

**WHAT WILL YOUR
CHILD BE STUDYING
IN YEAR 9?**

**YEAR 8 COURSE CHOICES – THURSDAY
2 FEBRUARY 2012**

A NEW CURRICULUM 1

- Major Government changes to National Curriculum in Autumn 2007 and November 2010
- Fifth year of an exciting new model for Rossett
- Your child will choose some subjects which they want to study a year earlier than has traditionally been the case
- They will study the subjects which they choose for 5 hours every week for a year AND
- Most of them will take exams in those subjects at the end of that year

A NEW CURRICULUM 2

- **Most will choose 2 subjects to study in year 9**
- **Most of them will choose a further optional subject in year 10 and another in year 11**
- **Not all the courses are GCSE courses, some are vocational courses (equivalent to GCSEs)**
- **They will all continue to study English, ICT, Maths, Science, PE and an Employability course (in year 9 only) every week.**
- **The Employability course will cover Enterprise and Careers Education whilst developing Personal Learning and Thinking Skills**

A NEW CURRICULUM 3

- **By the time they go into year 10 most of them will already have 2 GCSEs or the equivalent**
- **By the time they go into year 11 most of them will already have 3 GCSEs**
- **This will mean that more time can be spent on the crucial core subjects in years 10 and 11**
- **Year 10 and 11 students in June (when our new academic year begins) will be following a similar model and teaching sets may be mixed with year 9s, year 10s and year 11s of similar ability in the same sets**

THE YEAR 8 OPTIONS PROCESS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2011/12

Thursday 15 December – Year 8 Reports home

Wednesday 11 January – Introductory Assembly

Wednesday 18 January – Vocational Courses Assembly

Friday 20 January – Course Choice Booklet on website

**Monday 23 January – Course Choice Booklets available and Pathway
Advisory letters home to parents**

**Wednesday 25 January – New Subjects assembly (Pathways E/B and C
split)**

Thursday 26 January – Year 8 Parents Evening

Thursday 2 February – Year 8 Course Choice Evening

Tuesday 7 February – Course Choices made online at Form Time

Thursday 9 February – Final deadline for Course Choices to be made.

**THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT
THING ABOUT WHAT THEY
CHOOSE TO DO NEXT YEAR IS
THAT IT MUST GIVE THEM THE
BEST POSSIBLE CHANCE OF
GETTING THE BEST POSSIBLE
QUALIFICATIONS THEY CAN
ACHIEVE !!!**

THEIR RESULTS IN YEARS
9,10 AND 11 WILL HAVE A
MAJOR IMPACT ON THEIR
FUTURE AND GIVE THEM
FREEDOM TO CHOOSE
WHAT THEY WANT TO DO!

THE MOST IMPORTANT HURDLE.....??

**THE EQUIVALENT OF 5
GCSEs AT GRADES A*-C
(including English and Maths if
possible)**

A PATHWAY CURRICULUM MODEL

**OUR CURRICULUM HAS BEEN
DESIGNED TO ENABLE EVERY
SINGLE STUDENT TO HAVE A
CHANCE OF GETTING AT LEAST 5
GCSEs AT GRADE A*-C AND ALSO
OF GETTING THE BEST POSSIBLE
RESULTS THEY CAN ACHIEVE**

HOW WILL IT WORK ?

- There are 3 pathways – E, B and C
- The 3 pathways have been designed to give different types of students the best possible chance of success
- Their “prior attainment” (their results in year 6 which gave them their predicted KS3 National Curriculum levels and progress so far at Rossett) was very important when the decision was made as to which pathway they are advised to follow. But - this was not the only thing that was considered.

