

# KS4 Your Choices 2023

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# Contents

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- [Introduction](#)
- [Key Contacts](#)
- [General Information](#)

## Core Subjects:

- [English Language](#)
- [English Literature](#)
- [Mathematics & Mathematics Numeracy](#)
- [Religious Education](#)
- [Science \(Double Award\)](#)
- [Welsh - First Language](#)
- [Welsh - Second Language](#)
- [Welsh Baccalaureate](#)

- [Choosing your option subjects](#)

## Optional Subjects:

- [Art and Design](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Creative Media Production](#)
- [Film Studies](#)
- [Food & Nutrition](#)
- [Geography](#)
- [Hair & Beauty](#)
- [History](#)
- [History: Ancient History](#)
- [IL - French, German or Spanish](#)
- [Information & Creative Technology](#)
- [Learning in the Outdoors](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Performing Arts](#)
- [Photography](#)
- [Physical Education \(PE\)](#)
- [Product Design](#)
- [Science \(Triple Award\)](#)
- [College Courses](#)

Click on the



icon to watch videos or the



to return to this menu

# A Brighter Future Begins Today!

At Ysgol Aberconwy, we are very proud of the wide variety of courses we offer. These span traditional academic subjects as well as new subjects and vocational opportunities, both in school and at Llandrillo College.

As a school, we put learning and individual achievement at the heart of everything we do. We want every student to succeed, achieve their full potential and be prepared for the future. Students will become confident, thoughtful young people, ready for the challenges of an exciting and competitive world.

As such, and in response to curriculum changes implemented by the Welsh Government, the school has seen some exciting developments in the way that students study for their GCSE courses in recent years. We believe that these changes allow every student to reach their full potential and will provide them with a broad, balanced GCSE profile by the end of year 11.

Next year's year 10 students will have the opportunity to study three optional GCSEs over two years. This is alongside the core subjects - Mathematics, English Language and Literature, Science, Welsh, RE, PE and the Welsh Baccalaureate that all schools offer as statutory subjects. In addition, Mathematics now comprises of two GCSEs for the majority of students. Science will be two GCSEs for most and Triple Science is offered as one of the option choices.

The option form makes it clear how many choices should be selected, how to prioritise choices and when the form should be returned.

All option information can also be accessed on the school's website. If you have further questions, please make the most of our Option Evening on 14th February 2023 from 4pm to 6pm.



Ian Gerrard. Head Teacher



## School Key Contacts:



Mr I Gerrard  
Head Teacher



Mrs L Sewell  
Options



Mrs J Ohlsson  
Head of Year



Mrs E Richardson-McIlveen  
Year Mentor

Please complete the options form online at:  
[https://www.aberconwy.conwy.sch.uk/en\\_gb/options/](https://www.aberconwy.conwy.sch.uk/en_gb/options/)  
**by Friday 24th March, 2023**

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# General Information

## General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)

GCSEs are available in a large number of subjects. They are part of a single system of examinations which are graded using a scale of A\*, A, B, C, D, E, F and G in Wales.

In some subjects, grades do not only depend on a final examination. You will also complete coursework in school and/or at home, which counts towards the final GCSE grade. Double Award GCSEs count as two GCSEs each. In some subjects you are entered for GCSE at Foundation, Intermediate or Higher Level, depending upon your ability. Decisions about which level is appropriate are made with you during the course. In Wales, all GCSEs are provided by WJEC.

## Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC)

In years 10 and 11 we offer vocational level 2 qualifications equivalent to a GCSE. It is possible to study some subjects as a BTEC rather than a GCSE. BTEC courses are more vocational and they have the following GCSE equivalents:

- BTEC Level 1 qualifications are equivalent to a GCSE pass
- BTEC Level 2 qualifications are equivalent to one GCSE grade A\* - C
- BTEC Level 2 extended qualifications are equivalent to two GCSE grades A\* - C

## Core Subjects

The following subjects are compulsory at Key Stage 4:

- Mathematics (two GCSEs: Mathematics and Mathematics Numeracy)
- English (two GCSEs: English Language and English Literature)
- Science (Double Award)
- Welsh (First Language or Second Language, as applicable)
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Welsh Baccalaureate (WBQ)

To optimise your opportunities in further and higher education and in the world of work, it is imperative that you have a thorough understanding of numeracy and literacy. As Welsh citizens, all pupils are required to study Welsh, WBQ, RE and PE. These enable you to fully participate in all aspects of life and greatly increase your chances of securing employment.

# English Language

**Course:** GCSE  
**Contact:** Miss J Clayton  
**Assessment:** 80% Examination  
20% Coursework

## **The Course:**

The GCSE English Language course will enable you to become excellent communicators of both the spoken and written word. You will learn to speak and write confidently, effectively, precisely and appropriately. You will understand the conventions of oral and written language and will be able to select and adapt your speech and writing to different situations, purposes and audiences.

