

Ysgol Uwchradd

Cathays

High School

A Guide to Courses in Key

Stage 4

(Year 10)



Contact Details

School Contact Details

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Your Contact Details

To make sure that you are kept up to date with school events through text messages, letters and phone calls and can be contacted swiftly in an emergency, please ensure that the school has the correct contact details for you, including mobile phone numbers. Please contact Mrs S Fergusson on SFergusson@cardiff.gov.uk to update your contact details.

Important Dates

Date	Examination	Year Group
January 8th	Biology	Year 10 Triple Science Group Year 10 Double award Science group
January 9 th	English Literature	Year 10
January 14th	Chemistry	Year 10 Triple Science Group
March 17th	Year 10 Parents' Evening	

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Key Stage 4 and what do pupils study?

Key Stage 4 comprises of Years 10 and 11, when pupils study mainly GCSE or BTEC courses. Pupils have to study English, Maths, Numeracy, Science, Religious Studies, Welsh, Physical Education and the Welsh Baccalaureate. Pupils do not take examinations in Physical Education (unless they have chosen to study Sports at GCSE or BTEC) or the Welsh Baccalaureate.

What is the Welsh Baccalaureate?

Studying the Welsh Baccalaureate is compulsory for all Key Stage 4 pupils. The new and improved Welsh Baccalaureate course that students in Year 10 are following seeks to inspire learners and challenge them to fulfil their potential. It has been designed to help 14 to 19-year-olds to develop the skills required for higher education, employment and life. It's a flexible, inclusive qualification than underpins learners' choices of GCSE and vocational qualifications.

The Welsh Baccalaureate is primarily about the development and assessment of essential skills such as literacy, numeracy, digital literacy, critical thinking and problem solving, planning and organisation, creativity and innovation and personal effectiveness.



To achieve the Welsh Baccalaureate, learners will need to complete:

1. Skills Challenge Certificate (1 GCSE)

- Individual project: This is an independent, research based assignment on an individually selected subject.
- Enterprise and Employability Challenge: For learners to develop enterprising skills and attributes and enhance employability.
- Global Citizenship Challenge: For learners to understand and respond appropriately to a global issue.
- Community Challenge: For learners to identify, develop and participate in opportunities that will benefit the community.

2. GCSEs

GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths – Numeracy

3. Supporting qualifications

For example other GCSEs and vocational qualifications.

Pupils gain a certificate for passing the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification and additional certificates for the three Essential Skills Wales and the Key Skill.

- Pupils are taught on a carousel basis focusing on one skill a term.
- The WBQ encourages students to be much more independent and is praised by employers and universities.
- Through the WBQ students get involved in their local community, aware of global issues and develop employability skills.

What is a GCSE?

A GCSE is a General Certificate of Secondary Education. Pupils are awarded grades ranging from A*-G grades for GCSEs. A U grade means 'unclassified', i.e. no grade. If pupils want to study A Levels, which are the next step up from GCSEs, most Sixth Forms ask for 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C. GCSEs usually involve external examinations (often more than one paper), which can involve a traditional examination in a hall or a practical examination in subjects such as Drama or PE. Many GCSEs also involve Controlled Assessments (CATs).

What are Controlled Assessments?

Controlled Assessments (CATs) are assessments which count towards final GCSE grades. They are similar to what was known as coursework, but the assessments are completed in school under examination conditions. However, pupils must prepare and revise for Controlled Assessments in their own time at home as well as in school. Controlled Assessments are **not** a requirement in all subjects.

Subjects which have Controlled Assessments (CATs)	Subjects which <u>do not</u> have Controlled Assessments (CATs)
Art	Dance
Business Studies	Maths
Child Development	RE
Drama	Sociology
English Language	
English Literature	
Food Technology	
French	
Geography	
History	
IT	
PE	
Photography	
Resistant Materials	
Science	
Statistics	
Textiles	
Welsh	

What are 'Tiers of Entry'?

