



# Year 9 Options Process 2024-25

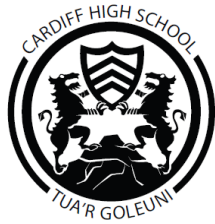
**Information Evening**  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

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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](http://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

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## 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

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

*\* New Specification in 24/25*



# Vocational and other options

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- Skills Challenge
- Qualifications Plus
- SWEET
- Junior Apprenticeship at CAVC



# Information on Subjects

School Website: Information Package and Options Website

Cardiff High School  
Tua'r Goleuni - Towards the Light

Cardiff High School  
Ysgol Uwchradd  
Caerdydd

Home  
Hafan

About Us  
Amdanom ni

News  
Newyddion

Lower School  
Ysgol Isaf

CHS Curriculum for Wales Rollout  
Welcome to Lower School  
Year 9 Options

Middle School

Communication Hub  
Canolfan Cyfathrebu

Year 6 Open Evening 2024

Admissions  
Mynediad



# Year 9 Options Information November 2024

*(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
- Economics
- French\*
- Geography\*
- History\*
- Media
- Music\*
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies\*

*\* New Specification in 24/25*

**You will pick four option subjects**

There are also vocational subjects available: Skills challenge, Qualifications Plus, SWEET and the Junior Apprenticeship at CAVS. Discuss these options with your teachers and the achievement team if you are interested in finding out more.



Gyrfa Cymru  
Careers Wales

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## Careers Wales

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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 work and have an understanding of what will subject. We encourage our students to share 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 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

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Health & Wellbeing Package (covered in form time)

Taster sessions for new subjects: Media, Drama, Business Economics

Careers Wales website (linked on Options Website)



**Gyrfa Cymru**  
**Careers Wales**

# Information on Subjects

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Older students

Family and friends

Subject teachers

Form tutor

Achievement Leader



# How do students make their choices?

## SIMS Options Online



### Options Online: A Guide for Students



SIMS Options Online is the platform that is used to complete your subject choices for next year.

The first stage of this process is when you make an indication of what you would like to study. This information will be used to plan your curriculum for next year.

Please note that some subjects may not run if there is insufficient combinations of subjects may not be possible in the final year. There will be an opportunity to request changes to final subjects, but it cannot be guaranteed that all changes will be possible.

#### Registering Your Account

##### Step 1 – Receiving Your Invitation

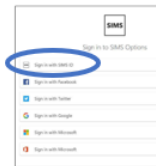
You will receive a registration email to your Hwb account containing a unique invitation code. You will need this code to register your SIMS account. If you have not yet received a registration email and if it is not there, let your form teacher know.

##### Step 2 – Setting Up Your Account

1. Click the link in the email to be directed to the registration page:



2. When asked to choose a provider, select 'Sign in with SIMS'.



3. Enter your Hwb email address as your username and add the invitation code (from the email) if prompted:

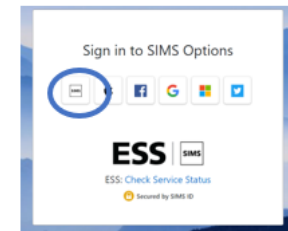
4. You will be asked to confirm your date of birth:

5. You must set up a memorable password (which must meet the criteria displayed on the page)

You are now registered.

#### The Options Online Website

1. To begin, click the link <https://www.sims-options.co.uk>
2. You will be given several options to sign in – click the SIMS icon on the far left of the screen



3. Enter your Hwb email address as your username and the password you set in registration. Press **enter**.
4. Your Options Online form should now load in front of you. You may select **four subjects** from the list (in order of preference) and **two reserve subjects**.

Any problems, please speak to your form teacher.



# Are these choices set in stone?

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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 and we will do our best to accommodate where possible.



# Year 9 Options Timeline 2024/25



**Mon 4th November 24**

**Form Time**

Health and Wellbeing sessions covering advice and tips on choosing GCSE options and beyond

**Tues 5th November 24**

Year 9 Options Launch Assembly  
Introduction to Options Process  
Outline of the curriculum and GCSE choices available to students

**Thurs 28th November 24**

Options Online Assembly  
Information on how to set up online account and make GCSE choices

**Thurs 28th November 24**

Options Online Assembly  
Information on how to set up online account and make GCSE choices

**Form Time**

Dedicated time to set up Options Online account  
Form tutor support to complete GCSE choices

**Fri 13th December 24**

Deadline to complete GCSE options choices on Options Online account



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**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

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