You will be able to understand the meaning of a wide range of texts and will study the patterns, structures and conventions of language. You will learn other vital life skills such as verbal reasoning and develop your ability to think constructively and critically which are vital in our society and the world of work.

## **Assessment:**

This course is assessed in three separate units.

**Unit 1:** Coursework (20%). Individual researched presentation and a group discussion.

**Unit 2:** 2 hour examination (40%). Description, narration and exposition.

**Unit 3:** 2 hour examination (40%). Argument, persuasion and instruction

**M**

# English Literature

**Course:** GCSE  
**Contact:** Miss J Clayton  
**Assessment:** 75% Examination  
25% Coursework

## **The Course:**

The GCSE English Literature course will allow you to make informed personal responses to a rich tapestry of literature.

You will study a range of poetry, prose and drama, including Shakespeare. The study of literature will greatly enhance your reading and writing skills too. You will develop an understanding of the ways in which literature has been richly influential over time and in the present day.

You will explore how texts from other cultures and traditions may reflect or influence values and thoughts. You will learn how to make connections between ideas, themes and issues and you will become critical readers of fiction and non-fiction prose, poetry and drama. Importantly, you will also explore traditional poetry from Welsh writers and explore how themes and ideas are presented.

## **Assessment:**

**Unit 1:** 2 hour examination (35%). Prose and Poetry.

**Unit 2:** 2 hour examination (40%). Drama and Prose.

**Unit 3:** Coursework (25%). Shakespeare and Poetry

**M**

# Mathematics & Mathematics Numeracy

**Course:** GCSE  
**Contact:** Mr G Simpson  
**Assessment:** 100% Examination

## The Course:

Over years 10 and 11, you will prepare for two Mathematics GCSEs.

## Mathematics Numeracy

This covers the mathematics that you will use day to day and in the world of work. For example, calculating the cost of household bills, the weight of ingredients in a recipe, exchange rates, converting between miles and kilometres and speed and time problems. You will sit the Numeracy examinations in November of year 11.

## Mathematics

This develops the skills from the levels of mathematics you worked on during KS3. You will focus on the four main areas of mathematics: Number, Algebra, Shape and Measure, Statistics and Probability. You will sit the Mathematics examinations in the summer of year 11.

There are three tiers of entry for both examinations.

- **Higher Tier: Grades A\* - C**
- **Intermediate Tier: Grades B – E**
- **Foundation Tier: Grades D - G**

## Assessment:

You will sit 2 units for both exams:

**Unit 1:** Non-calculator paper (50%)

**Unit 2:** Calculator paper (50%)

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# Religious Education

**Course:** GCSE  
**Contact:** Mrs S Salt  
**Assessment:** 100% Examination

## **The Course:**

You will consider how a broad, deep knowledge of different world faiths and beliefs can help people understand the context of events around the world.

No matter what career path you eventually take, you will work with people. This course encourages and develops skills in decision-making, collaboration, independent working and the search for compromise and conflict solutions that work. All these are vital in a modern workforce where communication, collaboration and cooperation are core skills.

As our world becomes increasingly interdependent and diverse, the spirit of enquiry fostered in Religious Studies is ever more relevant, helping you to understand people and to think about the big issues that we all face. This makes it an ideal choice for those looking to work in nursing, teaching, armed forces, lawyers, social work and the police. We also examine issues relating to medical ethics making the course relevant for those pursuing a medical career.

Lessons are taught through a variety of activities such as discussion, research and group work.

## **Assessment:**

**Unit 1:** Christianity and Judaism beliefs, teachings and practices. Along with issues of life and death and good and evil.

**Unit 2:** Christianity and Judaism beliefs, teachings and practices. Along with issues of relationships and human rights.

# Science (Double)

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**Course:** GCSE  
**Contact:** Mr S Wilson  
**Assessment:** 90% Examination  
10% Practical

## The Course:

Highly regarded, the double science award allows students to follow onto science A-level courses and careers in the science industry such as veterinary studies, engineering, medicine, forensic science and nursing, to name but a few.

The National Curriculum dictates that all students undertake a balanced course of study of the sciences at GCSE level. Every student will be expected to achieve at least two science GCSEs by the end of year 11.

## Assessment:

You will study biology, chemistry and physics with subject specialist teachers and be examined on each at the end of years 10 and 11. In addition, you will be expected to carry out practical tasks in lessons and to complete a practical assessment worth 10% of your final grade.

Unit	Weighting (%)	Exam length	When
Biology 1	Exam 15%	1 hr 15 min	Summer Year 10
Chemistry 1	Exam 15%	1 hr 15 min	Summer Year 10
Physics 1	Exam 15%	1 hr 15 min	Summer Year 10
Biology 2	Exam 15%	1 hr 15 min	Summer Year 11
Chemistry 2	Exam 15%	1 hr 15 min	Summer Year 11
Physics 2	Exam 15%	1 hr 15 min	Summer Year 11
Practical	10%	2x 1Hr	Jan/Feb Year 11

Each unit has two tiered papers: foundation (G-C) and higher (E-A\*). Each teacher will advise their students about which paper would be best suited to their ability.

