



12th January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 9 Option choices

I am writing to outline the option process your child will experience over the next few weeks and the guidance that will be available to support them through the process. For the first time in their school life, learners will have a choice in the subjects they study. These are very important decisions that will influence their academic outcomes at the end of Year 11 as well as career choices in the future.

What subjects will students study in Year 10 and 11?

Some subjects that learners have studied will continue into Key Stage 4 and will lead to GCSE or equivalent qualifications. There are four compulsory core subjects; Mathematics, English, Science and Welsh. In addition, it is a statutory requirement that students receive Relationships and sexuality education (RSE) and core PE lessons until the age of sixteen. All students complete the NCFE Equality and Diversity qualification in RE lessons. Learners, however, can also choose to study GCSE RE or GCSE PE within the option choices. All students will study the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification, worth one GCSE, as part of their curriculum.

Students will also have the opportunity to select three option subjects to study for the next two years. These will include subjects that your child has studied previously, along with subjects only offered from Year 10.

Over the coming weeks we will deliver a programme of advice and support so that your child is equipped to make an informed choice about their future studies and career plans. This programme has been adapted this academic year to reflect the development of the Curriculum for Wales and the new Qualifications for Wales. For more information, please follow this link:

[National Qualifications: GCSEs | Qualifications Wales](#)

Careers Wales support

Careers Wales offer support materials and quizzes to help learners and parents through the options process. Our schools' Careers Advisors are available if you have any careers related queries and can be contacted through email at:

debbie.james@careerswales.gov.wales

nicola.edwards@careerswales.gov.wales

The careers Wales website has a raft of links that will give careers advice and information relevant to future studies and career plans and is definitely worth a look. These are a good introduction:

[Year 8 and 9 Options \(Pupils\)](#)

[Year 8 and 9 Options \(Parents\)](#)



Year 9 Option Program 2026

Week Commencing 12th January

Pupils will have an outline of the Option Program during assembly.

Week Commencing 19th January: Careers Wales Support

Link sent to parents & pupils to the CW website. [Careers Wales | Careers Wales](#).

Pupils can complete the Career Match Quiz, explore the Buzz Quiz and the Subjects and Jobs links.

Wednesday 21st January: Options Assembly

Assembly presentation on the option program, outlining future decisions, support and guidance available.

Thursday 22nd January onwards: Course Presentations

Course presentations will take place during tutor time and assemblies.

Monday 2nd February: Year 9 Options/Progress Evening (15:30 – 18:00)

Options presentation, Subject Fayre for options courses and Progress Evening for core subjects.

Tuesday 3rd February: Options free choice opens

Link sent to pupils to complete the “free choice” option form. Pupils select top three subjects and two backup choices. The starting point for the creation of the option columns.

Friday 13th February: Options free choice closes

Monday 23rd February: Final Option Choice window opens

Link to pupils and parents with updated option columns. Pupils will select one option and a backup from each of the three columns. The window is open for 2 weeks.

Monday 9th March: Final Option Choices window closes

Week Commencing Monday 23rd March: Options choices confirmed

Confirmation of choices to parents/pupils

Friday 18th September: End of the three-week course trial period

No further course changes to be made.

We are looking forward to working in partnership with you to ensure that your child makes the best possible choices as they progress into the next phase of their education. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you in advance for supporting your child in choosing their Key Stage 4 options.

Yours sincerely

Mr I Matthey
Assistant Headteacher