

Year 9

Options

2025/26



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 2026. 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
Mrs L Maxwell-Owen, 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

November 2025 - January 2026

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 26th 2026

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 2026

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)
- Religious Studies

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, of which 2 must be an equivalent qualification.

For More information contact Mr N. Tuck.

English Language and Literature (Double Award)

Introduction

The GCSE English Language and Literature Double Award enables you to appreciate how language connects you to the world around you, to engage with a rich range of texts from different periods and by diverse writers, and to develop and apply your own use of language, through written and verbal communication.

What will I study?

Unit 1 Context and Meaning – in Unit 1, you will study a range of poetry from the WJEC anthology, engaging with the concept of Context and Meaning.

Unit 2 Belonging – in Unit 2, you will study a prose text, engaging with the concept of Belonging and themes of community, cynefin and citizenship.

Unit 3 Influence and Power – in Unit 3, you will study a range of non-fiction texts, engaging with the Influence and Power of writers, and how writers and speakers exert power and attempt to influence others.

Unit 4b Motivations – in Unit 4b, you will have a choice to study a play or a prose text, engaging with the concept of Motivations of writers and characters, exploring reasons for attitudes, behaviours and beliefs.

Unit 5 Continuity and Change – in Unit 5, you will study a Shakespeare play and pre-20th Century poetry. You will consider the concept of Continuity and Change, and how attitudes, ideas and language have changed over time.

Unit 6 Connections – in Unit 6, you will study non-fiction texts, focusing on the concept of Connections. You will explore links between different texts, relating texts to time, place, language, and relationships.

How will I be assessed?

Units 1, 4b and 6 are examined units, together worth 60% of your qualification. Each exam lasts 90 minutes and will consist of low-tariff extract-based questions, an extended essay response and a piece of creative fiction or non-fiction writing. Units 2, 3 and 5 are non-examined assessments, together worth 40% of your qualification. Each unit will consist of two tasks, one that will assess your written response to the relevant text(s) and one that will assess your oracy skills.

What skills will I develop?

GCSE English Language and Literature is a core subject and as such helps to develop a wide range of skills for your future:

- Communication Skills – expressing yourself through clear and creative use of language
- Reading Skills – reading, listening to and researching a range of texts, analysing meaning and scrutinising reliability
- Contextual Analysis Skills – engaging with the significance of purpose, audience, and contexts of speaking, reading and writing
- Literacy Skills – developing and applying an understanding of grammar and uses of vocabulary.

Careers using ‘English Language and Literature’

GCSE English Language and Literature is designed to equip you with a rich variety of skills for your future in education and the workplace. It is a widely valued qualification that provides a strong foundation for further study of literature, language, and a wide range of other academic subjects at A level and beyond. It can open the door to an array of career paths such as law, journalism, media production, advertising, marketing, teaching, politics, public relations, and publishing.

English Language and Literature (Single Award)

Introduction

The GCSE English Language and Literature Single Award enables you to appreciate how language connects you to the world around you, to engage with a rich range of texts from different periods and by diverse writers, and to develop and apply your own use of language, through written and verbal communication.

What will I study?

Unit 1 Context and Meaning – in Unit 1, you will study a range of poetry from the WJEC anthology, engaging with the concept of Context and Meaning.

Unit 2 Belonging – in Unit 2, you will study a prose text, engaging with the concept of Belonging and themes of community, cynefin and citizenship.

Unit 3 Influence and Power – in Unit 3, you will study a range of non-fiction texts, engaging with the Influence and Power of writers, how writers and speakers exert power and attempt to influence others.

Unit 4a Motivations – in Unit 4a, you will study a play, engaging with the concept of Motivations of writers and characters, exploring reasons for attitudes, behaviours and beliefs.

How will I be assessed?

Units 1 and 4a are examined units, together worth 60% of your qualification. Each exam lasts 90 minutes and will consist of low-tariff extract-based questions, an extended essay response and a piece of creative fiction or non-fiction writing.

Units 2 and 3 are non-examined assessments, together worth 40% of your qualification. Each unit will consist of two tasks, one that will assess your written response to the relevant text(s) and one that will assess your oracy skills.

What skills will I develop?

GCSE English Language and Literature is a core subject and as such helps to develop a wide range of skills for your future:

- Communication Skills – expressing yourself through clear and creative use of language
- Reading Skills – reading, listening to and researching a range of texts, analysing meaning and scrutinising reliability
- Contextual Analysis Skills – engaging with the significance of purpose, audience, and contexts of speaking, reading and writing
- Literacy Skills – developing and applying an understanding of grammar and uses of vocabulary.

Careers using ‘English Language and Literature’

GCSE English Language and Literature is designed to equip you with a rich variety of skills for your future in education and the workplace. It is a widely valued qualification that provides a strong foundation for further study of literature, language, and a wide range of other academic subjects at A level and beyond. It can open the door to an array of career paths such as law, journalism, media production, advertising, marketing, teaching, politics, public relations, and publishing.