# Welsh First Language

**Course:** GCSE  
**Contact:** Mrs S Williams  
**Assessment:** 70% Examination  
30% Internal assessment

## **The Course:**

Studying the GCSE Welsh First Language course will encourage you to develop your confidence when communicating effectively in Welsh and to develop skills to make practical use of the language. Together these skills will allow you to communicate effectively, usefully and appropriately in our bilingual society. This course is open to those who have studied Welsh as a first language throughout Key Stage 3. There are three units of study spread across years 10 and 11.

## **Assessment:**

**Unit 1:** Oracy (30%). Individual Researched Presentation (15%). Responding and Interacting (15%).

**Unit 2:** Exam (35%). Reading and Writing: Description, Narration and Exposition.

**Unit 3:** Exam (35%). Reading and Writing: Argument, Persuasion and Instruction

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# Welsh Second Language

**Course:** GCSE  
**Contact:** Mrs S Williams  
**Assessment:** 50% Examination  
50% Internal assessment

## The Course:

Studying the GCSE Welsh Second Language Course will encourage you to develop your confidence when communicating effectively in Welsh. You will develop skills to make practical use of the language in order to communicate effectively, usefully and appropriately in a bilingual society.

Over the course of years 10 and 11, you will study four units, one in year 10 and three in year 11. The themes are Employment, Wales and the World and Youth.

## Assessment:

### Year 10:

- **Unit 1:** 25% Speaking - Spoken response to visual material.

### Year 11:

- **Unit 2:** 25% Speaking - Communicating with others.
- **Unit 3:** 25% Reading and Writing examination - Narrative, specific and instructional.
- **Unit 4:** 25% Reading and Writing examination. - Descriptive, creative and imaginative

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# Skills Challenge Certificate



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**Course:** National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate  
**Contact:** Miss P Williams  
**Assessment:** 100% Controlled Assessment

## The Course:

The Skills Challenge Certificate is a compulsory qualification. The central focus of the Welsh Baccalaureate is to provide a vehicle for 14-16 year olds to develop and consolidate essential and employability skills. You will be taught through two hours of lessons per week in year 10 and one hour per week in year 11, working both individually and as part of a team.

## Assessment:

The qualification comprises of three components, each assessed on a pass, merit or distinction basis through portfolio work. You will be taught through a variety of activities aimed to help you to develop a range of transferable skills such as literacy, numeracy, digital literacy, critical thinking & problem solving, planning & organisation, creativity & innovation and personal effectiveness.

These will be assessed through the completion of three challenges:

- 1. Individual Project (50%).** Personal research - you will set your own research question, gather data and information about the topic, analyse your research and draw conclusions to answer your question. The topic should relate to your future career and study interests.
- 2. Enterprise and Employability Challenge (25%).** Demonstrate creativity and innovation in designing a new product or service that would make a successful enterprise. You will work in a team with specific roles and tasks and then pitch your idea to a panel of business experts.
- 3. Global Citizenship Challenge (25%).** Learn how to assess sources of information for their credibility and usefulness. You will investigate a current issue and demonstrate your creativity in raising awareness about it. You could write a song, poem, children's book or a leaflet.

# Choosing Your Options

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*The information below is very important, so make sure you read everything carefully. Always remember when choosing subjects:*

- Choose the subjects you like the most and the ones you are best at.
- Choose subjects you need to study if you have a particular career in mind.
- Do not choose a subject because your friend is choosing it, as you might not be in the same teaching group and what is the right choice for your friend may not be the right one for you.
- Do not choose a subject just because you like the teacher, as you may not have the same teacher next year.

## **Make sure you're clued up!**

You need to know as much as possible about courses on offer and to think carefully about how you would cope with them. A lot of people can help with information and advice. Think carefully about what you want to know and make sure that you ask.

## **Who can help me?**

The Careers Wales School Advisor will be able to give you advice about jobs. You can visit their website [www.careerswales.com](http://www.careerswales.com) for more information. You also have a Year Mentor and Head of Year who will also help you to make your choices and answer questions you may have. Don't forget it is also important to discuss this booklet with your parents and make your choices together. Your subject teachers can tell you about the subject, how well you might do in their subject and also about careers linked to it. The names of teachers to contact for the different subjects are given in each subject section.

## **How do we allocate the options?**

When all the information on the option form is collected together, we check to see how many students want to follow the courses that are offered. If not enough students have chosen a course, it may not be possible to run it. Sometimes a course is oversubscribed and too many students want to do it, so there are not enough places available. If this happens, we check other subject choices and try to offer students these choices instead which is why we ask for extra choices from everyone. No changes are made without talking to the students concerned.

