



Which way now?



Year 9

Learning Pathways

2022



Dear Year 9 Parent/Carer,

It gives me great pleasure to present the following guide for potential courses being offered at St. Brigid's school, for teaching from September 2022.

The compulsory curriculum which the majority of pupils must follow at St. Brigid's is as follows:

GCSE Religious Studies, GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature, GCSE Numeracy, GCSE Mathematics, GCSE Separate Science, GCSE Welsh, Core Physical Education, PSE and the Welsh Baccalaureate.

This compulsory curriculum takes up 19 hours of the 25 hours available for the teaching week. The remaining 6 hours allow you to choose three option subjects, one subject from each option block. These chosen option subjects will each take up 2 hours. The Final Option Blocks offered will be formulated from the initial pupil survey made by you in January 2022.

In making your choice of subjects the following points ought to be considered:

- ❖ **It is important to know the facts about each subject. The majority of the subjects are already familiar to you but one should seek information about the new subjects that appear in the columns for the first time. Information about subjects will be available on Careers Wales Online.**
- ❖ **Select subjects that you like and enjoy. Do not be influenced by your friends.**
- ❖ **Select appropriate subjects for a particular career you may have in mind.**
- ❖ **Select subjects in which you are making good progress. Ask your subject teachers for assistance in making your decision.**
- ❖ **Do not select subjects merely because they are easy or novel. It may be necessary for you to select a subject you dislike or find difficult in order to gain suitable qualifications for your future.**
- ❖ **You will follow the subjects you choose up to Year 11 Final Examinations, once the courses have started, changes can only be allowed at my discretion.**

I look forward to meeting you and your parents/carers at Options Evening.

Mrs. Leah Crimes

BA (Hons), PGCE, MA, MCCT

Headteacher/Pennaeth



Confused?

No-one expects you to plan out your whole life just yet, but choosing your options for Year 10 and 11 is a great opportunity to have a serious think about what you would like to do. There is no need to rush into any decisions as you will be given plenty of guidance.

This booklet outlines what **your** Learning Pathways could be and gives **you** lots of details about the kind of courses **you** can do.

Learning Pathways are the learning experiences of each individual 14-19 year old. It consists of the compulsory subjects and the choice of up to four options from which the learner selects with support and guidance. However, there may also be opportunities to take more or select alternative courses to suit individual needs.

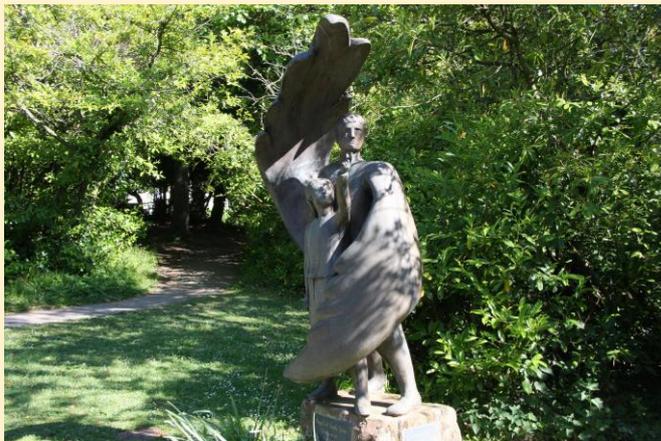
Along with the information that you have been given in school, the details contained in this booklet will enable you to decide on your Learning Pathways for Years 10 and 11.

Advice for parents and carers- How can you help

During Year 9 your son or daughter will have to make important choices that could affect their future career. The choice is theirs, but plenty of support is on offer from subject staff, form tutors, the learning coach and Careers Adviser to help them decide. No matter what level your child achieves, there will be something to suit them. You can talk to subject staff at the Options Parents' Evening.

There are many ways parents/guardians can help, here are just a few:

- Discuss your son's or daughter's future career ideas and encourage them to consider all the options.
- Discuss their ideas with staff at Options Parents' Evening.
- Talk to subject teachers about your son's or daughter's progress at school.
- Support them with their school work and encourage them to reach their full potential.
- Encourage them to be realistic and ensure they have a back-up plan should their original plans fall through.



