



Year 9 Options Booklet 2026

Helping you make informed choices about your future

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Welcome

Dear Pupil,

This is an exciting and very important stage in your education. As you move into Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11) you have the opportunity to take control over some aspects of your learning and follow programmes of study, which are of particular interest to you.

As with every other school in Wales, Eastern High will follow a core, compulsory curriculum, which is described in the “The KS4 Curriculum” section of this booklet. In addition to this, you can also make some choices as to the subjects you would prefer to study. It is essential that you take the time to think about these choices, as you will be studying them during Years 10 and 11.

There are lots of ways you can gain information to help you choose. Talk to your teachers, pupils in Years 10 & 11 and your relatives; they can all help. The school’s Careers & Aspirations Advisor, Mr Morgan, can provide support, advice and guidance with your option subject choices. There is also a member of staff from Careers Wales regularly in school; ask them for help too, or try the Careers Wales Website.

At the end of the day it is you that has to make the final decision. The most important thing is that you choose the subjects you think you will enjoy most. Don’t forget your tutor is there to help and of course, read this booklet...It is the first step towards your future.

We wish you the very best of luck in whatever subjects you choose to do.

Best wishes,



C Johnson
Assistant Headteacher
Eastern High

The KS4 Curriculum

The Key Stage 4 curriculum is divided into compulsory, optional and Pathway subjects

| Compulsory Core Subjects | Options | Pathway |
|--|---|---|
| <p><i>These are the subjects you are required to study as part of the school curriculum.</i></p> <p><i>Depending on your learning pathway, you may follow single, double or triple qualifications, and you may be entered for higher or foundation tiers.</i></p> | <p><i>These are the subjects that the school may offer. The number of options you choose will depend on your learning pathway:</i></p> <p><i>Mainstream pupils must select three option subjects</i></p> <p><i>Pupils in EPLC or alternative provision will only select two option subjects</i></p> | <p><i>These subjects may appear on your timetable depending on your individual learning pathway and the level of support or challenge that will help you reach your full potential.</i></p> <p><i>You will not choose these subjects yourself. Instead, the school will decide which pathway subjects are most suitable for you based on your progress, needs and future aspirations.</i></p> |
| <p>English Language and Literature <i>(Single or Double award GCSE)</i></p> <p>Mathematics and Numeracy <i>(Double award GCSE)</i></p> <p>Science <i>(Single, Double or Triple Award GCSE)</i></p> <p>Core Cymraeg</p> <p>Non qualification subjects that you must study in school</p> <p><i>Health and Wellbeing</i></p> <p><i>Games</i></p> | <p>Art and Design or Art Textiles</p> <p>Business</p> <p>Computer Science</p> <p>Dance</p> <p>Digital Technology</p> <p>Digital Media and Film</p> <p>Design and Technology</p> <p>Drama</p> <p>French</p> <p>Food and Nutrition</p> <p>Geography</p> <p>Health & Social Care</p> <p>History</p> <p>Hospitality and Catering</p> <p>Music</p> <p>Performing Arts</p> <p>Physical Education</p> <p>Religious Studies</p> <p>Social Studies</p> | <p>Support Qualifications</p> <p>Equality and Diversity</p> <p>Sweet</p> <p>Agored</p> <p>Challenge Qualifications</p> <p>Welsh BaccaLaureate</p> <p>Additional Maths</p> |

Important things to consider when choosing your options

Choosing your option subjects is an important decision. To help you make the best choices, it is important to think carefully about what each subject involves, what you enjoy, and what will help you succeed. The points below will support you in making informed and confident decisions.

Before You Choose Your Options

You will study your option subjects throughout Years 10 and 11. All courses require hard work, commitment and motivation, but they differ in how they are taught and assessed. Some subjects are more exam and theory based, while others involve more practical work and coursework. It is important to read the course overview pages carefully to understand the demands of each subject, as a course may not always be what you expect.

Choose something you enjoy

You are more likely to stay motivated and achieve well in subjects you enjoy.

Think about your strengths

Consider the subjects you are currently doing well in, as this often leads to better results.

It's not about who you're with

Do not choose a subject based on friends or teachers. You are not guaranteed to be in the same class or taught by the same teacher.

How Option Places Are Allocated

Submitting your option choices by the deadline gives you the best chance of securing your preferred subjects. However, the school cannot guarantee that all pupils will receive their chosen options. In rare circumstances, choices may need to be changed or subjects may be withdrawn. If this happens, the school will discuss the situation with you personally to agree on the most suitable alternative.

Effort, behaviour and relationships matter

Your effort in lessons, behaviour, and working relationships with teachers are important, especially for practical or oversubscribed subjects.

Avoid choosing very similar subjects

Some subjects overlap significantly, such as:

- Performing Arts and Drama
- Art and Art Textiles
- Physical Education and Dance

Choosing a broad range of subjects can give you a more balanced curriculum.

Our Learning Pathways

To make sure every pupil studies the subjects that best support their progress, the school offers three main pathways. Your pathway is based on your progress, strengths and the level of support or challenge that will help you achieve your full potential.

1. Mainstream Pathway

The Mainstream Pathway is designed for pupils who are working confidently at Key Stage 3 and are ready to follow a full programme of GCSE and vocational qualifications.

Pupils on this pathway will study:

- Double Award English Language and Literature
- Double Award Maths and Numeracy
- Double Award Science
- Three option subjects
- Core Cymreag
- Equality and Diversity

This pathway provides pupils with the opportunity to gain 11 GCSEs and prepares them well for further education, A-Levels, apprenticeships and a wide range of career routes.

2. EPLC / Alternative Provision Pathway

The EPLC or Alternative Provision Pathway is designed for pupils who would benefit from a more personalised curriculum with targeted support.

Pupils on this pathway will study:

- Single award English
- Single award Science
- Double Award Maths and Numeracy
- Two option subjects
- Agored
- SWEET
- Equality & Diversity
- Have access to smaller groups, additional guidance and learning at a pace that helps them succeed
- Develop essential skills for independence, wellbeing and future progression

This pathway provides pupils with the opportunity to gain 9 GCSEs through a balanced curriculum that supports them to achieve their qualifications, build confidence, and prepare for further education, training or employment.

3. Stretch and Challenge Pathway

The Stretch and Challenge Pathway is designed for pupils who are working at a high level and would benefit from additional depth and challenge across their GCSE subjects.

Pupils on this pathway will study:

- Double Award English Language and Literature
- Double Award Maths and Numeracy
- Triple Award Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- Three option subjects, with guidance towards more academically demanding courses
- Core Cymraeg
- Welsh Bacallaureate
- Additional Maths after school if they choose to.

This pathway provides pupils with the opportunity to gain 13 GCSEs and is designed for pupils who enjoy academic challenge, show strong commitment to their studies, and are aiming for ambitious post-16 routes, including college, university or higher apprenticeship programmes.

Core Subjects

Core subjects are compulsory courses that all pupils study in Years 10 and 11. The information on the following pages outlines what you will learn in each subject, how your progress will be assessed, and the qualifications you can achieve.

| Core Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|--|---------------|--|-------------------|
| English Language and Literature | GCSE | Single award A* - G Double award A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

Reading: Analyse fiction and non-fiction texts, understand context, and compare ideas and language.

Writing: Create imaginative and transactional pieces, structure arguments, and use accurate grammar and punctuation.

Speaking and Listening: Deliver presentations, take part in discussions, and communicate ideas clearly.

Literature: Explore themes, characters, and structure in prose, poetry, and drama; compare texts and express informed opinions.