## **Can I change my mind?**

Once we have started the process, it is hard to accommodate a change of mind. It is very important therefore to find out as much as possible before choosing your subjects to ensure that you make your option choices carefully

# Art & Design



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**Course:** GCSE  
**Contact:** Mrs K Griffith  
**Assessment:** 60% Coursework  
40% Externally set assignment

## The Course:

Throughout the course, you will develop ideas through observation and understanding the work of other artists, whilst investigating the media tools and techniques used by the artists and applying them to your work. You will explore a variety of media, tools and techniques to express your ideas, create numerous compositions based upon research, experimentation and scaling up, alongside digital manipulation of images based on your own work.

Great value is placed on independent thinking, and you are encouraged to explore, investigate and choose a specific theme of your choice for your final composition. For this, you can create a large-scale final piece in mixed and multi-media, which will also involve you working in 2D, 3D and digitally. Photography is also an area you will explore within Art & Design alongside other media, in which you will gain a range of experiences in digital photography, digital image manipulation and creation of digital artworks.

Areas of study can include: • Drawing • Printing • Painting • Sculpture • Installation • Photography • Digital Art • Mixed media • Land art • Graphic communication • Textile design • Three-dimensional design and more. Students may explore overlapping areas and/or combinations of disciplines and can include more than one area of study. For further information visit [https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/art-and-design-gcse/#tab\\_overview](https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/art-and-design-gcse/#tab_overview)

## Assessment:

The course is assessed in two units - coursework and an externally set assignment.

**Unit 1:** Coursework Portfolio based on themes or a subject you have chosen.

**Unit 2:** An externally set assignment which will be presented to you as an examination paper. You will be given approximately six weeks preparation time and 10 hours to complete a piece of focused study.

The four Assessment Objectives below assess the qualities of analytical understanding, practical experimentation, researching and individual expression required at GCSE level.

AO1 Critical understanding AO2 Creative making AO3 Reflective recording AO4 Personal presentation.

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**Course:** GCSE  
**Contact:** Miss P Williams  
**Assessment:** 100% Examination

### The Course:

You will study the purpose of different types of business and the need for enterprise, planning and organisation. You will learn about different types of ownership of a business and why a particular location can be crucial to its success. Learning about outside influences such as law, technology, environment and globalisation will increase your understanding of how an organisation makes decisions.

The course looks at specialist functions, starting with operations where we will explore production methods and quality products, supply chains and services.

By studying finance, you will combine learning about where funds come from to start and run a business with how success can be measured by the money that a business makes. You will explore new terminology - sales, profit and loss, break-even, profit margins. Using case studies, you will advise on how a business can manage its finances without compromising on quality, ethics and service.

The marketing unit will help you to understand how to create a need for a product. By exploring the techniques used to gather information about what we like and learning how it is used to create demand, you will learn how to use your own money in the future.

The final unit explores human resources. Learn how people are key to an organisation's success, recruitment processes, different structures and management styles and how a business can motivate employees.

Lessons will use real businesses as examples where possible to help you to understand the new concepts you will come across. Visits to businesses and guests coming into some lessons will help you to learn in different ways.

### Assessment:

**Unit 1:** Written exam (62.5%). A mix of short answer and structured questions based on stimulus material covering all of the specification content.

**Unit 2:** Written exam (37.5%). Data response questions covering all of the specification content.

# Creative Media Production

**Course:** BTEC (Edexcel)  
**Contact:** Mrs J Ohlsson & Mr R Burrows  
**Assessment:** 100% Coursework

## **The Course:**

This course is divided into three units:

### **1. Exploring Media Products**

Developing your understanding of how media products create meaning for their audiences.

### **2. Developing Digital Media production skills**

Developing skills and techniques in media production processes by reworking media products from one, or all, of the following sectors: audio/moving image, publishing, interactive design.

### **3. Create a Media Product in response to a brief**

Applying and developing your planning and production skills and techniques to create a media product in response to a client brief. This will involve the understanding, planning, producing and evaluating of a product for a specific brief and client.

## **Assessment:**

You will be assessed through a series of projects which will be produced in a variety of electronic forms.

Units 1 & 2 will be internally assessed and Unit 3 will be externally assessed.

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# Film Studies



**Course:** GCSE  
**Contact:** Miss A Grimward  
**Assessment:** 30% Coursework  
70% Examination

## **The Course:**

You will develop knowledge and understanding of a range of different films from the following categories:

- US film
- Independent film
- Global film
- Key developments in film and technology

The practical element of the course will provide you with the opportunity to create your own short film, making use of the camera and editing equipment we have at school.

In addition, Film Studies offers an abundance of unique experiences to develop skills within filmmaking, offering opportunities to become part of the cast and crew on locally produced short films. For example, this year, after winning a script writing competition, our students worked with the IRIS Prize to make a short film which was premiered in Cineworld as part of the IRIS Film Festival.

