

# Year 9 Options

## Your Choices

### 2026



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# A Brighter Future Begins Today!

At Ysgol Aberconwy, we are incredibly proud of the curriculum we have developed for our students. Our curriculum is a continuum, building on the knowledge, skills, and characteristics developed in Years 7–9. However, it is in Year 10 that students can begin to pursue specialisms and interests. To support this, we offer a wide range of academic, vocational, and college-based subjects.

As a school, we place learning and individual achievement at the heart of everything we do. Our goal is for every student to succeed, reach their full potential, and be well-prepared for the future. We aim to nurture ambitious learners, creative contributors, ethical citizens, and healthy, confident individuals ready to thrive in life, work, and the wider world.

In line with curriculum changes introduced by the Welsh Government, we have implemented exciting developments in the way students study for their GCSE courses. These changes are designed to ensure that every student can achieve their best while obtaining a broad and 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 in addition to the core subjects, which include Mathematics and Numeracy; English Language and Literature; Science; Core Cymraeg; Equality and Diversity; the Skills Challenge Certificate and Wider Learning and Experiences (WLE). Furthermore Maths, English and Science typically results in two GCSEs, with the option to study Triple Science available as one of the optional choices.

The options form provides clear instructions on how many choices should be selected, how to prioritise them, and the deadline for submission.

All option information is also available on the school's website. If you have any further questions, we encourage you to attend our Options Evening on **Tuesday, 27th January 2026, from 4pm to 6pm**



Ian Gerrard. Head Teacher



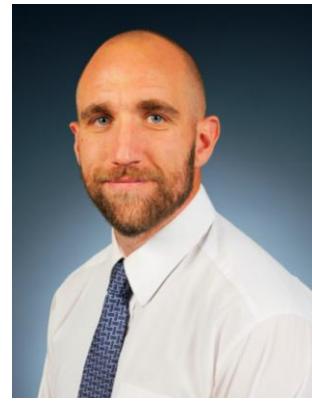
# School Key Contacts:



Mr I Gerrard  
Head Teacher



Mrs G Murphy  
Deputy Head / Options



Mr D Jolliffe  
Head of Year



Mrs M Brown  
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 6th March 2026**

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YSGOL  
ABERCONWY



# 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.

## 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 Years 10 and 11:

- Mathematics (two GCSEs: Mathematics and Mathematics Numeracy)
- English Language and Literature (Single & Double Award)
- Science (Double Award)
- Cymraeg (Core or Language and Literature subject to suitability)
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Equality and Diversity
- Welsh Baccalaureate (WBBQ)

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, WBBQ, RE and PE. These enable you to fully participate in all aspects of life and greatly increase your chances of securing employment.

**Course:** GCSE (Single and Double Award)

**Contact:** Mrs L Hudson

**Assessment:** 60% Examination

40% Coursework

## The Course:

Appreciate how language connects us to the world around us through engagement with the spoken word and written texts from a range of times, places and cultures. Read and listen to a range of spoken and written texts, considering how language, register and style convey meaning. Understand the significance of purpose, audience, medium and context when communicating, expressing, understanding and responding to language. Express yourself in speaking and writing through clear, accurate, fluent and creative use of English. Develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the vocabulary, grammar and uses of the English language.

## Assessment:

**Unit 1:** **Context and Meaning** (Single and Double Award) 60 marks. Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes. Study poems in the WJEC Poetry Anthology, respond to linked poems, produce writing – creative literary or non-fiction.

**Unit 2:** **Belonging** (Single and Double Award) 60 marks. Non-examination assessment: 7 hours. Study a prose text, respond to the chosen prose text in writing & develop oracy skills through an individually researched oral presentation

**Unit 3:** **Influence and Power** (Single and Double Award) 50 marks. Non-examination assessment: 6 hours. Study an anthology of non-fiction, group discussion, produce non-fiction writing.

**Unit 4:** **Motivations** 4a (Single Award) 4b (Double Award) 60 marks. Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes. 4.1a Study a drama text (single), 4.1b study a drama or prose text (double), 4.2 respond to the text, 4.3 produce creative literary writing.

