Options2023/24

🍄 Bryn Elian

Introduction

This Year 9 Options Booklet has been produced to provide information about a choice of courses which our present Year 9 learners will begin in September 2024. Learners will pursue these courses throughout the two-year period of Key Stage 4. The courses will be studied, mainly, to GCSE level (L2). As preparation for the course choices, which will be made by Year 9 pupils and parents, we are presently engaged in a guidance programme, of which this booklet is a major component.

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum, offered to our pupils, divides into two distinct sections: The Core Curriculum and the Options Curriculum. The Core Curriculum contains compulsory subjects which every pupil must study. The Options Curriculum offers pupils the opportunity to choose three additional subjects. The subjects from which this choice is made are eventually grouped into three blocks. One subject only may be studied within each option block. The Options represent a number of learning pathways, embracing academic as well as more vocational courses.

It is possible that undersubscribed courses will not run. There are more options in the booklet than will run next year; decisions on which subjects to run will be made on learner interest. This is why it is important to include a back-up choice that your child is willing to study. The process of picking options will run over a few months, gathering as much information as possible to help make opting for and refining choices easier and quicker.

Subjects should be chosen on the basis of interest, aptitude and appropriate combination, to ensure that the doors of future career routes are not closed. Pupils and parents are invited to seek the guidance and advice of school staff if at all uncertain about the best choices and combinations. Key staff to contact include:

Mr R. Render, Assistant Headteacher Mr J. Chaplin, Learning Manager Year 9 Mrs F. Hooper, Learning Mentor Year 9 Your child's form tutor Subject tutors





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Timetable for Choices

November 2023

Year 9 pupils will have assemblies from Option teachers giving them information on what the subject involves.

Year 9 pupils will be given the opportunity to hear from current learners who are studying the courses to garner their views.

December 2023

Options Booklet will be available online for learners and parents.

The first trawl of options will take place via Microsoft Forms. Courses with little interest will begin to be removed from the option list.

Learners will meet with their Form Tutor, Learning Manager or a member of SLT to discuss their provisional option choices.

December-February 2023-24

Continual trawls of options to refine the offer and choices.

February 27th 2024

Year 9 Options Evening

Presentations, explaining the Key Stage 4 curriculum and Options will be given during the evening. Timings will be detailed in the letter that is sent to parents nearer the time. Parents and pupils will have the opportunity to talk to subject tutors to discuss their suitability for courses.

February-March 2024

A final trawl will take place where learners will make their final decisions.

Once finalised, parents will receive confirmation of the course of study planned for their child. If alterations to the original choices are considered appropriate, e.g. the course is over-subscribed, parents will be consulted prior to any changes.

Your child is committing to studying the course for two years. Therefore, we need to ensure their choices are fully informed and suitable for them.





External Examinations

Most courses of study in Years 10 and 11 are GCSE examination courses.

The GCSE examination is a single system of examination, with a single scale of grades.

GCSE examinations are designed to test memory, orderly presentation of facts, understanding, practical skills and the ability to apply knowledge.

In most subjects a proportion of the total assessment mark will be allocated to non-examination assessments (NEAs).

All GCSE courses have to follow nationally agreed criteria (the national guidelines), which cover objectives, content and assessment.

Grades awarded to candidates who are successful in the GCSE examination are on an 8-point scale, from A* - G.

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A*
A *-C grade required for progression to advanced study
B (Level 2)
C

DE
F (Level 1)
G

Ungraded, no certificate
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NEAs are Non-Examination Assessments, and are closely supervised pieces of work that are prepared for in class and through homework, with a defined period of time to complete a response to a set question/title in class. An NEA Calendar will be produced and shared in the summer term, giving details of when these "Tests" are to be taken in particular subjects,

The Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate is the equivalent of one GCSE qualification.

BTEC Courses are more vocational in focus and presently are assessed continuously through the two-year period, some with a terminal examination.





The Core Curriculum

All pupils will work to achieve the Welsh Baccalaureate (Level 2) and will continue to study the following courses:

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Mathematics Numeracy

Physical Education

Equality and Diversity including Religious Studies

Science

Welsh

National Skills Challenge Certificate

Personal and Social Education (PSE)





National Skills Challenge WJEC National

The National Skills Challenge Certificate is designed to enable pupils to develop the essential and employability skills to the appropriate level. Learning time will consist of taught content, supervised practical work outside the classroom, and supervised independent study time. At Key Stage 4, pupils undertake three Challenge Briefs (Global Citizenship, Community, and Enterprise) and an Individual Project.

The seven essential skills that the pupils will be developing are as follows:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Digital Literacy
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Planning and Organization
- Creativity and Innovation
- Personal Effectiveness

Skills Challenge Certificate Components	Weighting	Assessed Skills	Internal Assessment	External Moderation
Individual Project	50%	All 7 Essential Skills	~	✓
Enterprise and Employability Challenge	20%	Creative and Innovation Personal Effectiveness Digital Literacy	~	✓
Global Citizenship Challenge	15%	Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Creativity and Innovation	~	✓
Community Challenge	15%	Planning and Organization Personal Effectiveness	~	~

The National Skills Challenge will:

- Enable pupils to consolidate and formalize the learning and development of skills.
- Provide a theoretical underpinning of knowledge and techniques.
- Encourage reflection, analysis and articulation of the pupil's own proficiency.
- Engage pupils in exploring, developing, practicing and applying their skills.
- Increase confidence and effectiveness in the use and application of the skills in a range of 'real life' contexts.





To achieve the National Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification pupils must achieve the National Skills Challenge certificate, together with the following supporting qualifications.

- GCSE English Language or GCSE Welsh Language at grade A*- C
- GCSE Mathematics or Numeracy at grade A*- C
- A minimum of three further GCSEs at grade A*-C, of which two must be an equivalent qualification

More information can be obtained from Dr James.





English - Key Stage 4

GCSE English Language (WJEC)

All students in Years 10 and 11 will study English Language GCSE. The qualification is untiered for entry and awards grades A* to G.

