KS4 Options

YSGOL MAESTEG

MOTIVATED TO STRIVE



WELCOME TO YOUR FUTURE!

OVERVIEW:

It is an exciting time to be in Year 9 at Maesteg School! You are about to embark on the next phase of your learning journey…



What is this booklet for?

Nothing is so essential as universal access to, and acquisition of,
the *experiences*, *knowledge,* and *skills* that our young people need for employment, lifelong learning and active citizenship. We firmly believe in the importance of instilling our learners with passion and pride in themselves, their communities, and their country.

The **four purposes** are at the heart of our curriculum pathway.
Ultimately, the aim of our curriculum is to support our learners to become:

- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society

What is this booklet for?

This booklet contains information about each subject that may be available for you to study in more depth as you get older. You can learn a little about each subject and how you will be assessed.

What do I have to study?

When the options columns are released, you will notice some subjects are missing. They are the **compulsory** areas. This means you ***must*** study them, and they will form part of your curriculum pathway.

- English Language & Literature
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Core Cymraeg
- The Sciences

You can learn more about them in this booklet.

What do I have to do?

1. Spend some time reading the information in this booklet. If you have any further questions, you can email your teacher or subject leader.

2. Soon the option columns will be released. You will need to click on the subjects you would like to study next year.

3. You will receive an invitation to meet with one of the Senior Leaders of the school. They will talk to you about your choices and help to answer any questions you may have.

Alternative Qualifications

You will notice there are some subjects in the booklet that you may not recognise for example:

- Kings Trust
- Sweet
- Equality and Diversity

At Maesteg School, we pride ourselves on offering an inclusive and varied suite of qualifications and learning journeys. In a pupil-centred environment, we will work with the learner, family and specialist staff to ensure we develop a personalised curriculum for those who require it.

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Course Information

YSGOL MAESTEG

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE: SINGLE + DOUBLE AWARD

WJEC

"The idea is to write it so people hear it and it slides through the brain and goes straight to the heart." **Maya Angelou**

"Whenever you read a good book, somewhere in the world a door opens to allow more light in." **Vera Nazarian**

INTRODUCTION

The GCSE English Language and Literature Double Award enables you to appreciate how language connects you to the world around you, to engage with a rich range of texts from different periods and by diverse writers, and to develop and apply your own use of language, through written and verbal communication.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Unit 1 CONTEXT AND MEANING – in Unit 1, you will study a range of poetry from the WJEC anthology, engaging with the concept of Context and Meaning.

Unit 2 BELONGING – in Unit 2, you will study a prose text, engaging with the concept of Belonging and themes of community, cynefin and citizenship.

Unit 3 INFLUENCE AND POWER – in Unit 3, you will study a range of non-fiction texts, engaging with the Influence and Power of writers, and how writers and speakers exert power and attempt to influence others.

Unit 4b MOTIVATIONS – in Unit 4b, you will have a choice to study a play or a prose text, engaging with the concept of Motivations of writers and characters, exploring reasons for attitudes, behaviours and beliefs.

Unit 5 CONTINUITY AND CHANGE – in Unit 5, you will study a Shakespeare play and pre-20th century poetry. You will consider the concept of Continuity and Change, and how attitudes, ideas and language have changed over time.

Unit 6 CONNECTIONS – in Unit 6, you will study nonfiction texts, focusing on the concept of Connections.
You will explore links between different texts, relating texts to time, place, language, and relationships.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Units 1, 4b and 6 are examined units, together worth 60% of your qualification. Each exam lasts 90 minutes and will consist of low-tariff extract-based questions, an extended essay response and a piece of creative fiction or non-fiction writing.

Units 2, 3 and 5 are non-examined assessments, together worth 40% of your qualification. Unit 5 will consist of two tasks, one that will assess your written response to the relevant text(s) and one that will assess your oracy skills.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

GCSE English Language and Literature is a core subject and as such helps to develop a wide range of skills for your future:

- Communication Skills – expressing yourself through clear and creative use of language
- Reading Skills – reading, listening to and researching a range of texts, analysing meaning and scrutinising reliability
- Contextual Analysis Skills – engaging with the significance of purpose, audience, and contexts of speaking, reading and writing
- Literacy Skills – developing and applying an understanding of grammar and uses of vocabulary.

CAREERS USING 'ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE'

GCSE English Language and Literature is designed to equip you with a rich variety of skills for your future in education and the workplace. It is a widely valued qualification that provides a strong foundation for further study of literature, language, and a wide range of other academic subjects at A level and beyond. It can open the door to an array of career paths such as law, journalism, media production, advertising, marketing, teaching, politics, public relations, and publishing.

MATHEMATICS AND NUMERACY: DOUBLE AWARD WJEC

"If there is a God, she's a great mathematician." **Pauline Dirac**

The construct of GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy (Double Award) is based on the five interdependent proficiencies that make up the Curriculum for Wales' principles of progression for the Mathematics and Numeracy Area. The qualification will:

+ Provide opportunities for learners to develop a conceptual understanding of mathematical concepts and ideas.

+ Provide opportunities for learners to develop an understanding of a wide range of mathematical language and to demonstrate this communication using symbols

+ Allow learners to demonstrate the use and application of mathematical and numerical skills fluently and accurately

+ Support learners to develop and apply logical reasoning when justifying and proving relationships between concepts

+ Provide opportunities for learners to independently demonstrate strategic competence when using mathematical ideas to solve problems.

Unit 1: Financial Mathematics + Applications of Numeracy **30% of Qualification**

Unit 2: Non-calculator Mathematics **30% of Qualification**

Unit 3: Calculator Mathematics **40% of Qualification**

For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit:

WJEC: MATHS + NUMERACY

There will be two tiers offered to students a higher tier which has the potential grades of A* to D and a foundation tier which has the potential grades C to G.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

NCFE

"Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilisation." **Mahatma Gandhi**

The Equality and Diversity *Level 2* course is an interesting new course that aims to give an introduction to the issues around stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination, to identify the basic rights that all people should enjoy and the shared values people have, and to examine the responsibility that each person and organisation has in ensuring that barriers to participation in society are removed. You will look at the various laws which affect equality and diversity, and how the workplaces have to take account of them.

Unit 1: Equality and Diversity in Society

Unit 2: Equality and Diversity in the Community

Unit 3: Equality and Diversity in the Workplace

For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit:

NCFE: EQUALITY + DIVERSITY

This is a qualification that is recognised within the workplace and due to its relevance to all sectors it may contribute to learners progressing onto qualifications in other relevant areas such as: youth work, community development work, health and social care, customer Service/business subjects, early years care and education.