Critical Thinking: Interpret meaning, evaluate viewpoints, and develop analytical skills valued in further study and careers.

How will I be assessed?

Single and Double Award Unit Overviews

Assessment split

- **Exams:** 60% (three examined units)
- **Non-Exam Assessment (NEA):** 40% (three internally assessed units – six pieces to complete)

Units and Themes

In Year 10 you will complete:

1. Unit 1 – Context and Meaning

- **Focus:** Poetry from WJEC anthology
- **Skills:** Analyse meaning, context, and language
- **Exam assessed**

2. Unit 2 – Belonging

- **Focus:** Prose fiction exploring community and identity
- **Chosen Text:** *Brave New World*
- **X2 NEA tasks:** Written response and Individual speech

3. Unit 3 – Influence and Power

- **Focus:** Non-fiction texts showing persuasion and authority
- **X2 NEA tasks:** Analytical writing and group discussion

In Year 11 you will complete:

4. Unit 4A or 4B – Motivations

- **Focus:** Drama or prose text; explore character and writer motivations
- **Chosen Texts:** *An Inspector Calls* for Double Award and *Animal Farm* for Single Award
- Includes creative writing task
- **Exam assessed**

5. Unit 5 – Continuity and Change (Double Award Only)

- **Focus:** Shakespeare play + pre-20th century poetry
- Explore how ideas and language evolve
- **X2 NEA tasks:** Written and oracy based, paired response to poetry

6. Unit 6 – Connections (Double Award Only)

- **Focus:** Non-fiction texts; identify links between texts and contexts
- **Exam assessed**

Will I do Single Award or Double Award?

We offer two pathways to suit different learning needs:

Single Award

- Counts as **one GCSE**.
- Combines English Language and English Literature into a single qualification.
- Designed for pupils who would benefit from a more focused programme with fewer assessments.

Double Award

- Counts as **two GCSEs**.
- Includes additional units and assessments, providing a broader experience of texts and skills.
- Designed for pupils who would enjoy extra challenge and the opportunity to achieve two qualifications.

Both routes cover the same essential skills in **reading, writing, speaking and listening**. The main difference is the depth of study and the number of assessments.

The English Department will recommend the most suitable pathway based on what best supports your child's learning and progression. If you are unsure which route your child will take, teachers will discuss this with you and explain the option that is most appropriate.

| Core Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Mathematics and Numeracy | GCSE | Double award A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

Understand maths concepts clearly
 Use mathematical language and symbols confidently
 Apply skills fluently and accurately
 Develop logical reasoning and proof skills
 Solve problems independently with strategy
 Number
 Algebra
 Geometry & Measures
 Statistics & Probability (All areas are interconnected and explored in every unit.)

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (30%) Examination Assessment (Higher and Foundation)

Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy: In this unit you will learn life lessons that will help you become a financially well-informed adult. Think about terms or acronyms you may have heard about like 'National Insurance', 'VAT' or 'AER' – these will become familiar to you. Financial opportunities and pitfalls will be addressed, and you will learn how to read important documents like payslips, bills and bank statements. All sorts of other real-world contexts will also be taught and assessed, making this unit relevant and interesting.

Unit 2 (30%) Examination Assessment - Non Calculator (Higher and Foundation)

You will explore concepts where you won't need your calculator in this unit. You will deepen your understanding of probability and explore new ideas within algebra and geometry, like quadratic graphs and circle theorems.

Unit 3 (40%) Examination Assessment - Calculator Allowed (Higher and Foundation)

This unit has the biggest weighting of all three units, and you can have your calculator by your side. There is lots of data handling and statistics in this unit as well as new geometry concepts such as Pythagoras' Theorem and Trigonometry.

Will I do single award or double award?

All learners will take the Mathematics Double Award, which counts as two GCSEs.

The course is offered at two tiers:

Foundation Tier

The Foundation Tier is designed for learners who benefit from a more supported level of challenge. It covers grades E to C and focuses on building confidence in essential mathematical skills. The emphasis is on fluency, real life applications, and steady progression through core topics.

Higher Tier

The Higher Tier is designed for learners who are ready for more complex and challenging mathematical content. It covers grades D to A* and includes more advanced problem solving, algebra, geometry, and reasoning skills. Learners taking this tier work at a faster pace and tackle extended concepts in greater depth.

Your teachers will decide which tier is most appropriate for you based on your progress, strengths, and what will support your success.

| Core Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|---------------------|---------------|---|-------------------|
| The Sciences | GCSE | Single Award A* - G Double Award A* - G Triple Award A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

In the new Wales GCSE Science qualifications, you'll learn how science explains the world around us, how to investigate and test ideas, and how to use evidence to make informed decisions. You'll study biology, chemistry, and physics together, building skills that connect across all areas of science.

Explain phenomena scientifically: understand how the natural world works.

Investigate and test ideas: design experiments, collect data, and evaluate evidence.

Use scientific information: research, analyse, and apply knowledge to real life contexts.

Think critically: justify conclusions and prove relationships between concepts.

Solve problems: apply science strategically to everyday and global challenges.

Content Covered You'll explore the three main sciences across all units:

- Biology – living organisms, health, ecosystems, and genetics.
- Chemistry – materials, reactions, energy changes, and the environment.
- Physics – forces, energy, waves, electricity, and the universe.

How will I be assessed?

| Single Award (Higher and Foundation) | Double Award (Higher and Foundation) | Triple Award (Higher and Foundation) |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Unit 1 (45%) Exam Living on Earth, Maintaining a healthy body, Using the Earth's resources, Transport</p> <p>Unit 2 (45%) Exam Science in a Changing World, Human influence on the Earth, Humans in Space, Looking for clues</p> <p>Unit 3 (10%) Scientific Enquiry You are required to complete one enquiry from a choice of two. <i>This assessment is untiered.</i></p> | <p>Unit 1 (14%) Exam Biology Basis of Life</p> <p>Unit 2 (14%) Exam Chemistry Chemical Substances and How They Behave</p> <p>Unit 3 (14%) Exam Physics Forces, Motion and the Universe</p> <p>Unit 4 (16%) Exam Biology Continuity of Life</p> <p>Unit 5 (16%) Exam Chemistry Chemical Bonding, Reactions and Resources</p> <p>Unit 6 (16%) Exam Physics Waves, Electricity and Energy</p> <p>Unit 7 (10%) Scientific Enquiry You are required to complete one enquiry from a choice of two.</p> | <p>Unit 1 (45%) Exams x 3 Biology <i>Cells, organ systems and ecosystems</i> Chemistry <i>Chemical substances, reactions and essential resources</i> Physics <i>Electricity, energy and waves</i> Sat at the end of year 10.</p> <p>Unit 2 (45%) Exams x 3 Biology <i>Variation, Homeostasis and Microorganisms</i> Chemistry <i>Chemical bonding, application of chemical reactions and organic chemistry</i> Physics <i>Forces, space and radioactivity</i> Sat at the end of year 10.</p> <p>Unit 3 (10%) Scientific Enquiry x 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Biology ● Chemistry ● Physics <p>Completed in year 11. <i>This assessment is untiered.</i></p> |

Will I do single award, double award or triple Award?

Single Award Science (A* to G)

Single Award covers key ideas from Biology, Chemistry and Physics and applies them to real life situations. It counts as **one GCSE**. This pathway provides a strong grounding in Science for learners who would benefit from a more focused course with fewer assessments, while still allowing for future study after Year 11.

Double Award Science (A* A* to G G)

Double Award develops a broad and secure understanding of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It counts as **two GCSEs** and provides the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to progress to post-16 Science courses, including AS and A Level Sciences. This pathway offers a balanced level of challenge and is the route followed by most pupils.