Learning Pathways



- A Balancing Act

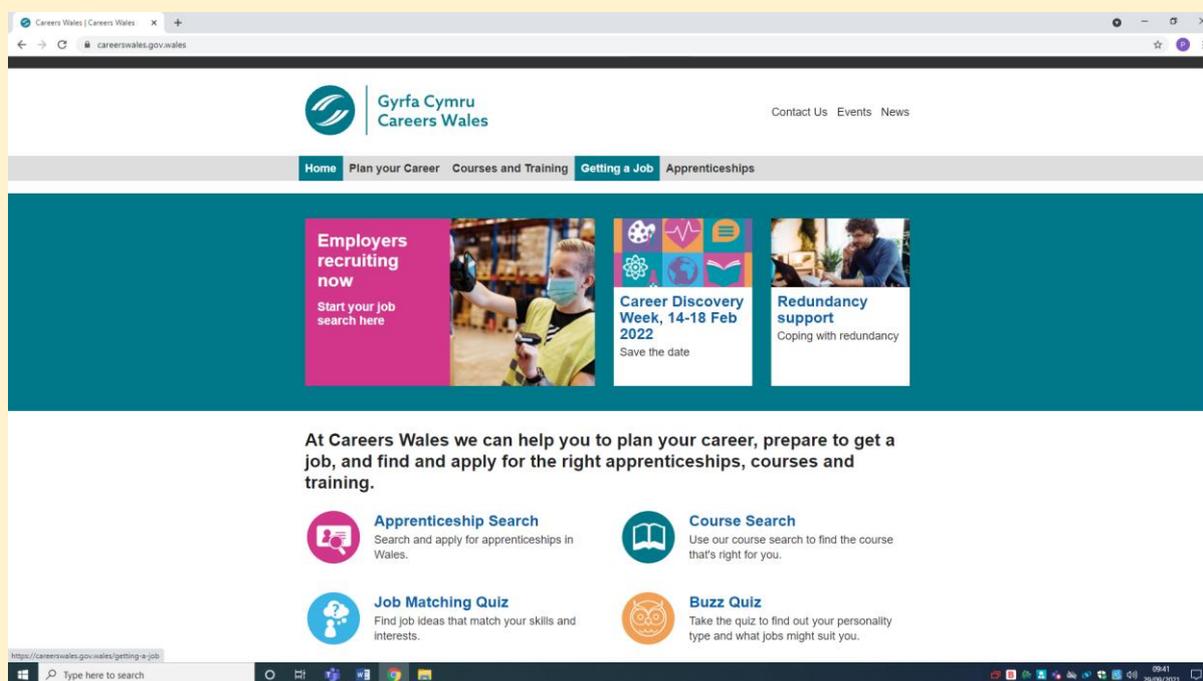
Whether it has always been your ambition to be a helicopter pilot, doctor, ornithologist or a lawyer; or if you would really like to be the next Professor Brian Cox or JK Rowling, the chances are that you will change your mind **lots of times** before you hit the career that is totally right for you.



Our School - St. Brigid's.

What is Careers Wales Online?

Careers Wales Online (www.careerswales.com) is a website developed by Careers Wales as a comprehensive ‘one-stop shop’ for careers information and guidance.



The Process for choosing your options:

- **Introduction to the Option Process (Dr.Humberstone-DHT) –Nov 2021**
- **Taster Lessons – Jan 2022**
- **Initial Pupil Survey -Jan 2022**
- **Year 9 Options Evening – 10th Feb 2022**
- **Opportunity to discuss option choices with a senior member of staff – February and March 2022**
- **Final Option Choices deadline – March 2022 (date TBC)**

GCSE and Vocational – What is the difference?

At St. Brigid's School, we offer a wide range of courses to cater for all abilities and interests. Pupils will gain grades in the different qualifications, but all the qualifications are classed as either Level 2 or Level 1. There is a limit of 40% of courses that can be taken that are non-GCSE.

Level 2 = grades A* → C (or equivalent)
Level 1 = grades D → G (or equivalent)

Courses on offer in Key Stage 4 include the following types of qualification:

GCSE Courses

The GCSE qualification mainly involves studying the theory of a subject, combined with some investigative work. Some subjects involve practical work. All GCSE's are assessed through examination and in many cases controlled assessment. Controlled assessment has replaced coursework for GCSEs with internal assessment; it accounts for 25% or 60% of the qualification.

Controlled assessment is a form of internal assessment which includes control levels at three points: 1.task setting 2.task taking 3.task marking

Vocational Courses

Vocational qualifications are the equivalent of GCSEs. They are suitable for pupils who wish to focus on a work-related vocational qualification or work area. Pupils may take Vocational courses alongside GCSEs.

Gold Duke of Edinburgh group – Lake District



Compulsory Subjects





GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES



What will I learn?

All candidates study Unit 1: Religion and Philosophical Themes in Year 10. They will study Christian and Jewish core beliefs, teachings and practices. They will also study philosophical issues of life, death, good and evil on these religions. In Year 11, candidates study Unit 2: Religion and Ethical Themes from Christianity and Judaism.

How will I learn?

Lessons will involve a variety of activities to enable students of all learning styles to access the course. Good debating skills are needed both orally and in written form, and students will need to work well with others as well as on their own.

How will I be assessed?

All candidates sit the Short Course exam on 'Religion and Philosophical Themes' at the end of Year 10. There will be four structured questions consisting of visual stimuli used as a basis for a series of paragraph and extended writing answers. Students' knowledge and understanding will be assessed as well as their ability to evaluate different responses to religious and moral issues using relevant evidence and argument. All students sit the same examination paper in which grades are awarded ranging from A* - G.

In Year 11, candidates sit a Further Short Course on 'Religion and Ethical Themes', in order to qualify for Full Course certification. All students sit the same examination paper and grades are awarded ranging from A* - G

What next after the course?

The GCSE course offers the opportunity to study Religious Studies at AS or A level, which is a valuable subject to undertake for any career choice which involves working with people. A great deal of the course requires the use of philosophical analysis, very much wanted and respected by universities and other further education establishments.

Future employment opportunities?

A student, whose career ambitions include the caring professions such as nursing, social work, the probationary service, teaching and policing would benefit from studying RS. It is also particularly useful for the armed services, law, politics and medicine.

GCSE English Literature



What will I learn?

In GCSE English Literature you will learn to become a critical reader of fiction and non-fiction prose, poetry and drama. You will consider different times, cultures, viewpoints and situations as found in literary texts and explore how texts from cultures and traditions may reflect or influence values, assumptions and sense of identity. Above all, you should be inspired as you develop an understanding of the ways in which literature is rich and influential.