PATHWAY E

- **Very similar to the traditional Key Stage 4 curriculum which has been followed by most students in most schools for many years (even going back to when I was at school !!)**
- **Largely made up of GCSEs, most compulsory (e.g. English, ICT, Maths and Science) with others selected from a list of options.**
- **At the end, students will achieve between 10 and 12 GCSE passes, hopefully with the vast majority, if not all, at grades A*-C**
- **55-65 % of the year group are expected to follow this pathway – all should get at least 5 A*-C**

Compulsory subjects (Pathway E)

- GCSE Maths – the better mathematicians may do an extra maths GCSE in statistics or an additional maths subject
- GCSE English - virtually everyone will do English Language and English Literature.
- Science – Everyone will do double award science or triple science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- ICT
- Between 6 and 8 GCSEs in the 4 core subjects
- PE (core PE – not a GCSE)

The Optional Subjects for Pathway E students

- Pathway E students will select 2 optional subjects to study in Year 9**
- Pathway E students will select a 3rd optional subject during year 9 to study in year 10**
- Pathway E students will select a 4th optional subject during year 10 to study in year 11**

The Optional Subjects for Pathway E students

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Business Studies GCSE | French GCSE |
| Geography GCSE | Spanish GCSE |
| History GCSE | PE GCSE |
| Religious Studies GCSE | Design Technology (Food) |
| Art GCSE | Des. Tech. (Product design) |
| Drama GCSE | Des. Tech. (Resistant Materials) |
| Music GCSE | Des. Tech (Textiles) |

Pathway B

What are BTECs ?

- an essential and important part of pathway B
- well established, widely recognised vocational qualifications
- worth a GCSE (Pass = C, Merit = B, Distinction = A and Distinction* = A*)
- going to be offered in Art and Design, Business, Health and Social Care, ICT, Outdoor Pursuits, Performing Arts and Sport

What will your child be doing if they do a BTEC?

- **Spending 5 hours each week for a year studying the subject they picked**
- **Doing 3 or 4 modules of work over the year**
- **Being assessed largely (75%) by portfolio, i.e. producing folders of coursework to be marked by teachers and moderated by the Exam Board**
- **Having only a single module marked by the Exam Board (25%) – students can still attain GCSE grade C standard in their BTEC even if they fall below a C in the exam.**
- **Visiting the “World of Work” and having visits from employees and employers in their chosen vocational area.**

The Optional Subjects for Pathway B students

- Pathway B students will select a BTEC (listed in green in the table which follows) and a GCSE to study in year 9
- Students will select a second GCSE or a second BTEC to study in year 10
- Most students will then select a final BTEC or GCSE to study in year 11
- Most pathway B students will complete 2 GCSEs and 2 BTECs by year 11 (though for some students 3 GCSEs and 1 BTEC may be appropriate)

The Optional Subjects for Pathway B students

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Business Studies GCSE | Des.Tech. (Food) GCSE |
| Geography GCSE | Des.Tech. (Product Design) GCSE |
| History GCSE | Des.Tech. (Resist Mat) GCSE |
| Religious Studies GCSE | Des.Tech (Textiles) GCSE |
| Art GCSE | Art and Design BTEC |
| Drama GCSE | Business BTEC |
| Music GCSE | Health & Social Care BTEC |
| French GCSE | Outdoor Pursuits BTEC |
| Spanish GCSE | Performing Arts BTEC |
| PE GCSE | Sport BTEC |

How many hours of each subject in pathways E and B? – A basic outline

| | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| English | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Maths | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Science | 3 | 6 | 6 |
| ICT | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Employability | 2 | | |
| PE | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Assembly | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| option 1 | 5 | | |
| option 2 | 5 | | |
| option 3 | | 5 | |
| option 4 | | | 5 |
| Total | 25 | 25 | 25 |

Pathway B – a personalised, flexible pathway

- **During years 10 and 11 students on Pathway B may be able to modify their curriculum, adjusting subjects studied to suit their personal needs or developing skills**
- **If appropriate students on pathway E will be advised to move to BTEC courses to ensure they achieve the best possible results**
- **Other adjustments to an individual curriculum may be possible after discussions with students and parents**

Pathway B – a summary

- **About a third of year 9 will do pathway B**
- **Most students on Pathway B will complete 2 different BTEC First Awards**
- **You could get up to the equivalent of 10 GCSEs by following pathway B**
- **Progression (what you do next) from pathway B has at least as many possibilities as from pathway E**