## **Assessment:**

**Unit 1:** Written exam: Key developments in US film

**Unit 2:** Written exam: Global film

**Unit 3:** Coursework: film production

# Food & Nutrition



**Course:** GCSE  
**Contact:** Miss G Jones  
**Assessment:** 40% Examination  
60% Coursework

## The Course:

You will learn how to prepare and cook food using the correct tools and equipment. You will also be introduced to the importance of health, safety and hygiene, menu planning, communication, food experimentation and the science behind foods. You will learn a wide range of practical skills to apply to coursework tasks.

At least one hour each week will be practically based. It is important that you are organised and able to bring ingredients to all practical lessons, as this work is an integral part of the course.

The lessons are usually fast and active but satisfying, in that you will have achieved a good quality product at the end.

## Assessment:

**Unit 1:** Written exam. Principles of Food and Nutrition. Including food commodities, principles of nutrition, diet and good health, the science of food, where food comes from, cooking and food preparation.

**Unit 2:** Coursework.

- **Assessment 1:** (10 hours) - Food Investigation. You will plan a range of experiments, create dishes, analyse and evaluate the results.
- **Assessment 2:** (15 hours) - Food Preparation. You will research, trial, test, plan, prepare and cook three dishes.

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# Geography



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**Course:** GCSE  
**Contact:** Mr J Moran  
**Assessment:** 80% Examination  
20% Coursework

## **The Course:**

GCSE Geography adopts an enquiry approach to the study of geographical information, issues and concepts. The course content is organised around two units, the first on changing physical and human landscapes and the second on environmental and developmental issues.

Fieldwork is an essential aspect of geographical education. It is placed at the heart of this course and students will consolidate and extend their understanding of classroom concepts by engaging with enquiries conducted outside of the classroom and school grounds.

The enquiry approach taken by GCSE Geography in both classroom and fieldwork contexts will enable students to develop the ability to think “like a geographer”. There will be opportunities to:

- Think creatively by asking questions that relate to geographical processes and concepts.
- Think scientifically by collecting and recording appropriate evidence from a range of sources, including fieldwork, before critically assessing the validity of evidence and combining findings to reach evidenced conclusions.
- Think independently by applying geographical knowledge, understanding, skills and approaches appropriately and creatively to real world contexts.

GCSE Geography develops and extends a student’s knowledge of locations, places, environments and processes, at a range of different scales.

## **Assessment:**

**Unit 1:** Written exam: Changing physical and human landscapes

**Unit 2:** Written exam: Environmental and developmental issues

**Unit 3:** Coursework: Controlled assessment

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# Hair & Beauty



**Course:** Level 2 Certificate in Hair services  
**Contact:** Mrs O Kelly  
**Assessment:** 100% Coursework

## **The Course:**

This course is a combination of written assignments which build up to an individual portfolio of evidence and practical assessments. These are prepared through extended practical time, working on other students' and model heads. You will develop a wide range of industry standard skills and approaches and, at the same time, you can be creative with your own designs!

## **Assessments:**

- Unit 1:** Working in the hair & beauty industry
- Unit 2:** Follow health & safety in the salon
- Unit 3:** Client consultation for hair & beauty services
- Unit 4:** Shampoo & condition hair & scalp
- Unit 5:** The art of dressing hair
- Unit 6:** Plaiting & twisting hair
- Unit 7:** Creating a total look

There are also opportunities for students to develop skills in manicure and photography make up sessions This qualification provides a broad background of understanding of the hair and beauty industry. It also provides an awareness of the range of jobs available so you can make informed decisions about careers in this sector.

# History



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**Course:** GCSE  
**Contact:** Mr G Roche  
**Assessment:** 80% exam  
20% coursework

## The Course:

You will acquire an understanding of different identities, including your own, within a society and an appreciation of social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity whilst building on your understanding of the past and the diversity of human experience through experiencing a broad and balanced course of study.

You will also acquire an understanding of the nature of historical study, for example, that history is concerned with judgements based on available evidence and that some historical judgements may be more valid than others. Throughout the course, you will be examining continuity, change, cause and consequence, significance and similarity over different periods of time - short, medium and long term.

This course will enable you to develop your interest and enthusiasm for History and to build a further understanding of its intrinsic value and significance. You will be able to expand your knowledge and understanding of specific historical events and to examine different periods in different societies.

You will learn about how to organise and communicate your historical knowledge and understanding in different ways, arguing a case and reaching substantiated judgements. This GCSE course will allow you to become effective, independent and resilient learners and help you to develop into critical and reflective thinkers through the process of historical enquiry.

## Assessment:

**Unit 1:** Written exam. A study in depth of “Depression, War and Recovery 1930-1951”.

**Unit 2:** Written exam. A study in depth of “Germany in Transition 1919-1939”.

**Unit 3:** Written exam. A thematic study on “Crime and Punishment from 1500 to the present day”.

**Coursework:** You will also complete two pieces of coursework

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# History: Ancient History



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**Course:** GCSE (OCR)  
**Contact:** Mr D Jolliffe  
**Assessment:** 100% exam

## **The Course:**

The course will allow you to develop your understanding of the ancient world and the legacy of the ancient world in today's society. It uses a range of ancient source material, both literary, visual and archaeological to develop your understanding and knowledge of the ancient world.