Mathematics and Numeracy (Double Award)

In GCSE Mathematics & Numeracy, you will build on the knowledge and understanding you have of topics within number, algebra, geometry, and data. You will be taught the key financial aspects of everyday adult life, such as dealing with payslips, bills, and savings. A good understanding of the content of this qualification is the perfect platform to those hoping to follow a STEM career.

What will I study?

The course has 3 units:

UNIT 1: Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy

In this unit you will learn life lessons that will help you become a financially well-informed adult. Think about terms or acronyms you may have heard about like 'National Insurance', 'VAT' or 'AER' – these will become familiar to you. Financial opportunities and pitfalls will be addressed, and you will learn how to read important documents like payslips, bills and bank statements.

All sorts of other real-world contexts will also be taught and assessed, making this unit relevant and interesting.

UNIT 2: Non-calculator

You will explore concepts where you won't need your calculator in this unit. You will deepen your understanding of probability and explore new ideas within algebra and geometry, like quadratic graphs and circle theorems.

UNIT 3: Calculator-allowed

This unit has the biggest weighting of all three units, and you can have your calculator by your side. There is lots of data handling and statistics in this unit as well as new geometry concepts such as Pythagoras' Theorem and Trigonometry

How will I be assessed?

UNIT 1: Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy	
Higher tier	Foundation tier
1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks	1 hour 30 minutes 65 marks
Weighting: 30% of the qualification	

UNIT 2: Non-calculator	
Higher tier	Foundation tier
1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks	1 hour 30 minutes 65 marks
Weighting: 30% of the qualification	

UNIT 3: Calculator-allowed	
Higher tier	Foundation tier
2 hours 90 marks	1 hour 45 minutes 75 marks
Weighting: 40% of the qualification	

What skills will I develop?

- You will develop an understanding of the different areas of mathematics and how they relate to each other.
- You will extend your range of mathematical skills and techniques and be able to use and apply them to a range of real-life contexts.
- You will gain a strong foundation in financial mathematics to prepare you for life and work.

Careers in Mathematics

A GCSE in Mathematics and Numeracy can lead to a variety of career paths. These include jobs such as: financial analyst, computer programmer, medical scientist, actuary, software developer, economist, data or research analyst, accountant, teacher.

For More information contact 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.

For More information contact Mr D. Wilkins.

GCSE Core Cymraeg

Do you want to be able to understand and use Welsh, the language of Wales, confidently and spontaneously? Do you want to develop a valuable skill and use Welsh in further study, in the workplace and in your communities? Do you want to be a part of the government's aim and be one of the million Welsh speakers by 2050? This is a qualification that can foster your curiosity, develop your language learning skills and strategies, and open doors to further study and future jobs.

What will I study?

You will study three broad themes of 'cynefin', identity and culture and within these themes you will learn: about the value of the Welsh language socially and in the world of work about its use in Wales and around the world how to understand and use Cymraeg with others in a spontaneous and confident way how to develop skills for work and life how to respond creatively to literature.

UNIT 1 (Responding to a Visual Stimulus) & UNIT 2 (Responding to Various Sources)

In these speaking and listening units you will learn how to understand and use Welsh with others in a spontaneous and confident way by:

- watching visual stimuli (Unit 1)
- looking at various sources for example, graph/ chart, facts and/or statistics and images (Unit 2)

UNIT 3 (Preparing for the Future)~ UNIT 4 (Literature and Creative Writing)

In these units you will develop both skills, reading and writing, by responding to non-verbal reading and writing texts, practicing and responding to a variety of language forms, as well as:

- learn essential skills for the future such as
- translanguaging and translating (Unit 3)
- study short stories and set poems CU nit 4)

All units will be based on the three broad themes.

How will I be assessed?

Examination

There will be two written examinations:

Unit 3 -1 hour 30 minutes; 100 marks; 25% of qualification.

Unit 4-1 hour 30 minutes; 100 marks; 25% of qualification.

There will be a variety of reading tasks with non-verbal and written responses in both units along with descriptive, persuasive, poetic writing and express opinions tasks (Unit 3) and creative writing tasks (Unit 4).

In Unit 3, translanguaging and translating tasks will be assessed in each series. In Unit 4, one set text (from the two poems and two short stories) will be assessed in each series. You will be told before the exam (Unit 4) which set text will be used in each series.

Non-Examination Assssment

There will be two non-examination assessments:

Unit 1 - one oral assessment for pairs (6-8 minutes)/ group of three (8-10 minutes); 50 marks; 25% of qualification.

Unit 2 - one oral assessment for pairs (6-8 minutes)/ group of three (8-10 minutes); 50 marks; 25% of qualification.

What Skills Will I Develop?

- **Speaking and Listening Skills**
You will develop your speaking and listening skills to be able to communicate, interact, express and justify opinions and ask and respond effectively to questions
- **Reading and Writing skills**
You will develop your reading and writing skills to be able to understand and respond to different types of written language in various forms including work-related language and responding to literature.
- **Analysing skills**
You will develop your analytical skills to respond critically, evaluate relevant points and develop ideas in texts and spoken communication.

Careers In Core Cymraeg

GCSE Core Cymraeg

Jobs advertised in Wales often require the ability to speak Welsh as essential or desirable. If you have a GCSE Core Cymraeg qualification and if the other candidates applying for the post do not have this qualification, you have a head start.

