



# **14-16 Options Information Booklet 2024-2025**

# Welcome to The Maelor Options Process

For the first time in your education, you are able to have some choice in the subjects that you will study in Years 10 and 11. Part of the curriculum is fixed; the remainder of your timetable will be made up of areas you can choose which could include GCSEs or vocational qualifications.

The aim of this booklet and the Options Presentation is to help you decide the most appropriate choices for your future. It is important that you seek advice and talk to people who can help you with these decisions. They include your subject teachers, Subject Leaders, Head of Year and form tutor as well as your parents/carers and older students who are taking the course already.

We are committed to ensuring that you enjoy your experience of learning in Years 10 and 11 and that you strive to achieve the best that you can be. You should aim to choose courses that suit your needs, that will challenge you and help you develop life skills to prepare you for your future in The Maelor Sixth and beyond.

On the next few pages you will find:

- An outline of the curriculum structure in Years 10 and 11 and the subjects which all students will study;
- A summary of the option subjects which pupils can choose from;
- A timescale of when you need to make your decisions by.

The remainder of the booklet contains information about all of the courses available to you in Years 10 and 11. You need to read through each page carefully and ensure that you keep this booklet safe.



# The Year 10-11 Curriculum

Our aim is that all of our students follow a broad and balanced curriculum that prepares them for their post-16 studies, the world of work and adult life. We believe that our curriculum is flexible enough to meet the individual needs of all our students in Years 10 and 11. Some subjects (the core) are compulsory, but we offer the opportunity for students to make choices about subjects to study to support their core curriculum. Further detail on core subjects appear on the next few pages.

## Core Curriculum:

Subject	Description
English	All pupils follow a Double Award course to gain 2 GCSE grades in English Language and Literature
Maths	All pupils follow a Double Award course to gain 2 GCSE grades in Mathematics and Numeracy
Science	All pupils follow a Double Award course to gain 2 GCSE grades in either Science or Applied Science. Both of these courses contain an equal amount of each of the three science disciplines: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Some pupils may opt to study Triple Science which gives a separate GCSE grade in each of the three sciences.
Cymraeg	All pupils study GCSE Cymraeg (Welsh) to gain a single GCSE grade. Some pupils may opt to study an additional Welsh course to gain a further Level 2 qualification.
Skills Challenge Certificate	All pupils complete this qualification which is delivered by the Science team (see details on separate page).
PSHE	This is mainly delivered through five off-timetable Personal Development days and is an important experience which develops the qualities and attributes students need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society. As part of this, all pupils follow the Agored Cymru PSE qualification which is equivalent to two GCSE passes at grade B.
Games (PE)	All pupils have the opportunity for one hour of physical exercise per week.
Religious Studies	All pupils follow the Agored Cymru Exploring Worldviews course which starts in Year 9 through to Year 11.

## Option Subjects:

Art & Design	ICT
Business	Learning in the Outdoors
Computer Science	Media
Drama	Music
French	PE
Geography	Product Design
History	Triple Science
* a number of alternative vocational options are also available in consortium with Coleg Cambria. Further details about these can be found towards the back of this booklet.	

# The Options Process Timeline

Date	Activity
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	14-16 Options Information Evening - an opportunity to hear the presentation about options and meet with subject teachers to find out about some of the options subjects.
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Year 9 Parents' Evening (online) - an opportunity to speak to all subject teachers about your child's progress.
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2025	Deadline for 'first thoughts' options form to be completed online.
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Deadline for final options choice to be completed via the MCAS app.





# Core Curriculum

Subject area:	GCSE English Language and Literature
Qualification title:	WJEC GCSE English Language and Literature (Double Award)
Why should I study this subject?	This qualification allows learners to develop a strong foundation of knowledge, skills and understanding which supports progression to post-16 study and prepares learners for life, learning and work. The qualification provides a suitable foundation for the study of English at either AS or A level. In addition, the specification provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for learners who do not progress to further study in this subject but who wish to attend post 16 courses/training where GCSEs including English, maths and science are a prerequisite.
What careers might this subject be useful for?	GCSE English is an important foundation for many of the courses learners may take in employment or further education and a requirement for many university courses. It is a core subject which helps to develop powers of self-expression and improve reading and writing skills.  Learners who go on to study English Language or Literature at degree level can go on to careers in Journalism, PR, Law, Education, Publishing, Marketing, Consultancy, Content Management, Social Media Management.
What is the structure of this course?	<p><b>Unit 1: Context and Meaning</b>            Section A: Questions based on one poem from the WJEC Anthology (15 poems) and one unseen poem.            Section B: Extended response question (creative literary or non-fiction writing).            Texts: WJEC Poetry Anthology (themes include Relationships, Identity, Conflict, The Natural World - 15 poems), supplemented by 19th and 20th-century poems.</p> <p><b>Unit 2: Belonging</b>            Task 1: Written essay based on a prose text selected from a WJEC list.            Task 2: Individually researched oral presentation linked to the prose text.</p> <p><b>Unit 3: Influence and Power</b>            Task 1: Group discussion based on texts from WJEC's non-fiction anthology and a thematically linked text from learner's research.            Task 2: Creative non-fiction writing response.            Task 3: Commentary on the creative non-fiction writing.</p> <p><b>Unit 4b: Motivations</b>            Section A: Questions on the selected text. Context led question.            Section B: Extended response question (creative literary writing).            Text: Study either a drama text or a prose text from the WJEC list.</p> <p><b>Unit 5: Continuity and Change</b>            Study a Shakespeare play.</p>

