

2024-25 YEAR 9 LEARNING PATHWAYS RESOURCE

'Gallwn, Gofalwn'
'We Can, We Care'

Presented to Pupils, Parents & Carers

Ysgol
Dyffryn Taf



WHAT CAN I STUDY IN YEAR 10 & 11?



Year 10 represents a real change for you as far as the curriculum in Dyffryn Taf is concerned. Instead of all subjects being compulsory, you will now have an element of choice regarding what you will study. Whilst this is a really exciting time, it can also feel quite stressful, as you will want to make the right choices. This resource is designed to help you to identify those subjects that best suit your individual needs, setting you up for the best chance of success in the future.

We want to make sure that you get the chance to study a balanced range of subjects in Years 10 and 11, setting you on the right **Learning Pathway**. The way in which we organise the curriculum for you is outlined below.

Mr A Owen
Headteacher

CORE SUBJECTS





[Link to Specification](#)

Course Structure:

The qualification consists of written exams and non-exam assessments (NEA), focusing on key themes in literature, language, and communication.

Unit 1: Context and Meaning – Written Exam

- A 1-hour, 30-minute exam on poetry, comparing poems from a prescribed anthology and unseen texts.
- Includes creative or non-fiction writing tasks based on thematic analysis of poetry.

Unit 2: Belonging – Non-Exam Assessment

- Involves written and oral tasks on a prose text from a set list, exploring themes of belonging and cultural identity.

Unit 3: Influence and Power – Non-Exam Assessment

- The unit emphasises critical thinking, influence, and the power of language.

Unit 4a/4b: Motivations – Written Exam

- Examines the portrayal of characters, relationships, and motivations within a selected drama or prose text.

Unit 5: Continuity and Change

- Includes a study of a Shakespeare play and pre-20th-century poetry, examining language evolution, social perspectives, and thematic continuity and change.

Unit 6: Connections

- Focuses on comparative analysis of anthology texts and unseen non-fiction texts, emphasizing textual connections in terms of genre, context, and theme.



What Skills Will I Develop?

GCSE English Language and Literature is a core subject and as such helps to develop a wide range of skills for your future:

- Communication Skills – expressing yourself through clear and creative use of language.
- Reading Skills – reading, listening to and researching a range of texts, analysing meaning and scrutinising reliability.
- Contextual Analysis Skills – engaging with the significance of purpose, audience, and contexts of speaking, reading and writing.
- Literacy Skills – developing and applying an understanding of grammar and uses of vocabulary.

Pathway

Opportunities to study A-Level English at Dyffryn Taf.

Careers - Journalism, law, media, television, teaching and advertising.

English is a vital skill which can underpin a successful career in all jobs, particularly for written and spoken communication.



MATHEMATICS & NUMERACY

Head of Dept: Mrs H Absalom

Course Structure:



[Link to Specification](#)

The course includes three written examination units, emphasising practical applications and problem-solving.

Unit 1: Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy – Written Exam (30%)

- Higher Tier: 1 hour 45 minutes, 80 marks.
- Foundation Tier: 1 hour 30 minutes, 65 marks.
- Assesses practical applications of numeracy and financial mathematics in personal and real-world contexts.
- Calculator allowed.

Unit 2: Non-Calculator Mathematics – Written Exam (30%)

- Higher Tier: 1 hour 45 minutes, 80 marks.
- Foundation Tier: 1 hour 30 minutes, 65 marks.
- Focuses on algebra, geometry, and probability without the use of calculators.
- Includes structured and unstructured questions, set in mathematical or other contexts.

Unit 3: Calculator-Allowed Mathematics – Written Exam (40%)

- Higher Tier: 2 hours, 90 marks.
- Foundation Tier: 1 hour 45 minutes, 75 marks.
- Covers topics suited to calculator use, including data handling and measures.
- Incorporates real-world and theoretical problem-solving.

Tiering System:

- Two tiers of entry:
- Higher Tier: Grades A*–D.
- Foundation Tier: Grades C–G.
- Learners may mix tiers across units.



What Skills Will I Develop?

- You will develop an understanding of the different areas of mathematics and how they relate to each other.
- You will extend your range of mathematical skills and techniques and be able to use and apply them to a range of real-life contexts.
- You will gain a strong foundation in financial mathematics to prepare you for life and work.

Pathway

Mathematics is required for most jobs, and for entry into Higher Education. Many employers request a C grade as do most universities. Some degree courses may require a minimum of B grade (e.g. engineering and medicine).

It is considered an essential requirement for careers in engineering, architecture, construction, nursing and medicine, teaching, science and industry.

You can continue your progression in the subject of mathematics by studying A-Level Mathematics in the Sixth Form at Dyffryn Taf.

