance and power of mathematics. It will prepare learners to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices. It will have an emphasis on those aspects of mathematics required for progression into mathematics or mathematically related discipline or employment routes. It will feature problems set both in real work context and within mathematics itself and will encourage learners to employ and evaluate different mathematical techniques.</p> <p>Pupils will be continually monitored throughout the course by means of end of topic tests, oral assessment, homework and examination.</p> <p>There are three tiers of entry for GCSE Mathematics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher tier (grades A* - C) • Intermediate tier (grades B - E) • Foundation tier (grades D - G) <p>Learners entered for this qualification must sit both units at either foundation, intermediate or higher tier in the same examination series. All candidates are required to sit two written papers for GCSE Mathematics (Unit 1 non calculator, Unit 2 calculator allowed). These papers will usually be taken in the summer of Year 11.</p> <p>Due to the extensive disruption to teaching and learning throughout 2020 and 2021, Qualifications Wales announced that in order to mitigate lost teaching and learning time that GCSEs will be adapted for learners sitting these qualifications in summer 2022. As a result, several topics will not be assessed in any of the units examined in Summer 2022.</p>	
Important dates	Events
24 May 2022 (provisional)	Unit 1 (non-calculator)
14 June 2022 (provisional)	Unit 2 (calculator allowed)
Revision links	
Corbett Maths, Jones the Sum, MathedUp, ExamSolutions, Maths DIY	

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Mathematics
Director of Faculty	Mrs B Merritt
Subject title	GCSE Mathematics–Numeracy
Examination board	WJEC
Internet link	https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/4wjg3krk/wjec-gcse-maths-numeracy-spec-from-2015-r-e.pdf
Summary of course	
<p>All students will sit two GCSEs in Mathematics and they are titled GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Mathematics–Numeracy. Both of these will build on and progress from the levels of mathematics and numeracy expected at the end of KS3. Whilst the GCSE in Mathematics–Numeracy will assess the maths that learners will need in their everyday lives, in the world of work and in other general curriculum areas, GCSE Mathematics will extend to aspects of mathematics needed for progression to scientific, technical or further mathematical study. Both specifications will encourage learners to be inspired, moved and challenged by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. They will help learners to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, mathematics and to recognise the importance and relevance of mathematics to their everyday lives and to society.</p> <p>GCSE Mathematics–Numeracy will have an emphasis on those aspects of mathematics which are of most relevance to learners functioning as informed twenty first century citizens. It will prepare learners to make decisions about further learning opportunities and careers choices. Solving problems in the real world and the problem solving cycle will feature within the specification as well as the more numerical aspects of mathematics. There will also be opportunities for learners to make informed decisions about the use of technology, the management of money and the use of statistics.</p> <p>Pupils will be continually monitored throughout the course by means of end of topic tests, oral assessment, homework and examination.</p> <p>There are three tiers of entry for GCSE Mathematics–Numeracy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher tier (grades A* - C) • Intermediate tier (grades B - E) • Foundation tier (grades D - G) <p>Learners entered for this qualification must sit both units at either foundation, intermediate or higher tier in the same examination series. All candidates are required to sit two written papers for GCSE Mathematics–Numeracy (Unit 1 non calculator, Unit 2 calculator allowed). These papers will usually be taken in the summer of Year 11.</p> <p>Due to the extensive disruption to teaching and learning throughout 2020 and 2021, Qualifications Wales announced that in order to mitigate lost teaching and learning time that GCSEs will be adapted for learners sitting these qualifications in summer 2022. As a result, several topics will not be assessed in any of the units examined in Summer 2022.</p>	
Important dates	Events
20 May 2022 (provisional)	Unit 1 (non-calculator)
7 June 2022 (provisional)	Unit 2 (calculator allowed)
Revision links	
Corbett Maths, Jones the Sum, MathedUp, ExamSolutions, Maths DIY	

