

Year 9

Options

2024/25



Bryn Elia

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 2025. 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 under subscribed 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. 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 A. Jones, Learning Manager Year 9

Mr C Earp-Hughes Learning Mentor Year 9

Your child's form tutor

Subject tutors

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Timetable for Choices

February 2025

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.

Options Booklet will be available online for learners and parents.

February 13th 2025

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.

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.

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.

A*	
A	A*-C grade required for progression to advanced study
B	(Level 2)
C	
D	
E	
F	(Level 1)
G	
U	Ungraded, no certificate

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 & Literature
- Mathematics & Numeracy
- Physical Education
- RVE - World Views
- Science
- Welsh
- National Skills Challenge Certificate
- Personal and Social Education (PSE)

National Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC)

The WJEC's 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 two Challenge Briefs (out of three options: Global, 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 Problems Solving
- Planning and Organisation
- Creativity and Innovation
- Personal Effectiveness

Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC) Modules	Weighting	Assessed Skills	Internal Assessment	External Moderation
Individual Project	50%	All 7 Essential Skills	✓	✓
Enterprise and Employability Challenge*	25%	Creativity and Innovation, Personal Effectiveness and Digital Literacy	✓	✓
Community Challenge*	25%	Planning and Organisation and Personal Effectiveness	✓	✓
Global Challenge*	25%	Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Creativity and Innovation,	✓	✓

* Two Challenges out of the three Challenge Options will be chosen by the Progress Leader.

The National Skills Challenge Certificate will:

- Enable pupils to consolidate and formalise 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 Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC) all modules must be passed. To achieve the full Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification pupils must achieve the National SCC, together with the following supporting qualification.

- GCSE English Language or GCSE Welsh Language at grade A*-C.
- GCSE Mathematics or Numeracy at grade A*-C.
- A minimum of 3 further GCSEs at grade A*-C, or which 2 must be an equivalent qualification.

More information can be obtained from Mr Tuck

WJEC GCSE English Language and Literature

- WJEC GCSE English Language and Literature consists of four units for Single Award and six units for Double Award.
- Units 1, 2 and 3 are common to both pathways.
- The Single Award and the Double Award pose the same level of demand; grading will be consistent across both qualifications.
- Both awards are tier-less.

Common Units

Unit 1: Context and Meaning

Written Examination: Duration 1 hour 30 minutes

Section A: questions requiring objective responses, short and restricted responses based on one poem from the WJEC Anthology and one unseen poem.

Section B: extended response question (one from a choice of two) – creative literary or non-fiction writing.

Unit 2: Belonging

Non-examination assessment: Duration 7 hours

Task A is a written essay based on study of a prose text selected from a comprehensive longlist of suggested texts. Learners will use a range of linguistic and literary approaches to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the whole text, exploring the theme of Belonging through the study of character(s) and setting.

Task B is an individually researched oral presentation linked to their understanding of Belonging developed through their literary study of the text for Task A. The presentation should be linked to a theme, issue, representation or relationship that interests them from the studied prose text.

Unit 3: Influence and Power

Non-examination assessment: Duration 5 hours 55 minutes

Task A is a group discussion of 6-10 minutes based on the study of texts within a theme selected from WJEC's non-fiction anthology. Along with texts from the anthology, learners must discuss a text set by WJEC (one text will be set on each theme).

Task B is a creative non-fiction writing response informed by ideas and opinions gained from their reading of texts from Task A.

Unit 4a (Single Award): Motivations

Unit 4b (Double Award): Motivations

Written Examination: Duration 1 hour 30 minutes

Section A: questions requiring objective responses, short and extended responses based on the text selected for study.

Section B: extended response question (one from a choice of two), creative literary writing.

Double award only

<p>Unit 5: Continuity and Change Non-examination assessment: Duration 8 hours</p> <p>Task A is an extended response based on the study of a whole play by Shakespeare.</p> <p>Task B is a paired discussion based on the study of one 1600-1900 poem from the WJEC Anthology and the additional poem prescribed by WJEC.</p>	<p>Unit 6: Connections Written Examination Duration 1 hour 30 minutes</p> <p>Section A: questions requiring objective responses, short and extended responses based on two texts from the WJEC non-fiction anthology and one unseen text.</p> <p>Section B: extended response question (choice of one from two), non-fiction writing</p>
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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 WJEC double GCSE course – Mathematics and Numeracy.