**Unit 5:** **Continuity and Change** (Double Award Only) 60 marks. Non-examination: 8 hours. 5.1 study a Shakespeare play, 5.2 study poems from the WJEC Poetry Anthology, 5.3 respond to the Shakespeare play in writing, 5.4 develop oracy through paired discussion of poetry.

**Unit 6:** **Connections** (Double Award Only) 80 marks. 1 hour 30 minutes. 6.1 study an anthology of non-fiction writing, 6.2 explore connections between the non-fiction anthology texts and an unseen text, 6.3 Produce non-fiction writing.

# Equality and Diversity

**Course:** NCFE

**Contact:** Mrs S Salt / Miss E Fox

**Assessment:** 100% coursework

## The Course:

You will consider what equality and diversity are and what they look like in society. We use real-life examples and case studies including religion, culture and politics. Students will come to understand what is meant by prejudice, labelling, stereotyping, as well as what makes us who we are.

Students will go on to consider the diversity in their own communities and how this enriches society. They will also go on to look at UK law and policies and how these work to ensure equality and diversity in society and in the workplace.

## Assessments:

The course is split into three units. Unit 1 is completed in year 10 and Unit 2 and 3 in year 11.

**Unit 1:** Equality and diversity in society. Religious, cultural and political views.

**Unit 2:** Equality and diversity in the community. Case studies.

**Unit 3:** Equality and diversity in the workplace. Religious, legal and cultural views.



# Mathematics and Numeracy

**Course:** WJEC GCSE (Double Award)

**Contact:** Mr G Simpson

**Assessment:** 100% Examination

**The Course:** The course has 3 units:

## **Unit 1: Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy 30% of qualification**

In this unit you will learn life lessons that will help you become a financially well-informed adult. Think about terms you may have heard about like 'National Insurance', 'VAT' or 'AER' – these will become familiar to you. Financial opportunities and pitfalls will be addressed, and you will learn how to read important documents like payslips, bills and bank statements. All sorts of other real-world contexts will also be taught and assessed, making this unit relevant and interesting.

## **Unit 2: Non-calculator 30% of qualification**

You will explore concepts where you won't need your calculator in this unit. You will deepen your understanding of probability and explore new ideas within algebra and geometry, like quadratic graphs and circle theorems.

## **Unit 3: Calculator-allowed 40% of qualification**

This unit has the biggest weighting of all three units, and you can have your calculator by your side. There is lots of data handling and statistics in this unit as well as new geometry concepts such as Pythagoras' Theorem and Trigonometry.

**Tiers of entry:** There are two tiers of entry for this qualification:

Higher Tier: A\* – D

Foundation Tier: C – G

Learners may be entered at different tiers across units.

## **Examination timetable:**

The examinations can be taken in either the Summer or November of year 10 and 11

<b>Course:</b>	<b>GCSE (Double Award)</b>
<b>Contact:</b>	<b>Mr S Wilson</b>
<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>90% Examination</b>
	<b>10% Practical</b>

### The Course:

All students will undertake a balanced course of study of the three sciences at GCSE level. Every student will be expected to achieve at least two science GCSEs by the end of year 11.

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.

### 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 14%	1 hr 15 min	Summer Year 10
Chemistry 1	Exam 14%	1 hr 15 min	Summer Year 10
Physics 1	Exam 14%	1 hr 15 min	Summer Year 10
Biology 2	Exam 16%	1 hr 15 min	Summer Year 11
Chemistry 2	Exam 16%	1 hr 15 min	Summer Year 11
Physics 2	Exam 16%	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.

# Core Cymraeg

**Course:** GCSE

**Contact:** Mrs S Williams

**Assessment:** 50% Examination

50% Internal assessment

## The Course:

The GCSE Core Cymraeg course is based on the Welsh Government subject specific considerations and statements of what matters for Languages, Literacy and Communication:

- Understanding the world around us.
- Enjoyment of Cymraeg and seeing value for Cymraeg outside the classroom.
- Using language associated with interests.
- Developing the use of Cymraeg for socialising and the workplace.
- A wide variety of opportunities for learners to hear, see and read material which is rich and diverse in Cymraeg.
- Develop linguistic skills in order to use Cymraeg in a confident manner.

