

YSGOL CWM BROMBIL



Key Stage 4

Options Booklet

Dear Students and Parents / Guardians,

This booklet contains information on the courses available for study during Years 9, 10 and 11 at Ysgol Cwm Brombil.

This is an important time for you as you make your option choices – choosing which subjects you wish to pursue further. It is also an exciting time and we are pleased to be offering many new courses as part of the Curriculum for Wales.

This booklet is designed to provide an outline of each subject on offer. Please remember that you will be committing yourself to the subjects you choose. The decisions you make now will help to shape your academic success and potential career choice. Whatever you intend doing in the future, try and ensure that the courses you choose allow a broad, balanced and firm foundation to the next stage of your learning.

Advice for students and parents will be available at Options' Evening and Parents' Evening, where we will be pleased to meet with you. A timeline of events and milestones in the Options' Process is available within this booklet.

Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

As always, we wish you every success – both throughout the option process and in your future studies.

Mr S Clarke
Headteacher



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The Option Process: Timeline

October	Options booklet published
November	Support in school with selecting option subjects. (This will continue throughout the year)
19th December	Interim Progress Report (published week commencing 8 th January)
5th February	Options Online open to pupils and parents
7th February	Options Information Evening
21st February	Options Online closes. Individual discussions with students and parents commence.
28th February	Parents evening. (Face to face meetings with all subject teachers)
15th March	Confirmation of GCSE option choices. Follow up discussions with pupils and parents, as necessary.
19th March	Interim Progress Report (published week commencing 8 th April)



The Option Process: Information

What is the Options Process?

In Years 7 and 8, students have studied approximately 15 subjects.

In Years 9, 10 and 11, there are certain subjects which are essential for all students. These are called “Core Subjects.” They include, English, Mathematics, Science, Welsh. These are the subjects that all students must complete to GCSE level.

As well as this Core Curriculum, you can choose another three subjects. You will then complete these three subjects to GCSE Level.

How do I choose the subjects I want to study?

Selecting your option choices is an exciting decision. It is also an important one. There are several considerations to be made:

- What are your skills, talents and interests? Which subjects do you enjoy the most?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- Do you have a career path in mind? – What subjects would help you to realise your ambitions?

What if I don't know what I want to do after school?

There is no need to worry if you do not know what you want to do in the future. What is important is that you keep your choices broad and balanced so that you don't close doors to particular careers.

At 16+ you could:

- attend a sixth form for further study;
- enter full time education at college;
- enter full time employment;
- enter full time training.

There are a number of people you can talk with to advise you in your choices:

- parents / guardians;
- form tutor and teachers;
- Head of Year and Engagement Officer;
- The Careers' Service. – You can access the School's Career Advisor and Careers Wales Online <https://careerswales.gov.wales/>

Why now?

Selecting your Option Subjects now and studying them throughout Years 9, 10 and 11 will give you more time studying the subjects you enjoy. This means that you will be able to broaden and deepen your understanding and knowledge of these subject disciplines. You will learn more about the subjects you feel passionate about!

Core Subjects

There are some subjects which all students will continue to study throughout their secondary education. These are:

- GCSE English Language and literature
- GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy
- GCSE The Sciences
- GCSE Core Cymraeg

There have been some changes made to the Core Subjects with the development of Curriculum for Wales. These changes are outlined on the following pages.

In addition to this, students will also complete their Welsh Baccalaureate and continue to access Ethnicity, Personal and Social Education and Physical Education.



English Language and Literature

There are now two qualifications which combine English Language and Literature:

- GCSE English Language and Literature (Single Award)
- GCSE English Language and Literature (Double Award)

Subject Development

GCSE English Language and Literature Single Award	GCSE English Language and Literature Double Award
Students will study: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• at least 2 texts, including fiction prose and drama;• a range of poems;• a range of non-fiction texts Students will also: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• write for a variety of purposes and audiences;• participate in speaking and listening tasks.	Students will study: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• at least 3 texts, including fictional prose and drama (Shakespeare).• a range of poems;• a range of non-fiction texts Students will also: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• write for a variety of purposes and audiences;• participate in speaking and listening tasks.

Assessment

This is a new course for learners in Wales. Teaching from September 2024 will focus on broadening students' knowledge, developing their skills and widening students' experiences in English Language and Literature. Students will begin the GCSE course in September 2025. 40% of the qualification will be assessed through non-examination assessment. 20% of this will be in speaking and listening. 60% of the qualification will be assessed through external examination. Students will be assessed on their reading and writing skills.

Core Cymraeg

WJEC Core Cymraeg GCSE

Subject Development

Students will develop their understanding and responses and communication and expressions in the Welsh language.

Assessment

This is a new course for learners in Wales. Teaching from September 2024 will focus on broadening students' knowledge, developing their skills and widening students' experiences in Cymraeg. Students will begin the GCSE course in September 2025. 50% of the qualification will be assessed through non-examination assessment. This will include speaking (30%) and listening (20%). 50% of the qualification will be assessed by external examination.

Mathematics and Numeracy

WJEC Mathematics and Numeracy GCSE (Double Award)

Subject Development

Mathematics and Numeracy have been combined into one (double award) GCSE qualification. Students will study number, algebra, geometry and measures, statistics and probability. They will study Mathematics and Numeracy in real world contexts.