The course focuses on aspects of both Roman and Greek history with a period and a depth study for each with no coursework requirement. Both areas explore aspects of the military, political, religious, social and cultural history of their respective cultures.

The Greek half of the course comprises of a period study of the Persian Empire 559-465 looking at the rise of the Persian Empire, its' development and interaction with the Greek nations, including the Battle of Thermopylae vs 300 Spartans and the Sack of Athens. The depth study develops understanding of the life of Alexander the Great, studying his youth, conquests, campaigns, significant events of his life and his army and military tactics.

The Roman aspect of the course comprises of a period study of the Foundations of Rome 754-440BC developing the foundation and origin stories of Rome, its' development by the Etruscan Kings and the formation of the Republic. It explores the political, religious, social and military changes through the period. The depth study would develop understanding of Rome's relationship with Carthage and the Second Punic War and the life of Hannibal 218-201BC.

Throughout the course, you will be examining continuity, change, cause and consequence, significance and a range of skills to analyse both literary and archaeological evidence.

## **Assessment:**

**Paper 1:** Written Exam: 50% The Persian Empire 559-465 BC and Alexander the Great 356-323BC

**Paper 2:** Written Exam: 50% The Foundation of Rome 753-440BC and Hannibal and the Second Punic War 218-201 BC

# International Languages: French, German or Spanish



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**Course:** GCSE

**Contact:** Miss J Hughes – French, Miss J McAllister – German, Miss N Williams - Spanish

**Assessment:** 100% Examination

**Entry Requirements:** French & German: Key Stage 3, Spanish: No prior knowledge required

## The Course:

Each course is structured under three broad themes, each of which has its own sub-themes:

**Theme 1:** Identity and Culture - youth culture, lifestyles, customs and traditions.

**Theme 2:** Wales and the world - home and locality, wider world, sustainability.

**Theme 3:** Current and future study and employment - studying, enterprise, work and careers.

## Assessment:

The assessment of the GCSE courses is made up of four separate units, each assessing different communication skills. Each unit offers foundation and higher tier entries and students may be entered at different tiers for different units depending on ability.

**Unit 1:** **Speaking (25%):** Oral test consisting of a role play, a photo card and two conversations.

**Unit 2:** **Listening (25%):** Written examination consisting of listening comprehension tasks with non-verbal and written responses.

**Unit 3:** **Reading (25%):** A written examination consisting of reading tasks with non-verbal and written responses, including one translation task into English.

**Unit 4:** **Writing (25%):** Testing a student's ability to communicate in writing through three tasks (foundation tier) or four tasks (higher tier), including one translation from English to your chosen language

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# Information & Creative Technology



**Course:** BTEC (Edexcel)  
**Contact:** Mr S Barnett  
**Assessment:** 25% Examination (completed online)  
75% Coursework

## The Course:

ICT is used in our everyday lives and this qualification reflects the needs of employers, higher education and professional organisations. This BTEC option allows you access to a diverse selection of ICT and is a practical course.

You will complete a range of practical tasks using the Microsoft platform whilst also learning theory-based aspects of the online world of ICT such as hardware, social media, cloud based systems and ICT legislation.

## Assessment:

**Unit 1:** The Online World (core unit). This is an examination that assesses the theory aspect of the course and is completed online on a date set by the teacher. The questions range from multiple choice to requiring descriptive answers.

**Unit 3:** A Digital Portfolio (core unit). You will create a digital portfolio/website of your work and skills not only from your ICT lessons but from other subjects as well. You use your work throughout the course to compile your portfolio which is produced in such a format that can be used in a future interview or to graphically compliment a CV to show personal skills and achievements.

**Unit 10:** Database (selected optional unit). You will evaluate how databases are used in business. Using the theme of “Llandudno Hotels” you will choose a hotel and create a database booking system. As this is a vocational course, we plan to take you to a hotel in Llandudno early on as part of your research. This unit will assist you with the knowledge and understanding in preparation for the level 3 IT qualification we currently offer in 6<sup>th</sup> Form.

# Learning in the Outdoors



**Course:** Agored Cymru Level 2 Extended Certificate  
**Contact:** Mr C Bennett  
**Assessment:** 100% Coursework

## **The Course:**

The aim of the Learning in the Outdoors qualification is to enhance the social, physical, creative, cultural and personal development of young people holistically through experiential learning in the outdoors.

The qualification support students with an aspiration for an active, healthy and inclusive Wales, where learning in the outdoors provides a common platform for participation, fun, achievement and employment, increasing the understanding of the environment, the Welsh language and the cultural heritage and future of Wales.

