

Core Subjects

All pupils will undertake the core subjects of English, Maths and Science, in addition to R.S. Welsh, and Skills Challenge Certificate. Pupils will also take part in 2 hours of Games lessons per fortnight.

English

Pupils will have 8 English lessons a fortnight at Key Stage 4. For the majority of pupils, these will follow the course for both English Language and English Literature. For those pupils who struggle with the subject, all lessons will be focused on ensuring they secure their English Language qualification.

GCSE English Language Overview

Units	Content / Assessment Type	Weight
Unit 1 - Oracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-examined assessment.• Individual, researched presentation.• Group discussion in response to stimuli.	20%
Unit 2 - Reading and Writing: Description, Narration and Exposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 hour written examination.• Understanding description, narration and exposition texts, writing techniques and structures.• Editing and proof-reading.	40%
Unit 3 - Reading and Writing: Argumentation Persuasion and Instructional	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 hour written examination.• Understanding argumentation, persuasion and instructional texts, writing techniques and structures.	40%

GCSE English Literature Overview

Units	Content / Assessment Type	Weight
Unit 1 - Prose and Poetry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 hour written examination.• Study of an individual text (Of Mice and Men), in context.• Study and comparison of contemporary poetry.	35%
Unit 2 - Literary Heritage Drama and Contemporary Prose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 hour written examination.• Close study of two texts (Blood Brothers and A Christmas Carol), in context.	40%
Unit 3 - Shakespeare and Welsh Writing in English	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-examination assessment.• Study of a Shakespeare play, chosen by centre.• Close study and comparison of at least two Welsh poems, on a theme set by the exam board.	25%

Maths

At Key Stage 4, pupils have 7 Maths lessons per fortnight, with pupils earning two qualifications in the subject.

GCSE Mathematics - Numeracy teaches and assesses mathematics that pupils will use in everyday life, the world of work, and other general curriculum areas. GCSE Mathematics furnishes pupils with the skills needed for further progression to scientific, technical, or further mathematical study.

Each course has two written exam papers (a calculator-allowed, and non-calculator), in one of three tiers: higher (A*-C grade), intermediate (B-E grade), and foundation (D-G grade).

GCSE Mathematics / Mathematics - Numeracy Overview

(details of examinations and units are the same for both subjects)

Units	Content / Assessment Type	Weight
Unit 1 - Non-calculator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Higher/Intermediate - 1 hour 45 min written examination.Foundation - 1 hour 30 min written examination.	50%
Unit 2 - Calculator-allowed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Higher/Intermediate - 1 hour 45 min written examination.Foundation - 1 hour 30 min written examination.	50%

Science

Pupils will have 9 Science lessons a fortnight, and follow one of three courses.

More able and talented pupils will study 'triple science', earning 3 separate GCSE qualifications in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. The remaining pupils will study either GCSE Double Award Science (earning two GCSEs), or GCSE Single Award Applied Science (earning one GCSE). Both courses provide balanced coverage of all three sciences.

Each subject involves written exams and practical assessments. Examination papers for all courses are tiered, with pupils sitting either higher (A*-D grades) or foundation (C-G grades).

GCSE Triple Science

Units	Content / Assessment Type	Weight
Unit 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Biology - Cells, organ systems and eco systems - 1 hour 45 min written examination.	45%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chemistry - Chemical substances, reactions and essential resources - 1 hour 45 min written examination.	45%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Physics - Electricity, energy and waves - 1 hour 45 min examination.	45%
Unit 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Biology - variation, homeostasis and micro-organisms - 1 hour 45 min written examination.	45%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chemistry - Chemical bonding, application of chemical reactions and organic chemistry - 1 hour 45 min written examination.	45%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Physics - Forces, space and radioactivity - 1 hour 45 min written examination.	45%
Unit 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Biology/Chemistry/Physics - practical assessment	10%