Summary of Assessment

Unit 1

Task 1 (10%) – Individual Researched Presentation (40 marks)

One individual, researched presentation, which may include responses to questions and feedback, based on WJEC set themes.

Task 2 (10%) - Responding and Interacting (40 marks)

One group discussion to written and/or visual stimuli provided by WJEC to initiate the discussion.

Unit 2

Section A (20%) - Reading (40 marks)

Understanding of at least one description, one narration and one exposition text, including continuous and non-continuous texts, assessed through a range of structured questions. This section will also include an editing task focusing on understanding short texts at word, sentence and text level (2.5% of qualification total).

Section B (20%) – Writing (40 marks)

One writing task to be selected from a choice of two that could be either description, narration or exposition. This section will also include one proofreading task focusing on writing accurately (2.5% of qualification total).

Unit 3

Section A (20%) – Reading (40 marks)

Understanding of at least one argumentation, one persuasion and one instructional text, including continuous and non-continuous texts, assessed through a range of structured questions.

Section B (20%) - Writing (40 marks)

One compulsory argumentation writing task and one compulsory persuasion writing task. Half of the marks for this section will be awarded for communication and organization (meaning, purpose, readers and structure) and the other half for writing accurately (language, grammar, punctuation and spelling).

The qualification is linear meaning that all elements need to be sat at the time of cashing- in.





GCSE English Literature (WJEC)

All students in Years 10 and 11 will study English Literature GCSE. The qualification is tiered for entry: Foundation awards grades G-C and Higher awards grades D-A*.

Summary of Assessment

Unit 1 - External Assessment 2 hours (35%)

Prose (different cultures) and poetry (contemporary).
Section A 21% (INDIVIDUAL TEXTS IN CONTEXT) Different Cultures Prose.
Section B 14% (COMPARATIVE STUDY) Contemporary: Unseen poetry comparison, the preparation for which will include the study of contemporary poems.

Unit 2 - External Assessment 2 hours (40%)

English/Welsh/Irish Literary Heritage Drama (20%) Contemporary Prose (20%)

Unit 3 - Non-examination Assessment (25%)

A play by Shakespeare chosen by the centre. WJEC will set a generic task on a specific theme which centres may use or modify. Stipulated poetry from the Library of Wales anthology Poetry 1900-2000: One Hundred Poets from Wales. Candidates study fifteen specified poems listed for the chosen theme. WJEC will set generic tasks on the theme. This is a unitised qualification which allows for an element of staged assessment across both years.

General Notes

Both qualifications endeavor to improve and develop the skills of Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening. Not only are these skills essential in English, but in many careers and can underpin successful study at all levels.

The qualifications require learners to become critical readers of a range of texts, including non-continuous texts and whole texts. The Literature course also aims to allow learners to relate texts to social and historical contexts.

Learners are also required to write accurately and fluently, taking care with spelling, punctuation and grammar and presentation.

The Speaking and Listening element of the Language GCSE, amongst other skills, allows learners to present information and ideas; respond appropriately to the questions and the views of others and make a range of effective contributions in both individual and group situations.

More information can be obtained from Ms L. Coburn.





Mathematics Courses at Key Stage 4

As a core subject of the National Curriculum, all pupils are required to study Mathematics in Key Stage 4.

All pupils will study for the W.J.E.C double GCSE course – Mathematics and Mathematics Numeracy.

This course follows the content of the National Curriculum, and are designed to enable learners to:

- develop their mathematical knowledge and understanding of mathematical principles
- read mathematics and write and talk clearly about the subject in a variety of different ways
- develop a feel for number, carry out calculations and understand the significance of the results obtained
- apply mathematics in everyday situations and appreciate the part mathematics plays in the world around them
- apply mathematics in other subjects
- solve problems, present solutions clearly and interpret their results
- develop an ability to think mathematically precisely, logically and creatively and to classify, generalise and prove
- acquire a foundation appropriate to their further study of mathematics and of other disciplines

Assessment

From the 2017 examinations there are two GCSEs – Mathematics and Numeracy. Each of these consists of three tiers of entry assessed by two written papers – one calculator and one non-calculator. The higher tier is designed for candidates likely to achieve grades A*- C. The intermediate tier covers grades B – E and foundation tier covers grades D - G.

For all papers it is assumed that candidates should have a scientific calculator, ruler, compasses and a protractor.

All pupils are expected to equip themselves with these basic items for the whole of the two-year course.

Additional Information

Mathematics is seen as a key skill in modern life. Many jobs stipulate a particular grade in Mathematics as a necessary qualification. For example, an apprentice car mechanic may need a GCSE pass while a career in nursing requires a GCSE grade B or better. For further study, many subjects stipulate GCSE grade C or B in Mathematics (for example Economics), and if Mathematics A level is aspired to, then students should understand that they must attain at least grade B, which will be from the higher level of entry





Additional Mathematics

For some pupils studying the higher tier GCSE a qualification in Additional Maths is also available. This course challenges the most able pupils and provides an excellent introduction to Advanced-Level Mathematics.

Any further information about these courses can be obtained from Mrs H.Hayes.





Science at Key Stage 4

Aims

- To acquire scientific knowledge and understanding of how Science works.
- To understand and apply scientific ideas and evaluate their impact on society.
- To develop experimental and investigative skills.

Most students in Key Stage 4 will study WJEC Double Award Science GCSE. Some students may study WJEC Single Award Applied Science. The skills required for GCSE Sciences will be embedded in Key Stage 3 and built on during Key Stage 4.

WJEC Double Award Science GCSE

Students study Physics, Chemistry and Biology through years 10 and 11. There will be exams in the summer term of Year 10, worth 45% of the final grade. In the Spring term of year 11 students will complete two formally assessed practical tasks which they will be prepared for throughout the course. This is worth 10% of the final grade. At the end of year 11 pupils will sit their final exams in each of the three Sciences, worth 45% of the final grade.

At the end of the course they will gain 2 grades ranging from A*A* to GG.

