



LLAWLYFR LLWYBRAU DYSGU CA4



2020-2022

**KS4 LEARNING
PATHWAY HANDBOOK**



Introduction

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg

BRO MYRDDIN

Welsh Comprehensive School



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Pennaeth / Headteacher : Dr Llinos Jones

Dear Parents

I am pleased to present the options booklet for your attention. I trust that it will help you and your child in choosing suitable courses for the next two years. This is an exciting and important time for your child when transferring from year 9 to year 10.

It is a period of reflection and decision making. It is essential, of course, that you discuss the options fully with your child's subject teachers before reaching a final decision.

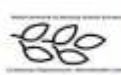
You will be able to do so at the Options Evening held between 5.00 and 6.30pm on Thursday, January 30th, 2020. In addition, there will be a Year 9 Parents Evening held, between 4:00 and 6:00 on Thursday, March the 19th, 2020, to discuss your child's current performance. If you wish to discuss or require further guidance, Mr Steffan Davies, Head of Year 9, will be ready to assist you.



Good luck with your decisions.

Yours faithfully

**Dr Llinos Jones
Headteacher**



What are GCSEs?

General Certificate of Secondary Education

The G.C.S.E. is a single system of examinations with a single scale of grades from A* to G. The examinations not only test your memory and ability to present facts, they also test your understanding, practical skills and your ability to apply your knowledge.

What is Entry Pathways?

The **Entry Pathways** course of the W.J.E.C. is designed to prepare pupils for the world of work. It is suited to those who do not perform well in examinations. Some 80% of assessment is based on class work, projects, practical tests and oral work.

Options

For the 2020-2022 academic year all pupils will study the following compulsory subjects to the levels recommended by their subject teachers:

- Welsh
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Welsh Baccalaureate

In addition, all pupils will select three option subjects, one from each of the option blocks, which they will study throughout Years 10 and 11. It is important that pupils choose wisely in Year 9, as it may not be possible to make changes once they enter Year 10.

Every pupil also follows non-examination courses in Physical Education, and Personal and Social Education, which includes lessons on Health and Sex Education, Careers and Work Experience. (Parents with a valid reason can make a written request to the Headteacher, asking her permission to withdraw their child from Sex Education lessons.)

In addition, in their subject and PSE lessons, pupils will be given the opportunity to develop their thinking skills and their ability to work with others and improve their own learning.



Our language

Welsh is the official language of the school for both extra-curricular activities and for the vast majority of lessons. The school is proud of its Welsh ethos and is anxious to ensure that this is maintained for each new cohort of pupils. It is compulsory for pupils to speak Welsh around the school, during extra-curricular activities and in those lessons taught through the medium of Welsh. Parents are requested to aid the school by encouraging their children to speak Welsh, to respect the school's Welsh ethos and to promote this on every occasion.



Your Progress File

Every pupil will receive a "Profile" on leaving the school or at the end of Year 11. This is a booklet which records every aspect of the pupil's activity both in school and outside in the community. The diagram below summarises the process involved in the production of this Profile.



What purpose does the profile serve?

The profile records every aspect of the pupil's activity -not just academic work within the classroom, but also, extracurricular activities, interests and achievements of all types which the pupil has undertaken both within the school and outside school. These could include activities such as the Urdd, Young Farmers Clubs, Rugby, work for charity, or any worthwhile activity or achievement in the community which can be verified. The purpose, therefore, is to give a more complete picture of the pupil as a person than academic results on their own could give.

Who will produce the profile?

Every teacher who teaches the pupil in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 will contribute towards the profile and record the academic level the pupil has reached in the subject. In addition, the form tutor will regularly give the pupil an opportunity to record his/her activities, achievements, etc. in a diary and a record of achievement file. This personal record by the pupil forms an important part of the profile.

To whom will the (Summative) Profile be of interest?

The process outlined is by now taking place nationally. The Summative Profile is now recognised by employers/colleges as an useful document which give s a complete and informative picture of the individual.

Personal and Social Education / Careers

During years 10 and 11, pupils follow a statutory course in PSE and careers. The course involves sections of work on social issues such as:

i) Alcohol and Drugs;

ii) Respect and Relationships

(which includes a section on Sex Education).

The pupils are prepared for external examinations by introducing units of work on revision skills and organisation of work. Each pupil then receives a print out listing the types of occupations suitable for them, having taken into account their interests and ability in different subject areas. In addition the pupils carry out work on: **i) The World of Work:**



At the end of Year 10, a 2 day World of Work Conference is held which runs concurrently with the (compulsory) week of work experience.

It is intended to use the first day of the Conference to prepare pupils for their work experience placement - for instance, the employer's expectations, pupil's behaviour and Health and Safety requirements, as well as providing the pupils with an insight into the different types of work situations.

The second day of the conference will follow the pupils' placements. This will provide the pupils with an opportunity to report back in groups. There will also be an opportunity for them to discuss the variety of jobs they encountered within their different work situations

The above experiences are valuable and are ones which the majority of pupils really enjoy. Great care is taken when placing pupils. Several departments within the school make use of the experience gained by pupils in order to develop oral and folio work when preparing for the GCSE examinations



Agriculture

BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN AGRICULTURE

Why should I study this subject?

If you are interested in a career in the agriculture and country side industries then this would be a suitable course for you. It provides you with the opportunity to develop initial skills as well as developing an understanding and knowledge of how to work safely on a farm or country estate. This course is offered in partnership with Coleg Sir Gar and will be taught by experts in the subject. The course is worth the equivalent of two GCSEs. You do not need any prior knowledge before undertaking this course.

Will I be taught in a particular set?

No. You will be taught in a mixed ability class.

Is there an exam in this subject?

No.

What is the content of the course?

