

BTEC Horticulture

CABT Garddwriaeth



Subject Leaders

Mrs R Harris

Overview of course content

It is possible to study for both the BTEC Certificate and the Extended Certificate at Bassaleg which, if successfully completed would be the equivalent of 2 GCSEs. The course is an interesting blend of plant and soil science taught by the Science department and practical horticulture taught by Mrs Harris. The course will equip you with skills to enter the Horticultural Industry, but also skills that will enrich your life in the future as you learn to grow many different types of vegetables and some fruits and also flowers.

The course would be of value to anybody interested in a career in Environmental Science or Botany as the Plant and Soil Science covered, goes beyond that studied in GCSE Biology or Geography. In the practical section, you will learn how to prepare the soil correctly and to plan your own plot which you will plant, maintain and harvest. You will be able to take home your harvest if you so choose.

You also learn to prepare produce for sale, learning how to present produce to maximum effect, including creating bouquets if flowers are your chief interest. You will have access both to an outdoor plot and a polytunnel on the school's Gro-Tec site.

Summary of assessment

The core of the course is the science element which you must pass. This is assessed through industry relevant challenges which you complete in class or as homework and there is no exam. The other units of the course are a mixture of written and practical work and again, there is no exam.

The Certificate consists of Plant Science and Growing Outdoor Crops and the Extended Certificate consists of Soil Science and Protected Crops (in addition to the Certificate). At the end of the course you will be credited with Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction+ which is equivalent to Grades C, B, A and A* respectively.

The different levels reflect the quality of the portfolio of evidence which you submit regularly over the duration of the course.

Learning Pathways post 16

On successful completion of the course you can progress to the level 3 Diploma in Horticulture or appropriate employment in the Horticulture/ Environmental Science / Land-based industries if desired.