Assessment

This is a new course for learners in Wales. Teaching from September 2024 will focus on broadening students' knowledge, developing their skills and widening students' experiences in Mathematics and Numeracy. Students will begin the GCSE course in September 2025. Assessment in Mathematics and Numeracy will be 100% examination.

The Sciences

WJEC The Sciences GCSE (Double Award)

Subject Development

Students will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They will also develop their understanding about how the three subject disciplines are interrelated. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding in the areas outlined below:

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• variation, mutation, natural selection• dynamic ecosystems• biological processes• human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• bonding, structure and properties of matter and substances• atomic structure and the periodic table• reactivity and energy• rate of chemical change• acidity and neutralisation• analysis of substances• organic chemistry• tackling climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• motion• forces and moments about a point• energy• electrical circuits• waves and the world around us• fields and electromagnetism• radioactivity• exploring space

Assessment

This is a new course for learners in Wales. Teaching from September 2024 will focus on broadening students' knowledge, developing their skills and widening students' experiences in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students will begin the GCSE course in September 2025. There will be an individual examination in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each of these examinations is worth 25% of the overall qualification. 15% of the qualification will be an external examination on *Bringing the Sciences Together*. There will be a practical assessment accounting for 10% of the qualification.

Option Subjects

The following pages include information which will give you an overview of the courses offered at Ysgol Cwm Brombil.

It is hoped that all of these courses will be available to you in September, **HOWEVER**, please be aware that subjects will be removed if demand from students for those subjects or the resources to offer these courses are not present.

Each subject area has to set a limit on class size. There will be occasions when some pupils will be directed to another, related subject because their chosen subject is full.

Grades and Point Scores

For each qualification, the grades available and point scores have been displayed for you. You will find the point scores will help you to understand the 'currency' of different types of qualifications. For example, a Double Award worth 92 points (where the grade is "Level 2 Pass") will be the same points value as 2 B grades in a more traditional GCSE course.



Art and Design: Art, Craft and Design

WJEC Art and Design GCSE

Grades Awarded:

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Points	58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16	0

Subject Development

This course is for students who are imaginative, visually aware and artistically inclined. Students will develop their drawing skills and experiment with different materials. They will learn about diversity of cultures and societies through art, as well as responding to Welsh and global art. Students will develop and refine their practical and technical skills and develop their own personal creative responses. Students will evaluate the effectiveness of various pieces of art work.

Assessment

This is a new course for learners in Wales. Teaching from September 2024 will focus on broadening students' knowledge, developing their skills and widening students' experiences in Art, Craft and Design. Students will begin the GCSE course in September 2025. Assessments will be completed throughout the course. 60% of the qualification will be awarded on the creation of a Portfolio. The remaining 40% of the course will be assessed through an assignment set by the exam board.

Experiences and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

- experiencing a variety of professional works through workshops and gallery /exhibitions /museum visits either in person or on-screen;
- confidence in giving and receiving feedback, promoting independent thinking, originality and creative resilience;
- opportunities to investigate, take risks and overcome creative challenges;
- gaining an awareness of the different careers, roles and individual work practices associated with the production of art, craft, and design in the creative and cultural industries;
- using digital technology as appropriate to the chosen pathway;
- gaining a basic awareness of ethical and legal considerations as appropriate.

Further Study and Employment

The 'Creative industry' is now one of the fastest growing in Wales. GCSE Art and Design can lead pupils into fine art, photography, illustration, advertising, interior design, architecture, animation, web design, set design.



Art and Design: Graphic Communication

WJEC Art and Design GCSE

Grades Awarded:

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Points	58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16	0

Subject Development

Students will develop their understanding of the range of graphical work both physical and digital. They will learn to appreciate the multi-purpose use of graphics, for example, personal, commercial, educational, cultural and political. Students will gain an understanding of the different scales of graphic work, including examples in our daily lives, for example, logo designs, business cards, t-shirt designs, international websites. Students will evaluate the effectiveness of various pieces of graphic work and refine and develop their own technical skills.

Assessment

This is a new course for learners in Wales. Teaching from September 2024 will focus on broadening students' knowledge, developing their skills and widening students' experiences in Graphics. Students will begin the GCSE course in September 2025. Assessments will be completed throughout the course. 60% of the qualification will be awarded on the creation of a Portfolio. The remaining 40% of the course will be assessed through an assignment set by the exam board.

Experiences and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

- experiencing a variety of professional works through workshops and gallery /exhibitions /museum visits either in person or on-screen;
- confidence in giving and receiving feedback, promoting independent thinking, originality and creative resilience;
- opportunities to investigate, take risks and overcome creative challenges;
- gaining an awareness of the different careers, roles and individual work practices associated with the production of art, craft, and design in the creative and cultural industries;
- using digital technology as appropriate to the chosen pathway;
- gaining a basic awareness of ethical and legal considerations as appropriate.

Further Study and Employment

Career opportunities for Graphic Design students may include: Graphic Designer; Visual Designer; Motion Designer; Digital Designer; App Designer; Web Designer; Packaging Designer, Product Designer; Fashion Designer; Animator; Graphic Artist; Environmental Graphics; Photographer; Illustrator; Film / Media; Architecture.