The course provides opportunities for young people in Wales to achieve their potential through outdoor activities and learning through a variety of units

## **Assessment:**

**Units:** Participate in an Expedition, Team Working, Outdoor Activities for Tourism, Delivering an Outdoor Learning Activity, Camp Craft Skills, Participate in a Land-based Activity, Participate in a Water-based Activity, Personal Safety when Learning in the Outdoors, Use a Map and Compass, Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, Practical Skills in the outdoors, Team Working \*

\*These can vary depending on the situation and are interchangeable.



**Course:** BTEC (Pearson)  
**Contact:** Mr A Umpleby & Mrs N Wilson  
**Assessment:** External 25%  
Internal 75%

**Entry Requirements:** The ability to play a musical instrument or sing to a good standard

### The Course:

Through internal and externally set modules, you will understand the role of music within the world. You will learn about the ever-evolving music industry and how to manage a music product (a chart song for example). There will be ample opportunity to develop your composition skills, which could be recorded professionally, and you can develop your performance skills.

Throughout the course, we hope to offer you direct links of working with musicians and sound technicians, whilst also giving opportunity for regular visits (either live or remotely) to music venues.

### Assessment:

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Music Unit

### Mandatory units Assessment method:

**Unit 1:** The Music Industry [External]  
**Unit 2:** Managing a Music Product [Internal Synoptic]

### Optional specialist units:

**Unit 3:** Introducing Live Sound [Internal]  
**Unit 4:** Introducing Music Composition [Internal]  
**Unit 5:** Introducing Music Performance [Internal]  
**Unit 6:** Introducing Music Recording [Internal]  
**Unit 7:** Introducing Music Sequencing [Internal]

# Performing Arts

**Course:** BTEC (Pearson)  
**Contact:** Mrs N Wilson  
**Assessment:** 20% externally assessed  
80% internally assessed

## The Course:

Whether you enjoy music, singing, acting or dancing, then Performing Arts will develop your skills and provide an outlet for them.

## Assessment:

**Showcase Unit:** The presentation aspect of the unit will give you knowledge and experience of the audition/presentation process. When selecting an audition piece or preparing a presentation of your work you must develop a suitable vehicle to show your strengths. Therefore, learning how to recognise your specific skills is a crucial step. You must be able to perform to an audience in this unit.

**Devising Unit:** This unit is about building your foundations as an actor, musician, dancer or designer; it is not just about performance. As well as undertaking a programme of practical classes to develop your physical and mental acting skills, you will be required to demonstrate progress throughout the unit as well as keep a working log of the processes involved.

**Presenting Unit:** In this unit, you will learn how to develop a performance piece as a member of a performance company. You will take on a specific performing role and will prepare for, and produce, a performance by carrying out tasks that are appropriate to your role. No matter what role you undertake, you will also need to explore the performance piece you are working on.

M

# Photography



INSPIRE | SUPPORT | SUCCEED

**Course:** GCSE  
**Contact:** Mrs B Russell  
**Assessment:** 60% Coursework  
40% Externally set assignment

## **The Course:**

Students will develop knowledge, skills and understanding in photography, digital editing in Adobe Photoshop and other techniques through sustained investigation, creativity, experimentation, design and making as a means of developing technical and expressive skills, extending experience and personal response, as well as developing imagination and critical, reflective thinking. The written element of the course will include studying the history of photography, responding to the work of photographers, and evaluating all work reflectively via thorough annotation. Drawing is also an integral part of the course in order to record ideas, plan photo shoots and add to printed images creatively, and this skill will also be developed throughout the course.

Areas of study can include: • Documentary photography • Photo-journalism • Studio photography • Location photography • Experimental imagery • Installation • Moving image: film, video and animation • Digital editing. Students can include more than one area of study. For further information visit [https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/art-and-design-gcse/#tab\\_overview](https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/art-and-design-gcse/#tab_overview)

## **Assessment:**

The course is assessed in two units - coursework and an externally set assignment.

**Unit 1:** Coursework Portfolio based on themes or a subject you have chosen.

**Unit 2:** An externally set assignment which will be presented to you as an examination paper. You will be given approximately six weeks preparation time and 10 hours to complete a piece of focused study.

The four Assessment Objectives below assess the qualities of analytical understanding, practical experimentation, researching and individual expression required at GCSE level.

AO1 Critical understanding AO2 Creative making AO3 Reflective recording AO4 Personal presentation.

M

# Physical Education



**Course:** GCSE  
**Contact:** Mr C Bennett  
**Assessment:** 50% Examination  
42% Practical  
8% Coursework

## **The Course:**

You will study health, training and well-being, sports psychology, sports bio mechanics, anatomy and physiology and sociocultural influences on sport.

During lessons, you will also receive practical tuition in developing your three different sports required to gain a grade on the course. Of these, there must be one team sport such as football, netball, rugby and one individual sport such as badminton, athletics or golf. You need to participate regularly in sport activities in your own time individually or for a team, at a competitive level.

You will also complete a performance enhancement programme as part of your coursework, aiming to develop certain areas of fitness relevant to your sport and evaluating your overall fitness levels.