Course Structure:



[Link to Specification](#)

The course consists of seven units combining written exams and practical assessments

Unit Breakdown

Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics - Written Exams

- **Format:** Written examinations, each lasting 1 hour and 15 minutes.
- **Weighting:** Each contributes 15% of the qualification.
- **Assessment:**
 - Mix of short-answer, structured, extended writing, and data response questions.
 - Some questions are set in practical contexts.
- **Content:**
 - Biology units cover topics like cells, respiration, digestion, classification, and biodiversity.
 - Chemistry units explore atomic structure, the periodic table, rates of chemical change, and water treatment.
 - Physics units include circuits, electricity generation, energy use, and waves.

Unit 7: Practical Assessment

- **Format:** Carried out in centres, externally marked by WJEC.
- **Weighting:** 10% of the qualification.
- **Timing:** Conducted during the spring term of the final study year.
- **Assessment:**
- Tests practical skills and scientific methods.
- Activities include investigations into enzyme action, rate of reactions, and photosynthesis.



What Skills Will I Develop?

You will draw conclusions from experiments and investigations.

You will follow detailed procedures to obtain reliable results.

You will enjoy working with peers during group experiments/Sharing responsibilities and contributing to group outcomes.

You'll get an opportunity to understand how technology is applied in modern scientific research.

You'll appreciate the ethical implications of scientific advancements.

Pathway

You can go on to study any of the three sciences (chemistry, physics, biology) with us here in the Sixth Form at Dyffryn Taf.

Career areas ranging from astrophysics and computing through engineering, forensics, geology, medicine, veterinary science, dentistry and physiotherapy to space research and zoology.



CORE CYMRAEG

Head of Dept: Mrs H Chucas

Course Structure:



[Link to Specification](#)

The course comprises four units, combining written exams and non-exam assessments

Unit 1: Responding to a Visual Stimulus – Non-Exam Assessment (25%)

- Watch a 2-minute visual stimulus and prepare for 10 minutes.
- Discuss the content and themes in a structured group or pair discussion.
- Focuses on Speaking (10%) and Listening (15%).

Unit 2: Responding to Various Sources – Non-Exam Assessment (25%)

- Analyse a stimulus sheet with various sources like graphs or statistics.
- Discuss and express opinions on the content.
- Focuses on Speaking (20%) and Listening (5%).

Unit 3: Preparing for the Future – Written Exam (25%)

- Reading and writing tasks, including narrative, persuasive, and analytical writing.
- Translation tasks.
- Examines the interrelationship between language learning and the workplace.

Unit 4: Literature and Creative Writing – Written Exam (25%)

- Responding to literary and non-literary texts, including a set literary text.
- Creative and imaginative writing tasks.
- Themes focus on Cynefin (sense of place), identity, and culture.



What Skills Will I Develop?

You will develop your speaking and listening skills to be able to communicate, interact, express and justify opinions and ask and respond effectively to questions.

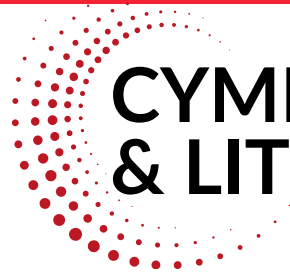
You will develop your reading and writing skills to understand and respond to different types of written language in various forms.

You will develop your analytical skills to respond critically, evaluate relevant points, and develop ideas, in text and spoken communication.

Pathway

To further develop bilingual skills, you can study A Level Welsh second language in the Sixth Form at Dyffryn Taf.

Possible careers looking for Welsh skills and qualifications include education, media, local government, police, journalism, health authorities, business and the public sector.



CYMRAEG LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

Head of Dept: Mrs H Chucas

Course Structure:



[Link to Specification](#)

This course integrates language and literature studies, with six units:

Unit 1: Narrative – Written Exam

- Focus on understanding themes, plot, character development, and author's style through studying one of six novels.

Unit 2: Identity – Non-Exam Assessment

- Study a visual text and analyse its portrayal of identity in social and cultural contexts.

Unit 3: Attitudes – Non-Exam Assessment

Involves two tasks:

- Appreciation and comparison of poems.
- Individual oral presentation based on independent research.

Unit 4: Linguistic Connections

- Focus on analysing and connecting literary and non-literary texts, writing for varied purposes.

Unit 5: Respond and Create Non-Exam Assessment

- Includes group discussion and creative writing tasks based on stimulus materials.

Unit 6: Communicating Meaning - Written Exam

- Focus on short stories and unseen texts, comparing how authors convey meaning.



What Skills Will I Develop?

You will develop skills related to learning the language.

The subject will help improve your reading, listening, speaking and writing skills.

You will be able to work in pairs/groups whilst expressing your ideas and forming conclusions.

You will be able to enhance your literary appreciation skills.

Opportunities for improving your public speaking skills.

This subject will foster enthusiasm for the Welsh Language.

Pathway

To further develop bilingual skills, you can study A Level Welsh second language in the Sixth Form at Dyffryn Taf.

Careers include: Welsh media, television, public speaking, governance and writing.

Course Structure:



[Link to Specification](#)

The qualification consists of the Skills Challenge Certificate and Supporting Qualifications.

Skills Challenge Certificate Components and Assessments

Individual Project – Non-Exam Assessment (50%):

- Focus: Independent research on a personal interest or career aspiration.
- Skills Assessed: Planning and Organisation, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Digital Literacy.

