



## Curriculum Policy

The curriculum at Swansea College fulfils the requirement to provide education in the following areas of learning: linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative. 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. The Principal and Teachers meet twice a year, at the beginning of the academic year and in the spring break, to review mock assessments and grades reviews to discuss all academic issues. More specific subject related issues are discussed on a one to one basis.

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

Swansea 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 citizen who are outward looking, courageous and compassionate. We offer support in being aspirational, and in developing interests and talents whilst learning to achieve balance in life through our skills development course available through your course.

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 / Individual Development 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

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In addition to this basic provision, Swansea College, in its curriculum design aims to:

- provide a balance between core and optional choices to meet individual interests and skills
- develop academic excellence and the opportunity to develop high level subject specialism
- provide the foundation for lifelong learning and promote independent learning
- provide continuity, progression and appropriate degrees of breadth, depth and balance for each learner and to support by assessment that is fit for purpose

We are preparing our pupils for linear examination with most exam boards following the English pathway qualifications at GCSE and A level. We seek to develop a curriculum which takes the best features of a knowledge based and skills-based curriculum model.

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**

Our curriculum should be seen in its broadest sense as the whole 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 programme.

### **Years 10 and 11**

In Year 10, a diverse range of subjects are available, five core subjects are taught, including English Language, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. These subjects are essential in providing students with a well-rounded understanding of the world around them. Alongside these core subjects, pupils have the opportunity to express their interests by selecting 2-4 optional subjects, resulting in a total of 7-9 GCSEs.

The availability of optional subjects allows students to explore various fields and discover their passions. The range of optional subjects is extensive, encompassing subjects such as History, Geography, Business Studies, Computer Science, and Welsh Baccalaureate. This broadens the horizons of students and gives them an opportunity to delve into different areas of knowledge. It is worth noting that the Welsh language is not a compulsory subject at this stage, although it may still be available as an option for those who wish to pursue it. Furthermore, students have the chance to learn foreign languages, with French and German being the languages available for study. This not only fosters cultural understanding but also equips students with valuable communication skills in an increasingly globalized world.

Physical Education (PE) is an integral part of the curriculum, with students participating in it on a weekly basis. This promotes an active lifestyle and emphasises the importance of physical well-being. Additionally, students are provided with a Personal, Social, Health, Economic Education (PSHEE) and skills development course throughout the week. This course equips students with essential life skills, such as decision-making, problem-solving, and interpersonal communication, which are crucial for their personal and professional development.

### **Years 12 and 13**

In Year 12, students have the opportunity to study three or up to four subjects, providing them with a diverse and comprehensive education. The decision to enter students for an AS-level qualification at the end of Year 12 is entrusted to the teacher, who carefully considers the academic progress and capabilities of each student. The list of subjects available for study in Year 12 includes all subjects that were previously studied at GCSE, with the exciting addition of Psychology and Economics. While the study of the Welsh Baccalaureate is not mandatory, we strongly encourage students to explore this field of study, as it offers a unique and valuable perspective on various subjects.

To ensure ample learning opportunities, we strive to timetable two lessons per subject every week, with the possibility of occasionally scheduling three lessons, given our currently small class sizes. We firmly believe in the importance of independent learning skills for achieving success, and therefore, we insist that students dedicate non-teaching time to studying. Recognising the significance of independent learning, we have incorporated timetabled lessons in study skills for all sixth formers. These lessons equip students with the necessary tools and strategies to excel in their studies and develop self-motivation and discipline.

Moreover, our curriculum program goes beyond the scope of regular academic subjects. We understand the importance of university admissions exams and the impact they have on students' future educational endeavors. As such, we provide preparation sessions for exams like the UKCAT, which are required for entrance into many prestigious universities. These sessions help students familiarise themselves with the format of the exams, develop effective strategies, and build confidence in their abilities.

In addition to academic support, we also prioritise career guidance for our students. We are fortunate to have the expertise of Swansea University's Head of Employability and Careers, who assists us in providing comprehensive and up-to-date career guidance. We organise careers workshops in the spring for Year 12 students to give them the opportunity to explore various career paths, gain insights from professionals in

different fields, and develop a clearer understanding of their own aspirations and goals. This guidance ensures that students are well-informed about their future prospects and can make informed decisions about their career paths.

## **Enrichment**

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

The PSHEE and Skills Development course is an integral part of our curriculum. The PSHEE curriculum covers lessons on economic well-being, relationships, health and careers advice and careers advice; this is presented in an impartial way, giving pupil's information to help them make informed decisions about a wide range of careers so that they can lead fulfilled lives. 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 afternoon and pupils learn through discussion and case studies, see our PSHEE Scheme of work for more information.

## **Skills Development Course**

Our Skills Development course is a comprehensive academic study designed to bridge the gap between education and the world of work. We understand that while traditional education equips students with theoretical knowledge, it often falls short in preparing them for the practical challenges of the professional world. That's why we have created a bespoke course that not only supports students within an educational setting but also provides them with a solid understanding of the world of work.

The course covers various essential skills that are crucial for success in both academic and professional environments. One key aspect of the course is confidence building. We believe that self-assurance is the foundation upon which all other skills are built. Through various interactive activities and exercises, we help students develop a strong sense of self-confidence, enabling them to tackle challenges with poise and resilience.

## **Physical Education**

Once a week pupils are encouraged to take part in an organised sporting and leisure activity. This is a compulsory part of their curriculum; options will be offered to cater for the abilities of each pupil and encouraged to complete an activity with family and friends if they cannot attend in person, see our Physical development policy.

## **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 PSHEE and Skills Development 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, see our prevent policy.

Updated  
October 2023  
This policy is reviewed annually