How will I learn?

In English Literature you will discuss a range of literary texts from Shakespeare to contemporary poetry and novels. You will develop your analytical skills and will be able to apply technical terminology effectively. Your essay writing skills will be central to the course, enabling you to construct a written argument in a mature and logical manner.

How will I be assessed?

You will follow the WJEC specification and all external examinations are tiered.

What next after the course?

The GCSE English Literature course provides an excellent foundation for studying English Literature at Advanced Level. Advanced Level Literature is highly regarded by university tutors, ranging from arts and humanities courses and even Medicine, as a fourth subject. It demonstrates a student's ability to write in a mature and detailed manner as well as showing an understanding of complex contexts.

Future employment opportunities?

A qualification in English Literature demonstrates the ability to communicate ideas in a sophisticated and fluent manner and also allows students to develop the ability to frame a clear, logical written argument. These skills are ideal for a range of careers from Journalism, Teaching, Business and Government areas to Medicine, Psychology and Law. English Literature graduates often follow careers in radio, television and film as well as in publishing.





GCSE Separate Science



What will I learn?

In Separate Science, you will be able to develop an appreciation of the knowledge and understanding of the world, as established by the scientific community.

You will also study the processes undertaken by the scientific community to validate and extend this knowledge. Within each individual subject areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics you will investigate the ways in which this scientific knowledge impacts upon society and how society influences science.

The approach which is practically based, emphasises the role of experimentation in discovering the validity of knowledge. The course will focus on evaluating evidence and the implications of science for society.

How will I learn?

You will be given the opportunity to undertake your own scientific measurements and investigations. By being given this opportunity, we will help you develop your Scientific Language, Mathematical, Communication and ICT skills. This will enable you to understand and evaluate scientific information from both scientific and popular sources.

How will I be assessed?

You will follow the WJEC Specification through the medium of English. External assessments are tiered.

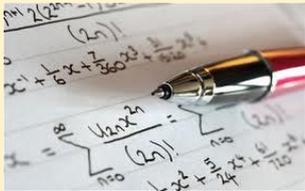
What next after the course?

This GCSE course offers the exciting opportunity to study of one or more Science subjects at AS or A-level. A-level Sciences can be the gateway into a number of great career choices and can be absolutely essential to access certain degree courses at university.

Future employment opportunities?

Examples of careers where A-level Sciences are essential are vast and varied and can range from such careers as Medicine, Nursing, Engineering and Veterinary Science to being a Marine Biologist or Planetary Scientist.





GCSE Numeracy & GCSE Mathematics

What will I learn?

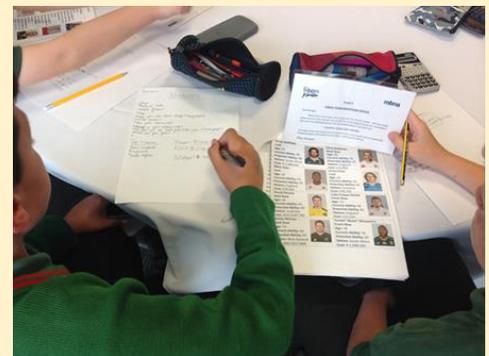
In Mathematics students will be studying for the new 2 GCSE Mathematics: Numeracy and Mathematics (Techniques) GCSEs. The Numeracy GCSE will concentrate on Number topics in Mathematics and the Mathematics GCSE will concentrate on the other 3 areas of Algebra, Shape and Space and Handling Data. The Numeracy GCSE will concentrate on applying number skills to real life situations. Numeracy explores the properties of numbers, how to manipulate them using various numerical techniques and enabling you to solve a wide range of problems and real-life situations involving mathematics. The Mathematics (Techniques) GCSE will look mainly at the other 3 areas where Algebraic rules are learnt and applied both in a 'pure' mathematical form and as a tool to solving problems as well as using graphs in a wide range of activities.

How will I learn?

You will use a variety of computational, algebraic, communication and ICT skills to explore the world of mathematics and be able to use your knowledge to mathematical applications in the real world and real-life situations.

How will I be assessed?

Being a linear course you will sit the final external examinations at the end of Year 11. The tier of examination (Higher/Intermediate and Foundation) that pupils get entered for will define the grades that they can attain.



What next after the course?

The GCSE course leads on to the AS and A level Mathematics courses offered through the Consortium.

Future employment opportunities?

Mathematics underlies a vast range of human activity and the list of careers where A-level Mathematics are essential or desirable is endless; some examples are engineering, surveying, banking and finance, economics, medicine and aerospace. A Degree in Mathematics is a passport to being considered a serious contender for a wide range of jobs in the 21st Century.

GCSE English Language



What will I learn?

In GCSE English Language you will be able to develop your reading, writing and speaking and listening skills. These skills are, of course, essential in order to be able to participate effectively in society and employment. In addition, you will be taught how to write accurately and fluently, choosing content and adapting style and language to a wide range of forms, media, contexts, audiences and purposes.

How will I learn?

In English Language you will learn how to analyse fiction and non-fiction texts and you will also compose your own stories and transactional pieces, such as letters, advertisements, articles and speeches.

In addition, you will develop your speaking and listening skills, both as an individual and also in collaborative work.

