

YSGOL RHIWABON
~ SINCE 1575 ~



Year 9 Options Information Booklet

2021-2022

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Introduction

This booklet is designed to provide Year 9 students and families with all the information needed to make a wise and informed decision about subject choices for Key Stage 4. The choices are both important and an exciting opportunity. The broad range of subjects studied in Years 10 and 11 help all our students with future aspirations and next steps in the world of work or further education.

In the booklet you will find:

- An outline of every subject available as an option in the school
- An overview of College courses
- The Options process and Timeline

It is important to read the information in the booklet very carefully. The course outline needs to be studied to ensure that you are fully aware of the type of learning and assessment required in each one, before making a decision.

In addition to the Options Booklet, there is an online formal presentation by myself and Mrs Savva which talks you and your family through the process. We have posted your Year 9 subject reports home so you can think about your strengths and achievements during Key Stage 3. In this pack you will find the Options Selection Form and a stamped addressed envelope ready for you to post back to school.

Your initial three choices, plus two reserves, must be completed clearly on the selection form and returned to school by **Monday 22nd February**. Late forms may affect your place on first choice courses.

Once your form has been received in school the process begins for school staff. We will aim to meet as many of your initial choices as possible. Follow up calls and interviews will take place to discuss any issues arising and to make any necessary alterations to the selection forms. In school, whilst we do our best to accommodate your choices, some courses may be withdrawn if very few students opt for a particular subject; this is when your reserve choices become very important.

This is an important stage in your education so please use the next three weeks wisely by reading all the information and taking time to talk to your family and any staff in school who can help you. We are here to support you if you are unsure of anything.

We look forward to receiving your choices by **Monday 22nd February**.

With Best Wishes

Mrs Ferron-Evans, Headteacher

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Year 9 Options Timeline

January 2021

January/February

- Options presentation available on the school website.
- Year 9 reports posted home.
- Live parent Q & A sessions.
- Options selected to be posted to the school office by Monday 22nd February.

February/ March

- The Senior Team will begin to process the choices and individual interviews will take place to discuss the option choices with students.

March/April

- Options submitted for college courses and individual interviews for courses to take place for a small number of students. These interviews for college will include a written application, student's interview and meetings with parents and students.

May- June

- Options will be finalised and any outstanding interviews will take place.

July

- Letter sent home to parents/guardians to confirm option choices.

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GCSE Art & Design

Course Outline

The WJEC GCSE Art and Design course is to provide challenging, coherent, meaningful learning experiences through a flexible structure, which supports the development of creative practice. The course provides candidates with the opportunities to broaden experiences, develop imagination, technical skills, fostering creativity and the promotion of personal and social development. The specification encompasses four principle areas of critical, practical and theoretical study of art, craft and design. The emphasis is placed on the quality of analytical understanding, practical experimentation, researching and individual expression required at GCSE level.

The title selected from the WJEC Specification is Art and Design (Art, Craft and Design). This is a broad-based course, allowing students to work with an almost limitless range of techniques, processes and materials.

Assessment

The GCSE award incorporates two units of work over a period of two years.

Unit 1 – Portfolio 60% - internally assessed, externally moderated. An open programme of study, that encourages and promotes purposeful exploration, experimentation and opportunities for productive personal expression.

Unit 2 – Externally Set Assignment 40%- Internally assessed, externally moderated. Learners will apply knowledge and understanding gained during unit one, by producing an appropriate outcome within a set time frame.

Curriculum Leader: Mrs L Madoc-Jones

Subject Link: From WJEC https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/art-and-design-gcse/#tab_overview

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GCSE Design & Technology

Course Outline

Over the course of two years, students will be given the opportunity to solve real life problems by designing and making products. They will also learn about the properties of materials and the processes involved in an increasingly technological world.

The subject offers students opportunities for creativity and they will be expected to come up with a range of design ideas. This will be done by using a combination of hand drawings, computer aided designs as well as card modelling before they produce a final outcome that can be manufactured in a range of materials including wood, metal and plastic. The difference between this subject and Level 1/2 Engineering is that it allows more freedom to design individual products, but it requires the production of more evidence of design ideas and development on paper.

Year 10

Students work on a series of mini 'design and make' projects that increase their knowledge and understanding of the subject. These are also a practice run for Unit 2 that will start at the very end of year 10.

Year 11

Unit 2: Non-examined assessment NEA (coursework) - Students produce a design portfolio and 3D practical outcome that solves a real life brief.

The students are also taught the theory aspects to prepare them for the Unit 1 exam.

