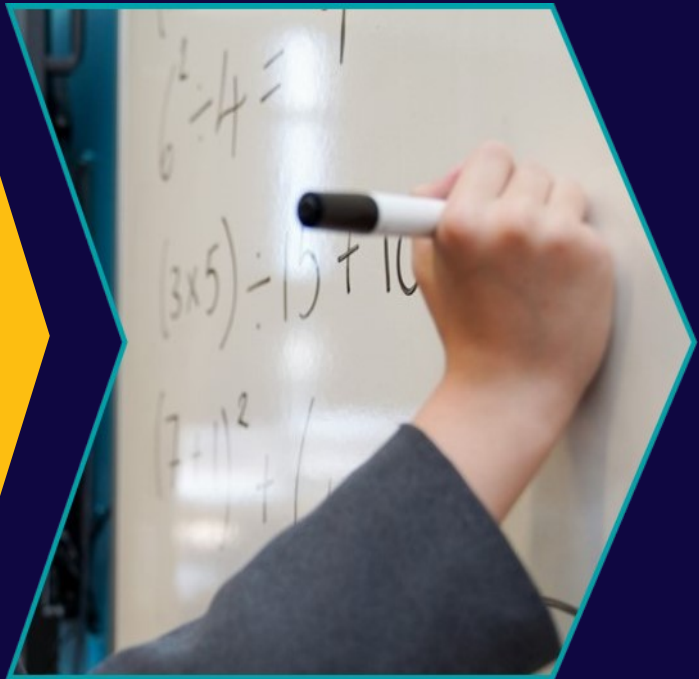


KS4 Options Course Information 2022—2023



Website: www.ysgolbrynalyn.co.uk

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

Contents



Letter from the Headteacher	3
Questions	4
Making your Choice	7
Examinations	9
Vocational Education	10
Careers Education	11
Key Staff	12
Compulsory Core Subjects	13
English Literature	14
English Language	15
Welsh	16
Spanish	17
Mathematics	18
Science—Double and Triple	19
Digital Technology	20
Product Design	21
History	22
Geography	23
Religious Studies	24
Business Studies	25
Equality and Diversity	26
Skills Challenge Certificate	27
Drama	28
Art and Design	29
Music	30
Dance	31
Physical Education	32
Prince's Trust	33

Welcome Croeso



To Year 9 Pupils

January 2023

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

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

- consider carefully the subjects which you have enjoyed during Key Stage 3 and feel confident in studying. Your latest assessments, together with your Year 9 report, should help you to decide this.
- ensure that you have made a balanced choice and have included a broad range of subjects.
- take account of any career ideas which you may have.

Please do not choose subjects for the wrong reasons:

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

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

As well as reading this booklet carefully, please:

- ask advice from your parents and any elder brothers / sisters / friends.
- speak with your teachers ~ your subject teachers and teachers of subjects which are only offered in Years 10 and 11 will be pleased to provide you with information and advice.
- attend the virtual Year 9 Parents / Options Information Evening, to be held on:
Thursday 9th February, commencing at 3.30pm via SchoolCloud

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

Mrs A. Slinn

Headteacher

**"I can never thank this school
enough for the fantastic opportuni-
ties it has given me"**

FORMER PUPIL

Questions



Is there anyone I can ask?

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

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

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

How soon must I make up my mind?

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

What if I change my mind?

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

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

Yes, plenty. Here are a few:-

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

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

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

Questions



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The following criteria will be applied:

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

Timetable



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

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

The subjects which you must all study are:

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

The following non examination subjects are also followed:

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

These compulsory subjects make up the core curriculum.

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

Choices



Making your Choices

Read this booklet carefully and talk to your parents about your subject choices before you bring the form back.

When you fill in your form remember:-

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

Art and Design
 Dance
 Drama
 Geography
 History
 Digital Technology
 Media Studies
 Music
 Physical Education
 Prince's Trust with the XI Programme
 Product Design
 Religious Education
 Spanish
 Triple Science

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

Here is an **example**:-

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

Next



What should I do next?

