GCSE COURSES' HANDBOOK 2024-2026

HEADTEACHER'S INTRODUCTION

Dear Pupil,

The next steps in your school career here at Ysgol Caer Elen will certainly be important and exciting. As you come to the end of Year 9 and begin your GCSE studies we need to ensure that we provide you with the best guidance and advice which will help you to make decisions regarding subject choices that are most relevant to your future career pathway. This resource pack is intended to provide you with information regarding the subjects you have to study and the subjects you can choose to study in Years 10 and 11. Our aim is to make the process as accessible and clear as possible to ensure that you can complete your choices with confidence.

During Year 10 and Year 11 you will study the core subjects which are Welsh, English, Mathematics and Science. The other compulsory subjects are Religious Studies, the Welsh Baccalaureate and Physical Education.

You will also have the opportunity to choose three subjects from the three Option Blocks created.You will need to make sure that you choose wisely and consider which subjects are most relevant to your future pathway.

In September there will be an increase in the number of timetabled lessons for the core subjects. Sufficient hours will also be allocated for the option subjects which will allow you to thrive in your chosen areas of study.

We are fortunate that we have an experienced team of teachers that will be available to advise you throughout the process. It is important that you:

(a) Discuss your option choices with your parents, subject teachers, form teachers, Heads of Progress and Wellbeing, the Assistant Headteachers, the Deputy Headteacher and the Headteacher.
(b) Make sure that you know the content of the different subjects.
(c) Seek advice from the Careers Officer who will be able to inform you if there is a need to study a particular subject for a particular career or course in the future.

The journey towards completing your GCSEs will not always be easy. There will be times when you will feel completely in control and will be coping well with the workload. You will be managing your time effectively and will be revising thoroughly and achieving good results. At other times you will be feeling under pressure and will find the workload challenging. You might receive disappointing marks or will be experiencing frustration. I can assure you that we will be with you at every stage of this journey and will be available to guide and support you. Your health and wellbeing will be as equally important to us at Ysgol Caer Elen as your academic progress.

All I ask of you is that you do your best. Working together constructively will be key and I'm confident we can look towards the future in a positive way.

THE CURRICULUM

The course of study your child follows in school is known as the Curriculum. The curriculum has to be broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated. A curriculum has **breadth** if it introduces a wide range of experience, knowledge and skills to the pupils.

It is necessary to allocate sufficient time to each area of the curriculum in order to ensure **balance**. The subject matter will be **relevant** in each area of the curriculum and should be taught in such a way as to link with the pupils' own experiences and to promote their development as well as to prepare them for adult life.

The curriculum needs to be **differentiated** so that it provides for the special needs of pupils in a way that ensures that the curriculum is accessible to all pupils.

The learning programmes must show **progression**. The curriculum consists of a number of subjects together with cross-curricular matters.

The subjects are further classified into **Core** and **Foundation** subjects.

CORE SUBJECTS

- Welsh (Language and Literature)
- English (Language and Literature)
- Mathematics
- Double Science

FOUNDATION SUBJECTS

- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Welsh Baccalaureate

OPTION SUBJECTS

- Art
- Business
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Digital Technology
- Drama
- Engineering
- Food and Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Physical Education
- Spanish
- Triple Science

CURRICULUM

The mandatory curriculum at Key Stage 4 consists of Welsh, Science, Mathematics and English as well as Physical Education and Religious Studies.

CORE SUBJECTS

- Welsh - 7 hours
- English - 7 hours
- Mathematics/Numeracy - 7 hours
- Double Science - 7 hours
- (Triple Science - 12 hours)

FOUNDATION SUBJECTS

- Physical Education - 2 hours
- Religious Studies - 2 hours
- Welsh Baccalaureate - 3 hours

OPTION SUBJECTS

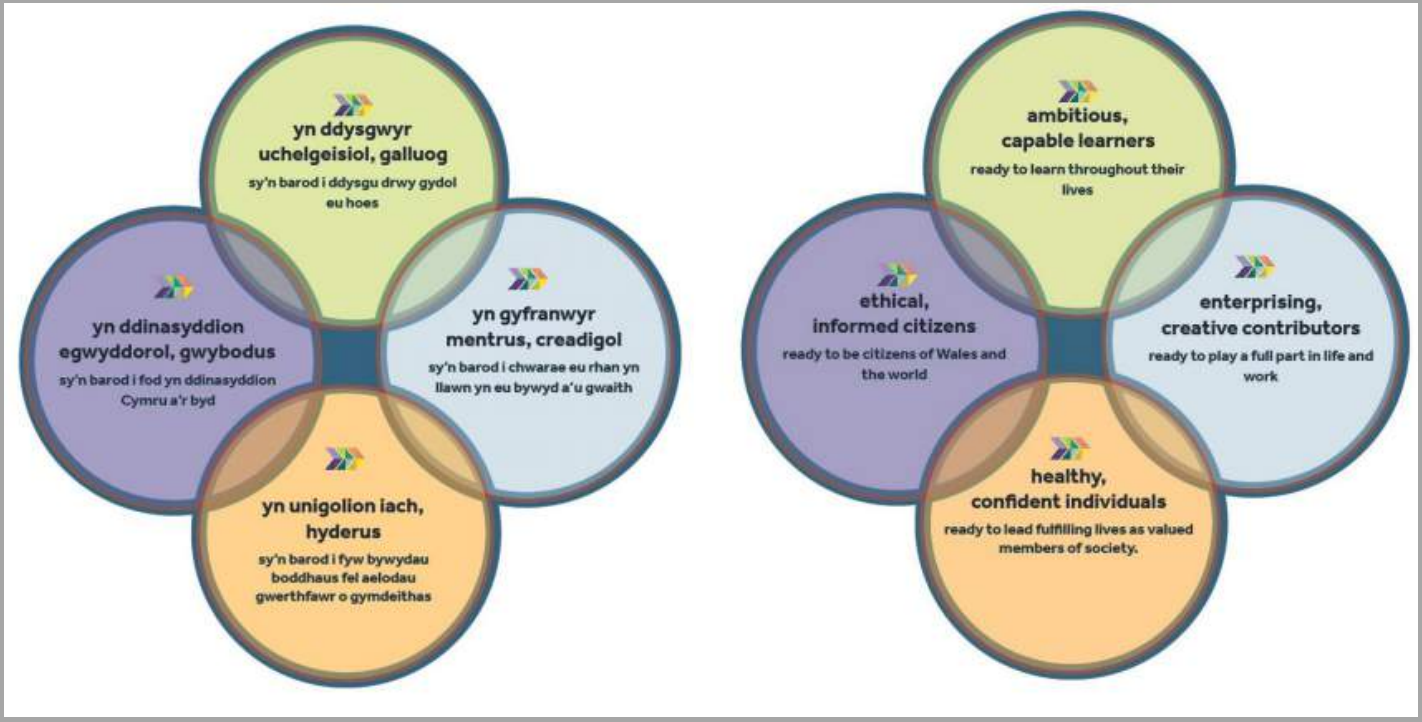
There will be **three** option groups. These groups have been designed in order to enable the pupils to study a broad and balanced curriculum. A wide range of academic and vocational subjects are available.

