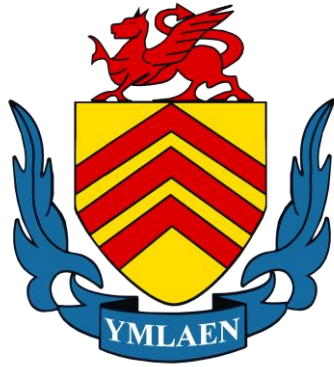
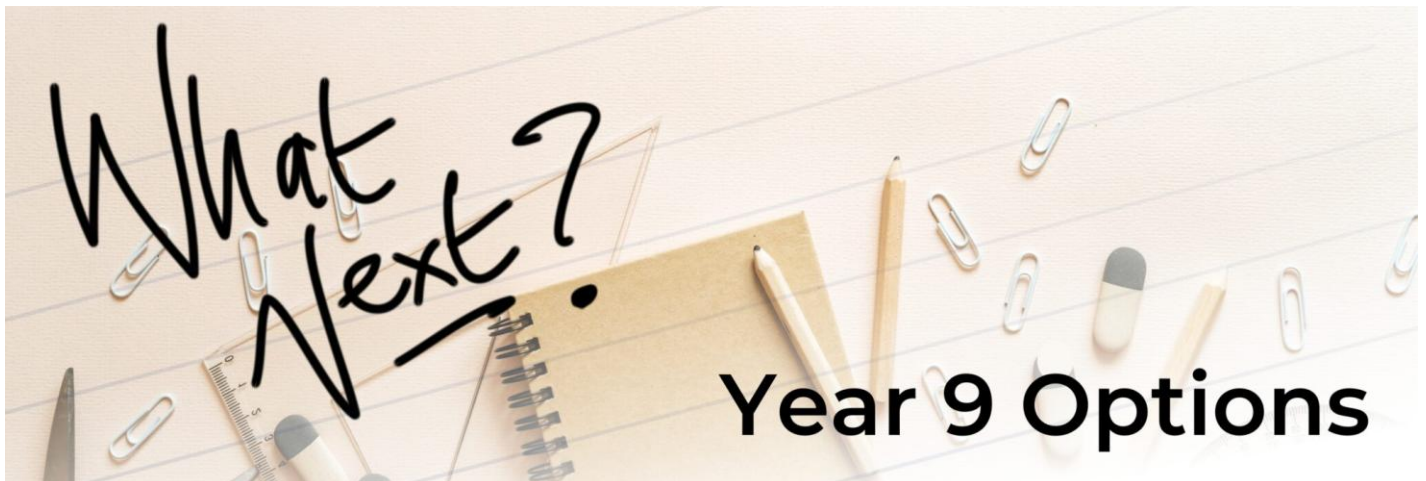




# *Ysgol Uwchradd Cathays High School*



## **Year 9 Options**

*KS4 Subject Options*  
**FINAL CHOICE BOOKLET**

*A guide for all Year 9 pupils and their  
parents.*

# **Contents**

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## **THE CURRICULUM AT KS4**

Throughout Year 7, 8 and 9 at Cathays High pupils study the subjects set down by the New Curriculum for Wales.

The Curriculum at Key Stage 4 must also include subjects required by the Curriculum for Wales, but there is also some choice.

Pupils continue to study the following subjects which form the 'core' curriculum:

|                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|
| Maths and Numeracy (Double Award)                |
| English Literature and Language (Double Award)   |
| Core Cymraeg                                     |
| Games                                            |
| Skills Suite (Replacing the Welsh Baccalaureate) |
| Religious Studies                                |
| Science (Integrated, Double and Separate)        |

# **CHOOSING YOUR OPTIONS**

## **Stage 1 - Free Choice (December 2026)**

In this booklet there is information on all the courses we offer for study in Year 10 and Year 11. Some of these are **compulsory** but others are **optional**.

We therefore need information from you as to which of these each of you would ideally like to study. This is called your **free choice**. Choose carefully at this stage because if not enough pupils pick a subject it will not be offered at stage 2.

## **Stage 2 - Final Options (February 2027)**

This process begins during the Parents' Evening in **February** when there will be a chance to talk to teachers about your choices. This time you will not have a free choice but will have to choose one subject from each of 3 lists or Option Blocks.

## **Stage 3 - (if necessary during the Summer term)**

Hopefully most pupils will get the options of their choice at Stage 2 but, for some pupils, there are sometimes problems because

- too few pupils have finally opted for the subject
- Too many pupils have chosen that subject and the class is full.

In these cases, the issues will be discussed with the pupils and their parents and they will be helped to make a different choice.

