

Mr Dyson Deputy Headteacher



# YEAR 8 OPTIONS 2024







### Outline of the process

When?	What?	Where?
20 <sup>th</sup> February	General presentation to students	Main Hall
21st February	Presentation to parents/carers	Main Hall
w/c 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Short subject specific presentations	Assemblies in Main Hall
28 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 8 parents' evening	Online
w/c 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Students make their provisional choices	Individual interviews with senior leaders

#### Then what?

- Curriculum planning meetings which courses will run, how many classes?
- Further liaising with students plan B?
- Opportunity to change up until the September





### **Compulsory Subjects**

- English Language/Literature (2 GCSEs)
- Maths/Numeracy (2 GCSEs)
- Science (2 GCSEs) Triple Science has been discontinued
- Welsh (1 GCSE)
- Welsh Bacc (1 GCSE equivalent)
- Life Skills (various qualifications)
- Games (no qualification)
- Option subjects choice from over twenty option subjects





### **Option Subjects**

- Art
- DT Built Design (Construction)
- DT Product Design
- DT Engineering IVET\*
- Business
- Business, Enterprise and Marketing IVET\*
- Computer Science
- Digital Technology (ICT)
- Drama
- Food and Nutrition
- Geography

- Health, Social and Child Care
- History
- Media Studies
- Music
- PE
- Sport IVET\*
- Religion, Ethics & Philosophy
- Spanish
- Textiles

\*Bold italics = vocational





**Key Stage 3** 

**Years 7, 8 and 9** 

**Key Stage 4** 

Years 10 and 11

**Key Stage 3** 

Years 7 and 8

**Key Stage 4** 

Years 9, 10 and 11

- More curriculum time and deeper learning
- Less pressure and improved well-being
- Improved engagement and results





### However....

- The current Year 8 are the first year group to study for the new GCSEs
- Welsh Government sent letter to all schools stating:

'Schools have a statutory duty to secure learning across all six Areas of Learning Experience (AOLEs) until the end of Year 9'



## 6 AOLEs

1) Language, Literature and Communication	2) Maths and Numeracy	3) Science and Technology
English Welsh Spanish	<u>Maths</u>	Science DT product Design DT Engineering IVET* DT Built Design/Construction Computer Science Digital Technology ICT)
4) Health and Well- Being	5) Humanities	6) Expressive Arts
PE Sport IVET* Food Tech Health, Social and Child Care Life Skills/PSE	Business Business, Enterprise and Marketing IVET* Geography History Religion, Ethics & Philosophy	Art and Design Drama Music Media Studies Textiles



### New for this year...

- Choose 5 options in Year 9
- Reduce to 3 options (or 4\*) in Year 10 and 11
- Allows students to drop subjects they have little/no interest in, but still cover all 6 AOLEs to maintain sufficient breadth and balance





### Option 1

- Business
- Business, Enterprise & Marketing\*
- Geography
- History
- Religion, Ethics & Philosophy

### Option 2

- Art
- Drama
- Music
- Media Studies

# Options 3, 4 and 5 – choose any other 3 subjects

- Art
- DT Built Design (Construction)
- DT Product Design
- DT Engineering IVET\*
- Business
- Business, Enterprise & Marketing IVET\*
- Computer Science
- Digital Technology (ICT)
- Drama
- Food and Nutrition
- Geography

- Health, Social and Child Care
- History
- Media Studies
- Music
- PE
- Sport IVET\*
- Religion, Ethics& Philosophy
  - Spanish
- Textiles

\*Italics = vocational





### **Examples**

• Example 1: student enjoys expressive arts - takes drama as option 2 and then art and music from options 3-5, plus two other subjects. Drops the two other subjects in year 10 and retains drama, art and music

PExample 2: student hates expressive arts - takes art from option 2 and then 4 other subjects. Drops art and 1 other in Year 10.



### Making the right decision

### **Positive reasons**

- Interest
- Enjoyment
- Ability
- Learning styles
- Variety
- Post-16 aspirations
- Possible career/future plans

### **Negative reasons**

- Friends
- Staff teaching the subject
- Subject is new attend taster sessions
- Parents/carers/other interested parties
- Subject is gender dictated





### Common questions?

- What's the difference between GCSE and vocational courses? Are they commensurate?
- Are classes banded or mixed ability?
- Are any subjects for 'set 1' only?
- Are all subjects changing to the new GCSEs?
- How long do I have to change my mind?
- Should I consider extracurricular activities?