Each option group will be allocated **5 hours** a fortnight.

DYSGU AR DRAWS Y CWRICWLWM
LEARNING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Bydd cyfle gan pob un disgybl i ddatblygu sgiliau a gwerthoedd canlynol ar draws y cwricwlwm. / Each pupil will have the opportunity to develop the following skills and values across the curriculum.

Bydd ein holl blant a phobl ifanc yn datblygu i fod yn...
All children and young people will be...



Llythrennedd **Rhifedd** **Cymhwysedd Digidol**

Literacy **Numeracy** **Digital Competency**

Sgiliau Trawsgwricwlaidd / Cross-curricular Skills

Sgiliau Ehangach / Wider Skills

- Meddwl yn feirniadol a datrys problem
- Cynllunio a threfnu
- Creadigrwydd ac arloesedd
- Effeitholrwydd personol
- Thinking critically and solving a problem
- Planning and organisation
- Creativity and innovation
- Personal effectiveness

ANGHENION DYSGU YCHWANEGOL / ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

Er mwyn sicrhau bod y cwricwlwm ar gael i bob disgybl bydd yr ysgol yn darparu ar gyfer disgyblion ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol. Yn unol â gofynion deddf newydd ADY 2021, bydd yr ysgol yn paratoi cynlluniau datblygu unigol ar gyfer disgyblion sydd yn cael eu hystried ag Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol. Bydd yr ysgol yn cynnal cyfarfodydd cyson gyda'r disgyblion a'u rieni er mwyn sicrhau'r darpariaeth a chefnogaeth anghenreidiol.

In order to ensure that the curriculum is accessible to all pupils, the school will cater for pupils with additional learning needs. In accordance with the requirements of the new ALN Act 2021, the school will prepare individual development plans for pupils who are affected by Additional Learning Needs. The school will hold regular meetings with pupils and their parents in order to ensure the necessary provision and support.

GWEITHGAREDDAU BYD GWAITH/PROFIAD GWAITH / WORLD OF WORK ACTIVITIES / WORK EXPERIENCE - MRS ELEN GRIFFITHS

Bydd pob disgybl ym mlwyddyn 10 yn cael cyfle i gymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau Byd Gwaith yn yr ysgol. Bydd y profiadau hyn yn helpu'r disgyblion i ddeall gofynion cyflogwyr ac yn eu paratoi ar gyfer y newidiadau fydd yn eu hwynebu wrth iddynt symud o fyd ysgol i fyd gwaith.

All year 10 pupils will follow a series of World of Work activities organised at the school. This will also help pupils to understand the requirements and expectations of future employers and will assist them in making the transition from school to the adult world of work.

Consider the following before making your choices

- What subjects do you like/dislike?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- Do you like practical subjects or academic subjects?
- Have you ensured a balanced combination?
- Will the subjects chosen allow you to follow a suitable course after Year 11?
- Will the subjects allow you to follow your chosen career in the future?

Pwy sydd yma i'ch helpu gyda'ch dewisiadau?
Who can support you with your choices?

Mr Dafydd Hughes

PENNAETH
HEADTEACHER

Mr Gareth Owens

DIRPRWY BENNAETH
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER

Miss Sophie Thomas

PENNAETH CYNNYDD A LLES BLWYDDYN 9
YEAR 9 HEAD OF PROGRESS AND WELL-BEING

Cydlynwyr Maes Dysgu a Phrofiad ac Athrawon Dosbarth

Areas of Learning and Experience Coordinators and Class Teachers

CYMORTH YCHWANEGOL
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Miss Carys Wright
ELSA

Mrs Jenna Morgan
Gweithiwr Ieuenctid
Youth Worker

Mrs Jane Davies
Cydlynydd Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol
Additional Learning Needs Coordinator

Cofiwch gysylltu os rydych am air o gymorth!

Remember to contact if you require additional support!

Mrs Glenda Llewellyn-Jones
Swyddog Gyrfaoedd
Careers Officer

GYRFA CYMRU

CAREERS WALES

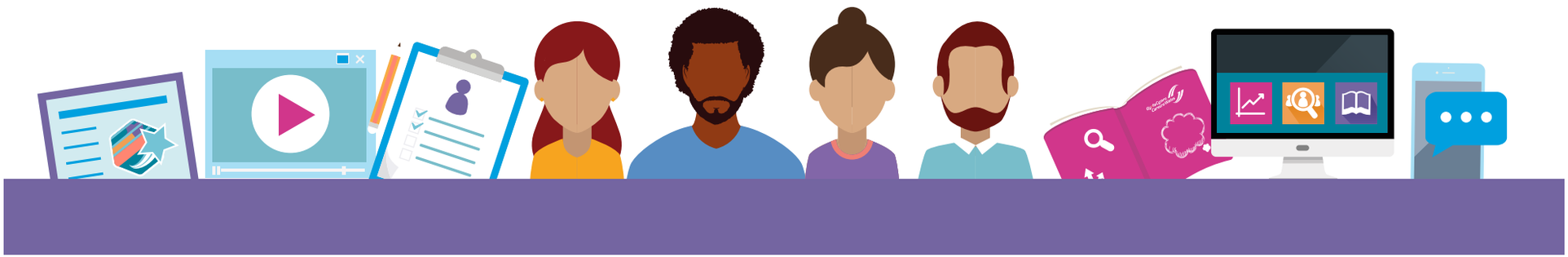
ABOUT US

Careers Wales provides free and impartial careers information advice and guidance to support anyone making education or employment decisions.

We are here to help young people and adults make career plans and decisions, to move into the right training, further learning or employment opportunities.

Our services focus on supporting customers to develop self-awareness and aspirations to equip them to make effective career decisions throughout their lives.

Find out more about Careers Wales.



CONNECT WITH CAREERS WALES

www.careerswales.gov.wales

post@careerswales.gov.wales

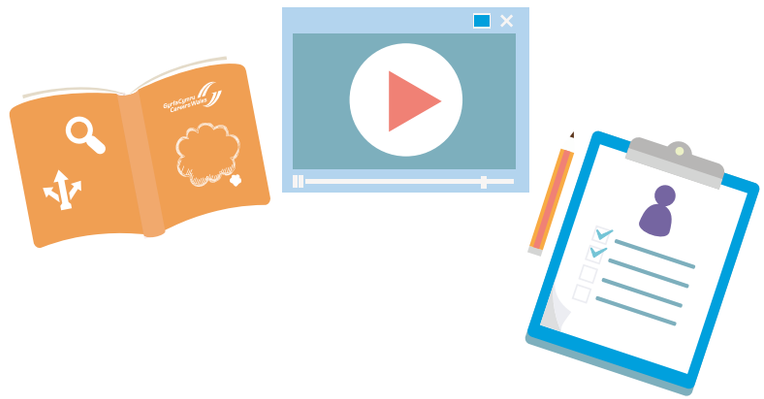
0800 028 4844

Webchat

@CareersWales

CAREERSWALES.GOV.WALES

Our website is full of information, tools and resources to help you plan your career.