## Subject Choices 2026/27

Pupils will select 3 subjects to study next Year

| Subject                                                             | Put a number next to your choices<br>1-first choice<br>2-second choice<br>3-third choice |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Art & Design GCSE                                                   |                                                                                          |
| Business Studies GCSE                                               |                                                                                          |
| Computer Science GCSE                                               |                                                                                          |
| Product Design GCSE                                                 |                                                                                          |
| Drama GCSE                                                          |                                                                                          |
| Spanish GCSE                                                        |                                                                                          |
| Geography GCSE                                                      |                                                                                          |
| Graphics GCSE                                                       |                                                                                          |
| History GCSE                                                        |                                                                                          |
| Sport GCSE                                                          |                                                                                          |
| Fashion and Textiles GCSE                                           |                                                                                          |
| ICT GCSE                                                            |                                                                                          |
| Food & Nutrition GCSE                                               |                                                                                          |
| Music GCSE                                                          |                                                                                          |
| Health & Social Care and Childcare GCSE                             |                                                                                          |
| Separate Sciences (This is Biology, Chemistry and Physics) old Spec |                                                                                          |

Speak to subject teachers before you make your choices

Entry requirements are needed for the following subjects

- Separate Sciences (Set 1 and 2) Review before final choices

## Further Sources of Information

We are happy to discuss issues relating to this booklet and the option choices with pupils or parents at other times.

Should you have any further queries please contact one of the following:

**Mrs K. Harrington: Assistant Headteacher-** for general queries on the whole process

**Mr J. Sage: Raising Standards Leader - Health & Wellbeing**

**Miss A Jacka - Head of Year 9**

For general careers advice (Careers Office). [www.careerswales.com](http://www.careerswales.com)

For more information on individual subjects, please speak to your teacher (for subjects currently studied) or the following for new subjects:

**Miss. B. Churches - Business**

**Mrs H. Alexander - Health and Social Care and Childcare**

**Mrs. E. Webb - Food and Nutrition / Health and Social Care and Childcare**

**Miss P Quiroz - Spanish**

**Choose wisely to reach  
your goals!**



# Art and Design (GCSE)

## *What the course offers*

The course offers opportunities to:-

- Develop art skills further.
- Use many different art materials in creative and imaginative ways.
- Work like a real artist producing original work based on your own ideas.
- Study the works of other artists, craftspeople and designers.
- Explore other cultures from around the world.
- Build your self-confidence, self discipline and commitment.



## *How the course is assessed*

Coursework (60%) - To present an Art sketchbook along with final outcomes (paintings, sculpture, prints, batiks, collage) based on a given theme.

Final Examination (40%) - Six weeks to prepare a second sketchbook on another theme followed by a 10-hour examination to produce a final outcome.

## *Quick Guide - to Help You Choose*

Take this course if you enjoy drawing and painting.

- Take this course if you are keen to use different art materials.
- Take this course if you would like to make larger work based on your own ideas.
- Take this course if you are interested in commenting on other artists' works.
- Take this course if you are prepared to sketch, draw and research for homework.
- Consistency of effort is the key to success.

# GCSE Business

## *What the course offers*

The WJEC GCSE Business qualification will develop your understanding of the activities that make a business successful.

You will gain an insight into critical issues facing businesses and ways in which these can be solved.

You will undertake research to make reasoned judgements and think critically about businesses in your area.

You will also reflect on business activity in the context of the environment and sustainability.

You will study the impact business has on society.

You will explore job market trends and understand different business careers and employment opportunities available to you.



## *How the course is assessed*

- **Unit 1:** Exam - 1 hour 30 minutes - (Year 10 - 30% of qualification)
- **Unit 2:** NEA (Non-examination Assessment) - (Year 10 - 15% of qualification)
- **Unit 3:** Exam - 1 hour 30 minutes - (Year 11 - 30% of qualification)
- **Unit 4:** NEA (Non-examination Assessment) - (Year 11 - 25% of qualification)

## *Quick Guide - to Help You Choose*

**Unit 1 INTRODUCTION TO THE BUSINESS WORLD** – in this unit, you will study the fundamentals of business. You will explore the purpose of business activity and the nature of business enterprises, understanding the different types of business ownership and aims. Additionally, you will learn about markets and business sectors, and the importance of the consumer. You will calculate costs and revenue to make business decisions.

**Unit 2 KEY BUSINESS CONSIDERATIONS** - in this unit, you will undertake research on a chosen business in your locality and to use your research findings to produce a report.

**Unit 3 BUSINESS STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS** – in this unit you will explore the key business functions of finance, marketing, human resources, and production. Additionally, you will study strategies for business growth and understand how businesses are affected by political, legal, and economic external factors.

**Unit 4 BUSINESS CREATION**– in this unit, you will develop enterprise skills. You will carry out primary and secondary market research to collect information for an entrepreneurial opportunity you have identified. You will produce a report that covers key aspects of your business proposal.

# Computer Science GCSE

## *What the course offers*

Employers are needing more and more young people with computing skills to fill skilled jobs, and universities are asking for students to have Computing skills for a wide range of courses. In WJEC Computer Science GCSE course you will learn how computers really work, and not just how to use them.

As well as learning the theory behind computers, networks and programs, you will complete a longer Python project and learn the basics of a number of other programming languages.