Triple Award Science (A* A* A* to G G G)

Triple Award involves an in depth study of three separate GCSEs: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. pupils study each subject in greater detail and receive an **individual grade for each one**. This pathway is suitable for learners who are ready for additional challenges and offers the strongest preparation for A-Level Science courses.

How the right pathway is chosen

The decision about whether you take Single, Double or Triple Award Science will be made by the school, based on what best supports your success. Teachers will consider:

- Your progress and achievement in Science so far
- The pathway that matches your learning needs and long term goals
- The right balance of subjects across your GCSE options

You will be guided towards the pathway that suits you best — you will not be expected to make this decision on your own.

| Pathway Subjects | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|------------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| Core Cymraeg | GCSE | A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

Confidence in Welsh: Building skills to use Cymraeg in everyday life.
 Cultural Identity: Exploring Welsh culture, traditions, and how language shapes society.
 Communication Skills: Developing speaking, listening, reading, and writing abilities.
 Creativity & Empathy: Using language to express ideas and understand different perspectives.
 Language Awareness: Learning how language works, supporting communication in other languages too.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (25%) Non-Examination Assessment

Oracy: assessment of speaking and listening and will be conducted by your teacher.

Unit 2 (25%) Non-Examination Assessment

Oracy: assessment of speaking and listening and will be conducted by your teacher.

Unit 3 (25%) Examination Assessment

Using reading and writing skills to respond to various texts and learning essential skills for the future such as translanguaging and translating

Unit 4 (25%) Examination Assessment

Using reading and writing skills to respond to various texts and learning essential skills to analyse short stories and poems

Will I study Core Cymraeg?

The new GCSE Core Cymraeg is a compulsory qualification designed to help all learners in Wales gain confidence in using the Welsh language, while also developing cultural awareness, creativity, and communication skills. The course places a strong emphasis on speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and supports the Welsh Government's ambition of reaching one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

For pupils who find learning Welsh more challenging, an alternative Agored Cymru pathway is available. This route ensures that learners are supported appropriately, while still meeting statutory requirements and achieving a recognised qualification that can contribute towards future college applications.

Option Subjects

Option subjects are qualifications you can choose to study. You will be able to choose 2 or 3 option subjects depending on which pathway the school thinks you will have the best chance of success. If you are only taking 2 option choices this will be discussed with you before your option choices.

The following pages give you an overview of each option course listed below, including what it involves, what you will learn, how you will be assessed, and whether the course is suitable for you.

- Art and Design or Art Textiles
- Business
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Digital Technology
- Digital Media and Film
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- French
- Food and Nutrition
- Geography
- Health & Social Care
- History
- Hospitality and Catering
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Social Studies

| Option Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|--|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| Art and Design Art Textiles | GCSE | A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

How to explore and develop your own creative ideas.
 Using different materials, techniques, and processes (painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, digital media).
 Understanding art, craft, and design in Wales and the wider world.
 How artists communicate meaning and respond to culture, history, and society.
 Building a personal portfolio that shows your creativity and progress.

You may specialise in any of the following areas

- Art, craft, and design
- Fine art
- Graphic communication
- Textile design
- Three dimensional design
- Photography

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (60%) Non-Examination Assessment

This unit is designed to enable you to develop knowledge, understanding and skills within the creative process. You will be encouraged to make personal discoveries and take creative risks through your own investigations.

You will be required to produce a portfolio:

- through a sustained project that shows development, refinement, reflection and presentation
- that is internally set, in consultation with your teacher, based on a theme, concept or specific design brief.

Unit 2 (40%) Non-Examination Assessment

The externally Set Assignment contains five overarching 'big ideas'. You must choose one big idea and use given stimuli as a starting point to inform your work. You will undertake contextual and practical research and supporting studies during a preparatory period. This will inform your response during a 10 hour 'sustained focus' period.

Assessment focuses on:

- Developing ideas
- Experimenting with materials
- Recording observations
- Presenting a final outcome

Am I suited to Art?

You'll enjoy this course if you:

- Like experimenting with materials and techniques.
- Enjoy expressing ideas visually.
- Are curious about how art reflects culture and society.
- Want to develop creativity, problem-solving, and independent thinking skills.

| Option Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| Business Studies | GCSE | A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

How businesses work and what makes them successful.
 Critical issues facing businesses and how they can be solved.
 The impact of business on society, the environment, and sustainability.
 Job market trends and different business careers.
 Enterprise skills and how to create your own business idea.
 Introduction to the Business World – fundamentals of business, ownership types, markets, consumers, costs and revenue.
 Key Business Considerations – research a local business and produce a report.
 Business Strategies for Success – finance, marketing, HR, production, growth strategies, and external influences.
 Business Creation – develop enterprise skills, conduct market research, and prepare a business proposal.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (20%) Examination Assessment

Introduction to the business world – in this unit, you will study the fundamentals of business. You will explore the purpose of business activity and the nature of business enterprises, understanding the different types of business ownership and aims. Additionally, you will learn about markets and business sectors, and the importance of the consumer. You will calculate costs and revenue to make business decisions.

Unit 2 (30%) Non-Examination Assessment

in this unit, you will undertake research on a chosen business in your locality and to use your research findings to produce a report.

Unit 3 (20%) Examination Assessment

In this unit you will explore the key business functions of finance, marketing, human resources, and production. Additionally, you will study strategies for business growth and understand how businesses are affected by political, legal, and economic external factors.

Unit 4 (30%) Non-Examination Assessment

in this unit, you will develop enterprise skills. You will carry out primary and secondary market research to collect information for an entrepreneurial opportunity you have identified. You will produce a report that covers key aspects of your business proposal.

Am I suited to Business Studies ?

You'll enjoy this course if you:

- Are curious about how businesses operate.
- Like problem solving and thinking critically.
- Enjoy working with numbers and analysing information.
- Want to develop creativity and enterprise skills.
- Are interested in careers in business, law, finance, marketing, or management.

| Option Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|------------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| Computer Science | GCSE | A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

How computers process and store information.
 Programming skills using languages such as Python.
 Problem-solving and computational thinking.
 Networks, cybersecurity, and how digital systems communicate.
 The impact of technology on society, the environment, and the economy.
 How to design, test, and evaluate software solutions.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (50%) Examination Assessment

Understanding Computer Science: This unit helps you to build your understanding of practical aspects of computing such as hardware, software, systems, networks and communication, whilst developing your ability to plan, manage and deliver computer based solutions for everyday needs and problems.

Unit 2 (50%) Examination Assessment

Computer Programming: This unit gives you the opportunity to develop your programming skills, before using them to create a solution to a real world problem.

Assessment focuses on:

- Understanding computing concepts
- Applying programming skills
- Problem-solving and logical reasoning
- Evaluating the impact of digital technology

Am I suited to Computer Science?

You'll enjoy this course if you:

- Like solving puzzles and logical problems.
- Are curious about how computers and software work.
- Enjoy experimenting with code and creating digital solutions.
- Want to develop skills useful in technology, engineering, and science careers

| Option Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|----------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| Dance | GCSE | A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

Building physical, technical, and expressive skills to perform confidently.
 Creating and refining original choreography using different stimuli.
 Exploring a variety of dance styles and techniques
 Observing and interpreting professional dance works to understand artistic, cultural, and emotional meaning.
 Developing creativity, self-reflection, and confidence through dance.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (40%) Non-Examination Assessment

Create a solo or group dance from a chosen stimulus.