Job Matching Quiz

Find job ideas that match your skills and interests.
www.careerswales.gov.wales/job-matching-quiz

Job Information

Search for information on 100's of different job titles, including wages and qualifications needed.
www.careerswales.gov.wales/job-information

Buzz Quiz

Take the Buzz Quiz to find out your personality type and what jobs might suit you.
www.careerswales.gov.wales/buzzquiz

Apprenticeships

Search for Apprenticeships and other vacancies.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT...

Choosing subjects and courses

How to choose the right subject or course

Choosing subjects in Year 8 and 9

Choosing subjects and courses at 16

Choosing subjects and courses at 18

Your options

Options at 16

Options at 18

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT...

Getting a job

Getting a Job

Getting into Self-employment

tv.careerswales.gov.wales

View live and recorded webinars with employers from leading industries.

Careers Wales You Tube Channel

Our YouTube channel includes a variety of videos covering topics such as:

- Your options
- Skills employers want
- Getting ready for the world of work

and much more.....

PYNCIAU CRAIDD

CORE SUBJECTS

WELSH LANGUAGE

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

By studying GCSE Welsh Language you will develop and build upon your previous literacy skills from Key Stage 3 through various opportunities to refine and display your oracy, reading and writing skills.

Following this course will:

- Inspire, challenge and motivate you
- Develop your ability to use the Welsh language as active and informed citizens
- Enable you to speak, listen, read and write fluently and effectively for a wide range of personal, functional and social purposes.
- Arm you with the knowledge and skills required to make informed decisions regarding further learning opportunities and career choices.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

There are three units to this qualification. The two externally assessed units test Reading and Writing skills, whilst the internally assessed unit tests Oracy skills. Varied question types and clear rubric will aim to make this untiered assessment accessible to learners of different abilities.

UNIT	ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVE AND WEIGHTING
Unit 1 – Non-examination Assessment Task 1: Individual researched presentation Task 2: Group discussion	Oracy – 30%
Unit 2 – External Assessment Description, Narration and Exposition	Reading & Writing – 35%
Unit 3 – External Assessment Argumentation, Persuasion and Instructional	Reading & Writing – 35%

OPPORTUNITIES

Many opportunities and experiences will arise as part of studying GCSE Welsh including visits, workshops and guest speakers.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

A GCSE Welsh Language qualification opens numerous doors to future paths from further education to the world of work in Wales and beyond. The skills that you will acquire by studying Welsh are useful if not essential for many careers. Bilingualism is a skill that is increasingly favoured by employers in the world of work and business.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Welsh Language GCSE Specification

Careers Wales – Job Information

WELSH LITERATURE

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

By studying GCSE Welsh Literature, you will have an opportunity to enjoy reading, studying, appreciating and responding to a range of classic and contemporary literature and multimedia.

Following this course will:

- Nurture a positive attitude towards the Welsh Language and an appreciation of its culture
- Promote effective and purposeful use of the Welsh Language
- Nurture an understanding of how literature can enrich, influence, inspire and ignite the imagination
- Provide opportunities to display your creativity
- Enable you to become critical readers of fictional prose, poetry and drama/literature such as film.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

There are four units to this qualification. Two external units are assessed by written assessment and one external unit by oral examination. The non-examination assessment unit includes written tasks.

UNIT	ASSESSMENT
Unit 1 – Poetry	Written paper – 1 ¼ hours 25%
Unit 2 – Novel	Written paper – 1 ¼ hours 25%
Unit 3 – Visual Literature	Oral examination (about 20 minutes per group) 25 %
Unit 4 – Non-examination assessment Task 1: Short stories Task 2: Drama	Written tasks 25%

OPPORTUNITIES

As part of studying GCSE Welsh Literature, there will be various opportunities to enhance learning experiences including theatre visits and workshops with well-known poets and authors.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

A GCSE Welsh Literature qualification opens many doors to the future from further education to the world of work. A good grade in GCSE Welsh Literature is a sound basis to continue studying Welsh at AS and A Level and beyond.

FURTHER INFORMATION

GCSE Welsh Literature Specification

Careers Wales – Job Information

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

The GCSE English Language qualification is now linear and untiered. All pupils will sit the examinations at the end of year 11.

Non-Examination Assessment: Oracy (20%)

Unit 1: Oracy tasks (BOTH TASKS MUST BE RECORDED)

Individual Researched Presentation (10%) One individual, researched presentation, which may include responses to questions and feedback, based on WJEC set themes.

Interacting and Responding (10%) One group discussion to written and/or visual stimuli provided by WJEC to initiate the discussion.

Examinations: Reading and Writing (80%) (at the end of year 11)

Unit 2: Reading and Writing (Description, Narration, Exposition)

2 hours (40%)

Section A: Reading (20%) Understanding of at least one description, one narration and one exposition text, assessed through a range of structured questions.

Section B: Writing (20%) 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 proof-reading and editing task focusing on writing accurately.

Unit 3: Reading and Writing (Argumentation, Persuasion, Instructional)

2 hours (40%)

Section A: Reading (20%) Understanding of at least one argumentation, one persuasion and one instructional text, assessed through a range of structured

questions.

Section B: Writing (20%) One compulsory argumentation writing task and one compulsory persuasion writing task.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

Assessment	% of overall grade	Date of assessment
Unit 1 - Oracy (Non-examination task) Individual Presentation	10%	To be confirmed
Unit 1 – Oracy (Non-examination task) Group discussion	10%	To be confirmed
Unit 2 – Narration, Description, Exposition (Examination)	40%	Summer 2024
Unit 3 – Argumentation, Persuasion, Instructional (Examination)	40%	Summer 2024

OPPORTUNITIES

The English department will offer our GCSE students opportunities to participate in workshops (both live and virtual) as well as attending lectures located at establishments of higher education. Furthermore, there will be ample opportunities for pupils to showcase their numerous talents by competing in public speaking events and various writing competitions.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

A successful GCSE grade in this subject will lead to opportunities for higher study at AS and/or A Level as well as the prospect of studying English further at degree level and beyond. Such qualifications can open so many doors to a range of career options within numerous fields e.g. law, education, academia, journalism, the media, publishing and a wealth of other opportunities.

FURTHER INFORMATION

WJEC GCSE in English Language Specification Booklet

ENGLISH LITERATURE

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

The GCSE in English Literature is unitised and tiered (higher and foundation tiers available). The qualification will begin in year 10 with opportunities for re-sitting units in year 11.

Examinations (75%)

Unit 1 (2 hours) 35% (Summer 2023)

i. *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck or *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
ii. Analysis and comparison of Unseen Poetry (contemporary)

Unit 2 (2 hours) 40% (Summer 2024)

i. Either *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens or *Heroes* by Robert Cormier
ii. Either *A View from the Bridge* by Arthur Miller or *An Inspector Calls* by JB Priestley

Non-examination assessment (25%)

Unit 3 (These tasks can be completed at any time during the GCSE course)

Section A: Shakespeare (2 hours) 12.5%

A play by Shakespeare chosen by the centre and candidates

will be expected to write an essay on a theme, set by the WJEC.