Pathway C

- **This pathway is a Vocational Studies pathway which we have run very successfully at Rossett for many years**
- **This pathway includes a course which involves studying a vocational area for a whole day a week over 2 of the 3 years**
- **Not many exams – most of the work assessed by portfolio**
- **Still chance to get the equivalent of up to 8 GCSEs (all possible at grades A*-C)**
- **Most of the pathway is compulsory for all – the only choice is of the vocational course**

Pathway C – compulsory courses

- **GCSE Maths and GCSE English – these subjects will be set and done with everyone else (there may be the opportunity to do more than one GCSE in each subject depending on ability)**
- **GCSE Science (single)**
- **A vocational ICT course (equivalent to a GCSE)**
- **Core PE – also with everyone else**

Pathway C Options (Year 9)

- **When pathway E and B students are studying their chosen options in year 9, pathway C students will study for vocational qualifications offered by the ASDAN exam board**
- **There will be the opportunity to achieve a GCSE higher grade in all subjects studied.**

- **The Certificate in Personal Effectiveness (COPE)** – a qualification which is worth a GCSE higher grade, a modular course of study with portfolio based evidence (75%) and a small external assessment
- **Essential Key Skills** – another portfolio based course equivalent to a GCSE higher grade. The course concentrates on developing the skills of working with others, improving your own learning and problem solving
- **Employability** – A course with a number of units of work based on career education and Enterprise

Vocational Course Options

- A full day in school following your chosen vocational course
- The courses likely to be offered are;
Hair and Beauty
Construction
- Both courses are recognised vocational qualifications which have GCSE equivalence and lead to higher level courses if that is what you want

How many hours of each subject in pathway C?

| | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 |
|----------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| English | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Maths | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Science | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| ICT | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Skills | 2 | | |
| PE | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Assembly | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| option 1 | ASDAN (5) | ASDAN (5) | ASDAN (5) |
| option 2 | ASDAN/VOC Course (5) | ASDAN/VOC Course (5) | ASDAN/VOC Course (5) |
| Total | 25 | 25 | 25 |

The English Baccalaureate 1

- **Announced in November/December 2010**
- **Rationale – “The Government believes that schools should offer pupils a broad range of subjects to age 16 and the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) promotes that aspiration”**

The English Baccalaureate 2

- **“The EBacc is not a new qualification in itself”**
- **“It will recognise students’ achievements across a core of selected academic subjects in getting good passes (A*-C) in rigorous GCSEs”**

The English Baccalaureate 3

- The following subjects are included;
- English Language
- Mathematics
- Science and Additional Science or success in at least 2 of Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- History or Geography
- French or Spanish

So what is our advice to students as they make their choices 1?

- **Your child should plan to get the English Baccalaureate if they can**
- **The English, Maths and Science will take care of themselves but they should plan to select either French or Spanish and also either Geography or History as 2 of their choices over the 3 years**
- **Specific advice is different for each of the 3 pathways;**

So what is our advice to students as they make their choices 2?

- For Pathway E students with 4 choices the other 2 choices are not as critical. Best advice is to select subjects which they really enjoy and feel they can get a high grade in!
- For Pathway B students with only 2, or possibly 3, GCSE choices, if students are confident they can get an A*-C in French or Spanish and in Geography or History, they should pick one of each pair to study across the 3 years of KS 4.
- Pathway C students cannot get the English Baccalaureate

Final thoughts on the the English Baccalaureate

- **This is all very new to us in schools and has been introduced by the Government very quickly**
- **We do not know if it will change in the future but;**
- **At the moment we feel the best advice we can give is that your children should try to get it if they can**
- **By the time they leave school it is almost certain that employers, admissions officers and personnel officers will be asking prospective employees/candidates if they have got the English Baccalaureate**

SUMMARY

- The course your child does **MUST** give them the best possible chance of getting the best possible results
- They must be realistic – think about their ability / attainment and do the course that is most likely to get them at least 5 A*-C grades
- They should follow the guidance and advice of teachers – we have their best interests at heart !!
- They must do what is best for **THEM** – they mustn't think about what their friends are doing or who their favourite teachers are
- Talk to teachers, parents, friends – make sure they fully understand the curriculum and their options. Read the Course Choice Information Booklet.