

HELPING YOUR CHILD THROUGH GCSEs.

YEAR 10



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Helping Your Child Through GCSEs

Year 10

As your son / daughter enters this very important period in their formal education we would like share vital information about what lies ahead this year and ways in which you can best support your child through this important and potentially challenging time.

Firstly, the GCSE years can be a challenging time for pupils and we would like to stress that their wellbeing is of utmost importance. If you, or your son / daughter have any concerns we have a large pastoral team that can be contacted, including their form tutor, Miss Elsom (Assistant Progress Leader) Miss Hopkins-Weaver (Progress Leader) and Mrs Matthews (SLT Link).

All pupils have been issued with a Chromebook from the school. It is extremely important that they bring their Chromebook and charger to school everyday. Some subjects rely on pupils having their Chromebooks in order to access online resources, and pupils will not be able to complete their work in lessons without one. Chromebooks should also be taken home each evening, for any homework to be completed on. Maesteg School also utilises Microsoft Teams for teachers to be able to share resources online, enabling a Blended Learning approach to their lessons and homework.

Pupils will be set regular homework that will contribute to their learning of GCSE content. Homework may sometimes be set as an 'Assignment' on Teams. Pupils can use their Chromebooks as a planner to organise when homework is due, by using the 'Calendar' function in Microsoft Office. The library is available from 2:50-3:50 after school Monday-Thursday if pupils need a quiet space or access to the internet in order to complete homework.

Community Drop-In every Wednesday 12pm-2pm

Caerau Community Centre

Mrs Alison Davies (07813 956115)



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List of Year 10 Tutors emails:

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Year 10 – GCSE English Literature

Course Overview

GCSE English Literature provides opportunities for pupils to read literature that will fire their imagination.

Pupils will read prose, drama and poetry from different centuries and genres, while developing a love of reading widely and for pleasure.

2 x 2-hour examinations

Unit 1. : Different Cultures and Poetry
(Of Mice and Men) **35%**

Unit 2: Contemporary drama and literary heritage
(Blood Brothers & A Christmas Carol) **40%**

Non-Examination Assessment

Unit 3: Non-examination Assessment. Shakespeare and Welsh poetry
(Romeo & Juliet) **25%**

Key Dates

- Welsh poetry comparison deadline: to be completed by October half-term
- Unit 1 Exam: 11th January
- Overall Unit 3 deadline: March 2023
- Unit 1 (re-sit) and 2 Examinations: May/June 2023 (exact dates to be released by WJEC)



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STUDENT REVISION AND STUDY TIPS

Know where to look! Of Mice and Men was first studied in Year 9. All resources and work completed last year will make good revision resources to support study in Year 10 . All pupils have been given revision booklets this year. English Literature support sessions run every Wednesday after school.

Know your texts! Ensure you produce character files and learn a bank of key quotes from each set text. A wide range of online support is available for all our set texts- some links are below. For Drama like Blood Brothers, students will have the opportunity to watch this live in a theatre setting.

Know your deadlines! Keep an eye on the assignments set for you on Teams by your English teacher and make sure all classwork and homework deadlines are met. Key dates have been added above.

Get skilled up! Make sure you are familiar with key exam skills and question types. Extract, essay and comparison question all require a specific approach; ensure you feel confident about applying the right skills

Useful Online Resources

WJEC Exam Walk-Through	Resource WJEC Educational Resources Website	
GCSE Pod (Use your school Office 365 login)	GCSEPod	
GCSE Bitesize (No login required)	GCSE English Language - WJEC - BBC Bitesize	



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Single Science Award // WJEC

"There are billions of places out there that we know nothing about. The fact that we know nothing about them excites me, and I want to go out and find out about them. And that's what Science is!" - Brian Cox.

The WJEC GCSE Applied Science (Single Award) specification uses a context led approach to science learning and assessment. It provides learners with a broad, coherent, practical and worthwhile course of study.

Studying the GCSE Applied Science (Single Award) provides experience of how science works, whilst stimulating learners' curiosity and encouraging them to develop an understanding of science, its applications and its relationship to the individual and society.