SCIENCE EXPLANED

- If you wish to study Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) you will need to opt for triple in an options column.

- A small number of pupils will study single science, and these pupils will be contacted directly.

- All remaining pupils will continue along a double science pathway.

BIOLOGY

WJEC

“Biology is now bigger than physics, as measured by the size of budgets, by the size of the workforce, or by the output of major discoveries; and biology is likely to remain the biggest part of science through the twenty-first century.” - Freeman Dyson

“GCSE Biology offers a wide range of interesting topics and is very enjoyable.” - Olivia Thomas

Biology is the scientific study of life: as such it covers the investigation of living organisms and life processes from cells and individual organisms to populations and whole communities of animals and plants. At GCSE Biology we will focus on three main areas:

- Developing knowledge and understanding of Biology.
- Understanding how Biological knowledge impacts on society.
- Developing skills and the ability to evaluate scientific information.

Unit 1: **Cells / Organ Systems / Ecosystems** **Unit 2:** **Variation / Homeostasis / Micro-organisms** **Unit 3:** **Biology Practical Assessment**	**2 x 1 hour 45 minutes examinations.** Each examination consists of a mix of short answer, structured, extended writing and data response questions. Some of these questions will be set in a practical context. Each examination is worth **45%** of the final grade. **Practical Assessment** Students will need to obtain results from a given experimental method and analyse and evaluate the data obtained. The practical assessment is worth **10%** of the final grade.

GCSE Biology leads into AS/A2 Biology, which leads into Biology based courses at university. Potential careers related to Biology include Medicine, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Genetic Engineering, Biotechnology, Pharmacy, Pharmacology, and many, many more…

CHEMISTRY WJEC

“Every aspect of the world today – even politics and International relations is affected by chemistry.” - Linus Pauling

Chemistry is the study of matter (or ‘stuff’) and the changes it can Undergo. It is about understanding the basic properties of matter and learning how to predict and explain how they change when they react to form new substances.

The GCSE Chemistry course provides students with opportunities to carry out their own scientific investigations and to evaluate scientific information. Students also look at how scientific knowledge and expertise provides benefits for society but can also pose moral and ethical problems. They also develop their skills in communication, mathematics, and the use of technology in scientific contexts.

Unit 1: **Chemical Substances, Reactions and Essential Resources** **Unit 2:** **Chemical Bonding, Application of Chemical Reactions and Organic Chemistry** **Unit 3:** **Chemistry Practical Assessment**	**2 x 1 hour 45 minutes externally assessed written examinations - 45% of qualification individually, 90% total.** A mix of short answer; structured; extended writing and data response questions, with some set in a practical context. **Practical Assessment - 10%, externally assessed.** • Obtain results from a given experimental method. (**60 minutes**) • Analyse and evaluate the data obtained. **(60 minutes)**

Progression and Career Opportunities: AS/A2 Chemistry, Physics and Biology in Maesteg School. The study of Chemistry, Medicine, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Chemical Engineering, Forensic Science, Environmental Science, Analytical Science, etc. It also provides a satisfying course of study for those who do not wish to study the subject further.

PHYSICS WJEC

“Space is big. You just won’t believe how vastly, hugely, mind-bogglingly big it is. I mean you may think it’s a long way down the road to the chemist’s, but that’s peanuts to space.” - Douglas Adams.

Triple Science - Physics enables students to develop their appreciation of the knowledge and understanding of the world as established by the scientific community. The subject explores a wider range of scientific concepts and provides a more detailed knowledge and understanding, by helping students develop and improve skills in several key areas:

- Evaluating scientific information.
- Undertaking scientific measurements and investigations.
- Developing scientific language, mathematical and communication skills.

Unit 1: **Electricity, Energy and Waves.**	**2 x 1 hour 45 minutes externally assessed written examinations - 45% of qualification individually, 90% total.**
Unit 2: **Forces, Space and Radioactivity.**	A mix of short answer; structured; extended writing and data response questions, with some set in a practical context.
Unit 3: **Practical Assessment**	**Practical Assessment - 10%, externally assessed.** • Obtain results from a given experimental method. (**60 minutes**) • Analyse and evaluate the data obtained. (**60 minutes**)

Progression and Career Opportunities: AS/A2 Chemistry, Physics and Biology in Maesteg School. The study of Chemistry, Medicine, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Chemical Engineering, Forensic Science, Environmental Science, Analytical Science, etc. It also provides a satisfying course of study for those who do not wish to study the subject further.

GCSE INTEGRATED SCIENCE SINGLE AWARD

WJEC

The GCSE Integrated Science (Single Award) GCSE qualification is designed to provide learners with a broad understanding of the fundamental concepts in biology, chemistry and physics. It emphasises the interconnectedness of scientific principles, enquiry skills, and the application of science in everyday life.

Unit 1: **Living on Earth**	Written examination – 45% of qualification. Includes a pre-release resource folder.
Unit 2: **Science in a Changing World**	Written examination – 45% of qualification.
Unit 3: **Scientific Enquiry**	Consists of a practical task and a written task – 10% of qualification

Progression and Career Opportunities: This GCSE provides a suitable foundation for the study of vocational/applied sciences at level 3 e.g. 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.

CORE CYMRAEG WJEC

There is a saying in Welsh, "Gwlad heb iaith, Gwlad heb Genedl"
- meaning A Country without language is a Country without a Nation.

The study of our national language will develop your interest in Welsh and enthusiasm for the language. The study of Welsh will inspire, stimulate you to be a confident communicator. You will develop language skills to make you an effective communicator of Welsh in an increasingly bilingual society. GCSE Core Cymraeg leads to A level Welsh. You could find employment in a wide variety of roles both in Wales and in the wider national picture.

50% Non-exam assessment. These assessments will focus on:

- Speaking 30%
- Listening 20%

Learners will have to communicate in a confident, spontaneous way. The assessments will take place in November and April of year 11.

50% Exam. These will be assessed through:

- Reading 25%
- Writing 25%

All exams will be taken in year 11.

Level 2 Award in additional Core Cymraeg:

Optional additional qualification will be available in the form of a level 2 qualification
Unit 1: A digital on line assessment covering speaking and listening
Unit 2: An assessment of writing covering the topic 'Cymraeg in my area'
Both units must be successfully completed to be awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction.

For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit:
WJEC: CORE CYMRAEG

Options Curriculum

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ART & DESIGN WJEC

"Art is like a therapy that relaxes you through your creativity" **Chloe Bowen**

"Every child is an artist" **Pablo Picasso**

Art and Design will help pupils to express their ideas and creativity through a wide range of media, which focuses on their strengths. Pupils will have an understanding of how to develop their work in different ways, using artists for inspiration to create a unique and personal outcome.