Unit 2 (30%) Non-Examination Assessment

Perform two dances (one solo, one solo/group) from different styles.

Unit 3 (30%) Examination Assessment

Dance Appreciation: Analyse set dance works and demonstrate understanding of choreography and performance.

Am I suited to Dance?

You'll enjoy this course if you:

- Love performing and expressing yourself physically.
- Are creative and enjoy choreographing your own work.
- Want to explore different dance styles and cultures.
- Like analysing and reflecting on professional performances.

| Option Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| Design and Technology | GCSE | A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

How to design and make products that solve real-world problems.
 Using a wide range of materials (wood, metal, plastics, textiles, electronics).
 Applying creativity, innovation, and practical skills to design challenges.
 Understanding sustainability, environmental impact, and ethical design.
 How technology, engineering, and design link to everyday life and industry.
 Developing problem-solving, teamwork, and project management skills.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (30%) Examination Assessment

The on screen exam will require you to demonstrate and apply your knowledge and understanding of the principles, materials, tools and techniques used in Design and Technology. There will be a mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions on both core knowledge and content that is specific to your chosen pathway.

Unit 2 (70%) Non-Examination Assessment

Design Project: Contextual Challenge: This unit is designed to give you the opportunity to solve 'real life' problems by designing and making products or systems that respond to your selected target markets' needs, wants and values. You will be required to identify design opportunities, produce a clear design brief and specification, create innovative solutions, produce quality final prototypes and evaluate their suitability for their intended users' needs.

Assessment focuses on:

- Research and idea generation
- Designing and modelling
- Making and testing products
- Evaluating outcomes and sustainability

Am I suited to Design and Technology?

You'll enjoy this course if you:

- Like being creative and practical.
- Enjoy solving problems and designing solutions.
- Are interested in how products are made and improved.
- Want to develop skills useful in engineering, design, architecture, or manufacturing careers.

| Option Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| Digital Technology | GCSE | A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

How digital technology is used in everyday life and the workplace.
 Developing practical skills in creating digital products (apps, websites, multimedia).
 Understanding data, information systems, and cybersecurity.
 Exploring emerging technologies and their impact on society.
 Problem-solving and innovation using digital tools.
 How digital technology connects with business, communication, and creative industries.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (40%) Examination Assessment

The Digital World: This unit covers the theoretical aspects of digital technology to support your practical work in units 2 and 3. You'll learn about history, cybersecurity, data management, software, hardware, software applications, robotics and digital footprints.

Unit 2 (40%) Non-Examination Assessment

Digital Practices: This unit focuses on you using practical applications. You'll work on projects with a real life brief involving data analysis, creating your own assets, game or animation creation and website design and creation.

Unit 3 (20%) Non-Examination Assessment

Communicating in the Digital World: This unit is about digital marketing, creating assets and using and researching a range of social media platforms. Finally, you will design and develop your own campaign using a real life brief for a social media platform of your choice.

Assessment focuses on:

- Applying digital skills to real-world problems
- Creativity and innovation in digital product design
- Understanding the social, ethical, and environmental impact of technology

Am I suited to Digital Technology?

You'll enjoy this course if you:

- Are curious about how technology shapes the modern world.
- Like designing and creating digital products.
- Enjoy problem-solving and thinking creatively.
- Want to develop skills useful in IT, business, media, and creative careers.

| Option Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| Digital Media and Film | GCSE | A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

How digital media and film are created, produced, and distributed.
 Analysing film and media texts to understand meaning, audience, and representation.
 Exploring the impact of digital technology on media industries and society.
 Developing practical skills in planning, filming, editing, and producing digital content.
 Understanding careers in film, television, journalism, advertising, and digital production.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (30%) Examination Assessment

Exploring Key Concepts and Issues. In this unit, you will study a pair of films (one Welsh film and one global film). You will look at the relationship between films and their audiences and analyse film language. You will also study key concepts and how meaning is created in video games, online news and social media.

Unit 2 (30%) Non-Examination Assessment

Distribution and Exhibition Strategies of Digital Media and Film Industries in Wales. In this unit, you will have the opportunity to investigate how media products in Wales are produced, distributed and exhibited to target audiences. You will be tasked with designing your own distribution and exhibition strategies for a new digital media and film product.

Unit 3 (40%) Non-Examination Assessment

Creating Digital Media and Film Content. This unit allows you to showcase your creativity. You will be given a brief to create your own digital media and film content. This unit encourages you to develop and apply your skills and reflect on your creative process.

Assessment focuses on:

- Media and film analysis
- Creative production skills
- Understanding audiences and industries
- Critical thinking and evaluation

Am I suited to Digital Media and Film?

You'll enjoy this course if you:

- Are creative and enjoy storytelling through film or digital platforms.
- Like analysing movies, adverts, or social media content.
- Want to learn practical skills in filming, editing, and production.
- Are interested in careers in media, film, journalism, or creative industries.

| Option Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|----------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| Drama | GCSE | A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

The GCSE Drama 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 theatre.

You will also have the opportunity to build on your understanding of acting, directing, design and technical theatre.

- explore drama created and performed by other people to help develop your own talents
- gain understanding of a range of techniques, forms, styles, genres and contexts
- reflect on, evaluate and refine your work
- explore diversity, identity and culture
- discover and explore your performance and/or design skills

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (40%) Practical Non Exam Assessment

Devising Theatre: One devised piece in response to a chosen stimulus, performed in a group of between two and five actors and up to four designers.

Unit 2 (30%) Practical Non Exam Assessment

Performance from a Text: A performance of one extract from a text of your choice. Assessed by a Visiting Examiner and performed in a group of between two and four actors and up to two designers.

Unit 3 (30%) Examination Assessment

Interpreting Theatre

The exam is broken into two sections:

Section A: Questions based on a set text you will have studied in lessons.

Section B: Questions based on an excerpt of a live theatre production from one of four set genres, which you will be able to watch in the exam. The genres are Musical Theatre, Naturalism, Theatre in Education or Physical Theatre.

Am I suited to Drama?

You'll enjoy this course if you:

- like working creatively and expressing ideas through performance
- enjoy collaborating with others and working as part of a team
- are confident performing — or want to build your confidence over time
- are interested in exploring different styles of theatre
- enjoy practical work and learning through doing rather than just writing
- are curious about acting, directing, design or technical theatre

| Option Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|----------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| French | GCSE | A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

Communicating confidently in another language through speaking, listening, reading, and writing.
 Understanding the culture, traditions, and society of countries where the language is spoken.
 Using language skills in real-life contexts such as travel, work, and study abroad.
 Developing problem-solving, memory, and analytical skills that support other subjects.
 Exploring global issues like the environment, technology, and social trends through another language.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (30%) Non-Examination Assessment

Oracy: assessment of speaking and listening and will be conducted by your teacher. Firstly, you will read aloud a short sentence to show your understanding of French pronunciation. You will then take part in a role play. After this, you will give a short one minute presentation that you will have prepared in advance and have a short discussion with your teacher about your presentation. Finally, you will take part in a short conversation in French with your teacher.

Unit 2 (15%) Non-Examination Assessment

Reading and Writing: With your classmates, you will study a short work (either a graphic novel, short story, film script or novel) in French. You will then write a written response (up to 200 words) in French about the short story/graphic novel or film script you have studied.

Unit 3 (20%) Examination Assessment

You will listen to a range of speakers in French and will demonstrate your understanding of what you have heard by, for example, answering multiple choice questions or questions in English.

Unit 4 (35%) Examination Assessment

Reading and Writing: For this assessment, you will read texts in French and answer questions on them in English. You will also be required to complete a translation into English. Finally, you will demonstrate your written language skills by writing up to 120 words in French from a choice of three questions.

