

Key Stage 4 Learning Pathways Handbook

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin



2026 - 2028



Introduction

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg
BRO MYRDDIN
Welsh Comprehensive School



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Pennaeth / Headteacher: Dr Llinos Jones

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am pleased to present this options booklet for your attention. I hope it will assist you and your child in choosing the subjects they will study over the next two years. This is an exciting and crucial time for your child as they transition from Year 9 to Year 10. It is a period of reflection and decision-making.

As you will see, there are many subjects to choose from, and it is vital that you discuss the options thoroughly with your child. I encourage you to read the booklet carefully together to select the best possible combination of subjects. We expect all students to do their best to reach their full potential, so they must choose wisely. Your child will study their chosen subjects over two years in Years 10 and 11, so they must select subjects they can succeed in and that are appropriate for their ability level. It would also be beneficial for your child to consult with subject teachers before making a final decision.

You have already had an opportunity to discuss your child's current performance during the Year 9 Parents' Evening on January 29th. An Options Evening has also been arranged to discuss choices on Tuesday, March 5th, at the school. If you need further discussions, Mrs Gwenan Morgans, Head of Year 9, or Mrs Nia Courtney, our Assistant Headteacher, will be available to assist you.

Best wishes with your decisions.

Sincerely,
Dr. Llinos Jones
Headteacher



Starting the journey in Key Stage 4

Key Stage 4 Courses

There is a variety of qualifications at Key Stage 4, including some more academic courses and some vocational qualifications.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

GCSE grades are awarded to pupils, designated by the letters A* - G. The exams will not only test your understanding and practical skills but also your ability to apply your knowledge.

Lefel 1/2 Vocational

Level 1/2 courses are graded on a scale of Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, Level 2 Pass, or Level 1 Pass. The grades Distinction* - Level 2 Pass correspond to GCSE grades A* - C, while a Level 1 Pass corresponds to a GCSE grade E. Vocational courses usually include a practical element.

Entry Lefel Certificate

Some pupils will study an Entry Level Certificate course(s) and combine these courses with some GCSE subjects. A high percentage of the Entry Level Certificate assessment is based on classwork, oral work, coursework, and practical work. The option to study an Entry Level Certificate qualification will depend on the pupil's ability. This qualification applies only to core subjects and is graded from Entry Level 1 to Entry Level 3.

KS4 Curriculum

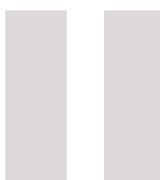
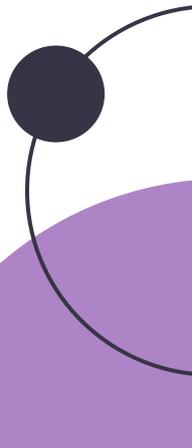
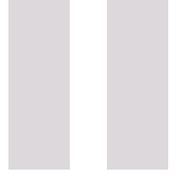
All students beginning GCSE courses in September 2025 will study core and statutory subjects. They must also choose three optional subjects to study.

Core Subjects	Option Subjects	Statutory Subjects
Welsh Literature and Language	Pupils can choose three subject choices. This handbook contains more information on every option subject offered.	Relationships and sexuality education
English Literature and Language		Sport
Mathematics and Numeracy		Religion, Values and Ethics
Double Science		
Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate		

What should be considered when making choices?

- Do you enjoy the subject?
- Do you believe you can succeed in the subject?
- Choose subjects at the appropriate level for your ability.
- Choose a variety of subjects.
- Have you sought advice from your Head of Year, Form Tutor, and Subject Teachers?
- Do not choose a subject just because your friend is taking it.
- Do you understand the subject's requirements?

If there is an insufficient number of students choosing a subject, it may not be offered.



Core Subjects

Welsh Language and Literature

Staff contact: Mrs Helen Evans

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification: GCSE
double award

Assessment:
60% examination; 40%
non – examination
assessment

Why study the subject?

Welsh is a compulsory subject, and all students at the school are expected to obtain a qualification in it. Achieving a grade C or higher in this subject will be very beneficial when choosing further education and career paths. This is an opportunity to develop your communication skills further.

Course Content

Studying the Welsh Language and Literature course will allow you to develop speaking, reading, and writing skills. The course focuses on responding to reading, creative and factual writing, and targeting language accuracy. You will also study a novel, short stories, a collection of poems, and a film.

Assessment

60% of the course is assessed through written exams; 40% through non-exam assessments and an oral task.

Assessment

Studying this subject will provide you with two GCSE qualifications, assessed through 6 units over two years.

Unit 1 – Narrative: Study of a novel. 15% of the qualification.

Unit 2 – Identity: Study of a film and a spoken assessment. 10% of the qualification.

Unit 3 – Perspectives: Responding to poetry and presenting information orally.

Unit 4b – Linguistic Connections: Responding to reading and writing both factually and creatively. 22.5% of the qualification.

Unit 5 – Respond and Create: Group discussion and creative writing. 20% of the qualification.

Unit 6 – Conveying Meaning: Study of three short stories. 22.5% of the qualification.

