



KEY STAGE 4

COURSE INFORMATION

2022

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To Year 9 Pupils

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 the teacher's comments in 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 10th 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.

A. Slinn, Headteacher

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. Gareth Jones, 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 \(gov.wales\)](https://www.gov.wales/careers) for information.
- (b) Follow the link to Head of Faculty presentations about their subject area.
- (c) Look at the resources in the Careers Library.
- (d) Speak to Mandy Williams the Careers Adviser.
- (e) 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.

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.

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

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

The subjects which you must all study are:

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

The following non examination subjects are also followed:

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

These compulsory subjects make up the core curriculum.

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

Making your Choice

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	

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 10th February.
- Complete and return the signed options form to your tutor by no later than Friday 18th February.

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

Examinations

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

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

The General Certificate of Education (GCSE)

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

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

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

Level 1 and Level 2 Qualifications

These are qualifications that have GCSE equivalence.

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

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

[Exam Information 2021/22 - 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: [14-19 Network - Coleg Cambria](#)

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, 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.

Core Subjects



ENGLISH

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.

ALL pupils are normally entered for English Language GCSE, with the majority currently entered for English Literature.

ASSESSMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE

20% Two speaking & listening controlled assessments

40% Paper 1 (Unit 2):
Reading (40 marks)
Writing (40 marks)

40% Paper 2 (Unit 3):
Reading (40 marks)
Writing (40 marks)

ASSESSMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE

Higher tier - A*-D

Foundation tier - C-G

25% Two written controlled assessments, one on Shakespeare and one on poetry (25% combined)

35% Paper 1: Prose (different cultures) and poetry (contemporary) (2 hours)

40% Paper 2: Literary heritage drama and contemporary prose (2 hours)

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.

MATHEMATICS

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.*

There are three tiers of entry for GCSE Mathematics.

HIGHER TIER: for those aiming to achieve A and A* grades, and those wishing to take A level Mathematics. This tier is suitable for pupils who have achieved a good Level 6 or above in KS3 Teacher Assessments.

Range of grades available: A* - C

INTERMEDIATE TIER: for those aiming to achieve C or B grades at GCSE. This tier is suitable for the majority of pupils. Most pupils are expected to gain grade C or above at GCSE.

Range of grades available: B - E

FOUNDATION TIER: for those pupils who achieved a low Level 5 or below in their Mathematics' Key Stage 3 Teacher Assessments. This tier is only suitable for pupils who have real difficulty in the subject area.

REVISION

Continued practice of topics is seen as the most effective revision technique for mathematics. Pupils are directed by their teachers to focus on specific areas. One useful website for tutorials and practice questions is corbettmaths.com. Pupils can contact their teachers for other useful resources.

EXAM FORMAT

There are 2 GCSEs and both have 2 units. Unit 1 is a non calculator unit and unit 2 requires you to have your own calculator.

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.

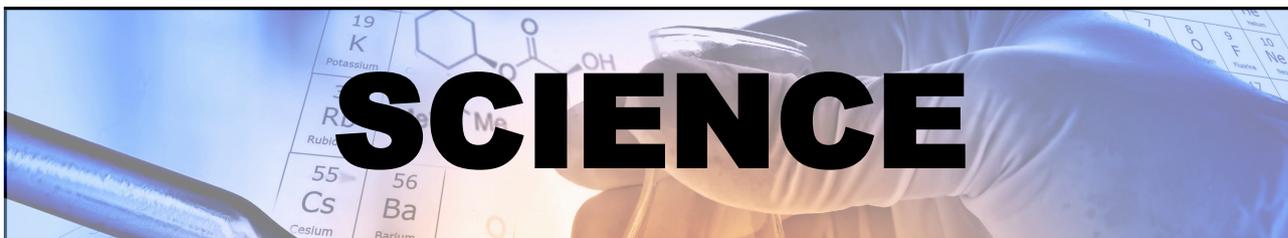
GCSE Mathematics will extend to aspects of Mathematics needed for progression to scientific, technical or further mathematical study. It is expected that most pupils will be entered for both GCSEs.

Note: Most intermediate tier pupils will need to attend weekly revision sessions in order to achieve a C grade.