GCSE Science Double Award

Units	Content / Assessment Type	Weight
Unit 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Biology 1 - 1 hour 15 min written examination.	15%
Unit 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chemistry 1 - 1 hour 15 min written examination.	15%
Unit 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Physics 1 - 1 hour 15 min written examination.	15%
Unit 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Biology 2 - 1 hour 15 min written examination.	15%
Unit 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chemistry 2 - 1 hour 15 min written examination.	15%
Unit 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Physics 2 - 1 hour 15 min written examination.	15%
Unit 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Practical assessment	10%

GCSE Applied Science (Single Award)

Units	Content / Assessment Type	Weight
Unit 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Science in the modern world - 1 hour 30 min written examination.	40%
Unit 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Science to support our lifestyles - 1 hour 30 min written examination.	30%
Unit 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Task based assessment.	20%
Unit 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Practical assessment.	10%

Welsh

Pupils have 4 Welsh lessons a fortnight, and continue to build on their learning from Key Stage 3.

The course assesses pupils on speaking, listening, reading and writing, through a mixture of written examinations and non-examination assessments.

Units	Content / Assessment Type	Weight
Unit 1 - Oracy response to visual stimulus (completed in Yr10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Two part task for pair/group of three based on visual stimuli provided by exam boardWatch visual clip and complete related sheet.Discussion between pair/group on what has been watched.	25%
Unit 2 - Communicating with other people	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Discussion in pairs/groups of three, based on triggers such as a combination of graphs, pictures and short reading texts provided by exam board.	25%
Unit 3 - Narrative, specific, and instructional	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 hour 30 min written examination.	25%
Unit 4 - Descriptive, creative and imaginative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 hour 30 min written examination.	25%

A small number of pupils will study the Agored Cymru Level 2 Certificate 'Wales, Europe and the World,'. This is a vocational course, assessed through portfolios produced by pupils. The groups to follow this course will be identified by the Welsh Department at the end of Year 9.

Religious Studies

All pupils will have 4 R.S. lessons a fortnight, and will follow one of two courses:

- Either GCSE Religious Studies, which is assessed solely by written examinations, and covers a range of philosophical and ethical topics, along with the study of Christianity and world religions;
- Or The NCFE Level 2 Equality and Diversity qualification, which offers a more vocational form of study, which is assessed through portfolios produced by pupils.

GCSE Religious Studies

Units	Content / Assessment Type	Weight
Unit 1 - Religion and philosophical themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 hour written examination• Study of specified core beliefs/ teachings/practices of Christianity and world religions.• Themes of Life & Death, and Good & Evil from the perspective of Christianity and world religions.	50%
Unit 2 - Religion and ethical themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 hour written examination• Study of specified core beliefs/ teachings/practices of Christianity and world religions.• Themes of Relationships, and Human Rights from the perspective of Christianity and world religions.	50%

NCFE Level 2 Equality and Diversity

Units	Content
Unit 1 - Equality and diversity in society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider what is meant by the terms 'equality' and 'diversity'.• Develop an understanding of the effects of stereotyping, labelling, prejudice, and discrimination.
Unit 2 - Equality and diversity in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider the extent and value of diversity within a chosen community.• Develop an understanding of potential inequalities which can occur within communities.• Develop knowledge of support services and groups which exist to ensure equality and diversity are maintained.
Unit 3 - Equality and diversity in the workplace	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop an understanding of the meaning of equality and diversity in the workplace.• Develop knowledge about how equality and diversity are monitored in the workplace, and how the rights of individuals are protected.

Throughout the course, pupils will build a portfolio of evidence which demonstrates achievement of the learning outcomes and assessment criteria associated with each unit.

Skills Challenge Certificate

During Key Stage 4, all pupils will complete the Skills Challenge Certificate.

Over the course of their lesson each fortnight, and focused study days, pupils will complete a series of coursework 'challenges', which are assessed internally, and moderated externally.

Skills Challenge Certificate

Units	Assessed Skills	Weight
Individual Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning and organisation• Critical thinking and problem solving• Digital literacy	50%
Enterprise and Employability Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creativity and innovation• Personal effectiveness• Digital literacy	20%
Global Citizenship Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical thinking and problem solving• Creativity and innovation	15%
Community Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning and organisation• Personal effectiveness	15%