Single Award Applied Science	
Unit 1 Science in the modern world (40% of qualification)	<p>2 x 1 hour & 30 minute externally assessed written examinations</p> <p>A mix of short answer; structured; extended writing and data response questions, with some set in a practical context.</p> <p>Task based assessment - 20%, externally assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carrying out a practical investigation in an applied scientific context (60 minutes) - Analysis of data in an applied scientific context (60 minutes) <p>Practical Assessment - 10%, externally assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Obtain results from a given experimental method. (60 minutes.) - Analyse and evaluate the data obtained. (60 minutes.)
Unit 2 Science to support our lifestyles (30% of qualification)	
Unit 3 Task based assessment (20% of qualification)	
Unit 4 Practical assessment (10% of qualification)	

Single Award Science offers pupils a broad course of study that adds to their knowledge and understanding of the living, material and physical worlds and develops their understanding of how science is used in everyday life. This GCSE is not designed to enable progression to level 3 qualifications in Science.



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Biology // WJEC

“Biology is now bigger than physics, as measured by the size of budgets, by the size of the workforce, or by the output of major discoveries; and biology is likely to remain the biggest part of science through the twenty-first century.” - Freeman Dyson

“GCSE Biology offers a wide range of interesting topics and is very enjoyable.” - Olivia Thomas

Biology is the scientific study of life: as such it covers the investigation of living organisms and life processes from cells and individual organisms to populations and whole communities of animals and plants. At GCSE Biology we will focus on three main areas:

- Developing knowledge and understanding of Biology
- Understanding how Biological knowledge impacts on society
- Developing skills and the ability to evaluate scientific information

WJEC GCSE Biology Modular	
<p>Biology Unit 1 (Completed in Year 10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cells • Organ systems • Ecosystems 	<p>2 x 1 hour 45 minutes examinations.</p> <p>Each examination consists of a mix of short answer, structured, extended writing and data response questions. Some of these questions will be set in a practical context.</p>
<p>Biology Unit 2 (Completed in Year 11)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variation, • Homeostasis • Micro-organisms 	<p>Each examination is worth 45% of the final grade.</p> <p>Practical Assessment</p> <p>Students will need to obtain results from a given experimental method and analyse and evaluate the data obtained.</p>
<p>Biology Unit 3 (Completed in Year 11)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology Practical Assessment 	<p>The practical assessment is worth 10% of the final grade.</p>

GCSE Biology leads into AS/A2 Biology, which leads into Biology based courses at university. Potential careers related to Biology include Medicine, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Genetic Engineering, Biotechnology, Pharmacy, Pharmacology and many, many more...



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Chemistry // WJEC

"Every aspect of the world today – even politics and International relations is affected by chemistry." - Linus Pauling

Chemistry is the study of matter (or 'stuff') and the changes it can undergo. It is about understanding the basic properties of matter and learning how to predict and explain how they change when they react to form new substances.

The GCSE Chemistry course provides students with opportunities to carry out their own scientific investigations and to evaluate scientific information. Students also look at how scientific knowledge and expertise provides benefits for society, but can also pose moral and ethical problems. They also develop their skills in communication, mathematics and the use of technology in scientific contexts.

GCSE Chemistry	
Unit 1 (Completed in Year 10) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chemical substances, Reactions and Essential Resources.	2 x 1 hour 45 minutes externally assessed written examinations - 45% of qualification individually, 90% total. A mix of short answer; structured; extended writing and data response questions, with some set in a practical context. Practical Assessment - 10%, externally assessed. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Obtain results from a given experimental method. (60 minutes)Analyse and evaluate the data obtained. (60 minutes)
Unit 2 (Completed in Year 11) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chemical bonding, Application of Chemical Reactions and Organic Chemistry.	
Unit 3 (Completed in Year 11) Practical Assessment	

Progression and Career Opportunities: AS/A2 Chemistry, Physics and Biology in Maesteg School. The study of Chemistry, Medicine, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Chemical Engineering, Forensic Science, Environmental Science, Analytical Science, etc. It also provides a satisfying course of study for those who do not wish to study the subject further.



