

KS4 Options Course Information 2023—2024



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Welcome Croeso



To Year 9 Pupils

January 2024

Next term you will be finishing your Key Stage 3 courses. The work that you have completed will be assessed and you will receive feedback from your teachers on how you have performed.

It is important that you should now consider carefully the next stage in your education. It is necessary for you to choose option subjects which you will study in Years 10 and 11, in most cases to GCSE level. In making these decisions you need to:

- consider carefully the subjects which you have enjoyed during years 7, 8 and 9 and feel confident in studying. Your latest assessments, together with your Year 9 report, should help you to decide this.
- ensure that you have made a balanced choice and have included a broad range of subjects.
- take account of any career ideas which you may have.

Please do not choose subjects for the wrong reasons:

- you like (or dislike) a particular teacher ~ you may have different teachers in Years 10 and 11.
- your friends have chosen a particular subject ~ what is right for them may not be right for you; in any case, you may find yourself in a different class to your friend.

This booklet is intended to provide guidance for you and your parents to ensure that you enjoy your final 5½ terms as a pupil in Bryn Alyn and fulfil your potential in the examinations and assessments.

As well as reading this booklet carefully, please:

- ask advice from your parents and any elder brothers / sisters / friends.
- speak with your teachers ~ your subject teachers and teachers of subjects which are only offered in Years 10 and 11 will be pleased to provide you with information and advice.
- attend the virtual Year 9 Parents / Options Information Evening, to be held on:

Thursday 22nd February, commencing at 3.30pm.

Having considered your choices carefully, I am confident that you will enjoy the next stage in your studies and achieve creditable results in the assessments. The effort that you invest in your courses over the next two years will lay the foundations for your future education and career.

Mrs A. Slinn

Headteacher

"I can never thank this school enough for the fantastic opportunities it has given me" FORMER PUPIL

Questions



Is there anyone I can ask?

Yes. The subject teachers will be willing to explain the examination courses to you. Mr. Ransome and Mandy Williams, the School's Career Advisor can advise you about Careers and Further Education.

Would my parents be able to phone / come into school to talk to someone?

Of course they can. They are advised to telephone the General Office, (Wrexham 720700) who will arrange for them to talk to Mr. Cris Hughes, Head of Year 9.

How soon must I make up my mind?

We hope that pupils will have made up their minds by the end of the Spring Term. Details will be sent to parents via text.

What if I change my mind?

We cannot guarantee to accommodate pupils who wish to change their subject choices. It is essential that you choose your subject choices wisely and get it right! Changing subject choices in Yr10 will be very difficult.

Is there anything I could do to help me make the subject choices?

Yes, plenty. Here are a few:-

- (a) Look at <u>Careers Wales</u> | <u>Careers Wales</u> (gov.wales) for information.
- (b) Look at the resources in the Careers Library.
- (c) Speak to Mandy Williams the Careers Adviser.
- (d) All local colleges have a prospectus which would be worth looking at
 - <u>14-19 Network Coleg Cambria</u>

What if I want to go on to study A-Levels?

To access A-Level courses you will need to achieve a minimum of 5A*- C grades at GCSE. To follow many A-Level courses you will need to achieve at least a B grade in your chosen subject.

Questions



Will I be allowed to take the subjects of my choice?

We will do our best to enable you to study the subjects of your choice, but in some cases, this might be difficult. We have a system where pupils can select 3 subjects from 3 fixed columns. Pupils will be strongly advised to select from certain subjects based on your ability and prior attainment.

You may have to be disappointed for any of the reasons given below:

- (a) The subject you might choose may have to be cancelled if the number of pupils opting for it is very low.
- (b) The subject of your choice is 'full', i.e. no more pupils can be admitted into the class.
- (c) The subjects of your choice might not help you in your career in the future; you might be advised to take other courses.
- (d) You may not meet the entry requirements of that particular subject.

If you have chosen a set of subjects which are too 'narrow' in scope e.g. if you have chosen three Humanities based subjects, you may be advised to change your choice.

What do you mean by a subject being 'full'?

The school tries to keep the numbers in a GCSE class down to a maximum of 25 to allow pupils to receive sufficient individual attention. Practical subjects may have fewer than this. In the event of any subject being oversubscribed, some pupils will be asked to choose an alternative.

The following criteria will be applied:

- Attendance in school.
- Attainment and effort in the subject, assuming it has been studied in Year 9.
- Level of effort displayed in the core subjects.
- Level of effort displayed in other subjects.
- The overall balance of potential options chosen.

Timetable



What will your Timetable be like in Years 10 and 11?

You will find that there are some subjects which are compulsory in Years 10 and 11.

The subjects which you must all study are:

GCSE English Literature
GCSE English Language
GCSE Mathematics
GCSE Double Award Science
Skills Challenge Certificate
Religious Education (Equality and Diversity)
Welsh

The following non examination subjects are also followed:

Personal and Social Education (P.S.E.) **Physical Education** (P.E.)

These compulsory subjects make up the core curriculum.

In addition to this core of subjects, you will also have to choose three other subjects called **optional** subjects.

Choices



Making your Choices

Read this booklet carefully and talk to your parents about your subjects before you indicate your choices.

When you fill in your form remember:-

- 1 . You must choose **three** subjects from the option columns. See examples below.
- 2. You may not take any subject more than once.
- 3. You will consider 3 of the following subjects, one being from each fixed column

Agored Cymru

Art and Design

Dance

Drama

Food & Nutrition

Geography

History

Digital Technology

Media Studies

Music

Physical Education

Prince's Trust with the XI Programme

Product Design

Religious Studies

Spanish

Triple Science

You must choose three 1st choice subjects from the option columns and one reserve choice.

Option			Option			Option		
Choice 1	1st	R	Choice 2	1st	R	Choice 3	1st	R
Art	Υ		Geography	Υ		Drama		Υ
History		Υ	Dance		Υ	Spanish	Y	

Next



What should I do next?