- Find out what each subject involves. Read this booklet carefully.
- Ask your subject teachers for advice.
- Seek advice from parents /elder siblings / friends.
- Complete the draft options form issued to you by your Form Tutor.
- Attend / make an appointment for the Virtual Options Information Evening on Thursday 9th February.
- Complete and return the signed options form to your tutor by no later than Friday 17th February.

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

Examinations



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

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

The General Certificate of Education (GCSE)

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

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

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

Level 1 and Level 2 Qualifications

These are qualifications that have GCSE equivalence.

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

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

[Year 9 Options - Ysgol Bryn Alyn](#)

Vocational Education



Wrexham Network 14 -19 Opportunities

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

Things to note when studying 14-19 college courses:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pupils may choose only one of the courses. To find out more information about any of the courses please enter this link and click on to the appropriate course: www.cambria.ac.uk/14-19-network

Careers



Careers Education and Guidance

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

The following areas will be covered:

Self Awareness

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

Career Opportunities

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

Career Planning

Pupils will learn how to produce an effective and up to date curriculum vitae, how to fill in application forms properly and with impact to produce a high quality letter of application. We have a comprehensive Resource Centre with a wide range of up to date careers information.

Careers and the Wider Community

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

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

Key Staff



Head of Year 9: Mr Will Beddoes

Headteacher: Mrs A. Slinn

Deputy Headteacher Pastoral: Mrs J. Ebrey

Deputy Headteacher: Teaching & Learning: Miss A. Kipping

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

Assistant Headteacher: English & Literacy: Mrs Z. Cooper

Assistant Headteacher: Mathematics & Numeracy: Mrs K. Cottrell

Assistant Headteacher: ALNCO: Mrs J. Morgan

Head of Science & Technology: Mr J. Gordon

Head of Humanities: Mrs S. Hennessey

Head of Expressive Arts: Mrs A. Noon

Head of Language: Mrs V. Byrne

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

The Compulsory Core Subjects



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

The Options*

Art and Design

Dance

Digital Technology

Drama

Geography

History

Media

Music

Physical Education

Prince's Trust

Product Design

SWEET: Personal Growth

Spanish

Triple Science

College:

Engineering Level 2

Construction Level 2

Hair and Beauty Level 2

Public Services Level 2

Computing Level 2

Health & Social Care Level 2

Business Level 2

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

Core—GCSE English Literature

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Year 10

Exam board: WJEC

Specification Code: 3720QS

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

All pupils study this subject, except disapplied.

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

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

Unit 1 External exam: January 11th 2023, with the possibility of a resit on 17th June 2023
2 hours (35% of qualification)

Section A 21% (INDIVIDUAL TEXTS IN CONTEXT) Different Cultures Prose: Of Mice and Men (Steinbeck)

Section B 14% (COMPARATIVE STUDY) Contemporary: Unseen poetry comparison, the preparation for which will include the study of contemporary poems.

Unit 2a External exam: 24th June 2023
2 hours (40% of qualification)

Section A 20% (English/Welsh/Irish Literary Heritage Drama): An Inspector Calls (Priestley);

Section B 20% (Contemporary Prose) Heroes (Cormier); OR Never Let Me Go (Ishiguro); OR About a Boy (Hornby); OR Resistance (Sheers)

Unit 3 Non examination assessments
2x 2hour assessments (25% of the qualification)

Shakespeare and Welsh Writing in English

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

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

Useful Revision Sites:

My Box: [Welsh writing in English \(wjec.co.uk\)](http://welshwritinginenglish.wjec.co.uk)

Analysing poetry: [Writing and analysing poetry - GCSE English Literature Revision - WJEC - BBC Bitesize](#)
[GCSE Learning and Revision](#)

CAREER INFORMATION

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

Core—GCSE English Language

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Year 11

Exam board: WJEC

Specification Code: 3700QS

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

All pupils study this subject, except disapplied.