This course follows the content of the National Curriculum, and is designed to enable the student to:

- make connections between different areas of mathematics and with other areas of the curriculum
- develop their conceptual understanding in explaining, expressing and representing concepts in both concrete and abstract forms
- communicate both abstract situations and real-world scenarios using mathematical symbols and expressions
- develop their ability to use mathematical facts, techniques and relationships fluently to solve problems
- recognise underlying mathematical structures within problems and develop strategies to solve them
- develop an understanding of relationships between mathematical concepts and the use of justifications and proofs
- gain a strong foundation in financial mathematics to equip them for life and work
- develop confidence in using and applying digital technology to help solve mathematical and statistical problems.

The qualification is designed to ensure that learners can continue to make progress towards the four purposes that underpin the Curriculum for Wales framework. Specifically enabling learners to progress in the principles of progression for the Mathematics and Numeracy area of learning and experience:

- conceptual understanding
- communication using symbols
- fluency
- logical reasoning
- strategic competence.

Assessment

The double award GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy is assessed by three unit examinations. There are two tiers of entry for each unit. The higher tier is designed for candidates likely to achieve grades A* - D and the foundation tier covers grades C - G.

Unit 1. Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy.

- 30% of the qualification.
- Calculator will be allowed.
- Introduction and development of learners' understanding of topics and concepts relating to finance and the development of financial literacy.
- Application of mathematical methods to personal and other real-world contexts.

Unit 2. Non-Calculator Paper.

- 30% of the qualification.
- Focus on mathematical topics and concepts that do not require the use of a calculator.

Unit 4. Calculator Paper.

- 40% of the qualification.

- Focus on mathematical topics and concepts that are more appropriately assessed with a calculator.

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 and ideally a grade A/A*.

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.

Information about your own likely level of achievement should be sought from your present Mathematics teacher.

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.

GCSE Core Cymraeg

Examination board: WJEC

Aims and Objectives

The GCSE Core Cymraeg qualification will enable learners to:

- develop an understanding of the language
- communicate clearly, accurately and creatively in Cymraeg
- develop their knowledge and understanding of the vocabulary, grammar and structure of Cymraeg
- express themselves in a range of contexts and for different audiences and purposes
- contribute spontaneously to conversation/discussion

The qualification is also be designed to promote a positive and relevant experience of Cymraeg and Welsh cultures enabling learners to

- understand the world around them
- enjoy Cymraeg and see the value for Cymraeg outside the classroom
- developing the use of Cymraeg for socialising and the workplace
- develop linguistic skills in order to use Cymraeg in a confident manner

Course content

The qualification is made up of four units with the following three broad themes forming the basis for learning the language.

- Cynefin
- Identity
- Culture.

Unit 1

Speaking and Listening – Responding to a Visual Stimulus

Non-examination assessment: Pair (6-8 minutes) or Group of three (8-10 minutes), with 10 minutes to prepare.

25% of qualification

Unit 2

Speaking and Listening – Responding to Various Sources

Non-examination assessment: Pair (6-8 minutes) or Group of three (8-10 minutes) with 10 minutes to prepare.

25% of qualification

Unit 3

Reading and Writing – Preparing for the Future

Written Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes.

25% of qualification

Unit 4

Reading and Writing – Literature and Creative

Written Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes.

25% of qualification

Grades Available A*-G

Additional information

Studying the Welsh Core 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 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.

RVE – Exploring Worldviews (Agored Cymru)

The Agored Cymru Exploring Worldviews qualification supports learners to increase their skills, knowledge and experiences in order to improve their understanding of religious and non-religious worldviews. This ensures that young people become equipped and confident individuals who can live, empathetically and successfully, in a fast changing and diverse society, as responsible and informed citizens.