- Find out what each subject involves. Read this booklet carefully.
- Ask your subject teachers for advice.
- Seek advice from parents /elder siblings / friends.
- Attend / the Options Information Evening on Thursday 22nd February.
- Complete and return the signed options form to your tutor by no later than Thursday 29th February.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU KEEP TO THIS DEADLINE. WE CANNOT GUARANTEE TO ALLOCATE PREFERRED OPTION SUBJECTS TO PUPILS WHO SUBMIT FORMS LATE WITHOUT GOOD REASONS.

Examinations



During Years 10 and 11, pupils will be taking external examinations. Most of the external examinations taken by pupils are set by the Welsh Joint Education Committee - WJEC for short. Every year all Examination Boards, including the WJEC, publish syllabuses. The syllabuses describe the things you must study in order to sit any examinations. At the beginning of Year 10, your teachers will tell you what you have to study in your chosen subjects.

There are several types of examinations. Some are described here for you.

The General Certificate of Education (GCSE)

The GCSE is a single system of examinations with a single scale of grades. In order to take account of differing abilities, not all pupils will complete the same class work and examination questions. For many subjects, in the final examination, there will be a choice of papers or questions to suit pupils' abilities.

GCSE examinations will, therefore, give pupils the best chance to show what they can do, rather than what they cannot do. Each grade will be the result of a pupil's positive achievement.

Teachers will guide pupils on which papers and questions to attempt and will make sure that pupils have undertaken appropriate work during the course. Most of the written papers are taken in May/June of Year 11 although other parts of the examination, such as orals, practical sessions and assessment unit examinations, take place much earlier.

Level 1 and Level 2 Qualifications

These are qualifications that have GCSE equivalence.

The Level 1 qualification is between a D-G grade, and the Level 2 is between A*- C grade.

For more information on GCSE grading please see the school website by following the link

Exam Information 2023/24 - Ysgol Bryn Alyn

Vocational Education



Wrexham Network 14 -19 Opportunities

As well as the courses we provide as a school, there are several opportunities available in association with the Wrexham 14-19 network (other schools and colleges). These courses will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons at different locations in Wrexham. Further information will be available as the options process proceeds, and staff will guide and advise all pupils.

Things to note when studying 14-19 college courses:

The 14-19 courses will run at the same time as some of the school's options, so pupils wishing to be considered for college will be opting for one of the college courses rather than studying one of the 'in-house' option choices.

All courses require an official interview process, conducted by the institute that is responsible for delivering the course.

All courses are for two years and pupils opting for them must be completely committed for the whole period.

College times do differ. The sessions will typically run from 1.30-4.30pm.

Transport to the location of the courses will be provided, pupils will have to make their own arrangements for their journey home.

Regrettably, costs for work boots, overalls, salon kits etc. must be met by the pupils.

Pupils may choose only one of the courses. To find out more information about any of the courses please enter this link and click on to the appropriate course: 14-19 Network - Coleg Cambria

Careers



Careers Education and Guidance

Making the right choices about careers is so important, and pupils in Key Stage 4 receive a wide range of support in terms of careers education and guidance.

The following areas will be covered:

Self Awareness

Pupils will explore their values, beliefs and attitudes to learning, finance, leisure and lifestyle in relation to their career ideas.

Career Opportunities

As well as being aware of themselves and their career ideas it is essential that pupils are able to look at different types of local and national business organisations, employment opportunities, enterprise and self employment in relation to career ideas.

Career Planning

We have a comprehensive Resource Centre with a wide range of up to date careers information. Pupils are encouraged to make an appointment with Mandy Williams, the school's Careers Adviser.

Careers and the Wider Community

The school has strong links with employers and the local colleges, and visiting speakers regularly keep pupils up to date with the world of work. Pupils are also encouraged to visit colleagues and employers.

Mr R. Ransome, Senior Assistant Headteacher and Mandy Williams the school's Careers Adviser will be happy to discuss issues related to the careers education and guidance with parents, should they need more information.

Key Staff



Head of Year 9: Mr C. Hughes

Headteacher: Mrs A. Slinn

Deputy Headteacher: Teaching & Learning: Miss A. Kipping

Deputy Headteacher Pastoral: Mrs J. Ebrey

Senior Assistant Headteacher: Curriculum & Assessment: Mr R. Ransome

Assistant Headteacher: English & Literacy: Mrs Z. Cooper

Assistant Headteacher: Mathematics & Numeracy: Mrs K. Cottrell

Assistant Headteacher: ALNCO: Mrs J. Morgan

Head of Science & Technology: Mr J. Gordon

Head of Humanities: Mr D. Beach

Head of Expressive Arts: Mrs A. Noon

Head of Language: Mrs V. Byrne

Head of Health & Well-Being: Mr A. Jones

The Compulsory Core Subjects



- English: most pupils take 2 GCSEs Language and Literature (2)
- Mathematics & Mathematics Numeracy (2)
- Two GCSE's in Science (2)
- Religious studies / Equality and Diversity (2)
- Welsh (1)
- Skills Challenge Certificate (1)
 - = 10 GCSE passes
- Physical Education
- Personal Social Education

The Options*

Art and Design	Media Studies	College:
Agored Cymru	Music	Engineering Level 2
Dance	Physical Education	Construction Level 2
Digital Technology	Prince's Trust	Hair and Beauty Level 2
Drama	Religious Studies	Public Services Level 2
Food & Nutrition	Spanish	Computer Science Level 2
Geography	Triple Science	Health & Social Care Level 2
History		Business Level 2

^{*}Please be aware that option choices can vary slightly between academic years.



GCSE English Literature

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Year 10

Exam board: WJEC Specification Code: 3720QS

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT All pupils study this subject, except disapplied.

