

# Elfed High School Ysgol Uwchradd Elfed



## Key Stage 4 Prospectus Prosbectws Cyfnod Allweddol 4



# Welcome Croeso

I am very pleased that you will be joining Key Stage 4 at Elfed High School in September 2015.

**I hope you find this prospectus useful. It explains the process for making choices and details of the subjects on offer.**

We will guide and support you and your parents / carers as you consider the options and help you to plan a learning pathway that is right for you. We will help you to gain the right qualifications and skills, enabling you to take the next step, whatever your career aspirations.

The courses on offer will give you employability skills, knowledge and qualifications. The experiences we offer in this booklet can give you a start for an apprenticeship in industry or business. They can help you to progress to A Levels or move forward to a vocational learning pathway.

Elfed High School is an Outstanding Learning Community where the staff and students are passionate about learning. We want you to be happy, safe and successful and to become an adult of whom your family and we are proud. We will provide the guidance and support for you to be confident and resilient with the desire to make the most of life.

**Rosemary Jones**  
Headteacher



*"I can never thank this school enough for the fantastic opportunities that it has given me."*

Former student



# Key Stage 4 at Elfed High School

Over the last seven years, standards in Key Stage 4 have improved year on year, to a position now where they are among the very the best in Wales.

These improvements across the whole of the school have meant that we are in a really strong position to guide and advise students at this crucial time.

Over the next two years, students will have the opportunity to choose three subjects that they wish to study in Years 10 and 11.

## **How do I choose?**

Before you choose, find out all you can about the possible choices. This involves looking back over your last three years in school and looking forward to the possible careers that you are interested in.

## **Which subjects have I enjoyed?**

It is likely that you have enjoyed several subjects during your three years in Key Stage 3. It is probable that you have enjoyed the content of the subject. You would be wise to make some choices based on personal experience of what you have liked.

You will also be given guidance by teachers at school based on data we have about your past performance as to which subjects might suit you best.

## **Will I get my first choice?**

We will try to provide all the subjects you choose to study. We ask you for your choices but please realise that we cannot always promise that you will get your first choice.

For example, we would not want you to choose a subject - or a combination of subjects - which the teachers, with all their experience, consider to be inappropriate for you.

We would make sure that the situation is fully explained and that you are offered a suitable alternative in which you will be successful.

## **Will I be able to cope with the work?**

You will obviously choose your subjects because you have enjoyed and succeeded in them. It is wise to avoid any subjects that you have found difficult. You will get from your courses what you put in to them. This means that you will need to work steadily both in class and at home.

## **When do I have to choose?**

Please consider all the options carefully, make your decision and return the option form on time. We will always do our best to meet your needs, but this might be more difficult if you are late returning your form.

## Care and Guidance in Key Stage 4

**During Key Stage 4, parents and carers will be kept up to date with their child's progress with interim and full reports and progress evenings.**

Throughout Years 10 and 11, the school continues to operate an open door policy and we welcome parents and carers to take the opportunity to discuss their child's progress. Simply make an appointment to meet with the Learning Director by contacting the school.

Students are grouped in Tutor Groups with a Tutor for registration, morning and afternoon. The Tutor is the first point of contact. Every student also has a personal Learning Mentor who helps to monitor progress, identify personal targets and celebrate achievement. Our Learning Coaches support students as they prepare for their examinations and their next steps.

The Learning Director is responsible for the academic progress and wellbeing of the students in Key Stage 4, while the Pastoral Support Team ensures that every child is supported and encouraged.



# How to make your choice of subjects

## Read the booklet

- Consider the options on offer
- Think about your strengths and how the options on offer will match these

## Discuss your ideas with parents and staff

- Be prepared to change your mind based on the advice that you receive

## Fill in the options form and return it

- Make sure you and your parents sign the form
- Return the form by the deadline

## Options process

- The school will consider your choices and interview every student
- The school will send you a letter to confirm your final choices in the summer term

## Learning in Key Stage 4: Compulsory Subjects

Further details on  
Page 8 to Page 14

Everyone studies the compulsory subjects because they give you a balanced education and are required by the Welsh Government.

- English (GCSE);
- Mathematics – Numeracy (GCSE);
- Mathematics (GCSE);
- Science (GCSE);
- Skills Challenge Certificate (WBQ);
- Religious Studies (Short Course GCSE);
- Welsh as a Second Language (Short Course GCSE);
- Physical Education.