Pupils will have the opportunity to work with pencil, paint, clay, printmaking, textiles and photography to create their portfolio of work. They will work in a sketchbook and be encouraged to work on a variety of scales.

Unit 1 Candidate Portfolio (60%)	• Candidate Portfolio is made up of 2 units of work. The work will clearly show understanding of the 4 assessment objectives.
Unit 2 Externally set Task (40%)	• Externally set task is set by the exam board. This will include research and preparation plus 10 hours to complete a final outcome

Pathways include: AS/A2 Level Art/Textiles, Foundation Art & Design, Degree courses in Art, Craft & Design are all progression and career opportunities that follow on from GCSE Art & Design. The industry is huge! Here are a few ideas for you; Art therapist, Ceramicist, Community arts worker, Conservator, Exhibition designer, Fashion designer, Game designer, Graphic designer, Illustrator, Interior designer, Jewellery designer, Make-up artist. Museum/gallery curator, Photographer, Press photographer, Stylist, teacher, Textile designer, Printmaker, Product designer and Web designer to name a few. For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit: **GCSE: ART + DESIGN**

BUSINESS STUDIES WJEC

"If someone offers you an amazing opportunity and you're not sure you can do it, say YES - then learn how to do it" **Sir Richard Branson**

This GCSE specification introduces learners to the business world, empowering them to develop as commercially minded and enterprising individuals. Learners will have the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills, enabling them to use business information critically, to develop arguments, to make justified decisions and to prepare them for further study and career pathways.

The focus of the specification is to introduce and nurture an enthusiasm for studying business in a range of contexts. Learners will appreciate how businesses operate in a dynamic and competitive environment and develop an understanding of the interdependent nature of business functions from a local to a global perspective. The content is presented in six clear and distinct topic areas:

Business activity / Influences on business / Business operations / Finance / Marketing / Human resources

Unit 1 Introduction to the Business World – Written Examination: **1hr 15 minutes (30% of qualification) 60 marks**
Questions requiring objective responses, short and extended answers, with some based around applied situations.
Unit 2 Key Business Considerations – Non-examination assessment: **5 hours (15% of qualification) 48 marks**
Set and marked by WJEC. The assessment will feature tasks based on two themes from the unit content which will be set by WJEC each year. The assignment, which will include a brief and several tasks, will be available via the WJEC Portal.
Unit 3 Business Strategies for Success – Written Examination: **1hr 15 minutes (30% of qualification) 60 marks**
Questions requiring objective responses, short and extended answers, with some based around applied situations.
Unit 4 Business Creation - Non-examination assessment: **8 hours (25% of qualification) 60 marks**
Set by WJEC, marked by the Centre and moderated by WJEC. The assignment, which will include a brief and several tasks, will be available via the WJEC Portal, and will remain the same for the lifetime of the specification.

A knowledge of business can firstly lead to the Business A Level and offers a wide variety of career paths. Business can be useful in many different jobs including roles within accountancy, sales, marketing, human resources, manufacturing, customer services and even business management. It will also be useful if you are thinking about setting up your own business or being self-employed in the future. For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit: **GCSE: BUSINESS**

FOOD & NUTRITION WJEC

"What I've enjoyed most is meeting people who have a real interest in food and sharing ideas with them. Good food is a global thing and I find that there is always something new and amazing to learn - I love it!" **Jamie Oliver**

This GCSE course provides opportunities for students to develop practical skills in food preparation, cooking and presentation. They will also develop their knowledge of nutrition and menu planning, special diets, healthy eating, safety and hygiene and designing dishes and recipes.

Unit 1 Principles of food and nutrition **40% of Qualification** Written examination: 1 hour 30 Minutes	Learners will be given the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the six areas of content. Areas of content: **1 Food Commodities / 2 Principles of Nutrition / 3 Diet and Good Health / 4 The science of food / 5 Where Food comes from / 6 Cooking and food preparation**
Unit 2 Food Investigation **20% of qualification** Non – examination assessment internally assessed, externally moderated.	**Assessment 1** The food investigation assessment: **20%** of the total marks available will be allocated to a scientific food investigation, which will assess the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.
Unit 3 Food and nutrition in action **40% of qualification** Non – examination assessment internally assessed, externally moderated.	**Assessment 2** The food Preparation assessment: **40%** of the total marks available will be allocated to a task which assesses the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of dishes to form a menu.

This course gives learners a sound basis from which to proceed on to food or catering courses at BTEC or AS level. Careers in the food Industry range from being a chef to food design and manufacture, food retailing and teaching. The hospitality and food industries are two of the biggest employers worldwide. People are becoming increasingly interested and often passionate about the food they eat. If not for a career, the course also provides a valuable opportunity to creatively select ingredients and to make a wide range of appetising dishes, whilst building a working knowledge of nutrition and healthy eating. For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit**:** **GCSE: FOOD + NUTRITION**

BTEC CONSTRUCTION EDEXCEL

***"Construction is such a great subject. I have learned a huge variety of skills through doing both practical work and theory work behind the construction industry. It has really helped me to decide on a future career as an architect." former pupil,* Morgan Pitman**

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in construction and the built environment (eq:1GCSE).
Mandatory Core Units:

Unit 1 Construction Technology	1 hr External Exam
Unit 2 Construction and Design	Internal Coursework
Unit 3 Scientific + Mathematical Applications for Construction	Internal Coursework

Optional Specialist Units:

Unit 6 Exploring Carpentry and Joinery Principles + Techniques	Internal Coursework

The Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Construction and the Built Environment provides the skills, knowledge and understanding for level 2 learners to progress to:

- Other level 2 vocational qualifications
- Level 3 vocational qualifications, such as BTEC Nationals, specifically the Edexcel

BTEC Level 3 in Construction and the Built Environment (NQF)

- related academic qualifications
- Employment within the construction industry.

Learners who achieve the qualification at Level 1 may progress to related level 2 vocational or academic qualifications, such as BTECs or GCSEs. For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit**:** **EDEXCEL: BTEC CONSTRUCTION**

DRAMA WJEC

***"Great theatre is about challenging how we think and encouraging us to fantasize about a world we aspire to"* Willem Dafoe**

- The GCSE Drama specification is designed to give you a broad and balanced experience of Drama.
- You will be given the opportunity to develop not only your performance skills but also your design skills in areas such as: Lighting design Sound design Set design Costume, Hair and Make-Up Design
- You will collaborate in devising your own piece of theatre and perform in a performance from a text.
- You can choose to concentrate on acting or design.
- You will explore a range of texts and view a variety of live theatre productions.