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Media Studies
Director of Faculty	Miss H Lowe
Subject title	Media Studies
Examination board	WJEC
Qualification description/title	GCSE Media Studies
Internet link	http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/media-studies/r-media-studies-gcse-2017/wjec-gcse-media-studies-spec-for-2017%20(16-09-16).pdf?language_id=1
Summary of course	
<p>Written Exam Unit 1. Section A: Representations – advertising, video games and newspapers This section will assess knowledge and understanding of the representation of gender and events in relation to any of the media forms studied –advertising, video games and newspapers. One stepped question based on unseen print based resource material related to advertising, video games or newspapers.</p> <p>Section B: Music This section will assess knowledge and understanding of media language, representation, media industries and audiences. One stepped question and two single questions.</p> <p>Written Exam Unit 2. Section A: Wales on Television This section will assess knowledge of media industries, audiences, media language and representation. One stepped question based on the set 'Wales on Television' product chosen by the school.</p> <p>Section B: Contemporary Hollywood Film This section will assess knowledge and understanding of media industries, audiences and media language. One stepped question and two single questions</p> <p>Controlled Assessment: A media production, including individual research and planning, created in response to a choice of briefs set by WJEC, and applying knowledge and understanding of key concepts. An individual reflective analysis of the production. Topics may include Print Film Promotion (DVD Covers / Magazine covers, Contents and Feature Page).</p>	
Important dates	Events
Controlled Assessment will be started in December and completed on Monday 14 th March. Students who do not meet the deadline will be required to attend a completion session during the Easter break.	Assessments are carried out half termly on key tasks from a course specific text book. Controlled assessment tasks in terms one and two take place over a four-week period, and over a six week period for task three. A trip to a Media industry will be arranged during the year – Covid rules permitting.
Revision links	
Students retain the course companion textbook written by the Chief Examiner for the subject issued to all students in Year 10. A specific Revision booklet is also purchased for every student in Year 11 with past paper question, exam writing tips and the most topical exam examples/themes.	

Other useful information:

At least one media industry visit will be undertaken by students to help them experience 'live' media.

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Modern Foreign Languages	
Director of Faculty	Mr J Algieri	
Subject title	GCSE French	
Examination board	WJEC	
Qualification description/title	GCSE (full course)	
Internet link	www.wjec.co.uk	
Summary of course		
The course is made up of 4 units, all of which are examined at the end of Year 11. Unit 1 - Speaking (25%) Unit 2 - Listening (25%) Unit 3 - Reading (25%) Unit 4 - Writing (25%)		
Important dates (approximate)		Events
Oral Exam - April / May 2022		Vocabulary tests every week.
Revision links		
www.languagesonline.org www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/french Duolingo Google Classroom		

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Music
Director of Faculty	Miss H Lowe
Subject title	Music
Examination board	WJEC
Qualification description/title	GCSE
Internet link	<p>Sample assessment materials: http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/music/r-music-gcse-from-2016/wjec-gcse-music-sams-from-2016-e.pdf?language_id=1 BBC Bitesize: http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zpf3cdm</p>
Summary of course	
<p>There have been some substantial changes to the requirements for Music GCSE due to COVID-19. The elements of the course are now as follows;</p> <p>Unit 1: Performing - 35% of qualification Section A: Performing (30%) Pupils will need to perform for a minimum of 2 minutes instead of 4 minutes. <i>The requirement to perform in an ensemble has been removed.</i> Section B: Programme Note (5%) Pupils must prepare a written programme note for one of the pieces chosen for performance. These performances will be recorded and examined during Year 11, they will then be sent off to be moderated by the WJEC.</p> <p>Unit 2: Composing - 35% of qualification Section A: Composing (30%) <i>Pupils will now only have to complete one composition, which will not need to use a set brief. The piece should be between 1.5 – 3 mins.</i> <i>Pupils no longer have to submit an evaluation.</i></p> <p>Unit 3: Appraising - Written examination - 30% of qualification This unit is assessed via a listening examination in June of Year 11. There are 8 questions in total, two on each of the four following 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; Two of the eight questions are based on prepared extracts set by WJEC.</p> <p>Pupils will have a lot to cover this year, but the lessons have been planned thoroughly to ensure that all content can be covered. Please encourage pupils to use google classroom as a tool to revise. There are multiple resources and online lessons from lockdown which would be extremely beneficial for your child to use.</p>	
Important dates	Events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recording performance to be sent off and Programme note handed in – March 2022 Compositions handed in ready to be sent off - March 2022 Listening Exam – June 2022 	Extra-curricular events throughout the year