All pupils will study English as part of the compulsory 'core' of subjects in Years 10 and 11. The KS4 English lessons are a natural continuation of what you have done so far in school: reading a range of texts, writing in a range of styles and for different purposes, and developing your speaking and listening skills.

There are two tiers of entry for this qualification: Higher, A^* - D, and Foundation, C - G.

Unit 1 External exam: 2 hours (35% of qualification)

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

Unit 2a External exam: 2 hours (40% of qualification)

Section A 20% (English/Welsh/Irish Literary Heritage Drama): An Inspector Calls (Priestley); Section B 20% (Contemporary Prose) Heroes (Cormier); OR Never Let Me Go (Ishiguro); OR About a Boy (Hornby); OR Resistance (Sheers)

Unit 3 Non examination assessments

2x 2hour assessments (25% of the qualification)

Shakespeare and Welsh Writing in English

Section A 12.5% (Shakespeare): Macbeth. WJEC will set a generic task on a specific theme which centres may use or modify.

Section B 12.5% (Welsh Writing in English): Stipulated poetry from the Library of Wales anthology Poetry 1900-2000: One Hundred Poets from Wales. Candidates study fifteen specified poems listed for the chosen theme. WJEC will set generic tasks on the theme. Centres may use or modify one task. Centres must ensure that the task requires comparison of at least two poems.

Useful Revision Sites:

GCSE English Literature - WJEC - BBC Bitesize

Herio

CAREER INFORMATION

English GCSE is a MUST with most employers. Learning to express yourself clearly, and to understand how language works is a vital life skill. This subject is common requirement for most higher education courses.



GCSE English Language

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Year 11

Exam board: WJEC Specification Code: 3700QS

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT All pupils study this subject, except disapplied. This paper is untiered and so the grades awarded are A* - G

All pupils will study English as part of the compulsory 'core' of subjects in Years 10 and 11. The KS4 English lessons are a natural continuation of what you have done so far in school: reading a range of texts, writing in a range of styles and for different purposes, and developing your speaking and listening skills.

Unit 1: Non-examination assessment

Oracy

Task 1 (10%)-Individual Researched Presentation

One individual, researched based presentation, including questions and answers, based on WJEC set themes.

Task 2(10%)-Group Discussion

One group discussion in response to stimuli provided by WJEC to initiate discussion

Unit 2: External Assessment

Reading and Writing: Description, Narration and Exposition

Section A (20%) – Reading (40 marks)

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

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

One writing task to be selected from a choice of two that could be either description, narration or exposition. This section will also include one proofreading task focusing on writing accurately (2.5% of qualification total). Half of the marks for this section will be awarded for communication and organisation (meaning, purpose, readers and structure) and the other for writing accurately (language, grammar, punctuation and spelling).

Unit 3: External Assessment

Section A (20%) – Reading (40 marks)

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

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

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

Useful Revision Sites:

GCSE Learning and Revision Herio GCSE English Language - WJEC - BBC Bitesize Free Homework & Revision for A Level, GCSE, KS3 & KS2 (senecalearning.com)

CAREER INFORMATION

English GCSE is a MUST with most employers. Learning to express yourself clearly, and to understand how language works is a vital life skill. This subject is common requirement for most higher education courses.



GCSE Cymraeg/Welsh

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Years 10/11
All external exams are sat in summer of Year 11
Exam board: WJEC
Specification: 3020QS

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

All pupils study this subject, except disapplied.

All pupils will study Welsh as part of the compulsory 'core' of subjects in Years 10 and 11.

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

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

- Employment
- Wales and the World
- Youth

When studying this qualification, candidates will be required to cover the following areas:-

- Listening: understand and respond to different types of spoken language.
- Speaking: communicate and interact effectively in speech.
- Reading: understand and respond to different types of written language.
- Writing: communicate in writing.

Unit 1: Oracy response to visual material

25% of qualification

A task for a pair/group of three based on a clip provided by the exam board. The assessment will consist of two parts which are to be carried out in the following order:

- -watch a visual clip and complete a sheet
- -discussion between the pair/group about the clip.

Unit 2: Communicate with others

25% of qualification

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

Unit 3: Report, specific and instructional

25% of qualification

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

Reading and writing tasks with

non-verbal and written responses,

including one translation task from

English to Welsh and a proofreading task.

Unit 4: Descriptive, creative and imaginative

25% of qualification

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

Unit descriptions will be released during years 10 and 11.

Useful Revision Sites:

Resource WJEC Educational Resources Website

CAREER INFORMATION

Bilingualism is certainly advantageous in the world of work. Wales' Health Service, Education, Civil Service....to name a few, state that a knowledge of Welsh is desirable and sometimes essential.



GCSE Spanish

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Years 10/11
All external exams are sat in summer of Year 11

Exam board: WJEC Specification: 3810QS

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

(The topics covered at GCSE)

This course aims to enable you to understand and use the Spanish language effectively through:

- LISTENING
- SPEAKING
- READING
- WRITING

Pupils will sit four papers, one in each skill, which will be taken at either FOUNDATION or HIGHER level.

HIGHER TIER: for grades A* - D **FOUNDATION TIER:** for grades C - G

Theme 1

Identity & Culture

Youth Culture Lifestyle

Customs and Traditions

Theme 2

Wales and the World

Home and Locality
The Wider World
Global Sustainability

Theme 3

Current & future study and employment

Current Study

Employability & future plans

Pupils will sit four papers, one in each skill — LISTENING, SPEAKING, READING AND WRITING -which will be taken at either FOUNDATION or HIGHER level.

Higher Tier: for grades A* - D FOUNDATION TIER: for grades C - G

Unit 1: SPEAKING ORAL TASK-25% 60 MARKS

Three tasks:

- Role play
- Photo card discussion
- Conversation

Part 1 and Part 2 Learners are not permitted to use dictionaries in any part of the assessment.