Unit 1 Devised Practical Performance (**40%**)	**30** hours of development-creating a **15-20** minute final devised performance from a stimulus. Also included is a creative log book where you write about how you developed your ideas as well as an evaluation.
Unit 2 Performance from a Text (**30%**)	Perform a **10-15** minute performance from a published script. You will be expected to learn the lines and develop and research your character through in lesson and after school rehearsals.
Unit 3 Written Examination (**30%**)	**1 ½** hour written exam focusing on your exploration and understanding of the play text 'Face'. You will write about how you would direct and present the technical aspects of a specific scene and how you would play a role from that specific scene. You will also analyse and evaluate a given aspect of one piece of live theatre.

The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report predicts creativity, innovation and ideation will be key skills for the workforce of the future.

In Drama, you will have the opportunity learn and develop a range of transferable skills and practise applying these to new situations. These include analytical, problem-solving, organisation and time management skills. You will also be able work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas, all of which will develop your emotional intelligence.

Your practical skills will be refined and will demonstrate creativity, reflection, and resilience, as well as developing confidence and strong presentation skills. Studying drama will give you opportunities for higher order thinking, by considering ideas which go beyond language. For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit**:** **WJEC: Drama Specification**

ENGINEERING WJEC

***"Science can amuse and fascinate us all, but it is engineering that can change the world."* Isaac Asimov**

Do you ever look around your home and think of handy products that could improve people's lives or get inspired by the amazing feats of engineering all around you? Are you creative, and want to start building the skills you need for a successful career in the industry? If so, it's time to uncover your potential – find out more about this exciting qualification today!

WJEC Level 2 Technical Award in Engineering

Unit 1 Manufacturing engineering products - Portfolio (**40%**)	• Have the opportunity to interpret different types of engineering information in order to plan how to manufacture engineering products. • Develop knowledge, understanding and skills in using a range of engineering tools and equipment in order to manufacture and test a final product.
Unit 2 Designing engineering products – Portfolio (**20%**)	• Explore how an engineered product is adapted and improved over time. It offers the opportunity to apply your knowledge and understanding to adapt an existing component, element or part of the product that you will have manufactured for Unit 1.
Unit 3 Solving Engineering Problems – 1.5 Hour exam (**40%**)	• Introduced to a range of considerations that impact on engineering design and how modern engineering has had an impact on modern day life at home, work and in society in general.

Engineers are in high demand, as a result wages for engineers are higher than the national average by almost £10,000. Beyond A level the career options are vast. Aerospace, Biomedical, Civil, Structural, Computer, Electrical/electronic, Environmental, Marine, Medical or Mechanical to name a few. Many students will continue their studies through apprenticeships or university degrees that allow them to specialise in their preferred industry. At Maesteg, we offer a BTEC Level 3 in Engineering in which we will spend time looking at our career paths and options available.

Engineering lends itself to a wide variety of subjects. There are several transferable skills that can be utilised in different industries: communication, critical thinking, learning independently, Research, taking on responsibility, Time management. For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit**:** **WJEC: ENGINEERING**

FRENCH & SPANISH WJEC

"73% of business across the UK state that they need employees that can communicate in a foreign Language." **CBI**

Studying GCSE French and Spanish will give learners the opportunity to:

- Ensure that knowledge and skills in one language are transferred to and developed in other languages.
- Develop their understanding, empathy, and their ability to respond and to mediate effectively.
- Use languages to be effective as they interact, explore ideas, express viewpoints, knowledge and understanding.
- Provide them with literary experiences that can engage them as listeners, viewers, readers, narrators, and creators.

Learners will study:

- Language for leisure and wellbeing, for example: healthy mind and body, self and relationships, using technology and media
- Language for travel, for example: travelling around the world, the cultures of where the language is spoken, sustainability
- Language for study and work, for example: study and work opportunities, working with languages at home and abroad.
- Language that will allow them to demonstrate human rights awareness of the culture and society of the countries and communities where the language is spoken, and make connections with their own languages and culture.

Unit 1 Speaking and listening: **30%** of qualification - Non examination assessment

Unit 2 Reading and Writing: **15%** of qualification - Non examination assessment

Unit 3 Listening: **20%** of qualification - Written examination

Unit 4 Reading and writing: **35%** of qualification – Written examination

GCSE French/Spanish leads to AS/A2 French/Spanish, which can lead to a Single Honours in French/Spanish or a Double/Combined Honours Award with another subject. You will expect to earn 20% more if you hold a qualification in MFL. You could find employment in accounting, IT and Telecommunications, Travel, Logistics, Events Organisation, Engineering, Creative Design and Media, Marketing and PR, Law, Logistics and Transportation not to mention Translation and Interpretation and Teaching. For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit**:** **WJEC: FRENCH** | **WJEC: SPANISH**

GEOGRAPHY WJEC

"Geography is one of those richly comprehensive subjects whose relevance is all around us. More than ever, we need the geographer's skills and foresight to help us learn about our planet. How we use it. How we abuse it." **Michael Palin**

GCSE Geography helps people to make sense of their immediate surroundings and the wider world, particularly the environment. We focus on developing and improving students' knowledge and understanding in several key areas:

- To develop geographical knowledge and skills
- To develop a sense of identity through learning about the UK and its relationship with other countries in the world
- To appreciate and be concerned about environmental issues facing our planet

Unit 1 Our Physical and Human World	**30%** - 1 hour and 30-minute exam
Unit 2 Developing Fieldwork Skills	**25%** - non-examination assessment
Unit 3 Our Dynamic and Diverse World	**30%** - 1 hour and 30-minute exam
Unit 4 Sustainable Solution	**15%** - 6 hours exam

GCSE Geography leads into AS/A2 courses or even geography based courses at university. Geography graduates have diverse career destinations and the subject has one of the highest rates of graduate employability. This is on no small part down to the flexibility of Geography and the very wide range of skills it helps you to develop that are particularly attractive to universities and employers alike.

Not all Geography students become Geography teachers or weather presenters on the television! Potential careers related to Geography include cartography (map maker), meteorology (weather forecaster), hydrology and flood management, environmental health, conservation, leisure and tourism, urban planning, aid worker, mining, navigation, surveying, transport services, data analysis, civil service, and of course teaching! For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit**:** **WJEC: GEOGRAPHY**

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE & CHILDCARE

WJEC

"Each one of us can make a difference. Together we can make change." **Barbara Mikulski**

The WJEC Health and Social Care GCSE encourages students to understand aspects of Health, Social Care and Early-years sectors through investigation and evaluation. It also looks at some of the issues, which affect the nature and quality of human life including an appreciation of diversity, and cultural issues.