Enterprise and Employability Challenge – Non-Exam Assessment (25%)

- Focus: Develop and pitch a business idea or service.
- Skills Assessed: Creativity and Innovation, Digital Literacy, Personal Effectiveness.
- Assessment:
 - Visual display, team meetings, and a pitch.

Global Citizenship Challenge – Non-Exam Assessment (25%)

- Focus: Awareness-raising activity on a global issue (e.g., sustainability or poverty).
- Skills Assessed: Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Creativity and Innovation.
- Assessment:
 - Personal standpoint (800 words), raising awareness pack, and a personal review.

Community Challenge – Non-Exam Assessment (25%)

- Focus: Activities benefitting the local community.
- Skills Assessed: Planning and Organisation, Personal Effectiveness.



What Skills Will I Develop?

You will be able to start evaluating information, forming reasoned arguments, and addressing challenges.

You will be able to conduct independent investigations and interpret data effectively.

You will enjoy working with others on group projects and tasks to achieve shared goals.

You will get an opportunity to present ideas clearly through written, verbal, and digital formats.

You will master time-management, setting goals, and reflecting on personal development.

Pathway

This module will support your skills and confidence in any A-Level, BTEC or college course you choose after GCSEs.

This course is also widely respected by employers. There is also an Advanced Skills Challenge course which can be followed at Dyffryn Taf's Sixth Form.

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS





New GCSE ART & DESIGN

Head of Dept: Mrs R Frost

Course Structure:



[Link to Specification](#)

The course comprises of two main units, each contributing to the final grade through non-examination assessments (NEA).

Unit 1: Portfolio – 60% of qualification:

- Students develop a portfolio through a sustained project.
- The project is internally set by teachers, based on themes or specific briefs.
- Emphasis is on developing, refining, and presenting creative work.
- The portfolio must be completed before students start Unit 2.

Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment (ESA) – 40% of qualification:

- Students choose one theme (or "big idea") from WJEC's provided set, released to teachers in December.
- They prepare studies and research, culminating in a final 10-hour supervised period to create their response.
- The ESA has a two-part structure: a preparatory study period and a final sustained focus session under supervision.

Format of Assessment:

- Flexible formats for portfolio presentation include sketchbooks, digital presentations, and mounted exhibitions.
- Teachers provide general guidance but must ensure that students' submissions are their own work.



What Skills Will I Develop?

You will learn to use a broad range of media, techniques, tools, digital technologies and processes depending on which pathway you choose.

You will develop the skills to create artefacts – whether that is painting, fashion design, content creation, photography, or architectural models (to name a few possibilities). You will learn how to develop creative processes and working methods to develop the visual outcomes that you choose. You will also learn and understand about working independently (with teacher support) to develop your own ideas and to meet deadlines set for your work.

Pathway

You can progress with your studies in Art and Design by studying A Level with us here in the Sixth Form at Dyffryn Taf.

There are career opportunities in graphics, textiles and fashion, 3D studies, photography, fine art and communication.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Head of Dept: Miss L Anthony

Course Structure:



[Link to Specification](#)

The course has two units, each contributing equally (50%) to the final grade through examinations.

Unit 1: Understanding Computer Science

- A 1-hour, 30-minute written exam assessing knowledge of computer science principles.
- Covers key topics, including computer architecture, data types, algorithms, cybersecurity, and operating systems.

Unit 2: Computer Programming – On-screen Examination:

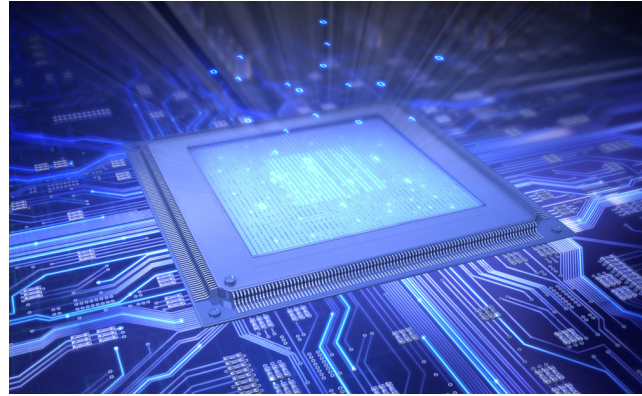
- A 2-hour practical exam based on a pre-released brief with a scenario.
- Students use Python to demonstrate programming skills, problem-solving, and interface design.
- Assessment tasks are based on real-life scenarios.

Content Focus:

- Unit 1: Explores foundational topics like hardware, network infrastructure, cybersecurity, algorithms, and ethical issues.
- Unit 2: Emphasizes programming concepts, using Python, and includes testing, refinement, and evaluation.

Learning Experiences:

- Opportunities for teamwork, real-world problem-solving, and discussions on ethical and environmental issues in technology.
- Exposure to careers in technology and computational thinking.



What Skills Will I Develop?