## Assessment:

- **Unit 1:** Responding to a Visual Stimulus Non-examination assessment: Pair (6-8 minutes) or Group (8-10 minutes) 25% of qualification 50 marks
- **Unit 2:** Responding to Various Sources Non-examination assessment: Pair (6-8 minutes) or Group (8- 10 minutes) 25% of qualification 50 marks.
- **Unit 3:** Unit 3: Preparing for the Future Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 25% of qualification 100 marks.
- **Unit 4:** Unit 4: Literature and Creative Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 25% of qualification 100 marks

**Course:** Additional Welsh (for the Grwp Carlam Only)

**Contact:** Mrs S Williams

**Assessment:** 50% Examination

50% Internal assessment

## The Course:

Do you want to be able to understand and use Welsh, the language of Wales, confidently and spontaneously? Do you want to develop a valuable skill and use Welsh in further study, in the workplace and in your communities? Do you want to be a part of the government's aim and be one of the million Welsh speakers by 2050? This is a qualification that can foster your curiosity, develop your language learning skills and strategies, and open doors to further study and future jobs.

You will study three broad themes of 'cynefin', identity and culture.

Unit 1 (Speaking and Listening – Communication and Interaction). You will develop your confidence in Welsh by using a variety of language patterns and different verb tenses, communicating information, expressing and justifying opinions and asking and responding to questions.

Unit 2 (Reading and Writing – Cymraeg a Fi). You will read and respond to different types of written language. You will be taught to be more independent, creative and imaginative when reading and writing and learn to write a variety of forms for a variety of purposes and audiences

## Assessment:

### Examination (50%)

**Unit 1:** Section A – Group discussion. 6–8 minute discussion for pairs; 8–10 minutes for a group of three. WJEC will provide you with the stimulus. The stimulus will be based on the three broad themes.

Section B – Individual discussion. Individual 4–5 minute discussion with the examiner on a topic of personal interest. You must choose one of the three broad themes to form the basis of the discussion and the topic will have to be Welsh.

**Internal assessment (50%).** There will be one non-examination assessment (two tasks - Task 1 & 2 = total between 800 and 1000 words):

**Unit 2:** Two written tasks based on the title Cymraeg a fi on a topic of personal interest to you.

Task 1 – Critical response to research and analysis. Task 2 – Creative and imaginative response

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

## The Course:

The Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC) is an exciting course that will help you to develop essential, real-world skills you'll need for further education, work, and life. Designed to complement other qualifications, the SCC focuses on teamwork, problem-solving, critical thinking, and independent research—skills highly valued by employers and universities alike.

## 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.

***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

# Animal Care

**Course:** BTEC Pearson  
**Contact:** Miss L Cooper  
**Assessment:** Coursework  
**Externally Set Assignment**

## The Course:

Are you passionate about animals and want to turn your love for them into a rewarding career? The BTEC Animal Care course is your gateway to a world of exciting opportunities in animal welfare, health, and management. This hands-on qualification blends practical skills with essential knowledge, setting you up for success in the animal care industry or further studies.

The course provides you with Engaging Practical Experiences; an industry-relevant Curriculum and might even provide a pathway to your dream career. There are two core units which all students must study:

**Unit 1:** Animal Health  
**Unit 2:** Animal Handling

Students will then have the option to choose two areas to study

**Unit 3:** Animal Welfare  
**Unit 4:** Animal Housing and Accommodation  
**Unit 5:** Principles of Animal Behaviour

## Assessment:

The course is assessed by one external examination and then other internal, coursework assessments.



**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.

### 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 up to 10 weeks preparation time and 10 hours to complete a piece of focused study.