Assessment is a mix of exams and controlled assessments, testing all four skills equally.

- Speaking: Role-plays, conversations, and presentations.
- Listening: Understanding spoken language in different contexts.
- Reading: Comprehension of texts, articles, and authentic materials.
- Writing: Producing texts such as letters, emails, and essays in the target language.

Am I suited to French?

You will enjoy, and be successful in this course if you:

- Are curious about other cultures and countries.
- Want to develop skills that are highly valued by employers and universities.
- Enjoy challenges and are willing to practise regularly.
- Enjoy speaking and presenting ideas in another language.
- Want to understand authentic French through films, songs, and everyday conversations.
- Are interested in exploring themes such as identity, culture, local and global issues, and future study or careers.
- See yourself using French beyond school — for travel, work, or further study.

| Option Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| Food and Nutrition | GCSE | A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

The science of food: nutrients, diet, and how food affects health.
 Practical cooking skills: preparing, cooking, and presenting dishes.
 Food safety and hygiene.
 The impact of food choices on the environment and sustainability.
 Cultural and social influences on food.
 How to plan meals and evaluate recipes for different needs.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (40%) Examination Assessment

Principles of food and nutrition

Unit 2 (20%) Non-Examination Assessment

Food Investigation: The task involves practical experimental work and written work based on a specific food commodity, e.g. bread or pastry.

Unit 3 (40%) Non-Examination Assessment

Food & Nutrition in Action

Research in response to a given brief

Planning

Preparation and cooking (1 × 3 hour practical session)

Presentation of three dishes plus accompaniments (where appropriate) to form a menu

Assessment focuses on:

- Applying theory to practical cooking
- Understanding nutrition and health
- Problem-solving and creativity in food preparation

Am I suited to Food and Nutrition?

You'll enjoy this course if you:

- Like cooking and experimenting with recipes.
- Are interested in health, diet, and wellbeing.
- Want to understand the science behind food.
- Care about sustainability and the environment.
- Enjoy practical work alongside theory.

| Option Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|----------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| Geography | GCSE | A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

If you choose Geography, you will study a wide range of themes that help you understand the world around you. These include rivers and coasts, migration, settlement and urban change, inequality, weather and climate, and global challenges. A central theme of sustainability runs throughout the course, encouraging you to think critically about how we can protect our planet for the future. You will also complete a separate assessment that develops your decision-making skills, requiring you to find a sustainable solution to a current challenge. At different points during the course, you will take part in off-site fieldwork visits. These experiences allow you to see concepts studied in the classroom brought to life, while collecting and analysing data. One of these visits will form part of your final assessment, where you will also produce a written report. Alongside these topics, you will build valuable mathematical and statistical skills, helping you to interpret data and strengthen your problem-solving abilities.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (30%) Examination Assessment: 1hr 30mins

Our Physical and Human World

Unit 2 (25%) Non-Examination Assessment

Developing Fieldwork Skills: You will carry out a fieldwork visit based on a topic such as change over time or the environment and investigate this in a chosen location. You will then write a fieldwork enquiry that will be submitted to WJEC.

Unit 3: (30%) Examination Assessment: 1hr 30mins

Our Dynamic and Diverse World

Unit 4 (15%) Non-Examination Assessment

Sustainable Solutions: You will receive a resource booklet on a geographical issue and complete background reading on the issue. You will then write a report based on a real world issue in a decision making task, explaining how sustainable the various options are likely to be.

Am I suited to Geography?

You'll enjoy this course if you:

- Are curious about the world and how it works.
- Like exploring issues such as climate change, sustainability, and global development.
- Enjoy fieldwork and learning outside the classroom.
- Want to develop analytical, problemsolving, and communication skills.
- Are interested in people, places, and how societies adapt and change.
- Like working with maps, data, and statistics to uncover patterns and trends.
- Want to understand how local actions connect to global challenges.
- Enjoy debating different viewpoints and making decisions about real-world problems.
- Are motivated by applying knowledge to find practical, sustainable solutions.

| Option Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| Health and Social Care | GCSE | A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

How health, social care, and child care services support individuals and communities.
 Human growth and development across the life stages.
 Factors that affect health and wellbeing, including lifestyle and environment.
 The rights of service users and the values of care.
 Careers in health, social care, and child care, and the skills needed for these roles.
 How services are organised and the importance of safeguarding.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (40%) Examination Assessment

Health and social care, and childcare in Wales in the 21st Century

Unit 2 (30%) Non-exam assessment

For this assessment, you will be required to complete an assessment based on a choice of two case studies where you'll apply knowledge and understanding of adult health and social care.

Unit 3 (30%) Non-exam assessment

For this assessment, you will be required to complete an assessment based on a case study and an investigation where you'll apply knowledge and understanding of childcare

Assessment focuses on:

- Understanding services and care values
- Applying knowledge to case studies
- Evaluating factors affecting health and wellbeing
- Problem-solving and critical thinking

Am I suited to Health and Social Care?

You'll enjoy this course if you:

- Are interested in helping and supporting others.
- Want to learn about health, wellbeing, and human development.
- Enjoy applying knowledge to practical, real-life situations.
- Are considering careers in nursing, social work, teaching, childcare, or healthcare.

| Option Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|----------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| History | GCSE | A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

GCSE History allows you to explore a wide and diverse selection of topics from various historical periods and societies. At Key Stage 4, you will examine, analyse and assess historical figures and events across four units, with a focus on the study of historical sources and interpretations.

You will learn about key events, people and changes that have shaped Wales, Britain and the wider world. You will explore how societies have developed over time and how history connects to issues we face today, as well as different perspectives and interpretations of the past. You will also develop skills in analysing sources, evaluating evidence and forming clear arguments. Topics may include conflict, politics, social change and cultural history.

For units 1-3, you will study one of the three periods of time: medieval, early modern or modern, which will include topics such as the Black Death, Wales and the early Tudors and changes in American society c.1880–c.1980 .

Unit 4: This will be a non examination assessment, completed in class and focussing on concepts such as continuity and change, similarity and difference, significance and impact and cause and consequence.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (30%) Examination Assessment

An in-depth study on Welsh history. You will study one of six historical topics and undertake an in-depth study that will provide you with an insight into the development of Wales at a specific point in time.

Unit 2 (20%) Non-examination assessment

An in-depth study on European and/or World history. You will study one of six historical topics and undertake an in-depth study that will provide you with an understanding of an issue in European and/or world history.

Unit 3 (30%) Examination Assessment

A study of a period in world history. You will study one of six historical topics and undertake a breadth study of an extended historical period.

Unit 4 (20%) Non-examination assessment

A changing society. You will undertake a study of themed events within a continuous period of approximately 75–100 years of history.

Am I suited to History?

You'll enjoy this course if you:

- Are curious about how past events shape the present.
- Like investigating evidence and forming your own conclusions.
- Enjoy debating different viewpoints and interpretations.
- Want to develop skills useful in law, politics, journalism, teaching, and many other careers.

| Option Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| Hospitality and Catering | Level 1/level 2 | Level 1: Pass, Merit, Distinction Level 2: Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction* | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

Are you curious about what it takes to work in a successful hotel, restaurant or café? Do you enjoy cooking, creating new flavours or learning how to serve customers professionally? This course will give you a real insight into the hospitality and catering industry and help you build the skills needed to work in this exciting sector.

