



YEAR 8 OPTIONS 2025



Outline of the process

When?	What?	Where?
30 th January	General presentation to students	Main Hall
5 th February	Presentation to parents/carers	Main Hall
w/c 3 rd February	Short subject specific presentations	Assemblies in Main Hall
13 th February	Year 8 parents' evening	Y Pant
w/c 17 th February	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



- 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) IVET****
- DT Product Design
- ***DT Engineering IVET****
- Business
- ***Business, Enterprise and Marketing IVET****
- Computer Science
- Digital Technology (ICT)
- Drama
- Food and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- Health, Social and Child Care
- History
- Media Studies
- Music
- PE
- ***Sport IVET****
- Religious Studies
- 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 now following the new curriculum and will studying 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
<u>English</u> <u>Welsh</u> French	<u>Maths</u>	<u>Science</u> DT product Design <i>DT Engineering IVET*</i> DT Built Design/Construction Computer Science Digital Technology (ICT)
4) Health and Well-Being	5) Humanities	6) Expressive Arts
<u>PE</u> <i>Sport IVET*</i> Food Tech Health, Social and Child Care <u>Life Skills/PSE</u>	Business <i>Business, Enterprise and Marketing IVET*</i> Geography History Religion, Ethics & Philosophy	Art and Design Drama Music Media Studies Textiles

New for this year...

- Choose 5 options in Year 9 - must include at least one humanities and one expressive arts subject for Year 9 only
- Reduce to 3 options in Year 10 and 11 - no need to include humanities or expressive arts, ie; choose any 3
- Allows students to drop subjects they have little/no interest in, but still cover all 6 AOLEs to maintain sufficient breadth and balance





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

Option 1

- Business
- *Business, Enterprise & Marketing**
- Geography
- History
- Religious Studies

Option 2

- Art
- Drama
- Music
- Media Studies

- 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
- French
- Geography
- Health, Social and Child Care
- History
- Media Studies
- Music
- PE
- *Sport IVET**
- Religious Studies
- 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*
- **Example 2:** *student hates expressive arts - takes art from option 2 and then 4 other subjects. Drops art and 1 other in Year 10.*

Subject combinations

- Art and textiles cannot be done together as they are sub-strands of the same course - must choose one or the other
- GCSE PE and Sport IVET cannot be done together as they are too similar - must choose one or the other
- GCSE Business and Sport IVET cannot be done together as they are too similar - must choose one or the other
- Digital Technology (ICT) and Computer Science can be done together as they are significantly different
- DT Construction, DT Engineering and DT Product Design can be done together. However, we would advise against doing all three.



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 'top set' only?
- How long do I have to change my mind?
- Should I consider extracurricular activities?



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 James Windle	james.windle@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 Gareth Battle	gareth.battle@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





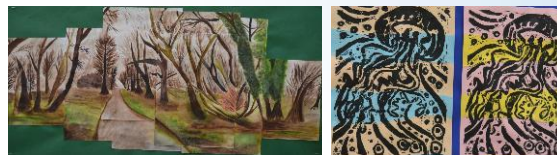
GCSE ART &

PORTFOLIO (60% of grade)

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 based on an area of interest.

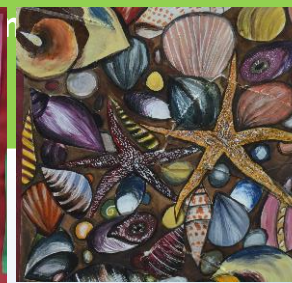
The sketchbook will show your research and design ideas. There are museum & gallery visits to gather essential primary research. In class you will undertake a range of drawing and design work as well as gathering research to



EXAM (40% of grade)

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



GCSE Business - two courses offered as follows:

- **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.

 Y PANT **Design Technology (DT)**

There are three DT courses on offer:

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

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



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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.

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.

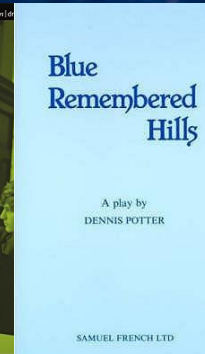
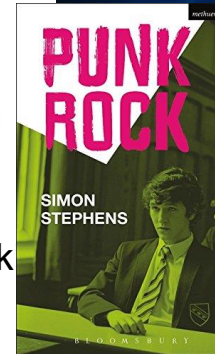
The GCSE course is made up 3 units throughout Year 10 and 11.