Your work will be marked using the following **Assessment Objectives**:

**AO1** - Develop ideas and demonstrate critical and contextual understanding of sources.

**AO2** - Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, techniques, tools, digital technologies, and processes.

**AO3** - Reflect on own work, and record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.

**AO4** - Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

**Course:** GCSE  
**Contact:** Miss P Williams  
**Assessment:** 60% Examination 40% NEA

## The Course:

**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, 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 use your 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 external factors.

**Unit 4:** Business creation - in this unit, you will develop enterprise skills. You will carry out 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.

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 (30%). A mix of short answer and structured questions based on stimulus material covering all of the Unit 1 content.

**Unit 2:** NEA (15%). Investigation of a business in the local area. Assessment will test the application of knowledge, evaluation and making judgements and developing wider skills and techniques such as research and critical thinking.

**Unit 3:** Written exam (30%). A mix of short answer and structured questions based on stimulus material covering all of the Unit 3 content.

**Unit 4:** NEA (25%). The assessment will focus on setting up a new business to meet specific needs in the local community testing knowledge, application and wider skills.

# 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:

**Unit 1: Exploring Media Products**

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

**Unit 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.

**Unit 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.

**Course:** GCSE

**Contact:** Mr J Moran

**Assessment:** 60% Examination

40% Coursework

## **The Course:**

Geography is the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments. Geographers explore the physical properties of the earth's surface and the human societies spread across it. What can be more important for our future?

"The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures across continents. And in the end, it's about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together." - Barack Obama

## **What Skills Will I Develop?**

- Interpret, analyse and evaluate information to make decisions about issues affecting people and the environment.
- Collect, process, analyse and understand qualitative and quantitative data.
- Develop reasoned arguments and communicate effectively.
- Teamwork and leadership skills.
- Personal skills for life, including time management, dealing with uncertainty, flexibility, creativity, problem-solving, and self-confidence.

## **Assessment:**

**Unit 1:** Written exam: Our Physical and Human World

**Unit 2:** Developing Fieldwork Skills – Coursework / Controlled assessment

**Unit 3:** Written exam: Our Dynamic and Diverse World

**Unit 4:** Sustainable Solutions - Coursework / Controlled assessments

# Hair & Beauty

**Course:** Level 2 Certificate in an Introduction to Hair services

**Contact:** Mrs O Kelly

**Assessment:** Externally set unit exams, written assignments and practical assessments

## The Course:

This course is a combination of 1 written assignment, 6 unit online tests 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.

## Course: WJEC GCSE Double Award

**Contact:** [Myfanwy Wilson](mailto:Myfanwy.Wilson@wlv.ac.uk)

**Assessment:** 40% exam

**60% coursework**

## The Course:

Through studying GCSE Health and Social Care and Childcare you will learn about health and social care, and childcare services and consider the impact of these services on general health, well-being and children's development. You will also consider human rights and diversity, including black, Asian and minority ethnic perspectives, identity, culture and experiences.