## Learning in Key Stage 4: Optional Subjects

Further details on  
Page 15 to Page 23

Students will study **three** optional subjects. Each subject is delivered through three lessons every week.

Students are asked to choose four optional subjects in order of preference. We will ensure that students are able to study their first three choices, wherever possible, subject to timetabling restrictions.

**The optional subjects we offer are:**

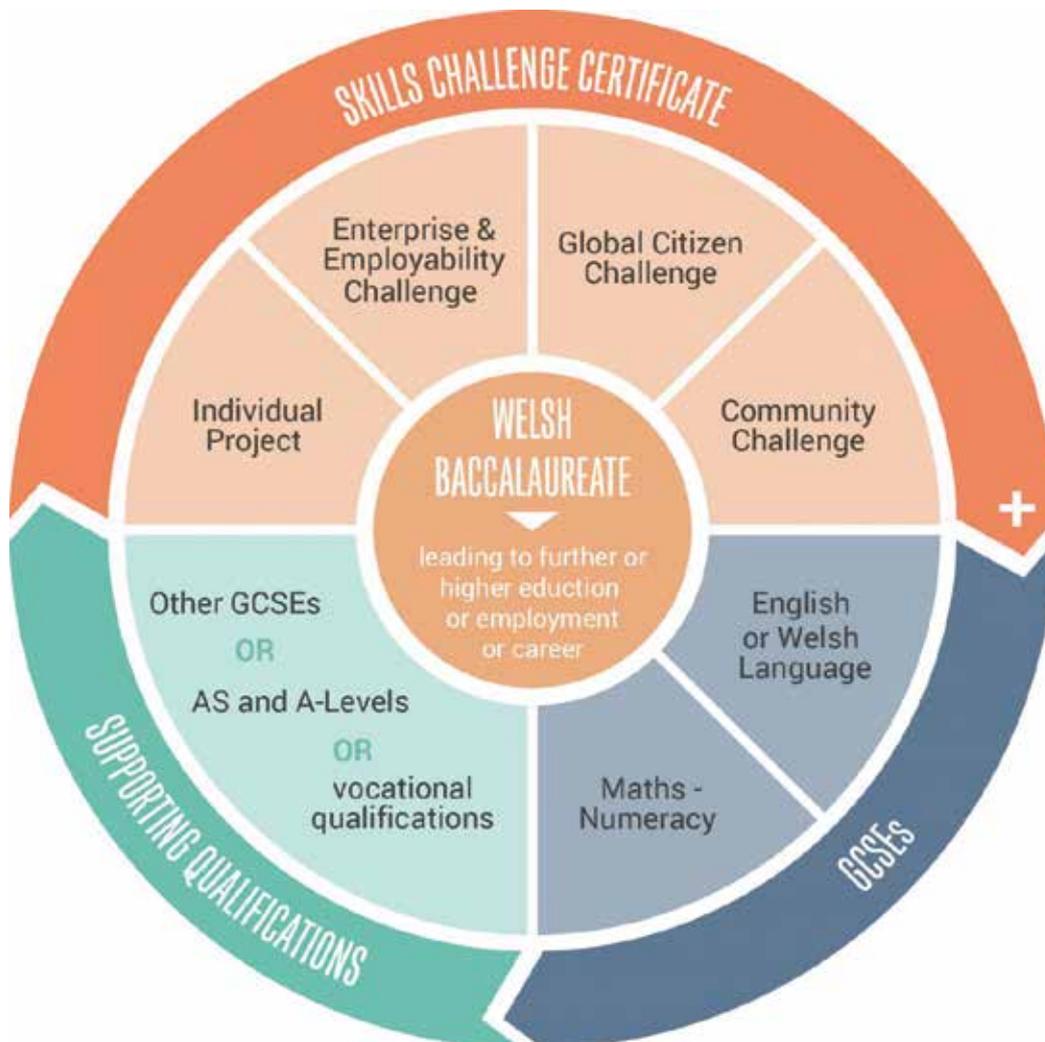
- Art and Design;
- Applied Business;
- Biology/Chemistry/Physics;
- Engineering;
- Food and Nutrition;
- French;
- Geography;
- German;
- Health and Social Care;
- History;
- Information and Communication Technology;
- Music;
- Philosophy and Ethics;
- Physical Education;
- Welsh Second Language (Full course GCSE).