The qualification supports both current and new, key educational policy areas of the Welsh Government relating to Religious Education (RE) and Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE). This includes the National Exemplar Framework for Religious Education 3 to 19- year-olds in Wales and the statutory guidance, which makes up the Curriculum for Wales Framework.

The Exploring Worldviews qualification supports the Welsh Government’s Curriculum for Wales’ four purposes, enabling learners to become:

- Ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- Enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- Ethical, informed citizen of Wales and the world
- Healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

The qualification meets the three core skills set out in the National exemplar framework for religious education for 3 to 19-year-olds in Wales.

- Engaging with fundamental questions
- Exploring religious beliefs, teachings and practice(s)
- Expressing personal responses

What will I study?

The course will be taught through a range of units that are chosen from the list below:

- Understanding Worldview
- Exploring my Worldview
- Ultimate Questions
- Medical Ethics
- Ethics of Sport and Leisure
- Worldviews in my Community

The qualification provides opportunities for exploring the concepts for RVE through the statements of what matters in the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience and responds to the following statements of what matters...

- Enquiry, exploration and investigation inspire curiosity about the world, its past, present and future
- Events and human experiences are complex, and are perceived, interpreted and represented in different ways
- Our natural world is diverse and dynamic, influenced by processes and human actions
- Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs.
- Informed, self-aware citizens engage with the challenges and opportunities that face humanity, and are able to take considered and ethical action

For more information see Mr R. Dennis, Miss M Senior and Mr T. Williams

P.S.E

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 M. Senior

The Option Curriculum

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

Business Studies	17
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Health and Social Care, and Childcare	20
Art and Design	21-22
Design and Technology	23
Engineering	24
Hospitality and Catering	25
Information and Communication Technology	26
French/Spanish	27-28
German	29-30
Geography	31-32
History	33-34
Creative Media Production	35-36
Physical Education (GCSE)	37
Public Services	38
Animal Care	40

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:

Unit 1 - Introduction to the Business World- In this unit, you will study the fundamentals of business. You will explore the purpose of business activity and the nature of business enterprises, understanding the different types of business ownership and aims. Additionally, you will learn about markets and business sectors, and the importance of the consumer. You will calculate costs and revenue to make business decisions.

Unit 2 - Key business considerations -in this unit, you will undertake research on a chosen business in your locality and to use your research findings to produce a report.

Unit 3 - Business strategies for success - in this unit you will explore the key business functions of finance, marketing, human resources, and production. Additionally, you will study strategies for business growth and understand how businesses are affected by political, legal, and economic external factors.

Unit 4 - Business creation - in this unit, you will develop enterprise skills. You will carry out primary and secondary market research to collect information for an entrepreneurial opportunity you have identified. You will produce a report that covers key aspects of your business proposal.

How will I be assessed?

Units 1 and 3 are assessed by written examinations containing both short and extended answers, with some based around business situations.
Unit 2 and 4 are non-examined assessments where you will be given an assignment brief to complete. You will undertake research, analyse the data and provide judgements.

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.

GCSE Music

Why take GCSE Music?

The course will give you a broad and balanced experience of music. You will develop performing skills as a soloist and as part of a group, as well as gaining listening skills which will enable you to recognise contrasting genres, styles and traditions of music. You will develop composing skills to enable you to write music for different occasions. You will enjoy this course if you currently have instrumental or singing lessons and have taken part in school productions and concerts.

Across the three units you will study a range of music from contrasting styles/genres and periods/contexts, including music created in or inspired by Wales and written by a diverse range of composers including those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds.

Course Content and Assessment

Unit 1 Performing is worth 32.5% of the overall mark at GCSE. You will perform one solo and one ensemble piece on an instrument or singing and must write a programme note about one of the pieces.

Unit 2 Composing is worth 32.5% of the overall mark at GCSE. You will compose two pieces of music in contrasting styles and must write an evaluation about one of the pieces.

Unit 3 Listening is worth 35% of the overall mark at GCSE. You will have a 1hr 30 mins digital written exam where you will answer questions on music you will hear and set music you have studied.

