



# Key Stage 4 Learning Pathways

## Year 9 into Year 10 Alternative Curriculum Provision 2026-2028



Information for Students and their  
Parents/Carers

# The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

## The Core

The following subjects, together with the number of periods per fortnight allocated to them, are compulsory in Key Stage 4:

CORE SUBJECTS	PERIODS PER FORTNIGHT
ENGLISH	8
MATHEMATICS	8
SCIENCE	9
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	2
EXPLORING WORLDVIEWS	4
PERSONAL, SOCIAL & HEALTH EDUCATION (SKL)	1
WELSH	4
WELSH BACCALAUREATE	4

The programmes of study for Exploring World Views and SKL include citizenship, sex education and careers education.

GCSE English Language will focus on literacy skills and GCSE English Literature will allow for the study of texts. GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy is a double award qualification that combines maths skills with financial mathematics and other applications of numeracy.

A rigorous Welsh Baccalaureate will be taught as the overarching framework at 13-19, focussing on literacy, numeracy and other skills essential for learning and employment. It will be graded at all levels.

# Bagloriaeth Cymru Welsh Baccalaureate



# Bagloriaeth Sgiliau Cymru Uwch Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales

The Welsh Baccalaureate was introduced to provide students with a more rounded educational experience. It enriches and incorporates existing general and vocational qualifications. It is designed to prepare students for higher education and employment.

The core of the revised Welsh Baccalaureate will have a clear focus on the following skills:

1. Literacy
2. Numeracy
3. Digital Competence
4. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
5. Planning and Organisation
6. Creativity and Innovation
7. Personal Effectiveness

These skills will be developed, applied and assessed through the completion of three 'Challenges' which are:

1. Global Citizenship Challenge
2. Enterprise and Employability Challenge
3. The Individual Project

All students will follow the Welsh Baccalaureate throughout Key Stage 4.

The subjects your child will study in addition to the core subjects

To provide a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 4, your son/daughter will follow a range of courses. These courses are:-

GCSE Courses	Vocational Courses
Art (Y10 & Y11)	Business Studies (completed in Y9)
	Sports Studies (completed in Y9)
	Sweet (Y10)
	The King's Trust Award (Y11)

Head of Department  
Miss H Morgan





# ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (GCSE)



Did you know? 'Tik Tok' is in the dictionary

## SPECIFICATION

The new GCSE English Language and Literature course is unitised.

Most students will complete the single Award course.

The course will assess students on the three core skills in English: Oracy, Reading and Writing.

The GCSE English Language course by the WJEC is designed with "cross-curricular themes and where there are opportunities for integral skills and cross-curricular skills to be developed."

## ASSESSMENTS

### **Double Award:**

All students who complete the Double Award qualification must sit Unit 1, Unit 2, Unit 3, Unit 4b, Unit 5 and Unit 6.

From September 2025, year 10 students beginning GCSE will be able to sit Unit 1, Unit 2 and Unit 3; these are the only available units for exam entry in summer 2026. Students will complete Unit 4b, Unit 5 and Unit 6 in year 11.

### **Single Award:**

All students who complete the Single Award qualification must sit Unit 1, Unit 2, Unit 3 and 4a.

**Unit 1:** Context and Meaning (external exam)

**Unit 2:** Belonging (non-examination assessment)

**Unit 3:** Influence and Power (non-examination assessment).

**Unit 4a/b:** Motivations (external exam)

**Unit 5:** Continuity and Change (non-examination assessment)

**Unit 6:** Connections (external exam)

## WORK INVOLVED

- Collaborative and independent researching of topics in preparation for Oracy assessments.
- Developing reading strategies in order to read a range of different texts, including literary and non-literary texts, in order to answer a variety of question types.
- Practising writing a variety of texts in the classroom and in timed conditions to suit different audiences and purposes.

## YOUR PROSPECTS

Skills studied and assessed in English lessons, such as communication skills and written accuracy, have been regarded as one of the most requirements for employers

Head of Department  
Miss S Evans



# MATHEMATICS & NUMERACY (Double Award) (GCSE)



Did you know? From 0 to 1000, the only number that has the letter "a" in it is "one thousand"

## SPECIFICATION

The GCSE course officially begins in Year 10, though students have been studying most relevant topics since Year 7. Students will follow a unitised specification and need to sit three examinations to certificate in the subject.

### **Key Stage 4 Content**

The four assessment objectives studied by the students are:-

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Geometry and Measure
4. Statistics

## ASSESSMENTS

The course will be assessed by three examinations. The use of an electronic calculator is permitted on two of these papers. There is no coursework component to this specification; certification is based solely on examination results.