This course will help you to:

- Understand and apply principles and concepts of computer science.
- Develop your practical programming skills.
- Develop skills in computational thinking.
- Analyse problems in order to develop and implement strategies to solve them.
- Develop your project management skills.
- Improve your logical and mathematical skills.
- Improve your collaboration and team working skills.

Pathway

The demand for computing professionals in this area is increasing. The depth of coverage in this GCSE course means that it provides a solid foundation for either the study of A Level Computing or employment.

We do offer a pathway to the next level of study here at Dyffryn Taf, with the option to study A-Level Computing in the Sixth Form. Computer science integrates well with subjects across the curriculum.



CONSTRUCTION

Head of Dept: Mrs E Barnard



Course Structure:

[Link to Specification](#)

The qualification consists of three units, combining externally assessed and internally assessed components

Unit 1: Safety and Security in Construction

- Health and safety legislation (e.g., COSHH, PPE regulations).
- Risk identification and minimization.
- Security measures for tools, materials, and sensitive information.

Unit 2: Practical Construction Skills

- Developing technical construction skills (e.g., plastering, tiling, woodworking).
- Preparation, execution, and evaluation of construction tasks.
- Health and safety practices during construction.

Unit 3: Planning Construction Projects

- Understanding roles in construction projects (e.g., architects, engineers).
- Planning, sequencing, and resource allocation.
- Project management tools (e.g., Gantt charts) and setting tolerances.

Grading:

- Levels: Level 1 Pass, Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction, and Distinction*.
- Each unit is graded individually, and an overall grade is awarded based on the aggregate score.



What Skills Will I Develop?

- Emphasises hands-on learning, applying theory to real-world construction tasks.
- Builds transferable skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, and safety compliance.
- Prepares learners for Level 3 qualifications, apprenticeships, or direct employment in construction trades.

Pathway

Are you looking for a subject that you can connect to "real life" easily? Do you prefer more practical subjects? Are you quite creative? Do you like working with your hands? Do you like solving problems? Do you see yourself one day working as a carpenter, plumber, electrician, kitchen fitter, highway maintenance worker, civil engineer or any other profession in the construction industry? If the answer to these questions is yes, this qualification could well be for you. Whilst we don't currently offer Construction here at Dyffryn Taf in the sixth form, there are Level 3 courses in Construction available at local Sixth Form Colleges. This is a really useful qualification if you are thinking about maybe an apprenticeship when you leave.



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY PRODUCT DESIGN

Head of Dept: Mrs E Barnard

Course Structure:



[Link to Specification](#)

The course consists of two main units, each contributing 50% to the final grade:

- Unit 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century (Written Exam).
- Unit 2: Design and Make Task (Non-Exam Assessment, NEA).

Unit 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century

- Core knowledge of materials, processes, and technologies.
- In-depth knowledge in one chosen endorsed area:
- Engineering Design, Fashion and Textiles, or Product Design.
- Sustainability, environmental issues, and social/cultural impacts of design.

Unit 2: Design and Make Task – Non-Exam Assessment

- Learners respond to one of three contextual challenges set annually by WJEC.
- Design and make a functional prototype supported by a design portfolio (15–20 A3 pages or digital equivalent).

Assessment:

Tasks are assessed in five areas:

- Identifying design possibilities.
- Developing a design brief and specification.
- Generating and developing design ideas.
- Making a prototype.
- Evaluating the prototype's fitness for purpose.



What Skills Will I Develop?

Studying Design and Technology will enable you to develop a wide range of transferable skills for further education, work and life:

You will use your creative and innovative thinking help refine your own ideas.

You will gain knowledge and understanding of all design and technological activity and influences.

You will get an opportunity to utilise your decision making skills.

You can develop high quality, imaginative and functional prototypes.

Pathway

We do offer A Level Product Design here in the Sixth Form at Dyffryn Taf, where you will get a chance to further develop your knowledge skills and understanding of the topics you will have covered at GCSE. If you are considering a career in any of the following: engineering, manufacturing, construction, design, architecture, electronics, robotics, education, pneumatic, hydraulic, environmental, architecture - this is for you.



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY TEXTILES

Head of Dept: Mrs E Barnard

Course Structure:



[Link to Specification](#)

The course consists of two main units, each contributing 50% to the final grade:

- Unit 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century (Written Exam).
- Unit 2: Design and Make Task (Non-Exam Assessment, NEA).

Unit 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century

- Core knowledge of materials, processes, and technologies.
- In-depth knowledge in one chosen endorsed area:
- Engineering Design, Fashion and Textiles, or Product Design.
- Sustainability, environmental issues, and social/cultural impacts of design.

Unit 2: Design and Make Task – Non-Exam Assessment

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You will get an opportunity to utilise your decision making skills.

You can develop high quality, imaginative and functional prototypes.

Pathway

If you are considering a career in any of the following: fashion designer, creative directors, costume designers, wardrobe managers, stylists, fashion journalists, fashion consultant, illustrators, garment technologists. Then this course could be for you!