You will learn about:

- The hospitality and catering industry: different types of establishments, roles and career pathways.
- Health, safety and food hygiene: including how to keep food safe and the causes of food related ill health.
- Nutrition and healthy eating: understanding nutrients, dietary needs and how cooking methods affect nutritional value.
- Menu planning: how to design balanced, nutritious menus and the factors that influence planning.
- Practical cooking skills: preparing, cooking and presenting a range of dishes to a high standard.
- Reviewing your work: evaluating your dishes, identifying strengths and improving your skills over time.

This course is ideal for pupils who enjoy practical learning and want to understand how the hospitality and catering world operates.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 – Examination (40%)

This is a written exam that tests your knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry. You will answer questions about different types of establishments, job roles, health and safety, food safety, nutrition, and menu planning.

Unit 2 – Non-Examination Assessment (60%)

Hospitality and Catering in Action: For this unit, you will complete a practical assignment based on a given brief. You will:

- Investigate the needs of a client or scenario
- Carry out research and justify your choices
- Prepare time plans and production methods
- Practise and refine your chosen dishes
- Take part in a 3-hour practical cooking exam, where you will prepare, cook and present your dishes

Am I suited to Hospitality and Catering?

You may be well suited to this course if you:

- Enjoy practical, hands on learning, especially cooking and preparing food
- Are interested in how the hospitality and catering industry works
- Like being creative with ingredients, flavours and food presentation
- Can stay organised and manage your time well, especially during practical tasks
- Are willing to work safely and hygienically in the kitchen
- Can follow instructions carefully and work well both independently and as part of a team

| Option Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|----------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| Music | GCSE | A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

Developing skills in performing music as a soloist and in groups.
 Composing your own music, using different styles, genres, and techniques.
 Listening to and appreciating a wide range of music, from classical to contemporary.
 Understanding how music is created, structured, and communicated.
 Exploring the cultural and social role of music in Wales and the wider world.

How will I be assessed?

Performance (30%) Non-examination assessment Performance

Solo and ensemble performances assessed by your teacher and moderated externally.

Composition (30%) Non-examination assessment Performance

Two original pieces of music, one set to a brief and one free choice.

Listening & Appraising (40%) Examination Assessment

Testing your understanding of musical elements, styles, and set works.

Am I suited to Music?

You'll enjoy this course if you:

- Play an instrument or sing and want to develop your performance skills.
- Are creative and enjoy composing or experimenting with sound.
- Like listening to and analysing different types of music.
- Want to build confidence, teamwork, and communication skills through music.

| Option Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|------------------------|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| Performing Arts | Level 1/level 2 | Level 1: Pass, Merit, Distinction Level 2: Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction* | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

The skills needed to perform confidently in acting, dance, or musical theatre.
 How to develop creativity, communication, and teamwork through performance.
 Understanding the performing arts industry, including roles, responsibilities, and career pathways.
 How to plan, rehearse, and evaluate performances.
 Exploring professional works and learning how performers and companies create productions.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (30%) Non-examination assessment Performance

Performing Arts in Practice: Coursework exploring professional works and developing your own ideas.

Unit 2 (30%) Non-examination assessment Performance

Performing Skills: Practical assessment of your performance skills in acting, dance, or musical theatre.

Unit 3 (40%) Non-examination assessment Performance

Performing Arts Project: An externally assessed task where you plan, rehearse, and present a performance based on a set brief.

Am I suited to Performing Arts?

You'll enjoy this course if you:

- Love performing and expressing yourself creatively.
- Enjoy working with others and building confidence on stage.
- Want to explore careers in theatre, dance, music, or creative industries.
- Like practical, hands on learning alongside written work.

| Option Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| Physical Education | GCSE | A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

How the body works during exercise: anatomy, physiology, and fitness.
 The importance of health, wellbeing, and lifestyle choices.
 Practical performance in a range of physical activities and sports.
 How to analyse and improve your own and others' performance.
 The role of physical activity in society, including issues like participation, equality, and health promotion.
 Links between physical education, psychology, and nutrition.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (40%) Examination Assessment

Principles of physical education and health

Unit 2 (60%) Non-examination assessment Performance and personal training

Perform in one sport or physical activity from an approved list

Perform in a second sport or physical activity or provide coaching in a sport or physical activity from an approved list

Plan, implement and evaluate a personal training activity over 8-10 weeks for a sport or physical activity from an approved list.

Assessment focuses on:

- Knowledge of health and physical education
- Practical ability in sport
- Analytical and evaluative skills

Am I suited to Physical Education?

You'll enjoy this course if you:

- Are active and enjoy participating in sport or physical activity.
- Want to understand how exercise affects the body and mind.
- Are interested in health, wellbeing, and fitness.
- Like combining practical performance with theory.
- Are considering careers in sport, fitness, health, or education.

| Option Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| Religious Studies | GCSE | A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

The beliefs, teachings, and practices of major world religions (including Christianity and other faiths).
 Ethical issues such as human rights, relationships, war and peace, and the environment.
 Philosophical questions about life, meaning, and morality.
 How religion influences individuals, communities, and society.
 Developing skills in analysis, evaluation, and forming balanced arguments.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (30%) Examination Assessment

Religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings and practices

Unit 2 (20%) Non-exam assessment

Religion and relationships

Unit 3 (30%) Examination Assessment

Roles, rights and responsibilities

Unit 4 (20%) Non-exam assessment

Religion and human rights

You'll be tested on:

- Knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs and practices.
- Application of religious ideas to ethical and philosophical issues.
- Evaluation of different viewpoints and arguments.

Am I suited to Religious Studies?

You'll enjoy this course if you:

- Are curious about different religions, cultures, and worldviews.
- Like discussing moral and ethical questions.
- Enjoy forming and justifying your own opinions.
- Want to develop skills useful in law, politics, education, journalism, and social care.

| Option Subject | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|----------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| Social Studies | GCSE | A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

How society works and the role of individuals, communities, and institutions.
 Key social issues such as inequality, diversity, justice, and human rights.
 The impact of politics, economics, and culture on everyday life.
 How to research, analyse, and evaluate information about society.
 Developing skills in debate, discussion, and forming reasoned arguments.
 Exploring careers linked to social sciences, law, politics, and public services.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (30%) Examination Assessment

Society and Social Issues: This unit covers characteristics of society and a variety of social issues. You will become familiar with the diverse nature of society by studying the ideas of identity, rights, and how the various levels of governance in Wales, the UK, and the wider world influence how societies function.

Unit 2 (20%) Non-examination assessment

Investigating Society and Social Issues. Within this unit you will explore ways of researching society and social issues based on a variety of evidence sources

Unit 3 (30%) Examination Assessment

Social Change in Contemporary Society. Short and extended answers, reflecting social change and social movements.

Unit 4 (20%) Non-examination assessment

Planning to effect Social Change: For this unit you will investigate a social issue of your choice and plan an effective, legal and non-violent social action.

Assessment focuses on:

- Understanding social concepts and structures
- Applying knowledge to real-world contexts
- Critical thinking and evaluation
- Communication and argument-building skills

Am I suited to Social Studies?

You'll enjoy this course if you:

- Are curious about how society functions and changes.
- Like discussing current issues and exploring different viewpoints.
- Enjoy research and applying knowledge to real-life situations.
- Want to develop skills useful in law, politics, sociology, teaching, and public services.

Pathway Subjects

We recognise that some pupils are eager for additional challenges and qualifications, while others may find the workload and pressures of option subjects more difficult to manage. To meet these different needs, we offer a range of pathway subjects designed both to extend and to support learners.

Teachers will guide you through the subjects available and help identify the subjects that provide the most appropriate pathway to ensure your success.

| Pathway Subjects | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Agored | Level 2 | 2 x B Grade's equivalent | Agored Cymru |

What will I learn about?