**Unit 1** accounts for **30 %** of the overall GCSE grade and focusses on financial mathematics and other applications of numeracy

**Unit 2** accounts for **30 %** of the overall GCSE grade and focusses on non-calculator mathematical skills

**Unit 3** accounts for **40 %** of the overall GCSE grade and focusses on calculator-based mathematical skills

## WORK INVOLVED

The specification will enable students to appreciate the coherence, creativity, elegance and power of mathematics. It will prepare students to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices. It will have an emphasis on those aspects of mathematics required for progression into mathematics or mathematically related disciplines or employment routes. It will feature problems set both in real-world contexts and within mathematics itself and will encourage students to employ and evaluate different mathematical techniques.

## YOUR PROSPECTS

All employers view a good maths/numeracy qualification as a valuable asset.

Head of Department  
Mr P Thompson



# SCIENCE (Single Award) (GCSE)

Did you know? Humans have 206 bones

## SPECIFICATION

The WJEC GCSE integrated science (Single Award) specification utilises a context led approach to science learning and assessment. It provides students with a broad, coherent, practical, satisfying and worthwhile course of study.

Studying the GCSE Integrated Science (Single Award) provides insight into, and experience of how science works, whilst stimulating students' curiosity and encouraging them to develop an understanding of science, its applications and its relationship to the individual and society.

Your acceptance onto this course will be based on your KS3 result.

## ASSESSMENTS

### **External Examinations**

2 x 1 hour 30 minute examinations to be sat one at the end of year 10 and one at the end of year 11

### **Controlled Assessment**

Practical assessment carried out in school but externally marked worth 10%. This will be sat in the January of year 11.

## WORK INVOLVED

Lessons will contain a mixture of practical, research based and theoretical activities. Students will work in groups, pairs or independently and will use experiments, modelling and ICT to understand, practise and reinforce the scientific concepts that they learn within the course.

**Unit 1:** Living on Earth

**Unit 2:** Science in a Changing World

**Unit 3:** Scientific Enquiry

## YOUR PROSPECTS

Single Integrated Science GCSE provides a pathway onto further Applied Science qualifications.

**Head of Department  
Mrs K Morris**



# PE & GAMES CORE (Non-examination)



Did you know? A baby's body has 300 bones at birth, these eventually fuse to form 206 bones in adults!

## SPECIFICATION

Take a well-earned break from the pressure of exam subjects and enjoy a variety of physical activities.

All students at Key Stage 4 will have one PE/Games lesson a week.

## WORK INVOLVED

The aim of Games/PE at Key Stage 4 is to ensure students remain physically active and promote a healthy lifestyle. There will be a variety of activities offered during the Key Stage including:

- Team Games
- Fitness training – aerobics, circuit training
- Gymnastics activities
- Athletics
- Swimming
- Striking Games
- Outdoor and Adventurous Activities, including mountain biking
- Dance

Head of Department  
Mr L Morgan

# AGORED CYMRU EXPLORING WORLDVIEWS



Did you know? In 2021, 43% of usual residents in Newport reported having 'no religion'

## SPECIFICATION

The Agored Cymru Exploring Worldviews qualification supports students to increase their skills, knowledge and experiences in order to improve their understanding of religious and non-religious worldviews. This ensures that young people become equipped and confident individuals who can live, empathetically and successfully, in a fast changing and diverse society, as responsible and informed citizens.

The course gives students the opportunity to:

- Develop their own personal growth and engagement in, and through, learning.
- Engage in learning that is relevant to them and support their development of personal skills and attributes that will enhance working life and employment.

## ASSESSMENTS

The Exploring Worldviews qualifications are 100% centre assessed using portfolios of evidence and are graded as pass or fail. The portfolios are internally assessed and externally moderated. The assessment process is as follows:

- Activities are internally set by the centre to meet the requirements detailed in the unit assessment criteria
- The students are assessed internally at the centre by an Assessor whilst they engage in activities
- The student's evidence is collated into a portfolio, which is referenced using a unit Tracking Sheet
- The centre undertakes internal quality assurance activities which includes sampling portfolios assessed by each Assessor
- A further sample of portfolios is then externally moderated by Agored Cymru.