Art and Design: Textile Design

WJEC Art and Design GCSE

Grades Awarded:

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Points	58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16	0

Subject Development

Students will develop their skills in designing and creating a range of individual, high-quality fashion and interior design products. They will be encouraged to experiment and test their creative ideas, research existing products and develop their skills and techniques. Students will evaluate the effectiveness of various pieces of textile design. Students will learn about diversity of cultures and societies through textile design, as well as responding to Welsh and global pieces.

Assessment

This is a new course for learners in Wales. Teaching from September 2024 will focus on broadening students' knowledge, developing their skills and widening students' experiences in Textiles. Students will begin the GCSE course in September 2025. Assessments will be completed throughout the course. 60% of the qualification will be awarded on the creation of a Portfolio. The remaining 40% of the course will be assessed through an assignment set by the exam board.

Experiences and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

- experiencing a variety of professional works through workshops and gallery /exhibitions /museum visits either in person or on-screen;
- confidence in giving and receiving feedback, promoting independent thinking, originality and creative resilience;
- opportunities to investigate, take risks and overcome creative challenges;
- gaining an awareness of the different careers, roles and individual work practices associated with the production of art, craft, and design in the creative and cultural industries;
- using digital technology as appropriate to the chosen pathway;
- gaining a basic awareness of ethical and legal considerations as appropriate.

Further Study and Employment

Students can progress to A Level Textiles and a range of further education opportunities, such as Fashion Design, Interior Design, Fashion Illustrator, Fashion Photography, Fashion Journalism, Contemporary Textiles, Shoe Design, Accessory Design, Merchandising, Styling.



Business

WJEC Business GCSE

Grades Awarded:

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Points	58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16	0

Subject Development

GCSE Business will help students to understand the interconnections between business and society. They will explore how economic realities shape the Welsh and global economies.

Topics covered in the course will include:

- technology and its impact on business, the environment, and people;
- sustainability: environmental implications for business and environmentally supportive
- business models;
- enterprise and entrepreneurship;
- governance and ethics;
- the external environment and its impact on business.

Experiences and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

- engage in out of classroom learning (either in person or online) in contrasting business sectors;
- explore enterprise and innovation in action for example through engaging with business mentors in person or online;
- develop confidence to take risks and overcome creative challenges;
- develop empathy, tolerance, compassion, and curiosity through engaging with different and diverse business contexts, and perspectives;
- engage in collaborative working;
- gain awareness and appreciation of some of the different careers and work-related areas, linked to the subject content.

Assessment

This is a new course for learners in Wales. Teaching from September 2024 will focus on broadening students' knowledge, developing their skills and widening students' experiences in Business. Students will begin the GCSE course in September 2025. There will be a combination of exam and non-examination assessment. Non-examination assessment will make up 50% of the qualification. This will include a Research Enquiry and tasks set by the exam board where students will apply their conceptual knowledge. There will be an examination worth 50% of the qualification.

Further Study and Employment

A Level courses in Business, Accountancy, Economics, Politics, Law. Vocational courses in Business, administration or technology. University courses in Business, Finance, Accountancy, Economics, Marketing, International Business, Event Management, Human Resources. Career paths include Financial, Service, Retail, Tourism, setting up an independent business.

Computer Science

WJEC Computer Science GCSE

Grades Awarded:

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Points	58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16	0

Subject Development

Students will develop their skills in computational thinking, learning to understand and apply concepts of computer science. They will model and analyse problems in computational terms to develop and implement strategies to solve them. Students will need to apply appropriate mathematical skills. Students will explore relevant social, professional, ethical, environmental and legal dimensions of systems. The following topic areas will be included:

- computer architecture (components, peripheral devices, storage);
- how systems are structured and function (data types, data and file structures, automated systems);
- how systems communicate: (networks and infrastructure, cybersecurity and personal privacy, algorithms);
- software (principles of programming, software development, program construction, logical operations, operating systems, systems development life cycle).

Experiences and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

- undertaking 'unplugged' learning and development activities to help visualise computational concepts;
- engaging with examples and achievements in programming that have provided solutions to real-world problems;
- engaging in discussions about the potential impacts of the latest Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools and technologies, and developments in this field;
- using design-thinking to understand how a range of approaches could solve computer science problems;
- developing collaboration and teamwork skills by working with, and learning from, others;
- gaining awareness and appreciation of some of the different careers and work-related areas that draw upon computer science.

Assessment

This is a new course for learners in Wales. Teaching from September 2024 will focus on broadening students' knowledge, developing their skills and widening students' experiences in Computer Science. Students will begin the GCSE course in September 2025. Assessments will be completed throughout the course. There will be one on-screen examination, worth 50% of the qualification, and one on-screen coding assessment, worth 50% of the qualification.

Further Study and Employment

A Level courses in Computing or Computer Science. Vocational courses in Business Administration or Technology. University courses in Computer Science, Games Development, Computer Information Systems, Programming, Computing, Business Information Technology, Networking, Multimedia and Web Design, Web Development. Job types may include Programmer, Technician, Network Manager, Database Manager, Games Developer, Web Developer.