	<p>Study poems from the WJEC Poetry Anthology focusing on poems from 1600-1900 (15 poems)          Develop oracy through paired discussion on poetry.          Texts: Shakespeare play and WJEC Anthology.</p> <p><b>Unit 6: Connections</b>          Section A: Questions requiring objective responses, short and extended responses based on two texts from the WJEC non-fiction Anthology and one unseen text.          Section B: Extended response question (choice of one from two), non-fiction writing.          Texts: WJEC non-fiction Anthology organised into five themes:          Relationships          Human Rights          Diversity          Work and Sustainability</p> <p>Writing Tasks: may include newspaper/magazine articles, reports, brochures, instructional guides, webpages, blogs, leaflets, factsheets, (auto)biographies, expert advice, speeches, talks, reviews, audio guides, editorials, letters, emails, accounts, monologues.</p> <p><i>*Once we have finalised the GCSE texts for the cohort of learners, we strongly encourage parents to purchase the texts that are to be studied so that students can annotate them with their own notes in class and for homework. Annotated texts are an invaluable study and revision resource.</i></p>
<p>How is the course assessed?</p>	<p><b>Unit 1 - Context and meaning:</b> Written Examination:          Duration - 1 hour 30 minutes. Marked by WJEC, 60 marks. Worth 15%.</p> <p><b>Unit 2 - Belonging:</b> Non-examination assessment: Duration - approx. 7 hours. Marked by the centre, moderated by WJEC, 60 marks. Worth 10%.</p> <p><b>Unit 3 - Influence and Power:</b> Non-examination assessment: Duration - approx. 5 hours 55 minutes. Marked by the centre, moderated by WJEC. 50 marks. Worth 10%.</p> <p><b>Unit 4b - Motivations:</b> Written Examination:          Duration - 1 hour 30 minutes. Marked by WJEC, 60 marks. Worth 20%.</p> <p><b>Unit 5 - Continuity and change:</b> Non-examination assessment: Duration - approx. 8 hours. Marked by the centre, moderated by WJEC, 60 marks. Worth 20%.</p> <p><b>Unit 6 - Connections:</b> Written Examination:          Duration - 1 hour 30 minutes. Marked by WJEC, 80 marks. Worth 25%.</p>

<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Mathematics</b>
<b>Qualification Title</b>	GCSE Mathematics & Numeracy (Double Award)
<b>Why should I study this subject</b>	<p>In GCSE Mathematics &amp; Numeracy, you will build on the knowledge and understanding you have of topics within number, algebra, geometry and data. You will be taught in the key financial aspects of everyday adult life, such as dealing with payslips, bills and savings. A good understanding of the content of this qualification is the perfect platform to those hoping to follow a STEM career.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You will develop an understanding of the different areas of mathematics and how they relate to each other.</li> <li>• You will extend your range of mathematical skills and techniques and be able to use and apply them to a range of real-life contexts.</li> <li>• You will gain a strong foundation in financial mathematics to prepare you for life and work.</li> </ul>
<b>What careers might this subject be useful for?</b>	GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy can lead to a variety of career paths. These include jobs such as: financial analyst, computer programmer, medical scientist, actuary, software developer, economist, data or research analyst, accountant, teacher.
<b>What is the structure of this course</b>	<p>This course has 3 units:</p> <p><b>Unit 1: Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy</b> In this unit you will learn life lessons which will help you become a financially well-informed adult. Think about terms or acronyms 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.</p> <p>All sorts of other real-world contexts will also be taught and assessed, making this unit relevant and interesting.</p> <p><b>Unit 2: Non-Calculator</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Unit 3: Calculator allowed</b> 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 such as Pythagoras' Theorem and Trigonometry.</p>

## How the course is assessed?

### Unit 1: Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy

#### Higher Tier

1 hour 45 minutes  
80 marks

#### Foundation Tier

1 hour 30 minutes  
65 marks

Weighting: 30% of the qualification

### Unit 2: Non-Calculator

#### Higher Tier

1 hour 45 minutes  
80 marks

#### Foundation Tier

1 hour 30 minutes  
65 marks

Weighting: 30% of the qualification

### Unit 3: Calculator-allowed

#### Higher Tier

2 hours  
90 marks

#### Foundation Tier

1 hour 45 minutes  
75 marks

Weighting: 40% of the qualification





<b>Subject area:</b>	<b>Science</b>
<b>Qualification title:</b>	GCSE Science (Double award)
<b>Why should I study this subject?</b>	Science is essential in providing knowledge in biology, chemistry, and physics, helping students understand the world around them. It develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills, which are valuable in everyday life and in many careers. Science also opens opportunities for further studies in a range of fields, from healthcare to engineering, and is crucial for addressing global challenges like climate change and health issues.
<b>What careers might this subject be useful for?</b>	Medicine, Dentistry, Physiotherapy, Veterinary, Science and research, Agriculture, Sport and Fitness and Education, Aerospace and defence, Engineering, Energy and renewable energy, Meteorology and climate change, Telecommunications and Education.
<b>What is the structure of this course?</b>	GCSE Science (Double Award) involves the study of all three sciences. These will be assessed in separate units but will result in one qualification worth two GCSEs. The course will develop your understanding of many areas of science and also develop your practical and problem-solving skills.
<b>How is the course assessed?</b>	Year 10: Biology, Chemistry and Physics are assessed as 3 separate papers (15% each). Practical exam (10%) takes place in January.  Year 11: Biology, Chemistry and Physics are assessed as 3 separate papers (15% each).

<b>Subject area:</b>	<b>Science</b>
<b>Qualification title:</b>	GCSE Applied Science (Double award)
<b>Why should I study this subject?</b>	GCSE Applied Science (Double Award) utilises a context-led approach to science learning and assessment. The qualification combines all three elements of Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) and applies them to the modern world. You will develop your practical and problem-solving skills and understand the important role that science has in society.
<b>What careers might this subject be useful for?</b>	GCSE Applied Science (double award) provides a suitable foundation for the study of vocational/applied sciences at level 3 e.g. WJEC Diploma / Certificate in Medical Science. The transferrable skills developed by studying science are actively sought out by employers. There are many jobs that scientists can do in many different sectors. Most jobs have an element of science in them, whether it be working for the health service, working to maintain our environment, working in manufacturing, or in the building sector.
<b>What is the structure of this course?</b>	GCSE Applied Science (Double Award) involves the study of all three sciences in context. These will be assessed in separate units, three of which are exams, and one is a task-based unit. The course will develop your understanding of many areas of science and develop your practical and problem-solving skills.
<b>How is the course assessed?</b>	<p>Year 10: Unit 1 (22.5%)  Unit 3 (25%)  Practical exam (10%)</p> <p>Year 11: Unit 2 (22.5%)  Unit 4 (20%)</p>