- **Unit 1: Devising Theatre for performance** - 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.

- **Unit 2: Performing Theatre** - 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'.

- **Unit 3: Text in Theatre** - 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'



Year 9

Nutrition

Cooking and food preparation

Hygiene and safety

Food science

Food commodities

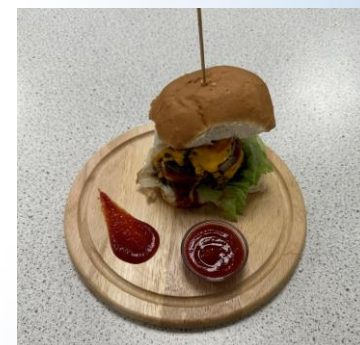
Y Pant Christmas Bake Off!



Year 10 and 11

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



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 is the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments. Geographers explore the physical properties of the earth’s surface and the human societies spread across it”.

What can be more important for our future?

In Year Nine we will investigate the landscapes of Wales, Tourism, and how fragile environments can be affected by human activity. You will develop key skills such as decision-making, enquiry and problem solving.

Year

Ten:

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

You will develop vital fieldwork skills: we will take your learning outside the classroom and develop your understanding of the world around you, by applying what you have learnt to real life landscapes.

You will have two fieldtrips in Year Nine and two in Year Ten.



<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>

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

Health, Social and Child care

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

Unit 2: 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.

In Year 9 you will study:

How has warfare changed during the 20th century? (WWI, WWII, Cold War, Vietnam & Terrorism)

What was life like in Nazi Germany? A study of Nazi Germany and its social and racial policy.

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

- Unit 1 – An in-depth study on Welsh History

Wales and the Early Tudors (Year 10). A 1 hour exam worth **30%** of the final mark.

- Unit 2 – An in-depth study on European and/or World History

Controlled Assessment 1 - The Black Death (Year 10). A Controlled Assessment working under controlled conditions worth **20%** of the final mark.

- Unit 3 – A study of a period in World History

Changes in the US Society (Year 11). A 1 hour exam worth **30%** of the final mark.

- Unit 4 – A changing society

Controlled Assessment 2 (Year 11). A thematic study focusing on a 100 year period under controlled conditions, worth **20%** of the final mark.

There are two ICT courses on offer:

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

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

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)

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

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

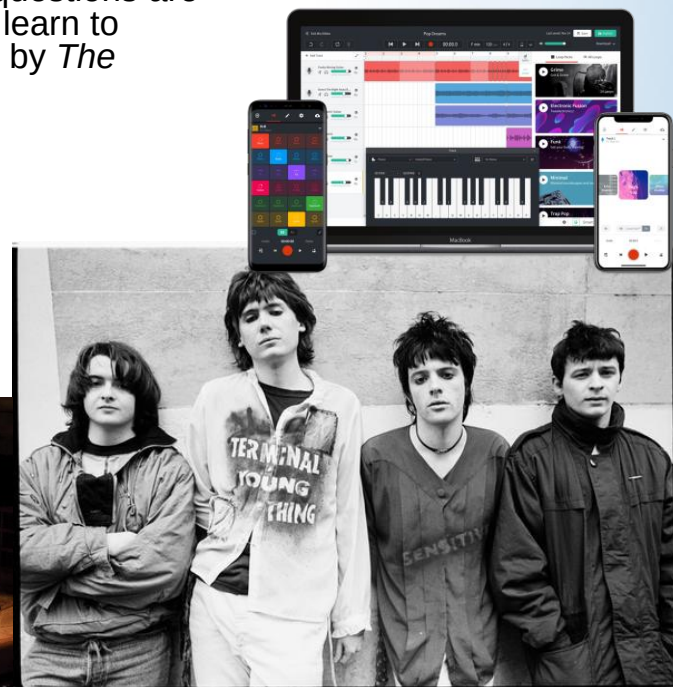
Unit 1 – Performing (recorded in year 11 and assessed as coursework; the maximum marks can be gained by playing grade 3 standard pieces) In class you will work on improving your ability as a solo artist and ensemble musician!

Unit 2 – Composing (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.

Unit 3 – Appraising (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***



 Y PANT Physical Education (PE)

There are two PE courses on offer:

1. GCSE PE
2. IVET Sport and Coaching Principles

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



In REP we teach
you to think for
yourself, which is a
skill required for any
job!

"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 PLAIT

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

- 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 designer-maker.