Section B: Welsh writing in English (2 hours) 12.5%

Stipulated poetry from the *Library of Wales Anthology Poetry 1900-2000: One Hundred Poets from Wales* (edited by Meic Stephens). Candidates study fifteen specified poems listed for the chosen theme and produce an essay comparing at least TWO poems.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

Assessment	% of overall grade	Date of assessment
Unit 1 Examination	35%	Summer 2023
Unit 2 Examination	40%	Summer 2024
Non-Examination Assessment A: Shakespeare	12.5%	To be confirmed
Non-Examination Assessment B: Poetry (Welsh writing in English)	12.5%	To be confirmed

OPPORTUNITIES

Whilst studying GCSE English Literature at Ysgol Caer Elen, pupils will be given a range of learning opportunities beyond the classroom. Such opportunities include participating in educational field trips, attending workshops (both live and virtual) hosted by various experts within the field of English literature, as well as enjoying cultural visits to the Globe Theatre in London and the RSC and Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

A successful GCSE grade in this subject will lead to opportunities for higher study at AS and/or A Level as well as the prospect of studying English further at degree level and beyond. Such qualifications can open so many doors to a range of career options within numerous fields e.g. law, education, academia, journalism, the media, publishing and a wealth of other opportunities.

FURTHER INFORMATION

WJEC GCSE in English Literature Specification

MATHEMATICS

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

Studying GCSE Mathematics will encourage learners to be inspired, moved and challenged by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. It will help learners to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, mathematics and to recognise the importance and relevance of mathematics to their everyday lives and to society.

By studying this course you will:

- develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods, techniques and concepts required for progression into mathematics or mathematically-related disciplines or employment routes
- make connections between different areas of mathematics
- select and apply mathematical methods in both mathematical and real-world contexts
- reason mathematically, construct arguments and simple proofs, and make logical deductions and inferences
- develop and refine strategies for solving a range of mathematical and real-world problems
- communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms
- interpret mathematical results and draw and justify conclusions that are relevant to the context
- communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

There are three tiers of entry for this qualification.

1) Higher Tier: Grades A*–C 2) Intermediate Tier: Grades B–E 3) Foundation Tier: Grades D–G

Examinations	
Unit 1: Non calculator	50% of qualification
Unit 2: Calculator allowed	50% of qualification

OPPORTUNITIES

You will gain extensive opportunities and experiences while studying the GCSE Mathematics course; from educational trips to lectures and workshops run by experts from higher education institutions and industry.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

Mathematics can help you get into many different careers, including:

Engineering, data computing, archeology, finance e.g. accountancy, actuary, insurance.

In addition to this, many careers now require a grade B in GCSE Mathematics e.g. teaching

FURTHER INFORMATION

WJEC GCSE Mathematics Specification

MATHEMATICS - NUMERACY

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

This course will have an emphasis on those aspects of mathematics that are of most relevance to learners functioning as informed 21st century citizens. It will prepare learners to make decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices. Solving problems in the real world and the problem-solving cycle will feature within the specification as well as the more numerical aspects of mathematics. There will also be opportunities for learners to make informed decisions about the use of technology, the management of money and the use of statistics. Studying GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy will enable learners to:

- develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical and statistical methods, techniques and concepts required for everyday life, in the world of work, and in other general curriculum areas
- select and apply appropriate mathematics and statistics in everyday situations and contexts from the real world
- use mathematics to represent, analyse and interpret information
- acquire and use strategies for problem solving and modelling in context
- understand that models may need refining and that there may be more than one way to solve a problem
- interpret mathematical results and draw and justify conclusions that are relevant to the context
- communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

There are three tiers of entry for this qualification.

1) Higher Tier: Grades A*–C 2) Intermediate Tier: Grades B–E 3) Foundation Tier: Grades D–G

Examinations	
Unit 1: Non calculator	50% of qualification
Unit 2: Calculator allowed	50% of qualification

OPPORTUNITIES

You will gain extensive opportunities and experiences while studying the GCSE Mathematics - Numeracy course; from educational trips to lectures and workshops run by experts from higher education institutions and industry.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

Mathematics - Numeracy can help you proceed into many different careers, including: engineering, data computing, archeology, finance e.g. accountancy, actuary, insurance.
In addition to this, many careers now require a grade B in GCSE Mathematics- Numeracy e.g. teaching

FURTHER INFORMATION

WJEC GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy Specification

SCIENCE (Double Award)

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

Studying GCSE Science provides the foundations for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. By studying this course, you will:

- Gain and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works and its vital role in society.
- Appreciate the unique contribution of science to an objective understanding of the material world.
- Develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods.
- Gain the scientific skills, knowledge and understanding needed to progress to further learning.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

Three written papers are taken in **June of Year 10** and a further three in the **May/June of Year 11**. All of these papers focus on the knowledge, understanding and application of science, and they each account for 15% of the total GCSE Science (Double Award) marks. This means that 45% of the aggregate marks are achieved by examination in Year 10 and 45% by examination in Year 11.

A practical examination will be taken in the **January of Year 11**. This assessment gives pupils the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to work scientifically. This will include experimental skills and strategies and skills in analysis and evaluation. The tasks will be externally marked by the WJEC.

	Biology Unit	Chemistry Unit	Physics Unit	
Summer Year 10	B1 (15%)	C2 (15%)	P3 (15%)	January Year 11. Practical Exam. (10%)
Summer Year 11	B4 (15%)	C5 (15%)	P6 (15%)	

OPPORTUNITIES

Whilst studying the GCSE Science course you will have extensive opportunities and experiences; from educational trips to lectures and workshops run by experts from higher education institutions and industry.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

A good grade in GCSE Science is a great foundation for continuing to study Advanced Subsidiary, Advanced Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It is also a strong foundation for pursuing a scientific or technological career.

FURTHER INFORMATION

WJEC GCSE Double Award Science Specification

Careers Wales – Job Information (Science and Research industry)

Careers Wales – Job Information (Healthcare industry)

PYNCIAU SYLFAEN

FOUNDATION SUBJECTS

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

<u>Year 10 Short Course Content - Unit 1: Religion and Philosophical Themes</u>

Part A
Two specified core beliefs/teachings and two specified practices of Christianity and Islam.
Part B
Two philosophical themes from the perspective of Christianity and Islam, which are 'Life and Death' and 'Good and Evil'.

The above course will begin in the Easter term of Year 9 for Caer Elen pupils.

<u>Year 11 Course Content - Unit 2: Religion and Ethical Themes</u>

Part A
Two specified core beliefs/teachings and two specified practices of Christianity and Islam.

Part B
Two ethical themes from the perspective of Christianity and Islam, which are 'Relationships' and 'Human Rights'.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

There will be an exam at the end of Year 10 (short course) and Year 11 (full course). Therefore, at the end of Year 11 you will have a full GCSE.