### Questions

General questions: please direct any general questions to the Deputy Headteacher, Mr Ian Dyson, at ian.dyson@ypant.co.uk

Questions about core subjects: please also direct these questions to Mr Dyson in the first instance, on the above email address

Questions about option subjects: please direct to the requisite teacher - see slide 16 for details





### Remember

- Choose 5 option subjects for Year 9
- Reduce to 3 option subjects in Y10
- Aim for interest, enjoyment, variety and, ultimately, good grades!
- Effort vs ability





# Section 2: Subject specific information





# Contact Details For Subject Specific Questions

Subject/s	Teacher	Email
Art and Design	Mrs Jo Gold	jo.gold@ypant.co.uk
Business (both courses)	Ms Jayne Gavaghan	jayne.gavaghan@ypant.co.uk
DT (all 3 courses)	Mr Gareth Davies	gareth.davies@ypant.co.uk
Drama and Music	Ms Lauren Roberts	lauren.roberts@ypant.co.uk
Food & Nutrition/Health, Social & Child Care	Mrs Gemma Lewis	gemma.lewis@ypant.co.uk
French	Mrs Sarah Rose	sarah.rose@ypant.co.uk
Geography	Mr Rhys Foley	rhys.foley@ypant.co.uk
History	Mrs Rhoda Lewis	rhoda.lewis@ypant.co.uk
ICT/Computer Science (both courses)	Mrs Kath Davey	katherine.davey@ypant.co.uk
Media Studies	Mrs Olivia Govier	olivia.govier@ypant.co.uk
PE/IVET Sport (both courses)	Mr Rob Bloor	rob.bloor@ypant.co.uk
Religion, Ethics and Philosophy	Miss Nia Jones	nia.jones@ypant.co.uk
Spanish	Ms Valle Fernandez	valle.fernandez@ypant.co.uk
Textiles	Ms Victoria Knight	victoria.knight@ypant.co.uk

# Y PANT **GCSE ART & DESIGN**









The portfolio is made up of a range of work produced in class throughout the GCSE course (coursework).

You will work with a range of media to produce a 3D project and Printmaking Unit used based on an area of interest.

The sketchbook will show your research and design ideas. There are museum & gallery visits to gather essential primary research.

All work is internally assessed and externally moderated.



The exam paper is released in January of Year 11. You have at least a 10 week preparatory period to plan what you will produce in the exam.

The 2 day exam is in an Art room producing your final piece in any chosen media. All work is internally assessed

















### **Business**

There are two Business courses on offer:

- 1. GCSE Business
- 2. Cambridge National in Business, Enterprise and Marketing (vocational)



## **GCSE Business**

GCSE Business (WJEC examination board) Assessed via two external exams at the end of year 11.

#### **Topics covered:**

The nature of business activity

**Business enterprise and planning** 

Influences on businesses

**Business operations** 

**Finance** 

Marketing

**Human resources** 

Pupils will have the opportunity to experience theory in the classroom and in real life environments. Some of the trips available are:

- Cadbury World to look at marketing.
- Jaguar/Land Rover to look at production techniques.
- 4 day trip to Prague or New York to visit several businesses and explore the city.



# Cambridge National Enterprise and Marketing

- Level 2 course (Level 1 if/where appropriate)
- Cambridge Nationals suite of qualifications is specifically designed for students aged 14-16 years. They provide an excellent start for <u>vocational study</u>, contribute to a broad curriculum offer and enable progression to Level 3 vocational qualifications, such as our Cambridge Technicals, or A Level.
- The qualification allows students to get to grips with key aspects of running small businesses with a focus on enterprise and marketing.

#### **ASSESSMENT:**

- Students complete the three mandatory units:
- Unit R064: Enterprise and marketing concepts
- Unit R065: Design a business proposal
- Unit R066: Market and pitch a business proposal
- One of the units is an exam and the other two are centre assessed units.



There are three DT courses on offer:

- 1. GCSE DT Product Design
- GCSE Built Environment (replacing IVET Construction)
- 3. IVET Engineering



# **DT Product Design**

# Unit 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century Written examination: 2 hours 50% of qualification.

A mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing candidates' knowledge and understanding of product design.

# Unit 2: Design and make task Non-exam assessment: approximately 35 hours 50% of qualification.

A sustained design and make task, based on a contextual challenge set by WJEC, assessing candidates' ability to:

- identify, investigate, analyse and outline design possibilities
- design and make prototypes and evaluate their fitness for purpose



### **Built Design (Construction)**

### Unit 1: Introduction to the built environment On-screen examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 35% of qualification

An assessment (taken on-screen), comprising of a range of question types to assess specification content related to ideas and concepts in the built environment and evidence related to the built environment.