<b>Subject area:</b>	<b>Cymraeg Ail Iaith</b> <i>Second Language Welsh</i>
<b>Qualification title:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core Cymraeg - GCSE for all students</li> <li>• Cymraeg Craidd Ychwanegol - An additional Level 2 qualification</li> </ul>
<b>Why should I study this subject?</b>	<p>Learning a language is a rewarding skill which challenges students in different ways to other subjects. Core Cymraeg is no different.</p> <p>In Wales Core Cymraeg is a compulsory subject and one which will enrich the communication skills of students. They will develop all four communications skills, reading, writing, listening and speaking.</p> <p>Core Cymraeg is a facilitating subject which compliments any other chosen subject and is respected when progressing to further study post-16.</p> <p>Furthermore, there is the option to study a further qualification, <i>Cymraeg Craidd Ychwanegol</i>, leading to an additional Level 2 qualification.</p>
<b>What careers might this subject be useful for?</b>	<p>Languages are respected subjects in a wide range of careers. This includes, leisure, tourism, education, and the public sector.</p> <p>In Wales the Million Welsh Speakers by 2050 initiative will lead to a greater demand for Welsh speakers in all lines of employment.</p>
<b>What is the structure of this course?</b>	<p>In years 10 and 11 students will study three broad themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cynefin</li> <li>• Identity</li> <li>• Culture</li> </ul> <p>Unit 1 and 2 are oral NEAs, worth 50% of the whole GCSE.</p> <p>They will be assessed in year 11 only, Unit 1 in the autumn term and Unit 2 in the spring term.</p> <p>Oral exams will assess the students speaking and listening skills.</p> <p>In the summer term students will complete reading and writing examinations. Unit 4 will include the study of two poems and two short stories.</p>
<b>How is the course assessed?</b>	<p>Unit 1 - Oracy NEA (25%)</p> <p>Unit 2 - Oracy NEA (25%)</p> <p>Unit 3 - Written Examination (25%)</p> <p>Unit 4 - Written Examination (25%)</p>

<b>Subject area:</b>	<b>Skills</b>
<b>Qualification title:</b>	WJEC National /Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate
<b>Why should I study this subject?</b>	The Skills Challenge Certificate provides a vehicle for learners to consolidate and develop integral and cross curricular skills. The qualification helps learners to prepare for their future by developing skills, attributes and behaviours valued by educators and potential employers. The qualification can be completed at National or Foundation level at KS4; the National level is equivalent to a GCSE qualification at grade A*-C.
<b>What careers might this subject be useful for?</b>	<p>The Skills Challenge Certificate enables learners to develop and demonstrate an understanding of and proficiency in the Curriculum for Wales' integral and cross curricular skills. These are the skills that employers and next-stage educators' value and which learners need for learning, work and life. The seven integral and cross curricular skills are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy</li> <li>• Numeracy</li> <li>• Digital Literacy</li> <li>• Critical Thinking and Problem Solving</li> <li>• Planning and Organisation</li> <li>• Creativity and Innovation</li> <li>• Personal Effectiveness.</li> </ul> <p>The skills developed in this qualification are highly valued by <u>all</u> employers in <u>all</u> sectors; and also by higher educational establishments.</p>
<b>What is the structure of this course?</b>	<p><b>Challenge 1 - The Global Citizenship Challenge.</b> The purpose of the Global Citizenship Challenge is to develop learners' skills, whilst providing opportunities to understand and respond appropriately to global issues. During the Global Citizenship Challenge learners will explicitly develop skills of Critical Thinking and Problem Solving and Creativity and Innovation and apply them in an appropriate manner.</p> <p><b>Challenge 2 - The Enterprise &amp; Employability Challenge.</b> The purpose of the Enterprise and Employability Challenge is to develop learners' skills, whilst providing opportunities for learners to develop enterprising skills and attributes and enhance employability. During the Enterprise and Employability Challenge learners will explicitly develop skills in Digital Literacy, Creativity and Innovation and Personal Effectiveness and apply them in an appropriate manner.</p> <p><b>Challenge 3 - The individual project.</b> The purpose of the Individual Project is to develop learners' skills, through carrying out a research activity in an area of personal interest or one that reflects future educational or career aspirations. During the Individual Project learners will explicitly develop skills in Digital Literacy, Planning and Organisation and Critical Thinking and Problem Solving and apply them in an appropriate manner.</p>
<b>How is the course assessed?</b>	The course is 100% controlled assessment.

# Welsh Baccalaureate

This is a demanding award that shows pupils have not only academic prowess but have also developed key skills valued by prospective employers and universities. Pupils who gain the Welsh Baccalaureate will be better equipped for the world of work, be more informed and active citizens.

The National Welsh Baccalaureate is awarded to pupils who have satisfied the following criteria:

1. Passed the Skills Challenge Certificate at National level.
2. Gained A\*-C in English Language or Welsh First Language
3. Gained A\*-C in either Maths or Maths-Numeracy
4. Gained A\*-C in 3 further GCSE/Vocational qualifications





# Option Subjects



<b>Subject area:</b>	<b>Art</b>
<b>Qualification title:</b>	WJEC GCSE Art and Design
<b>Why should I study this subject?</b>	<p><b>GCSE Art &amp; Design</b> is a dynamic two-year course that nurtures creative development in diverse areas. Through this program, students build skills in observation, selection, and interpretation, with an emphasis on imagination, expression, and a deeper understanding of their chosen themes. Examined by WJEC, the course provides a foundation for artistic exploration in an engaging, supportive atmosphere.</p> <p>The first two terms focus on skill development across a broad range of media, including fine art, textiles, photography, and 3D materials, helping students to grow confidence in their creative abilities. The portfolio unit starts in the 3<sup>rd</sup> term of year 10 when pupils have confidence in their ability to use a wide range of creative materials.</p> <p>A significant part of the course involves analysing artwork, making comparisons, and reflecting on one's own work, with drawing as a core skill for all specialist areas. Art and Design is rigorous and rewarding – students are expected to invest considerable time and effort.</p> <p>The GCSE consists of two components: a practical exam worth 40% and coursework comprising 60%. Students will maintain an A3 sketchbook and an A1 portfolio, which will be stored at school. Building the coursework portfolio is a major focus, with homework often dedicated to completing or extending class assignments. This course requires commitment, self-motivation, and time management.</p> <p>In Year 11, students have the exciting opportunity to select their own topic from a set of 12 starting points provided on the exam paper. Over the two years, students develop confidence, becoming more daring and innovative, and their work soon reaches an impressive standard. Many GCSE students continue their journey by progressing to A Level Art, maintaining the AS and A2 levels.</p> <p>Classes are largely practical, with students encouraged to be considerate and responsible in their use of materials.</p> <p>For many years, GCSE Art has consistently achieved some of the highest results of all GCSE subjects at The Maelor School. Our dedicated teachers strive to bring out the best in every student, often going above and beyond to provide additional support and guidance.</p>
<b>What careers might this subject be useful for?</b>	<p>Art and Design is an invaluable subject for students interested in careers such as architecture, animation, ceramics, fashion design, film, game design, graphic design, interior design, journalism, product or theatre design, education, photography, prosthetics, set design, sculpture, and museum work. This course naturally leads into A Level Art or further studies in art, craft and design.</p>