This course comprises of three units:

Unit 1: Health and Social Care, and Childcare in Wales in the 21st Century

This Exam is worth **40%** of the overall grade. It is an exam-based assessment where pupils can apply their theoretical knowledge and skills to answer a range of questions and case studies. The following topic areas will be assessed through this external exam:

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

Unit 2: Adult Health and Social Care

This is a non-exam assessment (NEA): approximately 12 hours and is worth **30%** of qualification. The following topic areas will be assessed through this NEA:

- individual needs and key conditions and illnesses in adulthood
- how professionals work in adult health and social care to achieve positive outcomes.
- the role of health promotion in public health in Wales.

Unit 3: Childcare

This is a non-exam assessment (NEA): approximately 12 hours and is worth **30%** of qualification. The following topic areas will be assessed through this NEA:

- life stages, expected milestones, and physical, intellectual, language, emotional and social (PILES) development.
- key conditions and illnesses of children
- how professionals work, including play and play work, to meet the needs of children in Wales to achieve positive outcomes.

For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit: GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare - Teaching from 2026

HISTORY

WJEC

"Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." George Santayana

GCSE History qualification supports Learners to:

• Develop their knowledge and understanding of specific historical events, periods and societies on a local, national and global scale

• Extend their understanding and appreciation of the identity, heritage and history of Wales and the world and to develop a sense of cynefin

• Become independent, critical and reflective historians through the skills of historical enquiry, questioning, and source analysis and evaluation

• Construct valid and realistic historical claims by using a range of sources in context to reach substantiated judgements

• Demonstrate critical appreciation of the concept of historical significance, including:

• Why some people, events and developments are seen as historically significant

• Why different interpretations have been constructed about historically significant people, events, and developments

• Acquire an understanding of different identities, including their own, within a complex, pluralistic, and diverse society

Unit 1 - Wales and the early Tudors, c.1485–c.1547 – **1 hour exam – 30%**

Unit 2 - The Black Death c.1330–c.1360: a case study in medieval society – **3 hour on screen assessment – 20%**

Unit 3 - Russia and the Soviet Union c.1861–c.1953 – **1 hour exam – 30%**

Unit 4 – Non-examination assessment – **4 hours and 15 minutes – 20%**

GCSE History leads into AS/A2 courses or even history-based courses at university. History graduates have diverse career destinations, and the subject has one of the highest rates of graduate employability. This due to the flexibility of History and the very wide range of skills it helps you to develop that are particularly attractive to universities and employers alike.

Not all History students become History teachers! Potential careers related to History include journalist, the police force, marketing and finance, accountancy, museum curator, administrator, and television presenters. For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit**:** **WJEC: HISTORY**

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY WJEC

"ICT is not only the future of our children's education it is the present; we need to make the investment in ICT now!" **Walter Lockhart**

The GCSE in Digital Technology is a great way to dive into the world of digital technology, broaden your skills and knowledge of this subject that we all use. It will help you become an independent, confident and knowledgeable user of digital technologies and open exciting career opportunities for your future.

Unit 1 – The Digital World	On-screen examination with a variety of question types Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of the qualification
Unit 2 – Digital Practices	Assessed through a practical project using a real-life pre-release brief. Duration: undertaken in class under supervision from your teacher. Format: two main sections: Section A data analysis using spreadsheets Section B designing and creating a website, game or animation. 40% of the qualification
Unit 3 – Communicating in the Digital World	Assessed through a practical project using a real-life pre release brief. Duration: undertaken in class under supervision from your teacher. Format: create digital assets and develop a social media campaign 20% of the qualification

SKILLS WILL YOU DEVELOP	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY
Digital Literacy Data Analysis Website Creation Digital Communication Understanding Digital Systems	Software Developer Data Scientist IT Manager AI and Machine Learning Engineer Web Developer Game Developer

MEDIA STUDIES WJEC

"Media study does not replace text. It broadens and deepens our understanding of texts." **Phillip M. Anderson**

• The purpose of a media studies is to look at the way media (including print, film, and television) affect society. It answers questions about how media influence the way people act in their personal lives and in business.
• Learning about the media involves both exploring and making media products.
• Media Studies enables learners to develop a range of skills in analysing and producing media products, including analysis, critical thinking, decision-making, evaluation, and practical media production skills.

Unit 1: Exploring the Media • **Section A** – Representation of gender, ethnicity, and an event in advertising (print-based and audio-visual), video games and newspapers. • **Section B** – The music industry. This topic will involve an exploration of music magazines, music videos, social media and radio.	Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes **30%** of qualification **60 marks**
Unit 2: Understanding Television and Film • This unit involves the in-depth study of two contrasting audio-visual media forms: British television and Hollywood film.	Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes **30%** of qualification **60 marks**
Unit 3: Creating Media • This unit builds on previous learning by requiring learners to develop and apply their knowledge and understanding of the media through	Non-exam assessment: Pupils create a form of media **40%** of qualification **80 marks**

The skills you learn in a media studies degree program can translate into a variety of careers. If critical thinking and writing interest you, you could become a film or television critic and write media reviews for a newspaper or magazine. Film critics also report their reviews on television and radio broadcasts. For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit**:**
WJEC: MEDIA STUDIES

MUSIC

WJEC

“One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain.” Bob Marley
“Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy.” Ludwig van Beethoven

This GCSE course will:

• Encourage students to be inspired, moved, and changed by following a broad, course of study.
• Develop broader life skills and attributes, including critical and creative thinking, emotional awareness, cultural understanding, self-discipline, self-confidence, and self-motivation.
• Enable students to engage actively in the study of music.
• Develop musical skills and interests, including the ability to make music individually and in groups.
• Enable students to understand and appreciate a range of different kinds of music.

Listening and Appraising makes up **35%** of this subject. There is a 90 minute digital paper with questions based on musical extracts from a wide range of musical genres such as:

Classical, Jazz and Blues, Welsh Folk Music, Musical Theatre, Film Music, and Popular Music.

Two of the eight questions are based on prepared extracts set by WJEC; Palladio by Karl Jenkins and One Day Like This by Elbow.

Music by Welsh composers and performers is incorporated within the listening questions.

Performing Music makes up **32.5%** of this subject. This will include a minimum of two pieces - these can be either solo or ensemble performances. Both are recorded, internally assessed, and externally moderated and must be of 4-6 minutes in length.