	Examinations
Summer of Year 10 (50%)	Unit 1: Religion and Philosophical Themes
Summer of Year 11 (50%)	Unit 2: Religion and Ethical Themes

It is possible that pupils who do not achieve a D grade at the end of Year 10 will re-sit the same paper at the end of Year 11. This will ensure a good grade in the short course.

OPPORTUNITIES

By studying Religious Studies, you will develop knowledge and understanding of religious and non-religious beliefs as well as various teachings and practices. There will be an opportunity to formulate balanced arguments and engage with the world's big questions. By studying the subject, you will have the opportunity to think more deeply about the world and its people and develop a positive attitude towards others.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

Studying Religious Studies can be beneficial when considering the following careers: Solicitor / Teacher / Doctor / Police Officer / Politician / Civil Servant / Human Resources Manager / Religious Leader and much more.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about the course from the WJEC

Careers opportunities that link with the subject from the Careers Wales website

WELSH BACCALAUREATE

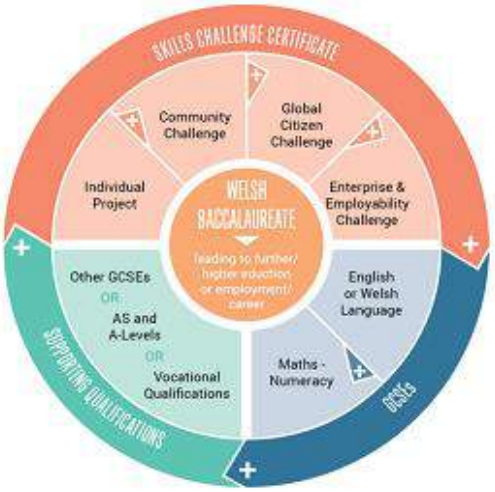
COURSE SUMMARY

The central focus of the Welsh Baccalaureate at Key Stage 4 is to provide a vehicle for 14-16 year olds to consolidate and develop essential and employability skills. The qualification will help pupils to prepare for their future by developing skills, attributes and behaviours valued by post-16 educators and potential employers. The emphasis in the Welsh Baccalaureate is on applied learning i.e. acquiring and applying a range of transferable skills. The School will offer a learning experience relevant to the needs and demands of the workplace that will develop pupils' confidence, drive and initiative, preparing them to enter, succeed and progress in the world of work.

The Welsh Baccalaureate aims to enable pupils to develop and demonstrate an understanding of and proficiency in essential and employability skills. These are the skills that employers and next stage educators value and which pupils need for learning, work and life.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

The Welsh Baccalaureate is based on a Skills Challenge Certificate alongside Supporting Qualifications. The requirements of both the Skills Challenge Certificate and Supporting Qualifications must be met in order to achieve the overarching Welsh Baccalaureate.



The Skills Challenge Certificate consists of four components although only three need to be completed. We as a school have chosen to complete the following challenges:

- Individual Project
- Global Citizenship Challenge
- Community Challenge

The combined outcomes of the three components will determine whether the Skills Challenge Certificate is awarded at National or Foundation level. The Skills Challenge Certificate has been designed to include learning and assessment which will enthuse, engage and motivate pupils in the classroom, the workplace and the wider community. Pupils will be required to consider how the application of their learning may impact on individuals, employers, society and the environment. The qualification has been devised around the concept of a 'plan, do, and review' approach to learning where pupils are introduced to a context for learning, plan activities, carry out activities, review outcomes and learning.

The Supporting Qualifications include two mandatory GCSEs of English Language or Welsh Language together with Mathematics-Numeracy. A further three GCSEs are also required, of which two may be of equivalent qualifications. To meet the National Welsh Baccalaureate requirements all five of the Supporting Qualifications must be achieved at grades A*-C. Similarly, for the Foundation Welsh Baccalaureate the Supporting Qualifications must be achieved at grades A*-G.

FURTHER INFORMATION

'What is the Welsh Baccalaureate?' – Scan or click the QR code below to find out more.

PYNCIAU OPSIWN

OPTION SUBJECTS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

By studying GCSE Physical Education, learners will:

- Develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance
- Understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport
- Perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas
- Develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance in physical activity and sport
- Understand the contribution which physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and well-being
- Understand key socio-cultural influences that can affect people's involvement in physical activity and sport in Wales and the wider world.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

EXAM = 50%	PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT = 50%
2 hours (x1 paper)	External practical assessment (Year 11)
100 marks	100 marks
Learners will be assessed through a range of short and extended questions. The questions will be based on audio-visual stimuli and other sources.	Learners will be assessed in: • three different activities in the role of performer • at least one individual and one team sport and one other from the approved lists of activities • a personal fitness programme linked to the chosen major activity

OPPORTUNITIES

You will have numerous opportunities and extensive experiences whilst studying the GCSE Physical Education course. There will be opportunities to attend educational trips to lectures and workshops run by experts from higher education institutions and industries. You will have the opportunity to compete against the other schools in the county for standardisation and moderation purposes.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

- AS & A Level Courses
- University Degree
- Masters
- PGCE Primary/Secondary/Higher Education

FURTHER INFORMATION

SPECIFICATION

FURTHER READING & RESOURCES

#TYFURFESEN

BUSINESS

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

This GCSE specification introduces learners to the business world, empowering them to develop as commercially minded and enterprising individuals. Learners will have the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills, enabling them to use business information critically, to develop arguments, to make justified decisions and to prepare them for further study and career pathways.

Learners will be required to draw together knowledge, skills and understanding from across the subject content in each assessment. The subject content gives learners the opportunity to apply knowledge and understanding of a number of core business functions and issues in a straightforward and synoptic way.

The specification is linear with 100% external assessment at the end of the two-year course.

The content is presented in six, clear topic areas:

1) Business activity
2) Influences on business
3) Business operations
4) Finance
5) Marketing
6) Human resources

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

The subject content for GCSE Business will be assessed across two examinations papers:

Unit 1: Business World	Unit 2: Business Perceptions
Written examination: 2 hours	Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
62.5% of the qualification	37.5% of the qualification
100 Marks	60 Marks
A mix of short answer and structured questions based on stimulus material covering all of the specification content	Data response questions covering all of the specification content

OPPORTUNITIES

Learners will have the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills, enabling them to use business information critically, to develop arguments, to make justified decisions and to prepare them for further study and career pathways. The GCSE Business specification introduces learners to the business world, empowering them to develop as commercially minded and enterprising individuals.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

This specification provides a suitable foundation for the study of Business at either AS or A level. The qualification is relevant to a number of career pathways such as a secretary, banker, marketer, brokerage, accountancy, bookkeeper, entrepreneur and business administrator.

FURTHER INFORMATION

GCSE Business Specification

FOOD AND NUTRITION

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

A course in Food and Nutrition offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for candidates to develop their knowledge and extend their skills within food and nutrition in a vocational context. It will provide opportunities to develop candidates' interdisciplinary skills, a range of Key Skills and their capacity for imaginative, innovative thinking, creativity and independence.

