



Year 9 Options Process 2025-26

Information Evening
Monday 3rd November 2025



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Made for Wales

What qualifications are being reformed?

As part of Qualifications Wales' 'Qualified for the future' project, WJEC will be developing new Made-for-Wales GCSEs, alongside a small number of additional qualifications across three phases. »

Made for Wales.
Ready for the world.

Wave 1 First teaching 2025

New GCSEs:

- Art and Design
- Business
- Computer Science
- Core Cymraeg
- Cymraeg Language and Literature (Single Award)
- Cymraeg Language and Literature (Double Award)
- Drama
- English Language and Literature (Single Award)
- English Language and Literature (Double Award)
- Food and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Mathematics and Numeracy (Double Award)
- Music
- Religious Studies
- Spanish

Non-GCSE qualification

- Level 2 Additional Core Cymraeg

wjec.co.uk/madeforwales

Wave 2 First teaching 2026

New GCSEs:

- Dance
- Design and Technology
- Digital Media and Film
- Digital Technology (Updated GCSE)
- Health and Social Care, and Childcare
- Integrated Science (Single Award)
- Physical Education and Health
- Social Studies
- The Sciences (Double Award)

Non-GCSE qualification

- Level 2 Additional Mathematics

Wave 3 First teaching 2027

New qualifications:

- VCSEs (Vocational Certificate of Secondary Education)
- Foundation qualifications
- Skills Suite:
 - Skills for Work
 - Skills for Life
 - Personal Project

Compulsory Subjects

Examination subjects:

- English Language and Literature Double Award
- Mathematics and Numeracy Double Award
- Science GCSE Double Award* (GCSE Triple Award – uses 1 option)
- Core Cymraeg

Non-examination subjects

- Religion & Philosophy
- Games
- Health & Wellbeing

** New Specification in 24/25*

GCSE The Sciences (Double Award) New Spec from 2026 onwards

Pupils study each of the three disciplines of Physics, Chemistry and Biology

Contains most up to date/relevant scientific knowledge and examples

Provides 2 GCSE qualifications in Science

The qualification lays firm foundations for all students and is a **suitable pathway for those wishing to go on to study the sciences at A Level and beyond**

Triple Science (2016 - Old Spec)

Pupils achieve a separate GCSE in Physics, Chemistry and Biology

Uses up 1 option column

Qualification is not a new, updated qualification as is the case with the double award. The Triple Science qualifications are currently under consultation with WJEC/JCQ. This will decide whether it is possible to adapt the existing qualification to bring it in line with the new double award qualification, or whether to leave it with the old content and structure.



Optional GCSE Subjects

- Art & Design
- Business
- Computer Science
- Digital Technology*
- Drama
- Design & Technology:
Product Design*
- French
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Physical Education*
- Religious Studies

** New Specification in 25/26*



Vocational and other options

- Skills Challenge
- Qualifications Plus
- SWEET



Information on Subjects

School Website:

Information Package and Options Website



Cardiff High School

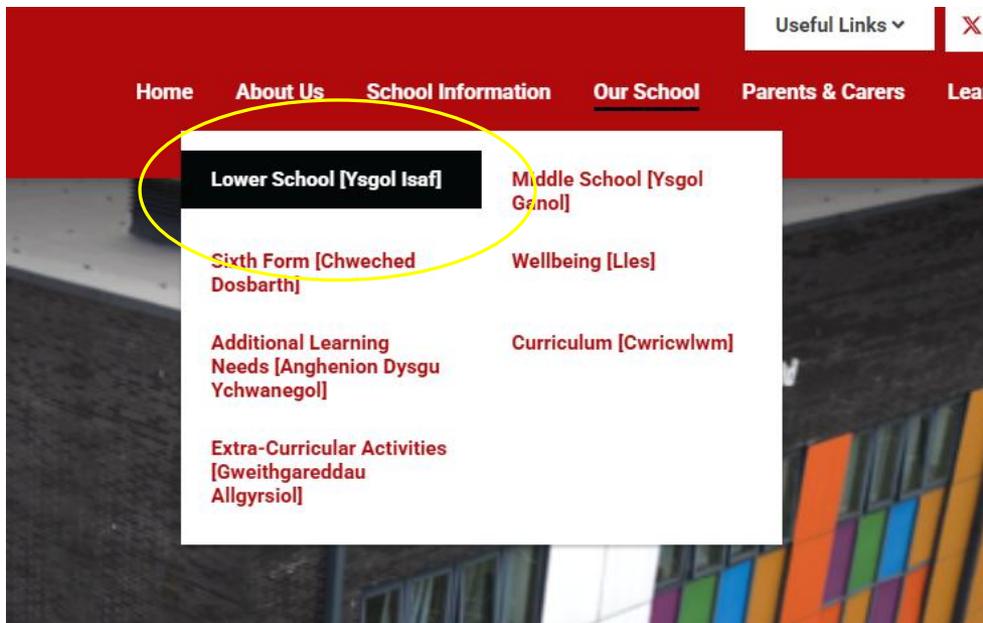
[Home](#) [About Us](#) [School Information](#) [Our School](#) [Parents & Carers](#) [Learning Links For Pupils](#)

Useful Links ▾



Information on Subjects

School Website: Information Package and Options Website





Information on Subjects

School Website: Information Package and Options Website

[HOME](#) » [OUR SCHOOL](#) » [LOWER SCHOOL \[YSGOL ISAF\]](#)

Lower School [Ysgol Isaf]

About Lower School

Lower School is made up of Years 7, 8 and 9. The Lower School team consists of the Head of Lower School, an Achievement Leader for each year group and a Wellbeing and Achievement Officer. To find out how to contact the Lower School team, please follow [this link](#).