How will I be assessed?

You will follow the WJEC specification for this course, which involves terminal examinations.

What next after the course?

The GCSE English Language course provides an excellent foundation for studying English Language and/or English Literature at Advanced Level.

Future employment opportunities?

A qualification in English Language demonstrates the ability to communicate ideas in a sophisticated and fluent manner and also enables students to develop their analytical, communication and writing skills.



GCSE Welsh Second Language Full Course / Cymraeg Ail iaith Cwrs Llawn



What will I learn?

The aim is to ensure that candidates are aware of the use made of Welsh in modern Wales by nurturing a positive attitude towards the Welsh language and culture. Candidates' skills are developed to make use of the language for effective and appropriate communication in their everyday lives and/or in occupational situations.

How will I learn?

There are 4 units to be studied over two years – studying three main themes.

Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3
Cyflogaeth Employment	Ieuenctid Youth	Cymru a'r Byd Wales and the World

How will I be assessed?

Grades A* -> G – one tier

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Listening 15% and Oracy 10%	Oracy 20% and Listening 5%	Reading 15% and Writing 10%	Writing 15% and Reading 10%
Yr 11 oral examination Pair /group oral response to a video clip.	Yr 11 oral examination Pair /group response to stimulus material.	Yr 11 examination.	Yr 11 examination.

Llafar / Oracy	30%
Gwranddo/Listening	20%
Darllen / Reading	25%
Ysgrifennu /Writing	25%

What next after the course?

This GCSE course offers the exciting opportunity to study Welsh Second language at AS or A-level. A-level Welsh can be the gateway into a number of great career choices especially if one wishes to work in Wales.

Future employment opportunities?

Many employers in Wales are looking for a qualification in Welsh. These GCSE specifications provide experiences which give all candidates the opportunity to reach their full potential in Welsh in line with their needs and abilities. The aim is to ensure that candidates are aware of the use made of Welsh in modern Wales by nurturing a positive attitude towards the Welsh language and culture.



The Welsh Baccalaureate (National/Foundation)

Through the Welsh Baccalaureate, learners will raise their skills levels and confidence, enabling and empowering them to take their place as responsible and active citizens within a diverse society. Alongside and through the development of skills, the Welsh Baccalaureate provides pupils with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of society, the community in which they live and an awareness of global issues, events and perspectives.

What will I learn?

The Welsh Baccalaureate is based on a **Skills Challenge Certificate** alongside **Supporting Qualifications**. The requirements of both the Skills Challenge Certificate and Supporting Qualifications must be met in order to achieve the overarching Welsh Baccalaureate.

How will I learn?

The **Skills Challenge Certificate** consists of four components which are followed by all learners:

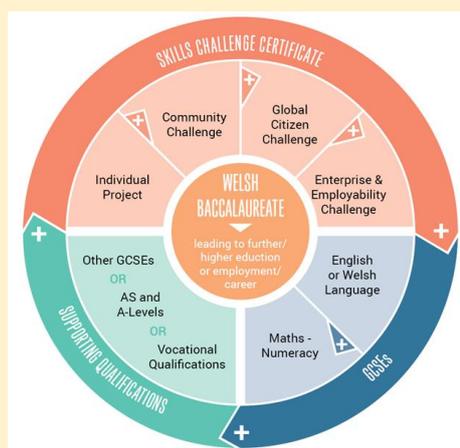
- Individual Project
- Enterprise and Employability Challenge
- Global Citizenship Challenge
- Community Challenge

How will I be assessed?

The combined outcomes of the four components will determine whether the Skills Challenge Certificate is awarded at National or Foundation level.

The **Supporting Qualifications** include two mandatory GCSEs of English Language or Welsh Language together with Mathematics-Numeracy. A further three GCSEs are also required, of which two may be of equivalent qualifications.

To meet the National Welsh Baccalaureate requirements all five of the Supporting Qualifications must be achieved at grades A*-C. Similarly, for the Foundation Welsh Baccalaureate the Supporting Qualifications must be achieved at grades A*-G.



Free Choice Option Blocks

For your Free Choice, you are allowed one choice from each block. If a subject does not receive enough interest from the free choice, then it will be withdrawn from the final option blocks.

The final option blocks will be available before the Year 9 Options Evening.

	Block A
GCSE History	
GCSE Digital Technology/GCSE Computer Science	
SWEET* (Level 1/2 Certificate)	
GCSE Health & Social Care and Childcare (Single Award)	
GCSE Spanish	

	Block B
GCSE Geography	
GCSE Psychology	
GCSE PE	
Creative and Media (Level 1/2)	

	Block C
GCSE Drama	
GCSE Art	
GCSE Product Design	
GCSE Music	
BTEC Home Cooking Skills * limited number of spaces – 12 pupils*	

Option Subjects



Geography Iceland trip

BLOCK

A



GCSE History

What will I learn?

The new WJEC History specification has been introduced in Wales.

How will I learn?

In History, arguing is the key. Where possible, you will be encouraged to discuss your views in pairs, groups or with the class as a whole. Any argument needs proof, and you will be required to select and learn suitable facts. Throughout the two years, you will also engage with a variety of historical sources, and you will learn to assess these for their accuracy and reliability. In doing so, you will develop a critical eye which may serve you in your future chosen profession.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 – Wales and the wider perspective (Examination - 25%)

Unit 2 – History with a European/World focus (Examination – 25%)

Unit 3 – Thematic Studies (Examination -30%)

Unit 4 – Working as a Historian (non-examination assessment – 20%)



What next after the course?