The ability to speak Welsh is important and advantageous in all areas including education, health and care, the government, media and entertainment, sport, law, marketing and much more. You can even get a job in Patagonia in South America if you can speak Welsh.

For More information contact Mrs A. Blake.

Religious Studies

Why study RS? Because it is, and will always be, relevant. The majority of the world's population is religious; GCSE RS helps you to understand some of the beliefs and teachings that these people live their lives by. You will also learn about non-religious attitudes and perspectives as this is increasingly relevant in the modern world. Not a day goes by where there isn't reference to religion or some ethical topic on the news, so take GCSE RS to be better informed about these important matters'

What Will I Study?

GCSE Religious Studies comprises four units, two of which are examined by non-exam assessment (NEA).

UNIT 1 - Religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings and practices

In this unit, first you will learn the nature of belief (what we mean by belief and why people choose to be religious or nonreligious) and then go on to look at a variety of key religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings and practices, including beliefs about life and death, identity, belonging, morality and putting belief into action. You will learn this content from a Christian or Catholic perspective, the perspective of one other world religion and from non-religious perspectives.

UNIT 2 - Religion and relationships

Unit 2 is a nonexam assessment (NEA) meaning you will learn about relationships and then conduct an investigation into a topic relating to this, exploring religious and non-religious perspectives.

UNIT 3 - Roles, rights and responsibilities

Unit 3 allows you to explore key religious themes, including stewardship, animal rights, freedom of religious expression, use of personal wealth and the medical ethics topics of abortion and euthanasia. As with Unit 1, you will learn these from a Christian or Catholic perspective and also from the viewpoint of one other world religion, as well as looking at non-religious views.

UNIT 4 - Religion and human rights

Unit 4 is another non-exam assessment. First, you will learn some beliefs, teachings, practices and perspectives relating to human rights and then complete an NEA exploring the work of charities and organisations campaigning for human rights.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Unit 1 A 75-minute exam, 60 marks, 30% of the qualification

Unit 2 Non-exam assessment, 6 hours, 20% of the qualification

Units 3 A 75-minute exam, 60 marks, 30% of the qualification

Unit 4 Non-exam assessment, 6 hours, 20% of the qualification

What Skills Will I Develop?

Religious Studies allows you to broaden your understanding of different people and the way they live their lives, developing tolerance and empathy. The academic nature of the subject helps you to develop a range of skills, including:

Interpretation

Analysis

Evaluation

Critical thinking

Debate and communication skills
Reflection of personal views

With the introduction of NEA, you will also have opportunities to investigate and explore issues that are relevant to today's world, developing research and interpersonal skills.

Careers In Religious Studies

GCSE Religious Studies gives you a solid foundation for studying A Level Religious Studies, which can lead you to various degrees at university:

Theology;

Religious Studies;

Philosophy;

PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics).

It can also lead to a wide range of careers: lawyer; police officer; teacher; paramedic; chef; business owner; data analyst. The skills gained in GCSE Religious Studies make it perfectly suited to any career requiring critical thinking, debate and good communication skills; most careers require some combination of these.

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 information contact 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 contact 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 contact 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	21-22
Music	23-24
Drama	25-26
Health and Social Care, and Childcare	27-28
Art & Design	29-30
Product Design	31-32
Engineering	33
Hospitality & Catering	34
Information and Communication Technology	35
French/German/Spanish	36-37
Geography	38-39
History	40-41
Creative Media	42-43
Physical Education GCSE	44-45
Public Services	46
SWEET	47
Animal Care	48
Additional Maths	49-50

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

The WJEC GCSE Business qualification will develop your understanding of the activities that make a business successful. You will gain an insight into critical issues facing businesses and ways in which these can be solved. You will undertake research to make reasoned judgements and think critically about businesses in your area.

You will also reflect on business activity in the context of the environment and sustainability. You will study the impact business has on society. You will explore job market trends and understand different business careers and employment opportunities available to you.

What will I study?

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.

What skills will I develop?

GCSE Business helps to develop a wide range of skills for your future:

- Literacy Skills – reading, writing, understanding, and engaging with various forms of text and information.
- Numeracy Skills – understanding, interpreting, and working with numbers to solve business problems.
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving – analysing business information to make decisions or judgments.
- Personal Effectiveness Skills – achieving your goals by managing your time, setting targets and learning from your experiences.
- Creativity and innovation - thinking creatively, by coming up with solutions to business problems.

GCSE Business will equip you with a range of skills that are not only valuable for studying business further, but which will combine with a variety of subjects.

Careers in Business

GCSE Business will prepare you for many careers in business and industry. These include in marketing and public relations, law, finance and accounting, human resource management, as well as manufacturing and production.

An understanding of the principles of management is applicable to many roles in both the public and private sector and will be valuable for whatever career path you choose.

For More information contact Mr N. Tuck.