## *How the course is assessed*



Unit 1: **Understanding Computer Science - digital online exam (50%)**

Unit 2: **Computer Programming - on-screen examination (50%)**

## *Quick Guide - to Help You Choose*

- computer architecture
- structure of systems and function
- how systems communicate
- security
- problem solving
- algorithmic
- functional decomposition
- programming
- language and compilers
- logical operations
- operating systems
- systems development lifecycle

## Drama (GCSE)

### What the course offers



- explore, respond to stimuli and create and reflect on their own
- work while engaging in rich, authentic experiences
- build understanding of acting, directing, design, technical theatre and arts administration.

Pupils will have the opportunity to

### Explore - Various practitioners, theatrical styles and theatre companies

### Responding and reflecting - linked to live or pre recorded performances

**Creating** - create a final devised piece as part of the process

### How the course is assessed

The Drama course is broken down into three main elements.

## Unit 1 Devising 40%

## Unit 2 Performance – 30%

Unit 3 **Digital Examination** - 30%

## Quick Guide - to Help You Choose

A Largely practical course.

Develop your performance and analytical skills.

Create a performance portfolio.

3 units

1 Digital exam

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

## *What the course offers*



### What the course offers

**Unit 1 CONTEXT AND MEANING - Year 10 - you will study a range of poetry from the WJEC anthology, engaging with the concept of Context and Meaning.**

**Unit 2 BELONGING - Year 10 - you will study a prose text (Boys Don't Cry), engaging with the concept of Belonging**

**and themes of community, cynefin and citizenship.**

**Unit 3 INFLUENCE AND POWER - Year 10 - you will study a range of non-fiction texts, engaging with the Influence and Power of writers, and how writers and speakers exert power and attempt to influence others.**

**Unit 4b MOTIVATIONS - Year 11 - you will study a play (An Inspector Calls), engaging with the concept of Motivations of writers and characters, exploring reasons for attitudes, behaviours and beliefs.**

**Unit 5 CONTINUITY AND CHANGE - Year 11 - you will study a Shakespeare play (Macbeth) and pre-20th Century poetry. You will consider the concept of Continuity and Change, and how attitudes, ideas and language have changed over time.**

**Unit 6 CONNECTIONS - Year 11 - you will study non-fiction texts, focusing on the concept of Connections. You will explore links between different texts, relating texts to time, place, language, and relationships.**

## *How the course is assessed*

**Units 1, 4b and 6 are examined units, together worth 60% of your qualification. Each exam lasts 90 minutes and will consist of low-tariff extract-based questions, an extended essay response and a piece of creative fiction or non-fiction writing.**

**Units 2, 3 and 5 are non-examined assessments, together worth 40% of your qualification. Each unit will consist of two tasks, one that will assess your written response to the relevant text(s) and one that will assess your oracy skills.**

### **What skills will I develop?**

**GCSE English Language and Literature is a core subject and as such helps to develop a wide range of skills for your future:**

- **Communication Skills** – expressing yourself through clear and creative use of language
- **Reading Skills** – reading, listening to and researching a range of texts, analysing meaning and scrutinising reliability
- **Contextual Analysis Skills** – engaging with the significance of purpose, audience, and contexts of speaking, reading and writing
- **Literacy Skills** – developing and applying an understanding of grammar and uses of vocabulary.

### **Careers using ‘English Language and Literature’**

**GCSE English Language and Literature is designed to equip you with a rich variety of skills for your future in education and the workplace. It is a widely valued qualification that provides a strong foundation for further study of literature, language, and a wide range of other academic subjects at A Level and beyond. It can open the door to an array of career paths such as law, journalism, media production, advertising, marketing, teaching, politics, public relations, and publishing.**

**FIND OUT MORE -TALK TO YOUR TEACHER TODAY!**



## Food & Nutrition (GCSE)

### What the course offers



**Pupils must:**

**Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:**

- Food and nutrition
- Preparing, cooking and presenting food

**Apply knowledge and understanding of:**

- Food and nutrition
- Preparing, cooking and presenting food

**Analyse and evaluate different aspects of:**

- Food and nutrition

- Preparing, cooking and presenting food (including food and dishes made by themselves and others)

### Plan, prepare, cook and present dishes, using appropriate skills and techniques

### How the course is assessed

There are Three units:

## Unit 1 – Principles of Food and Nutrition

- develop learner knowledge and understanding of food and nutrition and food preparation and cooking.
- Digital exam (40%)

## Unit 2 - Food Investigation

- apply knowledge and understanding of the working characteristics, function and chemical properties of ingredients in a recipe.
- Non-examination assessment (20%)

## Unit 3 - Food and Nutrition in Action

- plan, prepare, cook and present food using appropriate skills and techniques.
- Non-examination assessment (40%)

## Quick Guide - to this course

- If you enjoy cooking then this is the course for you!
- You need to have a basic understanding of healthy eating.
- Coursework is an essential and demanding part of the course (60%).
- Organisation is important and you must bring in ingredients when required.
- Much of the coursework is timed work in class; therefore preparation will be vital.
- Studying GCSE Food and Nutrition can lead to many careers in the food and catering industry.

