



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



# **SEREN**

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# **FOUNDATION**

**PROGRAMME 2021/2022**

# SEREN

SYLFAEN ★ FOUNDATION

YEARS 8 to 11

*Roman chose to complete the science masterclasses in year 10. He felt these were the subjects he needed to work on a little bit more to make the most of his GCSEs. He really enjoyed all 3 courses. He found the content interactive and challenging but felt the lecturers made him feel at ease. Roman was able to use both his skills and knowledge from the masterclasses for his GCSE studies and both he and his teachers saw a considerable difference in the quality of his work.*

*Roman is now going on to study A level physics, maths and computer science. He is confident about making the move from school to college because of his experience with Seren and the masterclass sessions.*

## Nicole Davies

Parent of Seren Foundation learner now participating in Seren Academy

*The Seren programme is a fantastic opportunity for students to challenge and push their knowledge and their skills. I have the fortunate opportunity to coordinate the activities for Dwr y Felin Comprehensive in the Neath Port Talbot hub and the package that is being developed this year is brilliant. There is something no matter what interests you have. The masterclasses offer deeper and more developed thinking for subjects in GCSE and A level that you may not have studied before. Working with older peers and attending events like debating competitions or seminars can stoke the fire and passion that students have for their learning. As a result, students' understanding, resilience and determination are enhanced when participating in Seren, building proactive contributors to society where individuals are confident, with innovative ideas and solutions.*

## Mr A Rayson

MAT and STEM coordinator, Science Teacher  
Dwr y Felin Comprehensive School

## WHAT IS SEREN FOUNDATION?

**The Seren Foundation is an aspirational programme for learners between years 8 and 11 at state schools across Wales that supports the development of valuable skills and academic ability at GCSE level.**

The aim is to provide support and guidance to enable you to make informed decisions about GCSE and A level subject choices with the long-term view of helping you attain your higher education and career ambitions.

The programme provides inspiration and advice about university options and degree courses, the links to careers across a wide range of sectors, and the potential pathways open to you.

While the possibility of going to university might seem a long way off, particularly for learners in years 8 or 9, it's never too early to think about a dream career or the educational path needed to get there.

Seren will help you develop valuable skills required at GCSE and A level

such as analytical and critical thinking, reasoning, problem solving, and revision techniques.

Resources and workshops have also been created to enhance your communication skills such as essay writing, and how to craft, present, and debate your ideas. All of which relate to the skills required at university and in your future career.

At the heart of the programme is the commitment to expand your knowledge, encourage you to explore and pursue your academic interests, help build your confidence and self-belief, and motivate you to aim high in your GCSE exams and strive to reach your long-term goals.





## 2021/2022 FOUNDATION PROGRAMME

Throughout the year you will be able to take part in a wide range of activities tailored to your specific year group.

Here's a taste of what you can get involved in...

- Online National Conference.
- Career-based sessions on becoming a vet or medic.
- 'Routes into Languages' courses.
- Workshops led by ambassadors from MIT, for example 'Laws of Motion' and 'Climate Change'.
- National essay and creative writing competitions.
- Stretch and Challenge workshops.
- Subject-specific masterclasses, tutorials and Q&A sessions to super-charge your studies.
- Virtual university and museum tours.
- Careers guidance and advice.
- Online resources to develop your passion for subjects.

You will also receive a reflective journal that will enable you to tailor your own Seren experience and build your pathway to the future.

***"Seren is a great platform that I'm happy for my daughter to be part of because it offers great insight and support in her education, and wonderful opportunities for her to participate in various activities including masterclasses, which has helped her to recognise her talents. I believe that the Seren programme will guide my child to make the right choices in her future education."***

**Theresa Jenkins**, mother of year 11 Foundation learner.

# DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT...

### Psychology masterclass

*"I am now considering choosing psychology A level and this class has generally helped me better understand things about life."*

*It helped me have a better insight into psychology and also learn how Seren can help me in higher education."*

### Chemistry masterclass

*"I loved how we had experiments to do at home, it was a great way to get us involved online."*

*The topics were very interesting and it helped with my GCSE lessons. It has helped me gain more knowledge of what I want to do when I am older."*

### English masterclass

*"Masterclasses developed my knowledge of what English would be like in sixth form."*

### Law masterclass

*"I really enjoyed the law sessions, especially the case studies and debates on whether they were innocent or guilty."*