Construction

WJEC Level 1-2 Award in Constructing the Built Environment

Grades Awarded:

Grade	Level 2 Distinction*	Level 2 Distinction	Level 2 Merit	Level 2 Pass	Level 1 Pass
Points	58	52	46	40	25

Subject Development

This course takes place at Afan College Campus. Students will develop a broad appreciation of work in construction and the built environment. They will experience a range of practical skills. This may include, plastering, bricklaying, decorating. They will need to apply the appropriate skills and review their work constructively. Students will learn about safety in the work place and how to effectively plan construction projects. They will consider how the use and application of construction projects impacts on individuals, employers, society and the environment.

Experiences and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

- skills required for independent learning and development;
- a range of generic and transferable skills;
- the ability to solve problems;
- the skills of project-based research, development and presentation;
- the fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals, in a professional environment;
- the ability to apply learning in vocational contexts.

Assessment

There will be a combination of exam and practical non-examination assessment. There will be one external examination on Safety and Security in Construction. There will be two practical non-examination assessments. One on Practical Construction Skills and the other on Planning Construction Projects.

Further Study and Employment

There are many college courses and apprenticeships in elements of Construction. These include, plumbing, plastering, bricklaying, building, electrician.



Design and Technology: Product Design

Grades Awarded:

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Points	58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16	0

Subject Development

Students will explore the importance of creativity, iterative design and innovation applied throughout design practices, in the design and development of new products. They will study the modern technologies, materials and practices used to create prototypes and how they meet the needs and wants of the client. Students will analyse existing products that inform the design and production of practical solutions which target specific users and markets. They will learn how to describe ways in which design outcomes can have environmental and societal impacts that can be local, national and international. Students will use their knowledge, skills and understanding to influence their own decisions when making and evaluating a product or prototype.

Experiences and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

- engaging with the work of designers, developing an appreciation of how design thinking is applied and of the diverse range of careers and occupations that use it;
- developing their usage of Computer Aided Design (Autodesk) and prototyping using 3D printing techniques;
- engaging with local developments, projects and initiatives that demonstrate how design thinking is being used in their communities;
- exploring the ways in which design thinking has been used to solve problems nationally and across the world;
- collaborating with others to understand the role that feedback can play in strengthening and testing design thinking, and of how teams can work together to solve complex problems;
- experimenting with materials in safe and controlled environments to understand their properties and possibilities;
- gaining awareness and appreciation of some of the different careers and work-related areas that draw upon design and technology.

Assessment

This is a new course for learners in Wales. Teaching from September 2024 will focus on broadening students' knowledge, developing their skills and widening their experiences in Product Design. Students will begin the GCSE course in September 2025. 30% of the qualification will be assessed through external examination. 70% of the qualification will take the form of a design project. This will involve creating a tangible prototype of a product and creating a portfolio demonstrating knowledge and understanding at different stages of the project.

Further Study and Employment

Potential career opportunities could include: Product Designer; Architect; Biotech; Product Development; Electrical Engineer; Environmental Engineer; Renewable Energy Engineer; Environmental Consultant; Virtual Reality Design; 3D Designer; Design and Creative Media; Games Designer; Design Engineer.

Digital Technology

WJEC Digital Technology GCSE

Grades Awarded:

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Points	58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16	0

Subject Development

Digital Technology allows learners to build on the digital skills, knowledge and understanding that is used both in school and in everyday life. Students will develop their understanding of the range of digital technology systems in our connected and global society. Students will explore the evolving nature of digital technology systems and how these systems can be used productively, creatively and safely.

Experiences and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

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

Assessment

There are three units of study in this qualification:

- The Digital World: examination, worth 40% of the qualification.
- Digital Practices: controlled assessment completed in school, 40% of qualification.
- Communicating in the Digital World, controlled assessment, 20% of qualification.

Further Study and Employment

A Level Information and Communication Technology. Vocational courses in Information Communication Technology, Computer Science, Business. University courses in Games Development, Web Development, Business, Multimedia and Web Design, Graphics. Digital technology is used in the majority of jobs and industries and technology.



Drama

WJEC Drama GCSE

Grades Awarded:

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Points	58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16	0

Subject Development

Students will develop their own talents in performing and explore drama created and performed by others. They will gain an understanding of a range of techniques, forms, styles, genres, contexts and means of presenting drama. Students will develop their creative skills to plan, devise and design effective performances and will reflect and evaluate on their own performances – and that of others. Students will explore themes of human rights and diversity.

Experience and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

- experiencing a variety of professional performance(s) and/or workshops (in person or on-screen);
- experiencing a range of roles – including performer, designer, director, producer and stage manager;
- developing confidence in giving and receiving feedback, promoting independent thinking, originality and creative resilience;
- taking risks, using improvisation and overcoming creative challenges;
- taking part in collaborative performance;
- gaining a basic awareness of ethical and legal considerations as appropriate.

Pupils will be expected to take part in a range of performances, including the school production and ASBO Project. They will also be expected to take part in theatre visits to watch performances. The course does provide opportunities to develop back stage and stage management skills, in particular, technical skills such as lighting.