Assessment

Unit 1: 50% of GCSE - External Exam 2 hours (June Year 11)

Unit 2: 50 % of GCSE - Non-examined assessment NEA (coursework) 'design and make' task.

Curriculum Leader: Mr D Roberts

Subject Link: https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/design-and-technology-gcse#tab_overview

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GCSE Digital Technology

The WJEC GCSE qualification in Digital Technology offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for pupils to build on the digital skills, knowledge and understanding that is used both in school and everyday lives. The qualification will allow pupils to develop their understanding of the range of digital technology systems at use in our connected and globalised society. It will also allow pupils to explore the ever-evolving nature of digital technology systems and how these systems can be used productively, creatively and safely.

This qualification will enable pupils to become independent, confident and knowledgeable users of existing, new and emerging digital technologies. They will develop knowledge of different digital technology systems used across a range of occupational sectors. It will develop an understanding of the impact digital technologies can have on individuals and wider society and the ways in which they can bring about change.

Students will develop skills in organising and analysing data to identify trends and audiences. They will become creators of digital products, in a variety of formats and for a variety of purposes, that meet specified, authentic needs. Students develop transferable skills in using a range of hardware and software and develop their understanding of the systems development life cycle and of how ideas can become products.

Course Outline

Unit 1 - The Digital World – This unit covers; digital technology systems, the value of digital technology, perspectives on digital technology.

Unit 2 - Digital Practices – This unit covers two sections; In Section A candidates will interrogate a supplied data set imported into a spreadsheet in order to inform Section B, where they will create a website incorporating either an animation or a game related to a set context.

Unit 3 - Communicating in the Digital World – This unit focusses on marketing digital assets using social media. Candidates will create digital assets related to a set context and then formulate an online digital communications campaign around them.

Assessment

Unit 1: The Digital World - On-screen examination - 1 hour 30 minutes, 40% of qualification

Unit 2: Digital practices - Non-exam assessment, controlled task - 45 hours, 40% of qualification

Unit 3: Communicating in the Digital World - Non-exam assessment, controlled task 15 hours, 20% of qualification

Curriculum Leader: Mrs E Thomas

Subject Link: https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/digital-technology-gcse/#tab_overview

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GCSE Drama

The GCSE in Drama is an exciting, inspiring and practical course. The course promotes student's involvement in and enjoyment of drama as creators and performers. Additionally, it provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances and to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members.

Course Outline

There are 3 units studied over Year 10 and 11:

Unit 1 – Devising Theatre

Unit 2 – Performing Theatre

Unit 3 – Interpreting Theatre: Section A: Set Text

Section B: Live Theatre Review

Assessment

Unit 1 – Devising Theatre - Non-exam assessment, internally assessed, externally moderated.

Unit 2 – Performing Theatre - Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner.

Unit 3 – Interpreting Theatre - Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

Curriculum Leader: Mrs N Davies-Bottomley

Subject Link: https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/drama-gcse/#tab_overview

Resources to support: <https://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceByArgs.aspx?subId=9&lvlId=2>

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GCSE Engineering

Course Outline

The Level 1/2 Award in Engineering provides a more practical alternative to GCSE. The qualification is based around the world of engineering and aims to introduce students to the various strands available within the field. The qualification offers students the chance to develop knowledge, skills and understanding through tasks set in realistic work-related contexts. Students will also learn about the properties of materials and the processes involved in an increasingly technological world.

Although a lot of the work will be based around metalwork processes, students will also work in plastics, woodwork and basic electronics. The difference between this subject and GCSE Design & Technology is that there is less freedom to design personal products and more emphasis is placed on explaining how products are made and the practical skills that are required.

Year 10

Students work on a series of mini 'design and make' projects that increase their knowledge and understanding of the subject. These are also a practice run for the Units 1 & 2 formal assessments that will take place in year 11.

Year 11

Unit 1: Students produce a design folder for a design challenge. This includes research, analysis, draw and plan a range of ideas. This will purely be design based work.

Unit 2: All students are given a set design to plan and then build. They have to explain what they have done as well as follow specific measurements.

Unit 3: 90 min external exam that will be taken at the end of Year 11.

Assessment

All 3 units contribute towards the Level 1 / 2 award. In order to achieve the award a pass must be achieved in all 3 sections. The Level 1 qualification is the equivalent to E - F GCSE grade, the Level 2 is the equivalent of A*- C GCSE grade.

