



West Monmouth School
'Believe, Achieve, Succeed'

Option Process 2025



Welcome

Head Teacher – Ms Jordan

Acting Deputy Head Teacher - Options process – Mrs McNeil

Head Of Year 9 – Mrs Jones

Careers Advisers (Careers Wales) – Charlotte Ross (Mon & Tues) &

Joanna Page (Wed & Thurs)



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Options – What will pupils study?

The subjects that pupils study in Key Stage 4 are made up of 2 parts:-

CORE SUBJECTS – These subjects are compulsory for all pupils.

OPTION SUBJECTS - Pupils choose to study these subjects.





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Core Subjects

- **English** (8 hrs) – 2 GCSEs (English Language & English Literature)
- **Mathematics** (8 hrs) – 2 GCSEs (Numeracy & Mathematics)
- **Science** (8 hrs) – 2 GCSEs (double award)
- **Welsh** (4 hrs) – 1 GCSE
- **Equality & Diversity** (2 hrs) – equivalent to 2 GCSEs
- **Skills Challenge (Welsh Baccalaureate)** - (3 hrs) – 1 GCSE
- **Physical Education** (2 hrs)



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ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE



- Unit 1 CONTEXT AND MEANING – in Unit 1, you will study a range of poetry from the WJEC anthology, engaging with the concept of Context and Meaning.
- Unit 2 BELONGING – in Unit 2, you will study a prose text, engaging with the concept of Belonging and themes of community, cynefin and citizenship.
- Unit 3 INFLUENCE AND POWER – in Unit 3, you will study a range of non-fiction texts, engaging with the Influence and Power of writers, and how writers and speakers exert power and attempt to influence others.
- Unit 4b MOTIVATIONS – in Unit 4b, you will have a choice to study a play or a prose text, engaging with the concept of Motivations of writers and characters, exploring reasons for attitudes, behaviours and beliefs.
- Unit 5 CONTINUITY AND CHANGE – in Unit 5, you will study a Shakespeare play and pre-20th LC poetry. You will consider the concept of Continuity and Change, and how attitudes, ideas and language have changed over time.
- Unit 6 CONNECTIONS – in Unit 6, you will study non-fiction texts, focusing on the concept of Connections. You will explore links between different texts, relating texts to time, place, language, and relationships.



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ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

The assessments are divided into two components; controlled assessment and written examination papers which will be sat at appropriate points in the course.

Units 1, 4b and 6 are examined units, together worth 60% of your qualification.

Each exam lasts 90 minutes and will consist of low-tariff extract-based questions, an extended essay response and a piece of creative fiction or non-fiction writing.

Units 2, 3 and 5 are non-examined assessments, together worth 40% of your qualification.

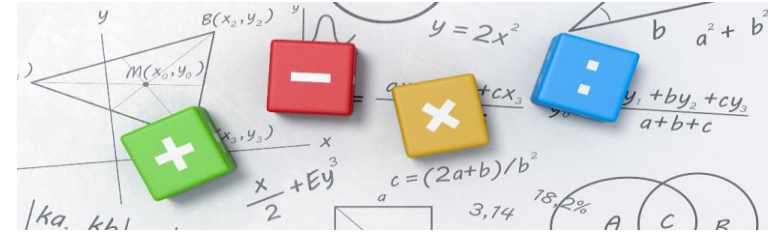
Each unit will consist of two tasks, one that will assess your written response to the relevant text(s) and one that will assess your oracy skills.



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Mathematics and Numeracy

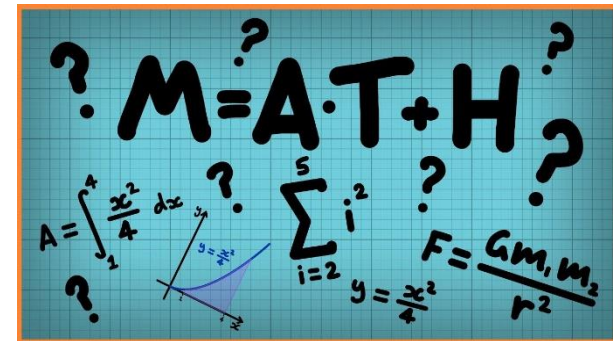
All Year 11 pupils follow the WJEC GCSE courses in
Mathematics and Numeracy Double Award



- Unit 1: Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy (calculator allowed)
- Unit 2: Non-calculator Maths
- Unit 3: Calculator Maths

There will be two overlapping tiers of entry.

