

6TH FORM PROSPECTUS

A Community School Committed to Excellence

Ysgol Gymunedol wedi'i hymrwymo i ragoriaeth

www.treorchycomp.org.uk



WELCOME

I am delighted that you are considering Treorchy Comprehensive School, Sixth Form Centre of Excellence as the next step in your educational journey. At Treorchy, we offer a combination of excellent teaching, academic challenge, sound advice and high quality pastoral care from an experienced team to ensure that students have every opportunity to maximise their potential. In addition, our inclusive and supportive approach to school life ensures that all students settle very well, including those who choose to join us for the first time at this stage in their education.

The Sixth Form at Treorchy is very well-established and has a proven track record of supporting Post-16 students in successfully making the transition to Higher Education, apprenticeship, employment and further study. For example, our 'Seren' programme, coupled with our ambitious aspirations and expectations, has supported students in gaining places in the best universities in the country.

The school offers a broad range of academic and vocational programmes of study, complemented by excellent facilities and resources, including our newly refurbished Sixth Form Centre which has dedicated Sixth Form facilities on the ground floor with extensive IT provision and areas for study and socialising.

During their time in the Sixth Form, students are encouraged to participate in as wide a range of enrichment activities as possible to build confidence and develop leadership skills. Our extra-curricular programme is extensive and encompasses activities as diverse as sport, drama, music, dance and travel. The school is also very proud of its Combined Cadet Force and is one of only two public sector schools in Wales to offer this provision.

I very much hope that you choose to join us for your Post-16 studies and know that our caring and welcoming environment, together with our team of highly-skilled, truly dedicated and well-qualified staff will provide you with an enriching and fulfilling experience throughout your time in the Sixth Form.

Mrs Jennifer Ford

Headteacher





VISION AND VALUES

At Treorchy, we pride ourselves on being a community school committed to excellence and the Sixth Form lies at the very heart of that community.

Our values as a Sixth Form Centre of Excellence are founded on providing a student-centred education allowing every student who joins us to develop intellectually, morally and socially. As students continue their education from Key Stage 4 to Key Stage 5, it is vital that they take responsibility for and ownership of their learning and that they develop the resilience needed to make the transition to adulthood. We aim to provide a challenging, yet caring environment in which this transition can take place.

As students move into higher-education, further training and employment, what they learn and practise outside the classroom becomes even more important. We will equip students with the skills necessary for independent and interdependent learning and all students are encouraged to make full use of their study time to consolidate their learning by undertaking further research and reading. We will also ensure that both students and parents receive regular feedback on progress and are supported in taking their learning forward.

The most important element of our Sixth Form provision is, without a doubt, the relationships we create with our students. Throughout the transition process in Key Stage 4, during their time in Key Stage 5 and beyond, we aspire to build positive relationships with all students based on trust, mutual respect and bespoke support and guidance.

Choosing to continue your studies into Sixth Form is a hugely important decision. Our ethos, passion and commitment to developing students as knowledgeable, aspirational and resilient learners will provide the very best foundation for the future.





PASTORAL SUPPORT

We recognise that the transition into Sixth Form is challenging and can be daunting for some. We aim to support students, not only in adapting to the demands of learning Post-16, but also in managing their own learning.

The Sixth Form Pastoral Team is led by the Director of Sixth Form who has overall responsibility for the achievement, pastoral care and welfare of students in Key Stage 5. In addition, there are two Deputy Directors of Sixth Form who each take pastoral responsibility for the wellbeing and achievement of pupils in either Year 12 or Year 13. Students also have regular contact with a Learning Coach. The Sixth Form Administrative Assistant and the Librarian are permanently based in the Sixth Form Centre as is the Key Stage 5 Welsh Baccalaureate Co-ordinator ensuring that pupils enjoy a comprehensive support system at all times during the school day. The school also has a dedicated Careers Officer and Counselling Service.

The Sixth Form team, alongside subject staff, monitor each individual student closely against their targets and aspirations. Attendance is also closely monitored as we know that excellent attendance is vital to success and good habits in life and work.

Students performing below expected levels and expectations will be mentored to help them to achieve their potential. Parents of any student giving cause for concern will be contacted. Parents' Evenings are held annually for students and progress reports are sent home half-termly. In addition, all students will receive regular progress and wellbeing meetings with the Sixth Form team.