Composing Music makes up **32.5%** of this subject. This will include 2 contrasting compositions that are internally assessed and externally moderated. One free choice and one from a choice of briefs. Pupils will also complete a composing log of their creative process during the composition process.

This course teaches life- long skills such as teamwork, multi- tasking, memory skills, physical awareness, perseverance. Employers always look for pupils with these skills. It also builds social and interpersonal awareness. Following this course, you can study *A Level music* as it gives a good foundation for *A Level* requirement. Following on from *A Level* you could study for a Music degree that gives you a broad base of skills, general and specific. For an overview of your child’s potential pathway, please visit**:** **WJEC: MUSIC**

PHOTOGRAPHY WJEC

"Photography allows you to express yourself though a lens and manipulate the way you view the world" **Mackenzie Thomas**

GCSE Photography allows pupils to express their ideas and creativity through a wide range of Photographic techniques, which focuses on their strengths. Pupils will understand how to develop their work in different ways, using Photographers for inspiration to create a unique and personal outcome. Pupils will have the opportunity to work with professional photographers along with visiting galleries to gain experience of the photographic world.

As well as working digitally and using Adobe Photoshop, pupils also get taught traditional processes such as film and Darkroom methods to create their portfolio of work. Pupils will work on a digital portfolio, so this is easy to access from home as well as school. This is designed to encourage pupils to effortlessly record their photographic journey.

Candidate Portfolio: CP1 (**60%**)	Candidate Portfolio is made up of 2 units of work. The work will clearly show understanding of the 4 assessment objectives.
Externally Set Task: EST2 (**40%**)	Externally set task is set by the exam board. This will include research and preparation plus 10 hours to complete a final outcome.

GCSE Photography allows pupils to progress to AS and A2 level. It promotes the development of their imagination and creative flair to produce unique outcomes supported by colourful and interesting portfolios.
Progression and career opportunities include Foundation Course in Art & Design and/or Degree courses in Photography and Media. For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit**:** **WJEC: PHOTOGRAPHY**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION WJEC

"Learning through practical lessons allows me to stay motivated and challenged".

The new GCSE Physical Education qualification provides pupils with a well-rounded understanding of how physical activity supports health and wellbeing. It helps them develop practical sports skills, coaching techniques, and performance analysis, while exploring the social and cultural influences on participation. Pupils also learn to reflect critically on their own and others' performance, and engage with themes of human rights, diversity, and inclusion in sport.

Unit 1 - (40%) **Principles of Physical Education and Health** **Written Paper** 1 hour 30 minutes	**The purpose of this unit is to:** • demonstrate and apply knowledge and understanding of the factors that contribute to participation in sport and physical activity. • develop learners' understanding of how sport and physical activity has an impact on health and wellbeing. • reflect on and analyse performance factors and how they can be developed.
Unit 2 -(60%) **Performance and Personal Training** **20% – Performance 1** **20% – Performance 2 or Coaching** **20% - Personal Training (of self)**	**The purpose of this unit is to:** • demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the range of skills and techniques required for sport and physical activity. • demonstrate application of tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas within the context of the full activity • demonstrate application of the skills and principles of planning, organising, communicating, and reflecting demonstrate confidence, resilience, creativity, effectiveness, and efficiency when performing (including coaching) and training.

Progression and Career Opportunities:

- BTEC Level 3 Sport (Year 12 & 13).
- Governing body and coaching awards.
- Degree in sports science, sports coaching, sports education, journalism, nutrition, and strength & conditioning.

For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit: GCSE Physical Education and Health - Teaching from 2026

LEADERSHIP THROUGH SPORT

PEARSON

"Learning through practical tasks has allowed me to improve my self-confidence and leadership skills." **Pupil Voice**

In BTEC *Leadership Through Sport* you will learn about:

A wide range of areas related to a variety of sports and the issues surrounding them, including:

Planning and Leading Sports Activities and an Event / Lifestyle and the Sports Performer / Sports Injuries.

You will learn by:
Developing your knowledge of the sports and leisure industry as a diverse sector with a wide range of qualification and employment opportunities. The Certificate in Leadership Through Sport will cover various aspects of this sector, developing your confidence in sport subject knowledge, leadership, coaching ability and teamwork. This is the course for you if you learn through a variety of practical and theoretical sessions. We give you the opportunity to learn new skills and put them into action. *This flexible course is **100%** assessed through coursework and practical tasks or projects.*

You will be assessed by:

Learners are assessed using a variety of styles to help them develop a broad range of transferable skills. This course is **100% internally assessed**, Learners will complete assessments using a range of different approaches, such as practical assessments, written coursework, and presentations. Each unit has specified learning outcomes and assessment criteria and to pass each unit learners must meet all the assessment criteria.

Recommended entry requirements:

*Exemplary Record of bringing kit on a regular basis and maintaining standards in all lessons.
*A keen interest in developing technical and tactical knowledge of physical activities.

What can you do with this subject after GCSE / Level 2?

Completion of the Certificate of Leadership through Sport can lead to many opportunities such as further study of courses such as A Level PE and Level 3 vocational qualifications in sport. The qualification can lead into a range of careers including leisure attendant, sports coach, PE teacher, sport tutor, lecturer, development officer, sports journalist, physiotherapist and many more. For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit**:** **PEARSON: BTEC LEADERSHIP IN SPORT**

TEXTILES

WJEC

"Being creative isn't a hobby, it is a way of life." **Tilia Gajda.**

Textiles will help pupils to express their ideas and creativity through a wide range of techniques, which focuses on their strengths. Pupils will understand how to develop their work in different ways, using textile artists and designers for inspiration to create a unique and personal outcome.

Pupils will have the opportunity to work with pencil, paint, sewing machines, printmaking, batik, layering, mixed media and felting to create their portfolio of work. They will work in a sketchbook and be encouraged to create work unique to them.

Unit 1: Candidate Portfolio	**60%** Internally set and developed from personal and or given starting points
Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment	**40%** Externally set focused task of 10 hours

Progression and Career Opportunities include:

- Progression to AS and A2 level.

- Allows individuals to develop their imagination and creative flair and produce unique outcomes supported by colourful and interesting portfolios.

- Foundation Course in Art and Design.

- A degree in Contemporary Textiles, Surface Patterns, Fashion Design.

For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit**:** **WJEC: TEXTILES**

SOCIAL STUDIES WJEC

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."
Margaret Mead

The WJEC GCSE in Social Studies enables learners to develop a deeper understanding of the society in which they live and the issues that shape communities in Wales and across the world. Students explore contemporary social issues, investigate different viewpoints and develop the knowledge and skills needed to become active, informed and responsible citizens. The qualification encourages learners to think critically about identity, equality, rights, community and social change, while considering how individuals and groups can make a positive difference through social action.