Unit 2: LISTENING WRITTEN EXAMINATION—25% 40 MARKS

Listening comprehension tasks with non-verbal and written responses

Unit 3: READING WRITTEN EXAMINATION—25% 60 MARKS

Reading tasks with non-verbal and written responses, including one translation task from Spanish into English.

Unit 4; WRITING WRITTEN EXAMINATION—25% 60 MARKS

Writing tasks including one translation task from English into Spanish

CAREER INFORMATION

Very important for many businesses and industries; locally, nationally and internationally, especially in the post BREXIT economy.

A high percentage of language graduates are in employment. Language graduates earn on average 30% more than other graduates.

AOLE Mathematics and Numeracy



GCSE Mathematics GCSE Numeracy

Pupils will complete: GCSE Numeracy in Year 10 GCSE Mathematics in Year 11

Exam board: WJEC Specification: Maths 3300 , Numeracy 3310

COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT

Maths is part of the compulsory 'core' of subjects that you will take in Years 10 and 11. You will continue to learn and extend your knowledge of number, algebra, shape and space and data handling. You will need your own maths equipment, i.e. a calculator and a geometry set.

Mathematics at GCSE level consists of two qualifications – GCSE Numeracy and GCSE Mathematics. There are three tiers of entry and a considerable time will be spent ensuring students are entered for the tier that is most suited to their ability and provides them with the best opportunity to succeed and achieve their potential.

GCSE Mathematics has a Foundation tier (grades G -D) an Intermediate tier (Grades E-B) and a Higher tier (grades C – A*). Student's grades will be awarded solely on their examination performance. Each qualification has two question papers. Students must take two question papers at the same tier and in the same examination series. They do not need to sit both qualifications at the same time. Each paper accounts for 50% of the final grade.

Some students will also be offered the opportunity to develop their skills by following a GCSE Additional Mathematics qualification, which will further stretch their mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding and provides an excellent foundation for post 16 study.

EXAM FORMAT

There are 2 GCSEs and both have 2 examinations. Unit 1 is a non calculator examination. Unit 2 requires students to have their own scientific calculator and use it fluently.

<u>GCSE in Mathematics - Numeracy</u> will assess the Mathematics that you will need in your everyday life, in the world of work and in other general curriculum areas.

<u>GCSE Mathematics</u> will extend to aspects of Mathematics needed for progression to scientific, technical or further mathematical study.

The majority of students will be entered for both GCSEs.

REVISION

The best way to revise maths is to do maths. Continued practice of topics is seen as the most effective revision technique for mathematics. Where possible students should use solutions and mark schemes to support this. Students have an individual login for the MathsWatch VLE. This online platform contains videos, practice questions, interactive questions and worksheets covering the full GCSE course. It works on mobile phones, tablets and desktops and can be accessed 24/7.

Students should revise using a scientific calculator and should not use the calculator on their mobile device as they will not be able to use this device in an exam.

CAREER INFORMATION

Most employers look for at least a C grade in Mathematics because it demonstrates the ability to learn difficult concepts, and persevere to solve problems, which are highly relevant qualities to a wide range of careers.

A 'B' grade 'opens doors' to many careers and is a common requirement for most higher education courses.

AOLE Science and Technology



GCSE Science (Double Award and Triple Science)

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Years 10/11
External exams are sat in the summer of Year 10
and Year 11

Exam board: WJEC
Specification Code: Double Award 3430QD
Specification Code: Triple Award
Biology 3400QS Chemistry 3410QS Physics 3420QS

Science is part of the compulsory 'core' of subjects Work done in KS3 acts as a foundation for your GCSE courses, and you will build upon and develop the concepts you were introduced to in Years 7, 8 and 9.

Triple Science, pupils will take separate WJEC GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This gives students 3 GCSE qualifications and allows them to develop a deeper understanding of the three Sciences by building on the content of the Science double award, introducing exciting applications and extending the contexts that students can apply their understanding to.

Triple Science is the best course to prepare for A-levels in Science subjects. It also provides an excellent foundation for those wanting to study pure Sciences or Science based courses such as Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Veterinary Science and Engineering at university. This course is by invitation only. If you are interested in this course, please see Mr Gordon, Head of Science and Technology Faculty.

Triple Award Science: Pupil will gain 3 GCSE's, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Double Award Science: Pupil will in effect gain 2 GCSE's in Science. Double grades will be based on a 15 grade scale, from A*A* to GG.

Controlled Assessment: One practical assessment per GCSE will be set in January of Year 11. These will be done in school but marked externally and are worth 10% of the total mark.

Examinations will be available in the Summer of Year 10 and Summer of Year 11. There are no January examinations or re-sits available.

Triple Award examinations will be 1 hour and 45 minutes in length. Each pupil will sit six examinations, three in Year 10 and three in Year 11, i.e. one each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics in each year.

Double Award examinations will be 1 hour and 15 minutes in length. Each pupil will sit six examinations, three in Year 10 and three in Year 11, i.e. one each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics in each year

Useful Revision Sites:

The recommended Revision Guide is the Hodder Revision Guide. These are available from the Science Faculty at a discounted price of £10. Free School Meal pupils can borrow this book from the library on long term loan.

Triple Science: 3 x revision guides at £7 each.

Www.Tanio.cymru contains revision resources including presentations, past papers and knowledge organisers for all our Science courses.

AOLE Science and Technology



GCSE Digital Technology

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Years 10/11
All external exams are sat in summer of Year 11
Exam board: WJEC
Specification Code: 3540QS

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The WJEC GCSE qualification in Digital Technology offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for pupils to build on the digital skills, knowledge and understanding that is used both in school and everyday lives. The qualification will allow pupils to develop their understanding of the range of digital technology systems at use in our connected and globalized society. It will also allow pupils to explore the everevolving nature of digital technology systems and how these systems can be used productively, creatively and safely.