GCSE Music

The WJEC GCSE Music qualification will support you to:

- develop performance skills
- develop creative skills
- understand musical forms, styles and genres
- appreciate how to communicate musically
- explore music created and performed by others to help develop your own talents
- reflect on, evaluate and refine your work
- explore diversity, identity and culture
-

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The GCSE Music qualification is based on the study and application of the elements of music:

- dynamics
- form and structure
- harmony
- melody and pitch
- performance techniques/articulation
- sonority / timbre
- tempo, rhythm and metre
- texture
- tonality.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 – Performing

Non-exam assessment

32.5% of qualification: 78 marks

Minimum 2 pieces, 4-6 minutes

Solo and/or ensemble

You will select pieces that you wish to perform, individually or as part of an ensemble.

Unit 2 – Composing

Assessment Type: Non-exam assessment

32.5% of qualification: 78 marks

2 compositions, 3-6 minutes total

You will compose your own music in a style you choose, one to a set brief and one to your own brief. You will also submit an assessed reflective log.

Unit 3 – Appraising

Assessment Type: Digital exam (1h 30m)

35% of qualification: 84 marks

The exam questions will be based on extracts of music you will be able to listen to, and you will be expected to know and understand the elements of music and how they are used. You will study 2 set works in detail.

What skills will I develop?

Exploring: you will have the opportunity to explore various styles and genres of music linked to different cultures in Wales and the world and understand how they have been created to produce the intended effect. You will be able to use these ideas to create and develop your own music. You could also compose through exploring ideas in improvisation

Responding and reflecting: you will be able to evaluate and refine your work through reflection and feedback from others, to create a successful finished product
Creating: you will create your own original music in a style of your choosing, and a piece to meet a brief specified by WJEC using the techniques you have explored and reflected upon.

Careers In Music

This qualification provides a suitable foundation for the study of Music at A-level. It will also provide a satisfying and worthwhile course of study for you if you choose not to progress to study further.

In the future, Creativity is going to be one of the most important and in-demand skills at work (World Economic Forum). When business leaders across the world were surveyed, they voted Creativity as the most important workplace capability to help their businesses survive and grow. This means that the study of creative subjects, like Music, is becoming even more important and relevant to young people to give you the chance to succeed, whatever your ambitions! At the same time, you will find many opportunities to develop and improve your personal wellbeing both independently and as part of a wider community.

Importantly, studying music will develop many transferable skills including communication, presentation skills, team working, leadership, focus, refinement, creativity and self-confidence.therapist etc.

For More information contact Mrs M Hildrew.

GCSE Drama

The WJEC GCSE Drama qualification will support you to:

- explore drama created and performed by other people to help develop your own talents
- gain understanding of a range of techniques, forms, styles, genres and contexts
- reflect on, evaluate and refine your work
- explore diversity, identity and culture
- discover and explore your performance and/or design skills

What will I study?

The GCSE Drama qualification will allow you to explore and respond to stimuli, create and reflect on your own work, develop your own creativity and engage with many different styles of theatre. You will also have the opportunity to build on your understanding of acting, directing, design and technical theatre.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 - Devising Theatre

Practical non-exam assessment 40% of qualification: 96 marks

One devised piece in response to a chosen stimulus, performed in a group of between two and five actors and up to four designers.

Unit 2 - Performance from a Text

Practical non-exam assessment 30% of qualification: 72 marks

A performance of one extract from a text of your choice. Assessed by a Visiting Examiner and performed in a group of between two and four actors and up to two designers.

Unit 3 - Interpreting Theatre

Assessment Type: On-screen examination (2 hours) 30% of qualification: 72 marks

The exam is broken into two sections: Section A and Section B. Section A will ask questions based on a set text you will have studied in lessons. Section B will ask questions based on an excerpt of a live theatre production from one of four set genres, that you will be able to watch in the exam. The genres are Musical Theatre, Naturalism, Theatre in Education or Physical Theatre.

What Skills will I develop?

Exploring: you will have the opportunity to explore, experience and interpret many different styles and genres of theatre linked to different cultures in Wales and the world. You will be able to build on these ideas to create and develop your own theatre when devising and when working from a script.

Responding and reflecting: you will be able to recount, evaluate and refine your work through reflection and feedback from others, to create an exciting, imaginative and successful finished product. You will also be able to evaluate and analyse the work of others to inform your own creativity.

Creating: in Unit 1, you will devise your own original piece of theatre in response to a stimulus and in a style/genre of your choice, within a group of your peers. In Unit 2, you will work from a text of your choosing, also in a style of your choosing.

Careers in Drama

This qualification provides an excellent foundation for the study of Drama at A-level. It will also provide a satisfying and worthwhile course of study for you if you choose not to study further.

Importantly, studying Drama will develop many transferable skills including communication, presentation skills, team working, leadership, focus, refinement, creativity and self-confidence. The career options that come from studying Drama are extensive, but here are a few of those options:

Actor, Drama Therapist, Recruitment, Scenic MakeUp Artist, Marketing Executive, Casting Director, Producer, Events Management, Script Writer, Stage Manager, Primary school teacher, University Lecturer, Make up and Prosthetics Technician, Teacher, Community Arts Manager, Playwright, Lighting Designer, Costumer Designer, Workshop Leader, Sound Technician, Studio Supporting Artist, Theatre Agent, Arts Administrator, Theatre Manager, Dramaturg, Theatre/TV Director, Broadcasting Crew, Researcher.