History GCSE is particularly useful for the A Level course, which builds on the work done in Years 10 and 11.

Future employment opportunities?

History is a respected subject with a broad appeal. Many employers value the skills of analysis, argument and research which History encourages. Examples of careers where History is welcomed include: Law (Solicitor/Barrister), Human Resources, Industry, (the Civil Service, Local Government, Marketing/Sales, Armed Services Officer, Research work, Project Management, and (of course) Teaching.

GCSE Spanish

What will I learn?

In year 10 and 11, the GCSE specification will enable you to:

- develop understanding of the language in a variety of contexts
- develop knowledge of the language and language learning skills
- develop the ability to communicate effectively in the language
- develop awareness and understanding of countries and communities where the language is spoken.

Madrid Trip



The content that will be studied will cover the following broad contexts:

Personal and Social Life
The Local Community
The World of Work
The Wider World

How will I learn?

You will be given the opportunity to express your opinions about various topics in a comfortable environment. You will also have the chance to be immersed in the country's culture and take part in different types of activities to enhance your learning.

How will I be assessed?

You will follow the WJEC Specification through the medium of English. Assessment for the GCSE MFL is tiered, externally assessed components/units are targeted at the grade ranges of A*-D (Higher Tier) and C-G (Foundation Tier).

What next after the course?

A Modern foreign language at AS or A-level: this course will give you a firm basis for future life-long learning.

Future employment opportunities?

Knowing other languages gives you distinct career advantages. Business, Multiple Government Agencies, Travel Industry, Engineering, Communication, Education, Law, Advertising, Entertainment, Scientific Research, Tourism and many more. Whatever your career goals, knowing a language increases your employability and opens up career opportunities that you would not have had otherwise. Knowing languages gives you an advantage over monolingual applicants competing for the same jobs.

GCSE Digital Technology

What will I learn?

The qualification is designed for learners who wish to begin their journey towards a career that utilises digital technologies or to progress onto advanced level programmes of learning involving digital technologies. It will allow learners to develop their understanding of the range of digital technology systems at use in our connected and globalised society. It will also allow learners to explore the ever-evolving nature of digital technology systems and how these systems can be used productively, creatively and safely.

How will I learn?

Unit 1 is theory based, in which you will be taught using the latest techniques for learning and recall. At the end of this two-year course you will sit an on-screen examination.

Units 2 and 3 are both extended practical tasks, in which you will learn to solve given problems using digital technology. In Unit 2 you will interrogate a supplied data set imported into a spreadsheet in order to inform Section B, where you will create a website incorporating either an animation or a game related to a set context. Unit 3 focuses on marketing digital assets using social media. Candidates will create digital assets related to a set context and then formulate an online digital communication campaign around them.



How will I be assessed?

You will follow the WJEC Specification through the medium of English. Internal and external assessments in Digital Technology are not tiered. The controlled assessment tasks will be provided annually by WJEC and will be marked by your teachers and then moderated by WJEC.

What next after the course?

This GCSE course prepares students for the modern world by providing them with essential problem-solving skills and also offers opportunities to experience some of the exciting new areas in digital technology such as web development, animation and games coding.

Future employment opportunities?

Digital technology is useful in so many areas of modern life but the course can prepare you particularly for careers in modern media, ICT consultancy, digital animation, games coding and web development.

GCSE Computer Science

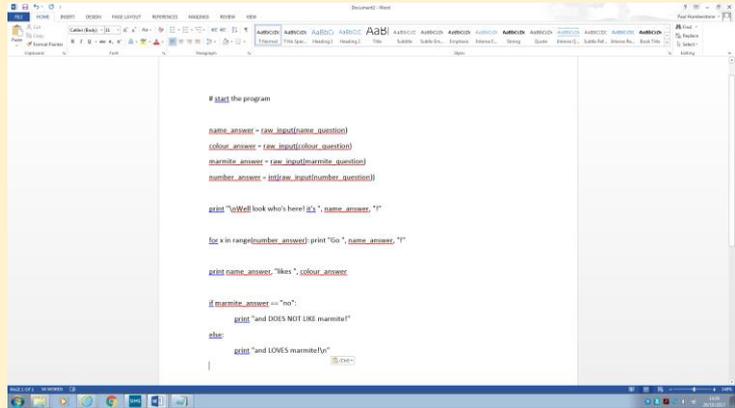
What will I learn?

This new two year course offers students at St. Brigid's opportunities to gain an understanding of the way computers work and to create and review computer programs for real-life purposes based on their own interests. It encourages them to create their own games, applications and other systems, rather than simply use those designed by others.

How will I learn?