Other useful information:

Students taking GCSE Music will be given weekly peripatetic instrumental/ vocal lessons. They will be expected to attend all lessons, as well as attending at least one extra-curricular activity a week.

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Religious Studies
Director of Faculty	Mr A Lewis
Subject title	Religious Studies
Examination board	WJEC
Qualification description/title	GCSE
Internet link	www.wjec.co.uk
Summary of course - Short Course	
Unit 1 - Religion & philosophical issues <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Part A - The Core Beliefs, Teachings and Practices of Christianity Revision of Issues of Good and Evil, and Life and Death - studied in Year 9 and Year 10.	
Important dates	Events
May 2022	Unit 1 written examination
Revision links	
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize	

Other useful information:

www.wjec.co.uk - examination board website. Useful information, eg examination timetables, information for parents and students.

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Health & Wellbeing
Director of Faculty	Mr A Davies
Subject title	GCSE Sports Studies
Examination board	WJEC
Qualification description/title	GCSE Physical Education
Internet link	www.wjec.co.uk
Summary of course	
50% practical 50% theory Practical -2 sporting areas - These can be 2 team or 2 individual sports or a combination.	
Important dates	Events
Throughout year December 2021 March 2022 November/March 2021/22 May 2022	On-going half termly tests Video evidence deadline for “offsite” sports Moderation day (format TBC) “Mock” examinations External examination
Revision links	
www.teachPE.com GCSE bitesize YHT website www.Brianmac.co.uk www.PE4u.co.uk www.PSshare.co.uk	

Year 11 Course information 2021-2022

Department	Science
KS4 Science leader	Dr H Wise
Subject title	GCSE Double Science
Examination board	WJEC
Qualification description/title	GCSE Additional Science (4408)
Internet link	http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/science/gcse/science-double-gcse-2017/
Summary of course	
Nine lessons per fortnight	
7 modules consisting of 2 biology units, 2 chemistry units and 2 physics units and a practical assessment unit. Each subject examined separately at either foundation or higher tier. External exams normally take place in June 2021/May 2022. Each unit normally carries a weighting of 15%, with the final 10% based on an external practical assessment in 2022.	
COVID Changes Currently there will be no assessed practical element this year. Pupils will only sit examinations for Units 4, 5 and 6.	
Important dates	Events
PROVISIONAL DATES Unit 4 Biology external exam - 17th May 2022 Unit 5 Chemistry external exam - 27th May 2022 Unit 6 Physics external exam - 8th June 2022	After school revision – Spring term 2022
Revision links	
BBC Bitesize https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zrkw2hv	

Year 11 Course information 2021-2022

Department	Science	
KS4 Science leader	Dr H Wise	
Subject title	GCSE Triple Science	
Examination board	WJEC	
Qualification description/title	GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics	
Internet link	http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/science/gcse/biology-gcse-2017/ http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/science/gcse/chemistry-gcse-2017/ http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/science/gcse/physics-gcse-2017/	
Summary of course		
<p>7 modules consisting of 2 biology units, 2 chemistry units and 2 physics units and a practical assessment unit. Each subject examined separately at either foundation or higher tier. External exams take place in June 2021 and May 2022. Each unit carries a weighting of 45%, with the final 10% based on an external practical assessment in 2021-2022.</p> <p>COVID Changes Currently there will be no assessed practical element this year. Pupils will only sit examinations for Unit 2 for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.</p>		
Important dates		Events
PROVISIONAL DATES Unit 2 Biology external exam - 17th May 2022 Unit 2 Chemistry external exam - 27th May 2022 Unit 2 Physics external exam - 8th June 2022		After school revision - Spring term 2022
Revision links		
BBC Bitesize https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zrkw2hv		