English Language and Literature

Staff contact: Mrs Siwan Rees

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification: GCSE
double award

Assessment:
60% examination; 40%
non – examination
assessment

Why study the subject?

English is a compulsory subject, and all students in Year 11 are expected to achieve a qualification in it. It will enhance your understanding and appreciation of spoken and written language, equipping you to communicate effectively in formal and informal situations

Course Content

This qualification presents opportunities to develop speaking and listening skills through delivering individual presentations and participating in group and pair discussions. You will have access to a range of factual and fictional texts, which will encourage you to develop your individual voice through both spoken and written tasks, enhancing your vocabulary and expression. Your skills in evaluation, analysis, and comparison will be sharpened by responding to literary texts, as well as developing empathy through exploring different characters, themes, and contexts.

Assessment

Studying this subject will provide you with 2 GCSE qualifications, assessed through 6 units over two years.

Year 10:

Unit 1 – written exam at the end of Year 10.

Unit 2 – one essay and one individual spoken presentation to be completed during the year.

Unit 3 – one written task and one group discussion to be completed during the year.

Year 11:

Unit 4 – written exam at the end of Year 11.

Unit 5 – one essay and one paired discussion to be completed during the year.

Unit 6 – written exam at the end of Year 11.

Mathematics and Numeracy

Staff contact: Mrs Luned Davies

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification: GCSE
double award

Assessment:
100% examination

Why study the subject?

The GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy qualification supports learners in making connections between different areas of mathematics and other subjects in the curriculum. Through studying this subject, pupils will:

- Develop their conceptual understanding by explaining, expressing, and representing mathematical concepts.
- Interpret abstract situations and real-world scenarios using mathematical symbols and expressions.
- Enhance their ability to apply mathematical facts, techniques, and relationships to problem-solving.
- Identify fundamental mathematical structures and develop strategies to solve them.
- Establish a strong foundation in financial mathematics to prepare for life and the world of work.
- Build confidence in using and applying digital technology to assist in solving mathematical and statistical problems.

Course Content

The GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy qualification is structured around five key proficiencies: conceptual understanding, communication using symbols, fluency, logical reasoning, and strategic competence. The content of the GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy qualification is based on the following mathematical and numerical concepts: Number, Algebra, Geometry and Measures, Statistics, and Probability.

Assessment

Unit 1 (Written Exam): Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy (30% of the qualification)
Unit 2 (Written Exam): Non-calculator Paper (30% of the qualification)
Unit 3 (Written Exam): Calculator Paper (40% of the qualification)

Science (Double Award)

Staff contact: Miss Catrin Pritchard

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification: GCSE
double award

Assessment:
90% examination, 10%
non – examined
assessment

Why study the subject?

GCSE The Sciences (Double Award) supports learners to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding from a range of sciences, including biology, chemistry, and physics;
- understand how different areas of science relate to them personally, locally, nationally, and internationally;
- explore the connections between different topics of learning within and between each discipline;
- develop the skills to question scientific ideas, using critical and creative thinking to solve problems;
- understand relationships between data, evidence and conclusions through quantitative and qualitative analysis and research;
- understand and evaluate scientific models.

Course Content

All GCSE learners will study units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics in Years 10 and 11. In year 10 the Basis of Life (Biology), Chemical substances and how they behave (Chemistry) and Forces, Motion and the Universe (Physics) are studied. And then in year 11 the Continuity of life (Biology), Chemical Bonding, Reactions and Resources (Chemistry) and Waves, Electricity and Energy (Physics) are studied.

Assessment

As part of this course, three examinations will be undertaken in Year 10 and then an additional three exams in Year 11. The examinations are 90% of the course assessment. Learners will also need to complete a practical controlled assessment, which is worth 10% of the final grade.

Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate

Staff contact: Miss Elin Jones

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification: GCSE
double award

Assessment:
100% assignments

Why study the subject?

Every pupil will study the Welsh Baccalaureate or an equivalent qualification.

Course Content

The Welsh Baccalaureate qualification is unique to Wales. It helps to prepare students aged 14 to 19 for the world of work, further study, and life. The qualification assesses seven skills across three components.

The Challenges

- **Global Citizenship Challenge** – Single-use plastics and their impact on the environment
- **Enterprise and Employability Challenge** – Business proposal for the Royal Show
- **Individual Project** – Extended research project of the student's choice

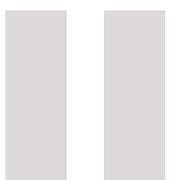
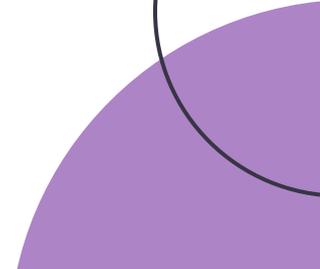
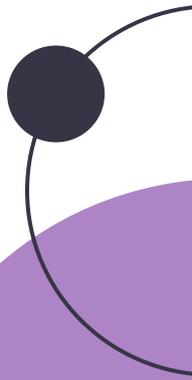
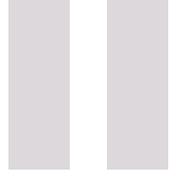
The Skills

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

Assessment

The Welsh Baccalaureate is a non-examined assessment. The three challenges will be completed in the classroom and marked internally.