Assessment

This is a new course for learners in Wales. Teaching from September 2024 will focus on broadening students' knowledge, developing their skills and widening their experiences in Drama. Students will begin the GCSE course in September 2025.

30% of the qualification will be assessed by external examination. 70% of the qualification will be assessed through practical non-examination performance.

Further Study and Employment

There are A Level and BTEC qualifications in Drama, Theatre Studies and Performing Arts. As well as degree and diploma courses in a variety of Performing Arts and artistic production. Career opportunities include working in film, theatre, television, radio and the wider media. Skills taught in Drama are transferrable in many career routes.



Engineering

EAL Level 2 Diploma in Performing Engineering Operations

Grades Awarded:

Grade	Level 2 Pass
Points	98

This qualification is a Double Award.

Subject Development

Students will develop their skills in fundamental skill common to all engineering practices. The course is structured into a series of projects combined with underpinning knowledge. Students will complete both practical and theoretical work. They will apply appropriate mathematical skills.

Experiences and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

- Manufacturing components working to fine tolerances;
- producing complex shapes and fabricate in a range of materials;
- creating engineering drawings and learning to use a range of manufacturing techniques;
- interpreting British Standards in engineering drawings and then apply in manufacture;
- the theory of engineering processes and techniques;
- applying mathematical principle and theory.

Assessment

The qualification is assessed on a continual basis. There is no external examination.

Further Study and Employment

Performing Engineering Operations at Level 2 forms a major component of SEMTA's Engineering Apprenticeship Framework and allows progression onto a variety of other Level 3 Engineering related qualifications. Other career opportunities could include: Mechanical / Electrical Engineering; Production Engineering; Apprenticeships; Design Engineer; Marine Engineering; Agricultural Engineering; Motor Vehicle Engineering.



Food and Nutrition

WJEC Food and Nutrition GCSE

Grades Awarded:

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Points	58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16	0

Subject Development

GCSE Food and Nutrition supports students in understanding the journey of food from 'field to fork.' Students will learn how to make healthy and informed food choices and to explain the function and nutritional benefits of food and drinks in the human body. Students will explore the links between nutrition and health and wellbeing. They will learn how to safely store, prepare, cook and serve food. Students will develop their cooking methods and techniques from local, national and international cuisines. They will explore human rights and diversity and gain appreciation of how food connects us to the world around us.

Experiences and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

- taking part in a variety of cooking tutorials and experiences, such as practical demonstrations from teachers or professional chefs (in person or online);
- gaining experience of receiving and responding to feedback;
- working collaboratively when planning and preparing meals and menus;
- exploring the various career opportunities within the related sectors;
- making appropriate use of digital technology.

Assessment

This is a new course for learners in Wales. Teaching from September 2024 will focus on broadening students' knowledge, developing their skills and widening their experiences in Food and Nutrition. Students will begin the GCSE course in September 2025. There will be a range of internal and external assessments. 40% of the qualification will be assessed through external examination. 40% of the qualification will be assessed through a *Food and Nutrition in Action* task. This involves planning, preparing, cooking and presenting food. 20% of the qualification will be assessed through a *Food Investigation* which involves practical experimentation with food.

Further Study and Employment

There are many college courses in the field of Nutrition, Hospitality and Catering. Career opportunities include that in the hospitality industry.



French

WJEC French GCSE

Grades Awarded:

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Points	58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16	0

Subject Development

Students will develop their understanding of French through advancing their reading, listening, speaking and writing skills. They will develop understanding and application of the vocabulary and grammar of the French language. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the culture and society of the countries and communities where French is spoken. They will make connections with their own language and culture.

Experiences and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

- learning about the culture and society in the countries and communities where French is spoken;
- exploring the cross-cutting themes of human rights and diversity, including Black, Asian and minority ethnic perspectives, identity, culture and contributions;
- having direct or indirect contact with speakers of the language;
- engaging with the language from a variety of sources and in a variety of genres and media;
- demonstrating language strategies and language learning skills, including the use of dictionaries;
- making use of digital technology;
- making appropriate connections with other parts of the curriculum to develop and deepen Learners' bilingual and multilingual skills.

Assessment

This is a new course for learners in Wales. Teaching from September 2024 will focus on broadening students' knowledge, developing their skills and widening their experiences in French. Students will begin the GCSE course in September 2025. There will be a range of examination and no-examination assessments. Between 15-20% of the qualification will be non-examination assessment in reading and writing. 30% of the qualification will be assessed through speaking and listening. Between 50-55% of the qualification will be assessed through external examination in listening, reading and writing.

Further Study and Employment

GCSE French is an excellent foundation for A Level French. It is also a basis for language in the workplace and language for leisure and holidays. Potential careers include translation and interpretation, international law, education, travel and tourism, customs and the diplomatic service, business sales and marketing.



Geography

WJEC Geography GCSE

Grades Awarded:

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Points	58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16	0

Subject Development

Geography will foster an understanding and appreciation of the changing world. Students will explore the complex interrelationships between people and their environment. They will explore geographical causes, effects and consequences and make sense of the world to work towards a sustainable future. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of the geographical concepts of place, space, scale, process, change, inter-relationships, diversity, environment. They will develop their geographical knowledge of economic, social, cultural and political inter-connectedness between people and places and how environments, people and places adapt over time. They will explore human rights and diversity, including the impacts of migration, integration and segregation in a geographical context. They will be responsive to current events and develop a range of research, enquiry and investigation skills.

