

## General Information – Gwybodaeth Gyffredinol

Director: Mr Graeme Harkness

Learning Community Address: Ebbw Fawr Learning Community – Secondary Phase  
Lime Avenue  
Ebbw Vale  
Blaenau Gwent  
NP23 6GL

Tel: 01495 354690

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community – Primary Phase  
Strand Annealing Lane  
Ebbw Vale  
Blaenau Gwent  
NP23 6AN

Tel: 01495 357755  
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e-mail: [contactus@ebbwfawr.co.uk](mailto:contactus@ebbwfawr.co.uk)

Web site [www.ebbwfawr.co.uk](http://www.ebbwfawr.co.uk)

Office hours: 8:30am – 4:00pm  
Answer machine 24 hour service. Tel: 01495 354690

In cases of emergency, such as inclement weather we will notify parents via Call Parent and our web site. Parents will be informed how to use Call Parent on admission.

## Our Values – Ein gwerthoedd

Everyone is -

- involved in learning
- respectful of others
- known, valued and safe
- encouraged to achieve their potential
- given a range of opportunities
- inspired through learning
- encouraged to take responsibility

We all:

- make learning the priority
- show respect, courtesy and consideration towards others
- take responsibility for our actions
- are honest and co-operative
- celebrate success
- follow the rules and procedures
- look after the learning environment

We expect everyone to:

- promote a positive image of Ebbw Fawr Learning Community
- try their hardest
- respect members of the wider community and their property
- reach their potential
- be constructively involved within our community

## **Welcome from the Director – Croeso gan y Cyfarwyddwr**

### **Dear Parents and Carers – Annwyl Rieni a Gofalwyr**

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community, the first all through 3-16 Learning Community in Wales, opened in September 2012. Our new £51.5M state of the art facilities provide a truly modern learning environment for all students. At every point of transition from home to Early Years, from Early Years to Primary, from Primary to Secondary and from Secondary to the Learning Zone, we will aim to provide the best possible care and support for your child.

Ebbw Fawr is an exciting place to learn and we wish to encourage our students to become independent learners in a safe and secure environment. We will create an atmosphere in which hard work and discipline combine to provide our students with the determination and motivation to succeed. In return we expect a high level of commitment and endeavour from them, as well as very high standards of personal appearance and behaviour.

We believe that our excellent facilities, in conjunction with high quality teaching, assessment and learning, will offer your child an opportunity to succeed at every stage of their education. Much of what we do is designed to find the key that unlocks their interests and skills, enabling them to be successful during their time here and beyond. We have supportive parents and governors, all of whom work with us to make sure all will succeed.

Ambitious targets for all students will be set by learning areas and monitored by senior staff. A computerised tracking and assessment system will enable teachers to monitor effectively individuals' progress and to update parents/carers regularly about their child's attainments, progress and targets.

As well as setting rigorous academic standards, we will strive to develop the moral, social and spiritual values and skills of all our young people so that they can become active and considerate global citizens. We have very strong extra-curricular provision in Drama, Music, specialist curriculum areas and an extensive sports programme including status as a Welsh Rugby Union "School of Rugby" – one of only 15 throughout the whole of Wales.

We hope that this prospectus provides you with a flavour of our Learning Community, please let us know if you have any question and we look forward to your child joining us.

Graeme Harkness  
Director – Cyfarwyddwr

## Leadership Team Uwch- Tîm Arweinyddiaeth

Mr Graeme Harkness	Director
Mrs Carys Llewellyn	Phase Director (Primary)
Mrs Nerys Davies	Phase Director (Secondary)
Mr Saul Graydon	Phase Director Teaching and Learning
Mrs Marie Anderson	Campus Business Manager
Mrs Sarah Gregory	Deputy Phase Director (Primary)
Mrs Georgina Davidson	Deputy Phase Director (Secondary)
Mr Paul Freegard	Deputy Phase Director (Secondary)
Mr Robin Hart	Cross Phase Assistant Director - Additional Learning Needs
Mrs Melanie Thomas	Cross Phase Assistant Director – Care and Guidance

## Governors - Llywodraethwyr

### Full Governing Body 2015/2016

<p><b>Community Governors</b>          Mr Rod Davies - Chair          Mr Richard Barrett – Vice Chair          Mr Daryl Tovey          Mr Christopher Meredith          Mr Mike Davies</p>	<p><b>Parent Governors</b>          Mrs Emma Freegard          Mr Kevan Lines          Mr Nathan O’Callaghan          Mrs Joanna Evans          Mrs Claire Tovey          Mrs Louise Crump</p>
<p><b>LEA Governors</b>          Cllr Ann Lewis          Cllr Clive Meredith          Cllr Keren Bender          Cllr Derrick Bevan          Cllr Mostyn Lewis</p>	<p><b>Teacher Governors</b>          Mrs Hannah O’Neil          Mrs Clare Lane</p> <p><b>Staff Governor</b>          Mrs Shan James</p> <p><b>Director</b>          Mr Graeme Harkness</p>

### Contact details for Chair of /Governors:

c/o Chair of Governors, Ebbw Fawr Learning Community, Lime Avenue, Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent NP23 6GL.

Email [contactus@ebbwfawr.co.uk](mailto:contactus@ebbwfawr.co.uk)

## Contacting the Learning Community – Cysylltu â’r Gymuned Ddysgu

If you wish to discuss an issue with the Learning Community, please contact the appropriate person:

- For general issues, your child’s tutor or the Leader of Learning
- For issues relating to care and guidance, the Leader of Care and Guidance
- For issues with a specific subject/lesson, the Subject Leader

If matters persist, members of the leadership team are pleased to meet parents. If you would like to see the Director or one of the senior team, please contact the Learning Community for an appointment.

## **Ebbw Fawr Learning Community – Cymuned Ddysgu Ebwy Fawr**

### **Term and Holiday Dates 2015/2016 – Dyddiadau Tymor a Gwyliau 2015/2016**

#### **Term 1: 2015 – Tymor 1: 2015**

Tuesday 1 September 2015 – Friday 23 October 2015

#### **Term 2: 2015 – Tymor 2: 2015**

Monday 2 November 2015 – Friday 18 December 2015

#### **Term 3: 2016 – Tymor 3: 2016**

Monday 4 January 2016 – Friday 12 February 2016

#### **Term 4: 2016 - Tymor 4: 2016**

Monday 22 February 2016 – Thursday 24 March 2016

#### **Term 5: 2016 - Tymor 5: 2016**

Monday 11 April 2016 – Friday 27 May 2016

#### **Term 6: 2016 - Tymor 6: 2016**

Monday 6 June 2016 – Wednesday 20 July 2016

**Five staff training days will be scheduled throughout the year.**

Tuesday 1 September 2015  
Friday 23 October 2015  
Monday 4 January 2016  
Friday 27 May 2016  
Wednesday 20 July 2016  
May Day – Monday 2 May 2016 – **Bank Holiday**