The specification for GCSE Digital Technology is arranged into 3 units:

Unit 1: The Digital World - On-screen examination: 90 minutes. 40% of qualification. Out of 80 marks.

- Digital technology systems
- The value of digital technology
- Perspectives on digital technology

Unit 2: Digital Practices - Non-exam assessment: 45 hours. 40% of qualification. Out of 80 marks.

- Students will interrogate a supplied data set in a spreadsheet
- Students will create data-informed digital products (creating a website and either an animation or a game)

Unit 3: Communicating in the Digital World - Non-exam assessment: 15 hours. 20% of qualification. Out of 60 marks.

- Students investigate different types of social media and online marketing communications
- Students plan and create digital assets and digital communications.

Useful Revision Sites:

Unit 1 Notes, Knowledge Organisers:, Blended Learning Tasks and Video Resources:

https://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceByArgs.aspx?subId=97&lvIId=2

Practice Exam Questions – Uploaded to Google Classroom

CAREER INFORMATION

There are many careers related to Digital Technology.

- 1. Web designer/developer
- 2. App/Software developer
- 3. Computer games developer/tester
- 4. Vlogger/social media manager

Computing technology and digital | Explore careers (nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)



GCSE Geography

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Years 10/11
All external exams are sat in summer of Year 11

Exam board: WJEC Specification Code: 3690QS

COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT

Are you interested in studying Geography further? You should be, because Geography tackles the big issues:

- Environmental Responsibility
- Our Global Interdependence
- Cultural Understanding and Tolerance
- Shopping, Fairtrade and Industry

The world in which we live is likely to change more in the next 50 years than it has ever done before. Geography explains why this is and helps to prepare you for those changes. Here at Ysgol Bryn Alyn we firmly believe in using fieldwork to support the learning and teaching of different topics in Geography. Fieldwork plays a vital role in providing you with the necessary knowledge of the outside world.

In Geography the following core themes are studied:

Core theme 1: Landscapes and physical processes

Core theme 2: Rural-urban links

Core theme 3: Tectonic Landscapes and Hazards
Core theme 5: Weather, Climate and Ecosystems
Core theme 6: Development and Resource Issues

Core theme 8: Environmental Challenges

Terminal Examination and Controlled Assessment:

Pupils will sit two written examinations at the end of Year 11, both lasting 1½ hours each and accounting for 80% of the final mark. Both papers are out of 83 marks.

Unit 1: Changing Physical and Human Landscapes

Unit 2: Environmental and Development Issues

Unit 3: Fieldwork Enquiry Non-examination assessment: 2 hours 30 minutes 20% of qualification The NEA consists of 2 fieldwork sessions undertaken in the Autumn Term of Year 11. The write up (2000 words) is completed under direct teacher supervision, in 20 hours during the second half of the Autumn Term in Year 11.

CAREER INFORMATION

Geography is a good all round subject that encompasses many skills employers and further education qualifications look for. You must have good numeracy skills. Both of the exams require DATA response questions and extended writing.



GCSE History

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Years 10/11 All external exams are sat in summer of Year 10 and Year 11

Exam board: WJEC Specification Code: 3100QS

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Unit 1: Depression, War and Recovery 1930-1951 (25% of GCSE)

Pupils will learn about the history of the Depression, World War Two and the recovery during the period 1930-1951. Learners will be required to consider the features of life in the Depression, of war on the Home Front and post-war Britain, including the experience of people within Wales during this time.

Unit 2: Germany in Transition 1919-1939 (25% of GCSE)

Pupils consider the impact of WWI on Germany, the factors which led to the rise of the Nazis and the impact of Nazi rule on the lives of people in Germany, as well as the road to World War Two.

Unit 3: Changes in Crime and Punishment 1500 to present day (30% of GCSE)

Pupils will study the changes in crime, the methods used to combat crime and punishments throughout time. This will include changes in criminal activity, causes of crimes, the changing methods of enforcing law and order and attitudes towards punishments.

Unit 4: Jack the Ripper (Controlled Assessment – 20% of GCSE)

Pupils will use a variety of evidence to carry out an investigation into why the metropolitan police were unable to catch the infamous killer, Jack the Ripper.

Units 1 – 3 will be assessed through three separate examination papers whereas **Unit 4** will involve an investigation and two essay's focused on Jack the Ripper and the East End of London.

CAREER INFORMATION

History is a highly regarded qualification which is held in great esteem by both employers and educational institutes. Previous GCSE History pupils have gone to work in the following areas:

Journalism

Public Services

Administration

Nursing

Community work

Education

Retail

Research

Armed Forces

Law



GCSE Religious Studies

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Years 10/11
Unit 1 is examined at the end of Year 10
Unit 2 is examined at the end of Year 11

Exam board: WJEC Specification Code: 3120UA0-1

COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT

UNIT 1: RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHICAL THEMES 2 hour exam 50% of qualification 126 marks

PART A: Religion

Christianity: Core beliefs, teachings and practices Judaism: Core beliefs, teachings and practices

PART B: Philosophical Themes (from the perspective of Christianity and Judaism)

Issues of Life and Death
Issues of Good and Evil

Unit 1 will be examined at the end of Year 10

Unit 2: Religion and Ethical Themes Written examination: 2 hours 50% of qualification 126 marks

Part A:

As Above

Part 2:

Ethical Themes (from the perspective of Judaism and Christianity)
Issues of Relationships
Issues of Human Rights
Unit 2 will be examined at the end of Year 11

Career information

Career and GCSE RE:

The National Health Service (especially doctors and nurses)
National and local government; schools, colleges and universities
Financial and legal firms
Charities

Social services and other caring professions;
PR, advertising, sales and marketing companies;
Libraries; museums; television companies; journalism; investment and banking



Equality and Diversity

Pupils will complete this qualification in Years 10/11

There are no external exams

Exam board: NCFE
Specification Code: Level 2 Certificate

COURSE OVERVIEW & ASSESSMENT

All pupils study this qualification.