This course will offer you the opportunity to develop a range of skills and knowledge. You will have to study 3 units of work. These units will enable you to develop your skills in the following:

- ❖ Land Based Machinery Operations
- ❖ Practical Land Based Skills
- ❖ Farm Animal Production

During the course you will be given the opportunity to develop your practical skills at a local farm as well as studying in the classroom.

Will I need to complete coursework or controlled tasks?

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

edexcel

Where can I get more information?

You may speak to Miss Z Williams.



Contact:
Miss
Zelda
Williams



Art & Design

Why should I study this subject?

If you are creative, and enjoy making and looking at art then it could be for you. The marks for the course are split 60% coursework and 40% examined. It's a good option therefore if you don't like working under the usual exam conditions. Art is fun, but it also involves a lot of hard work, most people find that their art coursework requires more time than they expected. You will need to work consistently on your coursework throughout the year, if you tend to leave things to the last minute then you could be in trouble..

Will I be taught in a particular set?

All classes are of mixed ability in this subject and lessons are taught to the strengths of the individual.

What is the content of the course?

The coursework unit includes a wide variety of subject areas. You can choose to study **Art and Design** in general or you may want to specialize in one of the following areas:

Graphics, Textiles and Fashion, Film and Photography, 3D Design or Fine Arts.

You will set the theme and this should allow you to think and respond creatively e.g. Relationships, Conflict, Change, Destruction, Time. This will involve carrying out work in sketchbooks and finished pieces of work,

Will I need to complete coursework or controlled tasks?

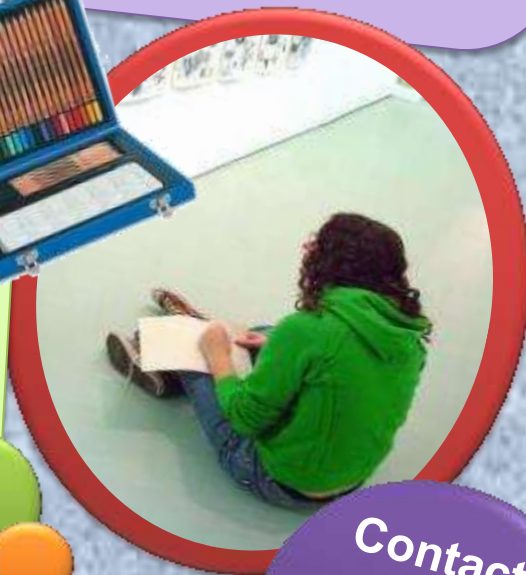
The coursework is worth 60% of the total mark and therefore it's of importance that you work consistently throughout the two years in order to attain a good grade in order to build upon with the external exam. All coursework is marked and assessed by your teacher and then externally moderated by the WJEC.

Which examination tier will I sit?

Everyone will sit the same paper.

Is there an exam in this subject?

For the external examination you will choose one question only from the paper and follow the same processes as the portfolio but under exam time restrictions and conditions. All of your exam work will be completed in school during 8 weeks and a final 10 hour exam (2 days in school). All exam work is marked and assessed by your teacher and the externally moderated by the WJEC.



Contact:
Mrs
Kathryn
Richards

Where can I get more information?

The department's Facebook page @yggbmcelf and WJEC website has a gallery of images available to view for ideas of exemplar material.



WJEC
CBAC

Business Studies

Why should I study this subject?

This is a subject which will you prepare you for the world of work and make you aware of current issues which affects businesses and our economy. You will be given the opportunity to visit local businesses and also the opportunity to compete in Enterprise competitions.

What is the content of the course?

The main aim of the course is to broaden your understanding of the way in which businesses operate in a dynamic, changing and competitive environment. You will study 6 units – Business activity, Influences on business, Business operations, Finance, Marketing, Human resources

Will I need to complete coursework or controlled tasks?

There is no coursework or controlled task in the 2017 syllabus.

Which examination tier will I sit?

There is only 1 tier and all questions cater for the full range of ability to enable you to achieve grade A* - G



Where can I get more information?

If you would like more information about the course you can come and discuss with the Head of Business Studies or visit the following website: www.cbac.co.uk

Will I be taught in a particular set?

The Business Studies Department does not set pupils and you will be taught in a mixed ability class.

Is there an exam in this subject?

At the end of the course there are 2 examinations.

Unit 1: Business World

Written examination : 2 hours, 100 marks.

A mix of short answer and structured questions based on stimulus material covering all of the syllabus content.

Unit 2: Business Perceptions

Written examination : 1 hour 30 minutes, 60 marks.

Data response questions covering all of the content.



Contact:
Mrs
Melanie
Rees

Design & Technology: **CONSTRUCTION LEVEL 2**

Why should I study this subject?

If you are interested in a course which prepares you for work in the construction industry – this is the course for you. The construction industry employs over 2.5 million workers in the U.K. You will require self motivation and numeracy, communication and problem solving skills, as well as technical skills and understanding in order to succeed. You can use the qualification as evidence for a university application or a learning pathway to a range of vocational qualifications in construction.

Will I be taught in a particular set?

The classes are mixed ability

What is the content of the course?

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

- Practical processes used in the Construction Industry.
- Methods used in maintaining and restoration of existing buildings.
- Health and safety in the workplace.



Will I need to complete coursework or exams?

You will be assessed through internal coursework. There will be an exam at the end of year 10.

Where can I get more information?

If you would like more information you can discuss the option with your Construction teacher, or the Head of Department.

Contact:
Mr
Steffan
Davies



Design & Technology: Product Design

Why should I study this subject?

This qualification in Design and Technology offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for learners to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems. Learners will be ready to participate in an increasingly technological world by developing a range of communication skills, including oral skills, graphical, ICT and modelling. The course is suitable for pupils who are interested in a career in Art and Design, Science, or Engineering.

Will I be taught in a particular set?

The classes are mixed ability

What is the content of the course?