For More information contact Miss N. Pattullo.

WJEC GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare

Through studying GCSE Health and Social Care and Childcare you will:

- Learn about health and social care, and childcare services consider the impact of these services on general health, well-being and children's development
- Consider human rights and diversity, including black, Asian and minority ethnic perspectives, identity, culture and experiences.

What will I study?

Unit 1 – Health and social care, and childcare in Wales in the 21st Century

In this unit you will develop knowledge and understanding of:

- the life cycle and the factors that affect growth and development
- the promotion and maintenance of health and wellbeing, and tools that can be used to measure and support this
- core principles and values, underpinned by legislation and service provision within a Welsh context, across the health and social care, and childcare sectors.

Unit 2 – Adult Health and Social Care

In this unit you will gain knowledge and understanding of:

- individual needs and key conditions and illnesses in adulthood
- how professionals work in adult health and social care to achieve positive outcomes
- the role of health promotion in public health in Wales.

Unit 3 – Childcare

In this unit you will gain knowledge and understanding of:

- life stages, expected milestones, and physical, intellectual, language, emotional, and social (PILES) development
- key conditions and illnesses amongst children
- how professionals work, including play and play work, to meet the needs of children in Wales to achieve positive outcomes

What skills will I develop?

By studying Health and Social Care and Childcare, you will be able to:

- develop and apply knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary issues in a range of health and social care and childcare contexts
- actively engage in the study of health and social care and childcare to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds
- appreciate a range of perspectives on the impacts of health and social care and childcare services on wider society
- consider how health and social care and childcare practice should be ethical and support a sustainable health and care system
- develop an awareness of career pathways available within the health and social care and childcare sector

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 – Health and social care, and childcare in Wales in the 21st Century

Assessment Type: written examination 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of qualification: 80 marks

The assessment will include questions requiring objective responses, short and extended answers, with some based around applied situations.

Unit 2 – Adult Health and Social Care

Assessment Type: Non-exam assessment 12 hours 30% of qualification: 60 marks

For this assessment, you will be required to complete an assessment based on a choice of two case studies where you'll apply knowledge and understanding of adult health and social care.

Unit 3 – Childcare

Assessment Type: Non-exam assessment 12 hours 30% of qualification: 60 marks

For this assessment, you will be required to complete an assessment based on a case study and an investigation where you'll apply knowledge and understanding of childcare.

Careers in Health and Social Care and Childcare

The qualification will allow you to develop a strong foundation of knowledge, skills and understanding which supports progression to post-16 study and generally valued for life, learning and work.

It will also help you make informed decisions about a wide range of career pathways, including:

Health care sector: Nurse, GP, healthcare assistant, pharmacist

Social care sector: Care work, social worker, support worker, counsellors and therapists

Children and young people's sector: nursery worker, teaching assistant, child and family support workers

Specialised care roles: Palliative care professional, mental health worker

Public health roles: Community development workers, health educators

For More information contact Miss S. Murrell.

Art and Design G.C.S.E.

The WJEC GCSE Art and Design qualification will support you to:

- explore the work of artists and designers to help develop your own creative talent
- develop creative skills so that you can plan, devise and design your own work
- gain practical skills, becoming increasingly sophisticated and controlled
- reflect on, evaluate and refine your work
- explore diversity, identity and culture

What will I study?

The GCSE Art and Design qualification is available in the following pathways:

- Art, craft, and design
- Fine art
- Graphic communication
- Textile design
- Three-dimensional design
- Photography

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 – Portfolio

Assessment Type: Non-exam assessment 60% of qualification: 120 marks

This unit is designed to enable you to develop knowledge, understanding and skills within the creative process. You will be encouraged to make personal discoveries and take creative risks through your own investigations. You will be required to produce a portfolio:

- through a sustained project that shows development, refinement, reflection and presentation
- that is internally set, in consultation with your teacher, based on a theme, concept or specific design brief.
-

Unit 2 – Externally Set Assignment (ESA)

Assessment Type: Non-exam assessment 40% of qualification: 80 marks

The ESA contains five overarching 'big ideas'. You must choose one big idea and use given stimuli as a starting point to inform your work.

You will undertake contextual and practical research and supporting studies during a preparatory period. This will inform your response during a 10-hour 'sustained focus' period.

What skills will I develop?

You will learn to use a broad range of media, techniques, tools, digital technologies and processes depending on which pathway you choose. You will develop the skills to create artefacts – whether that is painting, fashion design, content creation, photography, or architectural models (to name a few possibilities). You will learn how to develop creative processes and working methods to develop the visual outcomes that you choose. You will also learn and understand about working independently (with teacher support) to develop your own ideas and to meet deadlines set for your work. Through all of this, you will gain an awareness of sustainability in art and design as well as a deeper understanding of culture and identity through engaging with your emerging work.

Careers in Art & Design

This qualification provides a suitable foundation for the study of Art and Design at

A-level. It will also provide a satisfying course of study for you if you choose not to progress to study further.