## Assessments:

**There are two non-examination assessments and one examination assessment:**

## **Unit 1: Health and social care, and childcare in Wales in the 21st Century - Y10 1.5hr written exam (40%)**

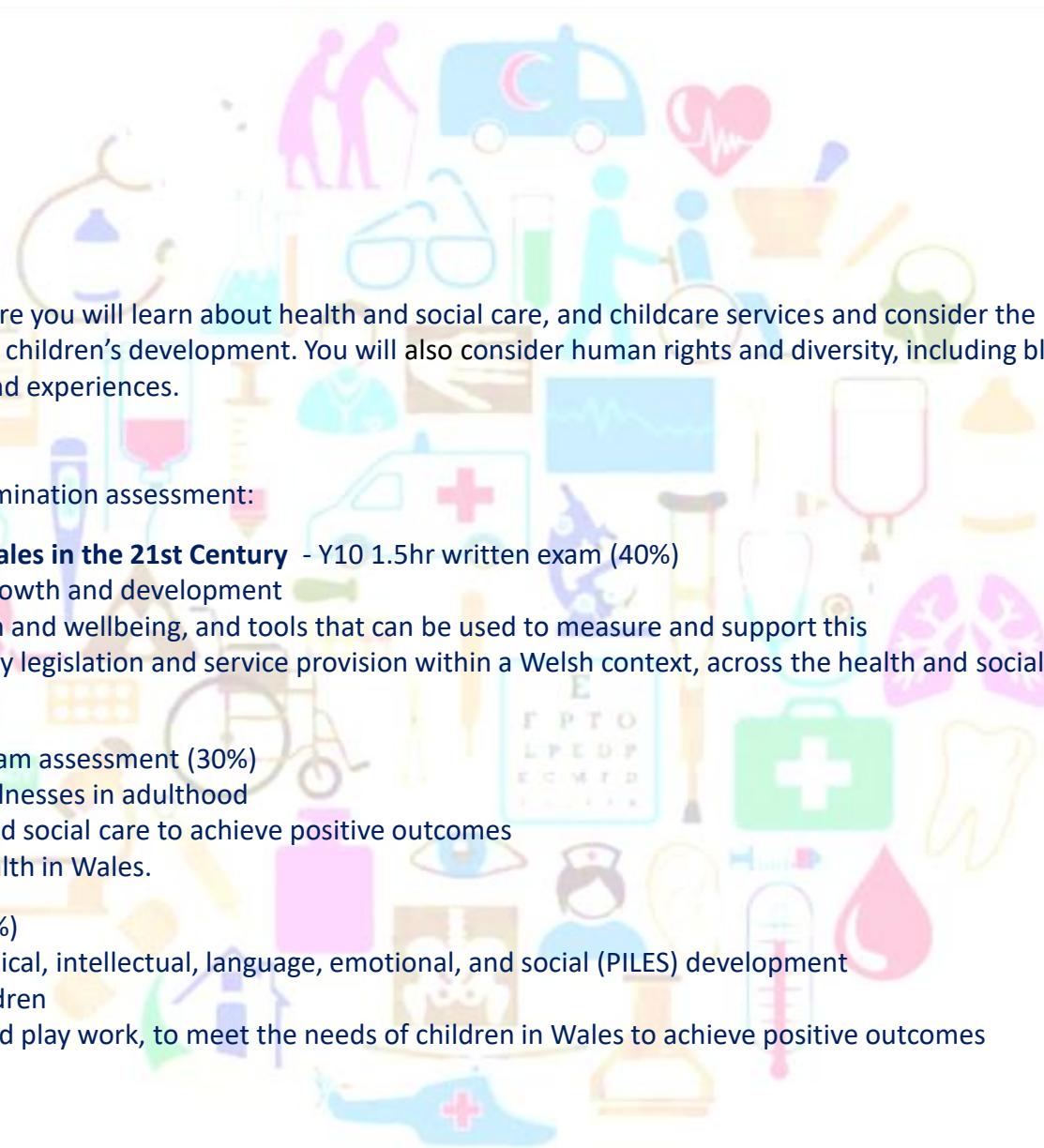
- the life cycle and the factors that affect growth and development
- the promotion and maintenance of health and wellbeing, and tools that can be used to measure and support this
- core principles and values, underpinned by legislation and service provision within a Welsh context, across the health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

**Unit 2: Adult Health and Social Care – Y11 Non-exam assessment (30%)**

- 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 – Y11 Non-exam assessment (30%)

- 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



**Course:** GCSE

**Contact:** Mr A Wilson

**Assessment:** 60% exam

40% 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:**

There are two examination assessments and two non-examination assessments:

**Unit 1:** **Written exam – 1 hr Exam (30%)** An in-depth study on Welsh History – **Wales in the era of the Civil War, 1603-1660**

**Unit 2:** **On screen NEA – 3 hr - (20%)** - An in-depth study on European and/or World history – **The Black Death 1330-1360**

**Unit 3:** **Written exam –** A study of a period in world history – 1 hr exam (30%) - **Changes in US society 1880-1980**

**Unit 4** **NEA –** A changing society – 4hrs 15 minutes (20%) - Learners will undertake a study of a themed event within a continuous period covering 75 -100 years of history. The events studied will be from the islands of Great Britain and Ireland.