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Head of Dept: Miss L Anthony



Course Structure:

[Link to Specification](#)

- The course is split into three units - Unit 1: The Digital World, Digital Practices and Communicating in the Digital World.

Unit 1: The Digital World – On-Screen Examination (40%)

- Covers digital technology systems, the value of digital technology, and perspectives on its use.
- Includes topics like data security, digital communication methods, and the impact of digital systems on organisations and individuals.

Unit 2: Digital Practices – Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) (40%)

- Section A: Interrogating data using spreadsheets to identify trends and audience needs.
- Section B: Creating a data-informed digital product, such as a website or animation, based on a set context.

Unit 3: Communicating in the Digital World – Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) (20%)

- Section A: Researching social media platforms and online marketing communications.
- Section B: Creating and planning a digital media campaign, including assets like advertisements or video.

Learning Experiences:

- Opportunities for teamwork, real-world problem-solving, and discussions on ethical and environmental issues in technology.
- Exposure to careers in technology and computational thinking.



What Skills Will I Develop?

This course will help you to:

Become independent, confident and knowledgeable users of existing, new and emerging digital technologies.

Develop knowledge of different digital technology systems used across a range of occupational sectors.

Understand the impact digital technologies can have on individuals and wider society and the ways in which they can bring about change.

Pathway

Digital focused careers are expanding and young people need to be prepared for jobs that use a variety of technologies. Computers are currently widely used in all aspects of business, industry, government, education, leisure and the home and therefore the skills learned during the course will help in a large number of career pathways.



Course Structure:

[Link to Specification](#)

The course comprises three units—two practical assessments and one written examination—focusing on the exploration, performance, and interpretation of drama.

Unit 1: Devising Theatre – Practical Non-Exam Assessment (40%):

- Students create and perform an original piece based on a stimulus provided by WJEC, incorporating techniques from a chosen practitioner, company, or genre.
- Includes a Reflective Log where students document their creative process, ideas, and evaluations.

Unit 2: Performance from a Text – Practical Non-Exam Assessment (30%):

- Students perform an extract from a published text, working as either actors or designers.
- Assessed by a visiting examiner, with actors performing in groups and designers presenting their concepts in a viva.

Unit 3: Interpreting Theatre – On-screen Exam (30%):

- A 2-hour examination assessing students' understanding of a set text and unseen extracts.
- Focuses on theatrical roles and techniques, with students analysing and interpreting the work from an actor, designer, and director's perspective.

Assessment Logistics:

- Non-exam assessments in Units 1 and 2 are internally assessed or marked by visiting examiners, with digital submissions and moderation by WJEC.
- The course is graded A*-G, and all assessments are taken at the end of the course in the summer of the final study year.



What Skills Will I Develop?

This course will help you to:

- Understand and apply principles and concepts of computer science.
- Develop your practical programming skills
- Develop skills in computational thinking.
- Analyse problems in order to develop and implement strategies to solve them.
- Develop your project management skills.
- Improve your logical and mathematical skills.
- Improve your collaboration and team working skills.

Pathway

We do offer A Level Drama here in the Sixth Form at Dyffryn Taf, where you will get a chance to further develop your knowledge skills and understanding of the themes and topics you will have covered at GCSE.

This qualification could be a gateway to a career in professions such as:
Actor, Theatre Director, Teacher, Career in the media, Public Relations.



Course Structure:

[Link to Specification](#)

The course has four units covering oracy, reading, writing, and listening, assessing different aspects of language skills in French.

Unit 1: Oracy – Non-exam Assessment (30%):

- A speaking test conducted in the centre and marked externally.
- Consists of three tasks: reading aloud with role play, presentation and discussion, and an unprepared conversation.
- Preparation time of 10 minutes, with a test duration of 7-10 minutes.

Unit 2: Reading and Writing – Non-exam Assessment (15%):

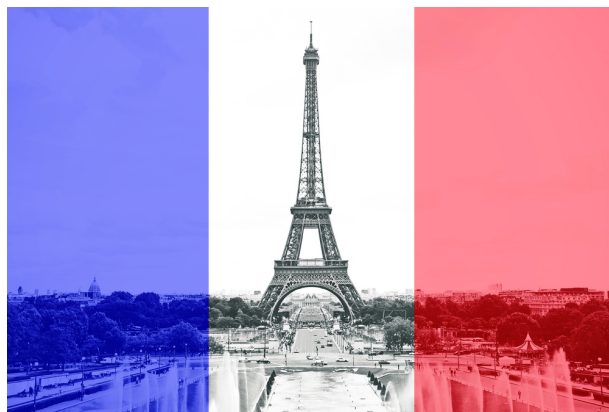
- An hour-long assessment requiring written responses in French, marked by external examiners.
- Focuses on comprehension of written texts and the ability to communicate effectively in writing.

Unit 3: Listening – Written Exam (20%):

- A 45-minute listening exam involving comprehension tasks from various spoken sources like conversations and announcements.
- Tests the ability to identify messages, key points, and draw conclusions.