Curriculum Leader: Mr D Roberts

Subject Link: https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/engineering-level-1-2/#tab_overview

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GCSE French

Over the course of two years, students will study the Francophonie world, culture and language at GCSE level. Students will extend their knowledge of other norms and traditions and gain understanding of how other languages work in comparison to their own. At Ysgol Rhiwabon the WJEC specification is followed at GCSE Level.

Course Outline

Year 10

Broad theme: Identity and Culture – Youth Culture and Lifestyle

Broad theme: Wales and the World – The Wider World

Broad theme: Current and Future Study – Current Study

Year 11

Broad theme: Current and Future Study – Post-16 and Career Plans

Broad theme: Wales and the World – Global Sustainability

Broad theme: Identity and Culture – Customs and Traditions

Assessment

Unit 1: 7-12 minutes oral examination – 25%

Unit 2: 35-45 minutes listening examination – 25%

Unit 3: 60-75 minutes reading examination – 25%

Unit 4: 75-90 minutes written examination – 25%

Curriculum Leader: Mrs S Evans

Subject Link: WJEC website: <https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/french-gcse/>
(select GCSE French Specification)

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GCSE Geography

Course Outline

Students opting to study GCSE Geography will benefit from the links with other subjects in Science and Humanities. This GCSE is a valuable opportunity for students to learn more about the world around them and about major global issues such as climate change and population patterns. The two-year course covers human, physical and environmental units, as well as practical research and analysis through the fieldwork project.

Year 10

Unit 1: Changing Human and Physical Landscapes 40% Core Landscapes and Physical Processes

- River and coastal processes and landforms, hydrological cycle, and river management.
- The urban-rural continuum in Wales. How urban and rural areas are linked, and how rural areas are changing.
- Population and urban change in the UK. Population change and consequences. Future challenges facing towns and retail change in the UK.
- Urban issues in contrasting global cities. Global patterns of urbanisation and how global cities are connected.

Year 11

Unit 2: Environment and Development Issues 40% Core Weather, climate, and ecosystems

- Climate change during the Quaternary Period. Weather patterns and process. The study of ecosystems.
- Development resource issues measuring global inequalities.

Unit 3: Fieldwork 20%

A written report, to include evidence of understanding of the enquiry process and an independent ability to process/present data and complete extended writing.

Assessment

Paper 1 Exam 40%

Paper 2 Exam 40%

Paper 3 Exam based on coursework, completed in school under controlled conditions.

Curriculum Leader: Mr. J Forman

Subject Link: https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/geography-gcse/#tab_overview



GCSE Health & Social Care and Childcare

Course Outline

The GCSE Health and Social Care and Childcare Single Award course is designed to provide students with knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the way individuals are cared for and supported in Wales.

Single Award = 1 GCSE

Year 10

Unit 1- Human growth, development and well-being

Unit 2- Task 1: Service Provision

Year 11

Unit 1 - Unit 1- Human growth, development and well-being

Unit 2 - Task 2: Health Promotion

Assessment

Unit 1 =1 hour 30 minutes examination 40%

Unit 2 = 25 hours of Non-Examined Assessment 60%

Curriculum Leader: Mrs N Davies-Bottomley

Subject Link: https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/gcse-health-and-social-care-and-childcare/#tab_overview

Resources link to the online text book:

<https://www.healthandcarelearning.wales/qualifications/gcse-health-and-social-care-and-childcare-single-and-double-award/>

Click on resources

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GCSE History

Over the course of two years, students will study a wide variety of British, European and World History at GCSE level. Students will extend their knowledge of historical events and gain a deeper understanding of how history has shaped the world in which we live. At Ysgol Rhiwabon, the WJEC specification is followed at GCSE.

Course Outline

Year 10

Unit 2: An in depth study of European/World History: **Germany in Transition, 1919-39**

Unit 4: Non-Examined Assessment (coursework).

Year 11

Unit 3: Thematic study: **Changes in Crime and Punishment**

Unit 1: An in depth study of Welsh History: **Depression, War and Recovery 1930-51**

Assessment

Unit 1: 1 hour examination – 25%

Unit 2: 1 hour examination – 25% (June, Year 10)

Unit 3: 1 hour 15 minute examination – 30%

Unit 4: Non-Examined Assessment – 20% (completed in the classroom under supervision)

Curriculum Leader: Mrs V Wright-Davies

Subject Link: WJEC website: <http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/history/history-gcse/>
(select GCSE History Specification)

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GCSE Music

Course Outline

During the course students will be given opportunities to develop musical sensitivity, creativity and aural perception through different areas of study. This course provides the opportunity to develop personal musical interests within the framework of the three-strand approach – Performing, Composing and Listening. Even if a student has not yet started on any formal instrumental or vocal training, it is possible to choose the course as a way of making very fast progress on a chosen instrument or voice, as time is given each week for performance. This is a very practical course.

