

Year 9 – Learning Pathways

January 2024

Which Way Now?



Aims of the Evening

To provide information on:

- ▶ The Option process at YBB
- ▶ The core curriculum
- ▶ Subjects on offer
- ▶ Advice on subject selection
- ▶ Key dates

**Choosing your options can involve
some difficult decisions.**

**Your choice of subjects may affect your
options at 16 and beyond, so it's
important that you make the choices
carefully .**

The Option System at Bae Baglan

- ▶ Is aimed to provide a range of experiences relevant to future needs
- ▶ Provides a broad choice that also includes the ability to specialise
- ▶ Offers subjects at the level appropriate to the pupil's ability
- ▶ Offers subjects that lead to nationally recognised qualifications.


The Process

- ▶ Access to Option Booklet and online free choice form
- ▶ Choices made 3 subjects and one reserve from the list of available subjects
- ▶ Careful analysis of choices by school staff e.g. Wellbeing Director, HoD, SLT
- ▶ Analysis of free choice to produce curriculum based on a best fit scenario, maximising pupil choice
- ▶ Are all courses viable to run?

What courses are available to study?

- ▶ GCSEs – the majority of courses studied. Level 1 and 2 outcomes
- ▶ BTEC / Vocational – developing skills that are directly linked to a line of work e.g. Business, Construction, Hairdressing etc. Level 1 and 2 outcomes
- ▶ Entry Level – lower level qualifications to help develop skills in order to progress onto Level 1 or 2 courses.

Qualification Grading

	Level 2	GCSE Grades A* / A / B / C Vocational Grades L2 Distinction* / L2 Distinction / L2 Merit / L2 Pass.
	Level 1	GCSE grades D / E / F / G Vocational Grade L1 Distinction* / L1 Distinction / L1 Merit / L1 Pass. Level 1 Pass
	Entry Level Qualification	Entry 1, Entry 2 or Entry 3

The Core Compulsory Curriculum

► All pupils will be given the opportunity to follow GCSE courses in:

- English Language / Literature
- Mathematics / Numeracy
- Science

GCSE English Language

► The Language GCSE will:

- Focus on the skills that learners will need in their everyday lives
- Be linear - all assessments taken at the end of the course
- No tiered entry
- Awarding of grades at A* - G.

GCSE English Literature

► The Literature GCSE will:

- Focus on Poetry, prose and plays
- One unit is sat at the end of Year 10
- Tiered entry Higher grades A* - D and Foundation grades C – G.

GCSE Mathematics / Numeracy

► The Mathematics GCSE will:

- Feature problems set both in real-life and purely mathematical contexts
- Encourage learners to employ and evaluate different mathematical techniques.

► The Numeracy GCSE will:

- Focus on the skills that learners will need in their everyday lives
- Assess candidates' ability to solve 'real-life' problems, application of knowledge and skills.

GCSE Mathematics / Numeracy

- ▶ Both Mathematics GCSEs will:
 - Be linear - all assessments taken at the end of the course;
 - Have three tiers – Higher (A*-C), Intermediate (B-E) & Foundation (D-G);
 - Have three tiers of entry Higher, Intermediate and Foundation with 2 examinations being sat for each qualification. Unit 1 - non calculator, Unit 2 - calculator;

Double Award Science

- ▶ Study 3 hrs each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics over the two-week cycle
- ▶ Examinations at the end of Y10 and 11 - one in each discipline
- ▶ Coursework tasks x2 during the Spring term of Y11
- ▶ Awarding of two grades.

Single Award Applied Science and Entry Level

Single Award Applied

- ▶ Unit 1 in year 10
- ▶ Unit 2-4 in year 11 (Unit 3 and 4 have set windows to be completed).

Additional Compulsory Subjects

- ▶ GCSE Welsh / Intervention
- ▶ GCSE RS
- ▶ Skills Challenge Certificate / YBB
Careers and Work Related
Programme
- ▶ Health and Fitness

YBB Choices

GCSE Further Additional Mathematics	Level 2 Certificate in Hair Services
GCSE Art and Design	GCSE Health & Social Care & Childcare
GCSE Art – Photography	GCSE History
GCSE Art - Textiles	Level 1/2 Award in Hospitality and Catering
Level 1/2 Business and Enterprise	GCSE Music
GCSE in Digital Technology	GCSE Physical Education
Pathways Certificate for IT Users	GCSE Product Design
Level 1/2 Award in I&CT	GCSE Science - Triple Award
Level 1/2 Award in Constructing the Built Environment	GCSE Spanish
GCSE Drama	Level 1/2 Award in Sport and Coaching Principles
Level 2 in Engineering	Level 2 Vehicle Technology
Level 1/2 Global Business Communication (French)	Life skills / Basic skills
GCSE Geography	

The KS4 Experience

Week A + Week B = 50 lessons

Compulsory Subjects

Mathematics / Numeracy	= 7 lessons
English	= 7 lessons
Science	= 9 lessons
Welsh	= 4 lessons
Skills Challenge Certificate	= 3 lessons
RS	= 3 lessons
Health and Fitness	= 2 lessons
Total	= 35 lessons

The KS4 Experience (cont.)

Option 1	= 5 lessons
Option 2	= 5 lessons
Option 3	= 5 lessons
Total	= 15 lessons

Total Number of lessons $35 + 15 = 50$ lessons

Pupils should

- ▶ Find out as much as possible about the courses on offer especially if choosing a “new” course
- ▶ Choose subjects they like and are good at
- ▶ Talk to you their parents / carers about their choices
- ▶ Think about their futures and how choices made may help them with any future careers that they may have in mind
- ▶ Choose a balance of subjects.

Pupils should not

- ▶ Think that they are expected to know what to do later in life; keep as many doors open as possible
- ▶ Follow their friend's choices. You might find yourself in a different teaching group anyway!
- ▶ Choose a subject because they like the teacher
- ▶ Rush and make hasty decisions
- ▶ Choose a subject because they think it will be easier than others
- ▶ Worry because they can't fit everything in – they simply cannot study everything.

Where do I start?

Don't jump in at the deep end and make your choices straight away.

The best approach is to follow these 5 steps.



1- Write down the main options

2- Find out as much as possible about each option

3- Think about the "for and against" of each option

4- Put options in rank order

5- Decide and have a back-up option

Options Help and Advice

- ▶ Options booklet has all the information on the courses available
- ▶ Mrs D. Devonald Careers Adviser
- ▶ Careers Wales website
 - <http://www.careerswales.com>
 - <https://careerswales.gov.wales/courses-and-training/year-8-and-9-subject-options>
- ▶ School staff, subject teachers and website

Key Dates

- ▶ Parents Evening with class teachers January 15th 2024 via SchoolCloud
- ▶ Online Submission of choices by Friday January 26th 2024.
- ▶ Queries please email ybboptions@npt.school

Three Simple Rules

- ▶ **Enjoyment**
- ▶ **Success**
- ▶ **Your future**



If you can dream it...
Ysgol Bae Baglan School

Thank you

Diolch