Unit 4: Reading and Writing – Written Exam (35%):

- A 1-hour, 30-minute exam with reading comprehension, translation from French, and a writing task.
- Involves interpreting more complex texts and demonstrating understanding in written French.



What Skills Will I Develop?

You will learn how to communicate clearly and accurately in speaking and in writing.

You will develop your understanding of the language.

You will learn how to contribute to discussions and conversations.

You will make connections with your own language.

You will develop and awareness of the culture and society where French is spoken.

Pathway

You can further develop your French language skills by studying French at A-Level here at the Sixth Form at Dyffryn Taf. Career opportunities in professions such as: Teaching, translating, interpreting, business services, community services, finance, tourism, public administration, education, sporting careers, journalism, accountancy, hospitality industry, sales and marketing, law, medicine and many more.



GEOGRAPHY

Head of Dept: Miss E Thomas



Course Structure:

[Link to Specification](#)

The course includes four units, with a balance of written examinations and non-exam assessments, each assessing key skills in geography.

Unit 1: Our Human & Physical World (30%)

- A 1-hour, 30-minute exam focused on physical and human geography concepts.
- Topics include rivers, coasts, migration, and urbanisation, integrating place and environment themes.

Unit 2: Developing Fieldwork Skills – Non-Exam Assessment (25%):

- A fieldwork-based unit dedicated to data collection and analysis.
- Students complete a six-stage enquiry process, examining geographical methods and interpretation.

Unit 3: Our Dynamic and Diverse World – Written Exam (30%)

- A 1-hour, 30-minute exam covering inequality, weather, climate change, and global challenges.
- Examines human and physical geography through social, cultural, and environmental perspectives.

Unit 4: Sustainable Solutions – Non-Exam Assessment (15%):

- A 1-hour, 30-minute exam covering inequality, weather, climate change, and global challenges.
- Examines human and physical geography through social, cultural, and environmental perspectives.



What Skills Will I Develop?

Geography is always in the news. You will develop skills to interpret, analyse and evaluate information to make decisions about issues and problems that affect people and the environment.

You will be able to collect, process, analyse, and understand different data sets. You will be able to communicate this to a variety of audiences.

Studying geography allows you to develop a range of personal skills for life, including time management, dealing with uncertainty, flexibility, creativity, problem solving and self-confidence.

Pathway

Should you wish to continue your geographical studies into the Sixth Form here at Dyffryn Taf, it combines well with a range of other subjects, particularly Science, Maths and other Humanities. Geography is highly valued by universities as an A Level choice, and combines well with both arts and science subjects. There are various courses available at a range of higher education providers across the country.



HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Teacher: Mrs H Wilkes

Course Structure:



[Link to Specification](#)

The course consists of four units, combining written examinations and non-exam assessments

Unit 1: Human Growth, Development, and Well-being – Written Exam (20% of Double Award)

- Covers human development, health, and the importance of active participation and early intervention.

Unit 2: Promoting and Maintaining Health and Well-being – Non-Exam Assessment (30% of Double Award)

- Task 1: Service provision investigation (10 hours; 40% of unit).
- Task 2: Health promotion campaign (15 hours; 60% of unit).
- Focuses on exploring health and social care services, factors affecting well-being, and developing health promotion materials.

Unit 3: Health and Social Care, and Childcare in the 21st Century – Written Exam (20% of Double Award)

- Format: 1 hour 30 minutes; 80 marks.
- Explores themes like equality, safeguarding, sustainability, and contemporary issues affecting health and social care in Wales.

Unit 4: Promoting and Supporting Health and Well-being – Non-Exam Assessment (30% of Double Award)

- Task: Develop and deliver a meaningful activity to meet the needs of a specific target group.
- Includes research, planning, execution, and evaluation, focusing on enhancing self-worth, security, and resilience..



What Skills Will I Develop?

By studying this course it will encourage you to understand how we develop as human beings throughout the life stages and also broaden your knowledge of the health, social care and early years services that are available within your local area.

It will help prepare those of you who would like to pursue a career within the profession of Health and Social Care.

You will also learn about the following key topics:

- Human development across the life cycle
- Physical, social, emotional and intellectual health.

Pathway

There are numerous career pathways potentially available from this qualification including working with children in early years to nursing and social work. Health and Social Care and Childcare is a large sector with a variety of jobs including: Nurse, Health visitor, Social worker, Teacher, Physiotherapist, Optician, Dentist or Doctor.



[Link to Specification](#)

Course Structure:

The course consists of four units, covering in-depth studies of Welsh, European, and world history, with a combination of written exams and non-exam assessments.

Unit 1: Welsh History – Written Exam (30%):

- A 1-hour exam focused on Welsh history, allowing students to choose a topic from one of three historical periods: medieval, early modern, or modern.
- Questions test historical knowledge, analysis, and evaluation of historical sources and interpretations.

Unit 2: European and/or World History – On-Screen Non-Exam Assessment (20%):

- An assessment completed digitally, focusing on a specific issue in European or world history.
- Topics range from medieval imperialism to modern international relations, allowing students to develop a deep understanding of historical issues through research and interpretation.