Every student will do the same work. The standard of work for the three challenges will determine the final grade. Work that reaches Level 2 (National) will be awarded a grade of A*-C, and work that reaches Level 1 (Foundation) will be awarded a grade of 'Pass'.



Option Subjects

Agriculture

Staff contact: Mrs Nia Courtney

Exam board: Pearson

Qualification type:
Level 2 Vocational

Assessment:
100% assignments

Why study the subject?

If you're interested in working in the agriculture and countryside industry, this is the right course for you. You will be able to develop initial practical skills as well as an understanding and knowledge to enable you to work safely on a farm or rural estate. This course is run in partnership with Coleg Sir Gâr and taught by experts in the field. This course is equivalent to two GCSEs. You do not need any prior knowledge to start studying this course.

Course Content

The course will give you the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills and knowledge. You will need to study three units of work. These units will enable you to develop your skills in the following areas:

- Agricultural Machinery Operations
- Practical Agricultural Skills
- Livestock Production

While studying this course, you will have the opportunity to develop your practical skills on a local farm and in the classroom.

Assessment

You will be expected to submit a portfolio of work, which will include evidence of some of the assignments, practical tests, and observations that you will complete either in class or on a local farm.

There is no examination in this subject.

There is a limited number of spaces on this course.

Art and Design

Staff contact: Mrs Kathryn Richards

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification type: GCSE

Assessment: 100% non-examination assessment.

Why study the subject?

If you're a creative person who enjoys creating and looking at art, then this might be the subject for you. The marks for the course are divided, with 60% coming from coursework and the remaining 40% coming from the exam. It's a good option if you're not great at working under general exam conditions. The coursework involves creating a portfolio of work based on a theme or task that interests the individual. Art is fun, but it also involves a lot of hard work, and most people find that their art coursework requires more time than they expected. You will need to work consistently on your work and be very organised. If you're someone who tends to leave things until the last minute, you might run into trouble.

Course Content

The coursework unit includes a wide range of study areas, for example, you can study Art and Design in general, or you might want to specialise in one of the following: Graphic Design, Textiles and Fashion, Film and Photography, 3D Design, or Fine Art. You will choose the theme, and usually, it's one that allows you to think and respond creatively, such as Relationships, Conflict, Nature, or Time. You will need to present your work in an A3 sketchbook along with final pieces of work.

Assessment

For the exam, you will be told the topics you can choose from 6 weeks before the exam, giving you time to prepare. Then, you will have to complete the work under exam conditions, which is 10 hours (2 school days). All exam work will be internally marked by the department and externally moderated by WJEC. The coursework is worth 60% of the final mark, so it is essential that you work consistently throughout the two years. All coursework will be internally marked by the department and externally moderated by WJEC.

Business

Staff contact: Mrs Melanie Rees

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification type: GCSE

Assessment: 60% examination; 40% non-examination assessment.

Why study the subject?

This qualification will develop your understanding of the activities that make a business successful. You will gain insight into key issues that businesses face and ways to address them. You will conduct research to form reasoned opinions and critically think about businesses in your area. You will also reflect on business activities within the context of the environment and sustainability. Additionally, you will explore job market trends and understand different career paths.

The GCSE Business course supports learners in developing:

- An understanding of the activities that make a business successful.
- An understanding of the role and influence of business and innovation on people, places, and communities.
- An understanding of the relationship between business and the environment, technology, and its impact on business, the environment, and people.
- An understanding of the ethical implications of business.

Course Content

Unit 1: Introduction to the Business World
Unit 2: Key Business Considerations
Unit 3: Business Strategies for Success
Unit 4: Creating a Business

Assessment

Unit 1: Written Examination. 30% of the qualification.
Unit 2: Non-exam assessment. 15% of the qualification.
Unit 3: Written Examination. 30% of the qualification.
Unit 4: Non-exam assessment. 25% of the qualification.

Construction

Staff contact: Mr Steffan Davies

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification type: GCSE
Level 2 Vocational

Assessment:
25% exam; 75%
assignments

Why study the subject?

If you are interested in a course that prepares you for working in the construction industry – this is the subject for you.

The construction industry employs over 3 million workers in the United Kingdom. All jobs require self-motivation, numeracy skills, communication, and problem-solving, along with a wide range of technical skills and basic understanding of related concepts. You can use this qualification to apply for University or as a progression route to a wide range of National Vocational Qualifications in Construction and other related awards.

Course Content

The course is an opportunity for you to learn about the construction industry by studying the following areas:

- Practical techniques related to the construction industry.
- Processes and techniques for planning construction projects.
- Health and safety in the workplace.

Assessment

You will be assessed by internal assessment and an examination at the end of Year 10.

Design and Technology: Product Design

Staff contact: Mr Robyn Davies

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification type: GCSE

Assessment: 30% examination; 70% coursework.

Why study the subject?

This qualification in Design and Technology offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for learners to identify and solve real-life problems through designing and making products or systems. Learners will be ready to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world, developing a variety of communication skills including verbal, graphical, ICT, and modelling skills. This course is particularly suitable for students interested in a career in the fields of Art and Design, Science, or Engineering.