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Health and Wellbeing
Head of Faculty	Mr A Davies
Subject title	SWEET
Examination board	Btech
Qualification description/title	Btech in Personal growth and wellbeing Level 1 & 2
Internet link	https://www.sweet.education/level-1-and-2-pgw
Summary of course	
<p>BTEC Sweet teaches valuable skills to help students lead happier, healthier and more successful lives.</p> <p>The qualification creates engaging conversations about life's big issues, helping learners to gain a better knowledge of themselves and the world around them.</p> <p>The course appeals to learners who find examinations challenging but also wish to gain the knowledge of life skills that will help them progress in their lives as young adults.</p> <p>In order to gain a Level 1/2 in the BTEC Sweet qualification, pupils must complete 8 booklets which explore a range of different topics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booklet 1 – Physical Health and wellbeing - Fitter, Healthier, Happier – helps pupils to understand the benefits of leading a healthy lifestyle. • Booklet 2 – Emotional wellbeing - I've got a feeling – helps learners to develop a good understanding of the importance of sharing feelings and thoughts with others. • Booklet 3 – Social Health and wellbeing - Skills for social success – explores different relationships and the benefits of those to social health and wellbeing, understanding what makes a successful relationship and what personal skills will help to maintain them. • Booklet 4 – Sexual Health and wellbeing - Let's talk about... – this unit will help learners to understand how to develop and maintain safe and healthy intimate relationships in order to protect their own wellbeing, and that of others. • Booklet 5 – Personal Identity - This is me! – This booklet will explore a range of factors and life experiences that help to shape personal identity, helping learners to consider how to develop their own personal identity and contribute positively to social interactions. • Booklet 6 – Environmental Awareness – Our World, Our Future – This unit will help learners to understand some of the issues affecting the environment and why it is important that we try to protect it. • Booklet 7 – Financial Awareness – Making money work for me! – helping learners to discover how to make appropriate financial decisions, looking at the advantages and disadvantages of different financial products. Upon completion of this booklet, learners will be able to prioritise their financial needs based on their goals! • Booklet 8 – Personal Progress – Future Roles and Setting Goals – a unit where learners will be supported in identifying their abilities, skills, interests and attributes in order to allow them to make clear and informed choices about what they might like to do in the future. 	
Revision links	

Other useful information:

ALN option only – three-year course

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Vocational - Work Ready Employability Skills
Title	Military Preparation School (3 Year Programme)
Qualification description/title	Year 9: Level 2 Employability Skills (0.25 GCSE) Year 10: Level 2 Work Skills (2 GCSE B Grades) Year 11: Level 2 Personal Growth and Wellbeing (2 GCSE B Grades)
Examination board	City & Guilds / BTEC

Summary of course

The Military Preparation School is a UK wide thriving and distinguished training provider that has education and learning as the principle foundation. We support learners, partner schools and local authorities across Wales in securing accredited vocational qualifications by using a soft military ethos as our engagement mechanism. The Military Preparation School main focus is on qualification attainment and developing the skill set required for positive progression to further education, apprenticeship and employment.

MPS forms part of the Motivation Preparation College for Training (MPCT), which was formed in 1999 in Cardiff by our Chief Executive Officer, Mr Huw Lewis MBE. The vision, has remained constant, and that is to provide outstanding standards of learning in every region of the United Kingdom. In the past 7 years we have been awarded; Ofsted Outstanding in all areas, TES 'Training provider of the Year', Times Top 100, Investors In People Platinum and Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold.