Some students may follow the Single Award Applied Science course, this involves study of Physics, Chemistry and Biology and a practical assessment in the Spring term of year 11. For this qualification, 20% of the grade is from a practical task which takes place in the Autumn term of year 11. Students will be offered this course if it is deemed appropriate, such as missing too many Science lessons due to attending a college course.

Science is a core subject and compulsory at GCSE. It is essential to understanding the world we live in and relevant to all students whether they intend to study Sciences in the sixth form or follow vocational courses at college. Most employers look for a Science qualification in prospective employees.

The most important thing students can bring to their Science lessons is a willingness to think and solve problems along with a positive attitude to learning new ideas.

More information can be obtained from Dr D. Barnett.





Welsh Second Language GCSE

Examinations board: W.J.E.C.

Aims and Objectives

This GCSE specification in Welsh Second Language will enable candidates to:

- understand and use the language for a variety of purposes and audiences
- develop language learning skills and strategies in order to enable candidates to communicate and interact confidently and spontaneously in relevant situations and specified context
- develop language learning skills and strategies to enable candidates to develop their grasp Welsh further
- develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in an integrated manner, emphasising listening and speaking skills 2 use Welsh in further studies, in the workplace and in their communities
- develop curiosity about the Welsh language.

Course content

The qualification is made up of four units: Unit 1 and Unit 2 are non-examination speaking and listening assessment, Unit 3 and Unit 4 are reading and writing examinations. The course is suitable for teaching over two years within 120 guided learning hours.

The context for learning the language is organised under three broad themes:

- EMPLOYMENT
- WALES AND THE WORLD
- YOUTH

Assessment

Unit 1

Oracy - response to visual material

Non-examination assessment: 6 – 8 minutes (pair) 9 – 12 minutes (Group of three) 25% of

qualification 50 marks

1 task (10%) Speaking (15%) Listening

A task for a pair/group of three based on a visual stimuli provided by the WJEC to stimulate discussion. The assessment will consist of two parts which are to be carried out in the following order:

- watch a visual clip (twice) and fill in a sheet while listening to the stimulus
- discussion between the pair/group of three on what was watched.

Unit 2:

Oracy - Communicate with others

Non-examination assessment: 6 – 8 minutes (pair) 9 – 12 minutes (Group of three) 25% of qualification 50 marks





1task

(20%) listening (5%) listening

A task for a pair/group of three based on a visual stimuli provided by the WJEC to stimulate discussion.

Unit 3

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

(15%) Reading (10%) Writing

Reading and writing based tasks with non-verbal and written responses, including one translation task from English o Welsh and a proofreading task

Unit 4

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

(10%) Reading (15%) writing

Reading and writing tasks with non-verbal and written responses

Grades available

Higher Tier – A*, A, B, C, D, E Foundation Tier – C, D, E, F, G

Additional information

Studying the Welsh Second Language GCSE course will provide experiences for pupils that will allow them to reach their full potential in Welsh. The pupils will become aware of the use made of the Welsh language in contemporary Wales by fostering a positive attitude towards the language and the culture. Pupils' skills will be developed in order to allow them to communicate effectively and purposefully in their everyday lives, and to compete on a level playing field in the world of work in the bilingual society of the 21st century.

More information can be obtained from Mrs A. Blake, Head of the Languages Department.





Physical Education: Core

All pupils will participate in one compulsory Core Physical Education lesson per week during Year 10. Lessons will focus on the promotion of Health, Fitness & Well Being. Pupils will have the opportunity to experience a range of Sporting Activities in both recreational and competitive environments.

For more details please see Mr R. Hooper.





Equality and Diversity, including Religious Studies

The Equality and Diversity course is split into three units, each with a distinct booklet to complete. Each unit will look at how equality and diversity is promoted within contemporary society looking at examples from religion, social groups and cultural backgrounds. Alongside studying for the Equality and Diversity qualification, compulsory elements of religious studies will be covered.

Unit Summaries Unit 01

Equality and diversity in society

In this unit the learner will consider what is meant by the terms 'equality' and 'diversity'. They will develop an understanding of the effects of stereotyping, labelling, prejudice and discrimination and will start to understand the different characteristics that make us who we are. This unit will also focus on different religious and cultural stereotypes and how these have been developed through the media and other social outlets.

This unit is mandatory for both the Level 2 Award and the Level 2 Certificate in Equality and Diversity.

Unit 02

Equality and diversity in the community

In this unit the learner will consider the extent and the value of diversity within a chosen community. Learners will be asked to look at their own community and discuss how diversity has enriched their lives and the lives of others. As part of this they will develop an understanding of the potential inequalities which can occur within a community and the support services and groups which exist to ensure equality and diversity is maintained. Examples from religious and faith groups will be studied and discussed, looking at how the community has helped develop inter-faith dialogue through equality and diversity.

This unit is mandatory for the Level 2 Certificate in Equality and Diversity.

Unit 03

Equality and diversity in the workplace

In this unit the learner will develop an understanding of the meaning of equality and diversity in the workplace. Learners will look at how UK law has developed to incorporate aspects of equality and in turn how diversity has been encouraged within the workplace. This will include how equality and diversity is monitored in the workplace and how rights such as the religious and cultural beliefs of individuals are protected.

This unit is mandatory for the Level 2 Certificate in Equality and Diversity. For more information, please see Mr R. Dennis.







As part of their KS4 timetable, all pupils will study Personal and Social Education (PSE) for GCSE.

This course is an Agored Cymru full GCSE course. On completion of this course, pupils will be awarded two GCSEs at grade B.

Across Years Ten and Eleven, eight units will need to be studied in order to complete the course:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Exploring Popular Music
- Family Relationships
- The Effects of Alcohol
- Understanding Substance Misuse
- Anti-Bullying Awareness
- Globalisation
- Ethics and Morality

There are no exams or formal assessments for this course. Pupils will be encouraged to develop their self-confidence, take part in debates and discussions, research various opinions and to work both independently and in groups.