Course Content

The course develops an appropriate range and depth of knowledge, understanding, and skills in design and technology. You will design and make innovative products that reflect social developments. The course is based on practical activities that include disassembling products, designing, evaluating, and producing. You will have the opportunity to develop an understanding of materials and components. You will learn how to use a variety of hand tools, machines, and software, including planning and production tools using computer assistance. You will use ICT systems to process text, analyse data, produce 2D and 3D images/models, and edit digital images.

Assessment

A design and make task must be completed under supervision in school. This task is worth 70% of the final marks for the course. You will sit one written exam worth 30% of the total marks for the course. The exam will assess your understanding of the following:

- Developing design and communication ideas
- Analysing products
- Sustainability and legislative issues
- Other designers
- Industrial and commercial practices
- Materials and components
- Tools and equipment
- CAD/CAM ICT
- Systems and processes

Digital Technology

Staff contact: Mr Chris Lacey

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification: GCSE

Assessment: 60% non-examination assessment; 40% examination.

Why study the subject?

Digital skills really are essential for everyday life, from the classroom to the workplace and everything in between. Choosing Digital Technology at GCSE level is a smart step for learners who enjoy creativity, problem-solving, and working with technology and for those with ambitions in exciting areas such as graphics, animation, gaming, software development, web design, testing, or the wider tech industry. This engaging GCSE course helps learners build high-level digital skills that boost confidence, spark innovation, and open doors to future study and careers. Whatever path you choose, GCSE Digital Technology gives you a powerful head start in an increasingly digital world.

Course Content

GCSE Digital Technology is a dynamic and future-focused course that brings the digital world to life. Learners explore how data, devices, software, and networks power everything from apps and websites to global communication, while also tackling real-world issues such as cybersecurity, online safety, and the ethical impact of technology. A standout feature of the course is the hands-on digital projects, where learners design and create their own digital solution to a real-world problem, building creativity, confidence, and practical skills employers value. Ideal for curious, creative, and tech-savvy learners, Digital Technology opens the door to exciting careers and equips learners with essential skills for an increasingly digital future.

Assessment

Unit 1: The Digital World (40%):

Understand key theoretical concepts, including how digital systems operate, the nature and use of data, the impact of digital technology on organisations, and essential security and safety considerations.

Unit 2: Digital Practices (40%): Develop practical digital skills through the design, development, and testing of digital solutions for a given scenario, such as creating a game or animation and building a website using professional software packages.

Unit 3: Communication in the Digital World (20%): Develop creative communication skills by planning and producing a digital marketing campaign using video editing software in response to a given scenario.

Drama

Staff contact: Mrs Lowri Davies

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification type: GCSE

Assessment: 70% non-examination assessment; 30% examination.

Why study the subject?

You will develop a wide range of skills. You will build confidence and have fun. You will learn to work as part of a team and balance a variety of ideas. You will have a mix of practical and written work, different from any other subject.

Course Content

GCSE Drama will provide you with a broad and balanced experience of Drama. You will have the opportunity to develop not only your performing skills but also your design skills in areas such as lighting and sound design, set design, costume design, hair, and makeup. You will collaborate to create your own piece of theatre and perform in a production of a text. You can choose to focus on acting or design. You will explore a variety of texts and watch a range of live theatre productions. The GCSE Drama specification from WJEC includes three units: Theatre Creation, Theatre Performance, and Theatre Interpretation.

Assessment

There will be two practical exams, coursework, and one written exam.

Unit 1: Devising Theatre (40%) – You will take part in the process of creating, developing, and performing a piece of original theatre.

Unit 2: Theatre Performance (30%) – You will study two pieces of the same text, chosen by you or your teacher. You can choose to be assessed on acting or design.

Unit 3: Theatre Interpretation (30%) – Written exam.

Engineering

Staff contact: Mr Robyn Davies

Exam Board: EAL

Qualification type: BTEC
Level 2

Assessment:
100% assignments

Why study the subject?

This qualification in Engineering offers an opportunity within the curriculum for students to learn real engineering skills by completing a number of challenging tasks using metals to make products. It will prepare learners to take part in engineering or technological work and to be confident in using workshop tools safely and successfully. The course is particularly suitable for students with an interest in a career in design, science, or engineering.

Course Content

The course develops an appropriate range and depth of knowledge, understanding, and skills in engineering. You will study health and safety and how to work safely in an industrial environment. The course is based on practical activities that involve building a number of products using different engineering skills. You will need to learn how to work to very precise specifications and use measuring tools to assess your work. You will learn how to use a variety of hand tools and machines. You will also keep a portfolio of work to demonstrate and record your results.

Assessment

The coursework consists of a number of production tasks. These will increase in complexity as students develop their skills in measuring and marking accurately. We use different tools to cut and shape metal. It will be necessary to prepare information before the task to use in the assessments. Learners will need to self-assess their practical work against specific measurements. These will be assessed internally by the staff and externally by the exam board. Additionally, students study various elements of engineering in the workplace, including health and safety, equipment, and processes. Written questions will assess their knowledge of these elements. Each piece of work is completed in the workshop. There is no exam in this subject.