	<b>Term Begins</b>	<b>Half Term</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
<b>Autumn Term 2015</b>	Monday 01/09/15	Monday - Friday 26/10/15 - 30/10/15	Friday 16/12/15
<b>Spring Term 2016</b>	Monday 04/01/16	Monday - Friday 15/02/16 - 19/02/16	Thursday 24/03/16
<b>Summer Term 2016</b>	Monday 11/04/16	Monday - Friday 30/05/16 - 03/06/16	Tuesday 20/07/16

## TIMINGS OF THE DAY – Amserau'r Diwrnod

### Primary Phase – Cyfnod Cynradd

Foundation Phase	
Breakfast club <small>Latest arrival time for club is 8.20am)</small>	8.00-8.55
Bell rings	8.55
Registration	9.00 - 9.10
Morning session 1	9.10 -10.45
<b>Break</b>	<b>10.45 - 11.00</b>
Morning session 2	11.00 - 12.00
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>12.00 - 1.00</b>
Afternoon session	1.00 - 3.15
<b>End of the day</b>	<b>3.15</b>

### Key Stage 2 – Cyfnod Allweddol 2

Key Stage 2	
Breakfast club	8.00-8.20
Bell rings	8.55
Registration	9.00 - 9.10
Morning session 1	9.10 -10.45
<b>Break</b>	<b>10.45 -11.00</b>
Morning session 2	11.00 -12.10
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>12.10 - 1.00</b>
Afternoon session	<b>1.00 - 3.20</b>
<b>End of the day</b>	<b>3.20</b>

Secondary Phase	
Breakfast club	8.00 - 8.35
Students to be on site by	8.40
Registration during Period 1	8.45 – 8.55 8.55 - 9.55
<b>Break</b>	<b>9.55 -10.10</b>
Period 2	10.10 -11.10
Period 3	11.10 -12.10
<b>Lunch/Tutor Period</b>	<b>12.10 - 12.40</b> <b>or</b> <b>12.40 – 1.10</b>
Period 4	1.10 - 2.10
Period 5	2.10 - 3.10
<b>End of day</b>	<b>3.10</b>
Supervised study area closes	4.15

### Tutorial Time – Amser Tiwtora

Ebbw Fawr's day includes 30 minutes tutorial time, which is primarily used for assemblies and Personal, Social and Health Education. Ebbw Fawr is obliged to deliver a daily act of collective worship. If you have any concerns about this, on religious grounds, then please contact your child's tutor. Assemblies include the Learning Community's themes which are delivered by members of the Leadership Team, class assemblies delivered by students and celebration assemblies delivered by the Director or other senior staff.

## Uniform – Gwisg Ysgol

<b>General Compulsory Uniform</b>	
Please ensure that student clothing is clearly labelled	
<b>Year 7 – 11 Girls</b>	<b>Year 7 – 11 Boys</b>
Purple blazer with logo	Purple blazer with logo
Plain black tailored trousers (no cling-style trousers/combat/chinos/jeans/denim) or black knee length skirt (no extreme slits)	Plain black tailored trousers (no combat/chinos/jeans/denim)
Learning Community tie	Learning Community tie
White long/short sleeved shirt or white fitted/tailored blouse (not a polo shirt)	White long/short sleeved shirt (not a polo shirt)
If worn, belts must be black and plain	If worn, belts must be black and plain
Plain white or black socks or plain black tights	Plain white or black socks
Traditional plain black shoes (no logos/no trainers)	Traditional plain black shoes (no logos/no trainers)
Book/bag/rucksack	Book bag/rucksack
<b>Optional for Boys and Girls</b> Outdoor coat or Waterproof reversible fleece Plain purple V-neck jumper to be worn with blazer	

## Physical Education Kit & Equipment – Gwisg ac Offer Addysg Gorfforol

<b>GIRLS PE Kit</b>	<b>BOYS PE Kit</b>
Black PE shorts or optional black tracksuit bottoms – Skort (optional)	Black PE shorts
Purple/black sports top	Purple/black rugby shirt
Black PE socks	Black PE socks
Trainers or appropriate boots	Trainers or Rugby/Football boots
One piece black swimsuit	Black fitted swim shorts
Towel	Towel
PE sports bag	PE sports bag

## **The following are not allowed – Ni chaniateir y canlynol**

- Coats with slogans/pictures, denim or leather jackets
- Visible tattoos or body piercings other than one pair of plain ear studs
- Jewellery other than a watch
- Football hoodies or tracksuit bottoms (with the exception of sports kit)
- Extreme unnatural hair colouring or fashion haircuts such as tram lines or symbols cut into the hair
- Leggings or over the knee socks
- Fashion belts
- Skirts which are not knee length
- Patterned/coloured T-shirts which are visible underneath a shirt or blouse
- Excessive make-up

Where students have a cultural or religious issue regarding certain items of clothing, jewellery or other item it should be placed in writing to the Director with supporting evidence.

Please note that where students do not comply with Learning Community uniform expectations, action will be taken through our sanction process and this may include being sent home to change or amend any non-uniform or associated issues.

The decision of the Director or his delegate is final in such matters



## **Attendance and Punctuality – Presenoldeb a Phrydlondeb**

Attendance at the Learning Community is a legal requirement and all parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that their students attend the Learning Community regularly and on time. Attendance is monitored carefully and interventions are put in place where the Learning Community's target is not being met.

Key points are:

- The School operates the Blaenau Gwent Callio Attendance Monitoring Programme targeting students with an attendance of less than 95%.
- Where progress is a concern, a team of staff including the Attendance Welfare Officer, the Leader of Learning, and the Leader of Care and Guidance will liaise with parents/carers.
- The Learning Community authorises absence not the parent/carer.
- Parents/carers should contact the Learning Community daily about any absence.
- Holidays in term time are not allowed unless approval has been given by the Director.
- Medical appointments such as doctor/dentist visits should be made out of Learning Community time.
- Where consultant/orthodontist appointments occur, students should only be absent for the appointment and not the whole day/session.
- Parents/carers will be contacted/invited in, to discuss any concerns regarding attendance and punctuality.

Where progress continues to be a concern following intervention, more formal processes will be taken including

- Formal meeting with the Year Leadership.
- Learning Community Attendance Meeting with the Attendance Welfare Officer.
- Penalty Notice or Prosecution.

The Learning Community attendance target for 2015/2016 is 94.1% in secondary and 95.6% in primary.

The Learning Community expects all students to arrive on time to lessons. As with attendance, where issues occur, interventions and sanctions are put in place.

We are able to track students every lesson and can register them at any time of the day via our electronic registration system. This enables us to monitor and reduce any truancy.

