



Ysgol Bryngwyn School

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Executive Headteacher/Pennaeth Gweithredol
Mr Robert Jones BA Hons, PGCE, MRes, NPQH
Head of School/Pennaeth yr ysgol
Mr Rhys Corcoran BSC Hons, PGCE, NPQH

Dear parent,

Your child, in year 9, will soon be selecting their GCSE option subjects to study over the course of Years 10 and 11.

To support this process, there is an important **Parents'/Carers' & Options Evening on *Thu 12th March, 3.45-6.30pm*** to provide feedback on progress this year and an opportunity to discuss option choices with staff.

We have also produced a Learning Pathways Option Booklet that can be used to find further information regarding the curriculum in Years 10 and 11, the options offered and their specifications. The link is below.

[Learning Pathway Options Booklet](#)

We also have updated the Options website where you can find the option booklet and option blocks.

[Year 9 Full Options Website](#)

We've included key dates below to give you a timeline of the next couple of weeks. You will be sent a text & edulink on Monday 9th March with the options form and the deadline to return this will be in a week's time on Monday 16th March.

Key dates:

Option form released: Monday 9th March 2026

Parents'/Carers' and options evening: Thursday 12th March 2026

Options form deadline: Monday 16th March 2026



The option columns below are based on the provisional choices made in January by year 9 as well as staffing considerations. This information has been shared with your child in assembly and in advance of the option form being released on Monday 9th March.

A	B	C
Art	Art	Art
Construction	Art - Textiles	D&T Product Design
Digitech	Computing	Digitech
Food & Nutrition	Electronics	French
Hair & Beauty	Geography	Geography
History	Health & Social	Health & Social
Performing Arts	History	Social Studies
Separate Sciences	RVE	Music
Social Studies	PE	PE
Tourism	Photography	

+ Public Services unfortunately

If you have any questions regarding options or option columns, please complete the form below or see me, Mr Rhodes, on Parents'/Carers' Options Evening.

[Options Query Form](#)

Curriculum

In 2025, a number of subjects changed following on from the exam reform set out by Qualifications Wales in wave 1. In 2026, there are further changes taking place to the remaining subjects in wave 2 and staff in school have received training on these new qualification specifications in order to prepare fully for their examinations and assessments.

Changes and further information can be found by following the links below;

Wave 1: [First wave of Made-for-Wales qualifications approved](#)

Wave 2: [Wave 2 Made-for-Wales GCSEs and related qualifications consultations now open](#)

These changes have resulted in changes to the Guided Learning Hours (GLH) for each qualification and as a result our curriculum provision must reflect these requirements in order to give our learners the best opportunity for success whilst ensuring each individual receives a breadth of learning experiences including a balanced suite of GCSE or Vocational qualifications.



The curriculum offer (per fortnight)

Core curriculum
Maths & Numeracy double award (7hrs); English Language and Literature double award (7hrs); Science (9hrs); Welsh (5hrs + additional for Welsh first language students); Skills challenge certificate (3hrs)
Tailored curriculum (Option Choices)
Each student will have three option choices from an extensive range of subjects. Each option has 5 hrs per fortnight
Statutory curriculum and support
Students will have opportunities/experiences to continue their learning in relation to: Health & wellbeing; Relationships & Sex Education; Religion, Values & Ethics; Careers & Work-related learning. In addition, the curriculum will provide bespoke time to support pupils in developing their study & revision skills to prepare for GCSE examinations

The curriculum offer will provide a broad and varied curriculum for each learner with the opportunity to personalise their learning as they embark on an important time in their education. In addition, it ensures that each learner is given appropriate support and experiences to enable them to succeed.

We look forward to supporting your child in selecting their courses.

Kind regards,



Mr D Rhodes

Senior Assistant Headteacher



Key points and frequently asked questions:

1. How many GCSEs will my child study?

All learners will have the opportunity to study for a minimum of 11 GCSEs within the set curriculum time. Opportunities to gain experience in other areas or study further qualifications will be communicated at a later date.

2. How have the option blocks been decided?

All learners were invited to provide a 'free choice' of option subjects in January. These choices were analysed and option blocks created to ensure there were minimal clashes and provide the majority with at least 3 of their 4 choices.

3. What support will my child receive to support their study?

During registration time, assemblies and through bespoke workshops, pupils will receive support in further developing their organisation, study skills and revision techniques.

4. What is the skills challenge certificate and is it a GCSE?

The skills challenge certificate is a full GCSE equivalent qualification that aims to develop each pupil's essential employability skills through a range of individual and group tasks. The school has a strong track record in securing excellent results in this area.

5. Why are there subjects on my child's curriculum that they did not choose?

The 14-16 curriculum offer in Wales requires a number of statutory elements to be delivered to ensure learners have a broad and balanced curriculum offer that fully prepares them for more specialised post-16 learning, training or employment.

6. Are there any extra qualifications that my child can study?

As a school our aim is to offer extension opportunities to our learners, wherever possible. Opportunities for additional qualifications will be communicated where appropriate by departments at a later date.

7. When will my child start their GCSEs?

Year 9 pupils will begin their GCSE courses after the Whitsun break. This will give pupils the last half term to settle into their option courses.

8. What if my child is struggling with an option?

If your child finds an option subject difficult, they should raise this with their subject teacher or form teacher as soon as possible to gain support. Switching options after September can make it very difficult to catch up on a new course.