Experiences and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

- use of digital technology;
- developing empathy, tolerance, compassion and curiosity, through studying geographical contexts;
- participation in educational visits (in person or digitally);
- engage in collaborative working.

Assessment

This is a new course for learners in Wales. Teaching from September 2024 will focus on broadening students' knowledge, developing their skills and widening their experiences in Geography. Students will begin the GCSE course in September 2025. 60% of the qualification will be assessed through two external examinations. 40% of the qualification will be assessed through non-examination assessment.

Further Study and Employment

Career opportunities involve Cartographer, Environmental Consultant / Researcher, Town Planner, Conservation Officer, Landscape Architect, Teacher, Transport Officer, Market Researcher. Potential employers can include The Ministry of Defence, Local Governments, Police Services, Environmental Protection Agencies.



Hair and Beauty

Level 2 Extended Award in Hair and Beauty Skills. (Please note this qualification is subject to change and may be replaced with an alternative Hair and / or Beauty qualification)

Grades Awarded:

Grade	Distinction	Merit	Pass
Points	55	49	40

Subject Development

This course takes place at Afan College Campus. Students will learn aspects of hair care relating to skin, hair, hair growth, diseases and disorders. They will also learn about salon health and safety. Students will develop their skills in eyebrow shaping, eyelash and brow tinting and false lash application. They will learn about client homecare and aftercare advice.

Experiences and Skills

Students will have the opportunity to develop practical skills and expertise, including, how to present a professional image, the art of dressing hair, creative styling of hair, including plaiting and twisting.

Assessment

Assessment is through practical tasks and challenges set throughout the course. Students build a portfolio of evidence demonstrating their work.

Further Study and Employment

A variety of courses are available within the NPTC Group College at Afan and Neath. This qualification will enable students to progress to further qualifications that lead to work as fully insured professionals, either in a salon or as freelance practitioners. Possible future careers include working in beauty therapy, photographic, bridal and theatrical techniques of make-up application.



Health, Social Care and Childcare

WJEC Health, Social Care and Child Care GCSE

Grades Awarded:

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Points	58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16	0

Subject Development

Students will study the principles of human development, health and wellbeing. They will explore how the health and social care, and childcare sector supports and promotes the development, health and wellbeing of individuals. Students will develop understanding of the principles, values and approaches that underpin the work of health and social care and childcare professionals in Wales. They will study key conditions and illnesses in adulthood and childhood and explore human rights and diversity in relation to health and social care and childcare. Students will explore types of health and social care in adults. This will include exploring types of care to meet individual needs, key conditions and illnesses in adults and public health promotion in adult health. In relation to learning about social childcare, students will learn about the physical, intellectual, language, emotional and social development of children. They will explore types of care and intervention to meet children's needs and how professionals work to meet these needs. Students will study key illnesses and conditions in child health and the promotion of child health.

Experiences and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

- exploration of local health and social care and childcare provision and services;
- exploration of career opportunities within health and social care and childcare;
- interaction with health and social care and childcare professionals to appreciate their experiences of working in the sector;
- making appropriate use of technology;
- developing collaboration and teamwork.

Assessment

This is a new course for learners in Wales. Teaching from September 2024 will focus on broadening students' knowledge, developing their skills and widening their experiences in Health, Social and Child Care. Students will begin the GCSE course in September 2025. 40% of the qualification will be through external examination. 60% of the qualification will be made up by two non-examination assessments. One of these will be in relation to childcare in Wales.

Further Study and Employment

A Level Health and Social Care, Level 3 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice and Theory, Level 3 Health and Social Care Practice.

Potential careers include nursing, midwifery, teaching, nursery nurse, dietician, social worker, management/government, psychology, probation worker, youth worker, physiotherapist.



History

WJEC History GCSE

Grades Awarded:

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Points	58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16	0

Subject Development

Students will develop their understanding of historical events, periods and societies on a local, national and global scale. They will appreciate the identity, heritage and history of Wales and the world. Students will become independent, critical and reflective historians and develop their skills of historical enquiry, questioning and source analysis and evaluation. They will demonstrate critical appreciation of the concept of historical significance and acquire an understanding of different identities within a complex and diverse society. Students will study a range of different historical eras (including medieval, early modern and modern). They will develop their understanding of Welsh history and explore human rights and diversity through the lens of History.

Experiences and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

- use of appropriate digital technology;
- participation in educational visits;
- development of empathy, tolerance, compassion, curiosity through studying different historical contexts;
- engagement in collaborative working.

Assessment

This is a new course for learners in Wales. Teaching from September 2024 will focus on broadening students' knowledge, developing their skills and widening their experiences in History. Students will begin the GCSE course in September 2025. 60% of the qualification will be assessed through external examinations. 40% of the qualification will be assessed through two non-examination assessments.

Further Study and Employment

A Level History, Sociology, Law. History offers an academic discipline teaching you to think broadly and critically. These are skills that transfer into many workplaces and careers.