Additional Information

GCSE Music is a practical and academic course. It is essential that pupils play and instrument/sing or are prepared to learn to play and develop these skills during the course. The GCSE Music course is an ideal basis to continue onto A' Level Music or BTEC Level 3 Music courses and for those wishing to pursue a career as a musician, composer, film music editor, sound engineer, musical theatre performer, teacher and 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 30% 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 30% of the overall mark at GCSE. You will sit a 2hr digital 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 WJEC GCE A Level Drama 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.

Section B: 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.

WJEC Engineering

GCSE

The qualification has 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 A. Jones.

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 assessed 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

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

Geography is the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments. Geographers explore the physical properties of the earth's surface and the human societies spread across it. What can be more important for our future?

What will I study?

Unit 1 - Our Physical and Human World.

Here you will study: drainage basin and rivers, changing coastlines, migration and settlement change. Written examination worth 30% of the qualification (1hour 30 mins).

Unit 2 - Developing Fieldwork skills

You will carry out a fieldwork visit based on a topic, such as change over time or environment, and investigate this in a chosen location, writing a fieldwork enquiry that will be submitted to WJEC. Non-Examination Assessment worth 25% of the qualification.

Unit 3 - Our Dynamic and Diverse World.

This Unit includes: the geography of inequality, the highs and lows of our weather, wild weather, continual climate change and managing global challenges. Written examination worth 30% of the qualification (1hour 30 mins).

Unit 4 - Sustainable Solutions

You will receive a resource booklet on a geographical issue and will also carry out background reading on the issue. You will then write a report based on a real-world issue in a decision-making task, reporting how sustainable the various options are likely to be. Non-Examination Assessment worth 15% of the qualification.

What skills will I develop?

- Geography is always in the news. You will develop skills to interpret, analyse and evaluate information to make decisions about issues and problems that affect people and the environment.
- An ability to collect, process, analyse and understand qualitative and quantitative data and communicate it to a variety of audiences.
- Develop a reasoned argument and communicate it to a variety of audiences.
- Teamwork and leadership skills.
- Studying geography allows you to develop a range of personal skills for life, including time management, dealing with uncertainty, flexibility, creativity, problems solving and self-confidence.

What will it help me to do?

The transferable skills developed by studying geography are actively sought by employers. There is a wealth of jobs that geographers can do spanning almost every sector! Most jobs have an element of geography in them, whether a doctor investigating the spread of disease or an engineer designing products to cope with less demand for plastic.

Employers could include:

- The armed forces and Ministry of Defence
- Charities and Environmental protection agencies
- The Civil Service and Local government
- Environmental consultancies and wildlife conservation project teams

- Information systems organisations and research institutions
- Universities and other academic bodies.

For more information see Dr S. James and Mrs J. Jarvis.

History

History is the study of places and the relationships between people and their societies. The aim of the GCSE History course is to enable candidates to understand the principles and concepts and concepts of the past. The GCSE History course allows you to explore a wide and diverse selection of topics from various historical periods and societies. Students can examine, analyse, and assess historical figures and events from the extensive array of choice available.

What will I study?

Unit 1 – An in-depth study on Welsh history

You will study one of six historical topics (from 1132-1959) to undertake an in-depth study that will provide them with an insight into the development of Wales at a specific point in time. Written examination worth 30% of the qualification (1hour TBC).

Unit 2 – An in-depth study on European and/or World history

You will study one of six historical topics (from 1162-2001) to undertake an in-depth study that will provide you with an understanding of an issue in European and/or world history. Non-examination assessment (NEA) marked by WJEC, worth 20% of qualification.

Unit 3 – A study of a period in world history

You will study one of six historical topics (from 750-1980) to undertake a breadth study of an extended historical period. Written examination worth 30% of the qualification (1hour 30minutes).

Unit 4 – A changing society

You will undertake a study of themed events within a continuous period of c75-100 years of history on a 'Changing Society' in Great Britain and Ireland. Non-examination assessment (NEA) marked by centre and moderated by WJEC (4 hours), worth 20% of qualification.

What skills will I develop?