Every student works towards the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification (WBQ) in Key Stage 4 to combine skills with qualifications like GCSEs and BTECs in a qualification that is valued by employers and universities.

The new revised and more rigorous Welsh Baccalaureate is based on a Skills Challenge Certificate and Supporting Qualifications.

The primary aim is to promote essential skills for employment and to provide opportunities through three Challenges and an Individual Project.



# Mathematics - Numeracy WJEC GCSE

Compulsory

Qualification: GCSE

**Mathematics - Numeracy will have an emphasis on those aspects of Mathematics which are of most relevance to learners functioning as informed twenty first century citizens.**

Solving problems in the real world and the problem-solving cycle will feature within the specification as well as the more numerical aspects of Mathematics. There will also be opportunities for learners to make informed decisions about the use of technology, the management of money and the use of statistics.

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
2 Examination Papers	One calculator	50%
	One non-calculator	50%



# Mathematics WJEC GCSE

Compulsory

Qualification: GCSE

**Mathematics will enable learners to appreciate the coherence, creativity, elegance and power of Mathematics.**

It will have an emphasis on those aspects of Mathematics required for progression into Mathematics-related disciplines or employment routes. It will feature problems set both in real-world contexts and within Mathematics itself and will encourage learners to employ and evaluate different techniques.

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
2 Examination Papers	One calculator	50%
	One non-calculator	50%



# English Language GCSE

Compulsory

**Qualification: GCSE**

**English Language will develop your ability to communicate appropriately and effectively in speech and writing and to respond imaginatively in a variety of media.**



ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
2 Examination Papers	Reading and Writing: Fiction Reading and Writing: Non fiction	80%
2 Controlled Assessments (both completed in Year 11)	Non-fiction writing 7 minute formal presentation Formal discussion	20%

# English Literature

**Qualification: GCSE**

**This course will develop your ability to analyse drama, prose and poetry texts from a range of historical and critical perspectives.**

Studying English Literature will enhance your analytical skills along with your ability to debate and construct logical arguments. You will extend your understanding of historical contexts and explore how literature has changed over time.

**Assessment method:**

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
2 Examination Papers	Prose text Different cultures Comparative unseen poetry	35%
	Heritage prose and contemporary drama	40%
2 Controlled Assessment	Shakespeare text	12.5%
	Welsh writing in English	12.5%

# Year 10 Science A

Compulsory

## Qualification: GCSE

Science A encourages learners to be inspired, motivated and challenged by following a broad, practical and worthwhile course of study.

It provides experience of how Science works, stimulating learners' curiosity and encouraging them to engage with Science in their everyday lives.



## Assessment method:

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
Biology 1 Exam	Adaption, evolution and body maintenance	25%
Chemistry 1 Exam	The Earth and its resources	25%
Physics 1 Exam	Energy, radiation and the Universe	25%
Science Controlled Assessment	Research skills, hypothesis testing and safety	25%

OR

# Applied Science

A more vocational alternative for selected students.

## Qualification:

### WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Applied Science

WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Applied Science offers a learning experience that focuses on applied learning. This involves acquiring and applying knowledge, skills and understanding that have many of the characteristics of real work.

## Assessment:

The WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Applied Science is assessed using a combination of internal and external assessment.

	ASSESSMENT	% WEIGHTING
Internal		78%
External	One hour examination	22%

### Qualification: GCSE

**Additional Science builds on the Science qualification and introduces further scientific concepts and understanding.**

GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics explore a wider range of scientific concepts and provide a more detailed knowledge and understanding.

### Assessment method:

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
Biology 2 Exam	Cells and metabolism, digestion and respiration, biodiversity	25%
Chemistry 2 Exam	Atoms, bonding and chemical change	25%
Physics 2 Exam	Electricity, forces and nuclear physics	25%
Science Controlled Assessment	Investigation	25%



# Religious Studies

Compulsory

**Qualification: GCSE Short Course (0.5)**

**The world is made up of people from every walk of life; the rich, the poor, some religious, some not; this course helps you to understand people, religion and culture from a Christian and Muslim perspective.**

Studying this course provides you with an in depth understanding of some major issues faced by Christian and Muslims at different stages throughout their life. It is both interesting and thought provoking.