# Hospitality and Catering

**Course:** WJEC Level 1/2 Technical Award

**Contact:** Ms G Jones / Mrs R Tuliva

**Assessment:** 40% Examination

60% NEA (Coursework)

## The Course:

Catering and Hospitality offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for students to develop their knowledge and extend their range of skills both practically and theoretically.

Students are given the opportunity to work individually and with their peers and apply knowledge from other subjects such as Maths, English, Science, PE and the Arts.

Learners will gain an overview of the Hospitality and Catering industry and the types of job roles that may be available to assist them in making choices about progression. It will also equip learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and prepare food. In addition the course encourages students to apply the principles of nutrition, sustainability and healthy eating.

This course will encourage learners to cook and enable them to make informed decisions about food, nutrition and budgeting to allow them to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and in later life. It will also allow students to explore sustainability issues related to food, including seasonality, food miles and availability, fair-trade and freedom foods.

Hospitality and Catering is a starting point for many career options and is a good foundation for further education courses with nutrition and diet, food safety, quality control, product development, food science and catering.

## Assessment:

**Unit 1:** The Hospitality and Catering Industry. 40% of the overall qualification. Written examination 90 minutes.

**Unit 2:** Hospitality and Catering in action. 60% of the overall qualification. You will be asked to research, cook and present dishes. This includes a formal practical assessment.

# Information Technology

**Course:** TLM - Level 2 Extended Certificate in IT User Skills  
**Contact:** Miss S McCusker  
**Assessment:** 100% Coursework, E-Assessment. Portfolio of Evidence

## **The Course:**

Level 2 IT qualifications are designed for a wide range of abilities and for people who require skills and competence in IT. The qualification will allow you to develop an understanding of different IT skills including games design, presentation, and E-Safety. Each unit will consist of coursework or portfolio of evidence which will be externally assessed.

## **Assessment:**

This qualification consists of a mandatory unit and optional units to make up the 25 credits required:

**Mandatory Unit 1 - Improving Productivity Using IT (4 credits)**

There are a variety of optional units to choose from, such as:

**Unit 2:** Website Design (4 Credits)

**Unit 10:** Presentation Software (4 Credits)

**Unit 26:** Computer Games Development (4 Credits)

**Unit 43:** E-Safety for Learners (3 Credits)

# International Languages: French & German

**Course:** GCSE

**Contact:** Miss J Hughes – French

Miss J McAllister – German

**Assessment:** 100% Examination

## The Course:

Each course is structured under three broad themes:

**Theme 1:** Language for leisure and wellbeing.

**Theme 2:** Language for travel.

**Theme 3:** Language for study and work.

## Assessment:

The assessment of the GCSE courses is made up of four separate units, each assessing different communication skills.

**Unit 1:** **Oracy (30%):** Three tasks - read aloud & role-play, presentation and discussion, and conversation. Non-examination assessment.

**Unit 2:** **Reading & Writing (15%):** Written response in French / German. Non-examination assessment.

**Unit 3:** **Listening (20%):** Listening comprehension tasks with fixed and written responses. Written examination.

**Unit 4:** **Reading and Writing (35%):** Reading comprehension tasks, translation from French/German to English, and writing tasks in response to simple and familiar stimuli. Written examination.

# Learning in the Outdoors

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

## **The Course:**

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

The qualification supports 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.

# Music

**Course:** GCSE

**Contact:** Mr A Umpleby

**Assessment:** External 36%

Internal 64%

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

**The Course:**

This exciting new course will appeal to everyone who enjoys listening to music and who plays a musical instrument or who sings. As part of the course, you will have free music lessons.

**Assessment:**

**Unit 1** [32%. Internally assessed]

In this unit you will develop your performance skills. You will choose the instrument that you will focus on [including voice and a music technology] and you can perform individually or in a band/ ensemble. You will perform at least two pieces of music.

**Unit 2** [32%. Internally assessed]

In Unit 2 you will learn to compose and will be assessed on two of your original compositions.