<p><b>What is the structure of this course?</b></p>	<p>The course is broken up into two units. Unit one is the portfolio unit which is what is seen as the main coursework unit, equalling to 60% of the GCSE marked grade. This unit is completed from term 3 in year 10 to the first term in year 11.</p> <p>Unit two is undertaken in year 11 where pupils receive an exam paper EST, external set task, with pupils selecting one from 12 starting points. Pupils will then have 12 weeks to complete this unit before completing a final outcome over 10 hours in exam conditions. This unit is worth 40% of the GCSE grade.</p> <p>During the GCSE course pupils will have the opportunity to attend gallery visits, to European, Liverpool and local galleries, as well as workshops with visiting artists, participation in national competitions, and collaborations with gallery programs.</p>
<p><b>How is the course assessed?</b></p>	<p>The work is assessed internally which will then be submitted to the WJEC, where an experienced Art and design moderator will visit the school to cross moderate the submitted centre grades.</p> <p>The work is laid out in an exhibition for the external assessor.</p>

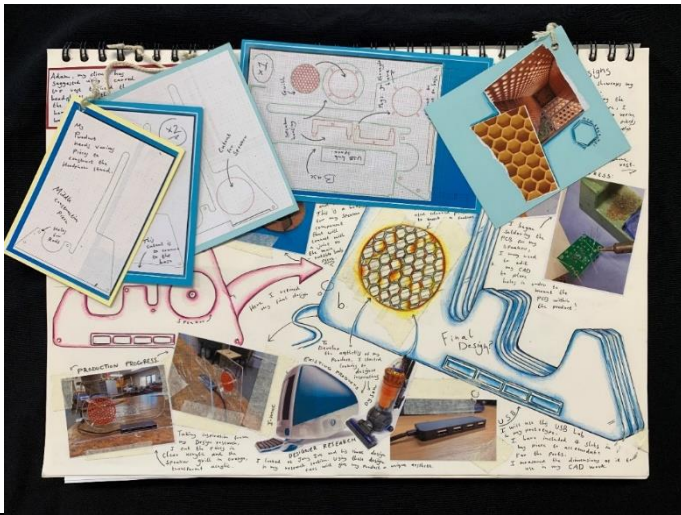


<b>Subject area:</b>	<b>Business Studies</b>
<b>Qualification title:</b>	WJEC GCSE Business
<b>Why should I study this subject?</b>	The WJEC GCSE Business qualification will develop your understanding of the activities that make a business successful. You will also reflect on business activity in the context of the environment and sustainability
<b>What careers might this subject be useful for?</b>	<p>GCSE Business will prepare you for many careers in business and industry.</p> <p>These include in marketing and public relations, law, finance and accounting, human resource management, as well as manufacturing and production.</p> <p>An understanding of the principles of management is applicable to many roles in both the public and the private sector and will be valuable for whatever career path you take.</p>
<b>What is the structure of this course?</b>	<p><b>Unit 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE BUSINESS WORLD</b></p> <p>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 and business sectors, and the importance of the consumer. You will calculate costs and revenue to make business decisions.</p> <p><b>Unit 2: KEY BUSINESS CONSIDERATIONS</b></p> <p>In this unit, you will undertake research on a chosen business in your locality and to use your research findings to produce a report.</p> <p><b>Unit 3: BUSINESS STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS</b></p> <p>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 political, legal, and economic external factors.</p> <p><b>Unit 4: BUSINESS CREATION</b></p> <p>In this unit you will develop enterprise skills. You will carry out primary and secondary 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.</p> <p>GCSE Business will equip you with a range of skills that are not only valuable for studying business further, but which will combine with a variety of subjects.</p>
<b>How is the course assessed?</b>	<p>Unit 1 - an exam externally assessed</p> <p>Unit 2 - an investigation coursework</p> <p>Unit 3 - an exam externally assessed</p> <p>Unit 4 - an investigation coursework</p>

<b>Subject area:</b>	<b>Computer Science</b>
<b>Qualification title:</b>	WJEC GCSE Computer Science
<b>Why should I study this subject?</b>	If you enjoy problem-solving, are curious about how technology works, or want to build skills that are highly valued in almost any career, then Computer Science is for you! This course will give you hands-on experience with coding, teach you how to break down complex challenges, and explore the cutting-edge world of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and data science. You'll not only learn to create software but also gain insight into how the technology shaping our world actually works. Studying Computer Science opens doors to amazing opportunities and will prepare you for a future that will rely even more on tech skills, no matter what you choose to do.
<b>What careers might this subject be useful for?</b>	<p>Computer Science is one of the most versatile subjects, leading to exciting careers in fields like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Software Development and Engineering</li> <li>Digital Marketing, Web Designer</li> <li>Social Media Management</li> <li>Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning</li> <li>Cybersecurity Analyst</li> <li>Data Scientist</li> <li>Game Designer and Developer</li> <li>Robotics Engineer</li> <li>Health Informatics Specialist</li> </ul> <p>Even outside of tech careers, Computer Science provides valuable skills for fields like healthcare, finance, law, and engineering. It's also a great foundation if you're interested in starting your own tech business someday!</p>
<b>What is the structure of this course?</b>	<p>In Year 10, you'll begin by learning the fundamentals of programming, including coding in Python, as well as exploring computer systems, how computers 'think!', and key concepts in networks and cybersecurity. This foundation will give you the skills to start building real software applications.</p> <p>In Year 11, we'll delve deeper into advanced topics like algorithms, data representation, and emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and machine learning. Throughout both years, you'll develop skills in problem-solving, logical thinking, and creativity as you work through a variety of coding tasks and scenarios.</p>
<b>How is the course assessed?</b>	<p>Unit 1: Understanding Computer Science Digital examination: 1 hour 30 minutes, 50% of qualification. You will be assessed on this at the end of year 10.</p> <p>Unit 2: Computer Programming On-screen examination based on a pre-released brief: 2 hours, 50% of qualification. You will be assessed on this at the end of year 11.</p> <p>This is a popular course and limited to 30 places, therefore selection will be based on your KS3 attainment.</p>