It is a suitable qualification for those who want a broad background in this area and for those who wish to progress to further education or who wish to pursue a career in food and nutrition.

The specification encourages the investigation and study of catering in a variety of contexts.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

The specification uses a range of assessment techniques to enable the candidate to respond through practical and investigative work.

Unit 1: Principles of Food and Nutrition **Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes** **40% of qualification. (80 marks)**	This unit will consist of two sections both containing compulsory questions. **Section A:** questions based on stimulus materials. **Section B:** a range of question types to assess all content related to food and nutrition
Unit 2: Food and Nutrition in Action Non-examination assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated **Assessment 1: 10 hours** **Assessment 2: 15 hours** **60% of qualification (120 marks)**	**Assessment 1: The Food Investigation Assessment:** 20% of the total marks available will be allocated to a scientific food investigation, which will assess the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food. **Assessment 2: The Food Preparation Assessment:** 40% of the total marks available will be allocated to a task which assesses the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of dishes to form a menu. These assessments will be based on a choice of tasks released by WJEC annually.

OPPORTUNITIES

GCSE Food and Nutrition offers a specialist vocational focus in Catering and hospitality for students. Students can progress naturally to relevant qualifications in this sector, e.g. BTEC First Diploma, Level 3 Hospitality and Catering.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

The course a good foundation for studying courses at college or university or taking on an apprenticeship in the industry. A grade in GCSE Food and Nutrition can open doors to a wide range of industries and jobs such as; chef, working in restaurant / kitchen, baker, food businesses etc.

FURTHER INFORMATION

WJEC GCSE in Food and Nutrition Specification

ART & DESIGN

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

The Art and Design course offers engaging, challenging, coherent and meaningful learning experiences with an element of flexibility. It develops independent learners with critical thinking skills, ready to be challenged.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

Within your Art and Design course, you will need to create a practical main portfolio based on internal set themes and subject matter developed from personal starting points.

- The work carried out as part of this unit will be internally set, assessed and externally moderated.
- The student will select, evaluate and submit the work for assessment.
- Evidence of how the student has met each of the objectives is required.

The second unit is set into two parts.

Part 1: Preparatory study period

WJEC will set materials including themed assignments, visual stimuli and written briefs, to be presented to the student at the beginning of the study period.

Part 2: A 10 hour period of intensive and detailed work *

The process of realizing the student's ideas of preparation must be completed during the 10 hours.

The student will select, evaluate and submit the work for assessment. The Externally Set Assignment will be set by WJEC, for assessment by the teacher.

Unit 1	Portfolio 60% of the qualification
Unit 2	Externally Set Assignment 40% of the qualification

OPPORTUNITIES

By choosing the Art and Design course, you will have the opportunity to work independently and develop your creative skills. There will also be an opportunity for you to display your finished work.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

There are many career paths to choose after studying art and design. Some ideas are artist, interior designer, architect, art director, fashion designer, industrial designer, graphic designer or a multimedia artist.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Art and Design Specification

MUSIC

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

When choosing Music at GCSE, you will learn skills that you will carry for the rest of your life. You will learn how to look critically at a piece of music, learn about a variety of different music genres and develop your composition and performance skills. There will be opportunities to work with friends while performing.

A Music GCSE shows employers that you are confident, hardworking and creative. The course is also a lot of fun!

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

A minimum of two pieces will need to be performed, one of which must be an ensemble performance (in a group) of at least one minute. The other piece may either be solo or an ensemble. If you are thinking of choosing GCSE music, you will need to be confident on at least one instrument/voice.

You will need to write two compositions, and one must be in response to a brief set by WJEC. In preparation, we will study a variety of different composition techniques.

You will sit one written examination in the summer of Year 11.

The paper focuses on your listening skills. There will be eight questions, 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 pieces set by WJEC.

Unit 1	Section A: Performing (30%) Section B: Program Note (5%)
Unit 2	Section A: Composing (30%) Section B: Evaluating (5%)
Unit 3	Appraising: Written examination (30%)

OPPORTUNITIES

You will have many opportunities to view various performances, work closely with your friends in the classroom and create unforgettable memories through performance. We also hope there will even be an opportunity to tour abroad.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

Studying Music shows employers that you are creative, confident, hardworking, able to think critically, able to work with others, be adaptable and academic. Choosing music would be suitable for a job in the media, performing, composing, working with children, working in a studio or as a therapist. The truth is, music can provide a range of skills for a wide variety of different careers.

FURTHER INFORMATION

GCSE Music Specification

COMPUTER SCIENCE

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

Why choose WJEC GCSE Computer Science?

Computers are widely used in all aspects of business, industry, government, education, leisure and the home. In this technological age, a study of computer science, and particularly how computers are used in the solution of a variety of problems, is essential to learners. Computer science integrates well with subjects across the curriculum. It demands both logical discipline and imaginative creativity in the selection and design of algorithms and the writing, testing and debugging of programs; it relies on an understanding of the rules of language at a fundamental level; it encourages an awareness of the management and organisation of computer systems; it extends learners' horizons beyond the school or college environment in the appreciation of the effects of computer science on society and individuals.

The WJEC GCSE in Computer Science has been designed to give an understanding of the fundamental concepts of computer science and a broad scope of study opportunities.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

Unit 1: Understanding Computer Science

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes - 50% of the qualification - 100 marks

This unit investigates hardware, logical operations, communication, data representation and data types, operating systems, principles of programming, software engineering, program construction, security and data management and the impacts of digital technology on wider society.

Unit 2: Computational Thinking and Programming

On-screen examination: 2 hours - 30% of the qualification - 60 marks

This unit investigates problem solving, algorithms and programming constructs, programming languages, data structures and data types and security and authentication.

Unit 3: Software Development

Non-exam assessment: 20 hours - 20% of qualification - 80 marks

This unit requires learners to produce a programmed solution to a problem. They must analyse the problem, design a solution to the problem, develop a final programmed solution, test the solution and give suggestions for further development of the solution. Throughout the production of the solution learners are required to produce a refinement log that evidences the development of the solution.

OPPORTUNITIES

The WJEC GCSE in Computer Science encourages learners to:

- understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including; abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation
- analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs to do so
- think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems
- understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society
- apply mathematical skills relevant to computer science.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

Computers are widely used in all aspects of business, industry, government, education, leisure and the home. In this increasingly technological age, a study of computer science, and particularly how computers are used in the solution of a variety of problems, is not only valuable to the learners themselves but also essential to the future well-being of the country.

Studying Computer Science can be beneficial when considering the following careers:

- software developer,
- database administrator,
- computer hardware engineer,
- computer systems analyst,
- computer network architect,
- web developer,
- information security analyst,
- computer and information research scientists,
- and many other careers.

FURTHER INFORMATION

WJEC GCSE Computer Science website

GEOGRAPHY

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

Why study Geography?

WJEC GCSE Geography develops and extends learners' knowledge of locations, places, environments and processes, at a range of different scales. We ask questions about our Earth and how the environment and people are interlinked. It is an opportunity to learn about different countries and the burning issues of the world. Everything that you see on the news can be related to Geography– Syrian refugees, climate change and flooding — to name a few. Geography will mean you have an informed contribution to any conversation.