Year 10

The areas of study include:

AOS 1 Musical Forms and Devices (Baroque, Classical and Romantic Music)

AOS 2 Music for Ensemble (Jazz, Musicals, Vocal groups)

AOS 3 Film Music (including Video Game)

AOS 4 Popular Music (pop, rock, reggae)

Students will need to perform music as part of the course using either an instrument or voice. This can include rap, DJ, beatboxing and MC performances.

Year 11

A continuation of the above areas of study and the study of two set works - Peer Gynt Suite No.1: Anitra's Dance: Grieg and Everything Must Go: Manic Street Preachers.

Assessment

Unit 1 – Performing – 35%. Two pieces one of which must be an ensemble the other a solo or an ensemble. A written programme note for one of the pieces.

Unit 2 – Composing – 35%. Two compositions, one of which must be in response to a brief set by the exam board. A written evaluation

Unit 3 – 1 hour examination – 30%. 8 questions in total. Mostly multiple choice.

Curriculum Leader: Mrs S V Tarver

Subject Link: WJEC website: https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/music-gcse/#tab_overview

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GCSE Physical Education

Through studying this WJEC GCSE students will develop a deeper understanding of all aspects of Physical Education, including both practical and theoretical assessment. This is a two year course which covers many topics including fitness and training, anatomy and physiology, psychology and socio-cultural influences on sport.

Course Outline

Year 10

Unit 1 – Health, training and exercise. Exercise physiology

Unit 2 – Practical Performance. Non-examination assessment – PFP coursework

Year 11

Unit 1 – Movement analysis. Psychology of sport and physical activity. Socio-cultural issues in sport and physical activity.

Unit 2 – **Non-examination assessment** - Practical Performance

Assessment

Unit 1 – Theory - 50% of the qualification (100marks) - Assessed as a 2 hour written examination through a range of short and extended questions. **(June 2022)**. The subject content focuses on five key areas: Health, training and exercise, exercise physiology, movement analysis, psychology of sport and physical activity and socio-cultural issues in sport and physical activity.

Unit 2 – Practical - 50% of qualification (100marks) - Practical Performance (March 2022). Learners will be assessed in 3 different sports. At least **one individual** and **one team** sport and the third can be **either / or** from the approved lists set by the board.

Coursework - A personal fitness programme (completed in the classroom in Year 10 under supervision)

Curriculum Leader: Mrs A Jones

Subject Link: WJEC website [GCSE Physical Education \(wjec.co.uk\)](http://wjec.co.uk)
(Select GCSE Physical Education Specification)

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GCSE Sociology

Course Outline

Sociology is a subject that asks questions that relate to all of us. It is the study of how we live and why we do things in society. It will help students gain an understanding of why people commit crime, why we have school and why we even have families.

The lessons use a variety of techniques from studying the views of others to discussing events that affect us all. It provides the opportunity to voice opinions on topics and learn how to put forward reasoned arguments to make a point.

The subject links closely to History, Religious Studies, Politics, Science, Geography and Health and Social care.

Sociology is an excellent academic subject that requires students to have good theoretical understanding and be capable of arguing different points of view.

Assessment

Paper 1

- The Sociology of Families - Function, men and women, change.
- The Sociology of Education - Role, purpose and function of education.
- Social Theory and Methodology - different theoretical perspectives within sociology.

Paper 2

- The Sociology of Crime and Deviance – the causes of crime and impact on society.
- The Sociology of Social Stratification - different theories of how society is divided.
- Social Theory and Methodology - different theoretical perspectives within sociology.

Curriculum Leader: Mr J Forman

Subject Link: https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/sociology-gcse/#tab_overview



Collaborative College Courses

The School Criteria for college application:

- Written applications
- School Interviews
- Student School interviews
- Meetings with parents

College courses will run every Tuesday from 1:30pm till 4:30pm.

Tuesday Afternoon Courses	
Level 2	Animal Care
Level 1 & 2	Construction
Level 1 & 2	Hair and Beauty
Level 2	Public Services
Level 2	Computer Science
Level 2	Hospitality and Catering
Level 2	Business Studies

Twilight Course – 4.30-6.30 pm	
GCSE	GCSE Spanish

SLT Link: Mrs Savva

Subject Link: <https://www.cambria.ac.uk/14-19-network/>