**Unit 3** [36% External Digital exam]

In this exam you will respond to a variety of music.

# Performing Arts

**Course:** WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award (Technical Award)

**Contact:** Mrs N Wilson

**Assessment:** 20% externally assessed  
80% internally assessed

## **The Course:**

Studying the WJEC Performing Arts Technical Award provides students with a unique opportunity to delve into the dynamic world of performing arts while developing essential skills in performance, interpretation and devising. This qualification fosters creativity and collaboration. With hands-on experience and a focus on practical learning, this award not only enhances artistic abilities but also equips students with transferable skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and project management. Whether aspiring to perform, create, or manage, the WJEC Performing Arts Technical Award is a gateway to a rewarding and vibrant career in the arts.

## **Assessment:**

**Unit 1:** Performing Controlled assessment: 10 hours 30% of qualification 60 marks.

This unit enables learners to gain a holistic knowledge and understanding of the skills and techniques needed to reproduce an existing piece(s) of professional/published work.

**Unit 2:** Creating Controlled assessment: 10 hours 30% of qualification 60 marks.

This unit enables learners to gain, develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the skills and techniques needed to create and refine original work in the performing arts.

**Unit 3:** Performing Arts in Practice External controlled assessment: 20 hours 40% of qualification 80 marks.

This unit introduces learners to areas of the performing arts that need to be considered when responding to an industry commission.

# Photography

**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. In order to record ideas, plan photo shoots and add to printed images creatively, drawing will also be used; this skill will be developed during 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.

## 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 up to 10 weeks preparation time and 10 hours to complete a piece of focused study.

Your work will be marked using the following **Assessment Objectives**:

**AO1** - Develop ideas and demonstrate critical and contextual understanding of sources.

**AO2** - Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, techniques, tools, digital technologies, and processes.

**AO3** - Reflect on own work, and record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.

**AO4** - Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

# Physical Education

**Course:** GCSE

**Contact:** Mr C Bennett

**Assessment:** 40% Examination

40% Practical

20% Coursework

## The Course:

The GCSE Physical Education And Health will enable you to engage in a practical course, designed to encourage you to be inspired, motivated and challenged by the subject and allow you to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career pathways. You will acquire the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to develop and maintain your performance in sports or physical activities and understand the benefits to health, fitness and well-being

## Assessment:

**Unit 1:** **Principles Of Physical Education And Health** - Digital examination: 1 hour 30 minutes (Marked by WJEC)

- 40% of qualification
- 80 marks
- Questions requiring objective response, quick responses, short and extended answers.

**Unit 2:** **Performance And Personal Training** - Non-examination assessment (internally assessed and externally moderated by a WJEC moderator)

- 60% qualification
- 120 marks Practical non-examination assessment:
- Perform in one sport or physical activity from the approved list
- Perform in a second sport or physical activity or provide coaching in a sport or physical activity from the approved list
- Plan, implement and evaluate a personal training activity over 8-10 weeks for a sport or physical activity from the approved list.

# Product Design

**Course:** GCSE

**Contact:** Mr T Dennis

**Assessment:** 30% Examination  
70% (NEA) 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.

# Psychology

**Course: GCSE**

**Contact: Miss A Vadher**

**Assessment: 100% Examination**

## **The Course:**

GCSE Psychology is the study of how people think, feel, and behave. On this course, you'll explore fascinating topics such as memory, perception, development, social influence, and mental health. You'll also learn how psychologists design and carry out research, and how their findings apply to real-life situations.

The course helps you develop critical thinking, analytical skills, and an understanding of human behaviour — all valuable for future study and careers in health, education, business, and law. Assessment is through two written exams at the end of Year 11, with no coursework.

By the end of the course, you will gain a GCSE qualification in Psychology (AQA), a nationally recognised award that can lead on to A Level Psychology and other social science subjects.

If you're curious about why people act the way they do and enjoy scientific investigation, psychology is a great choice!

## **Assessment:**

These will be studied across the two years.