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Physics // WJEC

"Space is big. You just won't believe how vastly, hugely, mind-bogglingly big it is. I mean, you may think it's a long way down the road to the chemist's, but that's peanuts to space." - Douglas Adams

Triple Science - Physics enables students to develop their appreciation of the knowledge and understanding of the world as established by the scientific community. The subject explores a wider range of scientific concepts and provides a more detailed knowledge and understanding, by helping students develop and improve skills in several key areas:

- Evaluating scientific information.
- Undertaking scientific measurements and investigations.
- Developing scientific language, mathematical and communication skills.

GCSE Physics	
Unit 1 (Completed in Year 10) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electricity, Energy and Waves.	2 x 1 hour, 45 minutes externally assessed written examinations - 45% of qualification individually, 90% total. A mix of short answer; structured; extended writing and data response questions, with some set in a practical context. Practical Assessment - 10%, externally assessed. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtain results from a given experimental method. (60 minutes.)• Analyse and evaluate the data obtained. (60 minutes.)
Unit 2 (Completed in Year 11) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forces, Space and Radioactivity.	
Unit 3 (Completed in Year 11) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practical Assessment	

Triple Science - Physics leads into AS/A2 courses like Physics and Maths, and Science and Engineering courses at university. Science and Engineering graduates have diverse career opportunities and the subject has one of the highest rates of graduate employability. Studying Science will provide you with a wide variety of transferable skills particularly attractive to universities and employers alike.

Not all Physics students end up working in laboratories! Potential careers related to Physics include electrical, civil, materials, aeronautical and mechanical engineering, meteorology (weather forecasting), Formula 1, computer programming, medicine, optometry, pharmacology, telecommunications, teaching, environmental health, conservation, mining, navigation, surveying, architect drawing, data analysis, civil service, and marine science to name but a few.



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Key Dates – Year 10

Date	Assessment	Course
Week beginning February 13th	PPE	Single Award Applied Biology Chemistry Physics
Summer Exam Series	Unit 1	Single Award Applied Biology Chemistry Physics

End of topic tests will be completed throughout the year



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Useful Online Resources

<p>All Science Subjects</p>	<p>NEW Blended Learning (wjec.co.uk)</p> <p>NEW Knowledge Organisers (wjec.co.uk)</p> <p>Question Bank (wjec.co.uk)</p>	
<p>Biology</p>	<p>GCSE Biology (Single Science) - WJEC - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>WJEC Educational Resources Website</p>	
<p>Chemistry</p>	<p>GCSE Chemistry (Single Science) - WJEC - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>WJEC Educational Resources Website</p>	
<p>Physics</p>	<p>GCSE Physics (Single Science) - WJEC - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>WJEC Educational Resources Website</p>	
<p>Single Award Applied Science:</p>	<p>WJEC Educational Resources Website</p>	



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Year 10 GCSE Mathematics & Numeracy

Course Overview:

- GCSE Numeracy will enable learners to develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical and statistical methods required for everyday life. Pupils will benefit from being able to acquire and use strategies for problem solving and modelling in context. As well as being able to interpret different mathematical results and communicate information in a variety of forms.
- GCSE Mathematics builds on the progress made at the end of KS3 and extends to aspects of mathematics needed for progression to scientific, technical or further mathematical study. Learners can develop the skills needed to select and apply methods in both mathematical and real-world contexts. The course also enables learners to communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms, draw and justify conclusions based off their calculations and workings.