# Spanish (GCSE)

## What the course offers

If you enjoy communicating with other people, finding out how language works and learning about different countries and cultures, studying GCSE Spanish is an excellent choice for you!

You will...

- Be able to share your interests, ideas and opinions with other people who speak the language.
- Learn about countries where the language is spoken.
- Add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects.
- Learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, being confident about speaking in public and using problem solving strategies.
- Create greater opportunities to work abroad, or for companies in the UK with



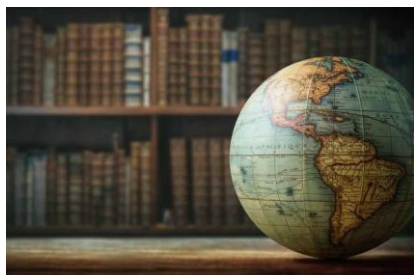
## How the course is assessed

international links. Many employers look for people with language skills.

| Unit 1: Speaking & Listening                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Unit 2: Reading & Writing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Unit 3: Listening                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Unit 4: Reading & Writing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allow learners to communicate meaningfully through speaking</li> <li>• demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the assessed language through their responses</li> <li>• express themselves in a range of contexts</li> <li>• contribute to a conversation.</li> </ul> <p><b>The unit will be based on:</b><br/><b>Core Vocabulary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate effectively in speaking</li> <li>• use accurate pronunciation and intonation.</li> <li>• language, leisure and wellbeing</li> <li>• language for travel</li> <li>• high frequency</li> <li>• high utility</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-Examination Assessment (30%)</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allow learners to demonstrate their awareness of the culture and society of the countries and communities where the language is spoken and makes connections with their own languages and culture.</li> </ul> <p><b>The unit will be based on:</b><br/><b>Human rights in the culture and society of the countries and communities where the language is spoken.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• translinguaging</li> <li>• multilingual</li> <li>• plurilingual</li> </ul> <p>Text might include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• comics</li> <li>• graphic novels</li> <li>• poetry</li> <li>• short stories</li> <li>• songs</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-Examination Assessment (15%)</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allow learners to understand language by listening and responding</li> <li>• identify messages and draw conclusions</li> <li>• communicate effectively in writing</li> <li>• demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the assessed language.</li> </ul> <p><b>The unit will be based on:</b><br/><b>Grammar and core vocabulary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate effectively in writing</li> <li>• listening skills</li> <li>• language for leisure and wellbeing</li> <li>• language for travel</li> <li>• language for work and study</li> </ul> <p><b>Written exam (15%)</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allow learners to understand and respond to written language</li> <li>• identify messages and draw conclusions</li> <li>• communicate effectively in writing</li> <li>• demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the vocabulary, grammar and structures of the assessed language</li> <li>• express themselves in a range of contexts for different audiences and purposes</li> <li>• translate from the assessed language into Cymraeg / English.</li> </ul> <p><b>The unit will be based on:</b><br/><b>communication and expression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communicate effectively in writing</li> <li>• knowledge and understanding of vocabulary and grammar</li> </ul> <p><b>Written exam (40%)</b></p> |

# Geography (GCSE)

## What the course offers



Geography is the study of places and the environment and is therefore a very important and relevant subject for all young people. The GCSE course gives pupils a clear understanding of the world in which they live and enables them to make well informed decisions about it. Full use is made of up to date information and current events happening in the world.

### Unit 1 Our Physical and Human World

1 hour 30 minutes exam (30%)

- 1.1 – Drainage Basin and Rivers
- 1.2 – Changing Coastlines
- 1.3 – Migration
- 1.4 – Settlement Change

### Unit 3 Our Dynamic and Diverse World

1 hour 30 minutes exam (30%)

- 3.1 – Inequality
- 3.2 – The highs and lows of our weather
- 3.3 – Wild Weather
- 3.4 – Continual Climate Change
- 3.5 – Managing Global Challenges

### Unit 2 Developing Fieldwork Skills

NEA (25%)

A report written about fieldwork that students have collected.

7 hours to write up report  
(not including time to complete fieldwork)

### Unit 4 Sustainable Solutions

NEA (15%)

A decision-making exercise based on a Resource Pack that contains sustainable issues with several possible options.

3 hours to research the issue.  
3 hours to respond to the tasks.

## How the course is assessed

Your final grade is based upon:

- Unit 1 - Written exam (30%)
- Unit 2 - Non-examination assessment (25%)
- Unit 3 - Written exam (30%)
- Unit 4 - Non-examination assessment (15%)

## Quick Guide - to Help You Choose

View the full specification by scanning the QR code:



# Health and Social Care and Childcare GCSE

## What the course offers



### Unit 1 - Health and social care, and childcare in Wales in the 21st Century

In this unit you will develop knowledge and understanding of:

- the life cycle and the factors that affect growth and development
- the promotion and maintenance of health and wellbeing, and tools that can be used to measure and support this
- core principles and values, underpinned by legislation and service provision within a Welsh context, across the health and social care, and childcare sectors.