## WORK INVOLVED

The Exploring Worldviews course involves the following units

- Understanding Worldview
- Exploring my Worldview
- Ultimate Questions
- Medical Ethics
- Ethics of Sport and Leisure
- Worldviews in my Community

## YOUR PROSPECTS

The Exploring Worldviews qualification prepares students for living and working in the multicultural environment of our community or further afield.

Head of Department  
Mrs S Hawke-Williams



# WELSH (Core) (GCSE)

Did you know? Mount Everest is named after Welshman, Sir George Everest

## SPECIFICATION

The new GCSE Core Welsh course is a linear specification, the qualification is not tiered. The course will assess students on the three core skills: Oracy, Reading and Writing. The GCSE Welsh (Core) course by the WJEC is designed to promote a positive and relevant experience of Cymraeg and Welsh cultures.

## ASSESSMENTS

Students will sit 4 exams in Y11.

**Unit 1** is a group oral exam responding to a visual stimulus. This will be sat in the Autumn Term.

**Unit 2** is a group oral exam. This will be sat in the Spring Term.

**Units 3 and 4** exams are written exams which will assess reading and writing skills. These will be sat at the end of Year 11.

## WORK INVOLVED

Students will follow three broad themes of Habitat, Identity & Culture. GCSE Core Cymraeg supports learners to:

- develop an understanding of the language
- communicate clearly, accurately and creatively in Cymraeg
- develop their knowledge and understanding of the vocabulary, grammar and structure of Cymraeg
- express themselves in a range of contexts and for different audiences and purposes
- contribute spontaneously to conversation/discussion

## YOUR PROSPECTS

Welsh is increasingly used as a business language, especially within the public sector, due to the requirement for customer orientated services to be provided bilingually. To be bilingual in any two languages would be a desirable quality in the eyes of future employers but especially considering the current climate in Wales where companies are re-training adults in this area. The advantage of Core Welsh is that students will be able to converse at a basic level in Welsh on a number of topics related to business and so would be looked upon favourably, for employment in Wales.

# WELSH BACCALAUREATE SKILLS CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE



## SPECIFICATION

The Skills Challenge Certificate provides students with the opportunity to develop the individual and team skills, attributes and behaviours that are desired by employers. The learning and development of these skills will support students in their other subjects and prepare them for their future after school. At Key Stage 4 students complete three challenges; Enterprise and Employability (25%), Global (55%) and the Individual Project (50%) which are judged through a series of controlled assessments, group tasks and individual assignments. All work is submitted through coursework format.

## ASSESSMENTS

The Skills Challenge Certificate components are internally assessed and externally moderated.

The National Skills Challenge Certificate is graded A\* - C. For a National award, the student must achieve all of the components, the Individual Project and the two Challenges, with a minimum of 80% at level 2 and the further 20% at level 1.

The Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate is graded Foundation Pass or Foundation Pass\*. For a Foundation award, the student must achieve all of the components, the Individual Project and the three Challenges, with a minimum of all at level 1.

## YOUR PROSPECTS

The Welsh Baccalaureate will encourage the student to value skills development as a key aspect of education and life-long learning. Offering a learning experience relevant to the needs and demands of the workplace will develop students' confidence, drive and initiative, preparing them to enter, succeed and progress in the world of work.

Students will continue their Welsh Baccalaureate studies at Post 16. They can study National or Advanced, which can be worth up to an A grade at A Level standard.

## WORK INVOLVED

The Skills Challenge Certificate consists of three components, which are followed by all students:

- Individual Project – 50%
- Enterprise and Employability Challenge – 25%
- Global Citizenship Challenge – 25%

The combined outcomes of the three components will determine whether the Skills Challenge Certificate is awarded at National or Foundation level.

Head of Department  
Ms H Morgan



# ART: FINE ART (GCSE)

Did you know? "Every artist was first an amateur." Ralph Waldo Emerson.

## SPECIFICATION

GCSE Fine Art is a two year course where the students will achieve a GCSE qualification at the end of Year 11. The GCSE course is ideal for students who wish to undertake a structured, enjoyable course and one that could lead perfectly into the 'A' Level Art and Design course in Year 12 or stand as a recognised subject at the end of Year 11. The Fine Art course delivers all the necessary skills and opportunities for students to enable them to continue in the many different areas of Art in the future. The subject is also for students that may not fully know what they want to do as a career but are interested in the subject and enjoy the practical nature of the Art. This GCSE is highly recognised and sought after by many colleges and employers as it demonstrates the candidate's ability to work skilfully and independently.

## ASSESSMENTS

The course is split into coursework, which is 60% of the overall mark, and a set task, which is 40%.