In summary, the following key aspects are in place to support the wellbeing of our students:

- Extensive pastoral support across the whole school for student wellbeing and achievement
- A dedicated team of experienced staff based in the Sixth Form Centre
- An induction programme for all students
- A Careers Officer, offering support and guidance on career opportunities
- A dedicated school counselling service to offer individual guidance and support

POST-16 ADMISSIONS PROCESS

During Year 11, all students currently at Treorchy Comprehensive School and those who wish to join us from other schools will take part in an induction programme which will allow them to formulate their plans for Post-16 study and receive appropriate support and guidance.

The Induction Programme will include:

- Sixth Form Options Evenings for students and parents
- Discussions with subject staff
- An informal interview with a member of the Sixth Form team
- Further advice and guidance on enrolment

There is no minimum entry requirement to join the Sixth Form at Treorchy but the options guidance given to students will depend on the qualifications they are predicted to achieve at GCSE as well as their career aspirations. Individual subjects will have entry requirements which students will need to have met prior to commencing the course. These are listed in the subjects section of our prospectus. In certain circumstances, students who do not meet the listed criteria may be admitted to a subject at the school's discretion.

Official enrolment will take place on GCSE results day. No commitment is made by the student or school until the enrolment details are finalised between both.



OPTION CHOICES

The Sixth Form is an open Sixth Form which welcomes students of all abilities. However it is important students are committed to an acceptable level of attendance, punctuality and conduct as this will give them the best possible chance of success as they embark on the next stage of their learning.

Post 16 study is demanding and students will need to have demonstrated their ability to cope with the courses they are considering. As part of the option process, all students applying to the Sixth Form will receive an interview at the beginning of Year 12. The focus of the interview is to reflect on students' potential options and their commitment to Sixth Form study. This interview is an important part of the Sixth Form induction programme.

As a guide, students would be expected to obtain grades A*-C at GCSE/Pass BTEC L2 in the subject they wish to study at AS level / BTEC L3 (all entry requirements for the different subject options can be found in the subject area of the prospectus). It is possible, in some instances, to study a subject in Years 12 and 13 that has not been studied in Key Stage 4 e.g. Business, IT, Engineering. In these cases the overall GCSE performance of the student will be taken into account when deciding suitability for the course.

All Post-16 pupils are required to study the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate in addition to their chosen option subjects.

USE OF INDEPENDENT STUDY

All AS/A level subject areas have 8 lessons per fortnight of teacher facilitated contact time as part of the timetable. Level 2 and 3 BTEC courses will vary between 8 and 24 lessons of contact time per fortnight depending on the qualification studied. The Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate will have timetabled contact time also.

One key difference between Year 11 and Year 12 and 13 is the allocation of Independent Study periods on student timetables. During these periods, students are encouraged to work independently and productively, complete homework and carry out research. Study provision in the Sixth Form Centre is excellent and students are provided with areas where they can study silently or in collaboration with others making use of the dedicated Sixth Form IT facilities. In addition, they have full use of the Sixth Form Common Room and Sixth Form Coffee Shop.

It is our firm belief that success at Key Stage 5 is largely dependent on a student's ability to manage their Independent Study time effectively and that students will reach their full potential, only if they begin to develop good working habits at the beginning of Year 12. Sixth Form staff are always available to support students in study periods and ensure that they are making effective use of their time.



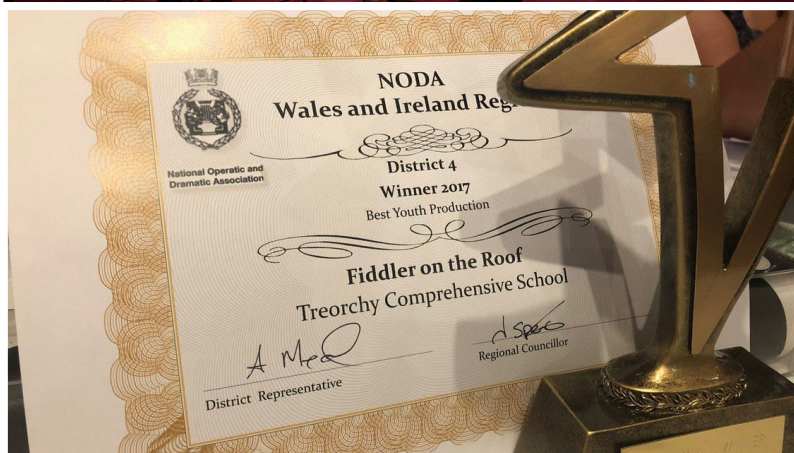
EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