### Unit 2 - Adult Health and Social Care

In this unit you will gain knowledge and understanding of:

- individual needs and key conditions and illnesses in adulthood
- how professionals work in adult health and social care to achieve positive outcomes
- the role of health promotion in public health in Wales.

### Unit 3 - Childcare

In this unit you will gain knowledge and understanding of:

- life stages, expected milestones, and physical, intellectual, language, emotional, and social (PILES) development
- key conditions and illnesses amongst children
- how professionals work, including play and play work, to meet the needs of children in Wales to achieve positive outcomes

## How the course is assessed

### Unit 1 - Health and social care, and childcare in Wales in the 21st Century

Assessment Type: written examination 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of qualification: 80 marks

### Unit 2 - Adult Health and Social Care

Assessment Type: Non-exam assessment 12 hours 30% of qualification: 60 marks

### Unit 3 - Childcare

Assessment Type: Non-exam assessment 12 hours 30% of qualification: 60 marks

## Quick Guide - to Help You Choose

- We all use health and social care services (so you know some things about them already)
- The Care Industry is an expanding Industry
- You'll need to be aware of what is going on in the news about health and social care stories.

# History (GCSE)

## *What the course offers*

- The study of interesting, dramatic and thought-provoking topics and issues from British and World History.
- The development of important skills, valued by employers and essential for the rest of your life - written and oral communication; decision making; reading and evaluating evidence; understanding the causes and consequences of events; investigating how and why things change; making reasoned judgements and developing analytical thinking.
- Consistently excellent exam results with most pupils achieving well in comparison with target grades and grades in other subjects.

## *What the course offers*



### **Pupils must:**

**Demonstrate knowledge and understanding** of the features and characteristics of the period studied

**Apply knowledge and understanding** to historical concepts such as cause and consequence, continuity and change, similarity and difference, and significance

**Analyse, evaluate and make judgements** on source material, historical interpretations and historical debates, synthesising these strands where appropriate

**Select, use and apply skills and techniques** in practice to undertake historical enquiries

## *How the course is assessed*

**Unit 1 - Wales in the era of the civil war c. 1603-1660-** An in-depth study on Welsh History - Written exam (30%)

**Unit 2 - The Black Death c. 1330-c.1360: a case study in medieval society-** An in-depth study on European and/or World history - Non-examination assessment (20%)

**Unit 3 - Changes in US Society c.1880- c.1980-** A study of an extended historical period - Written exam (30%)

**Unit 4 - People and progress in the UK** - Non examination assessment (20%)

## *Quick Guide - to Help You Choose*

- Covers events in International and British History.
- Develops important communication, thinking and problem solving skills.
- No higher or foundation tiers - everyone sits the same exam papers.
- It is not about memorising dates or writing long essays.
- Helps you understand the world we live in and how things have changed, especially the last hundred years.
- Covers developments in scientific knowledge, technology, war, crime, racism, religion, terrorism, fashion, music, sport, health, women's freedoms and the lives of rich and poor in different parts of the World.

**Career Paths with GCSE History:** Law, National & Local government, Civil Service, Media & Journalism, police & armed forces, museums & galleries, teaching, heritage site management, Archives, Archaeology & Conservation

## Digital Technology (GCSE)

The GCSE qualification in Digital Technology is a broad-based qualification that allows learners to build on the digital skills, knowledge and understanding that is used both in their school and everyday lives. The qualification is designed for learners who wish to begin their journey towards a career that utilises digital technologies or to progress onto advanced level programmes of learning involving digital technologies.

The qualification will allow learners to develop their understanding of the range of digital technology systems at use in our connected and globalised society. It will also allow learners to explore the ever-evolving nature of digital technology systems and how these systems can be used productively, creatively and safely.

### *How the course is assessed*

#### **Unit 1: The Digital World**

**On-screen examination: 1 hour 30 minutes; 40% of qualification**

##### **Overview of unit**

**In this unit learners will develop knowledge, skills and understanding in:**

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



#### **Unit 2: Digital practices**

**Non-exam assessment (NEA): 45 hours 40% of qualification.**

##### **Overview of unit**

Learners will be given a brief to investigate. In the past this has included healthy travel, cybersecurity and climate change. Learners will investigate data using Microsoft Excel, before making either a **game** or an **animation** about the theme. They will then create a website to showcase their work.

#### **Unit 3: The digital world**

**Communicating in the digital world Non-exam assessment:  
15 hours - 20% of qualification**

In this unit learners will work on their marketing, social media and video editing skills. They will be given another brief, and must discuss the role and impacts of online marketing and social media. They must then plan, create and evaluate a social media campaign based around a 30-second video.

### *Quick Guide - to Help You Choose*

You cannot choose this course and Computer Science (GCSE). It's either one or the other.

- Lots of hands-on practical lessons
- You do not need programming skills to join this course.
- Theory content is more based around the impact of technology, rather than how it works

- Coursework heavy - the more effort you put in, the higher your grade.