<b>Subject area:</b>	<b>Design &amp; Technology</b>
<b>Qualification title:</b>	WJEC GCSE Product Design
<b>Why should I study this subject?</b>	<p>Studying Product Design includes the use of a broad range of knowledge, skills, and understanding, and prompts engagement in a wide variety of activities. You will design and make products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts. Through evaluation of past and present products, you will develop a critical understanding of its impact on daily life and the wider world.</p> <p>You will develop a wide range of transferable skills for further education, work and life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• creative and innovative thinking</li> <li>• use of imagination and experimentation</li> <li>• ability to critique and refine your own ideas</li> <li>• knowledge and understanding of all design and technological activity and influences</li> <li>• decision making skills</li> <li>• develop high quality, imaginative and functional prototypes</li> <li>• communication skills</li> </ul>
<b>What careers might this subject be useful for?</b>	<p>GCSE Product Design opens the door to a wide range of careers in the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries. It is also excellent preparation for careers in many other fields e.g. medicine, law and computer science. Whatever career you choose, the knowledge and skills you learn, particularly those concerned with rapidly developing technologies, will be extremely valuable. You will also develop skills, such as teamwork and time management which are highly prized by employers. Other careers also include; Architecture, Automotive Design, Engineering, Civil Engineering, Armed Forces, Graphic Design, Teaching, Product Design, Interior Design Furniture, Jewellery Designer, Web designer, Games developer and many more.</p>
<b>What is the structure of this course?</b>	<p>You will study the following 2 areas:</p> <p>Knowledge and Understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• impact of new and emerging technologies</li> <li>• evaluation of new and emerging technologies</li> <li>• energy modern and smart materials</li> <li>• ecological and social footprint</li> <li>• investigating and analysing the work of others</li> </ul> <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identifying and understanding user needs</li> <li>• writing a design brief and specifications</li> <li>• investigating challenges developing design ideas</li> <li>• using design strategies and graphical communicating techniques</li> <li>• developing practical skills using a range of tools, equipment, and machinery</li> <li>• selecting and working with materials and components</li> <li>• marking out using specialist techniques and processes</li> <li>• using surface treatments and finishes</li> </ul> <p>Year 10</p> <p>3 x design and make projects to develop skills and knowledge in preparation for NEA portfolio.</p>



Throughout the design and make projects you will learn about the theory aspect of the subject in preparation for the Year 11 exam.

Example topics include:

- CAD & CAM
- Materials and their properties
- Manufacturing processes
- Ergonomics
- Sustainable design

Year 11

Start Design and Make task (NEA) (Unit 2) based on a contextual challenge set by WJEC worth 50% of qualification.

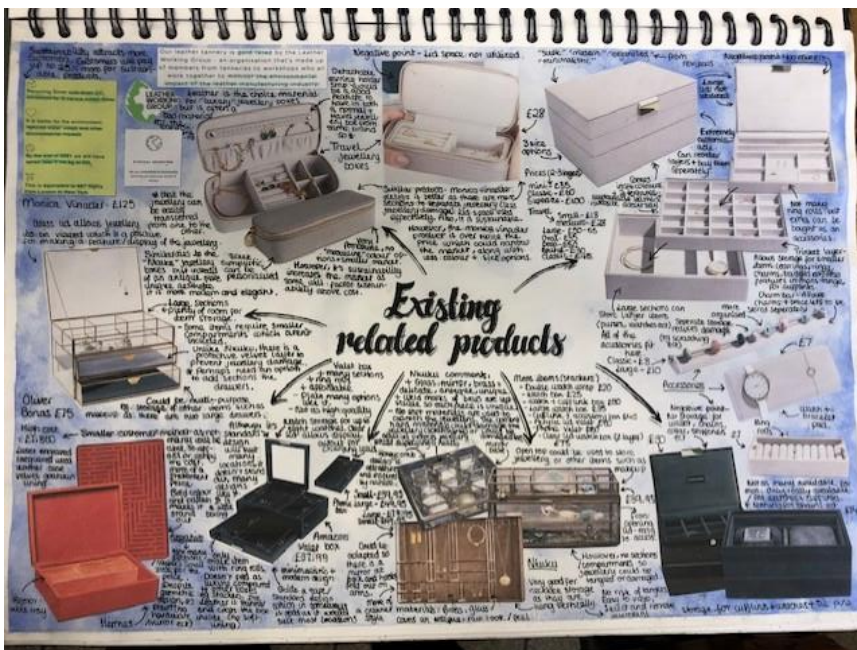
Written examination (Unit 1) at GCSE worth 50% of the qualification.

## How is the course assessed?

Year 11: There is one 2 hour written examination (Unit 1) at GCSE worth 50% of the qualification. A mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing candidates' knowledge and understanding of Product Design.

Year 11: The remaining 50% will be a Design and Make task (NEA) (Unit 2) based on a contextual challenge set by WJEC.

You will produce an A3 portfolio and a final practical outcome.



<b>Subject area:</b>	<b>Drama</b>
<b>Qualification title:</b>	GCSE Drama
<b>Why should I study this subject?</b>	<p>As a subject, Drama provides some of the most transferable skills that you will use in your adult life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It teaches you to work as part of a team. Here you will learn to balance ideas, work with and listen to others, evaluate your work and develop your organisational skills.</li> <li>• Gives you the confidence to perform and present in front of others.</li> <li>• In Drama you will need to improvise on several occasions. This allows you to think on your feet and develop your initiative.</li> <li>• It teaches you to be creative. It will encourage you to come up with exciting ideas and you will learn how to think outside the box.</li> <li>• You will learn to work towards a deadline. It will teach you to be disciplined in managing your time and developing the progress of your piece.</li> <li>• Analysing and evaluating theatre will develop your critical thinking.</li> <li>• When you act in Drama you put yourself in another person's shoes and try to identify with them and their situation. This will develop your empathy towards others, especially when portraying a character that is experiencing feelings and situations that you may not initially understand. This is a key skill that will open your mind and develop your interaction skills. It is also an essential attribute to many careers such as teaching, nursing or management.</li> </ul>
<b>What careers might this subject be useful for?</b>	Lawyers, management in any career, workshop leaders, Community Arts Worker, Teachers, Politician, Radio Presenter, Voice Over Artist, Actor, Lighting/Sound Design or technician, Stage Management, Artistic Director, Police Officer, Drama Therapist, Events Manager, Screen writer, TV presenter, Nursing.
<b>What is the structure of this course?</b>	<p>The course is broken down into three components as follows:</p> <p><b>Devising Theatre:</b> Students research and explore stimulus, work collaboratively and create their own devised drama as either performers or designers. They complete a reflective log of the devising process and give a final performance of their drama.</p> <p><b>Performance from a text:</b> Students develop and apply theatrical skills in acting or design by presenting an extract from a performance text.</p> <p><b>Interpreting Theatre:</b> Students explore practically a whole performance text and then demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of how drama is developed, performed and responded to. They also analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance.</p>
<b>How is the course assessed?</b>	<p>Unit 1: Devising Theatre is a practical non-examination assessment and reflective log. These are marked by the teachers and moderated by WJEC. This forms 40% of the total GCSE.</p> <p>Unit 2: Performance from a text is a practical non-examination assessment. This is marked by a visiting examiner and forms 30% of the total GCSE.</p> <p>Unit 3: Interpreting Theatre is a digital only examination marked by WJEC. It forms 30% of the total GCSE.</p>