Unit 3: Period Study in World History – Written Exam (30%):

- A 1-hour exam that covers broader historical periods in world history, such as the Vikings, the Crusades, the Mughal Empire, or the Soviet Union.
- Emphasizes historical knowledge, second-order concepts, and source analysis.

Unit 4: Thematic Study of Change Over Time – Non-Exam Assessment (20%):

- An assessment that explores change within a continuous period of 75–100 years, focusing on British and Irish history.
- Students conduct a historical enquiry, applying skills and knowledge from prior units to analyse societal shifts over time.



What Skills Will I Develop?

GCSE History is the perfect subject to develop transferable skills for employment or further study, including:

- Reaching conclusions and making judgements.
- Problem solving
- Writing skills
- Research skills
- Independent study skills
- Analytical & evaluative skills
- Making connections

Pathway

If you enjoy the experience of studying History at GCSE you can develop your skills and knowledge further by studying A level History with us here at Dyffryn Taf.

History gives you not only a thorough understanding of the wider world you are living in but also many essential skills which are regarded highly by universities and employers.



HOSPITALITY

Head of Dept: Mrs E Barnard



Course Structure:

[Link to Specification](#)

The qualification consists of four core units, one mandatory unit, and a choice of optional specialist units. Units are internally and externally assessed, offering a balance of theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

Core Units

- Unit 1: Introducing the Hospitality Industry:
 - Covers the structure, services, and current trends in the hospitality industry.
 - Assessed through a 1-hour 15-minute paper-based external exam (50 marks).
- Unit 2: Working in the Hospitality Industry:
 - Focuses on teamwork, customer service, and personal skills necessary for the industry.

Unit 3: Food Safety and Health and Safety in Hospitality

- Explores health and safety regulations, including food safety laws and practices.

Optional Specialist Units

- Unit 4: Costing and Controlling Finances in the Hospitality Industry.
- Unit 5: Enterprise in the Hospitality Industry.
- Unit 6: Planning, Preparing, Cooking and Finishing Food.
- Unit 7: Food and Beverage Service in the Hospitality Industry.
- Unit 8: Front Office Services in the Hospitality Industry.



What Skills Will I Develop?

- You will be introduced to the business aspect of hospitality and all the different services and products it provides.
- You will get the opportunity to explore the importance of working as part of a team.
- You will get the opportunity to develop the skills required to plan, prepare, cook and finish a range of different foods.
- You will also learn about the tools and equipment used to prepare, cook and finish food.

Pathway

We do offer Hospitality here in the Sixth Form at Dyffryn Taf, where you will be able to gain a Level 3 qualification (think of this as an A-level equivalent).

It is a great qualification to have if you have a passion or interest in food and see yourself one day maybe working in the hospitality industry (some examples include chef, restaurant/bar/cafe/hotel manager, barista).



Course Structure: [Link to Specification](#)

The course comprises three units, combining practical and theoretical elements: Performing, Composing and Appraising.

Unit 1: Performing – Non-Exam Assessment (32.5%)

- Performance duration: 4–6 minutes, comprising at least two pieces (each a minimum of 1 minute).
- Perform as a soloist, part of an ensemble, or using technology.

Unit 2: Composing – Non-Exam Assessment (32.5%)

- Compose two original pieces with a total recommended duration of 3–6 minutes.
- One piece must respond to a WJEC-set brief, and the other to a learner-devised brief.
- Include a Reflective Log documenting the compositional process for one composition.

Unit 3: Appraising – Digital Examination (35%)

- 1 hour 30 minutes, with a mix of objective, short-answer, and extended-answer questions.
- Based on a combination of set works and unseen music extracts.

Integration with Curriculum for Wales:

- Links to themes of diversity, identity, and cultural appreciation through study of Welsh, global, and minority ethnic music.
- Promotes creativity, problem-solving, collaboration, and personal reflection.



What Skills Will I Develop?

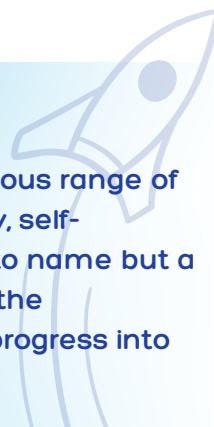
Exploring: you will have the opportunity to explore various styles and genres of music linked to different cultures in Wales and the world and understand how they have been created to produce the intended effect. You will be able to use these ideas to create and develop your own music.

Responding and reflecting: you will be able to evaluate and refine your work through reflection and feedback from others, to create a successful finished product

Creating: you will create your own original music in a style of your choosing, and a piece to meet a brief specified by WJEC using the techniques you have explored and reflected upon.

Pathway

Studying Music has an enormous range of benefits. It promotes creativity, self-discipline and analytical skills to name but a few. After Year 11, if you enjoy the experience at GCSE you can progress into the Sixth Form here.





Course Structure:

[Link to Specification](#)

The qualification is divided into two units:

- Unit 1: Introduction to Physical Education (50%).
- Unit 2: The Active Participant in Physical Education (50%).