Assessment of this course is divided into **three** units:

1. **Understanding Computer Science (45%)** - 90 minute examination to assess understanding of the theory content of this course.
2. **Solving Problems Using Computers (30%)** - 2 hour external assessment to assess the practical application of knowledge and understanding through a series of on-screen tasks.
3. **Developing Computing Solutions (25%)** - internally assessed and externally moderated 15 hour controlled assessment to develop a piece of work using programming software following a task brief issued by WJEC.



```
# start the program

name_answer = raw_input("name: ")
colour_answer = raw_input("colour: ")
name2_answer = raw_input("name: ")
number_answer = int(raw_input("number: "))

print "Hi! Well look who's here! It's ", name_answer, "!"

for x in range(number_answer): print "Go ", name_answer, "!"

print name_answer, "likes ", colour_answer

if name2_answer == "Tom":
    print "and DOES NOT LIKE mammals!"
else:
    print "and LOVES mammals!"
```

The Understanding Computer Science examination covers areas such as Computer systems, Data representation, Computer software, Networks, The Internet and communications, Algorithms, Programming and finally the Ethical, social, and legal aspects of computing.

Future employment opportunities?

This course would suit anyone looking to work in the fields of computer programming, network managers, systems analysts or even robotics and artificial intelligence. As one head teacher said "We are training pupils for jobs which don't even exist yet!"

SWEET*

What will I learn?

Learners gain valuable skills in wellbeing, confidence and resilience.
Comprehensive resources support the development of life and employability skills

How will I learn?

SWEET* is a range of innovative resources that support learners to develop important life and employability skills, and to achieve a fully accredited Pearson Edexcel BTEC qualification in Personal and Social Development.

The Level 1 and 2 will be delivered separately to these as a vocational subject.

There are 8 chapters available, printed in colour coded booklets and presented in a professional folder which can be used to store learner work during the delivery of the qualification.

Each chapter contains assignment briefs for the BTEC Level 1 and Level 2 in Personal and Social Development. Additional resources such as schemes of work, PowerPoints, starters and plenaries are also provided upon registration of learners, saving teaching staff valuable planning time.



How will I be assessed?

A fully accredited qualification, with **no examination**.
Qualifications contribute to performance measures in Wales, with up to 46 performance points per learner.

What next after the course?

The skills learnt here will aid progression to further study and prepare learners to enter the workplace in due course.

Future employment opportunities?

This course would be suitable for someone who wishes to pursue a career in Public Services.

GCSE Health and Social Care and Childcare

Single Award



What will I learn?

Health and Social Care and Childcare can help you take your first steps towards a career caring for people and communities. You'll learn the essential skills needed to support people with a wide range of needs, from babies and toddlers to adults and the elderly.

How will I learn?

Following a course in Health and Social Care and Childcare should encourage learners to be inspired, moved and changed by following a broad coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study and gain an insight into related sectors.

How will I be assessed?

UNITS	ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT	Weighting
Unit 1: Human growth, development and well-being.	Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes	40%
Unit 2: Promoting and maintaining health and well- being.	Non-exam assessment: approximately 25 hours	60%

What next after the course?

The skills learnt here will aid progression to further study and prepare learners to enter the workplace in due course.

Future Employment Opportunities?

Examples of careers where Health and Social Care and Childcare can help are vast and varied and can range from such careers as Nursing, Healthcare Assistants, Fostering, Primary School Teaching and Social Work Support.

BLOCK

B

WJEC GCSE Physical Education

What will I learn?

The WJEC GCSE in Physical Education will enable learners to engage in a practical course whilst linking theoretical elements over 5 topical areas. These include Health, Training and Exercise, Exercise Physiology, Movement Analysis, Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity and finally Socio -Cultural issues in Sport and Physical Activity. This course enables you to acquire self-esteem, respect for you and others and develop a commitment to an active lifestyle.

How will I learn?

The course will be taught through both theory and practical components and students should aim to develop an understanding that links the two. This will be based upon two GCSE PE lessons per week (one theory, one practical) to accompany the core PE lesson.

How will I be assessed?

The course is divided into two units, each worth 50% of the final grade. Unit 1 is the theoretical aspects and the 5 topical areas are covered in a 2-hour written final examination. Unit 2 is the practical element. Pupils will have to cover three different sports during this time, one selection will be a Team sport, One, will be classed as an individual sport and one will be choice. However, there is a list of sports that can be chosen. You may select to be assessed as a player, coach or official.

What next after the course?

This GCSE course provides a stable grounding for pupils to undertake a BTEC Level 3 in Sport here in our Sixth Form, which in turn can be used to access University to continue with a Sporting pathway.

Future employment opportunities?

Following a qualification in Physical Education, there are many opportunities of employment within the sporting sector. This is still one of the fastest growing industries in the world. Careers in Outdoor Education, Sports Coaching, Sports Science, Sports Law, Physiotherapy, Medicine, Personal training, teaching or professional Sport all can provide you with an exciting and enriching profession.

GCSE Geography

What will I learn?

The WJEC course in Geography is aimed at developing the students' skills in observing how people interact with their environment, how various processes affect people and places and how people make decisions that affect their future. Practical skills such as map work, fieldwork, IT and geographical investigations are developed during the course.



How will I learn?

You will learn through a variety of media including debate, decision-making and fieldwork.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 Changing physical and human landscape 40 %

Unit 2 Environmental and development issues 40 %

Unit 3 Practical Fieldwork enquiry 20 %

What next after the course?

Geography is a broad-ranging subject which will provide you with the skills needed for the modern workplace. You will have learned to make value judgments and decisions based on observation, facts, statistics and patterns.



Future employment opportunities?