**Coursework: (60%)** Students will work in a variety of media on a given theme, which includes Identity, Urban Art and the Landscape. They will produce drawings, paintings, ceramics and mixed media work and will study a variety of artists' work. The course work is continuously updated to engage the students and fit in with the evolving nature of Art today and will involve visits to local and National Art Galleries.

**Set Task: (40%)** This will take place in the third year of the course. Students will choose from a list of titles then complete a body of artwork leading to a final piece. The set task is the examination for the award, which will take place in the classroom.

The students will be guided throughout the course and exam by their teacher and will be given personal advice and support in the classroom and within extra lunchtime sessions that are available.

## WORK INVOLVED

- Drawing, painting, printing, sculpture, photography, ceramics and Photoshop.
- The research and study of different artists' and designers work from the past and today and their techniques and processes linking to student's own work.
- Independent work leading to final pieces on canvas, board, mixed media or three dimensionally

## YOUR PROSPECTS

- To continue artistic studies on an 'A' Level Course within the Art Department.
- To continue to a higher-level course in college.
- A sought-after GCSE by many outside agencies and colleges as it requires independence and skill.

**Head of Department  
Ms J Lockwood**

# SWEET PROGRAMME

## PERSONAL GROWTH & WELLBEING (PGW)

Succeeding With Education, Employment & Training



### SPECIFICATION

Sweet\*'s Personal Growth and Wellbeing (PGW) is a learning and skills development programme offering a specialist BTEC Level 1 or 2 qualification.

- Level 2 (GCSE Equivalent)
- Supports Welsh Baccaulaureate

### ASSESSMENTS

Each unit has specified learning outcomes and assessment criteria. To pass an internally assessed unit, students must meet all the assessment criteria. The assessment approach of the course allows for students to receive feedback on their progress throughout the course as they provide evidence towards the grading criteria. Evidence for assessment may be generated through a range of diverse activities including workplace assessment, role play and oral presentation.

### YOUR PROSPECTS

The qualification allows students to develop the skills they may need to go on to study a variety of qualifications at Post 16 level, as well as skills that are needed for a variety of roles within the workplace.

### WORK INVOLVED

Sweet's Personal Growth and Wellbeing (PGW) units are specifically structured to provide the Welsh Baccaulaureate teaching and learning support for schools. The content helps students to develop the same skills required across the Skills Challenges and prepares them for their controlled assessments.

Students will cover a range of different topics which will include:

- Personal Identity
- Global Citizenship
- Money Matters

For further information  
contact: Mr D Thomas

# THE KING'S TRUST AWARD



Did you know? It all began in 1976, when HRH The Prince of Wales had a bold idea. Having completed his duty in the Royal Navy, His Royal Highness became dedicated to improving the lives of disadvantaged young people in the UK. He founded His Trust to deliver on that commitment.

## SPECIFICATION

The King's Trust Award, Certificate and Diploma in Personal Development and Employability Skills (PDE) recognises a breadth of personal skills, qualities and attitudes required by employers across a range of sectors. They have been developed with the aim of progressing students into further education and/or employment and are available for use with pre and post 16 students. They give students the opportunity to:

- Develop their own personal growth and engagement in, and through, learning.
- Engage in learning that is relevant to them and support their development of personal skills and attributes that are essential for working life and employment.
- Prepare themselves for progression into further education programmes, apprenticeships or other work-based learning.
- Develop their English and mathematics skills.

## ASSESSMENTS

The Personal Development and Employability Skills qualifications are 100% centre assessed using portfolios of evidence and are graded as pass or fail. The portfolios are internally assessed and externally moderated. The assessment process is as follows:

- Activities are internally set by the centre to meet the requirements detailed in the unit assessment criteria
- The students are assessed internally at the centre by an Assessor whilst they engage in activities
- The student's evidence is collated into a portfolio, which is referenced using a unit Tracking Sheet
- The centre undertakes internal quality assurance activities which includes sampling portfolios assessed by each Assessor
- A further sample of portfolios is then externally moderated by King's Trust Qualifications.

## YOUR PROSPECTS

These qualifications provide a platform for students to progress onto further education opportunities and/or employment, as they develop personal development and employability skills.

## WORK INVOLVED

The Personal Development and Employability Skills qualifications cover a range of skills. An overview of the units available:

- Career Planning
- Digital Skills
- Interpersonal and Self-Management Skills
- Managing Money
- Personal Project
- Presentation Skills
- Teamwork Skills

**For further information  
contact: Miss V Wakeham**