Qualifications

The City & Guilds Employability Skills qualification has been designed to support learners develop and understand work-ready skills, employer expectations, the working environment and career readiness. The qualification has been designed in collaboration with a range of experts from various industry sectors, training providers and employment and recruitment professionals to ensure the content matches what is needed and valued by today's employment market. Key transferable skills such as independent research, group collaboration and leadership are all key components of this qualification.

The BTEC Workskills qualification has been designed to offer learners a programme of study to improve their understanding and application of business and employability skills. The qualification has been developed to ensure that the knowledge, skills and understanding they provide are relevant, current, and valuable for learners and potential employers. Learners will develop a variety of transferable skills that will support and aid in academic and career progression. The programme allows learners to understand key aspects of preparation for the workplace along with practical application of experience and skill related scenarios.

The BTEC Personal Growth and Wellbeing qualification has been designed to support learners' skill development in preparation for higher-level learning and career progression. The qualification is designed to progress the development of personal attributes, communication skills, self-management and development strategies to promote progression to further study and future employment. Developing resilient behaviour, appreciating emotional wellbeing and adopting personal progression plans are all key components of this qualification.

Enrichment Activities:

- Fundraising Activities, Volunteering Opportunities, Overnight Military Exercises, Supporting Local Communities, Award Recognition, Diverse Physical Training, Military Themed Activities, External Speakers, Training Based Competitions and sports competitions.

What is the programme outline?

50% is theory-based learning through active and diverse classroom activities. 50% of the course is physical/active, which supports practical evidence for the qualifications. Learners experience unique learning opportunities from: problem solving activities, leadership experiences, overnight expeditions, community work, award days, diverse outdoor education and military activities.

Do the qualifications have exams?

No, all qualifications are portfolio based, there are no exams.

Do I need to be fit to join the course?

No. Learners work at a level that is suitable to them. Fitness will improve naturally as they take part in exercise each week with learners understanding healthy behaviours and nutrition as the course progresses. All physical activity is differentiated, all we ask is that learners try!

Will the course help me choose a career?

Yes, learners will receive individual careers advice whilst on the course to help with vocational, academic and employability choices.

Do I have to join the military if I attend the Military Preparation School?

No, learners will be supported in whatever career path they choose to follow. Although the course is based on military values and low-level contextualised military engagement activities, the course allows learners the opportunity to develop confidence and employability skills. The majority of MPS learners progress to A Levels, apprenticeships or employment. The majority of our learners have no desire or interest in pursuing a military career, but enjoy the unique learning experience and GCSE equivalent qualifications

How long is the programme?

Each programme follows the academic year as per the school term timetable; learners will transition up each year and complete higher programmes to attain as many qualifications as possible.

What qualifications do I get?

Learners are able to access both our City and Guilds and BTEC vocational qualifications. Learners amass credits throughout the year and achieve the highest attainment possible, up to Level 2 accreditation. Our qualifications are based on active learning, with the focus on developing employability skills, personal attributes and key academic skills.

- Year 9: Level 2 City & Guilds Award in Employability Skills (0.25 GCSE)
- Year 10: Level 2 BTEC Extended Certificate in Work Skills (2x B Grade GCSEs)
- Year 11: Level 2 BTEC Extended Certificate in Personal Growth and Wellbeing (2x B Grade GCSEs)

Find out more at www.mpsschool.co.uk

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Vocational
Title	Outdoor Education & Activities
Qualification description/title	Level 2 Teamwork and Personal Development (2 GCSE B Grades)
Examination board	BTEC

Summary of course

1. Who are the Military Preparation School (MPS)?

We are an education based training provider who actively supports and complements a school's curriculum offer, this allows learners to access a broad range of qualifications and learning opportunities. We support partner schools and local authorities in securing accredited vocational qualifications for learners across England and Wales. We use a soft military engagement ethos in which to promote personal development values and attributes, our delivery approach is based on 'active learning'. The majority of our learners have no desire or interest in pursuing a military career, however, utilise the unique learning opportunities and level 2 accredited qualifications to support their personal and academic development.