The career possibilities that come through the study of art and design are vast, a few are listed here: Advertising, Animator, Architect, Art Therapist, Book Designer, Cartoonist, Ceramicist, Cinematographer, Costume Designer, Digital Artist, Exhibition Designer, Furniture Designer, Fashion Designer, Fine Artist, Film researcher, Food Stylist, Graphic Artist, Game Designer, Interior Designer, Illustrator, Jewellery Designer, Knitwear designer, Landscape Architect, Lighting Designer, Make-up artist, Medical Illustrator, Model Maker, Muralist, Product Designer, Photographer, Potter, Puppet Maker, Printmaker, Production Designer, Sculptor, Silversmith, Special Effects Artist, Stained Glass Artist, Tattoo Artist, Teacher, Theatre Designer, TV Director, Textile Designer, Typographer, Urban Designer, Video artist.

For More information contact Miss A Jones or Miss S. Murrell.

Design and Technology

Through studying GCSE Design and Technology, you will be prepared to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world; and be aware of, and learn from, wider influences on design and technology, including historical, social/cultural, environmental and economic factors.

The course will offer you the opportunity to solve real problems by designing and making products or systems.

What will I study?

The GCSE Design and Technology qualification is available in the following pathways:

- Engineering Design
- Fashion and Textiles
- Product Design

Each of these pathways is divided into core knowledge and information - which will ensure that you have a broad knowledge and understanding of Design and Technology – as well as content that is specific to your chosen pathway.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 – On screen exam

Assessment Type: Digital examination 30% of qualification: 80 marks

The on-screen exam will require you to demonstrate and apply your knowledge and understanding of the principles, materials, tools and techniques used in Design and Technology. There will be a mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions on both core knowledge and content that is specific to your chosen pathway.

Unit 2 – Design Project: Contextual Challenge

Assessment Type: Non-exam assessment 70% of qualification: 100 marks

This unit is designed to give you the opportunity to solve ‘real life’ problems by designing and making products or systems that respond to your selected target markets’ needs, wants and values. You will be required to identify design opportunities, produce a clear design brief and specification, create innovative solutions, produce quality final prototypes and evaluate their suitability for their intended users’ needs.

What skills will I develop?

Studying Design and Technology will enable you to develop a wide range of transferable skills for further education, work and life:

- Creative and innovative thinking
- Use of imagination and experimentation
- Ability to critique and refine your own ideas
- Knowledge and Understanding of all design and technological activity and influences
- Decision making and communication skills
- Develop high quality, imaginative and functional prototypes

Careers in Design & Technology

This qualification provides a suitable foundation for the study of Design and Technology at A-level which would allow you the opportunity to study a range of courses at university.

There are many careers that come from studying Design and Technology, a few are listed here:

Architecture: architect, technician, structural engineer, interior architect, CAD specialist, surveyor, project manager, naval architect

Fashion: textile designer, fashion designer, textile engineer, dressmaker, jewellery designer, costume designer, silversmith, technologist.

Graphic Design: graphic designer, web designer, UI/UX designer, games developer, digital media. Systems Design: electronic design engineer, mechanical engineer, circuit designer, software architect, software programmer, lighting designer.

Product Design: product designer, furniture designer, fashion designer, brand identity design, kitchen designer, ergonomist, industrial designer.

Engineering: mechanical, electrical, structural, civil, aerospace, automotive, renewable energy, mechanic, robotics, material development.

Construction: carpenter, joiner, blacksmith, metal fabricator, electrician, plumber, project manager, construction manager, health and safety manager.

For More information contact Mr K. Wallis.

WJEC Engineering

Level 1/2 Vocational Award

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.

For More information 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 Mr 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, please contact Mr C. Heard or Mr K. Wallis.

GCSE French/German/Spanish

Key Stage 4 Courses

Board: W.J.E.C

The WJEC GCSEs in French/German/Spanish have been designed to enable you to use languages in meaningful ways. You will learn how to understand the language and communicate in both speaking and writing in realistic settings. You will also develop an awareness of the culture and society of the countries and communities where the language is spoken and make connections with your own language and culture.

What will I study?

The course has 4 units. Two are assessed in examinations in the final year of study. The other two units are completed as non-examination assessments in your classroom, also in your final year of study. You will learn useful language that you could use in situations relating to leisure and well being, travel and study or work.

How will I be assessed?

UNIT 1 - Oracy

Unit 1 is a non-examination assessment of speaking and listening and will be conducted by your teacher. Firstly, you will read aloud a short sentence to show your understanding of French/German/Spanish pronunciation. You will then take part in a role play. After this, you will give a short one-minute presentation that you will have prepared in advance and have a short discussion with your teacher about your presentation. Finally, you will take part in a short conversation with your teacher. This unit is worth 30% of the qualification.

UNIT 2 - Reading and Writing

Unit 2 is also a non-examination assessment that you will complete in your classroom. With your classmates, you will study a short work (either a graphic novel, short story, film script or novel) in French/German/Spanish. You will then write a written response (up to 200 words) in French/German/Spanish about the short story/graphic novel or film script you have studied. This unit is worth 15% of the qualification.