Unit 1: Introduction to Physical Education – Written Examination

- Health, training, and exercise.
- Exercise physiology.
- Movement analysis.
- Psychology of sport and physical activity.
- Socio-cultural issues in sport and physical activity.

Unit 2: The Active Participant in Physical Education – Non-Exam Assessment

- Assessment in three physical activities: one team sport, one individual activity, and one additional activity from the approved list.
- Includes a Personal Fitness Programme linked to the major activity.

Key Themes Across Units:

- Health and Well-being: Impact of exercise and nutrition on mental, physical, and social health.
- Technology in Sport: Use of equipment and data for performance analysis.
- Socio-Cultural Issues: Participation factors, ethical concerns, and commercialisation of sport.
- Sports Psychology: Motivation, goal-setting, and mental preparation.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Head of Dept: Mrs S Palmer



What Skills Will I Develop?

Develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance.

Understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport.

Perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas.

Pathway

You can go on to study A-Level PE at the Sixth Form here at Dyffryn Taf and beyond that there are a range of different university courses which will allow you to further follow your passion for sport and physical activity. This course is great for those who have a genuine passion for sport and exercise. It is important you have a keen interest in sport and are prepared to explore the theory aspects of the course across a broad range of topics.



[Link to Specification](#)

Course Structure:

The course is unitised and untiered, consisting of four units.

Unit 1: Religious and Non-Religious Beliefs, Teachings, and Practices – Written Exam (30%)

- Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes (to be confirmed).
- Covers diverse religious and non-religious worldviews.
- Exam content includes:
 - The nature of belief, sources of authority, and morality.
 - Beliefs about identity, belonging, and life after death.

Unit 2: Religion and Relationships – Non-Exam Assessment (20%)

- Task: Based on one of two themes set annually by WJEC.
- Examples of themes include marriage, gender roles, same-sex relationships, and interfaith marriage.
- Emphasises research, analysis, and reflection on ethical implications and personal values.

Unit 3: Roles, Rights, and Responsibilities – Written Exam (30%)

- Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes (to be confirmed).
- Topics include social justice, the interplay between religion and law, and ethics in decision-making.

Unit 4: Religion and Human Rights – Non-Exam Assessment (20%)

- Task: Based on stimulus materials provided by WJEC, changing annually.
- Topics include moral issues, ethical reasoning, and responses to human rights violations.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

New GCSE
Head of Dept: Mrs N Giles



What Skills Will I Develop?

- You have an opportunity to analyse religious beliefs, practices, and ethical issues from multiple perspectives.
- You will apply your understanding and respecting different faiths, cultures, and viewpoints.
- You'll be forming reasoned arguments and engaging in constructive discussions on complex topics.
- You will start investigating religious texts, teachings, and historical contexts to deepen understanding.

Pathway

It is a qualification highly valued by universities and employers alike, across a broad range of subjects and careers. If you enjoy your experience with Religious Studies at GCSE, you can further develop your knowledge and skills by studying A-Level RS with us here in the Sixth Form at Dyffryn Taf.



[Link to Specification](#)

Course Structure:

The qualification consists of three mandatory units and one optional specialist unit. Units are designed to provide an introduction to the sports sector, balancing theoretical and practical learning.

Mandatory Units

- **Unit 1: Fitness for Sport and Exercise:**
 - Covers key fitness principles, methods of training, and the importance of lifestyle choices.
 - Assessed via a 1-hour 15-minute onscreen test marked by Pearson.
- **Unit 2: Practical Performance in Sport**
 - Focuses on practical skills and techniques in team and individual sports.
 - Includes video evidence and performance analysis.
- **Unit 3: Applying the Principles of Personal Training**
 - Involves designing, implementing, and evaluating a personal fitness training programme.
 - Acts as the synoptic assessment unit, integrating knowledge and skills from the course.

Optional Specialist Units:

- **Unit 4: The Mind and Sports Performance:**
 - Explores psychological factors influencing sports performance.
- **Unit 5: The Sports Performer in Action:**
 - Focuses on short-term responses and long-term adaptations of the body to exercise.
- **Unit 6: Leading Sports Activities:**
 - Develops leadership and communication skills for conducting sports sessions.



What Skills Will I Develop?

You will improve your technical and tactical skills in various sports through hands-on practice and analysis.

You will gain an understanding how to design and evaluate fitness training programs tailored to individual needs.

You will gain an insight into assessing performance, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and creating plans for improvement.

You will start developing communication, organisational, and leadership abilities through activities like coaching and team roles.

Pathway

You can study BTEC National Level 3 in Sport with us here in the Sixth Form at Dyffryn Taf. This course could then allow you to access university courses in a whole range of different areas including Sports Science (Movement Analysis, Sports Psychology, Nutrition, Strength and Conditioning), Sport and Leisure, Personal Health and Fitness, Sports Medicine, Sports Management, P.E. Teaching, Sports Coaching and Sports Physiotherapy amongst others.