Pupils achieve two B Grades on the completion of this qualification.

All modules need to be completed independently and submitted via Google Classroom for feedback and marking.

Unit 1: E & D in Society

Keywords -Equality and inequality in

Society - Diversity in society - Importance

of respect -Stereotyping and labelling

Effects of prejudice and discrimination.

Unit 2: E & D in the Community

Signs of diversity -Value of diversity-

Benefits of diversity -Creating and

maintaining a diverse environment-

Threats to diversity -Support services.

Unit 3: E & D in the Workplace

Case studies - Promoting E&D in the

Workplace - Recruitment -E&D and Pay

Policies and codes of conduct— Economic, social, legal and moral aspects of E&D.

Useful Support:

All booklets and Helpful Hints slides can be found on Google Classroom to assist completion.

CAREER INFORMATION

E & D with English Journalism—Media, Broadcasting, Human Rights Law

E & D with Geography—Charity worker, Aid agencies, Travel and tourism

E & D with other subjects—Teaching, Politics, Social work, Advertising



Skills Challenge Certificate

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Years 10/11 There are no external exams for this qualification.

Exam board: WJEC Specification Code: 90S9QO

COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT

The Skills Challenge Certificate is compulsory at KS4. The central focus of the qualification is to provide the opportunity for students to develop essential and employability skills valued by post-16 educators and potential employers.

These skills include:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Digital Literacy
- Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
- Planning & Organisation
- Creativity & Innovation
- Personal Effectiveness

The Skills Challenge Certificate is compulsory at KS4. This is a non-examined course and all work is marked internally.

Completed units are sent for moderation over the 2 years of study so it is crucial that pupils stick to the deadlines given.

The Skills Challenge Certificate is an important part of the overarching qualification called the Welsh Baccalaureate. The Welsh Baccalaureate consists of the Skills Challenge Certificate and supporting qualifications that must be met in order to achieve the overarching qualification.

The **Skills Challenge Certificate** consists of three components which are followed by all learners:

- 1. Individual Project—50%
- 2. Enterprise and Employability Challenge—25%
- 3. Global Citizenship Challenge—25%

The Skills Challenge Certificate is awarded at two levels – National and Foundation. To meet the National requirements all five of the Supporting Qualifications must be achieved at grades A*-C. Similarly, for the Foundation certificate, the Supporting Qualifications must be achieved at grades A*-G.



GCSE Art & Design

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Years 10/11 There are no external exams for this qualification.

Exam board: WJEC Specification Code: 3650QS

COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT

An exciting, mainly practical course, with lots of new techniques and materials to explore.

• STUDY FROM OBSERVATION

Drawing and painting in a variety of techniques and media

GRAPHICS

Designing logos, posters, leaflets, packaging, web pages etc.

ILLUSTRATION

Descriptive drawing and painting, including book illustration

- COMPUTER ART
- **SCULPTURE** 3D sculptures, reliefs etc.
- THEMATIC WORK using a theme as a starting point. Your work can then be completed in fine art, graphics or sculpture
- MIXED MEDIA using a wide range of materials
- PHOTOGRAPHY digital photography, including editing/manipulation
- JEWELLERY DESIGN AND FASHION

The course consists of:

- 60% Portfolio (coursework) 120 marks
- 40% Externally set assignment (exam) 80 marks

Pupils will need to produce a portfolio of work which will form the coursework element of the course and this makes up 60% of your final mark. The external Controlled Assessment (examination) begins in the January of Year 11 and forms 40% of your final mark. For the External Controlled Assessment students will spend a minimum of six weeks preparing and developing a body of work which culminates in a ten-hour exam to produce a final piece. All work is marked internally and then moderated externally by the examination board (WJEC).

There are four assessment objectives that form the marking framework.

- Critical understanding
- Creative making
- Reflective recording P
- Personal presentation.

Techniques, which can be covered, will consist of drawing, painting, 3D sculptures, graphics, photography and mixed media.

Useful Support:

Art Club after school every Friday.

CAREER INFORMATION					
Prospects available in:					
Graphic Design	Advertising	Landscape Design	Photography	Film and T.V.	Interior Design
Publishing	Book Illustration	Window Display	Fine Art	Teaching	Computer Graphics
Textile Design	Product Design	Product Design	3D Design	Architecture	Fashion & Jewellery



GCSE Dance

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Years 10/11
All external exams are sat in summer of Year 11

Exam board: AQA Specification Code: 8236

COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT

The Course is divided into three areas of study:

1. Performance 30%

Set phrases through a solo performance (approximately **one minute** in duration)

Duet/trio performance (**three** minutes in a dance which is a maximum of **five** minutes in duration)

2. Choreography 30%

Solo or group choreography – a solo (**two** to **two and a half** minutes) or a group dance for two to five dancers (**three** to **three and a half** minutes)

3. Dance Appreciation-Written exam 1hr 30 minutes. 40%

Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills

Critical appreciation of own work

Critical appreciation of professional works

CAREER INFORMATION

Possible careers leading on from studying GCSE Dance include:

Performer Physiotherapist

Choreographer Theatre Technician

Teacher Arts Administration



GCSE Drama

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Years 10/11
All external exams are sat in summer of Year 11

Exam board: WJEC Specification Code: 3690QS

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The WJEC GCSE in Drama is an exciting, inspiring and practical course. The specification promotes involvement in and enjoyment of drama, as performers and/or designers. Additionally it provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances and to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members.

Unit 1: Devising Theatre

Internally assessed, externally moderated, practical exam,.

40% of qualification. Creation of a devised performance using a range of different stimulus material. Option to select a design role.