Full attendance is essential, wherever possible, to ensure that your child makes good progress. Research shows that Students will not meet or exceed targets if their attendance is poor.

Every child should aim to achieve 100% attendance but, unless there is an unavoidable problem, 95% is the minimum. 95% attendance means that your child will miss no more than 1 ½ days in any half term.

The best way to support your child's learning is to make sure that they don't miss lessons. So, give them the best possible start in life by making sure they attend Ebbw Fawr at all times. If your child is experiencing problems with attending Ebbw Fawr, we have a designated Education Welfare Officer who can provide confidential advice and support on anything that may be affecting their attendance at Ebbw Fawr.

## **Absence - Absenoldeb**

If your child is ill, please ring Ebbw Fawr on the first day of absence and explain the problem. Our staff will ring you if we don't know why your child is not in Ebbw Fawr. Please make sure that Ebbw Fawr has your current home and current mobile numbers. If we do not know why a student is absent, staff may visit your home to see what the reason for absence is. This is partly to make sure that you do not need any extra support.

Students returning from absence should bring a note for their form teacher stating the reason for the absence and the period of time for which they have been absent. Student Services will check whether this is an authorised or unauthorised absence.

## **Holidays - Gwyliau**

Parents should be aware that the Governing Body has adopted a policy which does not allow the Director or Phase Directors in his absence, to authorise holidays in term time unless it can be shown that there are special or exceptional circumstances for asking for the leave of absence.

The Director or Phase Directors will not grant leave automatically but will take into account:

- the age of the child;
- the time of the year proposed in relation to examinations etc.;
- the nature of the holiday;
- the child's attendance record to date.

If the student still goes on a holiday which has not been approved, it will count as an unauthorised absence. In all cases, a holiday form will need to be completed beforehand. Forms are available from Student Services and should be returned before holidays are booked.

## **Medical Welfare – Lles meddygol**

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community has qualified first aid cover for emergencies and accidents. However, our first aid staff are not qualified nurses. We work closely with a part-time Specialist Community Public Health Nurse who works on specific medical issues with identified students.

Where there is any medical illness or condition, parents/carers should consult their doctor as it is not our remit to diagnose or treat such conditions, other than following the stated medical advice from the practitioners involved.

Please note that the Learning Community does not distribute paracetamol or other such medication. We will supervise specific medication for identified students.

It is important that parents/carers inform Student Services and the Tutor/Leader of Learning of any known medical conditions.

## **Safeguarding – Diogelu Plant**

All Learning Community staff must report any such concerns to the Director or designated teachers for Child Protection. The Learning Community will then follow local authority guidance for seeking advice, reporting or referring any such cases. This may involve contact with: parents/carers; social care team; police child protection team and other relevant professionals.

Child abuse is a particularly sensitive issue and often involves, particularly for parents/carers, strong feelings and emotions. However, the Learning Community has a duty, in line with local authority guidance to act on any situation where abuse is suspected.

Parents/carers can seek advice from the Attendance/Welfare Officer at the Learning Community or from the appropriate outside agency.

The Learning Community's designated child protection lead is Mrs M Thomas.

The Learning Community has stringent safeguarding processes in place for the employment and control of other adults on the premises.

All visitors must report to reception on arrival.

## **Complaints - Cwynion**

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community is committed to dealing effectively with complaints. We aim to clarify any issues about which you are not sure. If possible we will put right any mistakes we have made and we will apologise. We aim to learn from mistakes and use that experience to improve what we do.

If you are approaching us for the first time you should give us an opportunity to respond. If you are not happy with our response then you may make your complaint using our agreed policy which is available on request. Most concerns can be settled quickly just by speaking to the relevant person in the organisation, without the need to use a formal procedure.

We believe that all complainants have a right to be heard, understood and respected. But teaching staff and governors have the same right. We expect you to be polite and courteous. We will not tolerate aggressive, abusive or unreasonable behaviour. We will also not tolerate unreasonable demands or unreasonable persistence or vexatious complaining.

## **Our commitment to you - Ein Hymroddiad i chi**

We will take your concerns and complaints seriously and, where we have made mistakes, will try to learn from them.

If you need help to make your concerns known we will try and assist you. If you are a young person and need extra assistance the Welsh Government has established MEIC which is a national advocacy and advice helpline for Students and young people. Advice and support can also be accessed from the Students' Commissioner for Wales. MEIC may be contacted by freephone: 0808 802 3456, or text: 84001. This service is operated 24 hours a day. The Students' Commissioner for Wales can be contacted by freephone: 0808 801 1000 (Monday to Friday 9a.m. to 5p.m.), text: 80 800 (start your message with COM) or e-mail: [advice@childcomwales.org.uk](mailto:advice@childcomwales.org.uk)

## **Keeping Parents/Carers Informed – Rhoi Gwybodaeth i Rieni/Gofalwyr**

One of our aims is to involve parents/carers closely in their child's education. The relationship between Form Tutor, child and parent/carer is the key to building strong and effective links. If parents/carers wish to talk to us, an appointment can be made at your convenience. We are frequently available in the evening as well as during the day.

The views of parents and carers are always welcome. Parents and carers should also feel able to discuss concerns they may have. By making an appointment in advance the Ebbw Fawr can guarantee the time and appropriate staff member to help.

## **Transport - Cludiant**

Transport arrangements are the responsibility of the local authority and they operate under the current policy shown below;

*Under Welsh Government guidelines, councils have a statutory duty to provide free home to Ebbw Fawr transport for students who live more than three miles from their nearest suitable maintained secondary Ebbw Fawr. The guidance is that the distance should be measured using the shortest available safe walking route. However, Blaenau Gwent Council has a more generous policy than that set out in the Welsh Government guidelines. Blaenau Gwent Council provides free transport for secondary aged students who live more than two miles from their nearest suitable Ebbw Fawr. Therefore, the council assists with the provision of free transport for students who qualify under the policy."*

If you wish to discuss this matter with Peter Butcher please contact him on telephone number 01495 355435 or by email [peter.butcher@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:peter.butcher@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

## **Travelling to and from the Learning Community Teithio i ac o'r Gymuned Ddysgu**

Students are reminded that they are members of the Learning Community from the moment they leave and return to their homes in Ebbw Fawr Learning Community uniform.

We request that students treat members of the general public with the respect and good humour that is expected every second of the Learning Community day. We expect the very best behaviour on buses and in the community and that no litter is dropped.

Remember that the reputation of the Learning Community can be harmed by thoughtless or silly behaviour that may cause harm to people and property. The Learning Community will take action if this is the case.

## **Cycles - Beiciau**

In the interest of both rider safety and the general public, we wish to emphasise the following:

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that a child's cycle is in safe roadworthy condition at all times. Parents/carers are strongly advised to ensure that their child wears appropriate and adequate protective clothing when cycling to and from Ebbw Fawr Learning Community (a British Standard approved helmet and reflective strips are recommended).