This paper is untiered and so the grades awarded are A* - G

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

Unit 1: Non-examination assessment

Oracy

Task 1 (10%)-Individual Researched Presentation. W/B 5/12/22

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

Task 2(10%)-Group Discussion W/B 7/11/22

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

Unit 2: External Assessment 5th June 2023

Reading and Writing: Description, Narration and Exposition

Section A (20%) – Reading (40 marks)

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

Section B (20%) – Writing (40 marks)

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

Unit 3: External Assessment 12th June 2023

Section A (20%) – Reading (40 marks)

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

Section B (20%) – Writing (40 marks)

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

Useful Revision Sites:

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

CAREER INFORMATION

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

Core—GCSE Cymraeg/Welsh

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

Exam board: WJEC

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

All pupils study this subject, except disapplied.

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

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

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

- Employment
- Wales and the World
- Youth

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

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

Unit 1: Oracy response to visual material

25% of qualification

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

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

Unit 2: Communicate with others

25% of qualification

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

Unit 3: Report, specific and instructional

25% of qualification

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

Reading and writing tasks with non-verbal and written responses, including one translation task from English to Welsh and a proofreading task.

Unit 4: Descriptive, creative and imaginative

25% of qualification

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

Unit descriptions will be released during years 10 and 11.

Useful Revision Sites:

[Resource WJEC Educational Resources Website](#)

CAREER INFORMATION

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

Option—GCSE Spanish

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

Exam board: WJEC

Specification Code:

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

(The topics covered at GCSE)

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

- LISTENING
- SPEAKING
- READING
- WRITING

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

HIGHER TIER: for grades A* - D

FOUNDATION TIER: for grades C - G

Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3
Identity & Culture	Wales and the World	Current & future study and employment
Youth Culture	Home and Locality	Current Study
Lifestyle	The Wider World	Employability & future plans
Customs and Traditions	Global Sustainability	

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

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

Unit 1: SPEAKING ORAL TASK—25% 60 MARKS

Three tasks:

- Role play
- Photo card discussion
- Conversation

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

Unit 2: LISTENING WRITTEN EXAMINATION—25% 40 MARKS

Listening comprehension tasks with non-verbal and written responses

Unit 3: READING WRITTEN EXAMINATION—25% 60 MARKS

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

Unit 4: WRITING WRITTEN EXAMINATION—25% 60 MARKS

Writing tasks including one translation task from English into Spanish

CAREER INFORMATION

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

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

Core—GCSE Mathematics

Core—GCSE Numeracy

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

Exam board: WJEC

COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

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

EXAM FORMAT

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

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

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

The majority of students will be entered for both GCSEs.

REVISION

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

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

CAREER INFORMATION

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

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

GCSE Science (Core—Double Award & Option—Triple Science)

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

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

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

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

Triple Science is the best course to prepare for A-levels in Science subjects. It also provides an excellent foundation for those wanting to study pure Sciences or Science based courses such as Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Veterinary Science and Engineering at university.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Useful Revision Sites:

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

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

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z27m6fr/revision/1>

Option—GCSE Digital Technology

Pupils will complete this GCSE in Years
10/11

All external exams are sat in summer of
Year 11

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

- digital technology systems
- the value of digital technology
- perspectives on digital technology

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

- Interrogating spreadsheet data
- data-informed digital products (building websites, animations and games)

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

- social media and online marketing communications
- creating digital assets and planning digital communications.

Useful Revision Sites:

Knowledge support – BBC Bitesize:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zhxyf4j>

GCSE Pod

<https://www.gcsepod.com/using-blended-learning-to-support-key-stage-4/>

Practice Exam Questions – Uploaded to Google Classroom

Teachict.com - theory resources:

https://www.teach-ict.com/gcse_new/gcse_ict_home.html

Option—GCSE Product Design

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

Exam board: WJEC

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Areas of Study

- Product Analysis
- General issues (sustainability, recycling, global issues, production methods etc.).
- Materials and Components
- Manufacturing Processes
- Tools, equipment and making
- Practicals
- ICT, CAD CAM, Systems and Processes
- The design process

Unit 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century:

Written examination: 2 hours

50% of qualification

A mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing candidates' knowledge and understanding of one area:-
Product Design.