**Assessment method:**

The course is split into four units and is assessed by one exam which will be sat in the summer of Year 11.

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
1	<b>Relationships</b> What do love, commitment, marriage and divorce mean today?	25%
2	<b>Our World</b> How did we get here? What are the origins of the Universe?	25%
3	<b>Believing in God</b> Why do so many people believe in God?	25%
4	<b>Is it Fair?</b> What is justice and equality?	25%

# Welsh (Second Language) | Cymraeg (Ail Iaith)

Compulsory

**Qualification: GCSE Short Course (0.5)**

**You will be given the opportunity to develop skills relevant to the workplace and social situations and become more effective in your everyday communication in Welsh.**

You will learn how Welsh is used in modern Wales as well as nurturing a positive attitude towards the language and culture.

**Assessment method:**

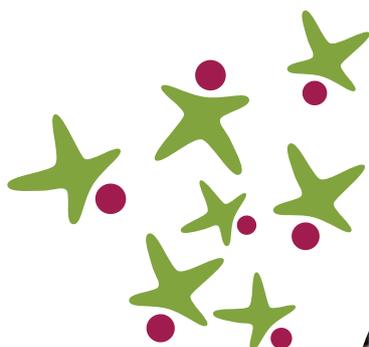
ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
Unit 1	<b>Written Paper</b> (Higher and Foundation Tier - 1 hour)	50%
Unit 2	<b>Controlled Assessment</b> (Tiered- 3 pieces)	50%

**Physical Education is a compulsory subject within the National Curriculum. All students are encouraged to participate in practical lessons unless there is genuine medical reason. Full kit should be worn in all lessons.**

Students will have the opportunity to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of Physical Education through health, fitness and well-being activities.

We offer a large variety of practical activities to suit all abilities. These activities include: Handball, Life Saving, Aerobics, Yoga, Circuit Training and much more.

All lessons are fun and enjoyable and offer relaxation and relief from academic studies.



**Careers and the World of Work (CWW) is concerned with the relationships between young people, their learning and the world of work.**

### **It helps you to:**

- Explore the attitudes and values required for employability;
- Make effective career choices;
- Become entrepreneurial;
- Flourish in a variety of work settings;
- Become motivated, set long term goals and overcome barriers;
- See relevance of your studies to your life and work;
- Develop key skills and other skills required of employers;
- Prepare for the challenges, choices and responsibilities of work and adult life.

### **Work experience is intended to:**

- Introduce you to the world of work through a five day placement;
- Develop your personal, social and key skills;
- Develop the skill of team work and encourage independence.

**The Personal and Social Education (PSE) programme provides learning experiences in which you can develop and apply personal and social skills, explore personal attributes and values.**

### **The themes in the PSE Framework are:**

- Active citizenship;
- Health and emotional well-being;
- Moral and spiritual development;
- Preparing for lifelong learning;
- Sustainable development and global citizenship.

# Art and Design

Optional

## Qualification: GCSE

This course will provide you with opportunities to develop skills which will enable you to enter Arts related occupations.

It could lead to further study at colleges or even through apprenticeships in Art/Craft/Design. You will be shown how to develop imaginative ideas and create personal artwork to a high standard. You will gain experience of using a range of tools, processes and techniques, making links with the work of artists and designers. Visiting galleries will help you gain cultural and contextual understanding.

## Assessment method:

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
Candidate Portfolio	A coherent body of work produced over 4 terms	60%
Controlled Assessment (Terminal Exam)	10 hours over 2 days practical task in March of Year 11	40%

# Applied Business GCSE

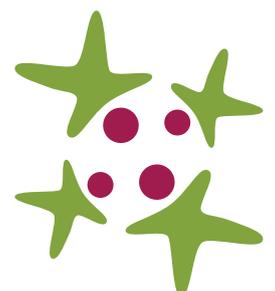
Optional

## Qualification: GCSE

GCSE qualifications in Applied Business are designed to:

- Actively engage students in the study of business and to develop them as effective and independent learners, and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds;
- Allow students to develop and apply their business knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary issues in a range of local, national and global contexts;
- Enable students to appreciate the range of perspectives of different business stakeholders;
- Enable students to consider the extent to which business activity can be ethical and sustainable.