The course will develop an appropriate range and depth of knowledge, understanding and skills in design and technology. Students will plan and manufacture innovative products that reflect developments in society. The course is based on practical activities which include disassembling products, design, evaluation and production. Students have the opportunity to develop an understanding of materials and components and learn how to use a variety of hand tools, machinery, equipment and software including computer-aided design and production. The use of ICT systems for investigating and solving problems is required. Students will need to use ICT systems to process text, analyse data, generate images / 2D and 3D models for digital manipulation.



Will I need to complete coursework or controlled tasks?

Students will need to complete a design and make task under controlled conditions at school. This task is worth 50% of the final mark of the course. Detailed information on the requirements of each task will be made available to prepare for the task ahead and used in the assessment. Learners are expected to complete a high quality design and make task based on the brief they have chosen. They will be expected to produce the following:-

- A design brief that was developed in response to one of the contextual challenges set by WJEC
- A product/prototype (or prototypes) based on the final design brief.
- Additional evidence will be required, including a design folio to enable learners to be assessed.

Which examination tier will I sit?

The paper has one tier on the paper. Questions are graded so that all grades (A*-F) are available to candidates.



Is there an exam in this subject?

You will sit a written paper worth 50% of the GCSE award. The exam will give you an opportunity to demonstrate knowledge of the following:

- Developing, planning and communicating ideas
- Product analysis
- Sustainability and legislative issues
- Other Designers / Practitioners
- Commercial Manufacturing Practices
- Materials and Components
- Tools and Equipment
- ICT CAD and CAM
- Systems and Processes

Contact:
Mr
Robyn
Davies

Where can I get more information?

If you would like more information you can discuss the option with your Technology teacher, the Head of Department, or visit the following website: www.wjec.co.uk

Drama

Why should I study this subject?

You can study Drama as a GCSE option in year 10, and also as an A.S and A level option in the Drama and Theatre Studies course. Through studying Drama, every individual has the opportunity to enhance dramatic skills whilst creating, performing and evaluating. It's a valuable way to develop self-confidence and language skills.

We believe in learning through enjoyment. You will be offered a feast of extra-curricular activities. You will have opportunities to perform in musicals, plays, evenings of entertainment and to compete in the National Urdd Eisteddfod. Workshops and trips to the theatre are arranged, as are visits from touring companies, actors and specialists in the field.

Come and join the fun..

Will I be taught in a particular set?

Your classmates will be of mixed ability. Two classes (depending on numbers) taught by Mrs Lowri Davies.

Is there an exam in this subject?

You will have two practical examinations in year 11, one internally marked and the other assessed by a recognized examiner from the examination board. There will be a written examination at the end of the year based on a set play.

What is the content of the course?

UNIT ONE - Devised Theatre (40%)

You will devise a practical performance based on a theme, linked with a practitioner or genre. A written evaluation will be completed after the performance.

UNIT TWO – Performing Theatre (20%)

External Assessment - You will be assessed on **your** acting in a scene from a published play.

UNIT THREE - Written Examination (40%)

You will analyse **one** set text "Dau Wyneb" – Manon Steffan Ros as an actor, designer and director.

You will write an evaluation of a live Theatre performance.

Where can I get more information?

You're welcome to talk to your teacher and see various pieces of course work. You can visit the school's website and look at the Drama Department's latest activities or view the official site via the following link: www.cbac.co.uk



Contact:
Mrs
Lowri
Davies



BTEC Level 1 and 2: Engineering

Why should I study this subject?

This Engineering qualification offers students an opportunity in the curriculum to learn real engineering skills by completing a number of challenging tasks using metals when making products. It will prepare learners to take part in engineering or technological work and to be confident in using the workshop equipment safely and successfully. The course is very suitable for pupils who are interested in a career in Design, Science, or Engineering.

Will I be taught in a particular set?

The classes are mixed ability

What is the content of the course?

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 include the construction of a number of items using different engineering skills. Pupils will need to learn how to work to very accurate tolerances and use measurement tools to evaluate their work. You will learn how to use a variety of hand tools and machinery. Students will need to demonstrate the ability to read technical drawings and understand information from different sources. Keep a portfolio of work to show and record their results.

Will I need to complete coursework or controlled tasks?

Students will need to complete a design and make task under controlled conditions at school. This task is worth 50% of the final mark of the course. Detailed information on the requirements of each task will be made available to prepare for the task ahead and used in the assessment. Learners are expected to complete a high quality design and make task based on the brief they have chosen. They will be expected to produce the following:-

- A design brief that was developed in response to one of the contextual challenges set by WJEC
- A product/prototype (or prototypes) based on the final design brief.
- Additional evidence will be required, including a design folio to enable learners to be assessed.

Is there an exam in this subject?

There is no formal final examination. All work is assessed in the workshop

Contact:
Mr
Robyn
Davies

Where can I get more information?

If you would like more information you can discuss the option with your Engineering teacher, the Head of Department, or visit the following website: <http://eal.org.uk/>



English(Language)

Why should I study this subject?

English is a compulsory subject in KS4 and every pupil in year 11 is expected to gain a qualification in the subject. Employers, universities and colleges usually expect candidates to achieve a grade C.



What is the content of the course?

Whilst studying the course you will given every opportunity to develop your speaking and listening, reading and writing skills by analysing how language is used. You will also be expected to develop your written skills through the close examination of literary and factual texts through clear, accurate expression. Additionally you will also have many opportunities to contribute to speaking and listening tasks.

Will I need to complete coursework or controlled tasks?

You will be expected to complete two speaking and listening controlled assessments in school worth 20% of the total marks.

You will receive details beforehand of the demands of the tasks and you will be thoroughly prepared by your English teacher for the assessments. Additionally, you will be allowed to create a plan of your ideas

Which examination tier will I sit?

The English Language course will be non tier.

Is there an exam in this subject?

At the end of the course there are 2 exams of 2 hour each which account for 80% of the total mark. The first exam assesses your ability to analyse the language and structure used in a fictional text while the second exam assesses your ability to read, express your opinion and present information.