Throughout the course, learners examine a range of real-world issues and investigate how society functions at local, national and global levels. They will develop research, enquiry and evaluation skills, analyse evidence, and consider how change can be achieved through legal and non-violent action. The qualification is designed to help students become ethical, informed citizens who are prepared to engage with the diverse and complex world around them.

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Unit 1 Society and Social Issues	**Written Examination - 1 hour 15 minutes, 30% of qualification**
Unit 2 Investigating Society and Social Issues	**Non-Examination Assessment - 6 hours 30 minutes, 20% of qualification**
Unit 3 Social Change in Contemporary Society	**Written Examination - 1 hour 15 minutes, 30% of qualification**
Unit 4 Planning to Effect Social Change	**Non-Examination Assessment - 6 hours 30 minutes, 20% of qualification**

GCSE Social Studies provides an excellent foundation for further study in A Level Sociology, Politics, Criminology, Law, Psychology, Health and Social Care and a wide range of Humanities subjects. The skills developed through the course, including research, analysis, communication, problem-solving and critical thinking, are highly valued by employers and universities.

Potential career pathways include: teaching, social work, community development, law, journalism, politics and public services, human resources, charity and voluntary sector work and research and social policy. marketing and finance, accountancy, museum curator, administrator, and television presenters. For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit: **WJEC: SOCIAL STUDIES**

PUBLIC SERVICES PEARSON

The BTEC Public Services teaches you a lot about how your daily life is affected by public services and its funding. The skills you develop in the course will help you in many different related courses and areas of work.

The *Pearson BTEC Award in Public Services* will give learners a broad knowledge of employment opportunities in the *Public Services* and jobs undertaken by those who work in it. It will enable learners to explore a range of career opportunities with a view to joining one of the *Public Services*.

This qualification will enable students to understand the vital role of public services and the need for them. Pupils will develop a variety of skills, including the ability to work effectively as both an individual and in a team.

Assessment: Mandatory/Core Units

- **The Role and Work of the Public Services (1 x 60 mins external exam)**
- **Working Skills in the Public Services – Coursework**

Optional Units (Internally Assessed coursework)

- **Employment in the Public Services - Coursework**
- **Health and Fitness in the Public Services - Coursework**

This qualification will give learners the skills and knowledge recognised as important by society and employers while learning in a *Public Services* context.

The *Pearson BTEC Award in Public Services* will support learner's development and preparation for progression into employment, either directly or after further education.

Having completed The *Pearson BTEC Award in Public Services*, learners may wish to complete additional units to achieve the BTEC Diploma. Alternatively, learners may wish to progress to a Level 3 course such as BTEC National in Public Services. For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit**:** **PEARSON: BTEC PUBLIC SERVICES**

KING'S TRUST AWARD

"King's trust is unlike any other subject I've chosen. I look forward to every lesson as we are always doing something different. It's always hands-on and very practical. I find this way of learning far more beneficial." **Pupil Voice**

King's Trust qualifications in personal development and employability skills, recognise a breadth of personal skills, qualities and attitudes required by employers across a range of sectors.

King's trust is developed with the aim of progressing pupils into further education and employment. At Maesteg school we believe that everyone should have the chance to succeed. We want our learners to have a positive experience when completing their work in lessons, so we are committed to ensuring that pupils engage in learning that is relevant to them and supports the development of personal skills and attributes that are essential for working life and employment.

This qualification prepares our learners for progression into further education, programs, apprenticeships, or other work-based learning while developing the *English* and *Mathematical* skills within a practical and relevant context.

6 Units (2 x Level 1 & 4 x Level 2) Award is the equivalent of 2 x B's at GCSE	**Candidate Portfolio is made up of 6 units of work. These units will be selected by the class and completed over the two years.**

What can King's Trust lead to?

King's Trust ensures learners have every opportunity to gain formal recognition of their skills and achievements as well as achieving qualifications that offer flexibility, choice, and pathways to progression. The Prince's Trust Award certificate, Extended Certificate and Diploma and in Personal Developmental and Employability Skills (PDE) recognises a breadth of personal skills, qualities and attitudes required by employers across a range of sectors. For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit**:** **KINGS TRUST**

ADDITIONAL CORE CYMRAEG WJEC

There is a saying in Welsh, "Gwlad heb iaith, Gwlad heb Genedl"
- meaning A Country without language is a Country without a Nation.

What will learners be assessed on?

- The speaking and communicating in Cymraeg unit will assess a learner's ability to:
- Communicate spontaneously and interact with familiar and unfamiliar speakers.
- Communicate knowledge, understanding, ideas, opinions, and feelings.
- Respond to the views of others.
- Use idiomatic language, in the right way, tone and with an understanding of grammar that enriches expressions in a range of contexts.
- The Extended writing unit will assess a learner's ability to:
- Research and understand various texts.
- Use a range of strategies to summarise, collect, compare, and analyse information.
- Communicate and convey meaning in writing.

Unit 1: A digital assessment covering speaking and listening. This will be marked by the awarding body.

Unit 2: An assessment of writing covering the topic 'Cymraeg in My Area'. Thi swill be marked by teachers and moderated by the awarding body.

Learners will get a certificate if they successfully complete one unit. The units will be graded Pass, Merit or Distinction.

To be awarded the Level 2 Award they will have to successfully complete both units.

For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit:

WJEC: ADDITIONAL CORE CYMRAEG

GCSE DANCE

WJEC

"Dance is the hidden language of the soul." **Martha Graham**

- The GCSE Dance qualification will allow you to explore and respond to stimuli, create, and reflect on your own work, develop your own creativity and engage with many different styles of dance.
- You will observe and interpret professional dance works and build on your understanding and application of technical and expressive skills in performance.