<b>Subject area:</b>	<b>French</b>
<b>Qualification title:</b>	WJEC GCSE French
<b>Why should I study this subject?</b>	<p>Learning a language is fun, rewarding and opens the door to learning about other cultures. You will learn skills that you will use throughout your life.</p> <p>French GCSE will develop the four main communication skills of speaking, reading, listening, and writing. Whilst also making you a more confident individual who can express themselves in another language.</p> <p>If you are looking to study A Levels, the Russell Group of universities (the top 24 UK universities) recommends the studying of a foreign language at GCSE.</p>
<b>What careers might this subject be useful for?</b>	<p>Many employers still rank speaking a foreign language as one of the top skills that they look for when seeking to employ new staff.</p> <p>As French is widely spoken across the world it is a highly relevant language to speak if you are aiming to work both with and in Europe, North America, Africa and Asia.</p> <p>It is a useful skill when seeking employment in the world of business, leisure, tourism or education.</p>
<b>What is the structure of this course?</b>	<p>During years 10 and 11 students will study three broad themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leisure and well being</li> <li>Travel</li> <li>Study and Work</li> </ul> <p>NEA Assessments will take place during a period set by the exam board.</p> <p>Unit 1 - April - May, Year 11.</p> <p>Unit 2 - March - May, Year 11</p>
<b>How is the course assessed?</b>	<p>Unit 1 - Oracy NEA (30%)</p> <p>Unit 2 - Reading and Writing NEA (15%)</p> <p>Unit 3 - Listening Examination (20%)</p> <p>Unit 4 - Reading and Writing Examination (35%)</p>

<b>Subject area:</b>	<b>Geography</b>
<b>Qualification title:</b>	GCSE Geography
<b>Why should I study this subject?</b>	Geography is always in the news. You will develop skills to interpret, analyse and evaluate information to make decisions about issues relating to the climate, the environment, natural disasters, where people live and what they do. It will help you to gain an understanding and appreciation of the cultures and backgrounds of peoples from all over the world.
<b>What careers might this subject be useful for?</b>	The transferable skills developed by studying Geography are actively sought by all kinds of employers. There is a wealth of jobs that geographers can do, spanning almost every kind of work. Most jobs have some element of Geography in them, whether you are a doctor investigating the spread of a disease or an engineer designing products to reduce our reliance on plastics.
<b>What is the structure of this course?</b>	<p><u>Year 10</u></p> <p><i>Unit 2 : Developing Fieldwork Skills</i> - this will involve two days of fieldwork to gather data to analyse in class for the NEA that will be taken in the spring term of Year 10.</p> <p><i>Unit 1 : Our Physical and Human World</i> - the content for this exam will be studied after Unit 2 in Year 10. This exam may be taken in Year 10 or Year 11.</p> <p><u>Year 11</u></p> <p><i>Unit 4 : Sustainable Solutions</i> - this NEA will be completed when the WJEC releases the booklet of information it is based on in the winter term.</p> <p><i>Unit 3 : Our Dynamic and Diverse World</i> - This exam will be taken at the end of Year 11.</p>
<b>How is the course assessed?</b>	<p>Unit 1 - this 90 minute exam is worth 30%</p> <p>Unit 2 - this NEA is worth 25%</p> <p>Unit 3 - this 90 minute exam is worth 25%</p> <p>Unit 4 - this NEA is worth 15%</p>





<b>Subject area:</b>	<b>History</b>
<b>Qualification title:</b>	GCSE History
<b>Why should I study this subject?</b>	<p>GCSE History is the ideal choice for learners who want to develop a better understanding of the world we live in today. It is built around interesting stories about the diverse groups of people you will study. It also develops skills like source analysis, understanding why people have different views about events and communicating complicated ideas based on research.</p> <p>GCSE History is a widely respected qualification. It is a 'facilitating' subject which means it is held in high regard by employers and can open the door to studying a much wider range of subjects for A-Levels or a university degree.</p>
<b>What careers might this subject be useful for?</b>	<p>Employers are always looking for young people who are able to think critically, asking questions about information to understand it. This is the key skill of an historian, but it is a useful skill in other aspects of study and work as well.</p> <p>Studying GCSE History can open up a wide range career paths, including law, journalism, publishing, politics, and public services. Any career that involves research, interpreting data and making informed decisions about it is helped by having GCSE History.</p>
<b>What is the structure of this course?</b>	<p><u>Year 10</u></p> <p><i>Unit 2</i> : The Aztecs - this NEA will be taken online in the spring term of Year 10</p> <p><i>Unit 1</i> : Modern Wales - this exam will be taken in the summer of Year 10</p> <p><u>Year 11</u></p> <p><i>Unit 4</i> : A Changing Society - this NEA based on Wales and Britain in the 20<sup>th</sup> century will be done in the winter term of Year 11</p> <p><i>Unit 3</i> : The Vikings - this exam will be taken in the summer of Year 11</p>
<b>How is the course assessed?</b>	<p>Unit 1 - this 1 hour exam is worth 30%</p> <p>Unit 2 - this 3 hour online NEA is worth 20%</p> <p>Unit 3 - this 1 hour exam is worth 30%</p> <p>Unit 4 - this 4 hour in class NEA is worth 20%</p>