Many GCSE qualifications have examination papers which are available in two tiers – Foundation Tier and Higher Tier. Generally, Foundation Tier papers allow pupils to gain a maximum of a C grade. Higher Tier papers allow pupils to gain the higher grades of A*, A and B but are more demanding and often cover more content. Therefore a pupil could take Foundation Tier and gain a C grade but the same pupil could take the Higher Tier and gain a D grade. Departments decide which tier is best suited to each pupil in order for them to gain the best outcome possible.

What is the difference between a Short Course GCSE and a Full Course GCSE?

Pupils can take a Short Course or a Full Course GCSE in some subjects. A Short Course is worth half a Full Course GCSE, i.e. if you wanted to get into a Sixth Form college, two Short Course GCSEs at grades A*-C would count as one GCSE at grades A*-C. Short Courses are often taken in subjects which are compulsory for all pupils in the school, for example in Welsh and Religious Studies. Short Course GCSEs cover less content than Full Course GCSEs and have fewer Controlled Assessments and shorter examinations. In Welsh, pupils take the Short Course GCSE in Year 9 and go on to complete the Full Course GCSE in Year 11. In RE some students are given the opportunity to study for a Full Course GCSE in Year 11, which is in addition to the Short Course GCSE in Religious Studies.

When do pupils take GCSE examinations?

GCSE examinations are available at three points in the academic year, each period is known as a 'season':

Season	Examinations available
January	Unit papers in English Literature and Science
June (exams actually start in May)	Maths paper English Literature paper Science paper Unit exams in subjects like History and Geography

Further on in this booklet you will find a calendar of examinations and assessments for each subject.

What is a BTEC?

The BTEC qualification is a coursework based qualification which does not involve an external examination. Pupils can gain a Distinction* (D*), a Distinction (D), a Merit (M) or a Pass (P) or a Fail (F) for a BTEC qualification. A D* equates to an A* at GCSE, a Pass to a C grade at GCSE and so on. The BTEC qualification being followed in Music this year is running as a 1 year after school course. It is worth two GCSE qualifications. BTEC courses involve completion of assignments by specific deadlines over the course. A BTEC course also involves opportunities to re-visit work in order to improve grades. Pupils who do not perform well under examination conditions are more likely to succeed at a higher level in the BTEC qualification because the results are not dependent on the performance of each student on one particular day, which is the case with examinations.

How do I know how my child is doing in Key Stage 4?

There are several ways that we use to keep you informed about your child's progress:

Information giving opportunity	Frequency	When
Family Interviews	Once a year	Autumn Term of Year 10
Parents' Evening	Once a year	Spring Term of Year 10
Full Report to Parents	Once a year	Spring Term of Year 10
Individual Reports	Several times a year	Each term

Targets

From about November of Year 10 we are given estimates of performance for pupils which give an idea of the grades that they should be achieving. These are not estimates for specific pupils, they are an indication of typical progress. These estimates are calculated using the levels gained at KS2 (primary school), KS3 (end of Year 9) and other factors such as month of birth and gender. These are sometimes called **FFT Targets** because they are target grades that have been calculated by the Fischer Family Trust (FFT) organisation based on data collected over many years and in hundreds of schools throughout England and Wales. Not all pupils have FFT targets because FFT have been unable to get their KS2 or KS3 data from other schools or other countries.

At Cathays, we use these estimates, along with teachers' professional judgement, to set targets for pupils. These targets indicate what a pupil could achieve should they adopt a positive approach to their learning, revise effectively, attend school, act upon advice and take advantage of all the opportunities available to them.

On the reports given out to parents (both the Full Report and Individual Reports), Working at Grades (WAG) are given. These show the grade that your child is working at at the time of writing the report. Comparing these Working at Grades with the target grades gives a good indication of progress.

The **Working at Grade (WAG)** is awarded for a student's academic performance to date and is related to the:

- GCSE grades: A*-G or U indicating performance below the required and expected standard at this stage
- BTEC grades: D* - Distinction*, D – Distinction, M – Merit, P – Pass, F- Fail (These equate to A*, A, B, C, U at GCSE)
- WBQ grades: P – Pass, T- On track, F - Fail

Reports also give a number for effort. The **effort** grade, ranging from 1-4 is awarded for a student's effort and interest in the subject:

1. Outstanding effort
2. Good effort
3. Satisfactory effort
4. Unacceptable effort

Reports also include information about **Controlled Assessments (CATs)** which are assessments which count towards final GCSE/BTEC grades. They are a type of coursework but the assessments are completed in school under examination conditions. However, pupils must prepare and revise for Controlled Assessments in their own time. Controlled Assessments are **not** a requirement in all subjects.