Unit 1: **Choreography** **NEA** **40% of qualification** **96 marks**	• You will create, develop and refine a piece of choreography in response to a given stimulus. • You will also produce a Reflective Log of the process. • You can choose whether they perform in their own choreographed piece. • You can choreograph a piece for a solo or a group of dancers
Unit 2: **Performance** **NEA** **30% of qualification** **72 Marks**	• You will perform two pieces of repertoire. • These pieces must be from different styles/genres. • You will have choice and flexibility in the selection of their performance pieces for this unit. • One performance must be a solo and the second performance can be solo or group
Unit 3: **Dance Appreciation** **30% of qualification** **Digital only examination** **1 hour 45 minutes**	Questions requiring objective responses, short and extended answers, in response to set works and unseen works. Set works: • Compulsory work: Rygbi: Annwyl (Dear) • One longer work chosen from: The Mad Hatter's Tea Party, Fagin's Twist, or Pinocchio • One shorter work chosen from: Dust, Ripple, or Henge

For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit**:**
https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/kthlbju4/wjec-gcse-dance-specification.pdf

The Personal Project and Skills Suite WJEC

“These new qualifications are central to the future of education in Wales and will offer a unique, valuable experience for learners.”
— WJEC Qualification Framework Team Manager

The exciting new WJEC Personal Project and Skills Suite qualifications replace the traditional Welsh Baccalaureate at Key Stage 4. The main aim of this modernized framework is to empower you to develop essential life and workplace skills through practical, student-led learning. There are no traditional written examinations; instead, you will complete hands-on **Non-Exam Assessments (NEA)** that are marked by your teachers and moderated by WJEC.

Components	Core Focus	Assessed Integral Skills
The Personal Project	An independent learning project where you explore a topic or project of your choice. It is an evolution of the old Individual Project.	Planning and Organising Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Creativity and Innovation Personal Effectiveness
The Skills Suite-Skills for Life	A flexible range of practical, bite-sized units designed to develop essential skills for everyday life, personal wellbeing, independence and active citizenship.	Assessment focuses on the specific knowledge and practical skills required by each unit, rather than separately grading all four integral skills.
The Skills Suite- Skills for Work	A range of practical units designed to prepare learners for employment, further education and future career pathways.	Assessment focuses on the knowledge, understanding and practical skills specified within each unit.

This qualification will help you prepare for your future by developing skills that you will need in sixth form, college, apprenticeships and employment. You will learn how to manage your time, work independently, solve problems, think creatively and work well with others. You will also build confidence, resilience and responsibility. The qualification will help you become more independent, prepare you for new challenges and give you useful skills for whatever you choose to do after your GCSEs.

PERFORMING ARTS VCSE WJEC

"The arts give us a voice, a vision, and a way to understand ourselves and others." **Julie Andrews**

- The performing arts industry is central to Wales's cultural landscape, offering two pathways - performance and production across diverse disciplines.
- This qualification helps learners understand the sector's scope, job roles, and career opportunities. Through practical activities, they will explore professional and devised work while developing skills in performance, production, or both.

Unit 1: Introduction to the Performing Arts Industry **20%** **50 marks**	The purpose of the unit is to explore: • the different artforms and disciplines in the industry • how the industry operates in practice • the industry landscape in Wales • key roles within the industry. • External assessment (sector test): 1 hour • Set and marked by
Unit 2: **Getting Work** **NEA:** **20%** **50 marks**	The purpose of the unit is to explore: • how to find work within the performing arts • existing repertoire within a chosen discipline • applying for work by responding to a brief. • Non-examination assessment through either performance or production skills
Unit 3: **Creative Showcase** **NEA** **60%** **60 marks**	The purpose of the unit is to: • explore creating work from a brief • develop practical and/or technical skills • develop preparation skills such as rehearsal or design processes • develop evaluation and collaborative skills. • Non-examination assessment through either performance or production skills

For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit**:** **wjec-vcse-performing-arts-specification.pdf**

HOSPITALITY AND CATERING VCSE

WJEC

The VCSE in Hospitality and Catering aims to develop learners' practical skills in planning, preparing, cooking, and presenting a range of dishes to industry standards. It will embed essential theoretical knowledge of nutrition, food safety, and hospitality operations. Studying this will promote understanding of the hospitality industry, including job roles, customer service, and workplace expectations. enhance problem-solving and planning abilities through menu design, cost control, and resource management tasks.

Summary of assessment:

Unit 1: Introduction to the Hospitality and Catering Industry **Mandatory external non-examination assessment**	2 hours 15% of qualification
Unit 2: Food Safety, Hygiene, and Allergens **Mandatory digital examination**	1 hour 15% of qualification
Unit 3: Catering in Action **Non-examination assessment**	12 hours 70% of qualification

The 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. It provides a suitable foundation for progression to further study at levels 2 to 3 in hospitality and catering such as Food Science and Nutrition at Level 3, and to apprenticeships. 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.

For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit: WJEC Level 1/Level 2 VCSE Hospitality and Catering

TRAVEL AND TOURISM VCSE

WJEC

"Travel makes one modest. You see what a tiny place you occupy in the world."
Gustave Flaubert

The WJEC Level 1/Level 2 Vocational Award in Travel and Tourism provides learners with an engaging insight into one of the world's largest and most diverse industries. The qualification develops knowledge and understanding of travel and tourism destinations, customer needs, visitor attractions and the experiences that make tourism such an important part of local, national and international economies.

Learners will investigate how the travel and tourism sector operates, discover the factors that influence people when choosing destinations and holidays, and develop practical skills that reflect real employment opportunities within the industry. The course combines academic study with vocational learning, helping students build transferable skills such as research, communication, planning, organisation and problem-solving.

Students will explore a range of popular destinations and visitor attractions, analyse tourism products and services, and gain an understanding of how businesses meet customer expectations. They will also plan travel and tourism experiences, applying their knowledge to realistic scenarios and industry-based tasks.

Unlike a traditional GCSE, Travel and Tourism offers a practical and vocational approach to learning. Students have opportunities to apply their knowledge through authentic tasks linked to the tourism industry, making it an excellent choice for learners who enjoy coursework, research and real-world projects alongside classroom learning.

Unit 1 The Travel and Tourism Industry	**External Assessment (paper based or on screen) – 1 hour, 20%**
Unit 2 Destinations and Visitor Attractions	**Non-Examination Assessment – 6 hours, 20%**
Unit 3: Developing Travel and Tourism Skills	**Non-Examination Assessment – 15 hours, 60%**

This qualification provides an excellent foundation for further study at Level 3, including Travel and Tourism, Business, Hospitality, Events Management and related vocational courses. Career pathways may include: Cabin Crew, Travel Consultant, Tour Guide, Event Management, Hotel and Hospitality Management, Visitor Attraction Management, Holiday Representative, Airline Operations, Tourism Marketing and Cruise Industry Careers.

The skills developed throughout the course, including communication, customer service, teamwork, planning and organisation are highly valued by employers across many sectors.

Travel and Tourism is ideal for learners who enjoy exploring different places, understanding how businesses meet customer needs and discovering the exciting opportunities available within a global industry. For an overview of your child's potential pathway, please visit: **WJEC: TRAVEL AND TOURISM**