## **Assessment:**

**Unit 1:** Written examination. Introduction to physical education. You will be assessed through a range of short and extended questions. The questions will be based on audio-visual stimuli and other sources.

**Unit 2:** Coursework and practical. The active participant in physical education. You will be assessed in three different activities in the role of performer in at least one individual sport, one team sport and one other. One activity will be a major activity which will have a personal fitness programme linked to it.

# Product Design

**Course:** GCSE  
**Contact:** Mr T Dennis  
**Assessment:** 50% Examination  
50% Coursework

## **The Course:**

Design & Technology Product Design gives you the opportunity to develop your capacity to 'design & make' products that are innovative, meet the needs and wants of a client and to design and develop purposeful products. You will develop a core understanding of the relations between design, materials, manufacturing and marketing. The subject enables you to take a broad view of Design & Technology and to develop a wide range of skills, including working with others, thinking creatively, designing through CAD (Computer-Aided Design) and making quality products.

## **Assessment:**

**Unit 1:** Written exam: Design and Technology in the 21st Century. This exam consists of a mixture of short answers, structured and extended writing questions assessing your knowledge and understanding of product design within materials, processes, designers and industry.

**Unit 2:** Coursework: Design and Make (35 hours). You will design and make a product based on design briefs set by the exam board. You will be expected to:

- Identify design possibilities.
- Develop a design brief and specification.
- Generate and develop a range of design ideas.
- Manufacture a product using a mixture of materials and processes.
- Evaluate the final product.

# Science (Triple Award)

**Course:** GCSE (WJEC)  
**Contact:** Mr S Wilson  
**Assessment:** 90% Examination  
10% Practical  
**This applies to each science GCSE**

## The courses:

You will study for three separate qualifications: GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics. If you choose triple science, then one of your GCSE option blocks will be used to teach you the extra topics to cover the three science GCSEs, in addition to the [science taught as a core subject](#). This course is structured differently from the double award meaning it is not possible to switch between courses at a later date.

Each unit has two tiered papers: foundation (G-C) and higher (E-A\*). Your teacher will advise you which paper would be best suited to your ability.

**GCSE Biology:** Learn about the human body, how it works and interacts with the environment. You will learn about animals, plants and their habitats, building an understanding of the delicate balance between species and their environment. Develop your flexible thinking, problem solving and practical skills by applying knowledge of key biological principles.

**GCSE Chemistry:** Chemistry is the study of substances, their composition, how they interact and what role they play in living things. It is the study of all materials and vital to every aspect of life. Knowledge of chemistry is useful in any sphere of industry but especially the chemical and pharmaceutical industries. It encourages methodical thought, practical ability and problem solving skills.

**GCSE Physics:** Physics is the study of “what, why and how”, covering a diverse range of subjects ranging from sub-atomic particles to how the universe was formed. The ideas, techniques and skills developed during your GCSE will be invaluable, not only within the field of engineering and medicine but for understanding how things work in everyday life.

**M**

College Courses - Limited Availability

## Contact: Mrs L Sewell

### Introduction:

There are three potential courses that you may be able to access, depending on interest. These courses will take place at Coleg Llandrillo or Coleg Rhyl. All three courses are double option subjects studied for on a full day in college every week of term. At this stage, ticking the college choice on the option column will just register your interest. It does not guarantee that the course will run.

### The Courses:

#### IMIAL Level 2 in Vehicle Technology



You will be able to learn about all aspects of motor vehicles whilst gaining an understanding of how engines work, maintenance of motor vehicles, basic repair etc. You will have to complete coursework on each topic and there will also be external exams.

#### WJEC level 1|2 in Construction & Built Environment



On this course, you will develop a range of construction skills both practical and academic through applied learning. This will be transferable in the workplace and for future learning. Knowledge about the construction industry will help you to progress to further study in engineering, construction and project management or to enter the workplace.

#### Health & Social Care



The WJEC GCSE in Health and Social Care, and Childcare equips learners with knowledge, understanding and skills related to the development and care of individuals throughout the life cycle from conception to later adulthood. Learners have the opportunity to develop their understanding of influences on human growth, development, behaviour and well-being. They will also gain an understanding of the social, physical, emotional, and cultural needs of people who use care and support services, and recognise that each individual has a unique blend of abilities and needs. Learners will gain an understanding of how service provision in Wales supports the development and well-being of individuals, to be able to make informed decisions now and in later life. This specification has been designed to include contemporary issues in relation to the provision of an ethical and sustainable health and social care, and childcare system in Wales, and to create independent learners that can make informed decisions about further learning opportunities or continuing into related career choices. Health and Social Care is offered as a double award at level 1 or 2 in college or as either a single or double award in school, depending on interest. On all courses students will have the opportunity to listen to guest speakers, visit care settings and learn about all aspects of the care sector. The qualification is predominantly course work focussed, with an examined element. It is suitable for students considering careers in nursing, midwifery, care of the elderly, nursery nursing, counselling and play leaders.

M