

Ysgol Rhiwabon

**Blwyddyn 9
Year 9**

**Dewis Eich Llwybr Dysgu
Choosing Your
Learning Pathway**

Noson Wybodaeth
Information Evening

31^{ain} Ionawr 2012
31st January 2012

OPTION CHOICES for September 2012

KEY DATES

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
Tuesday 24 th January	CCF Day Students Working on Option Choices and Careers Wales	All Day	Ysgol Rhiwabon
Tuesday 31 st January	Options Evening for Parents and Students	7:00 pm	Ysgol Rhiwabon
Wednesday 1 st February	Option choices on Careers Wales open	9:00 am	online
Tuesday 7 th February	Collaborative Options evening for Parents and Students	5:00 pm to 7:00pm	Yale College Grove Park Campus
Thursday 9 th February	Construction and Engineering Courses Collaborative Options Evening for Parents and Students	5:00 pm to 7:00pm	Yale College Bersham Road Campus
Friday 10 th February	School reports issued for Parents	3:05 pm	Ysgol Rhiwabon
Thursday 23 rd February	Option choices on Careers Wales close	3:05 pm	Ysgol Rhiwabon
Friday 24 th February to Friday 2 nd March	Review of chosen Options by Ysgol Rhiwabon Senior Staff and interviews of students as necessary		Ysgol Rhiwabon
Monday 5 th March	Submission of names for collaborative courses		
Monday 19 th March	Principal Learning selection		Yale College
Wednesday 22 nd March	Collaborative Course selection		Yale College
Friday 4 th May	Confirmation of Students on Collaborative Courses		
Tuesday 28 th May	Final Confirmation of Option Choices		
Wednesday 20 th June	Induction Day for Collaborative Courses		

FOREWORD

Students in Year 9 have reached the exciting point in their school careers when initial thoughts about further education, careers and training begin to take shape.

The second stage of this process happens as they reach the age of 16 in Year 11 when an overwhelming number of our students choose to continue their education post-16. The days when young people of whatever aspirations walked out of school and looked for a job without further training are long gone.

Between now and Year 11 most students' ideas about what subjects they like, what they are good at and what they might consider doing in the future will change. For this reason it is important for students to keep as broad a range of subjects as possible. The next two years in a young person's education are not the last lap but the entry into the next phase.

Students who enter Year 10 next year are able to exercise a fairly open choice over the subjects they take. They will be encouraged to follow an individual learning pathway; this is good news for many, though not without its dangers. I believe that it is in the interests of the vast majority of our young people to take a combination of courses to 16 which will preserve breadth and balance. Accordingly, we shall be guiding the choices that students make to ensure that they follow a balanced curriculum.

There is a common core which all must take consisting of English, Mathematics, Science, Personal and Social Education, Religious Education, Physical Education and Welsh. In addition students will be able to make four choices, though it should be noted that if a subject attracts very few learners it may be uneconomical to provide it.

Our Key Stage 4 curriculum provides a good range of choice. A number of new subjects is on offer and students need to find out as much as they can about these courses before making their choices. Provision for 14-19 education in Wrexham enables us to extend our option menu to include subjects available at other educational venues in the area.

All Year 10 learners follow the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification. This is an exciting qualification which adds a valuable new dimension to the courses already available to 14-19 year old students. The academic qualifications which young people gain are only a part of their education at Ysgol Rhiwabon. We take pride in the ways in which they are prepared for adult life; they are trained to develop the skills of listening and responding with reasoned argument, to research their own material, to make decisions based on fact and informed judgement and to use ICT. Social skills, community activities and work experience are an essential part of their education during the next two years. The Welsh Baccalaureate qualification recognises the importance of personal development skills and combines these with existing qualifications such as GCSEs to make one wider award that is valued by employers and universities.

I hope that parents and children will take time together to discuss the choices, and that you choose wisely and well. Also supporting your children through this important process are the Senior Leadership Team, Mr Bingham Lead Learner, Mrs Gooding Director 14-19 studies, subject teachers, Form Tutors and Mrs Kate Buckeridge Careers Adviser. We know that they will offer support and guidance to your child at every available opportunity and coordinate this transition smoothly.

Thank you for your active support on this vital journey.

Angela Williams
Headteacher

CORE CURRICULUM

LEVEL 2 COURSES – Courses offered at GCSE A* - C grade or equivalent

LEVEL 1 COURSES – Courses offered at GCSE D – G grade or equivalent

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE **(level 1/level 2)**

The course seeks to develop in students:-

- (a) the ability to communicate accurately, appropriately and effectively in speech and writing;
- (b) the ability to understand and respond imaginatively to what they hear, read and experience in a variety of media;
- (c) the capacity to enjoy and appreciate the reading of literature.