Unit 1: Changing Physical and Human Landscapes

Theme 1: Physical Landscapes
Rivers; flooding; coasts; Welsh environments

Theme 2: Rural-Urban Links
Changes to cities and the countryside; UK population; contrasting cities

Theme 3: Tectonic Hazards
Tectonic processes, earthquakes, volcanoes; responses

Unit 2: Environment and Development Issues

Theme 1: Weather, Climate and Ecosystems
Climatic hazards, climate change; ecosystems

Theme 2: Resources and Development Issues
Contrasting economies; water issues, economic development

Theme 3: Social Development Issues
Population; problems in Sub-Saharan Africa

Unit 3: Non-examination Assessment (Fieldwork Investigation)

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

When?	Assessment
Autumn Term in Year 11	Non-examination assessment (20%)
Summer of Year 11	Unit 1 Exam (40%)
Summer of Year 11	Unit 2 Exam (40%)

OPPORTUNITIES

As part of the GCSE course, pupils will complete two days of fieldwork: one in a physical environment and the other in a human environment. Pupils will receive the opportunity to form their own inquiry, collect and interpret their own data and evaluate their own investigation. We hope that in the future, we will be able to offer a geography fieldtrip abroad.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

Pupils will be able to develop a wide range of transferrable skills in Geography. They will be given an opportunity to think creatively, think scientifically and think independently by applying geographical knowledge and understanding to real world contexts. Geography links with both the arts and sciences, so it is possible to use it as an entry to either type of university degree. Geography can lead to jobs in many fields, including: land planning; environmental management; engineering; public sector; and many more!

FURTHER INFORMATION

WJEC GCSE Geography Specification

DRAMA

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

This GCSE Drama course will enable you to:

- Apply knowledge and understanding when making, performing and responding to drama
- Explore performance texts, understanding their social, cultural and historical context
- Develop a range of theatrical skills and apply them to create performances
- Work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas
- Develop as a creative, effective, independent and reflective learner
- Contribute as an individual to a theatrical performance
- Reflect on and evaluate your own work and that of others

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

You will be asked to complete three units as seen in the table below. In units 1 and 2, you are given the opportunity to develop acting and/or design skills (lighting design, sound design, set design, costume design). In addition to their own theatre making, learners must also know and understand the roles of performer, designer and director, and participate in theatre as an audience member.

Unit 1 (40%) asks you as learners to devise a piece of original theatre in response to a stimulus, using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or the characteristics of a genre of drama. You will also be asked to evaluate the final performance in a written task.

Unit 2 (20%) - You are required to participate in a performance based on the study of two significant, ten minute extracts from a text which has been performed professionally and/or written for theatrical performance. This will be completed by working in a group.

The last unit (40%) is the written exam of an hour and a half. This unit requires you to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed through the study of performance text and through responding to live theatre.

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
Devising Theatre (Create, develop and perform)	Performing Theatre (Practical)	Interpreting Theatre (Written exam)
40%	20%	40%

OPPORTUNITIES

During the GCSE course, there will be opportunities for you to take part in theatre visits in order to expand your understanding of performance skills as well as to enjoy dramatic productions. There will also be an opportunity to attend Drama workshops in school.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

Completing a GCSE qualification in Drama, could open the door to a variety of careers such as acting, theatre, design and production. The Drama course will develop and enhance your creative, technical and practical skills.

FURTHER INFORMATION

WJEC GCSE Drama Specification

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY:
PRODUCT DESIGN

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

Studying GCSE Design and Technology offers you a unique opportunity to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products. By studying this course, you will:

- Be ready to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world.
- Be aware of, and learn from, the wider influences on design and technology.
- Be able to work creatively through designing and making, and use technical and practical expertise to solve problems.
- Develop an appreciation of the importance of creativity and innovation in good design practice.
- Gain the technical skills, knowledge and understanding needed to progress to further learning.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

You will be completing two units during the course:

Unit 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century
Written Exam: 2 hours
50% of the qualification

A mixture of short answer, structured and extended writing questions that assesses your knowledge and understanding in Product Design.

Unit 2: Design and Make task
Non-exam Assessment: approximately 35 hours
50% of the qualification

An intensive design and make task, based on a contextual challenge set by WJEC, which assesses your ability to:

- Identify, research, analyse and outline design possibilities.
- Design and make prototypes and evaluate their fitness for purpose.

OPPORTUNITIES

You will gain many opportunities and experiences while studying a GCSE Design and Technology course; from the use of brand new machinery, equipment and technologies within the department to lectures and workshops hosted by experts in the fields and industries of Design and Technology.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

A good grade at GCSE Design and Technology is a great foundation for continuing to study the subject at A level. It is also a good foundation for studying design and technology courses at college or university or gaining an apprenticeship in the industry. A degree in GCSE Design and Technology can open doors to a wide range of industries and jobs such as; architecture, product design, interior design, animation, construction and many more.

FURTHER INFORMATION

WJEC GCSE Design and Technology Specification

SCIENCE (Triple Award)

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

Studying GCSE Science provides the foundations for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. By studying this course, you will:

- Gain and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works and its vital role in society.
- Appreciate the unique contribution of science to an objective understanding of the material world.
- Develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods.
- Gain the scientific skills, knowledge and understanding needed to progress to further learning.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

The following assessments will be undertaken in each of the three science subjects.

Two written papers will be taken for each science subject – one in the **June of Year 10**, one in the **May/June of Year 11**. Each examination will count for 45% of the total contribution to each one of the three separate science GCSEs.

A practical examination will be taken in the **January of Year 11**. This assessment gives pupils the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to work scientifically. This will include experimental skills and strategies and skills in analysis and evaluation. The tasks will be externally marked by the WJEC.

	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Summer Year 10	Unit 1 (45%)	Unit 1 (45%)	Unit 1 (45%)
Summer Year 11	Unit 2 (45%)	Unit 2 (45%)	Unit 2 (45%)
January Year 11	Practical Exam (10%)	Practical Exam (10%)	Practical Exam (10%)

OPPORTUNITIES

Whilst studying the GCSE Science course you will have extensive opportunities and experiences; from educational trips to lectures and workshops run by experts from higher education institutions and industry.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

A good grade in GCSE Science is a great foundation for continuing to study Advanced Subsidiary, Advanced Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It is also a strong foundation for pursuing a scientific or technological career.

FURTHER INFORMATION

WJEC GCSE Biology Specification

WJEC GCSE Chemistry Specification

WJEC GCSE Physics Specification

Careers Wales – Job Information (Science and Research)

Careers Wales – Job Information (Healthcare)

HISTORY

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

The course encourages learners to develop their interest and enthusiasm for the subject along with an understanding of the significance of global and local issues.