Food and Nutrition

Staff contact: Mrs Non Knott

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification type: GCSE

Assessment: 40% examination; 60% non-examination assessment.

Why study the subject?

Studying Food and Nutrition gives you the opportunity to experience various aspects of the journey food takes "from farm to fork." The subject provides the knowledge and understanding of how food and drink affect your health and well-being. Studying Food and Nutrition will help develop your practical cooking skills and give you experiences to build the confidence and life skills to make informed decisions about nutrition and food. The knowledge you gain enables you to feed yourself and others affordably and nutritiously, both now and later in life.

Course Content

Unit 1: Principles of Food and Nutrition. The purpose of this unit is to develop an understanding of food and nutrition, and food preparation and cooking. Notes will focus on food groups, nutrients, diet and health, food preparation, food spoilage, and the journey from farm to fork.

Unit 2: Food Investigation. The purpose of this unit is to understand the role of ingredients in a recipe. You will need to learn how to plan and carry out a food investigation. In this unit, you will have the opportunity to experiment with different ingredients and food groups.

Unit 3: Food and Nutrition in Practice. The purpose of this unit is to develop and apply practical skills and techniques. There will be an opportunity to cook and prepare food from different cultures and countries, including Welsh food and dishes that meet the requirements of specific groups, e.g. vegetarians.

Assessment

At the end of Year 11, there will be a digital exam on the content of Unit 1, which is worth 40% of the final grade. During the course, you will also need to complete two non-exam assessments in school. The assessment for Unit 2 will be based on a scientific investigation into food and will be worth 20% of the final grade. You will need to plan and carry out a food experiment based on a task set by WJEC. For the Unit 3 assessment, you will need to plan, prepare, cook, and present a selection of dishes to meet specific requirements. The task will be set by WJEC and will be worth 40% of the final grade.

French

Staff contact: Miss Claire Russell

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification type: GCSE

Assessment: 55% examination; 45% non-examination assessment.

Why study the subject?

GCSE in French can open a world of opportunities for you. There is a wide range of career paths you could follow with a qualification in languages, including in the more traditional tourism industry, the armed forces, language services such as translation and interpreting, teaching, and social services.

Studying GCSE French is a wise choice for many reasons: it's a valuable skill, it meets the requirements of many employers, it allows students to study a foreign language as part of their degree, it offers a wealth of new experiences, and it's an invaluable opportunity to learn about the culture and traditions of other people and countries.

A qualification in International Languages shows that you are a good communicator, ready to learn, adapt, and step out of your "comfort zone" – highly desirable to any potential employer. It may also be of interest to you to know that in today's global business world, workers with skills in international languages tend to attract higher salaries!

Course Content

The themes we study include: entertainment and leisure, health and fitness, food and drink, holidays and celebrations, the environment, technology and social media, school life, and cultural themes about the countries where French is spoken. You will learn useful language that you can use in situations related to leisure and well-being, travel, and studying or working.

Assessment

There are 4 units for the course. Two will be assessed in exams in Year 11. The other two units will be completed as non-exam assessments in the classroom, also in Year 11.

Unit 1 – Speaking (30%). Non-exam assessment.

Unit 2 – Reading and Writing (15%). Non-exam assessment.

Unit 3 – Listening (20%). Exam.

Unit 4 – Reading and Writing (35%). Exam.

Geography

Staff contact: Mr Alun Thomas

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification type: GCSE

Assessment: 60% examination; 40% non-examination assessment.

Why study the subject?

Geography is interesting and relevant to everyone's lives. It is the study of the world around us, in Wales, Europe, and the world. You will study environmental and social issues in various places and explore a range of themes, as seen below in the course content. A strong emphasis is placed on developing your key skills with numerous opportunities to develop your abilities, problem-solving, and independent working. You will develop a mature understanding of contemporary issues, aiming to make you a responsible citizen who appreciates the need for sustainability in this era while empathizing purposefully with the viewpoints of different groups of people.

Course Content

By following this course, you will have the opportunity to study a variety of human and physical themes. The units are:

Unit 1: Our Physical and Human World (rivers, coastlines, migration, settlements).

Unit 2: Developing Fieldwork Skills (the purpose of this unit is to explore fieldwork and skills and to develop an understanding of the six-step enquiry model).

Unit 3: Our Dynamic and Diverse World (inequality, weather, climate change, managing global challenges).

Unit 4: Sustainable Solutions (the purpose of this unit is to explore current and future geographical sustainability issues and to develop problem-solving skills).

Assessment

At the end of Year 10, there will be a 1 hour and 30-minute exam on Unit 1, which is worth 30% of the qualification. At the end of Year 11, there will be a 1 hour and 30-minute exam on Unit 3, which is worth 30% of the qualification.

You must complete 2 non-exam assessments. Unit 2 assessment will be based on fieldwork and is worth 25% of the qualification. Unit 4 assessment will be a 'decision-making exercise' and is worth 15% of the qualification.