The following codes are used to show progress in Controlled Assessments:

- **Y** = Yes - all completed
- **T** = On-track – will complete if he/she continues to work in this way
- **S** = Some completed – only some of the required work has been completed, must improve
- **N** = None – no work has been completed, unlikely to pass
- **n/a** = Not applicable – there are no Controlled Assessments in this subject
- **L** = Controlled Assessments will be completed at a later date

Early Entry for Examinations

In order to raise standards and maximise pupils' chances of gaining the best possible GCSE grades and to allow opportunities for More Able and Talented pupils, the school enters pupils early for some examinations – i.e. they may sit some examinations in year 9 or year 10 as well as at the end of year 11 as in the traditional model. This differs according to subject, as detailed below:

Glossary

Modular courses - This means that pupils study a module of work and then sit an examination on that module before moving on to the next module.

AS (Advanced Subsidiary) – The first half of an A Level.

English

Most pupils take two GCSE subjects – English Language and English Literature. The courses are modular and examinations take place in January and June of year 10 and June of year 11. There are also Controlled Assessments to complete. Pupils complete English Literature in year 10 and English Language in year 11. Pupils have the opportunity to re-take modular examinations.

Mathematics - Numeracy

Pupils in year 10 are studying the new Mathematics – Numeracy GCSE course. All pupils therefore will sit GCSE papers in Mathematics as well as Numeracy. Pupils sit their Mathematics exam for the first time in June of year 10. Pupils have the opportunity to re-take their exam in November in order to gain a higher grade and again in the June of year 11. Classes are rearranged following results from examinations.

Science

Most pupils take two GCSE subjects – Core Science and Additional Science. The courses are modular and examinations take place in January and June of year 10 for Core Science and January and June of year 11 for Additional Science. There are also Controlled Assessments to complete. Pupils complete Core Science in year 10 and Additional Science in year 11. Pupils have the opportunity to re-take modular examinations.

Some pupils complete a triple (separate) GCSE Science course. This involves three separate GCSE qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students sit examinations in all three in January and June of year 10 and January and June of year 11. There are also Controlled Assessments to complete.

Cymraeg – Welsh

Pupils sit the Short Course Welsh Second Language GCSE in June of year 9. The course involves one written examination (50%) and three Controlled Assessment tasks (50%). Pupils gain a Short Course GCSE at grades A*-U at the end of year 9. In year 10, pupils start the Full Course Welsh Second Language GCSE. The course involves an oral examination in April and a written examination in June of year 11. The Short Course marks from Year 9 are added to the marks from the Year 11 exams to make up the Full Course GCSE qualification. If pupils did not gain A*-C grades in their written examination in year 9, they have the opportunity to re-take the examination at the end of year 10.

Other subjects

Pupils take modular unit exams in Geography and History in the summer of Year 10. These can be re-taken in Year 11 if necessary. These contribute towards the final GCSE, which is awarded at the end of Year 11 after other modular unit exams have also been completed.

Pupils who are More Able and Talented in a certain language or subject may be given the opportunity to sit examinations as early as year 7. For example, several pupils in years 7 and 8 sit GCSE examinations in Community Languages and a group of More Able and Talented students sit GCSE History in year 9

Revision and Student Support Guide

General Revision and Academic Support

Moodle via Cathays High website	Each department has a Moodle page which contains resources and information
https://mahara.cathays.cardiff.sch.uk	E-portfolio site – several departments have a Mahara page with individual access details
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize	Revision website for all subjects
www.khanacademy.org	Khan Academy – educational website with tutorials on many subjects (American site)
www.wjec.co.uk	Examination board websites. Access to free past papers and mark schemes and information about exam times.
www.aqa.org.uk	
www.ocr.org.uk	
www.edexcel.com	
www.careerswales.com	Advice on careers and university choices in Wales
www.russellgroup.ac.uk	Russell Group guide on choosing A Level courses – look for ‘advice for future students’
www.ego4u.com	Good for basic English grammar exercises