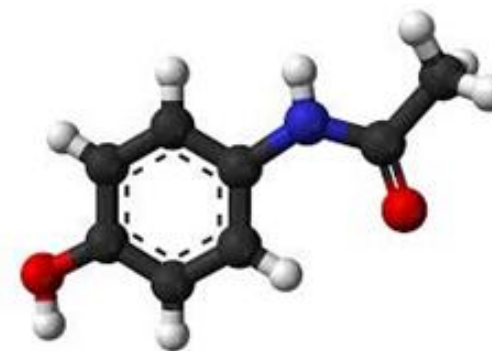
Tier of Entry	Grades Available
Higher	A*, A, B, C, D
Foundation	C, D, E, F, G





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Science Paths



Two choices

- Double award Science –

pupils will achieve two Science GCSEs by the end of Year 11. This is the minimum requirement.

- Separate Sciences (Triple Award Science)

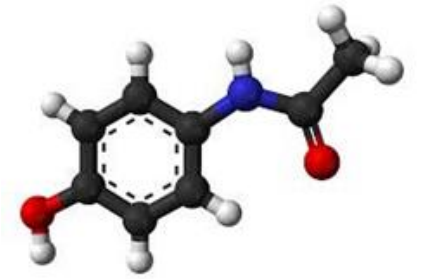
pupils will achieve three Science GCSEs by the end of Year 11, one in each of the Sciences.

- Biology
- Physics
- Chemistry



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Double Award Science



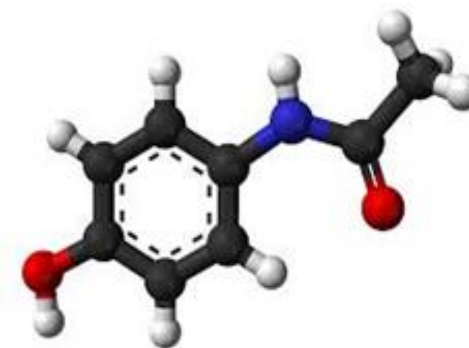
You do not need to pick this on your options form!

- Pupils must study this as a minimum science requirement - 8 lessons per fortnight
- Compulsory Science gives pupils 2 GCSEs qualifications - pupils will be awarded a double grade (eg AA or BC etc)
- This Science is enough if you are absolutely sure you are not thinking about a Science related career.
- This course combines modules of Biology, Chemistry and Physics
Consists of 6 exams (2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 Physics) all worth 15% each, along with a practical exam worth 10%.
- Pupils will study for the 6 exams across 3 years, starting during Year 9, with the practical element in January of either year 10 or 11.



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Triple Award Science



- Pupils will be entered for three separate Science GCSE qualifications – Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- This means they will have to choose Science in one of their option columns.
- Pupils will sit two exams in each of the Sciences (1hr 30 min each). One at the end of year 10 and the other at the end of Year 11, as well as a practical exam in the January of either Year 10 or 11.



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Welsh Second language - WJEC

This qualification has two external assessment units which are weighted equally and two internal assessment units. The two internal assessment units test oral and listening skills:

- **Unit 1 (25%) - Speaking (10%) Listening (15%)** A task for a pair/ group of three based on visual stimuli provided by WJEC to stimulate a confident discussion. The assessment will consist of two parts conducted in the following order:
 - watch a visual clip (approximately 3 minutes) twice and fill in a related sheet
 - discussion between the pair/group of three on what was watched
- **Unit 2 (25%) - Speaking (20%) Listening (5%)** A discussion in pairs/groups of three based on triggers such as a combination of graphs, pictures and short reading texts provided by WJEC

The two external assessment units test reading and writing skills will be 1hour 30 mins, 100 marks:

- **Unit 3 (25%) -Preparing for the future.**
- **Unit 4 (25%) - Literature and Creative Writing.**

In these units you will develop both skills, reading and writing, by responding to non-verbal reading and writing text, practising and responding to a variety of language forms, as well as:

- learn essential skills for the future such as translanguaging and translating (Unit 3)
- Study short stories and poems (Unit 4)





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Skill Challenge Certificate - Qualification Structure

Skills Challenge Certificate components	Weighting	Assessed Skills	Internal Assessment	External Moderation
Individual Project	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning and Organisation• Critical Thinking and Problem Solving• Digital Literacy	✓	✓
Enterprise and Employability Challenge	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creativity and Innovation• Personal Effectiveness• Digital Literacy	✓	✓
Global Citizenship Challenge	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical Thinking and Problem Solving• Creativity and Innovation	✓	✓



Options Subjects

Must choose 3 option subjects

- GCSE Art and Design
- GCSE Health, Social Care and Child Care
- Award Construction
- GCSE Design Technology – Product Design
- GCSE Design Technology – Fashion & Textiles
- GCSE Digital Technology (ICT)
- GCSE Drama
- BTEC Engineering
- GCSE French
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE Health and Social Care and Childcare
- GCSE History
- Award Hospitality and Catering (Food)
- GCSE Music
- GCSE PE
- GCSE RS
- GCSE Separate Science



Can only choose one of these as they are both Design Tech.