Hair and Beauty

Staff contact: Mrs Nia Courtney

Exam Board: VTCT

Qualification type:
Level 2 Vocational

Assessment: 100%
assignments and practical
assessments.

Why study the subject?

The main purpose of the qualification is to allow learners to develop hair and beauty skills, techniques, and knowledge to prepare them for further vocational studies. Learners will be directly prepared in each unit for further studies in the beauty sector. The units are designed as a foundation for working in the hair and beauty sector. Knowledge of the hair and beauty sector is developed to allow progression into Hairdressing or Beauty Therapy. Students will travel to the Carmarthen leisure centre back to school, and the course will be delivered one afternoon a week over a two-year period by staff from Coleg Sir Gâr, who specialise in the field.

Course Content

The course includes units on basic nail art, basic skincare, basic hair drying and preparation, washing and treating hair, basic hair straightening and curling, hand treatments, working with the hair and beauty industries, and hair colouring using temporary colours. Students will need to complete a variety of practical assessments alongside assignments in each unit.

Assessment

100% written and practical assessment.

There is no examination.

There is a limited number of spaces on this course.

Health and Social Care and Childcare

Staff contact: Mrs Tracy Jenkins

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification: GCSE

Assessment:
60% assignments; 40%
examination

Why study the subject?

Health and social care and child care is a very interesting and enjoyable subject. Studying this subject will help you develop understanding and skills on a range of health and social care and childcare contexts. It will give you a range of perspectives on the impacts of health and social care and childcare services on wider Society. You will develop an awareness of career pathways available within the health and social care and childcare sector. This qualification will give you many opportunities if you are interested in working in the Health and Social Care and childcare settings.

Course Content

Unit 1

- Growth, development and human well-being throughout the life cycle, and the factors that influence them.
- Relevant legislation and the services within health and social care, and childcare.
- Understanding the core principles, values and professional working methods in these sectors.

Unit 2

- Knowledge and understanding of individual needs, key conditions and illnesses in adults.
- How workers in the field achieve positive outcomes.

Unit 3

- Life stages.
- The physical, intellectual, linguistic, emotional and social development of children.
- Children's conditions and illnesses, and how professionals meet children's needs.

Assessment

- Unit 1** – Exam Unit, 40% of the final grade.
Exam at the end of Year 10.
- Unit 2** – Non-examination assessment, 30% of the final grade.
- Unit 3** – Non-examination assessment, 30% of the final grade.

History

Staff contact: Mrs Bethan Hubbard

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification type: GCSE

Assessment: 60% examination; 40% coursework

Why study the subject?

"I study History because I have an interest in the future" (Nelson Mandela).

We all live in a constantly changing and interconnected world. Understanding historical events is crucial for making sense of current happenings. GCSE History assists us in achieving this by examining significant events and figures from the past and their influence on our present. Colleges and Universities highly value History as a subject. Employers are always looking for young people who can think critically and analytically. GCSE History can help you take the first steps towards a variety of career paths. You will enjoy studying the past – the people of the past were just as clever, silly, and interesting as people today!

Course Content

The History department follows the new WJEC specification that allows you to explore a wide and diverse selection of topics from various historical periods and societies. Emphasis is placed on developing historical knowledge and understanding, as well as developing key skills such as analysis and source evaluation. These are the units of study:

Unit 1: Wales and the early Tudors, c.1485–c.1547 (examination).

Unit 2: Genghis Khan c.1162–c.1227 (non-examined assessment).

Unit 3: Changes in US society c.1880–c.1980 (examination).

Unit 4: Britain in the 20th century (non-examined assessment).

Assessment

There will be one examination at the end of Year 10, and one at the end of Year 11. These exams are worth 60% of the total marks of the course.

You will need to complete two controlled assessment tasks in school, and these tasks will be worth 40% of the final marks for the course. Your teacher will provide the information in advance about the requirements for the tasks, and the preparation work for the assignment will be done in class. One of these assessments will be completed digitally.

Learning in the Outdoors

Staff contact: Mr John Norgrove

Exam board:
Agored Cymru

Qualification:
Level 2 Vocational

Assessment: 100%
assignments. No
examination.

Why study the subject?

Studying Learning in the Outdoors (Agored Cymru) is a fantastic option if you enjoy being active, working with others and learning in real-life environments instead of just the classroom. The course gives you the chance to build confidence, teamwork and problem-solving skills through practical outdoor experiences such as navigation, environmental projects, team challenges and exploring the natural world. You'll develop resilience, leadership and communication skills that are valuable for any future career, while also boosting your physical and mental well-being. If you like hands-on learning, want to discover new places, and enjoy learning by doing, then Learning in the Outdoors is an exciting and rewarding choice.

Course Content

Mandatory units:

- Personal Safety when Learning in the Outdoors
- Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

Depending on the individuals, the school will choose appropriate units for the students.

Examples of optional units include:

- Benefits of the Outdoors on Health
- Participating in Water Activities
- Participating in Land Activities
- Practical Skills in the Outdoors
- Teamwork

Assessment

All work will be assessed through completing tasks in the classroom and practical tasks.

There is no exam.