Written: Pupils will produce a Portfolio of supporting evidence and an evaluation of the final performance

Unit 2: Performing

Externally assessed practical exam by a visiting examiner

20% of qualification. Option to select a design role.

Unit 3: Interpreting Theatre

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes. 40% of qualification. Out of 60 marks.

Section A: Set Text

A series of questions on **one** set text explored as an actor, designer and director.

Section B: Live Theatre Review

One question, from a choice of two, requiring analysis and evaluation of one live theatre production seen during the course.

Creativity is seeing what everyone else has seen and thinking what no one else has though

Albert Einstein

CAREER INFORMATION

Actor/ Director, Playwright Teacher, Arts Administrator, Barrister, Broadcast journalist, Cinematographer Set Designer, Costume Designer, Editor



GCSE Media Studies

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Years 10/11
All external exams are sat in summer of Year 11

Exam board: WJEC Specification Code: 3680QS

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

As a GCSE Media Studies student, you will analyse how media products such as TV programmes and music videos use images, sounds, language, and representations to create meaning. You will learn about the media industry and how the industry affects how media products are made. You will investigate media audiences, exploring who are the people who watch, read and consume the products, and considering how different people might be affected by media products differently, and why. You will study lots of different media forms from a theory and practical perspective. There are two written exams and one practical coursework.

Unit 1: Written examination: Exploring the media (30% of qualification) - Media language

Section A: Representations – Advertising, Video Games and Newspapers (30 marks)

Section B: Music—analysis of music videos, magazines and artist websites and social media. (30 marks)

1 hour 30mins, 30% of qualification

Unit 2: Written examination: 1 hour 30mins (30% of qualification)

Section A: Wales on Television: Gavin and Stacey—Audience and representation

Section B: Contemporary Hollywood Film: Black Panther (Marvel)- Media industries/ marketing/ regulation

Unit 3: Non-exam assessment: Media Production: Practical and written coursework (40% of qualification)

This unit builds on previous learning by requiring learners to develop and apply their knowledge and understanding of the media through practical production. In Units 1 and 2, learners gain a detailed understanding of media language, representation, industry and audiences in relation to a range of media forms.

In this unit, learners will apply their knowledge and understanding to create a media product of their choice from; Film, advertising and magazines.

- Audio-visual (individual or in pairs) Film trailer, advert or music video
- Print (individual)
- Online (individual). In addition to the production itself, learners will complete development work (research and planning) as well as a reflective analysis on the production. (900 words)

CAREER INFORMATION

Digital marketing, location manager, media buyer, media planner, media researcher, public relations officer, game developer, runner, broadcasting, radio production, social media manager, film/TV/ video producer, web contact manager, designer, journalist



GCSE Music

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Years 10/11
All external exams are sat in summer of Year 11

Exam board: WJEC Specification Code: 3660QS

COURSE CONTENT & ASESSMENT

You will learn to:

- **PERFORM** various styles of music using instrumental **or** vocal skills. You will perform a minimum of 1 group piece and either a solo or a second ensemble piece. You must also provide a programme note in preparation for your exam.
- COMPOSE two contrasting pieces of music and write them down on paper and/or put them on CD.
- **LISTEN** to different types of music from film and popular culture to the development of music from 1600 to the 21st century. Also includes analysing and evaluating music as set by the examination board.

SKILLS NEEDED

Music is an academic subject, which requires you to be committed and show independent learning skills and creativity. You don't have to be able to read music fluently before you start the course but you must be prepared to learn an instrument and read music properly through dedication and practice. Basic keyboard skills will help you with composing music of your own. During the course, you will be assessed on your solo and ensemble skills, and you will be encouraged to explore many different musical styles.

Commitment and resilience are two of the main skills you will need for this course. Developing these skills will greatly benefit you in whichever career path you choose.

Unit 1: Performing Total duration of performances: 4-6 minutes 35% of qualification 84 marks

Section A: Performing (30%) A minimum of two pieces, one of which must be an ensemble performance of at least one minute duration. The other piece(s) may be either solo and/or ensemble. One of the pieces performed must link to an area of study of the learner's choice.

Section B: Programme Note (5%) A programme note for one of the pieces chosen for performance, linked to an area of study.

Unit 2: Composing Total duration of compositions: 3-6 minutes 35% of qualification 84 marks

Section A: Composing (30%) Two compositions, one of which must be in response to a brief set by WJEC. Learners will choose one brief from a choice of four, each one linked to a different area of study. The briefs will be released during the first week of September in the academic year in which the assessment is to be taken. The second composition is a free composition for which learners set their own brief.

Section B: Evaluating (5%) An evaluation of the piece composed in response to a brief set by WJEC.

Unit 3: Appraising Written examination: 1 hour (approximately) 30% of qualification 72 marks

This unit is assessed via a listening examination. Eight questions in total, two on each of the four areas of study.

Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices

Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble

Area of study 3: Film Music

Area of study 4: Popular Music

Two of the eight questions are based on prepared extracts set by WJEC.

Useful Revision Sites:

CAREER INFORMATION

Key Skills such as 'Individual learning', 'Working with others' and 'Communication' are highly valued by employers.

Musicians use these skills all the time. The music business is the fastest growing business in the UK.

https://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rlid=3361



GCSE Agored Cymru

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Years 10/11
All external exams are sat in summer of Year
Exam board: Agored Cymru
Specification: COO/1198/2

Personal and Social Education

The Agored Cymru Personal and Social Education (PSE) qualifications meet the requirements of key policies and strategies for preparing learners to be personally and socially effective through the exploration of attitudes and values and the acquisition of skills and knowledge.

Learners undertaking these qualifications will benefit from developing a broad base of personal and social skills to empower them to take an active role in society and build their self-esteem and personal development skills.