For more information please see Miss C. Owen.





The Option Curriculum

The Optional Subjects are listed below. Information about each one of these subjects can be found on the following pages:

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Drama	21
Engineering	28
Hospitality and Catering	29
French/Spanish	32-33
Geography	36-37
German	34-35
Graphic Communication	27
Health and Social Care, and Childcare	22
History	38
Creative Media	39-40
Information and Communication Technology	30-31
Music	20
Physical Education (GCSE)	15
Product Design	25-26
Public Services	42

College Options

Construction Hair and Beauty

Places on college courses are limited. Therefore, for more information about these courses, speak to your Learning Manager or Mentor.





Business Studies

Want to improve your knowledge of how a business operates? Fancy the opportunity to set up your own business?

Business Studies is a very popular course with students at Ysgol Bryn Elian that enables students to deepen their understanding of the way in which businesses operate in a dynamic, changing and competitive environment. You will research a variety of small, medium and large businesses and develop an understanding of how they work, leading to better career opportunities. A visit to Jaguar and/or London will engage learners in the real world where they will witness how social media is used to market businesses and also how technology is used to produce cars. Students will also be given the opportunity to test their enterprise skills through the £10 challenge. Many of our learners continue to take the subject at A-Level and beyond this at University or through apprenticeships.

This qualification remains extremely popular amongst students at Ysgol Bryn Elian and the new WJEC Business course will provide learners with a better understanding of techniques used in a business environment.

The qualification is awarded through;

Two examined units at the end of Year 11.
Unit 1 – Business World (2 hours)
Unit 2 – Business Perceptions (1 hour 30 minutes)

The content is presented in six clear and distinct topic areas:
Business Activity
Influences on Business
Business Operations
Finance
Marketing
Human Resources Additional Information

The GCSE course provides an excellent introduction for the popular A Level Business Studies qualification. Additionally, many students that take the course through further study continue with Business Studies at University.

Future careers: Accountancy, advertising, banking, investment and financial services, general management, HR/personnel, management consultancy, public relations, retail management, sales and marketing.

For more information see Mr N. Tuck.





Music

BTEC Level 2 First Award in Music

Why take BTEC Music?

Through a combination of practical experience and written assignment this vocational qualification will provide you with the knowledge, skills and understanding needed for a career in the music industry. You will learn about and understand the different types of organisations that make up the music industry and the job roles in the music industry. You will plan, develop and deliver a music product, promote a music product and review your management of a music product. You will plan for a live music event, demonstrate understanding of health and safety and set up and use live music systems. Finally, you will develop your music performance skills, review your own practice and use your music performance skills within rehearsal and performance.

Across the four units, you will study:

Unit 1: The Music Industry

Unit 2: Managing a Music Product

Unit 3: Introducing Live Sound

Unit 5: Introducing Music Performance

Course Content and Assessment

Unit 1 is worth 25% of the overall mark for the qualification. You will learn all about the jobs and organisations involved in the music industry today and sit a one-hour exam. Unit 2 is worth 25% of the overall mark for the qualification. You will organise and run the school's annual 'Bryn Elian's Got Talent' event, being responsible for everything. Unit 3 is worth 25% of the overall mark for the qualification. You will set up sound system and be in charge of all the sound for 'Bryn Elian's Got Talent'. Unit 5 is worth 25% of the overall mark for the qualification. You will have lessons on an instrument or learn to sing and will rehearse to be able to perform four pieces of music in front of a live audience.

Additional information

BTEC Music is a practical and academic course. It is essential that pupils play an instrument/sing or are prepared to learn to play and develop these skills during the course. The course is an ideal basis to continue onto BTEC Level 3 Music course for those wishing to pursue a career as a musician, composer, sound engineer, producer, concert promoter or music therapist etc.

Please contact Mrs M. Hildrew for further details.





GCSE Drama

Board: WJEC

Why take GCSE Drama?

The course will give you a broad and balanced experience of drama. You will gain knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre are developed and performed across a range of dramatic activities. You will also gain transferable skills that will be useful throughout life such as communication, public speaking, group and leadership skills, problem solving, time management skills and the ability to work to a deadline and get it right first time (there are no re-runs on stage)! You will enjoy this course if you currently take part in school productions and attend drama club or are part of a theatre group outside school.

Across three units you will study:

The techniques of a theatre practitioner e.g. Brecht & Berkoff which you will then use in a devised performance.

Two set texts e.g. 'Romeo and Juliet' and '1984'. One which you will explore through a performance of a key scene and the other is explored and studied as theatre for a written exam.

Course Content and Assessment

Unit 1 Devising Theatre is worth 40% of the overall mark at GCSE. You will create, develop and perform a piece of drama based on a theatre practitioner and complete a written evaluation under exam conditions.

Unit 2 Performing Theatre is worth 20% of the overall mark at GCSE. You will take part in a performance for a visiting examiner, which will be based on two 10-minute extracts from a performance text.

Unit 3 Interpreting Theatre is worth 40% of the overall mark at GCSE. You will sit a 1hr 30mins written exam where you answer a series of questions on the set texts and complete a theatre review of a live production you have seen during the course.

Additional Information

This course is an ideal basis for the BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts course and for those wishing to pursue a career in the entertainment industry, teaching, marketing and arts therapy.

Please contact Miss N. Pattullo for further details.





WJEC GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare

The qualifications will equip learners with knowledge and understanding of the development and care of individuals from conception to old age.

Learners will gain an understanding of how service provision in the Health and Social Care, and Childcare sectors in Wales support the development and well-being of individuals.

Learners will also be introduced to a broad range of roles within the Health and Social Care, and Childcare sectors which will help them to develop an understanding of the career pathways available to them.

The GCSE in Health and Social Care, and Childcare (Single Award) will cover key topics such as:

- Human growth, development and well-being
- Promoting and maintaining health and well-being

The qualifications are both externally and internally assessed.

Unit 1: Human Growth, Development and Well-being

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of Single Award qualification.

