



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

Year 9 – Learning Pathways January 2026 Which Way Now?



Aims

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



Choosing your options can involve some difficult decisions.

Your choice of subjects may affect your career options at 16 and beyond, so it's important that they 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 the Option Booklet and online free choice form (website).
- ▶ Choices made – three subjects from the list of available subjects.
- ▶ Analysis of free choice to produce columns based on a best fit scenario and maximising pupil choice.
- ▶ Are all courses viable to run?
- ▶ Careful analysis of choices by subject teachers /HoD, SLT.

What types of courses are available to study?

- ▶ GCSEs – Level 1 and 2 outcomes.
- ▶ Vocational – developing skills that are directly linked to a line of work e.g. Business, Business Language (French), Construction, Engineering, Hospitality and Catering, Certificate in IT User Skills, Sport and Vehicle Technology. Level 1 and 2 outcomes.
- ▶ Entry Level – lower-level qualifications to help develop skills to progress, post 16, to 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

- ▶ Nearly all pupils will follow GCSE courses in:
 - English Language and Literature
 - Mathematics and Numeracy
 - Science
- ▶ Some pupils will sit Entry Level qualifications in these subject areas.



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GCSE English Language and Literature Double Award

The GCSE English Language and Literature Double Award enables you to appreciate how language connects you to the world around you, to engage with a rich range of texts from different periods and by diverse writers, and to develop and apply your own use of language, through written and verbal communication

GCSE English Language and Literature Double Award

- ▶ There are 6 Units of study
- ▶ All pupils will study Units 1, 2 3 and 4.
- ▶ Most pupils will study Units 5 and 6
- ▶ Where continuation to Units 5 and 6 is not possible, pupils will be entered for the Single Award.
- ▶ No tiered entry

GCSE English Language and Literature Double Award - Assessment

- ▶ Mixture of non-examination assessments (NEAs) sat in school, marked by class teacher and externally moderated by WJEC and externally set examinations.
- ▶ Units 1, 4 and 6 are externally examined. Each exam last 90 minutes with all 3 making up 60 % of your qualification.
- ▶ Units 2, 3 and 5 are NEAs, worth 40% of your qualification. Each unit will consist of two tasks, one that will assess written responses to the relevant text(s) and one that will assess oracy skills.



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GCSE English Language and Literature Double Award

- ▶ **Units 1, 2 and 3 will be completed during Year 10.**
- ▶ **Units 4, 5 and 6 will be completed during Year 11.**

GCSE English Language and Literature Double Award

Grading

- ▶ GCSE single award A* - G.
- ▶ GCSE Double Award A*A* - GG.
- ▶ Results not attaining the minimum standard for the award will be reported as U (unclassified).

ASDAN Entry Level English

- ▶ **Entry level qualification completed over 2 years.**
- ▶ **Continuous assessment tasks build up a portfolio of work.**



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GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy Double Award

In GCSE Mathematics & Numeracy, pupils will build on the knowledge and understanding they have of topics within number, algebra, geometry, and data.

They will be taught the key financial aspects of everyday adult life, such as dealing with payslips, bills, and savings.



GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy Double Award

- ▶ **UNIT 1: Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy.**
- ▶ **Unit 2 - Non calculator.**
- ▶ **UNIT 3: Calculator allowed.**
- ▶ **Unlike English there is no Single Award fall back.**



GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy Double Award – Assessment

UNIT 1: Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy - Higher tier 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks; Foundation tier 1 hour 30 minutes 65 marks: 30% of the qualification.

UNIT 2: Non-calculator - Higher tier 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks; Foundation tier 1 hour 30 minutes 65 marks: 30% of the qualification.

UNIT 3: Calculator-allowed - Higher tier 2 hours 90 marks; Foundation tier 1 hour 45 minutes 75 marks: 40% of the qualification.

GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy Double Award

Grading

- ▶ GCSE double award qualifications are awarded on an eight-grade scale from A*A* - GG.
- ▶ Results not attaining the minimum standard for the award will be reported as U (unclassified).

Entry Level Numeracy

- ▶ Examination 1 hr, 25% of the final qualification.
- ▶ End of stage tests 4 x 30min, 60% of the final qualification
- ▶ Practical assessments 4 x 1hr, 15% of the final qualification.

The Sciences Double Award

- ▶ 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.

GCSE Integrated Science (Single Award)

- ▶ **Unit 1 written examination 1.5 hrs, 45% of qualification (Y10).**
- ▶ **Unit 2 written examination 1.5 hrs, 45% of qualification (Y11)**
- ▶ **Unit 3 Practical assessment 10% of qualification (Y11)**

Entry Level Science

- ▶ Examination 1 hr, 25% of the final qualification.
- ▶ End of stage tests 4 x 30min, 60% of the final qualification
- ▶ Practical assessments 2 x 2hrs, 15% of the final qualification.



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Additional Compulsory Subjects

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



YBB Choices

Additional Mathematics	GCSE Health & Social Care & Childcare
GCSE Art and Design	GCSE History
GCSE Art – Photography	Level 1/2 Award in Hospitality and Catering
GCSE Art - Textiles	GCSE Music
Level 1/2 Business and Enterprise	GCSE Physical Education and Health
GCSE in Digital Technology	GCSE Product Design
Extended Certificate in IT User Skills in Open Systems and Enterprise	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 and Numeracy	= 7 lessons
English Language and Literature	= 7 lessons
Science	= 9 lessons
Welsh / Intervention	= 4 / 5 lessons
Skills Challenge Certificate / CWRE	= 3 / 2 lessons
RE	= 3 lessons
Health and Fitness	= 2 lessons
Total	= 35 lessons

The KS4 Experience (cont.)

Option A	= 5 lessons
Option B	= 5 lessons
Option C	= 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 their parents / carers about their choices
- ▶ Think about their future and how choices made may help with any future careers that they may have in mind
- ▶ Choose a balance of subjects

Pupils should not

- ▶ Think they are expected to know what to do later in life; keep as many doors open as possible
- ▶ Follow their friend's choices. They might find themselves in a different teaching group anyway
- ▶ Choose a subject because they like / dislike 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

Options Help and Advice

- ▶ Options booklet has all the information on the courses available
- ▶ Mrs D. Devonald Careers Adviser, ground floor opposite TE8
- ▶ 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



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Key Dates

- ▶ Parents' Evening with class teachers Monday January 12th via School Cloud
- ▶ Online submission of choices by Friday January 23rd at latest.
- ▶ Queries, please email-
6715500options@hwbwave15.onmicrosoft.com



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Three simple rules:

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



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Thank you

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