The Outdoor Education Course is a non-military themed programme.

MPS forms part of the Motivation Preparation College for Training (MPCT), which was formed in 1999 in Cardiff by our Chief Executive Officer, Mr Huw Lewis MBE. The vision, has remained constant, and that is to provide outstanding standards of learning in every region of the United Kingdom. In the past 6 years we have been awarded; Ofsted Outstanding in all areas, TES 'Training provider of the Year', Times Top 100, Investors In People Platinum and Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold.

2. What do we do?

For any learner on our programme we aim and focus on three main objectives:

- Qualification attainment - GCSE equivalent vocational qualifications Year 10/11, 4 GCSE, B Grades
- Develop and enhance unique learning skills to support in school academic progression
- Developing the skill set required for positive progression to further education, apprenticeship and employment

3. What is the Outdoor Education Course?

- Course Theme: Outdoor Education and Activities
- Course Qualification: Level 2 BTEC Teamwork and Personal Development
- Course Outcome: Extended Certificate - GCSE Equivalent of x2 B Grades
- Course Duration: 1 Year Course then opportunity to take another vocational qualification for Year 11 with MPS
- Course Outline: Practical activities mixed with theory based learning (all portfolio - no exam!)
- Uniform: School Uniform for classroom work / Practical activities we will supply course t-shirts and if conducting outdoor/expedition related activities specialised kit/equipment will be supplied

What is the course outline?

50% is theory-based learning through active and diverse classroom activities. 50% of the course is physical/active, which supports practical evidence for the qualifications. Learners experience unique learning opportunities from: outdoor activities, adventure training, overnight expeditions, community work, award days, diverse outdoor education experiences. The majority of lessons are conducted at Ysgol Harri Tudur and built into the learners' normal school timetable. Off site visits are frequent to support the outdoor nature of the course.

Will the course help me choose a career?

Yes, learners will receive individual careers advice whilst on the course to help with vocational, academic and employability choices. We support all learners in gaining a positive progression through a number of avenues: further education, apprenticeships, work-based training or employment. Working with learners and schools, we are able to provide guidance in education and career progression. All our curricula at Key Stage 4 support this vital process. We ensure every learner is given the opportunity to prepare for their progression through developing their skill set to supporting any aspect of the career process. We actively support the Welsh Government's new Curriculum for Wales, 'Curriculum for Life'. Our ethos and fundamental approach equips learners with the necessary skill set to achieve in modern Wales. The new Curriculum for Wales aligns itself with our pedagogy by placing high emphasis on preparing young people for life.

How will parents be kept up to date of learner progress?

Each week our Instructors provide feedback on learner progress to the school and highlight any praise and concern in which to support. We attend Parent Evenings in which to meet and involve parental engagement and also provide course reports so parents can be informed of qualification attainment and learner progress.

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Vocational
Head of Department	Mr Tobi Evans
Subject title	Award in Engineering
Examination board	WJEC
Qualification description/title	WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Engineering
Internet link	
Summary of course	
<p>This qualification provides a broad intro to the activities involved in engineering.</p> <p>Engineering Design learn how to look at products to find out how it works and meets certain requirements. Learn how to take different ideas in order to produce a design specification for something new.</p> <p>Producing Engineering Products learn about different types of engineering information and how to use it to plan the production of new equipment. Learn to work safely with various engineering processes, equipment and tools.</p> <p>Solving Engineering Problems learn how to solve engineering problems by exploring solutions using new materials or processes. Learn to follow a process and develop technical drawing skills.</p> <p>Unit 1 Engineering Design Unit 2 Producing Engineering Products Unit 2 Solving Engineering Problems. External Exam</p>	
Important dates	Events
Revision links	

Other useful information:

It is essential pupils provide their own steel toe cap boots and overalls. It is a mandatory requirement they are worn at all times in the workshop. Other P.P.E, such as gloves and glasses, will be provided when required.