Subject Specific Revision Support

In addition to the above:

English	www.universalteacher.co.uk All the newspaper websites www.sparknotes.com – free notes on many English texts
Maths	www.mymaths.co.uk – pupils can get their log-in from their Maths teacher
Science	Revision guides available at £3 each Collinsonlinelearning
Art	Catch up sessions provided at lunch times and after school
Business Studies	Revision guides available at £3 each www.businessstudiesonline.co.uk www.tutor2u.com
French	http://madamethomasfrench.wordpress.com/gcse-french-general-resources-and-information/
Geography	Revision guides provided for all pupils
History	Revision guides provided for all pupils
Religious Studies	Revision guides provided for all pupils
Sociology	Hwb and ATSS websites
Welsh	Collins Revision guides provided for all pupils https://hwb.wales.gov.uk

Revision ideas from pupils:

- Complete past papers and mark your own work using a mark scheme
- Complete past paper questions and compare your answers to model answers given to you
- Mark example answers using mark schemes
- Create flashcards of key information
- Make notes from your textbooks or revision information
- Create mind maps of key information
- Self-test – set yourself mini tests and then mark them
- Get other people to test you
- Create revision crib sheets on key topics
- Read, cover, write and check for key terminology
- Use colours to code information and help you to remember topics
- Using revision guides

Pastoral Student Support

www.meiccymru.org	Free and confidential helpline on a range of issues affecting young people
www.childline.org.uk	Advice and support for young people
www.actionforchildren.org.uk	Confidential counselling service for young people across Cardiff
www.bulliesout.com	Support regarding bullying
www.ceop.police.uk	Advice on internet safety
www.thinkuknow.co.uk	Information about online safety for young people and their parents
www.thecalmzone.net	Support for young men aged 15-35 affected by depression
www.parentlineplus.org.uk	Confidential advice for parents
www.youngminds.org.uk/young people parents@youngminds.org.uk	Support on mental health issues
www.youth2youth.co.uk	Helpline for young people in need of emotional support
www.b-eat.co.uk/YoungPeople	Support and advice regarding eating disorders
www.nshn.co.uk	Self-harming network

GCSE Examinations and Controlled Assessments (CATs) Overview Calendar 2015-16

Month	Year 10	
	Exams	Controlled Assessments
September		Computing CAT (until November)
October		
November		Science CAT
December		
January	English Literature Unit 1 exam	History CATs
February		English Literature CAT
March		French Writing CAT
April		Food Technology CAT (until June) Child Development CAT (until June)
May	English Literature Unit 2 exam English Literature Unit 1 re-sits Welsh Unit 1 re-sit exam Photography exam History unit exam	English Literature Unit 3 Internal Assessment Task
June	Maths GCSE exams Science exams Geography unit exam	French Writing CAT
July		

Note – BTEC courses involve assignment deadlines throughout the year. BTEC courses running in Years 10 include Music.

Pupils re-sit exams if they fail to achieve a C grade when they first take the exam or if they wish to improve their grade.