Timeline for the Option Process

January

- First trawl completed (pupils choose 3 subjects they think they would be interested in taking).
- Second trawl W/C 13th January 2025.
- Year 9 parents option process evening Wednesday 8th January 2025.
- Pupils receive option assemblies W/C 6th January 2025 from Head of Faculties.
- There are also videos to refer to on the school website.
- Year 9 parents evening – **Thursday 16th January 2025.**
- Final option deadline hand in (electronically) – **Wednesday 30th January 2025.**



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Option Columns

This is only an example

Option A	Option B	Option C
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art & Design• Built Environment (Construction)• Digital Technology• Drama• DT – Product Design• Engineering• French• Hospitality and Catering (Food)• Health, Social Care & Child Dev.• PE• Sep Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Built Environment (Construction)• Drama• Engineering• History• Hospitality and Catering (Food)• Health, Social Care & Child Dev.• Music• Religious Studies• PE• Sep Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art & Design• Built Environment (Construction)• Digital Technology• DT - Product Design• DT – Textiles• Engineering• Geography• History• Hospitality and Catering (Food)• Health, Social Care & Child Dev.• PE

Choose one from each column only



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How can you get in touch with Careers Wales?

Careers Wales website: WWW.Careerswales.gov.wales



Gyrfa Cymru
Careers Wales

Helpline: 0800 028 4844 or 029 20906800 (if calling from a mobile).

Email or webchat links can be found at the bottom of each page at
WWW.Careerswales.gov.wales

Ask your form tutor, Head of Learning or careers advisor to get in touch.
(Careers advisor in school – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)



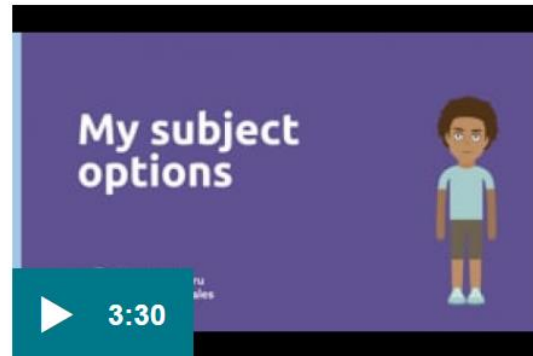


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What can I use the website for?

<https://careerswales.gov.wales/courses-and-training/year-8-and-9-subject-options>

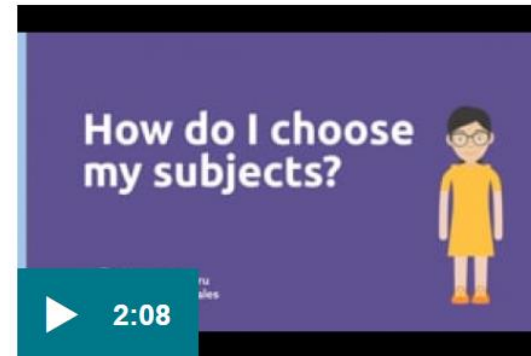
Watch the videos



My subject options

Find out about some of your subject options.

[View transcript and captions document](#) (PDF 63KB, this file will open in a new window)



How do I choose my subjects?

Find out what things you should think about when choosing your subjects.

[View transcript and captions document](#) (PDF 57KB, this file will open in a new window)





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Subjects and jobs <https://careerswales.gov.wales/job-information/subjects>

On this website there are
A variety of jobs linked to each
Subject.