The syllabus will provide for a range of experiences of:-

- (a) oral communication
- (b) reading
- (c) writing.

This will involve sustained writing and sustained reading of various kinds, including the reading of whole works of literature.

ASSESSMENT

- (a) The assessment of written English will consist of:-
 - (i) Two examination papers (40%)
 - (ii) Coursework (30%)
- (b) The assessment of Spoken Language will be made during the course by the class teacher. This is worth 30% of the total allocation.

Good attendance is essential in order to complete all the components of the course.

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE (level 1 and level 2)

Students will also follow a literature course which will lead to a separate GCSE qualification.

Pupils will study in depth a range of literary texts in Prose, Drama and Poetry (pre- and post-1914). A coursework assignment based on Poetry and a Shakespeare Drama will be submitted for assessment.

Pupils will study a prescribed text in Prose, Drama and Poetry for the terminal examinations.

In doing so they will:-

- (i) develop their ability to read, understand, enjoy and respond to a variety of literary texts;
- (ii) develop their awareness of personal, social and cultural significances in the study of literature;
- (iii) develop their ability to construct and convey meaning in written and spoken language.

ASSESSMENT

The assessment will be based on two examination papers and on coursework submission.

Examination 75% Coursework 25%.

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-

MRS K HATFIELD

GCSE MATHEMATICS (level 1/level 2)

All students will study Mathematics and will be taught in sets arranged according to ability. They will continue to work through the National Curriculum in Mathematics.

Most students will be entered for the WJEC GCSE Mathematics examination.

The GCSE syllabus has two overlapping tiers of entry.

Higher Tier (level 2)	A*	A	B	C	D			
Foundation Tier (level 1)				C	D	E	F	G

Assessment for both tiers will be through written examination papers. There is no coursework in Mathematics.

Students will study either a linear GCSE Mathematics Course or a unitized course. It will be decided in September which course is more appropriate.

All students will require their own scientific calculators and basic mathematical instruments for use in lessons, examinations and for homework. Advice on suitable equipment and calculators is available from any Mathematics teacher.

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-

MRS J ROBERTS

GCSE SCIENCE (level 1/level 2)

There are a number of routes to qualifications in Sciences in Key Stage 4.

Some students will choose only to take a single GCSE in Science, which includes elements of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Internally-assessed 'controlled assessments' are part of the course.

Others will take two GCSEs over the key stage; Science in Year 10 and Additional Science in Year 11. Practical Science is an inherent part of these courses and these skills are tested in the 'controlled assessment' tasks. Double Science is the minimum requirement for many further courses and careers, especially A Level Sciences.

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-

MR M LEATHER

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SHORT COURSE) (level 1 and level 2)

All pupils in Years 10 and 11 are required to study Religious Education for one hour per week.

The course covers many issues which have relevance for adult life, for example relationships, justice and concern for the environment.

It can also lead to the opportunity to obtain a GCSE short course qualification.

Unit 1: Relationships (Issues of love, marriage and divorce)

Unit 2: Is it Fair? (Issues of justice and equality)

Unit 3: Looking for Meaning (Issues about God, life and death)

Unit 4: Our World (Exploring Creation and our place in the world)

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-

MRS H SAVVA

WELSH SECOND LANGUAGE (SHORT COURSE) GCSE (level 1 and level 2)

All pupils are required to continue their studies in Welsh into years 10 and 11. Welsh is available in the options as a full GCSE. A GCSE short course in Welsh for one hour per week will be followed by all pupils who don't choose Welsh in the options. The course will enable students to obtain a GCSE grade, which is equivalent to half a full GCSE.

The course is aimed at students:

- whose first language is not Welsh
- for whom Welsh is not the everyday language of the home.

Students are assessed in three major skill areas – oracy, reading & understanding and writing.

The course is divided into two units:

Unit 1: (50%)	Writing paper	
	4 questions:	2 writing questions (20%) 2 reading questions (30%)
Unit 2: (50%)	Oral assessment	
	2 tasks:	individual presentation (20%) role play (20%)
	Written response to the work	(10%)

There are two tiers of study:

- i) The Foundation Tier will assess grades C - G
- ii) The Higher Tier will assess grades A* - D

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-

MISS H OWAIN OR MRS L STEEN

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

COURSE DETAILS

At Key Stage 4 students will have the opportunity to develop knowledge, skills and understanding in a number of activities.

Students will be encouraged to develop a critical awareness of strengths, limitations and opportunities presented in challenging situations.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Students will be assessed in

- Games
- Health-related exercise

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

Assessment will be completed through a series of appropriate tests and/or teacher observations.