Not all geographers become teachers, but if you enjoy the subject then it is an option. Geography is a great cross-curricular subject. It covers social aspects as well as studying the scientific processes. A good geographer will always be in demand. They have good spatial awareness, an analytical mind, and excellent organisational skills and are good communicators. Some other employment opportunities are:

- Administration; Advertising; Archaeology; Broadcasting; British Forces; Civil Service; Communications; Conservation; Environmental Health; Journalism; Law; Leisure and Tourism.

GCSE Psychology

What will I learn?

Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour of both humans and animals. It is a fantastic, exciting, fun and useful subject that can impact on many (if not all) aspects of our lives. The GCSE course consists of two units:

UNIT 1 (Year 10)

COGNITION AND BEHAVIOUR

UNIT 2 (Year 11)

SOCIAL CONTEXT AND BEHAVIOUR

How will I learn?

You will experience a wide variety of learning styles that will encourage active participation in both activities and follow-up discussions.

How will I be assessed?

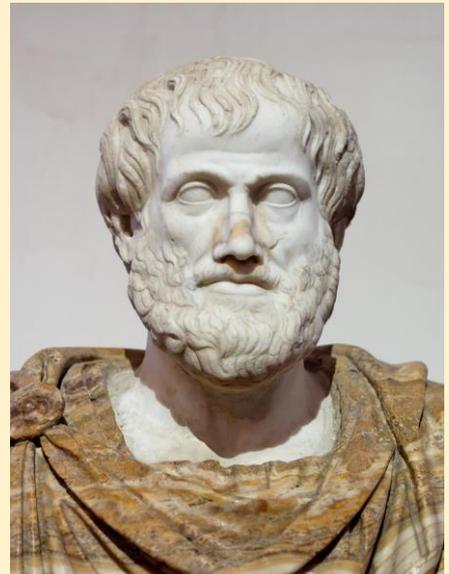
External: The two units will be examined at the end of Year 11.

Internal: There will be follow-up activities to consolidate learning from within the lessons and to also extend knowledge to encourage more independent learning at an early age. What next after the course?

The GCSE is a solid foundation for the WJEC A-level course and will extensively aid the transition from GCSE into A-level.

Future employment opportunities?

Psychology provides a window for yourselves to understand some of both your own behaviour and other people's behaviour within society. Some jobs that use Psychology directly are: clinical psychologists, educational psychologists, sports psychologists, counsellors, health psychologists, psychology researchers/assistant psychologists and criminal psychologists (including forensic psychologists).



Creative and Media Vocational (Level 1/2)

What will I learn?

The WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Creative and Media has been designed to mainly support learners in schools who want to learn about working in the creative industries.



How will I learn?

The qualification has been devised around the concept of a 'plan, do, review' approach to learning, where learners are introduced to a context for learning, review previous learning to plan activities, carry out activities and review outcomes and learning. This approach mirrors many work-related activities in retail business and retail operations and also provides for learning in a range of contexts. As such, the qualification provides learners with a broad appreciation of work in retail business-related industries and wider opportunities for progression into further education, employment or training.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment will be achieved through both internal and external routes.

What next after the course?

This course is mainly suitable as a foundation for further study. This further study could provide learners with the awareness of the work and skills required of different types of job roles in the sector. As a result, they may wish to start an apprenticeship or continue with their studies into higher education in order to pursue those job roles.

Future employment opportunities?

This industry encompasses a wide range of employment opportunities: The industry covers:

- Advertising and marketing
- Crafts
- Design: Product, Graphic and Fashion Design
- Film, TV, video, radio and photography
- IT, software and computer services
- Publishing
- Museums, Galleries and Libraries
- Music, performing and visual arts.

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GCSE Music

- **What will I learn?**

- You will learn how to improve your performing skills. You will develop your composing skills that you have learnt in KS3.

- **How will I learn?**

- To prepare for the performing exam you will perform to your friends at various times throughout the two years. You will be guided through a coursework booklet to help you to compose to a GCSE standard.



- **How will I be assessed?**

- You will have to perform two contrasting performances in year 11. Your teacher will record and mark you. You have to perform one solo piece and one as a member of an ensemble. One of the pieces should link to an area of study: a popular one being music for stage and screen.
- You will have to compose two contrasting pieces. You will be helped with this as you fill a log in each term as you complete each deadline. You will write about how you composed your piece in your log and as each draft deadline is completed you will say what improvements you have made.
- Your final assessment will be a listening/written exam. You will listen to different pieces of music from the different areas of study and answer questions on them as you listen. At the end of the listening exam you will then write about one of your compositions or about one of your performance pieces.

- **What next after the course?**

- You will then have the opportunity to develop your skills at AS level. Your standard of performance and composition will have improved enabling you to take the next course.
- **Future employment opportunities?**
- Professional musician/composer/teaching.
- The advantage of studying music is that it teaches you a whole range of skills that can be used to develop the following skills in many areas.

GCSE Drama

What will I learn?

Studying drama has many benefits. You can learn to devise your own drama, develop as an actor, develop a technical design skill, learn to direct, develop your creative skills, develop your analytical skills, make decisions, work in teams and develop your communication.

The course is divided into the three areas you will have already studied in years 7, 8 and 9.

- devising drama;
- acting and/or technical design;
- analysing and evaluating drama.

You will develop these skills by studying published plays.

How will I learn?

The course is divided into three units. In unit one you will complete two tasks. In the first task you will devise a piece of drama in a group and learn how to shape and present your own piece of theatre. In task two you will write a report on the work you did in task one. In the second unit you will perform a scene from a published play in groups where you will develop your understanding of dramatic interpretation and how to transfer drama from page to stage.