Motor Vehicle Maintenance

Staff contact: Mrs Nia Courtney

Exam board: IMI

Qualification type: Level 2
Diploma

Assessment: 75%
assessments; 25%
examination.

Why study the subject?

This qualification in knowledge and skills (VRQ) is primarily designed to meet the needs of young apprentices. It is suitable for students in Year 10 and 11 who wish to move on to the automotive industry in a variety of areas, including sales, service, and vehicle components. This course is run in partnership with Coleg Sir Gâr and is taught by specialists in the field.

Cynnwys y Cwrs

It provides an opportunity for learners to study both the theory and practical aspects of a range of standard procedures related to the inspection, fitting, and maintenance of vehicles:

- Routine maintenance of light vehicles, including engine systems
- Inspection, repair, and replacement of parts in light vehicles
- Carrying out four-wheel alignment
- Health and safety in the workplace

Asesiadau

The assessment for this qualification comprises of two elements:

- Practical tasks.
- Online examination.

There is a limited number of spaces on this course.

Music

Staff contact: Mr Berian Lewis

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification type: GCSE

Assessment: 65% non-examination assessment; 35% examination.

Why study the subject?

Do you like singing or playing an instrument?

Do you like composing songs?

Do you enjoy listening to a wide range of music?

Music is suitable for students who are interested in either singing or playing an instrument, and who enjoy listening to a variety of music and composing, or who may enjoy a combination of the above.

Course Content

Unit 1: Performing

You will perform at least two pieces of music, each 4 to 6 minutes long. You can perform solos or independent parts in ensembles, or a combination of both. You will choose the pieces you will perform and can choose to perform on any instrument or voice, or technology, or a combination of these.

Unit 2: Composing

You will compose two original pieces of music, each lasting between 3 and 6 minutes – one in response to a brief of your own design, and one in response to a brief set by WJEC.

Unit 3: Appraising

You will study musical elements, including: dynamics, form, harmony, melody and texture, quality, tempo, rhythm and meter, care and accuracy, and will listen to pieces of music in order to recognize these elements.

Assessment

Unit 1: Performing

Non-exam assessment (32.5% of the qualification).

Unit 2: Composing

Non-exam assessment (32.5% of the qualification).

Unit 3: Appraising

Digital exam (35% of the qualification).

Physical Education

Staff contact: Mr John Norgrove

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification type: GCSE

Assessment:
40% examination; 60%
non-examination
assessment

Why study the subject?

A qualification in this subject will enable you to take part in a practical course designed to encourage you to be inspired, motivated and challenged. You will acquire the knowledge, understanding, skills and values needed to develop and maintain your performance in sport and physical activities, and to understand the benefits to health, fitness and well-being. Studying GCSE Physical Education and Health will develop many transferable skills including communication, presenting and performing skills, teamwork, leadership, evaluative skills and self confidence. The career opportunities in this field are numerous.

Course Content

Unit 1: Principles of Physical Education and Health

- Health, well-being, sport and physical activity.
- Understanding the factors that affect levels of activity and physical, social and emotional health, including diet and nutrition, physiology and exercise, psychological aspects, and the cultural–social influence on participation and performance.

Unit 2: Performance and Personal Training

- Perform effectively by developing skills, strategies and/or compositional ideas as a performer and/or coach.
- Develop and implement a personal training activity by analysing needs, planning, monitoring and reflecting.

Assessment

Unit 1: Principles of Physical Education and Health

Digital external examination lasting 90 minutes
40% of the qualification
80 marks

Unit 2: Performance and Personal Training

Non-exam assessment
60% of the qualification
120 marks

Perform in two sports from the approved list, or one sport and provide coaching. Plan, carry out and evaluate a personal training activity over 8–10 weeks for a sport or physical activity from the approved list.

Religious Studies

Staff contact: Mrs Gwenan Morgans

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification type: GCSE

Assessment: 60% examination; 40% non – examination assessment

Why study the subject?

Universities and employers hold GCSE Religious Studies in high regard. This is a valuable subject to study, as it:

- Prepares you to work with and interact with people from different cultures and beliefs.
- Encourages you to listen to other people's viewpoints and discuss various moral issues.
- Opens your mind and broadens your horizons.

Course Content

You will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of religious and non-religious beliefs, values, teachings, practices, and philosophical convictions. The titles of the units are:

Unit 1: Religious and Non-Religious Beliefs, Teachings, and Practices

Unit 2: Religion and Relationships

Unit 3: Roles, Rights, and Responsibilities

Unit 4: Human Rights

Assessment

Year 10

Unit 1: Religious and Non-Religious Beliefs, Teachings, and Practices.

Written Exam: 1 hour 15 minutes (30% of the qualification).

Unit 2: Coursework 'Religion and Relationships' (20% of the qualification).

Year 11

Unit 3: Roles, Rights, and Responsibilities.

Written Exam: 1 hour 15 minutes (30% of the qualification).

Unit 4: Coursework 'Religion and Human Rights' (20% of the qualification).

Spanish

Staff contact: Miss Claire Russell

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification type:
GCSE

Assessment:
55% examination; 45% non
– examination assessment

Why study the subject?

