



Ysgol Gyfun Bryntirion | 
Bryntirion Comprehensive

Year 10

The Year Ahead

Information Pack

Contents

Page 1 – Headteacher’s Welcome

Page 2 - Key Dates for external examinations in Summer 2026

Page 3 – Internal key NEA deadlines

Page 4 – What is NEA?

Page 5 – Attendance

Page 6 – Support for Parents

Page 7 – Study tips

Headteacher's Welcome

As Year 10 pupils embark upon their new GCSE courses, we thought it might be useful to provide you with some important information to help you and your child prepare for the year ahead. As you will be aware, Year 10 pupils will be studying a brand-new set of GCSEs that are aligned with the Curriculum for Wales that your child has been following since Year 7. Whilst the content of many of the new qualifications remains the same, there is a greater emphasis on Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) and so pupils will need to organise their time effectively to ensure that key deadlines are met.

This information pack contains key information on NEAs, dates for examinations and other important deadlines. It also provides some useful information on the importance of attendance, support for parents and some study tips for pupils to help them prepare for external examinations.

We wish our Year 10 pupils every success this year and in Year 11 and we will continue to support them to achieve the highest standards. We look forward to working with you over the next two years to achieve this key aim.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Mead', written in a cursive style.

Mr D Mead

Headteacher

1. Key Dates - External Examinations

Mathematics

Level	Exam Title	Time	Date
GCSE	Mathematics Unit 1	1.30h / 1.45h	12 th May
GCSE	Mathematics Unit 2	1.30 / 1.45h	4 th June

Science

Level	Exam Title	Time	Date
GCSE	Biology U1	1.15h	8 th June AM
GCSE	Chemistry U2	1.15h	12 th June AM
GCSE	Physics U3	1.15h	15 th June PM

English

Level	Exam Title	Time	Date
GCSE	English Literature and Language	1.30h	15 th May AM

Business Studies

Level	Exam Title	Time	Date
GCSE	Business Unit 1	1.15h	14 th May

Computer Science

Level	Exam Title	Time	Date
GCSE	Computer Science 1 (online)	1.15h	21 st May

Construction

Level	Exam Title	Time	Date
GCSE	Built Environment (on screen)	1.0h	12 th June

Geography

Level	Exam Title	Time	Date
GCSE	Geography Unit 1	1.30h	11 th May

History

Level	Exam Title	Time	Date
GCSE	History Unit 3	1.15h	9 th June

Religious Studies

Level	Exam Title	Time	Date
GCSE	Religious Studies Unit 1	1.30h	20 th May

2. Key Deadlines for subjects

English-

- w/c 6th October - Preparation for NEA
- w/c 13th October - NEA Unit 2, Task A (Essay - 'The Woman in Black')
- w/c 3rd November - Preparation for NEA w/c 10th November
- NEA Unit 2, Task B (Individual Presentation)
- w/c 8th December - Preparation for NEA and completion of NEA Unit 3, Task B (Creative Writing)
- w/c 5th January - Preparation for NEA
- w/c 12th January - NEA Unit 3, Task A (Group Discussion)
- 15th May - Unit 1 Exam

Geography - Fieldwork (attendance essential for Unit 2 Coursework - NEA) June 25th & 26th 2026

History – NEA Part B (interpretations essay) deadline 1st May 2026 . Part A (historical enquiry essay) deadline 17th July 2026.

Health and Social Care - NEA1 deadline 22nd May 2026

Performing Arts - First performance and first composition due by May half term 2026

Religious Studies - NEA deadline 30th January 2026

Skills Challenge Certificate - Global Citizenship Challenge (25% of Skills Challenge Certificate) Entered in January 2026 moderation Series. All work for this Challenge must be completed and submitted by October half term 2025.

3. Understanding Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)

What is NEA?

NEA stands for Non-Exam Assessment. It is a form of coursework that contributes to your child's final grade in most subjects. Unlike traditional exams, NEAs are completed over a period of time and often involve research, practical work, extended writing, or project-based tasks. NEAs allow students to demonstrate their understanding, creativity, and ability to work independently. They are an essential part of many qualifications and can significantly impact final outcomes.

Why is NEA important?

NEAs give students the opportunity to:

- Apply their knowledge in real-world or practical contexts.
- Develop independent learning and time management skills.
- Showcase strengths that may not be fully reflected in written exams.

The work is marked either by teachers or exam boards, depending on the subject, and forms a percentage of the final GCSE grade.

How You Can Support Your Child

- Encourage Good Time Management – Help your child plan their work and avoid last-minute stress.
- Create a Quiet Study Space – A calm, distraction-free environment at home can help your child focus.
- Show Interest – Ask your child about their NEA topic and progress.
- Avoid Doing the Work for Them – NEAs must be the student's own work.
- Keep in Touch with School – Encourage your child to speak to their teacher if they need help.