During their time in the Sixth Form, students are encouraged to participate in as wide a range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities as possible. The aim is to build confidence by allowing pupils to have new experiences and also to take on leadership roles. Sixth Form pupils make a huge contribution to supporting the learning of younger pupils through their coaching roles in Reading Support, MAT mentoring, and Prep sessions to name a few. Sixth Form pupils also chair many of the school working parties such as the Eco and Food and Fitness Committees as well as leading the School Council, Senedd Ysgol. In addition, charity events form a large part of the Sixth Form community and Year 13 students organise the Sixth Form Ball which is certainly a highlight of the school year.

Our Sixth Form Stars programme recognises and rewards the contribution that our Sixth Form students make to the wider school community.

The extra-curricular and enrichment activities offered by the school include:

- Buddy System
- Charity Work
- Community Involvement
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Engineering Education in Wales Scheme
- Football Academy
- Netball Academy
- Performing Arts Activities
- Rugby Academy
- Sixth Form Ball Committee
- UCAS Events
- Careers Events
- CLSA Coaching Award
- Customer Care Workshops
- Eco Committee
- Fair Trade Committee
- Maths and Science Peer Mentoring
- Orchestra and School Band
- Pupil Voice
- School Council
- Sixth Form Council
- Charities Committee
- Combined Cadet Force
- Debating Society
- Employability Skills Workshops
- Food and Fitness Group
- Music and Drama Productions
- Peer Mentoring
- Reading Support
- Seren Hub and MAT activities
- Sporting Activities



SPORTS ACADEMIES

Our Post 16 sports academies allow pupils to undertake designated timetable sessions in Football, Rugby or Netball. These sessions run in conjunction with option subjects pupils have chosen to study.

- Football (In Partnership with Cambrian Trust)
- Rugby - Coaches Chris Jones and Neil Boobyer
- Netball

Pupils have full use of the Strength and Conditioning facilities during their free lessons and can also use those facilities before or after school.

Our elite performers (County, Regional, International) manage to uphold their commitments to their relevant elite sport pathway as well as completing their studies with us. We often liaise with various agencies on player development discussing training programmes, skill development and performance workload.

The sessions cover the following areas:

- Development of individual skills, fitness, team tactics and strategy
- Coaching, game planning and match analysis
- Season planning, periodization and player profiling
- Regular fixtures and entry into Welsh Cup and League competitions



DESTINATIONS

As a Sixth Form Centre of Excellence, we take great pride in preparing students for the next step in their learning journey beyond school, be it applying to university or for further study, apprenticeship or employment. Our dedicated and highly experienced Sixth Form team will work very closely with students to support their preparation for application and interview and students in Key Stage 5 also have advice and guidance from a number of outside providers including Careers Wales.

At Treorchy Comprehensive School, Sixth Form Centre of Excellence, we will provide:

- Careers events tailored to individual needs and aspirations
- A UCAS guidance programme for all students from the summer of Year 12
- Information and guidance sessions on student finance
- A mock interview programme in preparation for both university and employment
- Dedicated support for more able and talented students through the school's MAT programme, the RCT Post-16 MAT provision and close links with Welsh Government's Seren Hub
- Work experience placements for all pupils in Year 12
- Information evenings for parents on Student Finance and the UCAS process



SEREN NETWORK

Treorchy Comprehensive School is proud to be part of the Seren Network – a Welsh Government initiative designed to support Wales' highest achieving Sixth Form pupils in fulfilling their academic potential and gaining access to the most competitive universities. Enrolment criteria is set by the Seren Network and is based on GCSE results. Students who are invited to join the network will enjoy the benefits of receiving masterclasses in their chosen subject areas, bespoke support and guidance for application and interview and participating in events and visits tailored to the needs of the most academically able.

EMA

Some pupils may be entitled to receive Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). EMA is an income-assessed weekly allowance of £30 to help students with the cost of further education. It is paid every two weeks directly into the student's bank account and is dependent on the student maintaining good levels of attendance and progress. Receipt of EMA will not affect any benefits which are currently paid to the student's household.

Application forms can be collected from the school and further information can be found by visiting www.studentfinancewales.co.uk.





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TREORCHY
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL



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