This unit will consist of two sections both containing compulsory questions.

Section A: questions based on stimulus materials.

<u>Section B</u>: a range of question types to assess all content related to human growth, development and well-being.

Unit 2: Promoting and Maintaining Health and Well-being

Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated 60% of Single Award qualification.

Assessment 1: Service Provision Investigation.

Assessment 2: Health Promotion Activity.

Follow on course - Year 12/13 Health and Social Care.

Future careers: Midwife, Nurse, Carer, nursery nurse.

For More information contact Miss S. Murrell.





Art and Design G.C.S.E.

The various features and facts of art, craft and design promote different kinds of artistic and creative activity. Candidates will be completing work about their own environment and the natural world. Throughout the art course they will refine their intellectual and practical skills through communicating observations, ideas and feelings through a range of media, tools and techniques. Candidates will also enrich their own knowledge by studying the work of artists both past and present.

Course Content

This is a 2-year course intended for students who wish to specialise in Art and Design. Through a variety of creative and artistic activities pupils will develop a visual vocabulary in conjunction with using a wide range of media and tools to discover and record the everyday world. This will be achieved through drawing and painting, ceramics, printmaking, textiles and three-dimensional studies.

Assessment

Unit 1: Portfolio

60% of qualification: 120 marks

- This unit comprises a major practical portfolio and outcomes to be based on 'My Environment' theme.
- Work undertaken within the unit will be internally set, internally assessed and externally moderated.
- Work will be selected, evaluated and presented for assessment by the student.
- Evidence is required of how the student has met each of the assessment objectives.

Unit 2: The Externally Set Assignment

40% of qualification: 80 marks

Part 1: Preparatory study period

- Externally Set Assignment materials set by WJEC.
- The exam will consist of assignments based on themes, visual stimuli and written briefs, which are to be presented to the student at the start of the preparatory study period.
- One of the assignments is to be selected by the student and used as a starting point from which to elicit a personal, creative response.

Part 2: 10-hour period of sustained focus work

- The resolution of the student's ideas from the preparatory work will be completed during the designated 10 hours of sustained focus work.
- The period of sustained focus work will be completed under supervised conditions.





• Work will be selected, evaluated and presented for assessment by the student. The Externally Set Assignment will be set by WJEC, assessed by the teacher and externally moderated.

Additional Information

Art and Design provides an excellent foundation for A/AS Level Art and Design courses in further and higher education in subjects such as: fashion, textiles, interior design, graphic design, product design, fine art, 3-D design, model making, animation, ceramics, jewellery design, film and theatre studies, make up artistry and hairdressing, to name but a few.

Contact Miss A Jones or Miss S. Murrell for further details.





Design and Technology GCSE Product Design

This WJEC GCSE in Design and Technology offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for learners to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems. Through studying GCSE Design and Technology, learners will be prepared to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world; to be aware of, and learn from, wider influences on design and technology, including historical, social/cultural, environmental and economic factors.

Course content

Each learner will study four areas of content:

- 1. Core knowledge and understanding
- 2. In-depth knowledge and understanding for product design
- 3. Core skills
- 4. In-depth skills for product design

This two-year course is intended for students who wish to specialise in designing and making 3d and 2d prototypes using a range of workshop techniques and tools. There is a common core element to the course which focuses on:

- · Impact of new and emerging technologies
- Evaluation of new and emerging technologies
- Modern and smart materials
- Ecological and social footprint
- Investigating and analysing the work of others

Assessment

Unit 1: Examination Design and Technology in the 21st Century - 50 %

This is a two-hour exam. A mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing candidates' knowledge and understanding of Product Design.

Unit 2: Coursework Design and make task.

Non-exam assessment: approximately 35 hours - 50 %

This is a board prescribed task starting in September of Year 11. Students will carry out an analysis of a problem, write a design specification, and generate a range of ideas which they then develop into working prototype. They must make informed design decisions along the way and plan out the making of the product. The final stage of the coursework is an in-depth evaluation of the prototype and process with a focus on how to improve next time.





Additional information

Product Design GCSE provides an excellent foundation for A/AS level Product Design, as well as, higher Education courses and vocational apprenticeships. These can lead to exciting and rewarding career opportunities in areas such as: Industrial Product Design, Computer Aided Design and Manufacturing.

For more information, please contact Mr K. Wallis in the Design and Technology Department.





GCSE Graphic Communication

Graphic Communication is a variation on the more traditional Art course delivered in schools.

With digital and computer-based imagery becoming more and more popular within the world of Art & Design, schools are now able to deliver an exciting course, allowing students to create images using computers (Photoshop), phones, photography, as well as the more traditional forms of media, such as spray paint, pencil and paint.

There is no written exam with this GCSE course. You will spend much of your lessons learning new techniques and skills, in preparation for the two-day moderated session where you will be allowed time and space to create your own masterpiece.

During your Graphic Communication course, you will enjoy developing your creative skills on Photoshop, to create your own album cover, gaming covers for games and magazines, movie posters, as well as developing your artistic skills with drawing and painting techniques.

Here are just some of the career opportunities available:

- Advertising
- Communication graphics
- Design for print
- Illustration
- Interactive design (including web, app and game)
- Multi-media
- Package design
- Signage
- Typography

Work is not limited to one area of study.

If you have any questions, feel free to talk with Mr N. Humphreys in the DT department.





WJEC Engineering

GCSE

The qualifications have been devised around the concept of a 'plan, do, review' approach to learning where learners are introduced to a context for learning, review previous learning to plan activities, carry out activities and review outcomes and learning. This approach mirrors engineering production and design processes and provides for learning in a range of contexts thus enabling learners to apply and extend their learning. As such, the qualification provides learners with a broad appreciation of work in engineering related industries and wider opportunities for progression into further education, employment or training.

Course Content

Controlled assessment

The following units are internally assessed:

Unit 1: Engineering Design

The purpose of this unit is for learners to use skills developed to produce an engineered product.