The Learning Community cannot accept responsibility for damage to or loss of cycles within the Learning Community grounds. All parents/carers are strongly advised to check they have appropriate insurance cover and provide a suitable security lock.

Cycles must not be ridden in the Learning Community grounds. At all times cyclists should ride safely and with consideration for other road users and pedestrians; observing appropriate sections of the Highway Code.

## **Refreshments – Lluniaeth**

We operate a cashless catering system where food can be bought in the cafeteria using a card which is pre-paid. This will reduce queues at lunchtime and provide anonymous free meals to eligible students.

Space is available for eating packed lunches. Food may not be consumed in classrooms or corridors or outside except in designated areas.

## **Break and Lunchtime – Amser Cinio ac Egwyl**

All students are expected to remain on the Learning Community premises, including lunchtimes unless special permission has been given.

Students are expected to carry out instructions by staff and ancillary helpers appointed for their safety. Ebbw Fawr Learning Community reserves the right to suspend students from eating in the Cafeteria if there is evidence of any serious misbehaviour.

## **Lockers - Loceri**

A locker will be available, on request, to each student in Year 7.

## **Electronic Devices – Dyfeisiau Electronig**

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community suggests that students do not bring valuable items to the Learning Community.

Phones must be turned off in lessons (not on silent). Any phones or music players that are visible or used in lessons (unless directed by a member of staff) will be confiscated and returned at the end of the lesson, or if a repeated offence, handed in to the Student Services where they can be collected at the end of the day.

Students have access to a telephone at Student Services should they need to contact home during the Learning Community day in an emergency. Parents needing to contact students in an emergency should do so via the Main Reception

Mobile phones, Cameras, ipods or any such recording device must not be used to film or record within the Learning Community building or grounds unless the Leadership Team have sanctioned a specific curriculum activity.

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community will treat any unauthorised use of such items seriously and investigate any reported incident with regard to cyber bullying. Ebbw Fawr Learning

Community will not accept liability for any such item of equipment being lost or stolen on the premises.

Examination Boards will disqualify any student from all their examinations if they are found to have a mobile phone in their possession during an examination.

## **Curriculum Structure – Strwythur y Cwricwlwm**

We aim to offer a range of experiences that will provide innovative and transformational opportunities for learning. The curriculum will develop students as independent, interdependent and confident learners.

All students are individuals and we are committed to ensuring that any and all barriers to learning are identified and removed, allowing every learner to reach their full potential.

Every effort will be made to ensure that no learner is left behind and equal emphasis will be placed on ensuring that all students including the more able, gifted and talented achieve to their full potential.

Our curriculum model will be based around both academic rigour and real life work based learning. The learning journey of each individual will be carefully constructed to suit the individual's preferred learning style and will involve the learner in planning that programme.

Students will be grouped in a variety of ways in order to best meet their individual needs. These will include: setting, banding and on occasions being taught as a form. We will pay particular attention to ensuring that Students are taught appropriately for their ability and cater for their various needs by providing a range of different teaching approaches.



## Curriculum- Cwricwlwm

Key Stage 3 Years 7 and 8	Year 9	Key Stage 4 Common Core - all students study the following subjects	Guided Pathways Students are able to follow a wide range of courses both vocational and academic which provide coherent pathways to post 16 education <b>Available GCSE courses</b>	BTEC
English	English	English Language GCSE English Literature GCSE	History	Art
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics GCSE Numeracy GCSE	Geography	ICT
Science	Science	Welsh (Full Course) GCSE Business Welsh	Art	Science
Technology	Technology	Science - (Single, Double or Triple Science)	Food Technology	Engineering
Modern Languages	Modern Languages	RE (Full Course GCSE)	Resistant Materials	Performing Arts
Springboard (Humanities & English in Year 7, for some students)	History	Physical Education	Modern Languages	Health & Social Care
PSHE	Geography	PSHE	Drama	
Art	RE	Welsh Baccalaureate	Business French	
Music	PSHE		Business Studies	
Drama	Art		Textiles	
Physical Education	Music		Physical Education	
ICT	Drama		Catering	
Welsh	Physical Education		Childcare	
History				
Geography				
RE				

## **Student Ambassadors – Llysgenhadon Myfyrwyr**

Students may apply for a position of Ambassador or as a member of the Senior Ambassador Team. Staff will also have the opportunity to support students they believe are worthy of the office, either through the Nomination Form or by adding supporting evidence to the Nomination Form. The role of Ambassador in Year 11 is an important one and is a position of considerable responsibility. It provides opportunities for students to develop leadership skills and introduce new ideas into the Learning Community.

## **Relationships - Perthnasau**

Underpinning all our work is a commitment to: treat other people with respect and consideration. We expect students to respect and follow our simple behaviour rules and instructions of staff. We expect students to treat each other with respect. Verbal or physical aggression, intimidation, racism or any form of bullying are not acceptable.

Ebbw Fawr will not tolerate bullying in any form. If an incident of bullying is reported it will be investigated and dealt with by an appropriate member of staff. This will usually be the Form Tutor or Year Leader. Very serious or repeated bullying will involve a senior member of staff and can lead to permanent exclusion. Our ability to deal effectively with bullying relies on those who are bullied telling a teacher that there is a problem. If at any stage parents suspect that bullying is taking place, it is essential that the Leader of Learning is informed.

Detentions are an important sanction. Short detentions last for 10 minutes either at break, lunchtime or after Ebbw Fawr. Longer detentions may last up to an hour and are usually after lessons end (24 hours notice is given.)

Serious incidents including violence or verbal abuse or behaviour threatening the health and safety of others or damage to property are likely to result in a period of isolation in our internal exclusion unit or a fixed term exclusion. Parents are always notified of a fixed term exclusion and expected to attend a meeting with a senior member of staff, on their return to Ebbw Fawr.

## **Student Information & Database Checks – Gwybodaeth Disgyblion a Gwiriadau Cronfa Ddata**

Important information regarding your child is kept on a confidential data bank in Ebbw Fawr Learning Community's server.

This information is vital in cases of emergency when parents or named representatives have to be contacted. It is also used in the drawing up of attendance registers for each tutor group and other statistical returns that we have to complete during the course of the year.

Students in Year 7 have already received a letter and Database form. This should have been completed and returned.

If this is not the case then we would ask that you do this as soon as possible. For students in Year 8 – 11, parents will receive a data check once a year. This should be checked carefully and amended as appropriate. The sheet should then be returned to the tutor.

## **Assessment and Reporting – Aseidiadau ac Adroddiadau**

Each national curriculum subject has its own set of challenging targets which cover a series of steps, or levels, on a common national scale. Within each subject, your child's progress is assessed against national standards based on eight levels and Exceptional Performance (EP). This helps teachers to plan lessons according to age and ability, and helps to assess students' progress.