Hospitality and Catering

WJEC Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering (Technical Award)

Grades Awarded:

Grade	Level 2 Distinction*	Level 2 Distinction	Level 2 Merit	Level 2 Pass	Level 1 Distinction*	Level 1 Distinction	Level 1 Merit	Level 1 Pass
Points	58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16

Subject Development

Students will gain and develop knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry including provision, health and safety, and food safety. They will develop understanding of the importance of nutrition and apply this knowledge in developing menus. Students will learn the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes. They will also learn how to review their work effectively.

Experiences and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

- applying skills (including practical skills), knowledge and understanding in a variety of contexts;
- planning and carrying out investigations and tasks;
- analysing and evaluating information, making reasoned judgements and presenting conclusions.

Assessment

There are 2 assessment units. The first is an external examination worth 40% of the qualification. This will be about the Hospitality and catering industry. Students will be required to use stimulus material and respond to questions giving both short and extended answers. The second unit is an internal controlled assessment worth 60% of the qualification. Within this, students will respond to a design brief which will include a scenario and several tasks.

Further Study and Employment

Businesses which make up the hospitality sector include hotels, restaurants, coffee shops, pubs and bars, leisure parks, stadia, nightclubs, contract caterers, food service operators, entertainment and visitor attractions. Employment can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers, and food technologists working for supermarket chains. Some of these roles require further education and training either through apprenticeships or further and higher education.



Music

WJEC Music GCSE

Grades Awarded:

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Points	58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16	0

Subject Development

Students will develop their own musical talents, gaining understanding of a range of musical forms, styles, and musical elements. They reflect on, refine, and evaluate their own work and develop creative skills to manipulate musical ideas to communicate meaning. Students will improve their own performance skills. They will also explore music created and performed by other people. Students will develop knowledge, understanding and appreciation of how meaning is communicated musically. They will explore the cross-cutting themes of human rights and diversity and a range of ethnic perspectives, identity, culture, and contributions.

Experience and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

- experiencing professional performance(s) and/or workshops (live or using digital resources);
- experience recording and producing music using current technologies;
- developing confidence in giving and receiving feedback, promoting independent thinking, originality and creative resilience;
- taking creative risks and experience improvisation as part of the creative process;
- taking part in some form of collaborative performance;
- gaining a basic awareness of ethical and legal considerations as appropriate.

Assessment

This is a new course for learners in Wales. Teaching from September 2024 will focus broadening students' knowledge, developing their skills and widening their experiences in Music. Students will begin the GCSE course in September 2025. 35% of the qualification will be assessed by external examination. 65% of the qualification will be assessed through practical non-examination assessment. This will include a performance unit worth 32.5% of the qualification and a composing unit worth 32.5% of the qualification.

Further Study and Employment

A-Level or BTEC Music or Performing Arts, Music College Courses.



Prince's Trust

Prince's Trust Level 2 Diploma in Personal Development and Employability Skills

Grades Awarded:

Grade	Level 2 Pass
Points	92

This qualification is a Double Award.

Subject Development

This qualification explores skills for the workplace. Modules can be tailored to suit individual students. It gives students confidence in their abilities and to know how to make a difference in their community. There are a range of practical tasks that are based in school. Students are challenges to take on activities such as cooking to raise funds for charity and hill walking for sponsorship to gift to local charities.

Experience and Skills

This course develops vital skills and confidence for students. This includes leadership, personal improvement, life skills, digital skills, making presentations and teamwork. Students also develop the skills of managing a project, raising funds and improving the local community.

Assessment

A series of tasks are completed by students and put together into a portfolio. This is assessed by the external moderator. There is no examination.

Further Study and Employment

The skills developed in this qualification are transferable across work places. Possible career paths may include: working in the voluntary sector, retail, public services, military, police, working in the trades.



Religious Studies

WJEC Religious Studies GCSE

Grades Awarded:

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Points	58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16	0

Subject Development

Students will develop knowledge and understanding of religious and non-religious beliefs. They will explore a range of values, teachings, practices, and philosophical convictions. Students will explore ways in which religious and non-religious ethical and philosophical convictions have influenced human experience and society. In so doing, they will explore evidence from a range of sources that engage with philosophical, ethical, and moral issues. Students will reflect on their own values, beliefs, and perspectives and those of others. They will explore ultimate questions, contemplating meaning and purpose and make sense of and interpret human experience, the natural world, and their own place within it. They will explore knowledge and understanding of a range of religions, including, Christianity (or Catholic Christianity), Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism or Sikhism (Sikhi)

Experience and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

- developing independent thinking and confidence in articulating their own beliefs, values, and convictions with increasing sophistication;
- exploring their own beliefs, values, and convictions, understanding that beliefs can change over time;
- developing empathy, tolerance compassion and curiosity through engagement with different religious and non-religious viewpoints and convictions;
- engaging in collaborative working.

Assessment

This is a new course for learners in Wales. Teaching from September 2024 will focus broadening students' knowledge, developing their skills and widening their experiences in Religious Studies. Students will begin the GCSE course in September 2025. 60% of the qualification will be assessed through 2 external examinations. 40% of the qualification will be assessed through non-examination assessment.

Further Study and Employment

The skills gained through the study of ethics are essential in most jobs and particularly medicine, law, science, technology, environmental studies, economics and business.