Unit 2: Producing Engineering Products

The purpose of this unit is for learners to analyse engineered products in order to propose design solutions to meet requirements.

Examination

Unit 3: Solving Engineering Problems

- Will be externally assessed.
- 90-minute examination.
- Total of 60 marks.
- Three questions on each paper.
- Short and extended answer questions, based on stimulus material and applied contexts.

Additional Information

The WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Engineering has been designed to develop in learners the skills needed for progress from GCSE learning to further education, employment and training.

The successful completion of this qualification could provide the learner with opportunities to access a range of Level 3 qualifications including GCE, apprenticeships and vocationally related qualifications. These include: GCE in Design & Technology which leads to Product Design.

Students interested in this course should contact Mr D. Moore.





WJEC Level 1 / 2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering

The WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering has been designed to support learners who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study.

The WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering is made up of two mandatory units:

Unit 1 The Hospitality and Catering Industry – External assessment **Unit 2** Hospitality and Catering in Action – Internal assessment

Through the two units, learners will gain an overview of the hospitality and catering industry and the type of job roles that may be available to assist them in making choices about progression.

This approach also enables learners to learn in such a way that they develop:

- skills required for independent learning and development.
- a range of generic and transferable skills.
- the ability to solve problems.
- the skills of project-based research, development and presentation.
- the fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals, in a professional environment.

In this qualification, learners will also have the opportunity to develop some food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.

It is most suitable as a foundation for further study. This further study would provide learners with the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support their progression to employment. Employment in hospitality and catering can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers and food technologists in food manufacturing. All of these roles require further education and training either through apprenticeships or further and higher education.

For More information contact Mrs B. Mckibben.





Information and Communication Technology Vocational Award in ICT

Are you passionate about technology? Do you like solving problems? Are you curious about all things digital, and want to learn some fantastic new skills? If so, it's time to uncover your potential – find out more about this exciting qualification today!

What will I study?

Unit 1: ICT in Society

Explore the wide range of uses hardware, application and specialist software in society. Investigate how information technology is used in a wide range of contexts, including business and organisations, education and homes.

Unit 2: ICT in Context

Gain a working knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, automated documents and images.

Learn to apply your knowledge and understanding to solve problems in vocational settings.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 will be asses through an exam which is worth 40% of your qualification.

The exam will last 1 hour and 20 minutes, it will be made up of short and extended response questions.

Unit 2 will be assessed with project work (no exam) which is worth 60% of your qualification.

As part of this assessment, you will be given a scenario and will need to undertake a number of tasks.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop a number of skills which are attractive to employer, colleges and universities including:

- Communication
- Coping with rapid changes in technology
- Critical thinking
- Designing, programming, testing and evaluating software systems
- Learning independently
- Numeracy and data handling
- Problem solving
- Research
- Taking on responsibility
- Time management

Careers with ICT?

Data Analyst





- Digital Content Producer
- Systems Engineer
- Web Marketing Manager

These are just some, but this course is a stepping stone to a wide range of university courses and jobs. The demand for Cybersecurity professionals is currently at an all-time high!

Pick something that will give you the least competition in the future career wise.

For more information contact Mr C. Heard. Heardc10@hwbcymru.net





GCSE French/Spanish

Key Stage 4 Courses Board: W.J.E.C

Aims and objectives

The aim of the GCSE French/Spanish course is to broaden horizons, develop cultural knowledge and understanding and to gain transferable skills such as confidence, communication, problem solving and creativity.

This WJEC GCSE specification in French/Spanish will enable learners to:

- Develop their ability to communicate confidently and coherently in speech and writing, conveying what they want to say with increasing accuracy
- Express and develop thoughts and ideas spontaneously and fluently
- Listen to and understand clearly articulated, standard speech at near normal speed
- Deepen their knowledge about how language works and enrich their vocabulary in order for them to increase their independent use
- Acquire new knowledge, skills and ways of thinking through the ability to understand and respond to a rich range of authentic material
- Develop awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where the language is spoken
- Be encouraged to make appropriate links to other areas of the curriculum to enable bilingual and deeper learning, where the language may become a medium for constructing and applying knowledge
- Develop language learning skills both for immediate use and to prepare them for further language study and use in school, higher education or in employment

Course Content

The qualification is made up of four units: Unit 1 – speaking, Unit 2 - listening, Unit 3 – reading and Unit 4 – writing.

The context for learning the language is organised under three broad themes:

- Identity and culture
- Wales and the World areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

Assessment details

Unit 1

Oral examination: 7-9 minutes (Foundation tier) or 10-12 minutes (Higher tier). Three tasks: Role play, photo card discussion, and 2-part conversation.

Unit 2

Listening examination: 35 minutes (Foundation tier) or 45 minutes (Higher tier).





Listening comprehension tasks with written responses.

Unit 3

Reading examination: 1 hour (Foundation tier) or 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher tier). Reading tasks with written responses, including one translation task from French into English.

Unit 4

Writing examination: 1 hour 15 minutes (Foundation tier) or 1 hour 30 minutes (Higher tier).

Writing tasks including one translation task from English into French.

Each unit is worth 25% of the overall grade.

Additional Information

A language qualification at GCSE is essential in some areas of work, especially with the current political climate regarding Brexit and future deals with the European Union. A language is a desirable skill across many areas of the world of work, where knowledge of a language can offer extra opportunities.

GCSE French/Spanish is a good introduction to communicating in French/Spanish and serves as an excellent grounding for further study at 'A' Level. Universities welcome a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language for applications to higher education, with some Russell Group universities requiring an Advanced Level MFL for entry to their degree courses.

Further information can be obtained from Mr S. Davy.





GCSE German

Key Stage 4 Courses Board: W.J.E.C

Aims

The aim of the GCSE German course is to demonstrate aim that the study of a modern foreign language will broaden horizons, develop cultural knowledge and understanding and foster transferable skills such as confidence, communication, problem solving and creativity.

The specification also aims to provide learners with a solid foundation on which to prepare them for future language study.