## Mathematics and Numeracy Double award

### *What the course offers*

All pupils follow a course in Mathematics that relates to the National Curriculum statements of:

- number
- algebra
- geometry and measures
- statistics and probability

Pupils will be grouped according to the levels they achieved during Key Stage 3. There will be some movement between groups during Years 10 and 11. This subject is now worth **two** full GCSE's.



### *How the course is assessed*

Unit 1: Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy (Written exam 30%)

Unit 2: Non-calculator Mathematics (Written exam 30%)

Unit 3: Calculator Mathematics (Written exam 40%)

**Higher Tier** may result in grades A\* to D

**Foundation Tier** may result in grades C to G.



### *Quick Guide - to this course*

- This is a compulsory subject.
- You need good numerical skills in other subjects, too.
- Maths is fun.
- Everyone can improve their understanding of Maths.
- Maths is needed for everyday life.

# Music (GCSE)

## *What the course offers*

Music GCSE offers an integrated approach to the three distinct disciplines of performing, composing and appraising through four areas of study. The four areas of study are designed to develop knowledge and understanding of music through the study of a variety of genres and styles. The four areas of study are:



Pupils must:

**Demonstrate and apply** knowledge and understanding of a range of music

**Develop and apply** performance and/or realisation skills

**Reflect on, analyse and evaluate** their own work and the work of others.

**Create and develop** ideas to communicate meaning in compositions.

Unit 1: Performing - 32.5%

- Practical assessment

Unit 2: Composing - Two composition 32.5%

- Practical assessment and reflective log

Unit 3: Appraising 35%

- Digital only exam

## *Quick Guide - to Help You Choose*

- Engage actively in the process of music study
- Develop performing skills individually and in groups to communicate musically with fluency and control.
- Develop composing skills to organise musical ideas.
- Broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity

If you are interested in finding out more information about the different units  
Please come and see a member of the music department.

# WJEC GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

## *What the course offers*

The GCSE in Physical Education provides an introduction to the sporting sector for those pupils looking to build a career in sport. These include careers in exercise and fitness, coaching, PE teaching and sports development.

The course is made up of four units:

- **Unit 1:** Factors affecting exercise, performance, health, well-being and lifestyle choices (40%)
- **Unit 2:** Practical Performance in Physical Education (60%)



**Unit 1:** Factors affecting exercise, performance, health, well-being and lifestyle choices (40%)

Written Paper: 1 hour 30 minutes

*Section A (20%)*

Compulsory questions to test knowledge and understanding of physical fitness, its assessment and factors affecting participation, provision and performance in sporting, health and well-being activities.

This will be assessed through a series of short answer and extended writing questions and based on video extracts.

*Section B (20%)*

Compulsory questions to test knowledge and understanding of physical, psychological and tactical/ technical factors that have an influence on performance, health and well-being.

This will be assessed through a combination of short answers and extended writing questions.

This examination will be available either as an electronic assessment or as a traditional written paper.

**Unit 2:** Practical Performance in Physical Education (60%)

Assessment of four practical activities

## *Quick Guide - to Help You Choose*

This sports course will appeal to you if you:

- Have a keen interest in sport and recreation and always look forward to your PE lessons
- Want to do a course that develops your knowledge and understanding through practical sports.
- Want to improve your performance in a range of sporting roles.
- Are considering a sports-related career or a Level 3 BTEC course.

# Religious Studies (GCSE) - core

## What the course offers

Religious Studies is a statutory requirement throughout your time in school. You are given the opportunity to gain a full course GCSE in the subject which will be graded A\* to G.

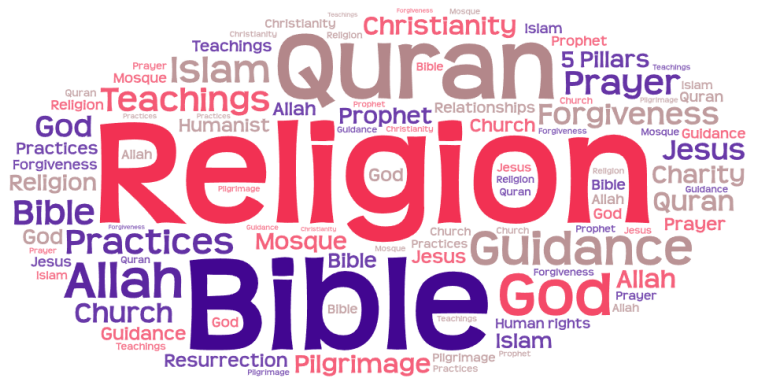
The topics we study make you think, and involve everyday life, whether you follow a religion or not.

The faiths we study are:

**Christianity & Islam**

AND

Non-religious beliefs and philosophical convictions, such as **Humanism** and **Atheism**.



## How the course is assessed

Unit 1: Religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings and practices (Written exam 30% of qualification) - **YEAR 10 summer exam**

Unit 2: Religion & Relationships (Non-examination assessment 20% of qualification) - **YEAR 10 NEA**

Unit 3: Roles, rights and responsibilities (Written exam 30%) - **YEAR 11 summer exam**

Unit 4: Religion and Human rights (non-examination assessment 20%) - **Year 11 NEA**

## Quick Guide - to this course

This is a compulsory subject.