Unit 1: In-depth Study Wales – Depression, War & Recovery, 1930-1951.
Unit 2: In-depth Study Europe – Germany in Transition, 1919-1939.
Unit 3: Thematic Study – Changes in Crime & Punishment, 1500 to the present day.
Unit 4: Working as an historian – Non-Examination Assessment based on American history.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

The method of assessment within the GCSE course is entirely in written form. There are seven modules in each unit and pupils will often sit past papers and end of module and unit tests in preparation for their external examinations in the summer of year 10 and 11.

Unit 1	25%	Written assessment 1 hour	Year 10
Unit 2	25%	Written assessment 1 hour	Year 10
Unit 3	30%	Written assessment 1 hour and 15 minutes	Year 11
Unit 4	20%	Non-examination assessment. Evaluating historical sources	Year 11

OPPORTUNITIES

A GCSE in history provides learners with an opportunity to study specific aspects of the past, both in-depth (short term), and broad (medium and long term). The selected course illustrates history in a variety of geographical contexts, local settings, Britain, Europe and the wider world. As a result, there will be opportunities for learners to become more familiar with their history through visiting the Imperial War Museum in London and future excursions to Germany.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

A GCSE History qualification enables many future opportunities not only in education but also for future employers and higher education. History is a desirable subject for future pathways due to the development in a variety of skills.

Some of the skills that you will develop:	
Enquiry	Communication
Expressing opinions	Interpretation
Evaluation	Literacy

Future career paths:			
Education	Police	Politics	Law
Armed Forces	Journalist	Archivist	
Historian	Editor		

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, please contact Mr. O Edwards.

For detailed information about the GCSE course, please visit the WJEC website.

SPANISH

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

You will enjoy the Spanish GCSE course if you wish to study a subject that gives you the opportunity to:

- undertake a variety of activities on topics that include the media, leisure activities, education, jobs, tourism and travelling, social activities, fitness and health;
- develop your communication skills, thinking and problem-solving skills and ICT skills;
- discover more about other people, countries and cultures;
- develop your confidence in expressing your opinions and discussing ideas and viewpoints and deal with real-life situations.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

You will be assessed equally on the four skill areas (each skill worth 25% of your grade). The speaking exam will be in the Easter term of year 11, and the other three exams in the summer term of year 11. Therefore, there will be no external exams in year 10 which gives you time to perfect your language. Here are the four skill areas:

Speaking	You will take part in one speaking exam conducted in school by your teacher in which you will take part in a role-play situation, describing a picture and two short conversations.
Writing	You will sit a written exam that includes two short written tasks and a translation from Welsh into Spanish.
Reading	You will study a variety of articles and answer questions on them in Welsh and Spanish. There will also be a short translation into Welsh.
Listening	You will listen to a variety of conversations and answer questions on them in Welsh and Spanish.

You will be able to sit either Foundation Level or Higher Level in each of the four skills.

OPPORTUNITIES

When studying Spanish for GCSE, you will have the opportunity to build on your language skills by taking part in numerous different activities. These will include the opportunity to subscribe to a Spanish magazine, communicate with a pen pal, guest speaker presentations and a possible trip to Spain.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Having a GCSE in Spanish is a great qualification to add to your CV and it will enhance your career opportunities – it will make you stand out from the crowd.
- In Wales alone, there are over 500 foreign-owned businesses and many other Welsh companies trading with foreign countries.
- Spanish is the official language of 21 countries and there are over 550 million Spanish speakers in the world.
- Knowing the Spanish language will enhance your travelling experiences. If you are passionate and wanting to travel then obtaining a solid grasp of Spanish will allow you to fully experience the cultures of Spanish speaking countries such as Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Chile and Cuba.

FURTHER INFORMATION

WJEC Spanish GCSE Specification

Careers Wales - Job Opportunities with Languages

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

EXAMINATION BOARD

WJEC

COURSE SUMMARY

Why choose WJEC GCSE in Digital Technology?

The WJEC GCSE qualification in Digital Technology is a broad-based qualification that allows learners to build on the digital skills, knowledge and understanding that is used both in their school and everyday lives. The qualification will allow learners to develop their understanding of the range of digital technology systems at use in our connected and globalised society. It will also allow learners to explore the ever-evolving nature of digital technology systems and how these systems can be used productively, creatively and safely.

What will I study?

The subject content and assessment requirements are designed to ensure learners develop an appropriate breadth and depth of knowledge, understanding and skills in digital technology.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS / METHOD

Unit 1: The digital world

On-screen examination: 1 hour 30 minutes - 40% of qualification - 80 marks

An assessment (taken on-screen), comprising of a range of question types to assess specification content related to digital technology systems, the value of digital technology and perspectives on digital technology. All questions are compulsory.

Unit 2: Digital practices

Non-exam assessment (NEA): 45 hours - 40% of qualification - 80 marks

A non-examined assessment comprising of two sections. In Section A candidates will interrogate a supplied data set imported into a spreadsheet in order to inform Section B, where they will create a website incorporating either an animation or a game related to a set context.

Unit 3: Communicating in the digital world

Non-exam assessment (NEA): 15 hours - 20% of qualification - 60 mark

A non-examined assessment focusing on marketing digital assets using social media. Candidates will create digital assets related to a set context and then formulate an online digital communications campaign around them.

OPPORTUNITIES

WJEC GCSE specification in Digital Technology will enable learners to:

- become independent, confident and knowledgeable users of existing, new and emerging digital technologies
- develop knowledge of different digital technology systems used across a range of occupational sectors
- understand the impact digital technologies can have on individuals and wider society and the ways in which they can bring about change
- develop skills in organising and analysing data to identify trends and audiences
- become creators of digital products, in a variety of formats and for a variety of purposes, that meet specified, authentic needs
- develop transferable skills in using a range of hardware and software
- develop their understanding of the systems development life cycle and of how ideas can become products.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

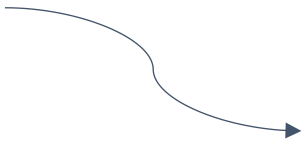
The qualification is designed for learners who wish to embark on their journey towards a career using digital technologies or progress to higher level learning programs involving digital technologies.

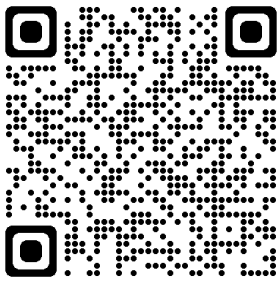
Studying Digital Technology can be beneficial when considering the following careers:

- a software engineer,
- a games designer,
- a data analyst,
- online security,
- ICT project manager,
- a graphic designer,
- web designer,
- administrative posts,
- programmer,
- a business analyst,
- social media manager,
- and many other careers.

FURTHER INFORMATION

WJEC GCSE Digital Technology website:





CYFLWYNIADAU
PRESENTATIONS

Sganiwch y cod QR i wrando ar gyflwyniadau'r adrannau er mwyn dysgu mwy am y pynciau TGAU.

Scan the QR code to view our departments' presentations and to learn more regarding the GCSE courses.

COFIWCH GYSYLLTU OS OES GENNYCH UNRHYW GWESTIYNAU PELLACH

PLEASE CONTACT IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS

uwchradd@ysgolcaerelen.cymru

01437 808470