**Unit 1:** **Cognition and behaviour** - you will be assessed on memory, perception, development and research methods. You are expected to draw upon knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study. (1hr 45m, 100 marks, 50% of GCSE)

**Unit 2:** **Social context and behaviour** - you will be studying social influence, language, thought and communication, brain and neuropsychology, and psychological problems. Again, ability to draw upon knowledge and understanding of these topics is expected. (1hr 45m, 100 marks, 50% of GCSE)

# Retail Business

Course: **Level 2 Vocational Award**

Contact: **Miss P Williams**

Assessment: **50% Examination**

**50% Coursework**

## The Course:

The WJEC Level 2 in Retail Business is designed to provide learners with an introduction to the retail industry, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and understanding needed to pursue a career in this dynamic sector. The course focuses on key aspects of retail operations, customer service, marketing, and business principles, helping learners to understand how retail businesses operate and thrive in a competitive market.

This qualification is ideal for individuals interested in roles such as sales assistants, store managers, merchandisers, or those wishing to progress to further study in retail or business-related fields.

The course covers the following core areas:

- Understanding the retail industry, including types of retail businesses and their functions.
- The importance of excellent customer service and building customer relationships.
- Retail marketing and promotion strategies.
- Handling stock, security, and health and safety in a retail environment.
- The impact of technology on the retail sector.

## Assessment:

The WJEC Level 2 in Retail Business is assessed through:

### 1. Internal Assessment (50%)

- Learners complete practical and written tasks or projects designed to demonstrate their understanding of the core topics.
- Tasks are based on real-world retail scenarios, allowing learners to apply their knowledge in practical situations.

### 2. External Assessment (50%)

- A written exam that tests the learner's understanding of key retail concepts, industry standards, and practical applications.



# Science (Triple Award)

**Course:** GCSE

**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.

# College Courses

INSPIRE I SUPPORT I SUCCEED

Contact: Mrs G Murphy



College Courses - Limited Availability

## Introduction:

We understand that many of our students want the opportunity to study more practical-based subjects, utilizing the facilities on offer at our local colleges. There are three exciting college courses available, depending on interest, which will take place at Coleg Llandrillo or Coleg Rhyl. Due to their practical nature, these courses are double-option subjects, meaning you'll spend a full day at college every week throughout the term. Students who also opt for college will study for a BTEC Level 2 qualification in Personal Growth and Well-Being as their third option. This is a key part of the college package.

## The Courses:

### **IMIAL Level 2 in Vehicle Technology**

If you've ever been curious about how cars work and want to get hands-on with motor vehicles, the IMIAL Level 2 in Vehicle Technology is the perfect course for you! You'll dive deep into the world of engines, maintenance, and basic repairs, learning exactly what makes vehicles tick. Throughout the course, you'll work on real-life projects, completing coursework on each topic to build your skills and knowledge. Plus, you'll have the chance to take on external exams that will further prove your expertise.

### **WJEC Level 1/2 in Construction & Built Environment**

The WJEC Level 1/2 in Construction & Built Environment gives you the chance to develop both practical and academic skills in the exciting world of construction. You'll learn everything from hands-on techniques to industry knowledge that can be applied to real-world projects. Whether you want to pursue further study in engineering, construction, or project management, or start your career straight away, the skills you gain will set you up for success in the workplace and beyond.

### **WJEC Level 2 Health and Social Care (dependant on numbers)**

The Health and Social Care Double Award provides students with the knowledge and skills to pursue careers in one of the most rewarding sectors — caring for others. This course is designed to give you a deep understanding of how health and social care services work, and the roles professionals play in supporting individuals across all ages and backgrounds.

### **BTEC Level 2 in Personal Growth and Well-Being**

The BTEC Level 2 in Personal Growth and Well-Being is a practical course that helps you develop the skills, confidence, and mindset to thrive in life. You'll explore key topics like emotional well-being, managing stress, and setting realistic goals, while also gaining practical skills that will help you in everyday life and future careers. With a focus on personal development, this course empowers you to take charge of your own growth, building resilience and confidence every step of the way.