Unit 3 - Listening

Unit 3 is a listening examination worth 20% of the qualification. You will listen a range of speakers in French/German/Spanish and will demonstrate your understanding of what you have heard by for example, answering multiple choice questions or questions in English/Cymraeg.

Unit 4 - Reading and Writing

Unit 4 is a written examination worth 35% of the qualification. For this assessment, you will read texts in French/German/Spanish and answers questions on them in English/Cymraeg. You will also be required to complete a translation into English/Cymraeg. Finally, you will be able to demonstrate your written language skills by writing up to 120 words in French/German/Spanish from a choice of 3 questions.

What skills will I develop?

- You will learn how to communicate clearly and accurately in speaking and writing.
- You will develop your understanding of the language by reading and listening items in French/German/Spanish. You will learn how to contribute to discussions and conversations.
- You will develop an awareness of the culture and society of the countries and

- communities where French/German/Spanish is spoken.
- You will make connections with your own language.

Carees in French/German/Spanish

A GCSE in French/German/Spanish can open up a world of opportunities to you. There are a wide range of career paths that you could follow with a GCSE in languages, including within the more traditionally linked tourist industry, armed forces, language services such as translation and interpreting, teaching and social services. However, the great advantage of having skills in another language is that they can serve you throughout your life and career; not only useful for travel, making friends and developing a general appreciation and understanding of others' identity and culture, but also potentially useful for ANY chosen career. A qualification in International Languages shows that you are a good communicator, are willing to learn, adapt and step out of your "comfort zone" - highly desirable for any prospective employer. It may also interest you to know that in today's global business world, employees with skills in international languages are known to attract higher salaries! What's not to like?

For More information contact Mr S. Davy.

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?

Title/Unit 1- Our Physical and Human World.

Here you will study:

- Drainage basin and rivers.
- Changing coastlines
- Migration
- Settlement Change

Title/Unit 3 - Our Dynamic and Diverse World.

- The geography of inequality
- The highs and lows of our weather
- Wild weather
- Continual climate change.
- Managing global challenges.

How will I be assessed?

Exam 1 - Unit 1 Our Physical and Human World.

This is worth 30% of the qualification and is a written exam 1 hour 30 mins.

Exam 2 - Unit 3 Our dynamic and Diverse World.

This is worth 30% of the qualification and is a written exam 1 hour 30 mins.

Non-Examination Assessments (NEA) - There are 2 NEA tasks:

Unit 2 Developing Fieldwork Skills 25% of the qualification.

You will carry out a field work 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.

Unit 4 Sustainable Solutions 15% of the qualification

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.

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, problem solving and self-confidence.

Careers in Geography

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.

“The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It’s about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it’s about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together.” Barak Obama.

For More information contact Dr S. James and Mrs J. Jarvis.

History

We all live in a constantly changing and interconnected world. Understanding historical events is crucial for making sense of current happenings. GCSE History assists us in achieving this by examining significant events and figures from the past and their influence on our present.

What will I study?

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 choices available. These options include:

UNIT 1: An in-depth study on Welsh history

You will study one of six historical topics to undertake an in-depth study that will provide them with an insight into the development of Wales at a specific point in time.

UNIT 2: An in-depth study on European and/or World history

You will study one of six historical topics to undertake an in-depth study that will provide them with an understanding of an issue in European and/or world history.

UNIT 3: A study of a period in world history

You will study one of six historical topics to undertake a breadth study of an extended historical period.

UNIT 4: A changing society

You will undertake a study of themed events within a continuous period of c. 75-100 years of history.

How will I be assessed?

UNIT 1: Written examination: 1 hour TBC 30% of qualification

UNIT 2: Non-examination assessment (NEA) marked by WJEC 20% of qualification

UNIT 3: Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 30% of qualification

UNIT 4: Non-examination assessment: 4 hours Marked by centre and moderated by WJEC 20% of qualification

What skills will I develop?

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

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

Careers in History

Employers are always looking for young people who are able to think critically and analytically, both key attributes of the historian. Studying GCSE History can help you take the first steps towards a variety of career paths, including law, journalism, marketing, human resources and management.

GCSE History also serves as a platform for further study at A level and undergraduate level, either in history itself or in a wide range of alternative disciplines. It can act as the foundation stone for education of all kinds and helps develop academic skills crucial in a range of fields. These include the ability to absorb large quantities of information, sift content, analyse sources and interpretations, shape arguments and reach balanced conclusions.

For More information contact Mr C. McKibben, Mr N. Rees, Mrs R. Greenow and Mrs S Biggin-Jones.

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 More information contact Mrs C. Howatson or Mr K. Wallis.

Physical Education

The GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH will enable you to engage in a practical course, designed to encourage you to be inspired, motivated and challenged by the subject and allow you to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career pathways. You will acquire the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to develop and maintain your performance in sports or physical activities and understand the benefits to health, fitness and well-being.

What will I study?

The specification in Physical Education and Health will enable you to make connections between theory and practice so that you are able to apply your understanding of the factors that underpin health and wellbeing, sports and physical activity and use this knowledge to improve performance.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Principles of Physical Education and Health

- Digital examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
- Marked by WJEC
- 40% of qualification
- 80 marks
- Questions requiring objective response, quick responses, short and extended answers.