### Unit 2: Creating the built environment Non-exam assessment (NEA): approximately 25 hours 40% of qualification

Learners have a choice of two pathways within Unit 2: designing the built environment or constructing the built environment, from which they select one.

The task in each pathway assesses the learner's knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to identifying, interpreting and calculating information; writing success criteria; carrying out a range of techniques appropriate to the pathway; evaluating tasks.

### Unit 3: Exploring the built environment Non-exam assessment (NEA): approximately 15 hours 25% of qualification

This case study assesses the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the stages of the building life cycle; the stages and processes involved in the design, construction, value and use of their built environment.



# **Engineering IVET**

IVET Course (25% exam)

- Unit 1: Engineering Design controlled assessment (25%)
   The purpose of this unit is for learners to analyse engineered products in order to propose design solutions to meet requirements.
- Unit 2: Product Engineering Products controlled assessment (50%)

The purpose of this unit is for learners to use skills developed to produce an engineered product

Unit 3: Solving Engineering Problems – exam (25%)

The purpose of this unit is for learners to use their knowledge and understanding of engineering processes and material properties to solve problems.



### **Drama**

# The GCSE course is made up 3 units throughout Year 10 and 11.

 <u>Unit 1: Devising Theatre for performance</u> - 40% of qualification - a devised piece of theatre created, performed, designed and directed by students in a group of 3. (Internally marked by teacher).

In this unit you will become theatre makers! You get to direct, perform, design and create within a group of actors/designers of your choosing.

- <u>Unit 2: Performing Theatre</u> 20% qualification a Naturalistic performance from a script in performance pairs (assessed by an examiner).
- In this unit you will take on the role of a complex and interesting character, acting in scene partners. We use plays such as 'Punk Rock 'All My Sons', 'Seven Methods of Killing Kylie Jenner' and 'Blue Remembered Hills'.
  - <u>Unit 3: Text in Theatre</u> 40% of qualification a short written exam on 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by William Shakespeare.
- Drama has one written exam lasting an hour and a half. In the exam you will create your own design and performance concepts for a production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'







## **Food and Nutrition**

#### UNIT 1 - PRINCIPLES OF FOOD AND NUTRITION- 40% written exam (1 hour 30 minutes)

- 1. Food commodities
- 2. Principles of nutrition
- 3. Diet and good health
- 4. The science of food
- 5. Where food comes from
- 6. Cooking and food preparation

#### UNIT 2 - COURSEWORK - 60% (year 11)

- NEA1 Food investigation 20%
- NEA 2 Food preparation 40%

See some examples of our students work on the right ->











### French







# Gimkit







#### We study 3 broad themes Identity and culture

Youth Culture: self and relationships; technology and social media. Lifestyle: health and fitness; entertainment and leisure; customs and traditions; food and drink, festivals and celebrations

#### Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Home and Locality: local areas of interest; transport; France and French speaking countries; local and regional features and characteristics; holidays and tourism; global sustainability- environment and social issues

**Current and future study and employment** 

Current Study: school/college life; school and college studies; world of work; work experience and part-time jobs; skills and personal qualities; jobs and future plans; applying for work/study, career plans

- Four skills of: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking all tested in Year 11, as exams 25% each
- Teaching is a mixture of traditional class work and digital challenge.

Career prospects: Broadcast Journalist, Legal Sector, Interpreter/Translator, Publishing Sector, Marketing Executive, Medical Fields, Secondary School Teacher, Broadcast, Film, DVD and Interactive Media Sector, Diplomatic Services Operational Officer, Logistics and distribution manager, Politics, Hospitality



### Geography

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you

In Year 7/8, we have investigated topics such as our local area and how it has changed/is changing, our natural world/earth's amazing places, our unequal world and fragile environments such as the Rainforest/Arctic.

If you enjoy learning about how our world is changing, the impact humans have upon it and how you/we can all make a difference now and in the future then look no further ...

#### **Assessment:**

Two exams - both 1 hour 30 minutes long. One exam will assess Unit One, the other Unit Three.

#### Unit 1: Our Physical and Human World

Written examination 30% of qualification

#### Unit 2: Developing Fieldwork Skills

Non-examination assessment – enquiry tasks 25% of qualification Set and marked by WJEC

#### Unit 3: Our Dynamic and Diverse World

Written examination 30% of qualification

#### Unit 4: Sustainable Solutions

Non-examination assessment – decision making exercise 15% of qualification

Set by WJEC, marked by centre and moderated by WJEC

#### Fieldwork in Geography

Students will develop vital fieldwork skills; taking their learning outside of the classroom and developing their understanding of the world around them by applying what they have learnt to real life landscapes.