Teachers assess students' work from day to day, in all subjects and activities. In particular, they will assess progress in the core subjects of English, Welsh (either as a first or second language), mathematics and science.

The teacher will decide which level on the national curriculum scale best reflects your child's progress in each of the core subjects. This assessment draws on all aspects of your child's work in Learning Community and in their homework.

## **Student Progress – Cynnydd Disgyblion**

You will receive a written report about your child's progress at least once a year. You will also have the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher. Two further interim reviews will provide additional information about progress throughout the year.

Information from the national curriculum assessment will form part of the yearly report. The yearly report will also include feedback from your child's teacher about strengths and areas for improvement, attendance and achievements. The report will form the basis for a discussion about your child's learning needs and next steps.

At the end of Key Stage 3 your child's report will include a national curriculum level for each subject. This will give you a 'snapshot' view of your child's progress and level of achievement against national curriculum standards. The report will also include some information about how the results for the whole Learning Community compare with local and national standards.

## **Rewards and Sanctions – Gwobrau a Chosbau**

There is a clear system for rewarding students in their academic, sporting and extra-curricular activities: These achievements are also celebrated during assemblies and at our Achievement Evenings.

The Learning Community has a series of sanctions which include:

- Agreed subject sanctions
- Subject, Year or Learning Community Detention
- Daily Report to a Tutor or Leader of Learning
- Isolation in the Learning Community
- Fixed Term Exclusion
- Permanent Exclusion

## **Additional Learning Needs – Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol**

In order to meet the needs of all our students, we follow well defined procedures for the identification and assessment of Students with additional learning needs. Parents are encouraged to speak to their child's class teacher or the Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCO) if they are concerned about their child's learning or behaviour. If we have concerns over learning needs parents will be advised and involved in regular discussions about their child's progress and about ways in which they can help at home. In the majority of cases, needs will be met by the subject teachers who will provide differentiated teaching within the classroom. In other cases, Students are withdrawn on a regular basis to work with staff on a specific Intervention Programme for an agreed length of time.

## **More Able and Talented – Mwy Galluog a Thalentog**

We have a dedicated member of staff responsible for more able and talented students whose role is to ensure that students are supported in their academic and extra-curricular provision.

## **Summary of Charging Policy – Crynodeb o Bolisi Prisio**

The Governors have adopted the Blaenau-Gwent's policy of charging for Learning Community activities. Parents may be asked to contribute to optional trips out of normal hours, but curriculum based activities are provided free, or a basic voluntary contribution may be requested.

## **PTFA of Ebbw Fawr Learning Community – PTFA Cymuned Ddysgu Ebwy Fawr**

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community has an active and supportive PTFA comprising of parents, staff and friends. The PTFA organises events for the students and parents to raise money and promote Ebbw Fawr in the wider community. The PTFA actively seeks new members and we would welcome you on to the committee.

## **Admission to Ebbw Fawr Learning Community – Derbyniad i Gymuned Ddysgu Ebwy Fawr**

Application forms are distributed by the local authority to all Year 6 students as part of the local Admissions Policy. Our admissions number is 240. These places are allocated on the following basis:

Students within the catchment areas will be offered a place, subject to the admission number not being breached. In such instances, places will be allocated in accordance with the Authority's over subscription criteria as follows:

- (i) Looked After Students will also be admitted to a chosen Ebbw Fawr outside of the normal admission round. The admission cannot be refused unless doing so would seriously prejudice the proposition of efficient education or the efficient use of resources.
- (ii) Student's resident within the Ebbw Fawr's designated catchment area.
- (iii) Students recommended for admission on medical grounds, supported by a Medical Officer or psychological or special educational needs reasons. These must be confirmed by the LEA's professional advisers.
- (iv) Students who have older siblings (brothers or sisters) living at the same household attending Ebbw Fawr at the date of admission will be admitted in preference to those who do not;
- (v) Where there is more than one case as in (ii), priority to be assessed on the basis of those Students closest in age to the elder siblings already at Ebbw Fawr at the date of admission;
- (vi) After taking account of categories (i) to (iv), priority will be based on closeness to Ebbw Fawr, measured by nearest available walking route. This will be measured on the Authority's GIS (Geographical Information System) database;
- (vii) Should admission to Ebbw Fawr not be possible due to class size or other requirements, transport will be provided to the next nearest school with available places (subject to distance limits).
- (viii) When considering whether a child lives in Ebbw Fawr's catchment area, the address considered is that of the parent or legal guardian, irrespective of a family's domestic arrangements, i.e. the address of another relative or child minder etc. must not be given. In certain cases it may be necessary to provide evidence relating to the child(ren) in question, to show the home address of the child(ren).
- (ix) Subject to class size and other requirements, students' resident outside the Ebbw Fawr's catchment area will be admitted if the admissions number of the Ebbw Fawr has not been exceeded. In the event of over-subscription from outside the

catchment area of the Ebbw Fawr, the sub-criteria described at (i) – (iv) above will be applied to prioritise admissions.

For further information please contact Emma Jones 01495 355412 at Blaenau Gwent.

## **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Students are encouraged to take part in the many extra-curricular activities which exist in the Ebbw Fawr. There is a very strong tradition of music, drama and sporting excellence. A variety of educational visits are organised. Foreign visits, skiing opportunities and visits' to support work covered in the curriculum are arranged. A large number of students participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. This involves completing four different sections: volunteering, physical activity, skills and expedition, all of which have their own challenges.

The Ebbw Fawr is committed to an extensive fund raising programme in support of local, national and international charities.

## **Pastoral Care**

We believe that the pastoral care your child receives is incredibly important and underpins the ethos of care from 3 – 16. Our dedicated tutors create a homely and supportive environment and competition is encouraged through our sporting house system. A robust network of support completes the pastoral provision for students lead by our Leaders of Learning.

## **Student Information & Database Checks**

Important information regarding your child is kept on a confidential data bank in Ebbw Fawr Learning Community's server.

This information is vital in cases of emergency when parents or named representatives have to be contacted. It is also used in the drawing up of attendance registers for each tutor group and other statistical returns that we have to complete during the course of the year.

Students in Year 7 have already received a latter and Database form. This should have been completed and returned.

If this is not the cause then we would ask that you do this as soon as possible. For students in Year 8 – 11, parents will receive a data check sheet later this term. This should be checked carefully and amended as appropriate. The sheet should then be returned to the tutor.

## **Equal Opportunities**

The Ebbw Fawr is committed to equal opportunities for all, regardless of gender, race, religion, age, disability or any cause of potential discrimination.

## **Collective Worship**

An act of collective worship is held within the scheduled assembly programme. They are non-denominational. The emphasis is on the development of moral and spiritual values. It is the intention to foster a sense of respect and give pupils an opportunity to reflect upon the themes explored in light of their own experiences.



