



YSGOL RHIWABON
SINCE 1375

Year 9 Options Information Booklet

2024

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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.

The Options Evening held in school on Thursday 25th January 2024 provides an overview of the options process selection and the opportunity to discuss with teachers and find out more about each subject.

Your initial three choices, plus two reserves, must be completed clearly on the selection form and returned to school by **Friday 2nd February 2024**. 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 In school, whilst we do our best to accommodate your choices, some courses may be withdrawn if very few students opt for a particular subject; this is when your reserve choices become very important.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 week 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 **Friday 2nd February 2024**.

With Best Wishes

Mrs Ferron-Evans, Headteacher



January 2024

Year 9 Options Timeline

January/February

- Year 9 Parents' Evening
- Options Evening in school to launch the process
- Information booklet available on the school website
- Options selected to be handed in to the school office by Friday 2nd 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. These interviews for college will include a written application, a student interview at college 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 1, 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



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 J Moultrie

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



GCSE Digital Technology

Course Outline

Students opting to study GCSE Digital Technology will benefit from the skills and understanding that is faced in the real world of digital enterprises. The two year course will consist of research to understand how social media is a major factor in everyday lives and how media has changed the concept of how we live. There will be 2 units based on skills and knowledge, and a unit dedicated towards the exam.

Year 10

Unit 1: Learning theory on Digital data, Data storage, Networks, Implementing digital systems and preparation for formal examinations.

Unit 2: Course Scenario set by WJEC (development of a website)

Year 11

Unit 3: Course scenario set by WJEC (research in social media and its influence on people's lives).

Unit 1 continued : Learning theory on Operating Systems, Threats, Life Cycle, Artificial Intelligence and preparation for formal examinations.

Assessment

Unit 1 40% Formal examination

Unit 2 40% Time based controlled assessment

Unit 3 20% Time based controlled assessment

Curriculum Leader: Mr P Slater

Subject Link: <https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/digital-technology-gcse/>

French

Course Outline

"Learning another language is not only learning different words for the same things but learning another way to think about things."

Flora Lewis

Over the course of two years, students will not only learn about the French language, but also about the culture, history, and traditions behind the language. The focus of the course is not just mainland France, but all French speaking countries and nations within the Francophonie world.

The aim of the 2-year course of study is for students to both use and understand the French language, within a multitude of contexts. Therefore, over the 2 years, students will not only study French texts, but also French films, music, and places of interest.

Being able to converse in more than one language is a very sought-after skill, which can lead to many exciting career opportunities, in fields such as:

- . Journalism
- . Travel
- . Game/Software development
- . Interpretation / Translation
- . Sport
- . Government Intelligence

At Ysgol Rhiwabon the WJEC specification is followed at GCSE, therefore the themes studied, and assessment elements are:

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)

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. The range of skills developed in the geography course support in a variety of careers, as well as those more closely related to the subject such as urban planning, development aid, hydrologist and conservationist.

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.

Unit 3: Fieldwork 20%

- Two fieldtrips to support the fieldwork report.

Year 11

Unit 2: Environment and Development Issues 40% Core

Weather, climate, and ecosystems

- Climate change from the Quaternary Period. Weather patterns and processes. The study of ecosystems and their management.
- Development and resource issues. Measuring and explaining global inequalities.

Unit 3: Fieldwork

A written report, to include evidence of understanding 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 in controlled conditions. 20%

Curriculum Leader: Ms N White

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



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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

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) **USA: Segregation and the role of Martin Luther King**

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 (coursework) **C19th Social Conditions and Crime in Jack the Ripper's London**

Curriculum Leader: Mrs V Wright-Davies

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

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. Students who opt for GCSE Music will have the opportunity to have free instrumental or vocal lessons.

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

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 2024)**. 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 \(wjec.co.uk\)](https://www.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 – 50%

- 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 – 50%

- 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:

- A record of good attendance, punctuality and behaviour.
- College Interviews
- Meetings with parents
- Signed home/school agreement

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

Wednesday Afternoon Courses	
Level 2	Business Studies
Level 2	Computer Science
Level 1 & 2	Construction
Level 1 & 2	Engineering
Level 2	Hair and Beauty
Level 2	Hospitality and Catering
Level 2	Performing Arts
Level 2	Public Services

Twilight Course – 4.30-6.30 pm	
GCSE	GCSE Spanish

SLT Link: Mrs Savva

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