A downloadable copy of the slides used in the 'Welcome to Lower School' meeting on Monday 29 September 2025 can be found below.

Further Information

- [Class Charts Guidance For Parents and Carers](#)
- [Year 9 Options Process](#)

Welcome to Lower School Evening 29 September 2025 Slide Deck





Year 9 Options Information November 2025

(Please scroll down)



Cardiff
High
School

Ysgol
Uwchradd
Caerdydd

Introduction

In Year 10 and 11 your timetable is made up of compulsory subjects which everyone does, and your 'option subjects' which you will choose to study.

All pupils will study ...



Compulsory Subjects

Examination subjects:

- English Language and Literature Double Award
- Mathematics and Numeracy Double Award
- Science GCSE Double Award* (GCSE Triple Award – uses 1 option)
- Core Cymraeg

Non-examination subjects

- Religion & Philosophy
- Games
- Health & Wellbeing

* New Specification in 24/25



Optional GCSE Subjects

- Art & Design
- Business
- Computer Science
- Digital Technology*
- Drama
- Design & Technology:
Product Design*
- French
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Physical Education*
- Religious Studies

* New Specification in 25/26

You will pick four option subjects



Gyrfa Cymru
Careers Wales

Careers Wales

You don't always have to take a certain subject to get into a particular career – but there are exceptions you need to be aware of.

If you're considering a career in languages or related to art and design, you will most likely need to have those GCSEs to progress. But subjects such as business or psychology, can often be started at A level (or equivalent) and even at degree level.

Maths and English GCSEs are asked for by all universities and the majority of employers, but all your GCSEs give you the best foundation for education, training and employment.

Careers Wales website have an A- Z on career ideas and information on GCSEs you would need for certain jobs.

[Careers Wales Job Information](#)

As part of the curriculum you will also have lessons in Physical Education (Games), Religion & Philosophy and Health and Wellbeing. Personal and Social Education is part of Health and Wellbeing, which includes Careers Education and Work Related Education.

[English Language & Literature Double Award](#)

[Mathematics & Numeracy Double Award](#)

[Science Double Award](#)

[Core Cymraeg](#)

English Language

The study of English Language and Literature is an integral part of the curriculum. The study of English Language and Literature provides pupils with the opportunity to explore a range of contexts, as well as enhancing their understanding of the world. It is integral to pupils' successes after GCSE.

Core Cymraeg

A qualification in Welsh can be significantly advantageous in the pursuit of all careers in Wales and beyond. Major companies and councils must have a bilingual policy and students at Cardiff High School are able to gain a good understanding of both the language and culture of Wales. Many adults have to attend courses in order to address the above and have regretted not following a Welsh course during their time in school.

The Welsh Government have set a target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050 and your child could form part of that target as they will all be sitting this qualification which focuses on the 4 main skills - speaking, listening, reading and writing. The Welsh language can open doors to a wealth of opportunities and culture - films, music, theatre to name just a few. O bydded i'r heniaith barhau.

Structure of GCSE:

Unit 1	Speaking & Listening	NEA	25%
Unit 2	Speaking & Listening	NEA	25%
Unit 3	Preparing for the Future	Exam 1hr30	25%
Unit 4	Literature & Creative	Exam 1hr30	25%

GCSE Business

In GCSE Business students are introduced to opportunity to develop a wide range of skills, decisions and to prepare them for further study or Economics which will be very beneficial. Management, Human Resource Management

Business is a subject for students to find out how work and have an understanding of what will be the subject. We encourage our students to share their going into the world of business then this is the

Structure of GCSE:

- Unit 1 Introduction to the Business World
- Unit 2 Key Business Considerations
- Unit 3 Business Strategies for Success
- Unit 4 Business Creations

GCSE Geography

Geography is an education in life! Geography is a fascinating and relevant GCSE helping you to make sense of what you see in the world around you. Situations.

Should you study geography is excellent for

Structure of

- Unit 1 C
- Unit 2 D
- Unit 3 C
- Unit 4 S

GCSE History

As a department we feel that learning and studying History is a very important part of our understanding of the world we live in today.

History gives students not only a thorough understanding of the wider world they are living in but also important skills which are regarded highly by Universities and employers. In short, History at GCSE level is a demanding yet very interesting and rewarding subject, particularly in terms of results and overall learning. It can certainly be an asset to any future career.

Structure of GCSE:

Unit 1	An in-depth study of Welsh history	Exam 1hr	30%
Unit 2	An in-depth study of European and/or World History	NEA	20%
Unit 3	A study of a period in world history	Exam 1hr	30%
Unit 4	A changing society	NEA	20%



Information on Subjects

Health & Wellbeing Package (covered in form time)

Taster sessions for new subjects: Drama & Business

Careers Wales website (linked on Options Website)



Gyrfa Cymru
Careers Wales

Information on Subjects

Older students

Family and friends

Subject teachers

Form tutor

Achievement Leader



How do students make their choices?

A google form link will be sent to Hwb email addresses at the beginning of December.





Are these choices set in stone?

No. However...

Initial option choices are used to design the curriculum model for next academic year.

We cannot guarantee that all subjects will run or that all combinations of subjects will be possible.

There will be an opportunity to request changes later in the year and we will do our best to accommodate where possible.



Year 9 Options Timeline 2025/26

Form Time

Health and Wellbeing sessions covering

Form Time

Dedicated time to explore information package and discuss option choices with form tutor and careers advisor

Monday 3rd Novem

Parents Information
Outline of entire
Information package or

Friday 12th December 25

Deadline to complete GCSE options

information on how to make GCSE
choices online

Form Time

Dedicated time to complete GCSE
choices online with form tutor support



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