



Key Stage 4 Curriculum and Assessment – Guidance for Parents

Curriculum Structure

Currently we run a three year key stage 4. Pupils in year 9 have opted for four subjects alongside the core curriculum, which comprises of English, Mathematics, Science, Welsh, PSE, RVE, Games and Skills. Each option has four hours per fortnight of curriculum time.

Internal Assessment

Throughout the year class teachers will assess the progress of pupils using a variety of methods. This may include the use of;

- Key classwork tasks
- Homework tasks
- Tests
- Performance in elements of Non-Examination Assessments (previously referred to as coursework/controlled assessments)
- Internal examinations
- Results for external examinations

The dates of these internal assessments will vary from class to class. Pupils will be made aware of these and are encouraged to record the dates and inform you. For years 9 & 10 there will be internal examinations held in June. For year 10 subjects which have an external unit in the summer of year 10, and all year 11 subjects, 'mock' examinations will be held in the spring term.

External Examinations

Prior to external examinations pupils/parents will be asked to check the entries made and will receive a timetable of the examinations, including the venue, date and time. The individual timetables can only be provided once pupils have been entered for the examinations. For the summer series this information is given in March/April. Information on dates for each examination series is available on the WJEC website [Key Dates & Timetables | WJEC](#).

At the end of this document a summary of the units for each subject is given along with approximate dates for external assessments and NEAs (previously known as coursework). Detailed information regarding the assessment structure for each subject is given by individual subjects. Further information course structure can be found on the WJEC website.

Tracking periods

There are four tracking points within the academic year plus one full report. For all tracking periods pupils will be given a score (1-4) on their attitude to learning and effort and completion of tasks.

| | Attitude to learning in lessons | Effort and completion of homework tasks |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | <p>Learner's attitude towards learning is above our expected level ensuring excellent progress. This is characterised by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent attitude and commitment to learning in lessons • Exemplary conduct • Excellent focus and always contributed positively to discussions and activities • Supportive of others | <p>Learner's effort and completion of tasks outside school is above our expected level ensuring excellent progress. This is characterised by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A very high level of effort, application and perseverance in learning at home • Tasks always completed on time and are an excellent standard • Proactive in seeking help to address difficulties |
| 2 | <p>Learner's attitude towards learning is in line with our expected level ensuring progress. This is characterised by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive attitude to learning in lessons • Good conduct • Good focus in nearly all lessons and contributes to class discussions and activities | <p>Learner's effort and completion of tasks outside school is in line with our expected level ensuring progress. This is characterised by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good level of effort, application and perseverance in learning at home • Tasks are completed on time to a good standard |
| 3 | <p>Learner's attitude towards learning is below our expected level affecting progress. This is characterised by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not always engage in learning activities • Conduct not always good • At times needs reminding to focus on the set task • Inconsistent attitude | <p>Learner's effort and completion of tasks outside school is below our expected level affecting progress. This is characterised by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not always engage in learning tasks set to be completed at home • Tasks are not always completed on time or are lacking detail • Inconsistent effort |
| 4 | <p>Learner's attitude towards learning is well below our expected level seriously affecting progress This is characterised by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At times attitude and behaviour is a cause for concern • Frequently needs reminding to focus on the set task | <p>Learner's effort and completion of tasks outside school is well below our expected level seriously affecting progress. This is characterised by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of effort have been a cause for concern • Tasks are rarely completed |

For tracking 2 and 4 you will be given a current predicted grade (A*-G). This is the grade the teacher believes the child will achieve based on current performance. After each tracking period interim reports will be electronically sent to parents.

The dates for tracking this academic year are:

- ▶ Tracking 1 w/c 13th November
- ▶ Tracking 2 w/c 11th December
- ▶ Tracking 3 w/c 19th February
- ▶ Tracking 4 w/c 22nd April

Parents Evenings and Reports

There will be one full written report provided to parents each year, alongside one parental meeting with subject teachers. The dates of these for the current academic year are;

| Year | Parents Meeting | Reports |
|------|-----------------|------------|
| 9 | 09/05/2024 | 17/07/2024 |
| 10 | 18/01/2024 | 17/07/2024 |
| 11 | 19/10/2023 | 03/05/2024 |

There will also be a parental meeting with a member of the leadership team for each pupil in year 11 in January 2024.

The full written report will include:

- Current predicted grade
- Attitude to learning and effort and completion of tasks outside of lessons
- Comments and areas for improvement: Subject specific comments about progress, areas of strength and advice about how the pupil can make further progress in the future.

Art/Textiles

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 1: Portfolio | 60 | Ongoing through course |
| 2: Externally Set Assignment | 40 | Prep – Jan to April Exam (10Hrs) April |

Business Studies

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|--------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1: Business World (Exam) | 62.5 | Summer Year 11 |
| 2: Business Perceptions (Exam) | 37.5 | Summer Year 11 |

Catering

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|----------------|-------------|---|
| 1: Examination | 40 | Summer Year 11 |
| 2: Portfolio | 60 | Practical element March Year 11 Ongoing throughout – final deadline - March |

Computer Science

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|--|-------------|--|
| 1: Understanding Computer Science (Exam) | 50 | Summer Year 11 |
| 2: On-screen programming examination | 30 | Summer Year 11 |
| 3: NEA | 20 | Ongoing – to be completed by March Year 11 |

Construction

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1: Online examination | 25 | Summer Year 10 |
| 2: Practical Construction Skills | 50 | Spring Year 11 |
| 3: Planning construction projects | 25 | Spring Year 11 |

Engineering

Continual assessment throughout the course.