Unit 2: Design and make task Non-exam assessment: (NEA)

Approximately 35 hours

50% of qualification

A sustained design and make task, based on a contextual challenge set by WJEC, assessing candidates' ability to:

- identify, investigate, analyse and outline design possibilities
- design and make prototypes and evaluate their fitness for purpose.

Useful Revision Sites:

Hodder revision guides are available from the faculty at a cost of £7.

Knowledge Organisers: <https://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=4237>

Blended Learning Resources: <https://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceByArgs.aspx?subId=8&lvlId=2>

Exam Walk-throughs: <https://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=4037&langChange=en-GB>

CAREER INFORMATION

There are many careers related to design and technology. They fall into two general groups:

1. Careers related to design and product development
2. Practical careers in design and manufacture.

Option—GCSE History

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

Exam board: WJEC
Specification Code: 3100QS

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CAREER INFORMATION

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

Journalism
Public Services
Administration
Nursing
Community work
Education
Retail
Research
Armed Forces
Law

Option—GCSE Geography

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

Exam board: WJEC
Specification Code: 3690QS

COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

In Geography the following core themes are studied:

Core theme 1: Landscapes and physical processes

Core theme 2: Rural-urban links

Core theme 3: Tectonic Landscapes and Hazards

Core theme 5: Weather, Climate and Ecosystems

Core theme 6: Development and Resource Issues

Core theme 8: Environmental Challenges

Terminal Examination and Controlled Assessment:

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

Unit 1: Changing Physical and Human Landscapes

Unit 2: Environmental and Development Issues

Unit 3: Fieldwork Enquiry Non-examination assessment: 2 hours 30 minutes 20% of qualification

The NEA consists of 2 fieldwork sessions undertaken in the Autumn Term of Year 11. The write up (2000 words) is completed under direct teacher supervision, in 20 hours during the second half of the Autumn Term in Year 11.

CAREER INFORMATION

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

Option—GCSE Religious Studies

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

Exam board: WJEC
Specification Code: 3120UA0-1

COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT

Unit 1: E & D in Society

Keywords -Equality and inequality in Society

Diversity in society -Importance of respect -Stereotyping and labelling—Effects of prejudice and discrimination.

Unit 2: E & D in the Community

Signs of diversity—Value of diversity—Benefits of diversity -Creating and maintaining a diverse environment—Threats to diversity -Support services.

Unit 3: E & D in the Workplace

Case studies - Promoting E&D in the Workplace - Recruitment—E&D and Pay Policies and codes of conduct -Economic, social, legal and moral aspects of E&D.

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

PART A: Religion

Christianity: Core beliefs, teachings and practices

Judaism: Core beliefs, teachings and practices

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

Issues of Life and Death

Issues of Good and Evil

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

Part A:

As Above

Part 2:

Ethical Themes (from the perspective of Judaism and Christianity)

Issues of Relationships

Issues of Human Rights

CAREER INFORMATION

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

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

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

Option—GCSE Business Studies

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

Exam board: WJEC
Specification Code: 3510U10-1

COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT

Pupils will sit 3.5 hours at the end of Year 11.

Unit 1: Business World Written examination: 2 hours 62.5% of qualification 100 Marks

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

Unit 2: Business Perceptions Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 37.5% of qualification 60 Marks

Data response questions covering all of the specification content

Useful Revision Sites:

<https://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=4527>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zkhwd6f>

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/student-support/revision-resources/new-blended-learning/>

Core—Equality and Diversity

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

Exam board: NCFE

Specification Code: Level 2 Certificate

COURSE OVERVIEW & ASSESSMENT

All pupils study this qualification.