<b>Subject area:</b>	<b>ICT</b>
<b>Qualification title:</b>	WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in ICT - WJEC
<b>Why should I study this subject?</b>	Are you passionate about technology? Do you like solving problems? Are you curious about all things digital, and want to learn some fantastic new skills? If so, it's time to uncover your potential - find out more about this exciting qualification today!
<b>What careers might this subject be useful for?</b>	<p>Obtaining a GCSE in ICT could lead to the following careers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer service technician</li> <li>• Tech support specialist</li> <li>• Programmer</li> <li>• Data analyst</li> <li>• Network administrator</li> <li>• Webpage designer</li> <li>• General business career</li> </ul> <p>Most jobs ask if you have database, spreadsheet and word processing skills. If you have a certificate / qualification you can prove you have!</p>
<b>What is the structure of this course?</b>	<p>Unit 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the wide range of uses of hardware, application and specialist software in society</li> <li>• Investigate how information technology is used in a range of contexts, including business and organisations, education and homes.</li> </ul> <p>Unit 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain a working knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, automated documents and images Learn to apply your knowledge and understanding to solve problems in vocational settings.</li> </ul>
<b>How is the course assessed?</b>	<p>Unit 1 - an exam externally assessed will be assessed through an exam which is worth 40% of your qualification. The exam will last 1 hour and 20 minutes, it will be made up of short and extended response questions.</p> <p>Unit 2 - A coursework set by the exam board and marked by the teachers. This will be assessed with project work (no exam) which is worth 60% of your qualification.</p>
<b>What skills will I develop?</b>	You will develop a number of skills which are attractive to an employer, colleges and universities including:

- Communication
- Coping with rapid changes in technology
- Critical thinking
- Designing, programming, testing and evaluating software systems
- Learning independently
- Numeracy and data handling
- Problem solving
- Research
- Taking on responsibility
- Time management.



<b>Subject area:</b>	<b>Learning in the Outdoors</b>
<b>Qualification title:</b>	Level 2 Extended Certificate in Learning in the Outdoors - 2 GCSE B Grades
<b>Why should I study this subject?</b>	This is an exciting vocational qualification that is solely assessed by school-based assignments. It gives learners an opportunity to gain two GCSE B grade equivalents, so it is useful for ensuring progression to college.
<b>What careers might this subject be useful for?</b>	<p>Countryside Ranger</p> <p>Forest School Leader</p> <p>Outdoor Pursuits Leader: climbing, hiking, water sports, bushcraft, archery etc</p> <p>Outdoor Centre Staff</p> <p>Gardener</p> <p>Outdoor Therapist</p> <p>Walking Guide</p> <p>Forestry</p> <p>Environmental Conservation: working for charities like Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Woodland Trust etc</p> <p>Arborist</p> <p>Farming</p>
<b>What is the structure of this course?</b>	<p>The course is delivered as a mixture of practical and classroom-based sessions. The classroom sessions allow the pupils to build their knowledge around different areas before putting these into practice practically.</p> <p>Course topics completed:</p> <p>Camp Craft</p> <p>Practical Skills in the Outdoors</p> <p>Land Based Activities</p> <p>Using a map and compass</p> <p>Introduction to map and compass skills</p> <p>Land use in Wales</p> <p>Pupils will complete off site days at Worthenbury, Chirk Castle and Park in the Past where students will apply all their learned skills in a practical environment. Due to the off-site activities, there is a cost to support fees for the transportation of pupils.</p>
<b>How is the course assessed?</b>	Solely assessed by school-based assignments.







<b>Subject area:</b>	<b>Media Studies</b>
<b>Qualification title:</b>	GCSE Media Studies
<b>Why should I study this subject?</b>	Media Studies GCSE is a stimulating and creative qualification that will complement the English Language and Literature GCSEs and other creative subjects. The course covers all aspects of the media in order to develop the students' wider understanding of information in the increasingly digital age. It will enable them to take a more analytical approach to advertising, video gaming and newspapers, together with gaining a knowledge of the film industry and TV. Additionally, this qualification offers the students the opportunity to create their own media advertising product and write reflectively about the outcome. The GCSE improves critical thinking, analytical and writing skills and is excellent preparation for Media Studies at A Level.
<b>What careers might this subject be useful for?</b>	Media production (film / television) Journalism Advertising Marketing Social Media Education Public Relations Business
<b>What is the structure of this course?</b>	<p><b><u>Unit 1: Exploring the Media (30% of Qualification)</u></b></p> <p><b>Section A - Representations</b> - this section will assess knowledge and understanding of the representation of gender and events in relation to any of the media forms studied e.g advertising, video games and newspapers.</p> <p><b>Section B - Music</b> - this section will assess knowledge and understanding of media language, representation, media industries and audiences.</p> <p><b><u>Unit 2: Wales on Television (30% of Qualification)</u></b></p> <p><b>Section A - Wales on Television</b> - knowledge of media industries, audiences, media language and representation in this context will be assessed.</p> <p><b>Section B - Contemporary Hollywood Film</b> - knowledge of media industries, audiences, media language and representation in this context will be assessed</p> <p><b><u>Unit 3: Creating Media (40% of Qualification)</u></b></p> <p>An audio visual or print media production created in response to a choice of briefs set by the WJEC.</p>
<b>How is the course assessed?</b>	40% NEA Coursework, 60% split between two examinations.