Tips for Managing NEA Stress

- Break Tasks into Steps – Divide the NEA into smaller, achievable goals.
- Use a Planner or Calendar – Visualising deadlines can reduce anxiety.
- Encourage Regular Breaks – Short breaks help maintain focus.
- Promote Healthy Habits – Good sleep, meals, and exercise support wellbeing.
- Celebrate Progress – Recognising effort boosts morale.
- Stay Positive and Reassuring – Remind your child that asking for help is okay.

We understand that NEAs can be a source of pressure, but with the right support and strategies, your child can approach them with confidence and resilience. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

4. Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance: Every Day Counts

Your child's education builds day by day. Missing school—even occasionally—can have a big impact.

Attendance %	Days Missed	Lessons Missed
100%	0	0
95%	9.5 days	47 lessons
90%	19 days	95 lessons
85%	28.5 days	142 lessons

Each school day = 5 lessons. That's a lot of missed learning!

Punctuality Matters Too

Being late by just 10 minutes a day = 6 full school days lost per year.

Minutes Late Daily	Days Lost Annually
5 mins	3 days
10 mins	6 days
15 mins	10 days
30 mins	19 days

Late arrivals often miss:

- Key instructions
- Starter activities
- Whole lessons

Impact on GCSE Grades (A–G)

- Pupils with 95%+ attendance are twice as likely to achieve Grades A–C.
- Pupils with below 90% attendance are more likely to not reach their full potential or achieve no GCSEs.
- Missing just 10 extra days can reduce the chance of achieving Grade C or above by up to 50%.

Why It Matters Long-Term

- Poor attendance affects college, apprenticeships, and job prospects.
- Employers value reliability - being present and on time is a life skill.

What Is Good Attendance?

- 95% or higher is considered good - this allows for occasional illness but ensures consistent learning.

How You Can Help

- Encourage daily attendance unless your child is genuinely unwell.
- Ensure they arrive on time every day.
- Contact school if you need support - help is available.

5. Support For Parents

- Maths for Parents: New **Foundation** GCSE Curriculum (Group 1) - Wednesday 6.30pm to 9pm - Live Online
- Maths for Parents: New **Foundation** GCSE Curriculum (Group 2) - Thursday 12.15pm to 2.45pm - Face-to-Face at Bridgend College (Bridgend Campus) or Live Online
- Maths for Parents: New **Higher** GCSE Curriculum - Tuesday 6.30pm to 9pm - Live Online
- For more information contact crroberts@bridgend.ac.uk

6. 🧠 GCSE Revision Tips for Students in Wales

Smash your exams with confidence!

A. 📅 Plan Like a Pro - Structure is your secret weapon!

- **Create a revision timetable:** Break subjects into manageable chunks. Prioritise topics you find hardest.
- **Use the WJEC exam calendar:** Know your exam dates and work backwards. [WJEC Exam Timetable](#)
- **Balance is key:** Include breaks, hobbies, and sleep in your schedule.

B. 📖 Active Revision Techniques - Don't just read—engage!

- **Flashcards:** Great for definitions, formulas, and key facts.
- **Mind maps:** Visualise connections between ideas.
- **Teach it:** Explain topics to a friend or family member.
- **Past papers:** Use WJEC papers to practise under timed conditions.

C. 📚 Subject-Specific Tips - Tailor your approach!

Subject	Tip
English	Learn key quotes, practise essay structures, and analyse themes.
Maths	Drill past paper questions and memorise formulas.
Science	Use diagrams, flashcards, and practice applying concepts.
Welsh	Revise grammar rules and practise writing in different formats.
History/Geog	Create timelines and case study summaries.

D. 🧘 Stay Well, Stay Sharp - Your brain needs care too!

- **Sleep 7–9 hours:** Memory and focus depend on it.
- **Eat brain-friendly foods:** Think nuts, berries, and whole grains.
- **Take breaks:** Use the Pomodoro technique—25 mins work, 5 mins rest.
- **Stay active:** A walk or workout boosts concentration

E. 📱 Smart Use of Tech - Let your phone help, not hinder!

- **Apps to try:** Seneca, Quizlet, BBC Bitesize, WJEC resources.
- **Limit distractions:** Use “Focus Mode” or app blockers during study time.
- **Record yourself:** Listening to your notes can reinforce learning.

F. 💬 Final Words of Wisdom!

- **Start early:** Cramming = stress.
- **Ask for help:** Teachers, friends, and family are there for you.
- **Believe in yourself:** You've got this. Pob lwc! 🍀