Where can I get more information?

If you want further information about the course speak to your English teacher, the Head of Department or visit the following website: www.cbac.co.uk

Contact:
Mrs
Llinos M
Jones

English(Literature)

Why should I study this subject?

English is a compulsory subject in KS4 and the majority of pupils in year 11 are given the opportunity to sit English Literature GCSE where you will experience and analyse a wide range of literary texts written across the centuries.

What is the content of the course?



Whilst studying the course you will be given every opportunity to develop your reading and writing skills by analysing how language is used in a range of literary texts. You will also be expected to develop your empathy skills through the close examination of novels, poetry and drama.

Will I need to complete coursework or controlled tasks?

You will be expected to complete two controlled assessments in school worth 25% of the total marks. You will receive details beforehand of the demands of the task and you will be thoroughly prepared by your English teacher for the assessment. Additionally, you will be allowed to create a plan of your ideas and use it in the assessment.

Which examination tier will I sit?

After careful consideration of the standard of your work and your commitment to the subject, your teacher will decide which tier exam you will sit.

Where can I get more information?

If you want further information about the course speak to your English teacher, the Head of Department or visit the following website: www.cbac.co.uk

Is there an exam in this subject?

There are 2 exams of 2 hours each which account for 75% of the total mark. Unit 1 assesses your ability to analyse a 20th century novel and your response to poetry while unit 2 assesses your analysis of a classic novel and a 20th century drama.



Contact:
Mrs
Llinos M
Jones

Food and Nutrition

Why should I study this subject?

This subject provides an opportunity for you to expand your practical skills as well as your information and knowledge about the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. The subject content is suitable if you want to have a broad knowledge of food and nutrition and is the basis for the study of A Level subjects similar to Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition. If you do not wish to move on to further education this course is useful for everyday life. It is also valuable preparation if you want a career within the catering sector.

Will I be taught in a particular set?

All pupils will study the same subject content and sit the same exam at the end of the course; therefore there is no setting within the subject.

What is the content of the course?

The course provides the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to cook. It is a practical subject and on average you will be expected to cook once a week. The course requires that you demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- Food ingredients
- Diet and good health
- Where food comes from
- Cooking and food preparation

- Principles of nutrition
- Food Science

Is there an exam in this subject?

At the end of the course there will be a 1½ hour examination. This paper will assess your knowledge of all the areas mentioned above which are connected to food and nutrition.

Will I need to complete coursework or controlled tasks?

You will have to complete 2 controlled assessment tasks; one in Year 10 and one in Year 11.

Assessment 1: Scientific task, which includes writing a report on a practical experiment e.g. the use of raising agents while baking a cake. The task is worth 20% of your final mark.

Assessment 2: Practical task, which includes creating 3 dishes for specific requirements e.g. suitable for an International Week.

This task is worth 40% of your final mark.

Which examination tier will I sit?

There is only one tier to the paper. All questions on the paper will be compulsory and they will target all grades from A* to G.

Contact:
Mrs
Non
Knott

Where can I get more information?

More information about the subject is available from Mrs Non Knott or visit the GCSE Food and Nutrition page on the following website –
www.wjec.co.uk



French

Why should I study this subject?

Studying French at GCSE is a wise and informed decision for many reasons:

- It is a very useful skill;
- employers are demanding better language skills;
- It enables students to study abroad as a part of their degree;
- It provides students with many new and exciting experiences.;
- It offers an invaluable insight into other cultures and traditions.

What is the content of the course?

During the course we study a broad variety of themes: entertainment and leisure, health and fitness, food and drink, holidays and celebrations, the environment, work experience, talking about yourself and relationships, technology and social media, social matters, school life and cultural events in French speaking countries.

Did you know?

- Other European countries are now following a 1+2 policy. This entails studying your first language and at least two others.
- A language GCSE is a prerequisite for some university courses.
- All primary pupils in England study at least one foreign language.
- In England the study of a foreign language is an integral part of the Bac.



How is the course assessed?

There are four components to the final assessment:

Unit 1: Speaking - 25% There is one oral test; a role play; a discussion of an image on a card; a conversation. The test will last between 10-12 minutes at the higher level and between 7-9 minutes at the foundation level. The test will be undertaken with the subject teacher.

Unit 2: Listening - 25% A final examination at the end of year 11- There are two tiers: higher and foundation.

Unit 3: Reading - 25% A final examination at the end of year 11- There are two tiers: higher and foundation.

Unit 4: Writing - 25% A final examination at the end of year 11- There are two tiers: foundation and higher.



Where can I get more information?

If you would like further information you can ask your teacher, the head of department or visit the following website: www.wjec.co.uk

Contact:
Mr
Gwyn
Jones



Geography

Why should I study this subject?

Geography is relevant to your life – it is the study of the world around us, in Wales, Europe and the World. You will study environmental and social issues in a variety of places. You will study a wide range of themes, as noted in the course content, and a great emphasis is placed on developing your skills such as problem solving and working independently. An emphasis is placed on you developing a mature understanding of contemporary issues so that you appreciate the need for sustainable development and are aware of the viewpoints of other people.

Will I be taught in a particular set?

You will be taught in mixed ability groups.

Contact:
Mr
Alun
Thomas

What is the content of the course?

You will have the opportunity to a variety of human and physical themes. The unit titles are:

- ❖ Unit 1: Changing Physical and Human Landscapes
- ❖ Unit 2: Environmental and Development Issues
- ❖ Unit 3: Fieldwork Enquiry

You will develop your understanding of the themes by investigating various key questions.

Will I need to complete coursework or controlled tasks?

You will have to complete 1 non-examination assessment in school that's worth 20% of your final grade. You will be given instruction sheets in advance regarding the requirements of the task and your teacher will prepare you for the assessment. The assessment will be based on fieldwork.



Which examination tier will I sit?