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

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

Unit 1: E & D in Society

Keywords -Equality and inequality in
Society -Diversity in society -Importance
of respect -Stereotyping and labelling
Effects of prejudice and discrimination.

Unit 2: E & D in the Community

Signs of diversity -Value of diversity-
Benefits of diversity -Creating and
maintaining a diverse environment-
Threats to diversity -Support services.

Unit 3: E & D in the Workplace

Case studies - Promoting E&D in the
Workplace - Recruitment -E&D and Pay
Policies and codes of conduct— Economic, social, legal and moral aspects of E&D.

Useful Support:

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

Core—Skills Challenge Certificate

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

Exam board: WJEC
Specification Code: 90S9QO

COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT

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

These skills include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Option—GCSE Drama

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

Exam board: WJEC
Specification Code: 3690QS

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

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

Unit 1: Devising Theatre

Internally assessed, externally moderated, practical exam,.

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

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

Unit 2: Performing

Externally assessed practical exam by a visiting examiner

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

Unit 3: Interpreting Theatre

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

Section A: Set Text

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

Useful Revision Sites:

https://resource.download.wjec.co.uk/vtc/2019-20/wjec19-20_1-15/wjec/05-Two-Faces.pdf

<https://resources.wjec.co.uk/pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rlid=3256>

https://resource.download.wjec.co.uk/vtc/2019-20/wjec19-20_1-15/wjec/05-Two-Faces.pdf

CAREER INFORMATION

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

Option—GCSE Art & Design

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

Exam board: WJEC
Specification Code:

COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT

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

- **STUDY FROM OBSERVATION**

Drawing and painting in a variety of techniques and media

- **GRAPHICS**

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

- **ILLUSTRATION**

Descriptive drawing and painting, including book illustration

- **COMPUTER ART**

- **SCULPTURE** - 3D sculptures, reliefs etc.

- **THEMATIC WORK** - using a theme as a starting point. Your work can then be completed in fine art, graphics or sculpture

- **MIXED MEDIA** - using a wide range of materials

- **PHOTOGRAPHY** - digital photography, including editing/manipulation

- **JEWELLERY DESIGN AND FASHION**

The course consists of:

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

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

There are four assessment objectives that form the marking framework.

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

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

Useful Support:

Art Club after school every Friday.

CAREER INFORMATION

Prospects available in:

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

Option—GCSE Music

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

Exam board: WJEC
Specification Code: 3660QS

COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT

You will learn to:

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

SKILLS NEEDED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices

Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble

Area of study 3: Film Music

Area of study 4: Popular Music

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

Useful Revision Sites:

<https://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=3361>

CAREER INFORMATION

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

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

Option—GCSE Dance

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

Exam board: AQA
Specification Code:

COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT

The Course is divided into three areas of study:

1. Performance 30%

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

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

2. Choreography 30%

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

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

Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills

Critical appreciation of own work

Critical appreciation of professional works

CAREER INFORMATION

Possible careers leading on from studying GCSE Dance include:

Performer	Physiotherapist
Choreographer	Theatre Technician
Teacher	Arts Administration

Option—GCSE Physical Education

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

Exam board: WJEC
Specification Code: 3550QS

COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT

UNIT 1: 50% - Introduction to Physical Education

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

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

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

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

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

EXAM FORMAT

50% THEORY EXAM (2 hour written exam)

50% PRACTICAL EXAM

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

Useful Revision Sites:

[GCSE Physical Education - WJEC - BBC Bitesize](#)

CAREER INFORMATION

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

Armed Forces	PE teacher	Strength and Conditioning coach
Physiotherapy	Policeman	Sports development
Fire Service	Sports scientist	

Option—Prince's Trust

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

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

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

Our qualifications seek to:

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

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

QUALIFICATION

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

CAREER INFORMATION

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

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

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

The Prince's Trust is recognised by Qualifications Wales.



Website: www.ysgolbrynalyn.co.uk

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