## **Religious Studies**

The teaching of Religious Studies is compulsory throughout Key Stages 3, 4 and is aimed at enabling students to develop as individuals and as citizens in a diverse, multicultural society. All students in Years 10 and 11 follow a GCSE course in Religious Education. It is seldom that children are withdrawn from these lessons by parental request, although that right exists. Parents who wish to withdraw their children from either Religious Studies or collective worship, in whole or in part, should contact the Director. Pupils who are exempt will follow an alternative programme of study.

## **Sex & Relationships Education**

Sex and Relationships Education aims to support and help students through their physical, emotional, moral and spiritual development. As well as facilitating communication about sex, sexuality and sexual health, students are made aware of the benefits of delaying sexual activity.

It helps students to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives. It enables them to understand the importance of stable, loving personal relationships with friendship groups and the wider community. It prepares students for the opportunities and experiences of adult life and encourages the acquisition of skills and attitudes so they can manage their relationships in a responsible manner

## **Use of the Welsh Language**

In September 2000 Welsh was introduced as a compulsory subject within the National Curriculum in Key Stage 3 (years 7-9) and Key Stage 4 (years 10 and 11). At KS4 students have the opportunity to choose either Welsh as an optional subject leading to a full GCSE qualification or study the GCSE Applied Welsh short course option. Through Cwricwlwm Cymreig and the Ebbw Fawr's bilingual policy, the Welsh language is used and promoted. All staff and students are encouraged to use incidental Welsh inside and outside the classroom. Welsh language signs are visible throughout the Ebbw Fawr and the language is used in Ebbw Fawr assemblies in order to promote and emphasise the bilingual society in which we live.

## **Homework**

Homework is considered essential to consolidate work done at Ebbw Fawr, to prepare for future lessons, to research information and to practice skills learned at Ebbw Fawr. It is seen to be part of the students' development in independent learning.

## **Careers Education and Guidance**

Careers education is taught throughout the years, across all curriculum subjects. There is the opportunity for students in years 9 10 and 11 to have counselling with a careers adviser; and in years 10 and 11, students are also offered the chance to undertake work experience.

## Safety and Security

Security is overseen by the Site Manager.

Staff are required to wear identity badges and visitors are required to report to reception where they are provided with identification badges. Students are encouraged to report any unidentified strangers and staff are briefed on the procedure to deal with such situations. Risk assessments are regularly completed and reviewed with any health and safety risks being resolved. Fire regulations are met and regular inspections undertaken together with zoned fire drills.

During drop off and pick-up times the approach roads to both the Primary Phase and Secondary Phase site can get very busy. Students are constantly reminded of the need for great care in crossing the roads and parents can assist by reinforcing this rule and can help by not parking their cars in areas where the view of oncoming traffic can be obscured.

***Parents/Carers are particularly asked not to obstruct the front entrance by dropping off or collecting their Students within the double yellow lines.***

## Resources and Facilities

We have extensive networked facilities which include state-of-the-art laptops and projectors. A variety of pc and mac based equipment is available.

In addition to the fully equipped ICT rooms, all curriculum areas are networked and have their own ICT facilities.

Our resources are available via the Hwb to ensure continuity for students while working at home.

The Hwb will provide:

- a variety of learning resources to help students study and revise;
- information to help students with course work;
- useful linked sites for specific subjects to broaden subject knowledge including access to newspapers around the world for up-to-date information;

# The Curriculum

## What is my child learning?

Students in this age group follow the programmes of study set out in the national curriculum for Key Stage 3. Their education builds on the experiences and learning gained in the primary phase of Ebbw Fawr and prepares them for making decisions about examination courses they will follow later in their secondary education.

The curriculum in Key Stage 3 is designed around subjects and skills. It will provide a firm foundation in language, mathematics and science and will give Students the opportunity to achieve their best within a broad and balanced curriculum. As part of the year 9 curriculum, pupils will have the opportunity to undertake a one year Vocational or Level 2/GCSE qualification. This may then form part of their part of their Learning during Keystage 4.

Developing good literacy and numeracy skills, and their use in a wide range of situations, is at the core of learning for students at Ebbw Fawr.

We want all young people to be able to read, write and use numbers effectively and confidently to support their future choices in learning and life.

Students will follow a rich and varied curriculum designed to give them opportunities to learn about:

- English • Welsh or Welsh as a second language
- Mathematics • Science
- Design and Technology
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- a modern foreign language • History
- Geography • Music • Art and Design
- Physical Education (PE).

Students must also study religious education (RE) and all secondary tutors have to provide some personal and social education (PSE), careers and the world of work, and sex education.

You can find more information about education and the curriculum in Wales at [www.wales.gov.uk/educationandskills](http://www.wales.gov.uk/educationandskills)

## **English or Welsh**

Students will take part in a programme of speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Activities will make sure students develop and extend their abilities as listeners, viewers and speakers.

Students will read widely for pleasure, interest and information and to develop and explain an informed personal opinion about their reading.

The experiences presented to them include opportunities to take part in drama and role-play activities.

They will learn to adapt their language to suit different purposes and audiences, using an appropriate level of formality.

## **Welsh second language**

As students become more confident in speaking Welsh, they build on their skills, knowledge and understanding through a programme of oracy, reading and writing.

Students' abilities as listeners, viewers and speakers will be developed and extended and they will speak with increasing fluency.

The experiences presented to them include opportunities to take part in drama and role-play activities.

They will be able to present personal opinion about their reading material, responding appropriately to content and style.

## **Mathematics**

Students extend their mathematical thinking by solving mathematical problems, working with increasing confidence and flexibility in solving unfamiliar problems or problems in unfamiliar contexts, spoken and written work, explaining their reasoning to others, and using contexts from across the whole range of mathematics and as applied to real-life problems.

Students will extend their understanding of reasoned argument when they come across a number of ways of solving problems by using algebra and geometry. They develop a deeper understanding of the properties of shape, position and movement and collect, represent, analyse and interpret realistic data.

## **Science**

Ebbw Fawr will teach students to apply their scientific skills, knowledge and understanding to design strategies, solve problems and offer explanations, relating scientific ideas to the information about them, including current issues.

They will be given opportunities to study the work of scientists and to recognise the role of experimental data, creative thinking and values in their work and in developing scientific ideas.

## **Modern foreign languages**

Students will have the opportunity to develop communication skills in a modern foreign language. The specific language or languages offered will be decided by individual schools.

By developing their oracy, reading and writing skills, Students will also develop intercultural understanding and a sense of living in the world, and will learn to appreciate different cultures and communities and compare them with their own. They will explore the similarities and differences between other languages and English and Welsh.

Students will be encouraged to appreciate that the ability to understand and communicate in another language is a lifelong skill for learning, leisure and employment in this country and throughout the world.