### Biology masterclass

*"It tied things all together and made links in biology that I didn't know before the sessions."*

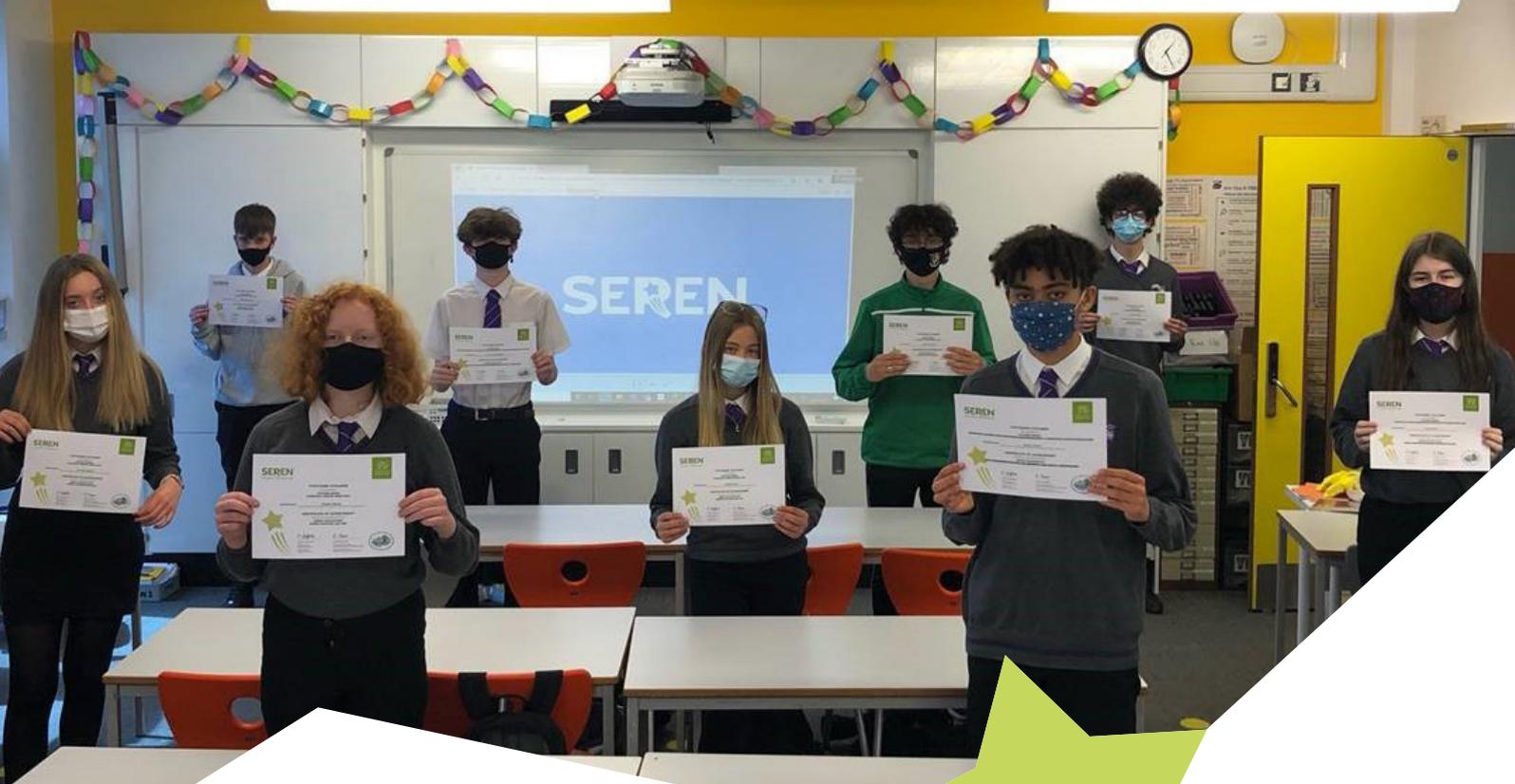
### Sociology masterclass

*"I really enjoyed it – the masterclasses have helped me to decide on my A level subjects."*

### Science masterclass

*"I attended the science workshops, specifically on flu and vaccination. It was really interesting and I could see how parts of the biology course we are currently studying fits in with this, and also fitted in with what's happening with Covid-19 mutations and vaccinations."*





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