

## Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

### YSGOL GYFUN GYMUNEDOL PENWEDDIG, ABERYSTWYTH

#### Brief Background for the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

- The school has 660 pupils on roll.
- The school shares a catchment of 23 primary schools with Penglais School which is an English medium school
- Just over a half of the 660 pupils come from homes where little or no Welsh is spoken
- The parent body's linguistic profile reflects that of the pupils'
- There is a low take-up of free school meals (about 3%)
- Curriculum and language policy:
  - English is taught and assessed in English
  - Pupils choose whether they wish to study and be examined in mathematics and science through the medium of Welsh or English – the proportion choosing to do so varies from year to year. Over the last seven years this has ranged from 39% to 65% of the intake opting to study these two subjects through the medium of Welsh
  - All other subjects are taught and assessed through the medium of Welsh
- A high proportion of pupils stay on into the sixth form with a typical return of 60-65%.
- Post A-level a high proportion of pupils goes on to Higher Education. A significant number, the majority, stay in Wales (mainly Cardiff for general degrees as well as Trinity College Carmarthen and Bangor). Many go on to study in England (some Scotland and Ireland) and most HE institutions in England have received Penweddig pupils over the years. A steady flow of pupils have also gained places at Oxbridge including mathematicians and scientists who studied these subjects through the medium of Welsh at school.
- The school has an excellent academic record and a summary of performance in the all-Wales context, based on raw data, is also included with this briefing. The data shows that the school is consistently in the top twenty schools in Wales.
- The school is committed to providing pupils with a rounded education and believes in the complementary roles of academic study and a rich extra-curricular programme. The school has a proud and distinguished record in many fields including musical, literary, sporting, creative, voluntary and humanitarian activities.
- The school is a designated bilingual school with an emphasis on the Welsh language and a Welsh ethos. Securing a firmly rooted and bilingual identity provides a firm platform on which to develop an outward looking attitude. The school offers four other languages in addition to Welsh and English: French, German, Japanese and Italian. The school has links with Brittany, Germany and is a principal partner in a two-way exchange programme with the town of Kaya-cho in Japan. The latter has completed five full exchanges since 1992 and young people have benefited greatly from the programme.

#### Examinations offered

##### Year 11:

Pupils are offered a mixture of CoEA and GCSE courses with the vast majority sitting GCSE examinations. In many years, the school is proud that every year 11 pupil has achieved a recognised external qualification. The GCSEs offered are : Welsh (language and literature), English (language and literature), French, German, mathematics, double science, religious studies, geography, history, business studies, design and technology, home economics food, art, music, physical education and drama.

Some of the GCSE subjects are also offered as CoEA courses according to pupils' needs. Information Technology is also offered at CoEA level.

One NVQ course in engineering for technicians is offered via an external Training Company. All pupils will achieve a level 1 NVQ and some will complete all but the work-based units of a level 2. It has not been possible to secure this course through the medium of Welsh as there are no local professional trainers able to do so.

There is also a non-examination core consisting of religious education, physical educational and Personal, Health and Social education.

##### Years 12 & 13:

There is a core provision of religious education and physical education in both year groups and information technology (year 12 only). The latter leads to RSA qualifications.

There are ample opportunities for pupils to use and develop their skills and talents in a range of activities including organising school discos, the Eisteddfod, the School Sports, humanitarian fund raising activities (over £3000 collected annually), Young Enterprise and voluntary work for DASH and CYD.

The school offers two GNVQ intermediate courses: business studies and health and social care

The school offers the following course to AS and A level: Welsh, English, French, German, mathematics (four combinations) , biology, chemistry, physics, religious studies, geography, history, business studies, design and technology, art, music, and drama.

The school offers a GCSE in Italian (classes also include pupils from years 9-11) and a hybrid Japanese course accredited by WJEC.

## **YSGOL GYFUN GYMUNEDOL PENWEDDIG**

### **GCSE PERFORMANCE 1995 – 2000**

**There are 229 secondary schools in Wales. The table below shows how well Penweddig's results compared nationally during 1995-2000.**

<b>National position out of 229 ysgol</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>5 GCSE A*-C rolling average</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>16th</b>
<b>Average pupil score</b>	-	-	-	<b>5th</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>6th</b>
<b>Core Indicator</b>	-	-	-	<b>6th</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>14th</b>

### **A LEVEL PERFORMANCE**

**167 secondary schools offer A levels in Wales. The table below shows how well Penweddig's results compared nationally during 1995-2000.**

<b>National position out of 167 ysgol</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Pupil score – rolling average</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>16th</b>