Finally, in unit three, you will answer questions in an examination. These questions will be based on a play that you will study in a practical way during the year.

How will I be assessed?

You will follow the WJEC Specification through the medium of English.

What next after the course?

This course is an excellent foundation for anyone wishing to follow a pathway in the performing Arts and is a great stepping stone towards A Level or vocational studies.

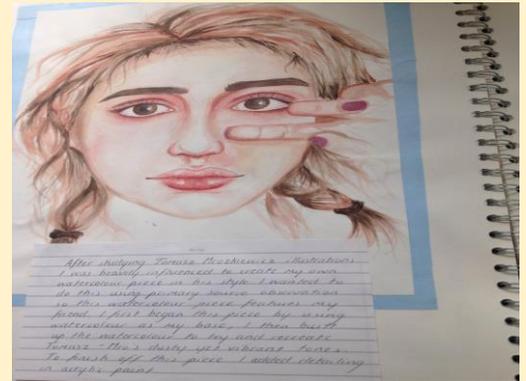
Future employment opportunities?

Acting, directing and technical opportunities in Theatre, Film and Television are obvious directions that may be pursued, but there are also opportunities in Media, Drama Psychology, Drama Therapy, Advertising, Marketing, Training, Producing, Leisure and Tourism and Broadcasting to name but a few, that may develop from this strong foundation.





GCSE Art and Design



What will I learn?

At St. Brigid's we follow the unendorsed course in Art and Design. This is a broad course exploring practical and critical /contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and new media and technologies. The following are the areas in which you will study: Fine Art; Textile Design; Three Dimensional Design and Photography.

How will I learn?

At the start of the course you will be given KEY WORDS which you will use to undertake a series of taught tasks, experiences and exercises. This will allow you to have the opportunity to use a variety of media, including pencils, both leaded and coloured, fine line pen, pen & ink, and various paints and mixed media. You will record for research and outcomes, with the use of available technologies e.g. digital cameras. You will also use ICT for careful and appropriate research and creative making purposes, with a variety of software. By doing the above should/will have enough skills, knowledge and understanding acquired during the induction period to become confident as an independent thinker, planner and maker of art and design.

How will I be assessed?

The course consists of TWO parts

Assessment 1: candidate portfolio (60% of total marks)

Assessment 2: externally set task (40% of total marks)

What next after the course?

Having taken art and design at GCSE you are able to further your education within the art field at AS and A level. You can continue in the unendorsed area of art and design or you can choose to study in a more specialised area such as Photography.



Future employment opportunities?

There are numerous employment opportunities for those following various art and design courses. Fashion Designer; Buyer; Photographer; Interior Designer; Illustration; Graphics; Ceramicist; and so on. The opportunities are endless.

GCSE Design and Technology (Product Design)

What will I Learn?

The Product Design strand of the GCSE in Design Technology looks at the design process from start to end, thinking about sources of materials, construction methods in traditional resistant and compliant materials. Designing and developing products considering the users' needs and function, modelling and modifying designs including the use of CAD (Computer Aided Design).

How will I learn?

Emphasis is given to being able to analyse and evaluate work, and the work of others including considerations about sustainability, moral, social and ethical considerations and product disposal. Throughout this GCSE there will be opportunities to make a series of products and carry out modelling work in a range of mediums, using different tools and equipment. Students are encouraged to think about the wider world in relation to new and developing technologies, energy sources, inclusive and efficient design.

How will I be assessed?

This GCSE has 50% weighting of written examination, and 50% based on a design and make task in year 11.



*Rotary
Technology
Tournament
Team 2017*

What's next after the course?

The specification provides a good basis for further study at 16+ offering progression on to academic and a variety of vocational courses including AS/A Design Technology or Graphic design based courses.

Future employment opportunities?

One of the few remaining UK export industries is our export of creative talent. Some examples of careers where GCSE Graphic products can be of great value include:

Business and Marketing; Publishing and presentation work; Graphic Artist; Product Design; Architecture; Interior design; Industrial design; Printing; Computer Aided Design; Engineering; New Media; Web Design; Advertising; Television support service.

BTEC Level 1/2 in Home Cooking Skills

What will I learn?

The ability to cook is an essential life skill.

This BTEC Level 1&2 qualification will endeavour to give you the knowledge, skills and confidence to enjoy cooking and to plan meals at home. You will also gain an understanding of how to budget when planning meals to cook at home.



How will I learn?

You will learn through a series of practical sessions, which will be structured around making a new dish every session, with focussed discussions on how the dish can be improved/made healthier or more economical, when feeding a family.

How will I be assessed?

There will then be two assessment tasks on each level to be completed. This will be achieved through both internal and external assessment.

What next after the course?

Further study would provide learners with the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support their progression to employment. Employment in hospitality and catering, can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel/bar managers and food technologists in food manufacturing. All of these roles require further education and training either through apprenticeships or further and higher education.

Future Employment Opportunities?

Having culinary skills combined with a passion for food can open many doors for you, and maybe take you all around the world! This could be from such jobs as a Chef in a fine dining restaurant or a waiter/waitress on a Cruise liner. Everyone in the world needs to eat; therefore the employment opportunities are endless, once you have attained the basic skills.



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