Key Stage 4 Year 10 Individual Subject Timelines 2015-16

Note – CAT = Controlled Assessment, exams = official external examinations

Subject	Exam Board	Assessment Details	Autumn Term Year 10 2015	Spring Term Year 10 2016	Summer Term Year 10 2016
English Literature GCSE	WJEC	2 written exams (75%) 1 Internal Assessment (25%)	Preparation for January exam	January Unit 1 exam	May/June Unit 2 exam and Unit 1 re-sit for some Unit 3 Internal Assessment Task
English Language GCSE	WJEC	2 written exams (80%) 2 Speaking and Listening tasks (20%)	Not applicable		
Maths – Numeracy GCSE	WJEC	4 exams, 2 (Maths / Numeracy – 50% / 50%) calculator, 2 non-calculator Maths / Numeracy – 50% / 50%) No CATs			May/June exams (2)
Science GCSE Triple Award (three GCSEs - Biology, Chemistry and Physics)	WJEC	3 exams (25% each) and 1 CAT (25%) for each GCSE (9 exams and 3 CATs in all over the course of the two years)	Preparation for January exam	January Unit papers in Biology, Chemistry & Physics	Unit exams in Biology, Chemistry and Physics
Science GCSE Double Award (two GCSE qualifications)	WJEC	3 exams (25% each = 75%) 1 CAT (25%) for each of two GCSEs	Science CAT	Unit exam in Biology	3 unit exams
Art GCSE	WJEC	Personal Portfolio CAT (60% - 45 hours) External exam (40%)			

Subject	Exam Board	Assessment Details	Autumn Term Year 10 2015	Spring Term Year 10 2016	Summer Term Year 10 2016
Art - Photography GCSE	EDEXCEL	Personal Portfolio CAT (60%) Exam (40%)		Personal Portfolio CAT completed and submitted	GCSE exam 40%
Applied Business GCSE	WJEC	1 written exam (40%) 1 CAT (60%)	Assignment deadlines throughout the year		
Computing GCSE	OCR	1 exam (40%) 2 CATs 30% each = 60%)	GCSE Computing is taught as an after school option. The course will be completed in 1 year. All units will be sat in June 2016.		
Dance GCSE	AQA	Practical exam in 4 parts (80%) Written exam (20%)		Practical exam with external examiner	Written exam
Design and Technology – Child Development GCSE	WJEC	1 written exam (40%) 2 CATs (60%)			Child Study CAT 15 hours
Design and Technology – Food Technology GCSE	WJEC	1 written exam (40%) 2 CATs (60%)			Short Focus Task CAT 10 hours
Design and Technology – Resistant Materials GCSE	AQA	1 written exam (40%) 1 CAT (60%)			
Design and Technology – Textiles GCSE	AQA	1 written exam (40%) 1 CAT (60%)			

Subject	Exam Board	Assessment Details	Autumn Term Year 10 2015	Spring Term Year 10 2016	Summer Term Year 10 2016
Drama GCSE	WJEC	1 written exam (20%) 1 practical exam in two parts (60%) - 1 devised performance (40%) and 1 1500 written CAT (20%) 1 scripted performance piece (20%)			
French GCSE	WJEC	The course comprises of a written, oral & listening exam & a CAT.	GCSE French is taught as an after school option. The course will be completed in 1 year. All units will be sat in June 2016.		
Geography GCSE	WJEC	2 written exams (75%) 2 CATs (15% and 10%)			Core unit exam (40%)
Health & Social Care GCSE	WJEC	Written exam & CAT. Preparation for CAT will commence in September 2016. Written exam in June 2017.	Preparation for CAT and written exam.		
History GCSE	WJEC	3 written exam papers (75%) 2 CATs (25%)	Preparation for Units 1, 2 & 3 exam & the CAT preparation for Unit 4 GCSE History is taught as an after school option and the course will be completed in 1 year. All units will be sat in June 2016.		
Music BTEC	Pearson (EDEXCEL)	100% Coursework	Assignment deadlines throughout the year. BTEC Music is taught as an after school option. The course will be completed in 1 year. All assignments will be completed by June 2016.		
Physical Education GCSE	EDEXCEL	Practical exam including a written CAT (40% and 20% = 60%) 1 exam (40%)			
Religious Studies GCSE	AQA	Pupils taking Short Course – 1 exam paper (100%) Pupils taking Full Course – 2 exam papers - Short Course exam (50%) Full Course exam (50%) No CATs			

Subject	Exam Board	Assessment Details	Autumn Term Year 10 2015	Spring Term Year 10 2016	Summer Term Year 10 2016
Sociology GCSE	WJEC	2 exam papers (50% each) No CATs			
Welsh GCSE	WJEC	Full Course = result from Short Course taken in Year 9 (50%) + 1 oral exam (25%) 1 written exam (25%)			Re-sit of Short Course GCSE for some