This WJEC GCSE specification in German will enable learners to:

- develop their ability to communicate confidently and coherently with native speakers in speech and writing, conveying what they want to say with increasing accuracy
- express and develop thoughts and ideas spontaneously and fluently
- listen to and understand clearly articulated, standard speech at near normal speed
- deepen their knowledge about how language works and enrich their vocabulary in order for them to increase their independent use and understanding of extended language in a wide range of contexts
- acquire new knowledge, skills and ways of thinking through the ability to understand and respond to a rich range of authentic spoken and written material, adapted and abridged, as appropriate, including literary texts
- develop awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where the language is spoken
- be encouraged to make appropriate links to other areas of the curriculum to enable bilingual and deeper learning, where the language may become a medium for constructing and applying knowledge
- develop language learning skills both for immediate use and to prepare them for further language study and use in school, higher education or in employment
- develop language strategies, including repair strategies.

Course Content

The qualification is made up of four units: Unit 1 is a spoken non-exam assessment, Unit 2 is a listening examination, Unit 3 is a reading examination and Unit 4 is a written examination. The context for learning the language is organised under three broad themes:

Identity and culture

Wales and the World – areas of interest

Current and future study and employment Assessment

Unit 1

Speaking Oral test: 7-9 minutes (Foundation tier) 10-12 minutes (Higher tier) 25% of



qualification 60 marks

Three tasks: Role play Photo card discussion Conversation

Unit 2

Listening Written examination: 35 minutes (Foundation tier) 45 minutes (Higher tier) 25% of qualification 45 marks

Listening comprehension tasks with non-verbal and written responses

Unit 3

Reading Written examination: 1 hour (Foundation tier) 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher tier) 25% of qualification 60 marks

Reading tasks with non-verbal and written responses, including one translation task from German into English/Welsh

Unit 4

Writing Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes (Foundation tier) 1 hour 30 minutes (Higher tier) 25% of qualification 60 marks

Writing tasks including one translation task from English/Welsh into German

Additional Information

A language qualification at GCSE is essential in some areas of work especially with increasing involvement in the European Union and is desirable in many areas where knowledge of a language can offer extra opportunities.

GCSE German is a good introduction to communicating in German and serves as a grounding for further study at 'A' Level.

Those considering professional careers would benefit from the study of a foreign language. Universities welcome a GCSE in a Modern Foreign language for applications to higher education.

Further information can be obtained from Mr M. Jones, Teacher of German.





Geography GCSE

What is Geography?

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is fun. This WJEC course is a good mix of topics and includes the study of urban issues, world development, extreme environments, rivers and coasts to name but a few. This course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.

There are so many ways of learning in geography. It is often practical, with opportunities to learn new skills such as modern computer-based mapping (called GIS), map skills, interpreting photographs, fieldwork skills, presenting and debating techniques. You will improve your literacy through your report writing and written work and make practical use of your numeracy skills when you interpret data and construct graphs. Fieldwork, or working outside the classroom, is a really important part of geography. Fieldwork at the end of Year 10 will be a brilliant opportunity to experience some of the things you have learned about in class, to see things differently and of course to have fun.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Changing Physical and Human Landscapes

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes (40% of qualification)

Section A: Core Themes - Two structured, data response questions assessing

Landscapes and Physical Processes and Rural-urban Links.

Section B: One structured question assessing Coastal Hazards and their Management.

Assessment will be by data response questions.

Some questions will require extended responses.

Unit 2: Environmental and Development Issues

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes (40% of qualification)

Section A: Core Themes - Two structured, data response questions assessing Weather, Climate and Ecosystems and Development and Resource Issues.

Section B: One structured question assessing Social Development Issues. Assessment will be by data response questions.

Some questions will require extended responses.

Unit 3: Fieldwork Enquiry

Non-examination assessment: 2 hours 30 minutes (20% of qualification) A Human Geography Fieldwork Investigation and a Physical Geography Fieldwork Investigation.

This report will be written in response to specific questions set by the WJEC.

What skills will I learn?

Studying GCSE Geography provides learners with a variety of valuable skills that can be transferred and used across other subject areas and in everyday life.





Key skills gained include:

- Highly relevant knowledge of contemporary issues
- Place knowledge
- Investigating big issues across a variety of scales and from different perspectives.
- Fieldwork and teamwork skills
- Map work and use of data
- Geographical argument

What will it help me do?

A qualification in geography enables you to embark on a career in a range of fields, including those in the education, commerce, industry, transport, tourism and public sectors. You'll also have many transferable skills, attracting employers from the business, law and finance sectors.

Employers could include:

- The armed forces
- Charities
- The Civil Service
- Environmental consultancies
- Environmental protection agencies
- Information systems organisations
- Local government
- Ministry of Defence
- Police service
- Private companies
- Utility companies.

A GCSE in Geography also leads directly to 'A' Level Geography.

For more details please see Mrs J. Jarvis, Mr J. Powell, Miss C. Owen and Dr. S. James.





<u>History</u>

Introduction

History is the study of past peoples and their societies. The aim of the GCSE History course is to enable candidates to understand the principles and concepts of the past. The course followed is the WJEC GCSE History course.

Course Content

The WJEC History course focuses on four areas of History stretching from 1500 to the present day.

- A) In-depth study Depression, War and Recovery in Britain 1930 1951
- B) In-depth study USA 1910 1929: A Nation of Contrasts
- C) Period Study Changes in Crime and Punishment c. 1500 to the present day
- D) Non-Examination Assessment A twentieth century conflict or person

Assessment

The course is assessed by written examination (80%) and by a NEA element (20%).

Additional Information

GCSE History is identified by employers as an important academic foundation for many career routes. This course is also an appropriate basis for the study of A Level History.

Please contact Mr C. Mckibben, Mr N. Rees and Mrs R. Greenow for further details.





Creative iMedia Production

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Creative Media Production. On successful completion of this course, you will gain a level 2 grade which is equivalent of a GCSE grade between A"-C.

If you like being creative using computer software then Creative iMedia Production is the course you might choose.