This qualification includes a variety of cross-curricular studies that are taught through the medium of English. The subjects and topics focus on the connection they make to Wales and Welsh life, celebrating our Welsh heritage.

Areas of study include:

- Tourism in Wales
- Art in Wales
- Flora and Fauna in Wales
- Music and Musicians in Wales
- Traditions and Customs of Wales
- Physical Geography and Climate of Wales
- In addition to classroom guidance, pupils conduct independent research throughout the studying process.

How will I be assessed?

This qualification is assessed through in-class coursework over the 2 years. You will study six individual units that are both formatively and summatively assessed throughout the process. Successful completion of all six units will be awarded as a Level 2 qualification, equivalent to 2 B grades at GCSE.

There is no exam for this qualification.

Will I study Agored?

Welsh is a compulsory element of learning that all schools must provide. However, we recognise that learning the Welsh language can be challenging for some pupils. To support these learners, we offer the Agored Cymru qualification, which enables them to meet statutory requirements while also achieving a recognised award that can be used for college applications.

Agored Cymru takes an innovative and flexible approach to developing qualifications that meet the skills needs of Wales. The focus is on building key skills, competencies, and cultural awareness, while at the same time promoting Wales and the Welsh language and culture both nationally and internationally.

| Pathway Subjects | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Equality and Diversity | Level 1 / Level 2 | Equivalent to One or Two B Grades | Agored Cymru |

What will I learn about?

Equality and Diversity in Society
 Equality and Diversity in the Community
 Equality and Diversity in the Workplace

Understanding equality, diversity, and inclusion in everyday life and work.
 Exploring how laws and policies protect individuals and promote fairness.
 Recognising different forms of discrimination and how to challenge them.
 Appreciating diversity in communities and workplaces.
 Applying equality and diversity principles to real-life scenarios, including teamwork and communication.

How will I be assessed?

Learners complete 3 Units to demonstrate their understanding of equality and diversity. These units focus on demonstrating understanding through real-world examples.

Unit 1 (30%) Non-Examination Assessment

Understanding Equality and Diversity: You will explore what equality and diversity mean, why they are important, and how they apply to everyday life. You will study protected characteristics, discrimination, prejudice and how people's rights can be upheld.

Unit 2 (30%) Non-Examination Assessment

Promoting Equality and Diversity in Society: This unit focuses on how individuals, organisations and communities can promote inclusive attitudes and behaviours. You will apply your understanding to real-life scenarios and examples.

Unit 3 (40%) Non-Examination Assessment

Equality and Diversity in the Workplace: You will learn how equality laws, policies and good practice are used in different workplace settings. You will consider how employers support staff, how discrimination is challenged, and why inclusive workplaces are important.

Will I study Equality and Diversity?

All pupils begin the Equality and Diversity qualification in Year 9. Some learners progress quickly and complete the course within the year, while others may need additional time and support. If the qualification is not completed in Year 9, pupils will continue their studies in Year 10 and Year 11, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to achieve success at a pace that suits them.

| Pathway Subjects | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| SWEET | Level 1/2 Vocational Award | Pass or Merit | Agored Cymru |

What will I learn about?

Understanding healthy lifestyles and fitness.
 Learning how to manage feelings and mental health positively.
 Building confidence in communication and teamwork.
 Preparing for adulthood, including money management, employability, and decision-making.
 Exploring rights, responsibilities, and how to contribute positively to communities.

How will I be assessed?

Portfolio of Evidence: Learners complete tasks and activities in each booklet.
 No Written Exams: Assessment is based on coursework, making it accessible to those who find exams challenging.
 pupils can progress at different speeds, with support available where needed.

Will I study Sweet?

The SWEET qualification is designed to support pupils who may find the demands and pressures of option subjects overwhelming. It provides an alternative pathway that focuses on health, wellbeing, relationships, and life skills, helping learners to build confidence and resilience.

Only pupils identified as needing this additional support will follow the SWEET route. It is assessed through booklets and portfolio work rather than exams, making it more accessible and flexible. Learners progress at their own pace, with the aim of achieving a recognised qualification that supports future education and employment.

| Pathway Subjects | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Welsh Baccalaureate | GCSE / Level 2 or Level 3 Skills Challenge Certificate | Pass, Merit, Distinction | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

Essential Skills: Problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity, and teamwork.
 Independent Learning: Researching, planning, and presenting extended projects.
 Global Citizenship: Understanding issues such as sustainability, diversity, and community responsibility.
 Enterprise & Employability: Developing entrepreneurial skills and preparing for the world of work.
 Personal Effectiveness: Building confidence, resilience, and communication skills.

How will I be assessed?

Individual Project: A major piece of research and written work on a topic of your choice.
 Challenges: Practical tasks such as community work, enterprise projects, and problem-solving activities.
 Portfolio Evidence: Assessment is based on coursework and projects rather than traditional exams.

Will I study Welsh Baccalaureate?

The Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Certificate is aimed at pupils who relish the challenge of additional qualifications. It is particularly suited to those planning to continue into A-Level studies and beyond, as it provides valuable skills and experiences that strengthen college and university applications.

| Pathway Subjects | Qualification | Grades | Examination Board |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| Additional Maths | GCSE | A* - G | WJEC |

What will I learn about?

In Level 2 Additional Mathematics, you will build on skills and concepts you have developed in your prior study of mathematics. You will strengthen your use of mathematical techniques, use algebraic skills more confidently, and learn formal methods of mathematical proof; you will be introduced to calculus and some of its applications.

You will study one of four optional units that introduce areas of mathematics that are new to you or that explore more deeply topics you have previously studied.

How will I be assessed?

Mandatory units

Unit 1 (33.3%) Examination Assessment

Algebra

Unit 2 (33.3%) Examination Assessment

Calculus

Optional units choose 1

Unit 3 (33.3%) Examination Assessment

Geometry and Trigonometry

Unit 4 (33.3%) Examination Assessment

Statistics

Unit 5 (33.3%) Examination Assessment

Mechanics

Unit 6 (33.3%) Examination Assessment

Discrete and Decision Mathematics

Will I study Additional Maths?

This subject is offered after school to pupils who are strong in maths and looking to gain an extra qualification. It is particularly suited to those aiming for A-Level study and wanting to enhance their CV or university applications.

Choosing your subjects

Choosing your option subjects is an important step in shaping your future learning journey. Throughout this booklet you have seen the wide range of qualifications available, from GCSEs to vocational awards and pathway subjects. Each course offers different opportunities, challenges, and support, ensuring that every learner can find the right route to success.

Your teachers and pastoral staff will guide you through the process, helping you to select subjects that match your interests, strengths, and future ambitions. Remember:

- Some subjects are compulsory (such as English, Maths, Science).
- Others are optional, giving you the chance to personalise your learning.
- Pathway subjects and support routes (such as SWEET or Equality and Diversity) are available for learners who need them.
- Additional qualifications (such as Welsh Baccalaureate or Additional Mathematics) are offered to pupils who relish extra challenges.

Once you have considered your choices carefully, you will need to submit your option preferences online.

Please submit your option subject choices by completing the Google Form sent to your school email address.

You must use your school email, as this will register your pupil details and avoid duplicate submissions.

If you change your mind after submitting your choices, you may resubmit the form at any time up until the deadline date.

Deadline for submission: 30/1/26

If you have any questions, concerns or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Frequently Asked Questions

How and when do I submit my option choices?