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Vocational
Head of Department	Mr Tobi Evans
Subject title	Construction and the Built Environment
Examination board	WJEC
Qualification description/title	Level 1 / 2 Award (single)
Internet link	www.wjec.co.uk
Summary of course	
<p>This qualification provides a broad introduction to the different trades involved in construction. It provides an overview of technical construction roles such as bricklaying and carpentry, and also of professional construction roles such as site inspection and project management. Learners will be involved in a number of small scale construction projects, and will also learn how to create technical drawings and specifications. This course is an ideal foundation for young people interested in employment and/or further education in the construction industries.</p> <p>Unit 1 - Safety & Security in Construction (external assessment) Unit 2 - Practical Construction skills (internal assessment) Unit 3 - Planning Construction Projects (internal assessment)</p> <p>This course is structured in a 'plan, do, review' approach to learning, where learners are introduced to planning activities, carrying them out and reviewing the outcomes.</p>	
Important dates	Events
Revision links	

Other useful information:

It is essential pupils provide their own steel toe cap boots and overalls. It is a mandatory requirement they are worn at all times in the workshop. Other P.P.E, such as gloves and glasses, will be provided when required.

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Vocational
Head of Department	Miss Kath Archer/Miss Sian O'Neill
Subject title	Creative Hair and Beauty Studies
Examination board	City & Guilds
Qualification description/title	Level 2 Certificate
Internet link	www.cityandguilds.com
Summary of course	
<p>This QCF Level 2 qualification is designed to provide specialist work-related skills for the Beauty industry. It gives learners the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to prepare for employment.</p> <p>A minimum of 24 credits is required to achieve this qualification. A minimum of 180 guided learning hours are recommended. Credits will be gained from a selection of the following units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create and image based on a theme within the hair and beauty sector• Head massage• Shaping and colouring eyebrows• The Art of Dressing hair• The Art of colouring hair <p>This is an ideal opportunity for pupils who prefer a more practical and vocational experience. There is lots of 'hands-on' activity. Practical work is assessed internally, as are the theory assignments. There are no minimum entry requirements.</p> <p><u>Employment opportunities:</u> Beauty Therapist, Hairdresser, Salon receptionist</p>	
Important dates	Events
Revision links	

Other useful information:

Pupils must wear correct P.P.E. This is a Tunic which must be worn at all times in the salon and will be provided when required.

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Cymraeg/ Welsh
Director of Faculty	Mr J Algieri
Subject title	Welsh (Second Language)
Examination board	WJEC
Qualification description/ title	GCSE Welsh Second Language (Full Course)
Internet link	http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/welsh-second-language/r-welsh-second-language-gcse-2017/
Summary of course	
<p>All students in Year 11 follow the new Welsh Second Language course which is a Full GCSE- pupils study Welsh Second Language course for four lessons per fortnight and can gain grades A*-G. The course is split into four parts; This qualification has two external assessment units which are weighted equally and two internal assessment units. The two external assessment tests reading and writing skills while the two internal assessment unit tests oral and listening skills.</p> <p>The context for learning the language is organised under three broad themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ EMPLOYMENT □ WALES AND THE WORLD □ YOUTH <p>Unit 1 Oracy response to visual material: Oracy exam (25%) - (10%) Speaking (15%) Listening This unit requires candidates to listen to stimuli and respond verbally by interacting with a partner or in a group of 3.</p> <p>Unit 2 Communicate with others: Oracy exam (25%) - (20%) Speaking (5%) Listening This unit requires candidates to respond orally and listen to peers by interacting with a partner or in a group of 3. Candidates are expected to express and support opinions.</p> <p>Unit 3 Report, specific and instructional: Written Examination (25%) - (15%) Reading (10%) Writing This unit requires candidates to respond to a range of questions. The reading will be assessed through a range of structured questions and the writing for different purposes including writing report, specific and instructional.</p> <p>Unit 4 Descriptive, creative and imaginative: Written Examination (25%) - (10%) Reading (15%) Writing This unit requires candidates to respond to a range of reading and writing questions. The reading will be assessed through a range of structured questions and the writing for different purposes including descriptive, creative and imaginative writing.</p>	
Important dates	Events
March/ April 2022	Unit 2 Communicate with others: Oracy exam (25%)
Summer Term 2022	Unit 3 Report, specific and instructional: Written Examination (25%)
Summer Term 2022	Unit 4 Descriptive, creative and imaginative: Written Examination (25%)
Revision links	
<p>Revision and catch up sessions- ask your teacher.</p> <p><u>Revision Books:</u> WJEC GCSE Welsh Second Language All-in-One Revision and Practice By Collins GCSE WJEC GCSE Cymraeg Ail Iaith/Welsh Second Language: Revision Guide, Language Skills and Practice by Illuminate Publishing</p> <p><u>Websites:</u> https://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=2364 https://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=2365 https://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=2379 https://www.duolingo.com/course/cy/en/Learn-Welsh-Online https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z8qmhyc</p>	