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.



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.

DOUBLE SCIENCE AWARD

Students will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics in discrete lessons with specialist teachers in each subject. They will take an examination in each subject at the end of Year 10 and a further examination at the end of Year 11. These marks, along with the Controlled Assessment, will be put together to give a double GCSE grade.

DOUBLE SCIENCE AWARD EXAM FORMAT

90% EXAM - 3 examinations in year 10 worth 15% each, 3 examinations in year 11 worth 15% each

10% COURSEWORK - Completed in lessons in year 11

CAREER INFORMATION

Science is a particularly valuable subject to pass at GCSE. It is a basic requirement for many careers, including medical, nursing, veterinary science, mechanical engineering and electrical engineering etc.

As you automatically have a double award at GCSE, this would already make up $\frac{2}{5}$ of the requirement to start a course at Coleg Cambria.

REVISION GUIDES

Are available from the Science department. One covers work for Year 10, the other work for Year 11.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES:

NCFE CERTIFICATE in EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

Prejudice Discrimination Equality Diversity
Human Rights Respect Dignity
Literacy Organisation skills Research
Independent Learning Debate

**“In order to be great,
you just have to care.
You have to care about
your world, communi-
ty, and equality.”**

*Katori Hall, Actress and
Rights Campaigner*

Potential Careers

E & D with English

Journalism, Media, Broa-
casting, Human Rights Law

E & D with Geography

Charity worker, Aid agen-
cies, Travel and tourism

E & D with other subjects

Teaching, Politics, Social
work, Advertising

Course Overview

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.

**“When you hear people
making hateful com-
ments, stand up to them.
Point out what a waste it
is to hate, and you could
open their eyes.”**

Taylor Swift

All work completed, submitted
and marked via Google Class-
room.

NCFE Certificate value: Two B's
at GCSE level

CYMRÆG (WELSH)

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.

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.

SKILLS CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE



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 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 four components which are followed by all learners:

1. Individual Project
2. Enterprise and Employability Challenge
3. Global Citizenship Challenge
4. Community Challenge

The **Supporting Qualifications** include two mandatory GCSEs of English Language/ Welsh Language together with Mathematics-Numeracy. A further 3 GCSEs are also required, of which two may be of equivalent qualifications.

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 Subjects

ART & DESIGN

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

EXAM FORMAT

40% PRACTICAL EXAM

60% COURSEWORK: in the form of a portfolio. This will include written critical studies.

The course includes the study of various artists, designers and craftsmen.

CAREER INFORMATION

Prospects available in:

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

BUSINESS STUDIES

This exciting and ever changing subject will offer you a unique insight into the business world.

The subject content enables learners to apply their knowledge and understanding to different business contexts ranging from small enterprises to large multi-nationals. Learners will gain an understanding of the important role played by these organisations in the UK economy.

Learners will be expected to be familiar with current issues in business and develop an understanding of the dynamics of business activity. The ability to analyse data is essential and learners will be expected to use a range of mathematical skills to make justifiable decisions using both quantitative and qualitative data.

The content is presented in six topic areas:

Business Activity
Influences on Business
Human Resources
Marketing
Business Operations

Two examinations will be taken at the end of year 11:

Unit 1: Business World

This examination is worth a maximum of 100 marks and comprises 62.5% of your GCSE result. It lasts for two hours and covers all of the specification content. The examination paper comprises a mix of short answer and structured questions based on stimulus material.

Unit 2: Business Perceptions

This examination is worth a maximum of 60 marks and comprises 37.5% of your GCSE result. It lasts for one hour and 30 minutes and covers all of the specification. The examination paper is based on a number of data response questions.

Whatever you choose to do in life, this subject will prepare you for the challenges that await when you enter the world of work!





The Course is divided into three areas of study:

1. Performance

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

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

Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills

Critical appreciation of own work

Critical appreciation of professional works

EXAM FORMAT

30% Practical Performance Assessment

30% Practical Choreographic Assessment

40% Written Paper (Appreciation)
1.5 hours

CAREER INFORMATION

Possible careers leading on from studying GCSE Dance include:

Performer

Choreographer

Teacher

Physiotherapist

Theatre Technician

Arts Administration

A background image for the digital technology section, featuring a blurred scene of a person using a laptop with various digital icons like a globe, a gear, and a network diagram overlaid on the screen.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Why choose GCSE Digital Technology?