Geography does not set any examination tiers.

Where can I get more information?

If you require further information you can talk to your Geography teacher or visit the following website:

<http://www.wjec.co.uk/>

Is there an exam in this subject?

At the end of Year 11 you will sit a 1½ hour exam on Unit 1 that's worth 40% of your final grade, and a 1½ hour exam on Unit 2 that's also worth 40% of your final grade.



Health & Social Care

Why should I study this subject?

The course is interesting and you will study aspects of your health, your rights and how different health and social care organisations work. Health and Social Care is also a broad based subject that can open doors to lots of different careers in the future.

Will I be taught in a particular set?

You will be taught in a mixed ability group.

What is the content of the course?

You will study two units of work:

- Human growth, development and well-being.
- Promoting and maintaining health and well-being.

Emphasis is placed on the ability to work independently and in a structured manner so as to be able to meet deadlines and cope with the expected volume of coursework. You will also be expected to carry out intensive research, by reading about the subject and watching relevant current affairs programmes.

Will I need to complete coursework or controlled tasks?

You will be expected to produce two Portfolios of assessment evidence for one of the units that you will study and these will make up 60% of your final mark.

Which examination tier will I sit?

All pupils will sit the same tier of examination as there is no choice in the subject.

Contact:
Miss
Leony
Hall

Is there an exam in this subject?

One of the units will be assessed by external examination.

Where can I get more information?

You can research the course on the WJEC website (www.healthandcarelearning.wales) or speak to Miss L Hall.

City & Guilds

wjec
cbac

History



Why should I study this subject?

'I study history because I am interested in the future.' (Nelson Mandela)

- The lessons are lively and fun.
- Colleges and universities place great value in History as a subject.
- You will enjoy studying about the past – people from the past were just as clever, stupid and interesting as they are today!

Will I be taught in a particular set?

We do not set in the History department.

What is the content of the course?

The History Department follows the WJEC course that focuses predominantly on modern history. There is a strong emphasis on historical knowledge and understanding, as well as an opportunity to develop key skills such as source analysis and interpretation. Here are the units of study:

Unit 1: Britain 1930-1951, **Unit 2:** America 1910-1929,

Unit 3: Crime and Punishment c.1500 – present day,

Unit 4: Coursework on a key historical figure e.g. JFK, Martin Luther King, Owain Glyndwr.



Is there an exam in this subject?

Two, 1 hour examinations will be sat at the end of Year 11 and a 1 hour examination will be sat at the end of year 10.

These examinations will account for 80% of the final grade.

Will I need to complete coursework or controlled tasks?

You will need to complete 2 controlled assessment tasks, which is worth 20% of the final grade. Your teacher will guide you through the required work and assist you with the preparation work in class.



Which examination tier will I sit?

In History GCSE, there is only one tier, graded A*-E.

Where can I get more information?

If you want any further information about studying History for GCSE please speak to your History teacher or the Head of Department, Miss Bethan Williams. Further information is also available from the WJEC website – www.wjec.co.uk



Contact:
Miss
Bethan
Williams

Information Technology & Communication

Why should I study this subject?

ICT is ideal if you wish to study ICT at A Level before moving on to higher education or a career in ICT/Computing or related field. You will be able to profit from the skills developed on the course as you prepare for your future career and the world of work. The course, which is 5 lessons a fortnight will encourage you to develop your judgemental skills and consider and appreciate the role of ICT in the world we live in today.



Will I need to complete coursework or controlled tasks?

There is coursework to be completed under supervision in ICT, and it represents 60% of the final mark. If you choose to follow the Full Course, then you will complete Unit 2 in year 10 and Unit 4 in year 11.

Is there an exam in this subject?

There will be an external exam on Unit 1 at the end of Year 10 and a second exam on Unit 3 at the end of Year 11.

Which examination tier will I sit?

There is only one tier. Everyone will study the same work and sit the same exam.



Where can I get more information?

If you want more information you can see Mr Morris or visit the website at www.wjec.co.uk and choose GCSE ICT.

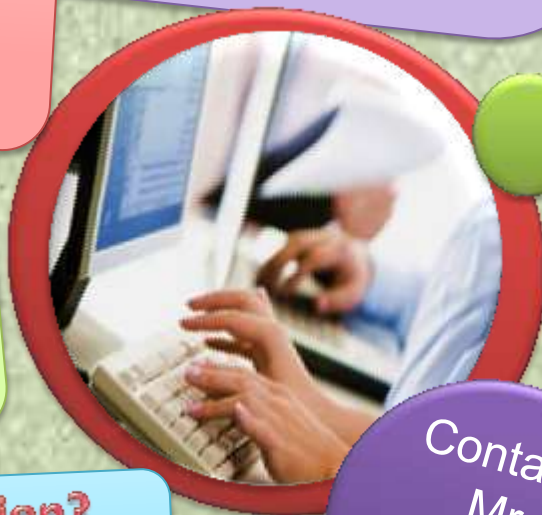
Will I be taught in a particular set?

There will be no sets. You will all be doing the same work and be entered for the same tier in the examination.

What is the content of the course?

The Full Course is made of 4 units, two theory (1 and 3) and 2 units are coursework (2 and 4):

- Unit 1 – **Understanding ICT** in the context of the home and school (1½ hour exam)
- Unit 2 – **Solving problems with ICT**. (22½ hours)
This supervised assessment includes a portfolio of work which assesses communication through email, creating presentations, spreadsheets and databases.
- Unit 3 – **Application of ICT** in business organisations and industry (1½ hour exam)
- Unit 4 – **Developing Multimedia ICT Solutions**
This supervised assessment will give you an opportunity to develop a piece of work using multimedia software following a brief to be published by WJEC.



Contact:
Mr
Mark
Morris

Mathematics

What is the content of the course?

GCSE Mathematics is one of two GCSEs in mathematics from September 2015.