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-

MR E PARTRIDGE OR MISS A JONES

WELSH BACCALAUREATE

All students will follow the Welsh Baccalaureate course. This includes a study of Wales, Europe and the World, Work-Related Experience, Key Skills and PSHE. At Intermediate level the Welsh Bac is equivalent to three grade A GCSEs and at Foundation level is equivalent to three grade D GCSEs.

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-

MRS P GOODING

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL EDUCATION

Pupils throughout the school study PSE.

PSE is taught in year teams by Year 9 form tutors, the Lead Learner and a member of the senior team. The PSE lessons take place on a rota basis, replacing normal lessons in the mornings of Week B.

The PSE programme covers a wide range of topics such as: cultural diversity, drugs education, sex education, anti-racism, recycling and fair trade. The programme is supported by a number of guest speakers and professionals from our local community.

Careers and the world of work topics include an introduction to Careers Wales on-line to access information about jobs. All Year 9 students will have a guest speaker from the 'Dynamo Role Models' project during their PSE lesson.

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:-

MRS C BALLAMY

CoPE

The Certificate of Personal Effectiveness is an extra qualification which can build on the work which our students complete in Years 10 and 11. The course credits work completed across the curriculum and the certificate is the equivalent of a GCSE Grade B pass. This is a valuable qualification which adds to our students' overall Key Stage 4 level of achievement. The course is planned through our PSE sessions, tutor periods and cross-curricular focus days.

BTEC COURSES

A guide for parents and learners is available in printed form and on the school website.

Since September 2010 Kate Buckeridge (Careers Adviser) has been giving impartial careers guidance on a one-to-one basis to students, explaining their options, discussing their career ideas and agreeing suitable action steps for them to take in order to move them forward with their career goals. She advises them about forthcoming open events and provides websites and telephone numbers so that students can take the necessary action in order to help them to make an informed choice.

This term Kate has delivered group sessions to:-

Year 9 on how to research their career ideas on careerswales.com in order to help them select their options in Spring 2012.

Year 11 Sixth Form classes on job-searching skills, how to write an effective CV and information on the option choices available locally.

A select sixth Form group on confidence, motivation and decision-making skills required for application to university; this also included advice on finance, budgeting and how to research the many courses available.

Next term there will be role models in school delivering to year 9 students. These are people who have set up their own businesses talking about their experiences to encourage entrepreneurial skills.

All information received from students is treated in confidence under the Data Protection Act and a letter has been put on the school website outlining this. Click on 'Careers' on the home page of ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk and then on 'Information for Parents'. There are paper copies available for parents who cannot access the internet. Please ask in the school office for a copy.

Parents and students are invited to look at careerswales.com and can book themselves an interview by telephoning the school office (Tel: 01978 822392) or by e-mailing Kate on kate.buckeridge@cwne.org

SOME COMMENTS FROM STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN YEAR 10

When I had to pick my Year 9 options, I had no idea about what I wanted to take. The Options Evening was very helpful and helped me make my final decision. My form tutor and Lead Learner helped me through the process. It wasn't as difficult as I first thought it would be.

Georgia Rose

When I had to choose my options I thought it was quite difficult because there was a lot to choose from but when I looked at the Careers Wales site it helped me a lot.

Celine Lawrence

Choosing my Year 9 options was quite hard for me. I had to talk to a lot of people, including teachers and friends who have been through the same thing. Careers Wales was very useful and helped me in my final decision. I picked what I enjoyed and what I thought would help me in future.

Ana Simoes

I was worried about picking my options, but we were given lots of information about the sort of things that we would be doing in Year 10 and in our selected options. Choosing subjects was really easy and I am enjoying all of them.

Sean Edwards

I found it quite hard to choose my options, however, the options evening made me realise how easy it was. Also my Lead Learner gave me a lot of guidance and helped me a lot.

Deon Hayward

Facing Year 10 was a different and 'nerve-racking' feeling. I had no idea how it would turn out. It was by far the most difficult year so far. Picking my options was tough but with loads of support from the teachers and my mates it was actually quite exciting.

Jack Lloyd

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PROGRAMME FOR TONIGHT

Time	Room	Details
7.00 pm - 7.30 pm approx	Library	Explanation of the Option blocks and procedures Outline explanations of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• College courses.• The Welsh Baccalaureate.• CoPE.• The use of Careers Wales online.
7.30 pm - 8.30 pm	Gym	Displays of Option Choice subjects. Advice available from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ysgol Rhiwabon Curriculum Leaders• Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator• Wrexham Network Quality Champion• Careers Wales Officer
7.30 pm *	E6	First session giving more details of the Welsh Baccalaureate and CoPE.
7.30 pm *	E5	First session demonstrating how to use Careers Wales online.
8.00 pm	E5	Repeat session demonstrating how to use Careers Wales.
8.00 pm *	E6	Repeat session giving more details of the Welsh Baccalaureate and CoPE.

* Optional events