There is potential for international fieldwork also. In 2023, we visited the volcanic landscapes of Iceland, for example.



https://www.rgs.org/choose-geography/choose-geography-at-school/at-gcse

https://www.rgs.org/choose-geography/choose-a-career-with-geography/why-geographers-are-employable



# Health, Social and Child care

<u>Unit 1:</u> written exam 1 (1 hr 30 min) on human growth, development and well-being – 40%

<u>Unit 2:</u> non-exam assessments (coursework) worth on promoting and maintaining health and well being – 60%

 There are 2 separate tasks: health services provided for a group of people and health promotion.

 This subject is for anyone that wants to work with children or in the health care sector.



# History

The current GCSE course is made up 4 modules that are taught over year 10 & 11.

- Unit 1 Britain, Depression, War & Recovery 1930- 1951(Year 10). A 1 hour exam worth 25% of the final mark.
- Unit 2 The USA: A Nation Of Contrasts 1910- 1929 (Year 9). A
  1 hour exam worth 25% of the final mark.
- Unit 3 Changes in Health & Medicine 1340- Present Day Year
   11). A 1 hour 15 minute exam worth 30% of the final mark.
- Unit 4. Working As A Historian Controlled Assessment Year 10 & Year 11). Class work tasks under controlled conditions worth 20% of the final mark.

The new proposed GCSE follows a similar structure. There will be 4 units studied, this is made up of 2 non-examined assessments and 2 examinations completed at the end of Year 10 and the end of Year 11.





### There are two ICT courses on offer:

- 1. Computer Science
- 2. Digital Technology (replaced ICT)



# Computer Science

Computer Science is the study of the design and development of computer systems. It is a challenging subject discipline on a par with maths or physics.

Computer Science involves studying how a network works and how to program using specific programming languages.

It is a great option for students who like problem solving, coding, and programming.

#### **Course Structure & Assessment**

Unit 1: Understanding Computer Science – Exam – 50%

This is an exam at the end of year 11 that looks at areas of study such as: Networks, Internet & Communications, Algorithms & Programming.

Unit 2: Solving Problems Using Computers - 30%

This assessment consists of a series of tasks set and marked by WJEC and completed on screen by candidates. These tasks will assess the practical application of knowledge and understanding.

Unit 3: Developing Computing Solutions -2 0%

This controlled assessment will give candidates the opportunity to develop a piece of work using programming software, following a task brief from a choice of two issued by WJEC.

Pupils should be aware that there is a large amount of Maths involved in Computer Science



# Digital Technology

This is a brand new course that allows learners to develop a wide range of up-to-date digital skills and knowledge. This will build developing pupils' **digital competency skills** from Key Stage 3.

GCSE Digital Technology is a broad-based qualification that allows learners to build on the digital skills, knowledge and understanding that is used both in their school and everyday lives.

This course replaced the WJEC GCSE ICT course that will be awarded for the last time in summer 2022

#### **Course Structure & Assessment**

Three units of study:

- 1. The Digital World 40 % of qualification (examination taken at the end of year 11)
- 2. Digital Practices 40 % of qualification (controlled assessment completed in school but marked externally by exam board)
- 3. Communicating in the Digital World 20% of qualification (controlled assessment marked internally)



## **Media Studies**

The new Media Studies GCSE course is a challenging and interesting academic qualification made up of 4 exam units and 1 coursework unit.

Both exams are sat at the end of year 11 - 60% of final grade Individual coursework portfolio - 40% of final grade

#### **Unit 1 Exam (30%)**

- Section A Representation of gender in advertising and video games; representation of events in newspapers
- Section B The Music industry (magazines, music videos, radio, social media)

#### **Unit 2 Exam (30%)**

- Section A Wales on Television (particular focus on the set text, Gavin and Stacey)
- Section B Hollywood Film Industry, with a focus on the set text, a Marvel franchise superhero film

#### **Unit 3 Coursework (40%)**

Research, planning, creation and evaluation of a media product. Pupils use photography and ICT design skills to create the front page, contents page and third page of a new magazine for teenagers



## Music

There are three components - skills that you are examined in:

<u>Unit 1 – Performing</u> (recorded in year 11 and assessed as coursework; the maximum marks can be gained by playing grade 3 standard pieces) In class you will work on improving your ability as a solo artist and ensemble musician!