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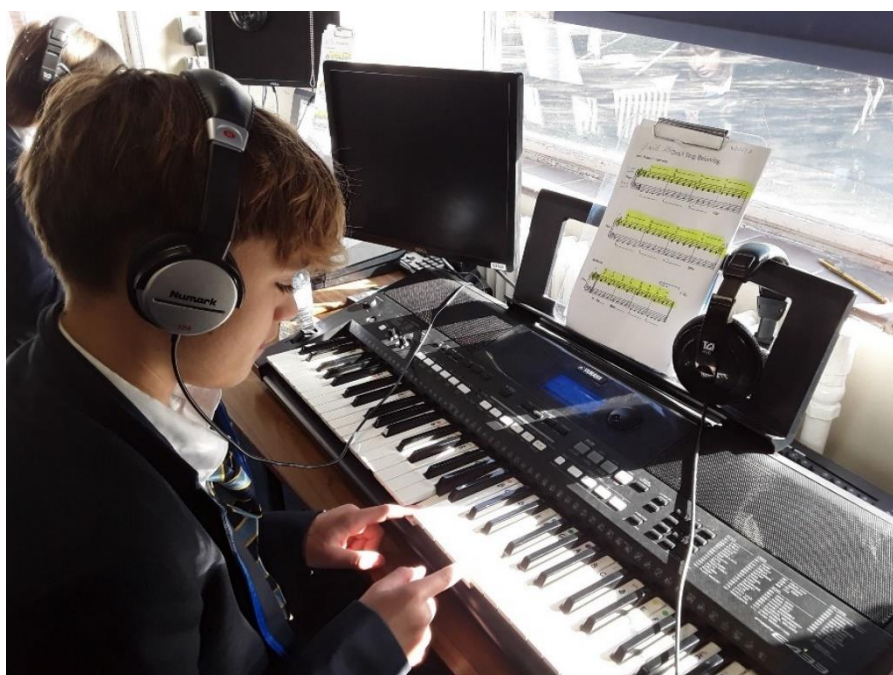
<b>Subject area:</b>	<b>Music</b>
<b>Qualification title:</b>	GCSE Music
<b>Why should I study this subject?</b>	<p>If you have enjoyed Music in years 7,8 and 9 then this is the subject for you.</p> <p>GCSE Music will develop your skills as a musician in the 3 core areas of Performing, Composing and Appraising (Listening), and is a mixture of practical and academic (theory) work.</p> <p>As well as developing Musical skills you will develop your resilience, ability to respond to changing situations, analytical skills, critical thinking skills, problem solving skills, teamwork, logical thinking, fine motor skills and general well-being.</p> <p>The performance element is accessible to everyone. You can sing or play any instrument, this includes instruments used in class such as the Ukulele, Xylophone and Keyboard.</p> <p>The guide standard for GCSE performing (at the time when you are assessed) is ABRSM grade 3 and above.</p>
<b>What careers might this subject be useful for?</b>	Music, Law, Medicine, Architecture, Management in any career, Workshop leader, Community Arts Worker, Teacher, Sound Design, Theatre technician, Peripatetic music tutor, Stage Management, Musical Director, Music Therapist, Events Manager, Composer, TV or Radio presenter, Music producer.
<b>What is the structure of this course?</b>	<p>The course develops skills in Performing, Composing and Appraising (Listening) through the exploration of the musical elements in various styles of music and two set works.</p> <p>Skills are taught side by side, so you will learn about the features of music by playing, writing (composing) and listening to them in different pieces.</p> <p>During the course you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop your skills on a chosen instrument, or voice, with the support of the class teacher and our peripatetic tutors. This will prepare you for a performance assessment of a minimum of 2 final pieces on an instrument or voice (4-6 minutes of music in total).</li> <li>• Explore and develop a range of composing techniques, including using composition software. This will prepare you to write two final composition pieces (a total of 3-6 minutes of music), one to a brief set by the WJEC.</li> <li>• Write a reflective log evaluating your own composition work.</li> <li>• Listen to a wide variety of music from recordings and attend at least one live performance (this may be in school or at a local concert).</li> </ul>

## How is the course assessed?

Unit 1 Performing, 32.5% - NEA, assessed internally and submitted to the board for external moderation.

Unit 2 Composing, 32.5% - NEA, assessed internally and submitted to the board for external moderation.

Unit 3 Appraising - 35% - a listening exam sat at the end of year 11, assessing your knowledge of the use of the musical elements in unfamiliar pieces and the set works.





Subject area:	PE
Qualification title:	WJEC GCSE Physical Education
Why should I study this subject?	GCSE Physical Education is an ideal opportunity for students who have been successful and enjoyed participating in their Year 7, 8 & 9 PE lessons to further develop their practical skills and learn about a whole new aspect of Physical Education. Students aiming to achieve a C grade at GCSE should expect to achieve a minimum level 6 end of Key Stage 3 level and show signs of level 7 performance in some activities. Due to the nature of the practical assessments, it is also strongly advised that students should be regularly participating in sport or physical activity outside of school.
What careers might this subject be useful for?	The course is a fantastic starting point for any student who may wish to move onto further studies in sport and any possible future career across the sports spectrum.
What is the structure of this course?	<p><b>Unit 1:</b> Written examination (50% of qualification). Pupils will be assessed through a range of short and extended questions. The subject content focuses on five key areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Health, training and exercise</li> <li>2. Exercise physiology</li> <li>3. Movement analysis</li> <li>4. Psychology of sport and physical activity</li> <li>5. Socio-cultural issues in sport and physical activity.</li> </ol> <p><b>Unit 2:</b> Practical component (50% of qualification). Pupils will be assessed in <u>three</u> different activities in the role of performer in at least <u>one individual</u> sport, <u>one team</u> sport and <u>one other</u>.</p> <p>One of the selected activities will also have a written controlled assessment to demonstrate a personal fitness programme linked to that activity.</p>
How is the course assessed?	<p>Unit 1 - an exam externally assessed</p> <p>Unit 2 - an investigation coursework</p> <p>Unit 3 - an exam externally assessed</p> <p>Unit 4 - an investigation coursework</p>



<b>Subject area:</b>	<b>Science</b>
<b>Qualification title:</b>	GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics (Triple Science)
<b>Why should I study this subject?</b>	Triple science covers a wider range of topics and gives a deeper understanding of scientific principles providing excellent preparation for the study of A level Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics.
<b>What careers might this subject be useful for?</b>	Science continues to become ever more important in the modern world. This option should be considered by any student genuinely interested in a career in the sciences.  Medicine, Dentistry, Physiotherapy, Veterinary, Science and Research, Agriculture, Sport, Fitness and Education, Aerospace and Defence, Engineering, Energy and Renewable Energy, Meteorology and Climate Change and Telecommunications.
<b>What is the structure of this course?</b>	Each science covers a range of core principles within the subject as well as scientific issues that are challenging us in Wales and across the world.  Students will sit a written exam at the end of Year 10 and one at the end of Year 11 for each of the 3 science disciplines (biology, chemistry and physics). There is also a practical exam unit for each subject that will be taken in January of Year 10.
<b>How is the course assessed?</b>	Unit 1 45% Year 10 Unit 2 45% Year 11 Unit 2 Practical assessment 10% There is a maximum of 30 places on this course and selection will be based on Y9 attainment.



# College Courses

There are a number of options available in conjunction with Coleg Cambria. The courses offered are:

WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering
BTEC Level 1/2 First Award in Construction and the Built Environment
WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Engineering
Level 2 Certificate in Hair & Beauty Skills
GCSE Health & Social Care
Level 2 Award & Diploma in Performing Arts
BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Preparation for Public Services
GCSE Spanish*
GCSE Sports & Coaching Principles

Further information about all of these courses can be found on the following website:

<https://www.cambria.ac.uk/school-services/school-links/>

These courses run on a Tuesday afternoon until 4.15pm. Transport is provided from school to the college sites, but parents have to provide transport to collect their children at the end of the day from college.

\*GCSE Spanish runs as a twilight course from 4.30 - 6.30pm at college. Parents are responsible for transportation both to and from this course.