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.

What will I study?

Unit 1: The digital World - On-screen examination 40% of qualification

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

Unit 2: Digital practices - Non-exam assessment: 45 hours 40% of qualification

- 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

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

DRAMA

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

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

Section A: Set Text

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

Section B: Live Theatre Review

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

CAREER INFORMATION

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

“ Creativity is intelligence
having fun”

Albert Einstein

“ Great theatre is about
challenging how we think and en-
couraging us to fantasise about a
world we aspire to”

Willem Defoe

GEOGRAPHY

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 we study the following topics:

UNIT 1:

Landscapes and Physical Processes / Rural Urban Links / Tectonic Landscapes and Hazards

UNIT 2:

Weather, Climate and Ecosystems / Development and Resource Issues / (Environmental Challenges)

HOW IS GCSE GEOGRAPHY ASSESSED?

40% EXAM UNIT 1

40% EXAM UNIT 2

20% Fieldwork Exam

WHY CHOOSE GCSE GEOGRAPHY?

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.



The History GCSE focuses upon four new and exciting areas of learning:

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

Pupils will learn about the history of depression, war and 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 of 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.

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 throughout time and punishments. This will include changes in criminal activity, causes of crimes, the changing methods of enforcing law and order and changes in 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 an essay focused on Jack the Ripper.

Units 1 – 3 will be assessed through three separate examination papers whereas **Unit 4** will involve an investigation and an essay focused on Jack the Ripper.

SKILLS

Throughout the course you will have the opportunity to develop the following skills:

- Critical reasoning and analytical skills, including the capacity for solving problems and thinking creatively
- The ability to conduct detailed research
- Ability to construct an argument and communicate findings in a clear and persuasive manner, both orally and in writing
- Ability to discuss ideas in groups, and to negotiate, question and summarise
- Capacity to think objectively and approach problems and new situations with an open mind

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



MEDIA STUDIES

This course is designed to enable students to develop their understanding and appreciation of the fascinating world of the media and its important role in today's society.

Radio, television, magazines, newspapers, films, advertising, music. Every day we see and talk about all of these different forms of media, but how do they actually work and what do they really mean?

During this two year course, you will begin to understand how society and people work.

ASSESSMENT

Unit 1:

Written examination:

1 hour 30 minutes -

30% of qualification

Section A: Representation –
advertising, video games and
newspapers

Section B: Music

Unit 2:

Written examination:

1 hour 30 minutes -

30% of qualification

Section A: Wales on Television
Section B: Contemporary Holly-
wood Film

Unit 3:

**Non-exam assessment - 40%
of qualification**

Research, plan and create three
pages of a magazine using
appropriate ICT

As part of the course pupils will

- Explore a range of media texts such as television programmes, magazines and film
- Learn how meaning is conveyed through different forms of media
- Find out first hand what skills are required to create productions that inform and entertain audiences.

CAREER INFORMATION

Radio and Broadcasting
Producer/ presenter
Cinematographer
Director
Visual effects
Marketing and promotions
Social Media marketing
Media researcher



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.

EXAM FORMAT

35% COURSEWORK – COMPOSING
The coursework will be a folder and CD of your music

35% PERFORMING

30% APPRAISING (written exam)

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.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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 exam paper)

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.

CAREER INFORMATION

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

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

PRINCE'S TRUST CYMRU XL PROGRAMME

Personal Development & Employability Skills Certificate

The certificate 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.

Pupils will be encouraged to think about themselves, and to work with others. They will be developing new skills as they prepare for their working life and future career.

