



## Curriculum Policy

The Curriculum at Swansea College is based on our belief that the underlying purpose of education is to teach our pupils how to live their lives fully and richly, to become their happiest and kindest selves.

### ***Swansea Sixth form College's Aims for its Pupils***

Swansea Sixth form College aims to give each pupil a complete education in which they achieve their academic potential and grows as an individual. We want our pupils to relish all that college life has to offer so that they leave us as a confident, positive young adult truly prepared for their future.

We expect all pupils to be a responsible and considerate global citizen who is outward looking, courageous and compassionate. We offer support in being aspirational, and in developing their interests and talents whilst learning to achieve balance in their life through our skills development course available to all.

By emphasising the importance of leadership skills, we hope that each pupil will enjoy making a contribution to our happy and caring college and go on to be inspired to make a positive difference to whichever communities they find themselves in throughout their life.

With this vision in mind, our curriculum aims to:

- Enable pupils to understand themselves, their strengths and their weaknesses
- Teach pupils the skills to learn how to learn and so to manage their own learning
- Give pupils confidence to take risks, make mistakes and persevere to solve problems
- Give pupils confidence to find and express their voice;
- Help pupils to understand and care for others and for the world;
- Teach pupils to think for themselves and work both independently and collaboratively, taking charge of their own learning
- Encourage pupils to ask questions and develop their ability to think critically, to wonder at the world and to develop their curiosity
- Inspire pupils with a love for learning by challenging and engaging every child at the appropriate age and level, thereby ensuring that all pupils make progress (including the most able pupils, pupils from whom English is an additional language, pupils with specific learning needs and pupils with an Education and Health Care Plan)
- Teach pupils the core knowledge (including oracy, literacy and numeracy skills), with the skills to enable them to use this knowledge, in order to lead fulfilled lives and act with wisdom and care in the world
- Prepare pupils for entrance to future college/university.
- Actively promote fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in a British society.

### **Curriculum**

The richest possible curriculum gives pupils the greatest number of pathways to excellence, the greatest

opportunity to discover their value, to find their full range of talents and their particular pathway to success. The curriculum at Swansea College is therefore broad and balanced; each curriculum area supports and enhances the others and subjects cannot be seen in isolation.

Swansea College provides pupils with a linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education. No one subject is more highly valued than another, but all have their place in a balance of studies that is carefully reviewed on an annual basis. Throughout all subjects, we promote fundamental British Values and prepare pupils for the responsibilities, experiences and opportunities of life in a British society.

Details of the current balance of studies can be found in the Curriculum Plan. Personal, Social, Health, Economic and Emotional Education (PSHEE) underpins other curriculum areas and begins with our 'Emotions for Learning' curriculum, which has been the front of the curriculum since 2020.

The PSHEE curriculum also covers lessons in economic well-being, relationships, health and careers advice. Careers advice is presented in an impartial way, giving pupils information to help them make informed decisions about a wide range of careers so that they can lead fulfilled lives. More information about the PSHEE curriculum can be found in the PSHEE Curriculum Summary.

Our curriculum is designed to allow each pupil to:

- Achieve the best possible academic qualifications and standards for them, whatever their ability.
- Ensure high levels of engagement, enjoyment and personal development.
- Develop leadership qualities and aspirations through the involvement of guest speakers /external companies as inspirational figures and role models.

We aim for our curriculum to develop pupils who\*:

- Are inducted into the essential knowledge, skills and discourse of subject disciplines and who are able to develop specialisms according to aptitude.
- Can appreciate human achievement in the field of languages, mathematics, science, technology, humanities, physical and aesthetic pursuits, creative and expressive arts and to experience a sense of personal achievement in these fields during their time at school.
- Acquire an understanding of the social, economic, environmental and political aspects of the world and the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations.
- Are able to link areas of knowledge in a spirit of enquiry and transfer skills from one area to another.
- Are resourceful and able to solve problems using the knowledge and skills they have gained.
- Have the knowledge to develop for themselves an active and healthy lifestyle.
- Are reflective learners, who understand their strengths and how they can be used; who can identify areas for development and know what to do in order to make progress.
- Can show resilience in their learning, persevering even when tasks are difficult and understanding how to access help when needed.
- Can work effectively in a team but also concentrate for long periods of time alone and manage distractions.
- Are increasingly independent, can show initiative and organise themselves.