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
Unit 1	<b>Investigating How Businesses Work</b> (Internally assessed)	60%
Unit 2	<b>Financial Records</b> (Externally assessed)	40%



## Qualification: GCSE

**Engineering enables students to develop skills and understanding which will be of use generally and as part of a progressive career path leading to further technical or academic engineering qualifications.**

There is emphasis on learning by doing, so practical skills and the ability to work safely are extremely important.

The materials used will include metals and plastics. Computer Aided Design and Manufacture are also used as part of the course. The course has a 60% controlled assessment in order to recognise the importance of practical work within this subject. There is a making and communication element and a design folio to complete.

## Assessment Method:

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
Unit 1	Written Paper	40%
Unit 2	Coursework	60%



# Food and Nutrition

Optional

**Qualification: GCSE**

**Food and Nutrition (Home Economics) is a practical subject.**

Candidates develop and demonstrate their food preparation and handling skills through practical activities, whilst applying relevant knowledge and understanding of the topic areas.

**Assessment method:**

The course is split into three sections. You will complete two controlled assessments, one in Year 10 and one in Year 11 which add up to 60%; the external exam is worth 40% and is taken at the end of Year 11.

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
Controlled Assessment	YEAR 10	20%
Controlled Assessment	YEAR 11	40%
External Exam	YEAR 11	40%

# French

Optional

**Qualification: GCSE**

**In 2014 A\*-C results were over 90% and A\*-A grades over 60%.**

Languages can be helpful in many different jobs and many employers reward people with languages with extra salary. Experts believe we could double our trade with Europe if we overcome language barriers.

Through the course you will study: Personal and Social life, Local area, World of Work and wider world. You will also have to opportunity to participate in the trip to France every two years.

**Assessment method:**

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
Listening	External Exam (35/45 minutes)	20%
Reading	External Exam (35/45 minutes)	20%
Speaking	Controlled Assessment	30%
Writing	Controlled Assessment	30%

# Geography

Optional

## Qualification: GCSE

**The world in which we live is likely to change more in the next 50 years than it has ever done before.**

Our role in that change is more important than ever. Geography explains the changes and helps to prepare people. It is a subject about now and the future. Geography gives a balanced viewpoint which is a good preparation for the world of work.

## Assessment method:

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
Unit 1	Written Exam Paper (1 hour 45 mins)	40%
Unit 2	Written Exam Paper (1 hour 15 mins)	35%
	Decision Making Exercise (Classroom Based)	15%
	Fieldwork Report	10%

# German

Optional

## Qualification: GCSE

**Universities and employers value the communication skills and confidence which language learners possess.**

60% of UK trade is with non-English speaking countries. Nearly three quarters of the British public think everyone should speak a foreign language. Only one third actually do. During the course you will have the opportunity to travel to Germany and practise what you have learnt!

## Assessment method:

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
Listening	External Exam (35/45 minutes)	20%
Reading	External Exam (35/45 minutes)	20%
Speaking	Controlled Assessment	30%
Writing	Controlled Assessment	30%



# Health and Social Care

Optional

## Qualification: Cambridge Nationals

**Cambridge Nationals are vocationally related qualifications that take an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment.**

The subject leads towards careers within Health, Social and Early Years settings. (Nursing, teaching, childcare, social work, occupational health etc.)

### Assessment method:

Candidates are assessed through a combination of controlled assessment tasks and a written paper. There are eight units in total. One unit is a written paper of one hour in Year 11 with seven controlled assessment tasks throughout Years 10 and 11.

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
Written Paper 1 hour	Essential values of care for use with individuals in care settings	50%
Controlled Assessment	Communicating and working with individuals in health, social care and early years settings	50%

# History

Optional

## Qualification: GCSE

**History is widely regarded as a useful qualification for a variety of Higher Education Courses and is viewed very highly by employers.**

It also provides an excellent foundation for popular careers including journalism, Law and business. You will be able to study a subject which will encourage you to put forward a well-argued case and make up your own mind.

### Assessment method:

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
External Exam taken in Year 10	Changes in Crime and Punishment 1530 - Present day	25%
External Exam	Germany in transition 1924-1947 (Nazi Germany)	25%
External Exam	Development in Sport, Leisure and Tourism 1900 - Present day	25%
Controlled Assessment	Internal Assessment WWII	25%

### Qualification:

Cambridge National Certificate in ICT

From personal computers to smart phones, from apps to websites, all of our lives, every day are enhanced through the use of ICT.