The GCSE will build on and progress from the levels of mathematics expected at the end of KS3.

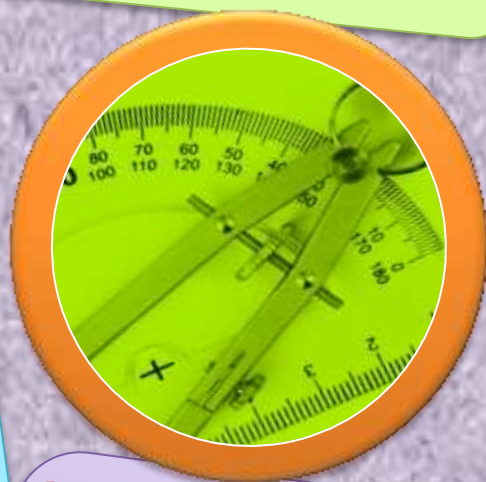
The GCSE specification in Mathematics should enable learners to:

- 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
- interpret mathematical results and draw and justify conclusions that are relevant to the context

Assessment

There are 3 tiers of entry for this qualification:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Higher Tier: | Grades A* – C |
| Intermediate Tier: | Grades B – E |
| Foundation Tier: | Grades D – G |



Where can I get more information?

If you want more information you can have a discussion with your mathematics teacher, the Head of Department or visit the following website www.wjec.co.uk

WJEC
CBAC

Is there an exam in this subject?

Unit 1: Non-calculator
Written examination

Unit 2: Calculator-allowed
Written examination

Higher: 1 hour 45 minutes (80 marks)
Intermediate: 1 hour 45 minutes (80 marks)
Foundation: 1 hour 30 minutes (65 marks)
50% of qualification

Higher: 1 hour 45 minutes (80 marks)
Intermediate: 1 hour 45 minutes (80 marks)
Foundation: 1 hour 30 minutes (65 marks)
50% of qualification

Contact:
Mrs
Rhian
Carruthers

Mathematics: Numeracy

What is the content of the course?

GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy will build on and progress from the levels of numeracy expected at the end of Key Stage 3 through the Literacy and Numeracy Framework and will assess the mathematics that learners will need in their everyday lives, in the world of work, and in other general curriculum areas.

This specification 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.

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.

Assessment

There are 3 tiers of entry for this qualification:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Higher Tier: | Grades A* – C |
| Intermediate Tier: | Grades B – E |
| Foundation Tier: | Grades D – G |



Where can I get more information?

If you want more information you can have a discussion with your mathematics teacher, the Head of Department or visit the following website www.wjec.co.uk

Contact:
Mrs
Rhian
Carruthers

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Written examination

Higher: 1 hour 45 minutes (80 marks)
Intermediate: 1 hour 45 minutes (80 marks)
Foundation: 1 hour 30 minutes (65 marks)
50% of qualification





Music

Why should I study this subject?

Music is an optional subject in Key Stage 4, and is suitable for students who are committed to singing or playing an instrument, and who enjoy listening to a wide variety of music, and composing, and possibly enjoy a combination of the above

What is the content of the course?

By studying this course you will have the opportunity to develop your performing, composition and appraisal skills. You will prepare for a group performance and possibly an individual performance. The performing element is worth 35% of the final mark. You will also have an opportunity to develop your compositional skills for the course work folio, and you will be listening to a wide variety of music which will prepare you for the appraisal examination.

Will I need to complete coursework or controlled tasks?

You will need to complete two compositions, connected to the areas of study. You will also need to complete a written appraisal and a log of the composition process. These tasks will be worth 35% of the final mark of the course. You will be using the computer programme 'Sibelius' to compose, notate and save your work whilst composing.

Which examination tier will I sit?

There is one common examination paper for all pupils.

Where can I get more information?

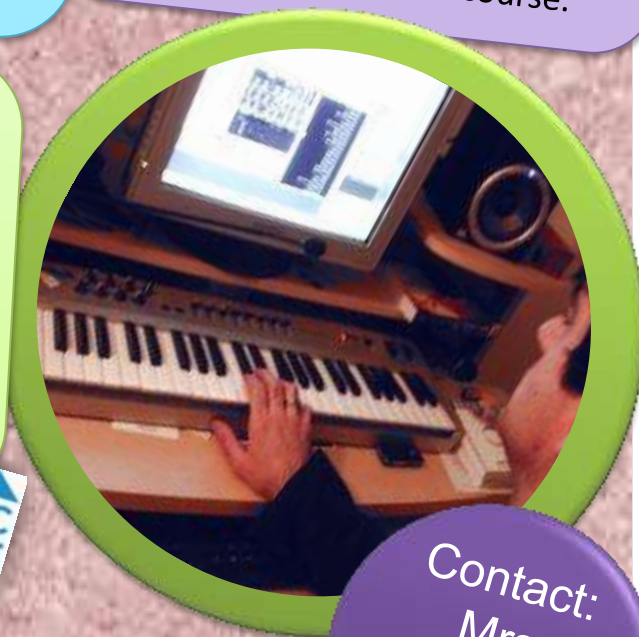
For further information, you can discuss the matter with your Music teacher, with the Head of Department or visit the following web page: www.wjec.co.uk

Will I be taught in a particular set?

The Music Department does not set the pupils, they will be taught as a mixed ability group. All pupils will study the same course content, but you will have a choice regarding the performing element and the composition tasks. There is one common examination for all pupils.

Is there an exam in this subject?

At the end of the examination, you will have one appraisal (listening) examination lasting approx 1 hour. This exam will be worth 30% of the final mark for the course.



Contact:
Mrs
Meinir
Richards



Physical Education

Why should I study this subject?

This is opportunity for you to follow a practical course which asks for you to apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations in order to improve your own , and others', performance. This course could lead you into careers in sport as a performer, coach, referee or analyst or the human biology aspect is good background for careers in, e.g, physiotherapy or medicine..