\*In the case of pupils who have a statement we work with the pupil on an individual basis to ensure the curriculum matches their needs and abilities and have a support plan in place.

## **Curriculum Delivery**

The curriculum should be seen in its widest sense as the entire planned learning experience. This includes formal lessons and events, routines, and learning that take place outside the classroom. Although the majority of the pupils' formal learning experiences will be through subject-based lessons, the curriculum is also planned and delivered to address a number of extracurricular dimensions. In particular we address our pupils' Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural needs through our PHSEE, skills development and PE programmes.

### **Key stage 4 - Years 10 and 11**

In Year 10, five core subjects are taught: English Language, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Pupils express an interest in a further 2-4 optional subjects leading to a total of 7-9 GCSEs. Pupils do not study the Welsh language. Optional subjects include History, Geography, Business Studies, Computer Science and Welsh Baccalaureate. Languages available are French and German. Pupils participate in PE every week. PSHEE and skills development course is delivered through the week.

### **Key stage 5 - Years 12 and 13**

In Year 12 students study three subjects. The decision to enter students for an AS-level qualification at the end of Year 12 rests with the teacher. The list of subjects available includes all subjects studied at GCSE with the addition of Psychology and Economics. We do not require pupils to study the Welsh Baccalaureate however encourage this. We endeavour to timetable 2 lessons per subject every week or sometimes 3 lessons as the class sizes are currently very small. We insist that students spend non-teaching time studying. Independent learning skills are essential for a successful outcome and all sixth formers have timetabled lessons in study skills. Our curriculum program also embraces University admissions exams preparation such as UKCAT and BMAT Tests for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Sciences, and other Oxbridge preparation exams. Careers guidance is assisted by Swansea University's Head of Employability and Careers.

## **Individual Study Support Plan with Education and Healthcare plan**

All pupils agree a study plan with the teacher/Principal; this can be added and amended as their course progresses. It contains student records, health issues, academic reports, academic targets and an education healthcare plan. Teachers are informed of any classroom adaptations required.

Our wide range of subjects are appropriate for those with additional learning needs as well as those without. To better help with this differentiation in teaching, all staff members and admin staff have completed ALN training, thus ensuring that all pupils can achieve their best and feel that they can make progress in classes.

## **Enrichment**

### **PSHEE (Personal, Social and Health, Economic and Emotional Education)**

Our PSHEE programme is designed to support our academic program and help our pupils develop into fully rounded individuals. It is also our aim to help our pupils understand the values of tolerance, fair mindedness and democracy that we cherish in Wales. It takes place on Wednesday mornings and pupils learn through discussion and case studies.

### **Skills Development Course**

Our skills development short course is an academic study that provides students with bridging the gap between education and the world of work. We have created a bespoke course that helps support students not only within an educational setting but in order to gain a good within understanding of the world of

work as well. The course involves confidence building, Speaking Skills, CV writing, writing a personal statement, Interview skills, and preparation for a new job or University.

### **Careers guidance**

As part of our commitment to providing a rounded education to all pupils in year 11, pupils will undergo aptitude and careers guidance sessions, have talks by various professionals and careers guidance counselors regarding career options, and attend careers fairs.

### **Physical Education**

- **Friday afternoons:** pupils will take part in organised sporting and leisure activities. This is a compulsory part of their curriculum; options will be offered to cater for the abilities of each pupil.
- **Termly outings:** Once a term, we will organise a whole-college outing to fun and/or educational sites.

### **Prevent**

As part of our duty to prevent extremism in the UK, our academic curriculum exemplifies British values and encourages those values, as well as promoting communication, friendship, self-esteem etc.

The PSHE and Academic Literacy programme deals explicitly with issues of extremism. It also explores and encourages British values, as well as teaching strategies and techniques that promote communication, friendship, self-esteem etc.

### **Evaluation and Review**

In addition to the evaluations of the school developments, Teaching and Learning is evaluated and developed through an ongoing process, led by the Principal.

The process involves:

- Half termly reviews with all teachers
- Observations and assessments, children and teacher feedback.
- Peer lesson observations.
- An Annual cycle of formal lesson observations for each member of staff by Senior teachers.
- Discussions with pupils