GCSE History is the perfect subject to develop a wide range of transferable skills for employment of further study, including:

- Reaching conclusions and making judgements
- Problem solving
- Writing skills
- Research skills
- Independent study skills
- Analytical and evaluative skills
- Making connections

What will it help me to do?

The transferable skills developed by studying history help people to think critically and analytically. Studying History could lead to a career path in:

- Law
- Journalism
- Marketing
- Human resources and management
- Academic research and teaching

For more information see Mr C. McKibben, Mr N. Rees, Mrs R. Greenow and Mrs S Biggin-Jones for further details.

Creative Media Production

Pearson BTEC Level 2 – Tech Award

Discover Your Creative Potential with Creative Media Production!

Do you dream of creating eye-catching designs, producing engaging content, or working in media? Dive into the world of creativity, technology, and storytelling while building skills that will set you apart in today's digital age. Whether you are into film, graphics, or digital content creation, this course offers opportunities to bring your ideas to life.

What will you study?

You will explore how media shapes the world we live in and how to create content that engages and inspires audiences. With a balance of theory and firsthand learning, this course ensures you have both the creativity and technical expertise to succeed. It combines practical projects with industry-relevant knowledge to give you a solid foundation in the world of creative media.

Course Content:

Unit 1 - Exploring Media Products: Learn how several types of media—TV, film, digital platforms—are created, and analyse how they communicate with audiences.

Unit 2 - Developing Media Production Skills: Experiment with a range of creative tools, including editing software (Photoshop, InDesign, Premier Pro), graphic design tools, and video production equipment.

Unit 3 - Creating Media Products: Put your skills into action! You will plan, design, and produce your very own media projects (videos, podcasts and photography), showcasing your creativity and technical abilities.

Typically, students may create products such as:

- Audio/Moving Image Products: Documentaries, music videos, or podcasts.
- Print Products: Magazines, newspapers, posters, or brochures.
- Interactive Products: Websites, mobile applications, or interactive presentations.

How is the course assessed?

Internal Assignments - coursework (60%): These include practical projects and assignments completed throughout the course.

External Assessment - examination (40%): A set task assessed by Pearson, assessing your ability to apply the skills and knowledge you have gained.

This approach ensures that you are assessed on your ability to create, problem-solve, and innovate.

What's Next?

Completing this course opens a world of opportunities!

Further Education: Progress to Level 3 BTECs, A-levels in related subjects, or an apprenticeship in media production, graphic design, or filmmaking. We offer Level 3 Digital Media here at Ysgol Bryn Elan.

Career Opportunities: Gain skills for roles such as video editor, graphic designer, digital content creator, or even kickstart your path towards a career in advertising, social media

management, or film production.

This course is your first step into a fast-growing industry, combining creativity with the latest technology.

For further information, please contact Mrs C. Howatson in ICT04.

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

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

Animal Care

BTEC Award Level 1 / 2 in Animal Care

Why take Animal Care?

Love animals? Enjoy looking handling and looking after them and want to learn more in this area? The animal care sector has grown exponentially since 2019 and is worth 1 billion to the UK economy, creating lots of employment opportunities in this area.

This qualification is for learners who want to acquire sector specific applied knowledge and practical skills by studying animal health and welfare.

Across the units, you will study:

- Animal health and welfare, including signs of good and ill health, causes, transmission and treatment of common diseases in animals, the different health and monitoring checks, and the use of animals in society.
- Factors affecting animal behaviour, the impact on handling and restraint, and when it is safe and unsafe to handle and restrain animals, and the practical application of safe handling and restraint techniques and equipment.
- Features that need to be considered when selecting accommodation for animals to ensure it is appropriate and meets their needs, and the practical activities of preparing, checking and cleaning out animal accommodation using the appropriate equipment.

Course Content and Assessment

Two coursework modules worth 25% each and an exam unit worth the remaining 50%

Additional information

We are currently working to set this new qualification up, and confirmation of it running will be shared with learners later in the Spring Term. However, please still identify it as an option choice, should that be the learner's preference.

Please contact Mrs K. Webb for further details.

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.