Will I be taught in a particular set?

The Physical Education Department does not set. The department is discussing the possibility of offering an IVQ qualification in September.

What is the content of the course?

As you study this course you will be given the opportunity to perform as a player, coach or referee as well as use your theoretical knowledge to evaluate, plan and refine tactics and techniques. You will also measure levels of fitness and create fitness programmes to improve your own and others' fitness levels. You will also be expected to develop your communication, discussion and leadership skills as you work with others to improve performance.

Will I need to complete coursework or controlled tasks?

There will be an assessment of three practical elements. You will be expected to perform in one individual activity, one team activity and one other of your choice. In addition to this you will be expected to create a fitness profile and follow a 12 week training plan in relation to your main activity. This section is worth 50% of the course.

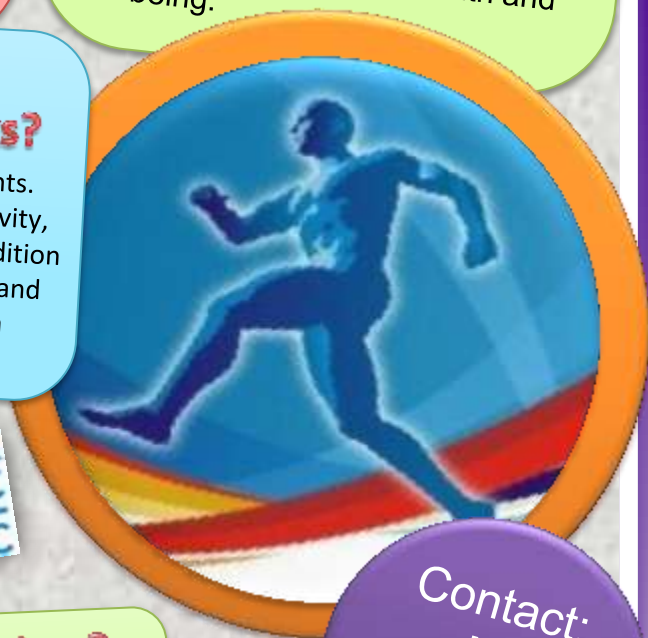
Which examination tier will I sit?

Everybody will follow the same course at the same level.



Is there an exam in this subject?

There is one examination of an hour and a half which is worth 50% of the course. The questions are compulsory and will assess your knowledge of contemporary issues in sport, health and well-being as well as your knowledge of physical, psychological and tactical/technical factors which influences performance, health and well-being.



Where can I get more information?

If you want more information you can discuss this with your Physical Education teachers or follow the link to the appropriate web pages at www.wjec.co.uk

Contact:
Mr
John
Norgrove

Religious Studies

Why should I study this subject?

- ❖ Many employers have a high regard for GCSE Religious Studies.
- ❖ It prepares you to work and deal with people of different cultures and beliefs.
- ❖ It encourages you to listen to other people's viewpoints and discuss different moral issues.
- ❖ It opens your mind and broadens horizons.

Will I be taught in a particular set?

No.

What is the content of the course?

In Year 10 **Unit 1: Religion and Philosophical Themes:** Exploring Life and Death and issues about Good and Evil.

In Year 11 **Unit 2: Religion and Ethical Themes:** Relationships and Human Rights.

Which examination tier will I sit?

There is just the one tier.

Is there an exam in this subject?

Yes. End of Year 10 written examination: 2 hours 50%.
Also end of Year 11 written examination: 2 hours 50%
Qualification : Full GCSE

Will I need to complete coursework or controlled tasks?

No coursework.
No controlled tasks.

Contact:
Mrs
Gwenan
Morgans

Where can I get more information?

Ask the teachers of the RE Department for more information or you will find more on the WJEC .



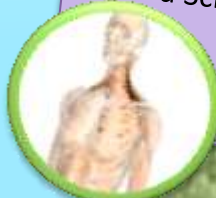
Science

Biology
Chemistry
Physics

Why should I study this subject?

Science is compulsory for every one in years 10 and 11. The course is designed so that you develop an appreciation of the world around you and also the work that scientists do. In Biology, Chemistry and Physics, you will study the ways in which science affects you as an individual and also how it affects society as a whole.

You will have the opportunity to make scientific measurements during investigations and as a result you will develop your ability to evaluate scientific information. You will also develop your language and mathematical skills.



Will I be taught in a particular set?

The Department will place you into suitable sets, and you will study Double Award Science

Is there an exam in this subject?

By following the Science GCSE course you will sit 3 external examinations at the end of Year 10 and another 3 in Year 11. Each exam is 75 minutes and contribute 90% in total towards the final grade.

What is the content of the course?

Everyone GCSE will study units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics in Year 10 which are assessed through external examinations at the end of year 10.

Then further units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics will be completed in Year 11 which lead to a second GCSE.



Will I need to complete coursework or controlled tasks?

You will be expected to complete a controlled assessment in Year 11. The task contributes 10% towards the final grade.

Which examination tier will I sit?

This is decided, along with advice from the departments, after you have tried questions from each of the tiers.

Where can I get more information?

You will have more information from your teachers in the Science lessons but you are welcome to speak to any Science teacher for more details.



Contact:
Mr G Thomas
Mr T Hayes
Mrs R Williams

Triple Science

Why should I study this subject?

In pursuing a Triple Science course there's a chance for you to be inspired and challenged by following a broad, coherent, practical and worthwhile subject. You will experience how science works, be encouraged to link science and every day life and make informed decisions about further study and career choices.

The subject will be offered through the medium of Welsh only.



What is the content of the course?

Biology 1: Respiration, digestion and circulatory systems in humans. Plants and photosynthesis.

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

Chemistry 1: Atomic structure, chemical reactions and the ever-changing Earth

Chemistry 2: Bonding and chemical reactions, metals and their extraction. Crude oil and fuels.