Spanish

WJEC Spanish GCSE

Grades Awarded:

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Points	58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16	0

Subject Development

Students will develop their understanding of Spanish through advancing their reading, listening, speaking and writing skills. They will develop understanding and application of the vocabulary and grammar of the Spanish language. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the culture and society of the countries and communities where Spanish is spoken. They will make connections with their own language and culture.

Experience and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

- learning about the culture and society in the countries and communities where Spanish is spoken;
- exploring the cross-cutting themes of human rights and diversity, including Black, Asian and minority ethnic perspectives, identity, culture and contributions;
- having direct or indirect contact with speakers of the language;
- engaging with the language from a variety of sources and in a variety of genres and media;
- demonstrating language strategies and language learning skills, including the use of dictionaries;
- making use of digital technology;
- making appropriate connections with other parts of the curriculum to develop and deepen Learners' bilingual and multilingual skills.

Assessment

This is a new course for learners in Wales. Teaching from September 2024 will focus on broadening students' knowledge, developing their skills and widening their experiences in Spanish. Students will begin the GCSE course in September 2025. There will be a range of examination and no-examination assessments. Between 15-20% of the qualification will be non-examination assessment in reading and writing. 30% of the qualification will be assessed through speaking and listening. Between 50-55% of the qualification will be assessed through external examination in listening, reading and writing.

Further Study and Employment

GCSE Spanish is an excellent foundation for A Level Spanish. It is also a basis for language in the workplace and language for leisure and holidays. Potential careers include translation and interpretation, international law, education, travel and tourism, customs and the diplomatic service, business sales and marketing.



Sport and Coaching

WJEC Vocational Award in Sport and Coaching Principles (Technical Award)

Please note, learners opting for Sport may also complete GCSE Physical Education and Health.

Grades Awarded:

Grade	Level 2 Distinction*	Level 2 Distinction	Level 2 Merit	Level 2 Pass	Level 1 Distinction*	Level 1 Distinction	Level 1 Merit	Level 1 Pass
Points	58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16

Please note, most learners opting for Sport will also complete GCSE Physical Education and Health.

Subject Development

Students will develop the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to plan training programmes to improve the fitness of individuals. They will learn about the adaptations that take place in the body following exercise, how training can lead to improvements in fitness, and the planning of training programmes. Students will also develop their knowledge and understanding needed to be able to analyse sporting performance, identify strengths and weaknesses and plan for improvement. They will learn how to plan, lead and evaluate a coaching session within a sporting activity.

Experience and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

- applying skills (including practical skills), knowledge and understanding in a variety of contexts;
- planning and carrying out investigations and tasks;
- analysing and evaluating information, making reasoned judgements and presenting conclusions.

Assessment

40% of the qualification is assessed through external examination on *External Fitness for Sport*. This involves responding to stimulus material and giving a range of short and extended answers. 25% of the qualification is assessed through an assignment brief worth 25% of the qualification. This will be on improving sporting performance and will include a scenario and several tasks. 35% of the qualification will be an assignment on coaching principles. This will also involve a scenario and several tasks.

Further Study and Employment

A Level and BTEC courses are available in Physical Education. Possible career opportunities could include: Teacher; Coach; work in the leisure or recreation industry; Physiotherapist; Sports Psychologist; Sport Therapist; Sport Analyst.



Physical Education and Health

WJEC Physical Education and Health GCSE

Please note, most learners opting for GCSE Physical Education and Health will also complete Sport and Coaching.

Grades Awarded:

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Points	58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16	0

Subject Development

Students will explore a range of knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to health and wellbeing, sports and physical activities. They will learn to perform effectively in different sports and physical activities by developing appropriate skills and techniques, and selecting tactics and strategies. Students will learn about factors that impact on levels of activity and the relationship with physical, social and emotional health and wellbeing. They will explore the socio-cultural influences on participation, and contemporary developments within sport and physical activity. Students will also think critically about their own performance and that of others. They will analyse physical performance and select appropriate strategies and interventions for development and improvement.

Experiences and Skills

The following opportunities and skills will be developed:

- developing health and wellbeing through a variety of sports and physical activities;
- visiting sporting facilities to research sports participation initiatives and opportunities;
- exploring professional, semi-professional and career opportunities within related sectors (in person or digitally);
- officiating in appropriate activities to further enhance understanding of the rules and laws of the activity;
- making appropriate use of digital technology.

Assessment

This is a new course for learners in Wales. Teaching from September 2024 will focus on broadening students' knowledge, developing their skills and widening their experiences in Physical Education and Health. Students will begin the GCSE course in September 2025. 40% of the qualification will be assessed through external examination. As part of this examination, students will need to review and respond to recordings of sports and physical activities. 40% of the qualification will be a non-examination assessment that assesses how students perform in two sports or physical activities. 20% of the qualification will be assessed through a non-examination assessment in coaching or personal training. In this assessment, students will provide coaching or personal training to others.

Further Study and Employment

A Level and BTEC courses are available in Physical Education. Possible career opportunities could include: Teacher; Coach; work in the leisure or recreation industry; Physiotherapist; Sports Psychologist; Sport Therapist; Sport Analyst.