About Creative iMedia Production

This qualification is for students who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in creating digital media products. Digital Media is a key part of many areas of our everyday lives and vital to the UK economy. Production of digital media products is a requirement of almost every business so there is huge demand for a skilled and digitally literate workforce. The qualification's hands-on approach has strong relevance to the way young people use the technology required in creative media.

What does the course look like?

The three components in the qualification give students the opportunity to develop broad knowledge and understanding of the digital media sector and relevant skills such as research, planning, problem solving and communication

Units	Qualification title	What's involved?
Exploring Media Products	Internal Assessment	Learners will develop their understanding of how media products create meaning for their audiences. Learners will examine existing products and explore media production techniques.
Developing Digital Media Production Skills	Internal Assessment	Learners will develop skills and techniques in media production processes by reworking media products from one, or all, of the following sectors: audio/moving image, publishing, interactive design.
Create a Media Product in Response to a Brief	Controlled assessment	Learners will apply and develop their planning and production skills and techniques to create a media product in response to a client brief. In this component, you will respond to a client brief and create a product in one of the following media sectors: audio/moving image, publishing or interactive. You will interpret the client's needs and engage in the process of ideas generation, selecting and refining your ideas





There are many different jobs in the creative industries for those with artistic talent, a flair for design or a desire to be creative. Here's a flavour of the creative career opportunities that are available: Multimedia animator, photographer, video game designer/developer, software engineering, web designer, product designer (theatre, TV, radio, film), illustrator and many more.

For further information see Mrs Howatson / Mr Price ICTO4.





Physical Education

Programme of Study Year 10/11 GCSE Physical Education

Qualification type: GCSE

Entry Requirements

All pupils should have a general interest in a range of sporting activities. They should have shown sufficient evidence of an acceptable level of performance in Physical Education classes at Key Stage 3.

Why do we offer GCSE Physical Education?

Through studying GCSE Physical Education learners will acquire the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to develop and maintain their performance in physical activities and understand the benefits to health, fitness and well-being. Learners will develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance.

What will I study on the course?

Unit 1: Introduction to physical education Written examination: 2 hours, 50% of qualification.

Unit 2: The active participant in Physical Education Non-exam assessment, 50% of qualification.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Learners will be assessed through a range of short and extended questions. The questions will be based on audio-visual stimuli and other sources.

Unit 2: Learners will be assessed in three different activities in the role of performer in at least one individual sport, one team sport and one other. One activity will be a major activity which will have a personal fitness programme linked to the activity.

What can I do next with this qualification?

The GCSE qualification gives pupils the opportunity to enter employment in the sport and active leisure sector or to progress to post 16 education courses. It will provide an insight into further studies such as A Level or BTEC Level 3 courses.

For further information, please contact Mr R. Hooper.





Pearson BTEC Level 2 First Award in Public Services

The Pearson BTEC First Certificate in Public Services is a vocational course.

This exciting course is tailored to pupils who might have an interest in a future career in one of the Public Services, for example, in the Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Armed Forces or Prosecution Services. It is also of interest to students who want to learn more about the laws and duties that regulate our society and about the services who uphold them. The course is assessed by continuous assessment of written assignments, active and practical work and via witness statements as well as two external examinations.

Deadlines are frequent and numerous and pupils should be prepared for assessment to be rigorous.

Core units

The core units within this qualification ensure that all learners will develop knowledge that underpins learning in other units in the qualification.

Unit 1: The Role and Work of the Public Services **Unit 2:** Working Skills in the Public Service Sector

Specialist units

The chosen specialist units extend the knowledge and understanding developed in core units and will develop general work-related skills:

Unit 4: Public Services and Community Protection **Unit 5:** Health, Fitness and Lifestyle for the Public Services

It will be a huge benefit for pupils who opt to take the Public Services course to also be following the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and to be interested in physical fitness and sport.

For more details please see Mr M. Richardson.





SWEET

Succeeding with Education, Employment & Training

What is SWEET?

SWEET is a learning and skills development programme offering a specialist BTEC Level 1 or 2 qualification in Personal & Social Development (PSD).

SWEET is well placed to respond to many of the recommendations published in the Welsh Government's "Successful Futures", a review of the school curriculum.

A Specialist BTEC Level 1 & 2 IVET qualification in Personal & Social Development.

No Examination – Portfolio based personalised approach to learning.

Programme chapters

The core themes of both curricula are embedded across 8 chapters. The first 5 chapters are focussed on PSE resulting in a BTEC Level 1 Award (min. 6 credits). The final 3 chapters offer 2 pathways (Level 1 or 2) reflecting the Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenges and achieves a full BTEC Certificate qualification (min. 13 credits).













Personal Identity

Managing Relationships

Community

Healthy Living

Moving Forward

Money Matters





Global

Citizenship







Employability

	PERFORMANCE POINTS	LEVEL 1 & 2 THRESHOLD	GCSE EQUIVALENT
Level 1: Award	12.5	10% (Level 1)	Half (D - G)
Level 1: Certificate	25.0	20% (Level 1)	Full (D - G)
Level 2: Award	23.0	10% (Level 1 & 2)	Half (A* - C)
Level 2: Certificate	46.0	20% (Level 1 & 2)	Full (A* - C)

This course is not an option choice, but may be studied by some learners during the two-year process.





Final Summary

Learners will take part in a `free choice` which is helping us determine the levels of likely interest in each option. This is a useful development to our processes, and allows us a way of planning the Key Stage 4 Options Curriculum to meet the pupils' needs, as far as our facilities and resources allow. As has already been detailed above, not all courses will run; it will depend on demand and popularity.

As part of this process, it is vital that all pupils make any comments concerning combinations that they would like to study. All information will be carefully scrutinised and used to present the best organisation of subject combinations that is possible. There will be multiple trawls to refine learner selection; courses with low uptake will be removed from the option choices as more information is gathered and analysed.

Overall, three final choices will be made, and these will be confirmed with pupils and parents.