Year 11 Course Information 2021-2022

Department	Welsh Bacallaureate
Director of Welsh Bacallaureate	Mr D McLoughlin
Qualification description/title	Skills Challenge Certificate
Examination board	WJEC

Summary of course

The course covers the 'Skills Challenge Certificate', which represents a full GCSE qualification. The Skills Challenge Certificate normally comprises of four challenges, three of which are completed as controlled assessments:

1. Global Citizenship Challenge
2. Community Challenge (not to be submitted; please see below)
3. Employability and Enterprise Challenge
4. Individual Project

However, due to the exceptional circumstances surrounding Coronavirus, centres have been allowed to enter either the Global Citizenship Challenge OR the Community Challenge and as such the latter will not be submitted this academic year. All of the marks awarded in each of the challenges (at Distinction, Merit, Pass, or Pass L1) are added up and a final grade (A* to C) is awarded for the Skills Challenge Certificate. During the challenges, the students will develop and be assessed on the following skills and aptitudes:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Digital Literacy
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Planning and Organisation
- Creativity and Innovation
- Personal Effectiveness

Global Citizenship Challenge – worth 25% of the total qualification

It allows learners to build their knowledge and understanding of global issues from a range of themes, including: Cultural Diversity, Fair Trade, Future Energy, Inequality, Living Sustainably, Natural and Human Disasters, Nutrition and Poverty. The final assessment task is for students to create a raising awareness pack for a chosen global issue, in an innovative and creative way. The Global Citizenship Challenge was completed in Year 10.

Employability and Enterprise Challenge – worth 25% of the total qualification

The purpose of this challenge is to develop students' enterprising skills and enhance their opportunities for employment. Students will have the opportunity to focus on the preparation for their future career aspirations, as well participate in an enterprise activity. This challenge also provides students with opportunities to develop important team working skills and understand the importance of positive working relationships. The final assessment for this challenge is for students to create a business idea and proposal. The Enterprise and Employability Challenge was completed in Year 9.

Individual Project – worth 50% of the total qualification

The Individual Project is designed to develop students' skills, through carrying out a research activity in an area of personal interest or one that reflects future educational or career aspirations. It must be between 1000 and 2000 words. This challenge which is completed last in Year 11 carries the most weighting, therefore has the biggest influence on the overall Skills Challenge Certificate grade.

The completion of the Skills Challenge Certificate is compulsory unless a pupil joins the school late from a Non-Welsh educational institution. Students in Ysgol Harri Tudur/Henry Tudor School have achieved very highly in this subject in previous years. It is crucial that students attend regularly to complete challenges, try their best, use their skills effectively and stay organised if they are to pass this qualification to the best of their ability.