English Language

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|----------------|-------------|--|
| 1: Oracy NEA | 20 | Individual – July Year 10 Group – January Year 11 |
| 2: Examination | 40 | Summer Year 11 |
| 3: Examination | 40 | Summer Year 11 |

English Literature

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|----------------|-------------|--|
| 1: Examination | 35 | Summer Year 10 |
| 2: Examination | 40 | Summer Year 11 |
| 3: NEA | 25 | Shakespeare – November Year 10 Poetry – December/January Year 10 |

French

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1: Speaking | 25 | April Year 11 |
| 2: Listening | 25 | Summer Year 11 |
| 3: Reading | 25 | Summer Year 11 |
| 4: Writing | 25 | Summer Year 11 |

Geography

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 1: Examination | 40 | Summer Year 11 |
| 2: Examination | 40 | Summer Year 11 |
| 3: NEA (fieldwork and examination) | 20 | Fieldwork (May-June Year 10) and prep for NEA exam Oct-Nov Year 11) NEA Exam (Dec Year 11) - 8 th & 11 th Dec 2023 |

Health and Social Care

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|------|-------------|---|
| 1: | 40 | Summer Yr 10 |
| 2: | 60 | Yr 11 (2 NEA's , first one by 24/10/23, second completed 22/3/24) |

History

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 1: Examination | 25 | Summer Year 10 |
| 2: Examination | 25 | Summer Year 10 |
| 3: Examination | 30 | Summer Year 11 |
| 4: NEA | 20 | To be completed by Dec Year 11 |

Digital Technology

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|----------------|-------------|---|
| 1: Examination | 40 | Summer Year 11 |
| 2: NEA | 40 | Completed in Year 10 |
| 3: NEA | 20 | Ongoing – to be completed by February Year 11 |

Vocational ICT

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|----------------|-------------|---|
| 1: Examination | 40 | Summer Year 11 |
| 2: NEA | 60 | Ongoing - to be completed by February Year 11 |

Mathematics Numeracy (3 tiers of entry)

Unit 1 and Unit 2 external examinations (equally weighted)

10X1 and 10Y1 Summer Year 10 (early entry)

All other sets November Year 11

Mathematics (3 tiers of entry)

Unit 1 and Unit 2 external examinations (equally weighted)

10X1 and 10Y1 Summer Year 10 (early entry)

All other sets Summer Year 11

Edexcel Statistics (Grades 3-9)

Unit 1 and Unit 2 external examinations (equally weighted)

Year 11 sets 1 and 2 Summer Year 11

Additional Mathematics- Level 2 WJEC Qualification (Pass, Merit or Distinction)

One external exam

Year 11 sets 1 and 2 Summer Year 11

Music

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|----------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| 1: Performance | 35% | Deadline: December 2023 |
| 2: Composition | 35% | Deadline: December 2023 |
| 3: Examination | 30% | 17 th June 2024 |

Drama

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|-----------------------|-------------|---|
| 1: Devising Theatre | 40% | December 2023 |
| 2: Performing Theatre | 20% | Examiner window: Between January – April 2024 |
| 3: Examination | 40% | 9 th May 2024 |

Product Design

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|----------------|-------------|---|
| 1: Examination | 50 | Summer Year 11 |
| 2: NEA | 50 | Ongoing throughout years 10 and 11 - Final Deadline May Year 11 |

Physical Education

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|----------------|-------------|---|
| 1: Examination | 50 | Summer Year 11 |
| 2: NEA | 50 | Ongoing throughout course. Practical external moderation – March Year 11 |

BTEC Sport

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|--------|-------------|--|
| 1: NEA | 100 | Ongoing throughout the course. Final deadline - May Year 11 |

Religious Studies

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1: Examination | 50 | Summer Year 10 |
| 2: Examination | 50 | Summer Year 11 |

Science (Double)

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|----------------|-------------|------------------|
| Biology 1 | 15 | Summer Year 10 |
| Chemistry 1 | 15 | Summer Year 10 |
| Physics 1 | 15 | Summer Year 10 |
| Practical exam | 10 | February Year 11 |
| Biology 2 | 15 | Summer Year 11 |
| Chemistry 2 | 15 | Summer Year 11 |
| Physics 2 | 15 | Summer Year 11 |

Science Triple

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|----------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1 | 45 | Summer Year 10 |
| 2 | 45 | Summer Year 11 |
| Practical exam | 10 | February Year 11 |

Skills Challenge Certificate

| Unit | Weighting | Date |
|----------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Enterprise Challenge | 25% | Autumn Year 10 |
| Global Challenge | 25% | Summer Year 10 |
| Individual Project | 50% | Summer Year 11 |

Welsh

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|---|-------------|----------------|
| 1: NEA: Oracy response to visual stimulus | 25 | April 16,17,18 |
| 2: NEA: Communicating with other people | 25 | April 22,23,24 |
| 3: Written examination | 25 | May 22nd |
| 4: Written examination | 25 | June 4th |

Spanish

| Unit | Weighting % | Date |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1: NEA | 25 | Throughout course |
| 2: NEA | 25 | Throughout course |
| 3: NEA | 25 | Throughout course |
| 4: On screen examination | 25 | Summer Year 11 |

Princes Trust and Work Skills

Continual assessment throughout course.