<u>Unit 2 – Composing</u> (2 original compositions assessed as coursework) Two compositions will be created in class. One will be linked to a set piece and one is a free composition to suit your unique style as a performer and musician.

<u>Unit 3 – Appraising</u> (a listening exam in the summer term; 2 of the 8 questions are based on music studied in class) The two pieces of music that you will learn to analyse in depth are *Anitra's Dance* by *Grieg*, and *Everything Must Go* by *The Manic Street Preachers* 

The types of music will study are called areas of study.

- They are:
- 1. Musical Forms and Devices
- 2. Music for Ensemble
- 3. Film Music
- 4. Popular Music





There are two PE courses on offer:

- 1. GCSE PE
- 2. IVET Sport and Coaching Principles



## PE

#### Assessment:

- 1) A 2 hour written theoretical exam at the end of Year 11
- Weighting: 50% of total mark
- The subject content focuses on five key areas:
- 1. Health, training and exercise
- 2. Exercise physiology
- 3. Movement analysis
- 4. Psychology of sport and physical activity
- 5. Socio-cultural issues in sport and physical activity
- 2) Practical Coursework assessed over the course of the GCSE qualification:
- Weighting: 50% of total mark
- Assessed in 3 sports (from an extensive list). These must be a mixture of both team and individual sports.



# IVET Sport and Coaching Principles

- No practical assessment
- Three units examined.
  - Unit 1: Improving Sporting Performance Internal assessment
  - Unit 2: Fitness for Sport External assessment (exam)
  - Unit 3: Sports Coaching Internal assessment
- Pupils get a Pass, Merit or Distinction

#### **BENEFITS**

- Improves knowledge and understanding of how to improve personal sporting performance
- Develops ability to plan and analyse coaching sessions
- Learn about psychological, physiological and technical factors that affect performance
- Identify and develop their own leadership skills and qualities



# Religion, Ethics and Philosophy

#### Unit 1: Religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings and practices

Written examination 30% of the qualification

#### **Unit 2: Faith and Belief in Action**

Non-examination assessment (coursework) 20% of the qualification

#### **Unit 3: Human Experience and the World**

Written examination 30% of the qualification

#### **Unit 4: Human Rights**

Non-examination assessment (coursework marked by WJEC) 20% of the qualification

#### This year we have covered...

- Christianity, Judaism and Non-Religious Beliefs
- Life and Death
- The Death Penalty
- Abortion
- Euthanasia
- Crime and Punishment
- Relationships
- Human Rights



"GIVE A MAN A TRUTH
AND HE WILL THINK
FOR A DAY.
TEACH A MAN TO
REASON AND HE WILL
THINK FOR A
LIFETIME"

-PHIL PLATT



# Spanish

Topics covered at Spanish GCSE are:

#### **Identity and culture**

- Youth Culture self and relationships, technology and social media
- Lifestyle health and fitness, entertainment and leisure
- Customs and Traditions food and drink, festivals and celebrations

#### Local, national, international and global areas of interest

- Home and locality local areas of interest, transport
- Spain and Spanish speaking countries local and regional features and characteristics, holidays and tourism
- Global Sustainability environment and social issues

#### **Current and future study and employment**

- Current Study school/college life, school/college studies
- World of Work work experience and part-time jobs, skills and personal qualities
- Jobs and Future Plans applying for work/study, career plans

#### Four skills of Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking all tested in Year 11 exams - 25% each

Pupils will have the opportunity to practice their new Spanish skills on our trip to Barcelona, Costa del Sol or Valencia

**Career prospects**: Broadcast Journalist, Legal Sector, Interpreter/Translator, Publishing Sector, Marketing Executive, Medical Fields, Secondary School Teacher, Broadcast, Film, DVD and Interactive Media Sector, Diplomatic Services Operational Officer, Logistics and distribution manager Politics



## **Textiles**

- This GCSE falls under the umbrella of Art and Design. The course is split 60% portfolio and 40% externally set assignment.
   There is no written exam - the course is entirely practical based.
- The course is suitable for anyone who enjoys creativity, craft, design, making or illustration. Portfolios will consist of exploration, research, sampling and making.
- Possible career opportunities include: textile designer, fashion or interior designer, textile buyer, fashion forecaster, knitwear designer, milliner, fashion journalist, colour consultant, theatrical costume designer, fashion illustrator, pattern-cutter and designermaker.