QUALIFICATION

This qualification is a two year course equivalent to TWO Level 2 GCSE qualifications. This being the equivalent to 2 GCSE's A*- C grade. There is no exam as the certificate is based on units of work acquired through unit accreditation. The qualification is split into 2 units.

Unit 1:

This unit involves topics that require 8 credits in total. The topics range for anger management strategies, social media, homelessness and housing and Wales the Country.

Unit 2:

This unit involves topics that requires 10 credits in total. These topics range from Environmental Awareness, Personal Skills Development, Crime Prevention and Keeping Safe and Personal Money Management.

Pupils work towards the Extended Certificate in Personal and Social Education, based on group involvement/participation and project work. Throughout the programme, pupils focus on a range of skills to develop qualifications that offer flexibility and choice to a variety of pathways and progression.

CAREER INFORMATION

Employers recognise the level 2 qualification which is equivalent to 2 GCSE's at B grade level.

Successful completion of the course proves to an employer that a pupil has had the determination to complete the required number of units, and has undergone a programme of preparation to meet this criteria.

Agored Cymru is recognised by Qualifications Wales.



GCSE Food and Nutrition

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Years 10/11
All external exams are sat in summer of Year
Exam board: WJEC
Specification: 3560 P1/P2/UA/UB/U2

COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT

The WJEC GCSE in Food and Nutrition will equip you with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages you to prepare cook and serve a range of dishes and will enable you to make informed decisions about food and nutrition. It will allow you to acquire the knowledge and understanding in order to be able to feed yourselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

<u>Unit 1: Principles of Food and Nutrition</u> - will be assessed through a written examination.

- 1 hour 30 minutes
- 40% of qualification
- 80 marks

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 food and nutrition.

<u>Unit 2: Food and Nutrition in Action - will be assessed through two non-examination assessment.</u>

These are worth 60% of the total qualification.

Assessment 1: The Food Investigation Assessment

- 10 hours task
- 20% of the total marks available
- Will involve practical experimental work and written work based on a specific food commodity e.g.
- bread, pastry.

Assessment 2: The Food Preparation Assessment

- 15 hours task
- 40% of the total marks available
- Will involve research to respond to a given brief plus planning, preparation, cooking (1 x 3 hour

Useful Revision Sites:

https://www.foodafactoflife.org.uk/

https://www.bbcbitesize

https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/food-and-nutrition-gcse

session) and presentation of three dishes plus accompaniments (if appropriate) to form a menu.

Career Information

Choosing GCSE Food and Nutrition can lead to a career in many different areas of employment such as:

Butcher	Artisan Baker	Food Production Engineer	Auditor	Development Chef
Agronomist	Meat Hygiene Inspector	Business Analyst	Technical Brewer	Technologist
Biochemist	Buyer	HR Manager	Brand Manager	Food Photographer
Fish Farm Manager	Environmental officer	Dietitian	Nutritionist	Packaging Developer



GCSE Physical Education

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Years 10/11
All external exams are sat in summer of Year 11

Exam board: WJEC Specification Code: 3550QS

COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT

UNIT 1: 50% - Introduction to Physical Education

The theoretical aspects of the course are broken down into the following headings:

- Health, Training and Exercise
- Exercise Physiology
- Movement Analysis
- Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity
- Socio Cultural issues in sport and physical activity

UNIT 2 - 50% - The Active Participant in PE and Sport

Three different activities: one individual, one team and either or individual activity. One of the activities will be a major activity and the personal fitness programme will be linked to this specific activity.

Each activity will be marked out of 28 with the personal training programme being marked out of 16. This will give a total of 100 marks.

EXAM FORMAT

50% THEORY EXAM (2 hour written exam)

50% PRACTICAL EXAM

Three different activities – One individual, one team and one other (Either team or individual). One of the activities will be a major activity and the personal fitness programme will be linked to this specific activity.

Useful Revision Sites:

GCSE Physical Education - WJEC - BBC Bitesize

CAREER INFORMATION

Choosing GCSE Physical Education can lead to a career in many different areas of employment:

Armed Forces PE teacher Strength and Conditioning coach

Physiotherapy Policeman Sports development

Fire Service Sports scientist



GCSE Prince's Trust

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Years 10/11
Exam board: Prince's Trust
Specification Code: 600/8035/8

This course is only available for targeted pupils. Individual pupils will be guided towards this course where appropriate.

This qualification is a two year course equivalent to TWO Level 2 GCSE qualifications. This being the equivalent to 2 GCSE's A*- C grade. There is no exam as the certificate is based on units of work acquired through unit accreditation.

The units in the course include personal/interpersonal team skills, enterprise and entrepreneurship, career planning, community project, healthy lifestyle, participation in sport and money management.

Our qualifications seek to:

- Ensure learners have every opportunity to gain formal recognition of their skills and achievements
- Develop qualifications that offer flexibility, choice and pathways to progression
- Provide excellent support and service to our partners to ensure they're best placed to support young people

Assignments are completed in class and marked internally. Pupils need to complete all specified units in order to pass the certificate.

QUALIFICATION

- The Certificate is a two year course equivalent to 2 Level 2 GCSE qualifications.
- Pupils work towards the Prince's Trust Cymru certificate, based on group involvement/participation and project work.
- The course ensures that learners have the opportunity to gain formal recognition of their skills and achievements.
- Throughout the programme, pupils focus on a range of skills to develop qualifications that offer flexibility and choice to a variety of pathways and progression.

CAREER INFORMATION

The qualification is a recognised award for pupils to choose as an alternative to a GCSE subject.

Employers recognise the level 2 qualification which is equivalent to 2 GCSE's.

Successful completion of the course proves to an employer that a pupil has had the determination to complete the required number of units, and has undergone a programme of preparation to meet this criteria.

The Prince's Trust is recognised by Qualifications Wales.



Website: www.ysgolbrynalyn.co.uk

E-mail: mailbox@ysgolbrynalyn.wrexham.sch.uk