GCSE Spanish can open a world of opportunities for you. There is a wide range of career paths you could follow with a GCSE in languages, including in the more traditional tourism industry, the armed forces, language services such as translation and interpreting, teaching, and social services.

Studying GCSE Spanish is a wise choice for many reasons: it is a valuable skill, it meets the needs of many employers, it enables students to study a foreign language as part of their degree, it offers many new experiences and it is an invaluable opportunity to learn about the culture and traditions of other people and countries. A qualification in international languages shows that you are a good communicator, willing to learn, adapt, and step out of your "comfort zone" – highly desirable to any potential employer. It may also interest you to know that in today's global business world, workers with international language skills tend to attract higher salaries!

Course Content

The themes we study include: entertainment and leisure, health and fitness, food and drink, holidays and celebrations, the environment, technology and social media, school life, and cultural themes about Spanish-speaking countries. You will learn useful language that you could use in situations related to leisure and well-being, traveling, and studying or working.

Assessment

There are 4 units for the course. Two are assessed through exams in Year 11. The other two units will be completed as non-exam assessments in your classroom, also in Year 11.

Unit 1 – Speaking (30%). Non-exam assessment.

Unit 2 – Reading and Writing (15%). Non-exam assessment.

Unit 3 – Listening (20%). Examination.

Unit 4 – Reading and Writing (35%). Examination.

Triple Science

Staff contact: Miss Catrin Pritchard

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification type: GCSE

Assessment: 90% examination; 10% practical assessment

Why study this subject?

By following the Triple Science course, there is an opportunity for you to be inspired and challenged through a broad, practical, and valuable course of study. You will experience how science works and be encouraged to engage with science in your life, making informed decisions about further studies and career choices.

Course Content

Biology 1: The respiratory, digestive, and circulatory systems in humans. Plants and photosynthesis.

Biology 2: Cell division and stem cells, DNA and inheritance.

Disease, defence, and treatment.

Chemistry 1: Atomic structure and the Periodic Table, chemical reactions, and the Earth's continuous changes.

Chemistry 2: Bonding, structure and properties, metals and metal extraction. Crude oil and fuels.

Physics 1: Circuits, domestic electricity, and properties of waves.

Physics 2: Newton's laws, stars, planets, and nuclear energy.

Assessment

Written exams at the end of Year 10: Biology 1, Chemistry 1, Physics 1 (worth 45% of each qualification).

Exams at the end of Year 11: Biology 2, Chemistry 2, Physics 2 (worth 45% of each qualification).

There is a practical exam in each of the three subjects worth 10%. This assessment will be completed in Year 11.

There is a limited number of spaces on this course.

Tourism

Staff contact: Mrs Nia Courtney

Exam board: WJEC

Qualification type:
Level 2 Vocational

Assessment: 25%
examination; 75%
coursework

Why study the subject?

The leisure and tourism industry is one of the fastest-growing sectors in the world, and it employs over two million people in the United Kingdom. By studying GCSE Tourism, you will develop a practical understanding of how the industry works — from managing budgets and creating advertising campaigns to understanding the customer experience and how events and businesses are managed. You will also explore exciting tourism destinations around the world, seeing how culture, the environment and the economy influence tourism. The course is a combination of practical and research-based work. A qualification in Tourism can open the door to a wide range of jobs — from being a ski instructor, holiday representative or hotel manager to working in events, marketing or international travel. It's a subject that offers global opportunities... and adventure!

Course Content

Unit 1 – The Customer Experience

The focus of this unit is exploring how organisations meet the needs of different customers and how the customer experience impacts the success of a business.

Unit 2 – Tourism Business

Learn about the importance of the tourism industry, the effects businesses have on the economy, and how organisations deal with challenges.

Unit 3 – Developing Tourist Destinations in the United Kingdom

Explore which factors make destinations appealing to tourists (such as attractions, marketing, transport, history and culture).

Learn how organisations work together to improve destinations.

Assessment

Unit 2 will be assessed by a 1 hour 15 minute external examination.

Units 1 and 3 are coursework assessments, marked by the teacher and moderated by the examination board. You will need to produce a portfolio of assessment evidence for these units, and this will be worth 75% of your final mark in the subject. You must pass every assessment to achieve this qualification.

Work Related Education

Staff contact: Miss Nia Williams

Exam board:
Agored Cymru

Qualification:
Level 2 Vocational

Assessment: 100%
assignments. No
examination.

Why study the subject?

This subject is not an option available to everyone. The school will identify students who would benefit from studying the subject and offer them the option to study the qualification.

This qualification helps students prepare for the world of work and contribute in the workplace, whether in a voluntary or paid role. By studying this qualification, students will:

- Plan and explore possible career and employment paths
- Understand the skills, values, and attitudes needed in the workplace
- Understand how what they are learning is relevant to their future.

Course Content

Depending on the individuals, the school will have the option to select appropriate units for the students. Here are some examples of the units of the qualification:

- Planning and preparing for work experience
- Developing interview techniques
- Applying for a job
- Working in a team
- Exploring entrepreneurship
- Enterprise skills

Assessment

All work will be assessed through completing tasks in the classroom and practical tasks.

There is no exam.

Diolch