Physics 1: Circuits, domestic electricity and waves.

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



Is there an exam in this subject?

Yes at the end of Year 10 (Biology 1, Chemistry 1 and Physics 1) and Year 11 (Biology 2, Chemistry 2 and Physics 2)

Will I need to complete coursework or controlled tasks?

There is one controlled assessment task in each of the three subjects and is worth 10% of the total mark for each. (To be completed in Year 11)

Which examination tier will I sit?

There are two tiers: Higher (A* - D) or Foundation (C - E)



Contact:
Mr
Gari
Thomas

Where can I get more information?

Mr Gari Thomas (Physics), Mr Tim Hayes (Biology)
Mrs Rhian Williams (Chemistry) or any other member of staff in the science department.





Spanish

Why should I study this subject?

Studying Spanish at GCSE is a wise and informed decision for many reasons:

- It is a very useful skill;
- employers are demanding better language skills;
- It enables students to study abroad as a part of their degree;
- It provides students with many new and exciting experiences.;
- It offers an invaluable insight into other cultures and traditions.



What is the content of the course?

During the course we study a broad variety of themes: During the course we study a broad variety of themes: entertainment and leisure, health and fitness, food and drink, holidays and celebrations, the environment, work experience, talking about yourself and relationships, technology and social media, social matters, school life and cultural events in Spanish speaking countries.



How is the course assessed?

There are four components to the final assessment:

Unit 1: Speaking- 25% There is one oral test; a role play; a discussion of an image on a card; a conversation. The test will last between 10-12 minutes at the higher level and between 7-9 minutes at the foundation level. The test will be undertaken with the subject teacher.

Unit 2: Listening -25% A final examination at the end of year 11- There are two tiers: higher and foundation.

Unit 3: Reading – 25% A final examination at the end of year 11- There are two tiers: higher and foundation.

Unit 4: Writing- 25% A final examination at the end of year 11- There are two tiers: foundation and higher.

Where can I get more information?

If you want more information you can discuss this with your Spanish teacher, department head or follow the link to the appropriate web pages at www.wjec.co.uk

Did you know?

Other European countries are now following a 1+2 policy. This entails studying your first language and at least two others.

- A language GCSE is a prerequisite for some university courses.
- All primary pupils in England study at least one foreign language.
- In England the study of a foreign language is an integral part of the Bac.



Contact:
Miss
Jane
Cato

Tourism

Why should I study this subject?

Leisure and Tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in the world, employing over two million people. The subject offers the opportunity to learn about finance, advertising and managing organisations in the industry as you undertake an in-depth study of a number of world wide Tourism destinations. Gaining a qualification in this subject can lead to work in many different fields such as a ski instructor, a holiday rep abroad a hotel manager and many more.

What is the content of the course?

You will study three units of work:
Unit 1 – Customer Experience
Unit 2 – The Business of Tourism
Unit 3 - Developing UK Tourist Destinations

Will I need to complete coursework or controlled tasks?

You will be expected to produce a Portfolio of assessment evidence for one of the units that you will study such as Oakwood Theme Park or Cardiff and this will make up 60% of your final mark.

Which examination tier will I sit?

The Leisure and Tourism examination is one tier.

Contact:
Mrs
Eirlys
Thomas



Will I be taught in a particular set?

You will be taught in a mixed ability group.

Is there an exam in this subject?

Unit 2 is an external examination (1 hour 30 min)



Where can I get more information?

You can research the course on the WJEC website (www.wjec.co.uk)

Welsh

Why should I study this subject?

This is an opportunity for you to achieve two qualifications, Welsh and Welsh Literature. Welsh is a core subject and achieving a C grade or above would be a great asset when choosing higher educational courses as well as a career.

Will I be taught in a particular set?

Pupils are divided into two bands.

What is the content of the course?

During the course you will develop oral, reading and writing skills. The Welsh course will concentrate on how to respond to different reading materials, creative writing and grammar. The Literature course involves studying a novel, poetry and film.

Is there an exam in this subject?

You will sit two written examinations at the end of your Language course, worth 35% each. You will be expected to gather information from various reading materials, to write creatively and to correct grammar. You will also give a presentation and take part in a group discussion voicing your opinion on a particular subject, worth 30%. There are 2 Literature examinations, worth 25% each, concentrating on your knowledge of the novel and poetry that you studied. You will also have an oral examination discussing a film, worth 25%.

Will I need to complete coursework or controlled tasks?

There won't be any Welsh Language course work. Your teacher will guide you through 2 pieces of Literature coursework worth 25%. This involves a creative task based on a play and writing a critique based on a collection of short stories.

Which examination tier will I sit?

The Welsh Language course will be non tier. Your work during KS3 and first term in Year 10 as well as your potential in the subject will decide which class and Literature tier you will sit.

Where can I get more information?

For further information speak to your Welsh teacher or Head of Department. You can also visit the following website: www.cbac.co.uk.

Contact:
Mrs
Helen
Evans



Welsh Baccalaureate

Why should I study this subject?

Everyone must study the Welsh Baccalaureate.
It is compulsory.



Will I be taught in a particular set?

No

What is the content of the course?

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 which are followed by all learners:

- Individual Project – individual research project;
- Enterprise and Employability Challenge – create a business or a product;
- Global Citizenship Challenge – learn about world matters;
- Community Challenge – a community project

Will I need to complete coursework or controlled tasks?

You will be working in groups and by yourself over a period of two years to complete the challenges. The majority of the work will be completed in the classroom. The teachers will teach you the necessary skills so that you can complete the challenges.



Is there an exam in this subject?

No.

Which examination tier will I sit?

The combined outcomes of the four components will determine whether the Skills Challenge Certificate is awarded at National or Foundation level



Where can I get more information?

http://www.cbac.co.uk/qualifications/welsh-baccalaureate/welsh-bacc-from-2015/?language_id=2

Contact:
Miss Elin
Jones



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