The Cambridge National Certificate in ICT reflects this and will provide students with a solid foundation for understanding and applying this subject in their future working lives.

### Assessment Method:

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
Written Paper 1 hour	Understanding Computer Systems	25%
Centre Assessed Controlled Assessment	Using ICT to create business solutions	25%
Centre Assessed Controlled Assessment	Creating an interactive product using multimedia components	25%
Centre Assessed Controlled Assessment	Creating dynamic products using sound and vision	25%

### Qualification: GCSE

Music is a largely practically based course in which you perform, compose and appraise music in a variety of styles.

The course includes rock and pop, art music, folk, musical theatre, film music, experimental music and jazz.



### Assessment Method:

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
UNIT 1 Performing Music	<b>Two</b> contrasting performances. One solo and one as a member of an ensemble.	30%
UNIT 2 Composing Music	<b>Two</b> contrasting compositions. Total playing time of <b>both</b> compositions should be at least 5 minutes.	30%
UNIT 3 Appraising Music	Written Examination (40%): 1.5 hour <b>listening/written</b> examination based on unprepared musical extracts under each of the Areas of Study and an evaluation of a performance/composition undertaken during the course.	40%

# Philosophy and Ethics

Optional

## Qualification: GCSE

The GCSE in Philosophy and Ethics encourages you to think about life, the world and your place in it. It is a fascinating course that will help you look at things differently.

We study a wide range of topics to enable you to find answers to many of the key questions people want answered. The course is ideal for people who wonder about life, its meaning and their place within the world.

## Assessment method:

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
1 hour exam Summer Year 10	Beliefs about Deity Religious and Spiritual Experience	25%
1 hour exam Summer Year 11	Good and Evil Religion, Reason and Revelation	25%
1 hour exam Summer Year 11	Religion and Human Relationships Religion and Medical Ethics	25%
1 hour exam Summer Year 11	Religion, Peace and Justice Religion and Equality	25%

# Physical Education

Optional

## Qualification: GCSE

This course will develop your knowledge and performance in a number of activities.

You are able to develop pathways to future employment including fitness coaching, Physical Education teacher and personal trainer. Studying the theory of healthy active lifestyles you will learn the benefits of exercise. Practical activities will include football, rugby, netball, rounders, tennis, handball, dance, gymnastics and fitness.

## Assessment method:

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
Theory	Healthy Active Lifestyle Healthy Active Body	40%
Practical	4 activities offered by candidate At least 2 as a player/participant May offer to be assessed as an official/leader	60%
Analysis of Performance	Rules/terminology, Observe and analyse performance, Evaluate performance or Plan strategies	

### Qualification: GCSE

GCSE courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics enable learners to further develop their knowledge and understanding of the separate sciences.



This is the ideal option for students wishing to study Sciences at 'AS' and 'A2' level.

### Assessment Method:

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
Biology 1	Adaptation, evolution and body maintenance	25%
Biology 2	Cells and metabolism, digestion and respiration, biodiversity	25%
Biology 3	Transport in plants and animals, homeostasis, microorganisms and disease	25%
Biology Controlled Assessment	Investigation	25%

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
Chemistry 1	The Earth and its resources	25%
Chemistry 2	Atoms, bonding and chemical charge	25%
Chemistry 3	The chemical industry and analysis	25%
Chemistry Controlled Assessment	Investigation	25%

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
Physics 1	Energy, radiation and the Universe	25%
Physics 2	Electricity, forces and nuclear physics	25%
Physics 3	Electromagnetism, waves, kinetic theory and nucleosynthesis	25%
Physics Controlled Assessment	Investigation	25%

### Qualification: GCSE

Students will be given the opportunity to develop skills relevant to the workplace and social situations and become more effective in their everyday communication in Welsh.

We will work towards an awareness of how Welsh is used in modern Wales as well as nurturing a positive attitude towards the language and culture.

### Assessment method:

ASSESSMENT	DETAILS	% WEIGHTING
Unit 1	Written Paper - Higher and Foundation Tier (1 hour)	25%
Unit 2	Controlled Assessment (3 tiered piece)	25%
Unit 3	Oral Exam with reading element (10 minutes)	25%
Unit 4	Written Paper - Higher and Foundation tier (1 hour)	25%





**Outstanding  
Learning  
Community**

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