- You do not have to be religious yourself to enjoy this course.

# 3D Design (GCSE)

## What the course offers



In GCSE 3D Design, as in other projects you have carried out in Years 7, 8 and 9, you will be following a Design and Make process. This involves the production of a design folder and a product made from Resistant Materials (woods, metals and plastics). In Year 10 you will carry out a variety of research, designing, modelling & making tasks that will make you familiar with the design process as well as give you an understanding of specific manufacturing processes and the properties of specific materials.

You will build upon your knowledge of hand tools and learn how to use machinery and power tools effectively.

## How the course is assessed

You are able to choose what you wish to make for your Year 11 project following tasks set by the exam board. Candidates in previous years have made children's toys, storage items, lamps and jewellery items.

You will also be able to improve upon your graphical skills and gain a working knowledge of both CAD (computer aided design) and CAM (computer aided manufacture).

The course covered is WJEC - Art & Design - 3 Dimensional Design. There is only one tier level covering grades A\*-G. There are two units: **Unit 1: Design Portfolio - 60%** **Unit 2: Externally set Assignment - 40%**

The design portfolio will be completed throughout Year 10 & 11 and will involve a variety of projects. For the Externally set Assignment you will be required to select a design brief from a list of Controlled Assessment Tasks. A design folder will then accompany a product made from resistant materials (wood, metals and plastics). This will be completed in the workshop over a period of a 10 hour focussed task.

## Quick Guide - to Help You Choose

- If you enjoy designing and making in Product Design then this could be just the subject for you.
- You will need to be creative and good at communicating your ideas through sketches, models and written information
- Computer skills are required for presentation of work and the use of CAD and CAM
- The coursework completed during year 11 is timed and preparation and an ability to work independently is essential. This counts for 40% of your overall mark and is an essential part of the course.
- Many of the materials used will be provided by school but you may need to purchase some components depending on the task you choose.
- You will be expected to arrive at every lesson with the necessary drawing equipment in order to cover the graphical side of the course.
- GCSE 3D Design leads on well to AS and A level Product Design.

# Science - GCSE

## What the course offers



### Year 10 and Year 11 Double Award Science

This is a two-year course. The first year of the course is designed to interest and engage candidates in Science. The second year of the course builds on the progress that pupils have made in Year 10.

### Year 10 and Year 11 Separate Science

This is a two-year course. This course is aimed for students who gain a level 6 or above in English, Mathematics and Science. Separate Science is an

additional five lessons a fortnight.

GCSE Separate Sciences will give successful pupils a perfect grounding for studying Science and Science related subjects at a higher level.

### Double Award Science

- The practical assessment makes up 10% of the final mark for the GCSE.
- The course is modular so you sit examinations in both June of Year 10 (worth 43% of the qualification) and June of Year 11 (worth 47% of the qualification). There is the opportunity to re-sit the June Year 10 examinations once in June of Year 11.

### Separate Science

The practical assessment makes up 10% of the final mark for each of the three GCSEs.

The course is modular so you sit examinations in both June of Year 10 (worth 45% of the qualification) and June of Year 11 (worth 45% of the qualification). There is the opportunity to re-sit the June Year 10 examinations once in June of Year 11.

## Quick Guide - to this course

### Double Award Students

- Double Award students will gain 2 GCSEs by the end of Year 11.
- You will gain the skills to better understand the world around you.
- If you want to go on to study Science A levels then you need to gain at least 2 Bs in the subject.

### Separate Sciences Students

- Separate Science students will gain 3 GCSEs by the end of Year 11.
- You will gain the skills to better understand the world around you.
- If you want to go on to study Science A levels then you need to gain at least 2 Bs in the three subjects.

# Fashion and Textiles Design (GCSE)

## *What the course offers*

In GCSE Textiles, as in previous D&T projects, you will be working through the `design` and `make` process. This involves producing a design folder and a creative product made from fabric. You are able to choose what to make following the tasks that are given to you from the examination board. Candidates in the past have made a wide selection of products from fashion garments to creative bags and cushions.

You are expected to improve your skills working with different tools and equipment, fabrics and components. There will also be a large input of computer skills required including CAD (computer aided design) and CAM (computer aided manufacture).

Alongside the coursework a wide variety of topics are covered:- the fashion industry, modern fibres and fabrics, creative techniques and processes, using modern technology etc.

## *How the course is assessed*



The course covered is WJEC - Art and Design Textiles.

There are TWO units:-

Coursework (60%) - To present a Textile Design sketchbook along with final outcomes (Fashion, wall hanging, collage, embroidery) based on a given theme.

Final Examination (40%) - Six weeks to prepare a second sketchbook on another theme followed by a 10-hour examination to produce a final outcome.

## *Quick Guide - to Help You Choose*

- If you enjoy designing and making in Textiles this is the course for you.
- You need to be creative and enjoy working with different fabrics and components.
- Coursework (producing both design folder and product) is an essential and demanding part of the course.
- Computer skills are required for presentation, CAD and CAM.
- Much of the coursework is timed work in class therefore preparation will be vital.