## **Design and technology**

While taking account of sustainability and environmental issues in the twenty-first century, we will teach students to design and make products by combining their skills with knowledge and understanding. They will be encouraged to make decisions based on the values that are the basis of society, helping them become active and informed citizens. They will be made aware of human achievement and big ideas that have shaped the world.

## **Information and communication technology (ICT)**

Students will build on their skills, knowledge and understanding by developing a growing awareness of how relevant and believable information is and begin to identify and question bias in sources.

They will be taught to become increasingly independent in how they use safe and suitable information sources, both ICT and non-ICT, and how to use a range of ICT skills and resources to find, analyse, communicate, present and share information. They will become increasingly aware of the social, ethical, moral and economic effects of ICT in wider society.

## **History**

Students will learn by questioning, and focusing on the main political, economic, social and cultural features of selected periods from the histories of Wales and Britain during the last millennium. They will learn about the different experiences people have had in each period, and develop their understanding of the causes of events and how things change over time.

## **Music**

Students will get involved with and enjoy making music by performing, composing and appraising. They will develop musical skills including singing and playing instruments, and practising, improvising, composing and arranging music. They will also learn to listen to and appraise music.

## **Geography**

Students will expand on their knowledge and understanding of how processes shape both natural and human landscapes. They will carry out investigations, use maps, gather data, and analyse and synthesise information.

They will be encouraged to make informed judgements about everyday issues, develop and reflect on their own views and opinions and develop a sense of responsibility for the environment and their role in the world.

## **Art and design**

Students develop an increased ability to make a connection between how they create their own work and the work of other artists, craft-workers and designers. They will become increasingly independent in their choice of materials and processes, and from past experiences they will gain confidence in using visual, tactile and sensory language.

## **Physical education (PE)**

As students' confidence grows, their ability to take part in activities that become technically more demanding will also increase. They will learn the benefits of working with others to strengthen a team or partnership in order to beat others.

They will also learn to practise for events.

The Physical Education Department at Ebbw Fawr aims to promote an ethos of an active and healthy lifestyle for all.

Our **Competitive Sports** program offers opportunities in a broad selection of team and individual games within the curriculum with exit strategies for further development and enrichment. We have recently been accredited with the prestigious WRU "Ebbw Fawr of Rugby" status. In addition, the department has a thriving **Creative Sports** program with both gymnastics and dance being very popular with students, furthermore our trampolining club boasts several Welsh and British champions.

We also provide exciting and vibrant **Adventurous Activity** opportunities making use of the excellent facilities at Parc Bryn Bach. Finally, our **Health and Wellbeing** program of study encourages all students to maintain an active lifestyle and to this end it remains our aim for every student to take part in at least one extracurricular sport based activity each week.

We believe that P.E. should cater for students of all ability and we offer a range of courses that are able to support and challenge everyone. Already, with only one year as Ebbw Fawr, we have had a number of significant successes; we aim to broaden these whilst aiming for every student to leave Ebbw Fawr with an accredited P.E. related qualification.

### **What else will my child learn?**

Alongside the national curriculum subjects all Students will follow a programme of religious education (RE), personal and social education (PSE) and sex education.

Essentially, it is our responsibility to plan and deliver a broad, balanced programme of RE, PSE and sex education designed to meet the specific needs of learners.

## **Literacy and Numeracy**

The new National Literacy and Numeracy Framework (LNF), introduced on a statutory basis from September 2013, supports students aged 5 to 14 to develop their literacy and numeracy skills.

All students will be supported to develop their literacy and numeracy skills. These skills are not just about learning English, Welsh and mathematics, they are about being able to use skills in different situations and across a wide range of activities.

Literacy describes a set of skills, including speaking listening, reading and writing, which allow us to make sense of the world around us.

Numeracy is based on mathematical basics. Numeracy describes the set of skills needed to tackle real-world problems in a number of situations by using numerical reasoning in order to plan how to solve the problem, and then carrying out the mathematical procedures to find the solution.

The Literacy and Numeracy Framework identifies annual literacy and numeracy expectations and will help students develop literacy and numeracy skills through all subjects in the national curriculum and by using a wide range of activities.

### **What are reading and numeracy tests?**

The best way to ensure that learners make good progress is to make sure that they never fall behind. This can only be achieved by regular monitoring and assessment of a learner's performance and that is why, from May 2013, all learners in Wales in year two through to year nine will sit tests in reading and numeracy.

The tests will last for about an hour and they are constructed in such a way that some learners will be able to sit them in "chunks".

This is especially important for younger learners and learners with additional learning needs. Depending on the requirements of individual learners, they can be delivered on a year group, class or small group basis.



## **Reading Tests**

The reading tests will span two year groups (Year 2 – Year 3, Year 4 – Year 5, Year 6 – Year 7 and Year 8 – Year 9). New tests will be developed so no learner will sit the same test twice.

The tests will consist of a number of passages followed by short, closed response and multiple choice type questions. However, we may use other tests to further investigate learners' strengths and weaknesses.

## **Numeracy Tests**

The numeracy test is split into two sections. One section assesses knowledge of numerical procedures such as addition, division and multiplication whilst the other, the reasoning test, assesses learners' ability to apply this knowledge to everyday problems.

## **How can I support my child's learning?**

Parental involvement is vitally important in helping students to learn. You can help your child's learning by getting actively involved, not just at home but as part of your everyday lives together. Take an interest and talk about what topics they are following at Ebbw Fawr and try to make sure they have a quiet place to study and do homework.

### **Ideas for learning together at home**

- Encouraging your child to read, even for just 10 minutes a day, can make a real difference. Reading material can vary, encourage your child to read not just books and magazines but also websites, apps, games and so on.
- Keeping up-to-date with the news will help students develop their awareness of the local, national and world community. Try to encourage them to read the newspaper or web-based news once or twice a week.
- When going through household bills, discuss with them what the bill shows and the various options on how to pay. This is a valuable life skill.
- Involve students in planning trips, holidays or events and even in household tasks and DIY.
- Try and relate some of the family weekend activities to what they are currently being taught at Ebbw Fawr. It will help make learning more fun.
- Remember, activities that involve using the internet, games and sports all offer valuable and fun opportunities to apply skills and knowledge.
- Encourage your child to do their best with their homework and complete it on time.

### **Do students with special educational needs follow the National Curriculum?**

Most students, including those with additional learning needs, will be able to follow the national curriculum. However, at times, the Headteacher may decide that all or part of the national curriculum should not apply, temporarily, to a child with special educational needs. In very exceptional cases for some students, such as those with Statements of Special Educational Needs issued by the local authority, it may be decided that the national curriculum should not apply on a permanent basis. This is known as 'disapplication'.