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

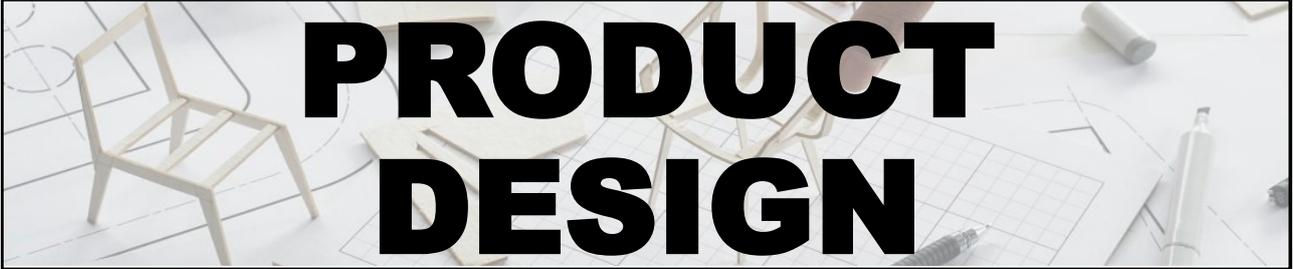
The qualification is a recognised award for pupils to choose as an alternative to a GCSE subject.

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.

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



PRODUCT DESIGN

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

Besides the knowledge you gain through the subject, studying Product Design helps to develop skills like logical thinking, problem-solving, team working, research, computing and planning– which are useful in many different career areas such as industry careers, engineering, architecture and product design, construction and fashion.

This course may incur small costs. Candidates should expect to complete some coursework tasks at home.

EXAM FORMAT

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.

This linear qualification will be available for assessment in May/June in year 11. It will be awarded for the first time in summer 2019.

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.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES; PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

Opinions – Debates – Analysis – Critical Evaluation – Debate – Questioning – Interpretation – Empathy – Clear & Logical Thinking – Literacy & Oracy – Negotiating – Organisation – Problem solving – Research – Working to Deadlines – Questioning

POTENTIAL CAREERS

Prominent careers	Teaching, Civil Service, National Security, Diplomatic Service, Defence Industry, Human Rights, Law, Politics, Emergency Services: Police, Fire, Ambulance, Coastguard, Human Resources.
RS with English	Advertising, Publishing, Journalism, Media, Broadcasting, Copywriting.
RS with Science	Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary, Medical Laboratories, Research & Development.
RS with Maths	Banking, Business, Management, Retail.
RS with Geography	Pilot, Armed Forces, Aid agencies, Charity worker, Travel & Tourism.
RS with other subjects	Hospitality, Youth and Social Work, Councilor, Translator, Self-Employment, Office Administrator.

Skills gained by studying RS:

Philosophy & Ethics are valued by **employers** and **universities**:

Russell Group states that:

“Religious Studies ... provides suitable preparation for entry to university in general.”

Cambridge

University published a list of subjects which are regarded as

EXAM FORMAT

2 Exams; both 2 hours consisting of 4 questions.

PART A: Religion

Christianity: Core beliefs, teachings and practices

Judaism: Core beliefs, teachings and practices

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

Theme 1: Issues of Relationships

Sexual Relationships

Issues of Equality: Gender prejudice and discrimination

Part B: Philosophical Themes

Issues of Life and Death

Issues of Good and Evil

Theme 2: Issues of Human Rights

Human Rights and Social Justice

Prejudice and discrimination

Issues of wealth and poverty

SPANISH

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

COURSE CONTENT

(The topics covered at GCSE)

**Theme 1
Identity & Culture**
Youth Culture
Lifestyle
Customs and Traditions

**Theme 2
Wales and the World**
Home and Locality
The Wider World
Global Sustainability

**Theme 3
Current & future study
and employment**
Current Study
Employability & future plans

EXAM FORMAT

25% SPEAKING EXAM

25% WRITTEN EXAM

25% LISTENING EXAM

25% READING EXAM

All Exams take place at the end of the course in Year 11.

In further and higher education, Spanish can be combined with any subject to enhance your career prospects and enjoyment of travel in Spain. It will help you to become a more effective communicator and to improve your understanding of English.

CAREER INFORMATION

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

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



TRIPLE SCIENCE

Students opting for Triple Science 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.

There are no extra examinations for the Triple Award course. Students still take one exam at the end of Year 10 and a second at the end of Year 11 (the same as students studying Double Science). Each exam is slightly longer than the Double Science course at 105 minutes. Students also undertake an assessed practical in each Science, which is worth 10% of the total marks.