Engineering



English



Environmental Science



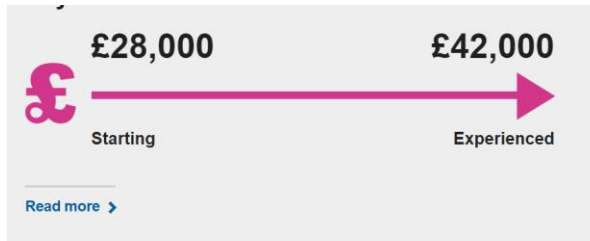
35-40
hours a week
(variable)
Evenings, Weekends
and Bank Holidays
Read more >



Health and Social Care



History



Qualifications
HNC/HND, NVQ 4 or 5
Degree, NVQ 6

315
job openings for
Accountant and
related jobs are

Future demand
HIGH
Expected future demand for
Accountant and related jobs





Job information section that highlights which subjects are good to take for a chosen career

<https://careerswales.gov.wales/job-information/>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://careerswales.gov.wales/job-information/>. The page has navigation tabs for 'A-Z', 'INDUSTRY', and 'SUBJECTS'. Below these is a horizontal menu of letters from A to Z. The 'A' section is active, displaying a list of careers under the heading 'A'. The careers listed are: Academic Librarian, Account Handler, Account Manager, Accountant, Accounting Technician, Accounts Assistant, Acoustic Engineer, Acoustician, Activity Co-ordinator, Air Conditioning Engineer, Air Traffic Control Assistant, Air Traffic Controller, Air Traffic Services Assistant, Aircraft Dispatcher, Aircraft Engineer, Aircraft Maintenance Engineer, Arcade Worker, Archaeological Surveyor, Archaeologist, Architect, Architectural Technician, Architectural Technologist, Archive Service Manager, Archivist, and Area Controller.

Aerospace Engineer

As an Aerospace Engineer you will become an expert in the science of flight (aeronautics). You'll use your knowledge to work on very advanced technology such as aircraft, missiles and space satellites.

[Read more >](#)



Pay



Typical hours





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This information is also on the school website under the careers wales delivery team.

Charlotte Ross will be able to make appointments for any parents or year 9 pupils that may want to speak with her or you can contact her via email charlotte.ross@careerswales.gov.wales or Joanna.page@careerswales.gov.wales





What can I use the website for?

Career Search

Find out more about your career ideas using the leaflets.

Ideas Quiz

No idea what you would like to do? This may give you a few ideas.

Games and Activities

Holiday Game (for decision making)

Subjects and Jobs.





The best way to decide what subjects to choose after Year 9.

- Find out what you can about what is on offer by speaking to teachers.
- If you have a career idea – check to see whether it would be a useful subject to take.
- Speak to your parents or family about your ideas.
- Think about what subject you do well in and enjoy.
- Check what the subjects will be like in Year 10 & 11





How should I choose my options?



Do....

- ✓ **Choose subjects you enjoy.**
- ✓ **Choose subjects you do well in.**
- ✓ **Think about your future careers.**
- ✓ **Take advice from your parents and teachers to find out what is entails within the GCSE.**
- ✓ **Try to maintain a 'broad and balanced' curriculum.**

Don't....

- Don't choose a subject because your friends are.**
- Don't think you know everything about this subject without looking into what the GCSE entails.**
- Don't choose a subject which you really struggle in.**
- Don't leave it until the last minute!**



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School Website Information

<http://westmonmouthschool.com/learning/curriculum/year-9-options/>

You will find all the information you need on the school website.

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"A Caring School"

HOME NEWS OUR SCHOOL **LEARNING** USEFUL INFORMATION PUPIL ACTIVITIES ATTENDANCE CONTACT US

2021/22 Staff List
Curriculum
Pupil Support
Careers
Library

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER
Please note our new school telephone number is 01495 767430. Thank you.

Key Stage 3 & 4
Welsh Baccalaureate
Year 9 Options
Homework Policy

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER SENIOR STAFF EMAIL ADDRESSES OFFICE 365 VIA HWY 3 VIRTUAL TOURS



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HOME NEWS OUR SCHOOL **LEARNING** USEFUL INFORMATION PUPIL ACTIVITIES CONTACT US

HOME > CURRICULUM > YEAR 9 OPTIONS

Year 9 Options

Introduction

Here you will find information about all the different subjects available at West Monmouth School and receive advice from your subject teachers on how to make the best choices for your future in that subject area.

The Welsh National Curriculum requirements, combined with the way we structure the timetable means that all pupils will take a range of subjects, so ensuring a broad-balanced curriculum.

When making your subject choices it is important to ensure that any choices made will not preclude options in terms of later decisions related to Careers and Educational Opportunities. With this in mind it is vital that your son/daughter has time to think through and discuss the implications of their choices.

POPULAR PAGES

- School Calendar
- School Prospectus
- Term Dates
- INSET Days
- Examination Timetable
- Estyn Inspection
- Hwb
- School Email
- Online Payment