You will submit your option choices using a Google Form. A link to the form will be sent to your school email address. You will have two weeks to complete and submit your choices, and the deadline is the 30th January. Make sure you press submit on the form, as late submissions may reduce your chances of getting the courses you want.

It is important that the deadline is met. After this date, the school finalises option blocks, class groups and staffing. Any changes requested after this stage are very difficult to accommodate, and meeting the deadline helps us ensure pupils can study the subjects they have chosen.

Why must I use my school email and what if I change my mind?

You must use your school email address when completing the options Google Form, as this automatically registers your pupil details and prevents duplicate submissions. If you change your mind after submitting your choices, you can resubmit the form at any time up until the deadline date. Only the most recent submission will be counted.

What if I change my mind after the deadline?

After the deadline, option blocks, class groups and staffing are being finalised. This means it may not be possible to make changes to your option choices. Any requests made after this point will be considered on a case by case basis, but changes cannot be guaranteed. It is therefore very important that you think carefully about your choices and submit them by the deadline.

What if I don't like the option I have chosen once I start Year 10?

It is normal to take some time to settle into a new subject. You will be encouraged to give your option choices a fair trial during the early part of Year 10. In some cases, a change may be considered, but this will depend on timetable space, class sizes and how far into the course you are. Changes cannot be guaranteed, so it is important to choose carefully and speak to your Learning Family Tutor or Progress Leader as soon as possible if you have concerns.

Why do I have to make option choices?

Eastern High offers a wide range of option subjects for you to choose from. This gives you the opportunity to continue studying subjects you enjoy and want to take further, while reducing or stopping subjects you do not have a particular interest in. These choices, alongside core subjects such as English, Maths/Numeracy and Science, are designed to give you the best chance of achieving at least five GCSEs or equivalent qualifications.

You will submit your option choices using a Google Form. A link to the form will be sent to your school email address. You will have two weeks to complete and submit your choices, and the deadline is 30 January. Make sure you press submit on the form, as late submissions may reduce your chances of getting the courses you want.

Will my choices affect my future career?

Not necessarily. Every pupil in the country studies a core curriculum, which already includes the subjects you need to move on to further education or employment. Most colleges, universities, and employers focus more on the grades you achieve at GCSE rather than the specific subjects you took.

English and Mathematics are the main exceptions. A Grade C or above in these subjects is required for many A-Level and Level 3 courses, a wide range of careers, and especially if you plan to go to university.

Aside from your core subjects, you usually do not need to choose a subject in Year 10 to study it later at university. However, there are some exceptions. For example, if you wish to study a language at a higher level, it is recommended that you continue with it, as it is easy to lose skills if you stop. Similarly, if you are considering studying Art in the future, choosing Art now can be helpful for developing your portfolio.

Is there any one subject more important than another?

All subjects have value, and each one helps develop different skills that can support your future learning and career. However, English, Mathematics and Science are especially important because they form part of the core curriculum and are required for most college courses, apprenticeships, and many jobs.

Beyond these core subjects, the importance of an option subject depends on your interests, strengths, and future goals. The best choice is the subject that motivates you, suits your abilities, and helps you move towards the pathway you want to follow.

In what way are vocational qualifications such as BTEC different to GCSEs?

Vocational qualifications like BTECs may be worth one or two GCSEs, depending on the course. The main difference is that BTECs focus on a specific area of work, such as Art and Design, Engineering, or Construction. They help you understand how that industry operates and allow you to develop practical skills linked directly to the workplace.

GCSEs, on the other hand, focus more on developing your knowledge and understanding of an academic subject rather than a particular job sector.

If I choose a vocational qualification, does this mean I will have to follow a career in this area?

No, not if you do not want to. Remember it counts as equivalent to one or two GCSEs. Employers, universities and colleges want to know the grades you achieve rather than what courses you did.

How can I decide what subjects are best for me?

Choosing your options is an important decision, so it helps to think carefully about what suits you. Start by asking yourself these key questions:

- *What do I enjoy most?*
Subjects you enjoy are often the ones you will stay motivated in and perform well in.
- *What am I best at?*
Think about your strengths, your recent grades, and the subjects where teachers praise your effort and progress.

You may also want to consider:

- *What subjects link to the future career or pathway I'm interested in?*
Even if you're unsure, some subjects may keep more doors open.
- *How do I prefer to learn?*
Some subjects are more practical, some are coursework based, and others involve exams.
- *What do my teachers recommend?*
They know your strengths and can give honest advice about your potential.
- *Will the subject keep me motivated in Year 10 and Year 11?*
Think about whether you'll enjoy studying it for two years.

The best choices are the ones that match your interests, strengths, and long term goals. If you're unsure, speak to your form tutor, teachers, or the careers adviser—they can help you make an informed decision.

Who can help me decide what to choose?

You can get helpful advice from parents or carers, teachers, friends, and older brothers or sisters. They can share their experiences and help you think about your strengths. However, it's important that you make the final decision. You are the one who will be studying the subjects for the next two years.

Don't choose a subject just because:

- *Your friend is doing it.*
You might not end up in the same class, and they may have different interests and abilities.
- *You like a particular teacher.*
You are not guaranteed to be taught by the same teacher next year.
- *Your parent or carer wants you to choose it.*
While their advice is useful, you should choose a subject because you enjoy it. When you're interested and motivated, you are far more likely to succeed.

Am I guaranteed to get onto the subjects that I choose?

Not always. If too few pupils choose a particular course, we may not be able to run it, which means you might not get your first choice. Fortunately, this only affects a small number of pupils each year.

It is also possible that two of your chosen subjects run at the same time on the timetable. If this happens, you may need to choose between them. Again, this is not very common.

Occasionally, your choices may not fit with the final timetable structure, which is why it is important to think carefully about your reserve choice—it may be used.

Some option subjects have limited spaces because of staffing or specialist facilities. If a course becomes oversubscribed, places may need to be allocated using fair criteria. This may include the level of effort shown in the subject and whether pupils **completed the options process by the deadline**. These criteria help ensure pupils are placed in subjects where they are most likely to succeed.

What is the difference between Single, Double and Triple Award?

Single, Double and Triple Awards offer different levels of challenge and lead to different numbers of GCSEs. Single Award courses count as 1 GCSE and are suited to pupils who need more support or a reduced workload. Double Award courses count as 2 GCSEs and involve more lesson time and deeper learning. Triple Award courses count as 3 GCSEs and are designed for pupils who can meet the higher demands and challenge of the subject. These pathways help ensure every pupil is placed on a course that best matches their ability, confidence and learning needs.

How will I know which award I will be studying?

The school will decide which award is most suitable for you by looking at your past performance, progress and learning needs. This helps make sure you are placed on a course that gives you the best chance to succeed and feel confident in your learning.

What is the Welsh Baccalaureate?

The Welsh Baccalaureate is studied by some pupils in Year 10. It includes a core element called the Skills Challenge Certificate, which is a qualification in its own right.

You can achieve the Welsh Baccalaureate at either Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE grades A–C)* or Level 1 (equivalent to GCSE grades D–G).

To achieve the Level 2 Welsh Baccalaureate, you must:

- Pass the Skills Challenge Certificate at Level 2
- Achieve GCSE English Language (A–C)*
- Achieve GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy (A–C)*
- Achieve three additional Level 2 qualifications, which can include up to two vocational courses
- This means the Level 2 Welsh Baccalaureate counts as the equivalent of a GCSE at A*–C.

To achieve the Level 1 Welsh Baccalaureate, you must:

- Pass the Skills Challenge Certificate at Level 1
- Pass five other subjects to at least Level 1 standard (GCSE grades D–G)