# Graphic Design (GCSE)

## What the course offers

Graphic Design is a craft where professionals create visual content to communicate messages. Designers create visual concepts, using computer software or by hand, to communicate ideas that inspire, inform, and captivate consumers. They develop the overall layout and production design for applications such as advertisements, brochures, magazines, and reports.



In GCSE Graphic Design, as in previous D&T projects, you will be working through the 'design' and 'make' process. This involves producing a design sketchbook and a creative product. You are able to choose what to make following the tasks that are given to you from the examination board.

You are expected to improve your skills working with different software and equipment. There will also be a large input of computer skills required including the use of the Adobe Suite, such as Photoshop and Illustrator. Alongside the coursework a wide variety of topics are covered: - Advertising, Communication Graphics, Design for print,



## How the course is assessed

Illustration, Interactive Design, Multimedia, Package design, Signage and Typography.

This GCSE include **TWO** units:-

**Coursework (60%)** - This will consist of practical and theme-based projects. Assignments, briefs or themes undertaken are to be determined by the student and teacher.

**Final Examination (40%)** - Six weeks to prepare a second sketchbook on another theme followed by a 10-hour examination to produce a final outcome.

## Quick Guide - to Help You Choose

- If you enjoy designing and making, especially on computers this is the course for you.
- You need to be creative and be open to try different design strategies.
- Coursework (producing both design folder and product) is an essential and demanding part of the course.
- Computer skills are required.
- Much of the coursework is timed work in class therefore preparation will be vital.

# Welsh / Cymraeg (GCSE) Core

## What the course offers



It is a statutory requirement that all pupils study Welsh language in Key stage 4. We prepare all pupils for a GCSE qualification in Welsh Second Language. The course gives all pupils the opportunity to reach their potential in Welsh.

Pupils develop their interest in Welsh and enthusiasm for the language. They will develop essential skills which fulfil the needs of candidates, employers and further education.

They will develop the skills to make practical use of the language in order to communicate effectively in the bilingual Society of the

## How the course is assessed

Unit 1: Speaking and Listening (Non-examination assessment 25%)

Unit 2: Speaking and Listening (Non-examination assessment 25%)

Unit 3: Reading and Writing (Written examination 25%)

Unit 4: Reading and Writing (Written Examination 25%)

| TGAW CYMRAEG AIL IAITH                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                           |                                                                 |                                                                 |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Pwyntiau Pwysig</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 uned (4 units)</li> <li>• Pob uned = 25% (Every unit = 25%)</li> <li>• Cwrs dwy flynedd (2 year course)</li> <li>• Gradd A* &gt; G (A* &gt; G grades)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                           |                                                                 |                                                                 |  |
| <div> <div>More and more employers are asking for Welsh today. It's an useful GCSE to have.</div> <div>Cymraeg ydy iaith Cymru. Bydd siarad Cymraeg yn helpu yn y dyfodol, yn enwedig gyda swyddi.</div> <div>More and more people are learning Welsh every month. The government target is for 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050</div> <div>As we live in Wales it makes sense to be able to speak the language of the country.</div> </div> |                                                           |                                                                 |                                                                 |  |
| UNED 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | UNED 2                                                    | UNED 3                                                          | UNED 4                                                          |  |
| 25%                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 25%                                                       | 25%                                                             | 25%                                                             |  |
| Gwranddo 15%<br>(Listening 15%)<br>Llafar 10%<br>(Oral 10%)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Llafar 20%<br>(Oral 20%)<br>Gwranddo 5%<br>(Listening 5%) | Darllen 15%<br>(Reading 15%)<br>Ysgrifennu 10%<br>(Writing 10%) | Ysgrifennu 15%<br>(Writing 15%)<br>Darllen 10%<br>(Reading 10%) |  |
| Bl 10 neu 11<br>(Yr 10 or 11)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Bl 10 neu 11<br>(Yr 10 or 11)                             | Arholiad Bl 11<br>(Yr 11 Exam)                                  | Arholiad Bl 11<br>(Yr 11 Exam)                                  |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                           |                                                                 |                                                                 |  |
| THEMA/Theme<br>1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | THEMA/Theme<br>2                                          | THEMA/Theme<br>3                                                | THEMA/Theme<br>3                                                |  |
| Cyflogaeth<br>(Employment)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Ieuenctid<br>(Youth)                                      | Cymru a'r Byd<br>(Wales & the World)                            |                                                                 |  |
| <div> <div>LLAFAR Speaking 30%</div> <div>GWRANDO Listening 20%</div> <div>DARLLEN Reading 25%</div> <div>YSGRIFENNU Writing 25%</div> </div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                           |                                                                 |                                                                 |  |

## Quick Guide - to Help You Choose

- Everybody follows this course.
- It builds on the Welsh you have learnt throughout Key stage 3.
- It will prepare you to continue studying at AS level, to use Welsh in your future work and to confidently communicate with Welsh speakers in the community.