Unit 2: Performance and Personal Training

Non-examination assessment: internally assessed by your teacher and externally moderated by a WJEC visiting moderator

- 60% qualification
- 120 marks

Practical non-examination assessment:

- Perform in one sport or physical activity from the approved list
- Perform in a second sport or physical activity or provide coaching in a sport or physical activity from the approved list
- Plan, implement and evaluate a personal training activity over 8-10 weeks for a sport or physical activity from the approved list.

What skills will I develop?

By studying Physical Education and Health you will be able to:

- perform effectively in different sports and physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas
- analyse physical performance and select appropriate strategies and interventions for development and improvement
- think critically and reflectively about your own and others performance
- develop knowledge and understanding of health, wellbeing, sport and physical activity and the links between them
- understand the factors that impact on levels of activity and the relationship with physical, social and emotional health and wellbeing
- understand the socio-cultural influences on participation, and contemporary developments within sport and physical activity.

Careers in Physical Education and Health

This qualification provides an excellent foundation for the study of WJEC AS and A Level Physical Education or WJEC Level 3 Sport. It will also provide a satisfying and worthwhile course of study if you choose not to progress further.

Importantly, studying GCSE Physical Education and Health will develop many transferable skills including communication, performance and presentation skills, teamwork, leadership, focus, refinement and selfconfidence.

The career possibilities that come from studying Physical Education and Health are extensive, but a few are listed here:

Fitness Instructor, Personal Trainer, PE Teacher, University Lecturer, Physiotherapist, Sports Massage Therapist, Leisure and Recreation Manager, Sports Business Manager, Sports Administrator, Sports Coach, Sports Development Officer, Sports Journalist, Sports Commentator, Sports Medicine, Professional Sports Performer, Sports Scientist, Sports Nutritionist, Professional Sports Official/ Referee, Event Coordinator.

For More information 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 information contact 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.

For More information contact Mrs K. Webb.

Level 2 Additional Mathematics

In Level 2 Additional Mathematics, you will build on skills and concepts you have developed in your prior study of mathematics. You will strengthen your use of mathematical techniques, use algebraic skills more confidently, and learn formal methods of mathematical proof; you will be introduced to calculus and some of its applications. You will study one of four optional units that introduce areas of mathematics that are new to you or that explore more deeply topics you have previously studied.

What will I study?

You will study two mandatory units and one optional unit.

Mandatory units:

UNIT 1: Algebra – You will become proficient in numerical and algebraic manipulation. You will delve further into quadratic functions than you have done previously, using the properties of a quadratic function to sketch its shape and identify its roots, if it has them; you will solve simultaneous quadratic equations. You will learn about sequences and series and use your new skills and knowledge to solve problems and formulate proofs.

Unit 2: Calculus - This unit introduces differential calculus – the mathematics of rates of change, gradients and slopes, and integral calculus – the mathematics of summation and areas. You will learn how to find exact gradients at points on some curved graphs, and exact areas under some curved graphs – quantities that previously you could only estimate.

Optional units:

UNIT 3: Geometry and Trigonometry – This unit covers properties of straight lines and circles and the conditions for different relationships between them, such as whether lines are parallel, perpendicular or neither, whether lines and circles intersect. You will study graphs of trigonometric functions, solve trigonometric equations, and manipulate trigonometric identities to prove interesting results.

UNIT 4: Statistics – You will broaden your knowledge of statistical techniques and representation of data. You will compare data sets using suitable measures and learn how to reach justifiable conclusion. You will extend your knowledge of probability to use different probability laws and to make calculations from probability distributions.

Unit 5: Mechanics – You will study different types of forces, their characteristics and their effects on objects. You will understand the difference between a balanced and an unbalanced system and apply Newton's laws to solve problems involving forces and motion. You will study the motion of particles under constant acceleration.

Unit 6: Discrete and Decision Mathematics – This unit introduces the mathematics of decision-making, logic and optimisation. You will learn about networks, algorithms, critical path analysis and linear programming and how they can be used to identify optimal solutions such as routes through a network, ordering of tasks, maximising profits or minimising costs.

How will I be assessed?

UNIT 1: Algebra

Written examination – no calculator 50 minutes 40 marks Weighting: 33⅓% of the qualification

UNIT 2: Calculus

Written examination – calculator allowed 50 minutes 40 marks Weighting: 33⅓% of the qualification

Optional unit

Written examination – calculator allowed 50 minutes 40 marks Weighting: 33⅓% of the qualification

What skills will I develop?

- You will develop a deeper understanding of some of the mathematics you have previously studied and learn about new areas of mathematics
- You will extend your range of mathematical skills and techniques and be able to use and apply them in theoretical and real-life contexts
- You will identify and use the relationships between the different areas of mathematics studied
- You will gain a strong foundation in the mathematics you need for potential further study in a variety of STEM subjects

Careers in Mathematics

Level 2 Additional Mathematics builds the skills needed to follow a number of career paths in mathematics and many other areas, such as sciences and social sciences. The skills of analysis and critical thinking developed through studying this course are transferable across many sectors.

For More information contact Mrs H. Hayes.

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.