You can also find out more about what is provided for students with additional learning needs at [www.wales.gov.uk/educationandskills](http://www.wales.gov.uk/educationandskills)

## **Can I withdraw my child from the national curriculum?**

There is no parental right to withdraw students from national curriculum subjects, or from the arrangements to assess students' progress in these subjects. However, you do have the right to withdraw your child from religious education and any sex education which may be provided.

## **The national curriculum levels**

### **National Curriculum Outcomes 1, 2 and 3**

Teachers may report on progress for Students who are progressing towards the first step on the national curriculum using the three 'outcome' steps that come before achievement at Level 1.

### **National Curriculum Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4**

For some Students, performance below the expected level may be a huge achievement.

### **National Curriculum Level 5**

This is the expected level for Students at the end of Key Stage 3 – most but not all Students will achieve this level.

### **National Curriculum Levels 6, 7 and 8**

Achievement at level 6 or beyond shows they are achieving above average.

### **Exceptional Performance (EP)**

Some Students might be expected to achieve significantly above the expected level.

### **N – Not awarded a level**

Very rarely there are circumstances that prevent Ebbw Fawr from having enough knowledge and evidence on which to base a teacher assessment.

### **D – Disapplied**

In some circumstances the Headteacher may decide that all or part of the national curriculum does not apply to an individual, for example because of a child's special educational needs.

It is important to remember that different students will achieve at different rates, but at the end of Key Stage 3 most students are expected to achieve Level 5 on the national curriculum scale in each core subject.

For information about the national curriculum level descriptors visit [www.wales.gov.uk/educationandskills](http://www.wales.gov.uk/educationandskills)

### **Reading and numeracy test scoring and reporting**

The tests will be marked in Ebbw Fawr and learners' raw scores will be converted to standardised scores and age-equivalent scores. The standardised score will show how your child's performance in the test compares to other students of the same age who have sat the test in Wales. The age-equivalent score will tell you whether your child's reading age (or equivalent for numeracy) is equivalent to, above or below their actual age, based on how he or she performed in the test. You will receive these scores in a report at the end of the academic year.

The scores act as a guide to how your child is performing in reading and numeracy. Your child's teacher will give a fuller picture of his or her performance in these areas in the end of term report.

## **Key Stage 4**

### **A smooth move into Key Stage 4**

Students in the final two years of compulsory education will follow a curriculum including English, Welsh, Mathematics and Science. They will also have to continue to study Physical Education, Religious Education, Personal and Social Education, Sex Education and to learn about careers and the world of work.

Most will also follow a choice of courses that lead to qualifications such as General Certificates of Secondary Education (GCSEs) or vocational qualifications relevant to particular sectors.

The Welsh Government recently reviewed qualifications for 14 to 19-year-olds in Wales and will be making some changes to qualifications for courses starting in September 2015. The Ebbw Fawr Learning Community will offer lots of information and support to young people and their parents/carers to help them make good decisions about their education.

### **Options at Key Stage 4**

In the last year of Key Stage 3 (Year 9), young people in secondary schools maintained by local authorities will be offered at least 30 choices of courses to study. At least five of these will be vocational or more career- or practical-based courses.

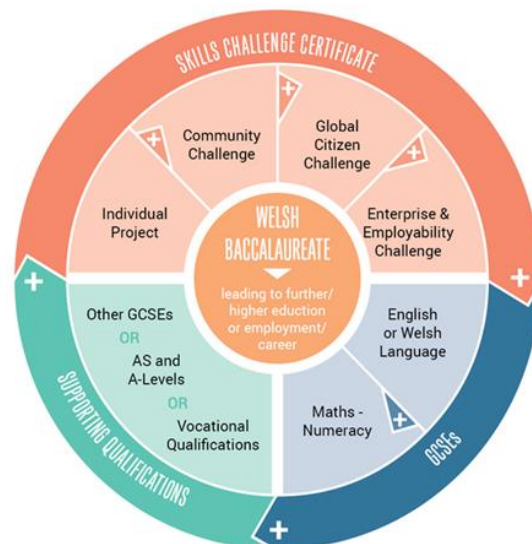
This allows them to follow a broad and balanced curriculum and to choose courses that both interest and motivate them. This should help them to achieve good outcomes at the end of Key Stage 4.

Young people in Key Stage 4 will also have access to learner support services, including learning coaching, to help them overcome any barriers to their learning.

## Welsh Baccalaureate

Ebbw Fawr offers the Welsh Baccalaureate at both Foundation and National in KS4, which includes the following areas of study:

<p>Individual Project</p>	<p>The purpose of the Individual Project is to develop learners' skills, through carrying out a research activity in an area of personal interest or one that reflects future educational or career aspirations. During the Individual Project learners will explicitly develop skills in Digital Literacy, Planning and Organisation and Critical Thinking and Problem Solving and apply them in an appropriate manner.</p>
<p>Enterprise &amp; Employability Challenge</p>	<p>The purpose of the Enterprise and Employability Challenge is to develop learners' skills, whilst providing opportunities for learners to develop enterprising skills and attributes and enhance employability. During the Enterprise and Employability Challenge learners will explicitly develop skills in Digital Literacy, Creativity and Innovation and Personal Effectiveness and apply them in an appropriate manner.</p>
<p>Global Citizenship Challenge</p>	<p>The purpose of the Global Citizenship Challenge is to develop learners' skills, whilst providing opportunities to understand and respond appropriately to global issues. During the Global Citizenship Challenge learners will explicitly develop skills of Critical Thinking and Problem Solving and Creativity and Innovation and apply them in an appropriate manner.</p>
<p>Community Challenge</p>	<p>The purpose of the Community Challenge is to develop learners' skills, whilst encouraging learners to identify, develop and participate in opportunities that will benefit the local community. During the Community Challenge learners will explicitly develop skills of Planning and Organisation and Personal Effectiveness and apply them in an appropriate manner.</p>



For more information about the Welsh Baccalaureate visit:

[www.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/qualificationsinwales/qualificationtypesinwales/welshbac](http://www.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/qualificationsinwales/qualificationtypesinwales/welshbac)

and for information about the Review of Qualifications visit:

[www.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/qualificationsinwales](http://www.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/qualificationsinwales)

## **Considering careers and the world of work in Key Stage 4**

### **What can my child expect?**

- Careers and the world of work is an important part of our curriculum and in preparing students for their future move into employment. Although there is no requirement for Ebbw Fawr to provide work experience, we believe we should make sure that students have opportunities to learn about the world of work, the skills, knowledge and qualifications employers need, and the range of careers choices available.
- Work experience is an important part of learning for students aged 14 to 19. It gives them opportunities to improve their knowledge and understanding of, and the skills that they will need for, the world of work, as well as of enterprise and entrepreneurship. This could include students carrying out placements with an employer.

### **Ebbw Fawr Calendar**

Parents will receive a calendar which is also on the website during the first week of the Autumn term which will give dates of all exams, reviews and reports as well as other information.