The following table summarises the way in which the mathematical content is divided across the mathematics GCSE's (Maths & Numeracy):

GCSE	Mathematics – Numeracy	Mathematics	
Content	Number, Measure and Statistics plus <u>some aspects of Algebra, Geometry and Probability</u>	<u>All</u> the content of GCSE Mathematics - Numeracy	<u>Additional</u> Algebra, Geometry and Probability
Assessment focus	The application of the above content in context	–	The application of the <u>above</u> content in context
		Procedural skills in situations that are context-free or involve minimal context for <u>all</u> content	

Key Dates 2022-2023: The following dates indicate whole year group internal mock assessments for current Year 10. It should be noted that the earliest that the current Year 10's will sit a mathematics GCSE is planned to be November 2023:

- **GCSE Mathematics: Internal Mock – Week Commencing 19th & 26th June 2023**
- **GCSE Mathematics Numeracy: Internal Mock- Week Commencing 19th & 26th June 2023**
- **Pupils will also be assessed at the end of every half term with in -class assessments to help measure progress and identify any areas of support.**



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Please scan the following QR codes for helpful revision and resource websites:



WJEC Question Bank



Maths DIY



Corbett Maths



Mathematics - [Youtube](#)

Revision Resource	Website Address
WJEC Question Bank	https://questionbank.wjec.co.uk/
Maths DIY	https://www.mathsdiy.com/
Corbett Maths	https://corbettmaths.com/
Maesteg Maths YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/channel/Uct5Dd23lLz7HI2fZn7C5BGQ

We encourage pupils to familiarise themselves with as much GCSE content as possible. Corbett maths have a range of videos to demonstrate how to successfully access a range of mathematical concepts.

Pupils have recently been given specific list of topics that are very likely to be assessed during the summer exams. They will soon receive an updated version of this which will direct them to the video tutorial, specific for those topics. Maths DIY and WJEC question bank then allow pupils to access a range of past paper questions which they can attempt and check their answers.

A Quick Message:

The Maesteg maths department would like to take this opportunity to communicate the importance of the pupil's success being based on a team effort. Pupils will have all the support and guidance needed to be successful in their mathematics GCSE examinations.

There will be revision clubs after school which allows pupils to really practice the key concepts that they feel they need more support on. Alongside this, pupils can really help themselves also, by ensuring they invest time in their independent learning.

By completing their weekly homework tasks on My Maths (and at times, paper copies of past paper questions), pupils give themselves opportunity to consolidate what is being covered in class that week.

There will be assessment points (mocks) over the course of the year, and it is important to recognise that these are as equally important as the final examinations. Preparing for mock assessments in the correct way, will give a true reflection on pupil's progress and more importantly, of what needs to be done to support and improve.

Year 10 pupils will commence their final year as a Year 11 's in September 2023. This will come around very quickly, and so we want pupils to develop good learning habits now so that they can make the transition into a busy final year with as little stress as possible.

Year 10 pupils have an excellent opportunity to really excel and succeed at GCSE level. Hopefully, with no further disruptions to education, pupils have all the opportunities available to take advantage of the support and materials at their disposal.

Diolch Yn Fawr



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Key exam & assessment information 2022-2023

SUBJECT		DATE	EXAM
ENGLISH LITERATURE	Poetry coursework completed	By 24 th October 2022	Contributes to final grade
	Mock Examination 'Of Mice and Men and Unseen Poetry.'	Week Beginning 14 th November	Internal Mock Exam (PPE)
	Parents Evening with English Teachers only, in preparation for External Exam	Thursday 1 st December	Parents Evening
	External Exam 'Of Mice and Men and unseen Poetry.'	Wednesday 11 th January	External Exam
	Shakespeare coursework deadline	March	Contributes to final grade
	Mock Examination 'A Christmas Carol and Blood Brothers'	Week Beginning 24 th April	Internal Mock Exam (PPE)
	English Unit 2 Exam 'A Christmas Carol and Blood Brothers'	June but date not released yet	External Exam
MATHS - NUMERACY	Mock Examination Numeracy and Maths	19 th to 30 th June	Internal Mock Exam (PPE)
SCIENCE	Mock Examination unit 1	Week Beginning 13 th Feb	Internal Mock Exam (PPE)
	Unit 1 External Examination	June but date not released yet	External Exam



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SUBJECT		DATE	EXAM
WELSH	Group Oral recording	19 th /20 th / 21 st April	Contributes to final grade 10%
PUBLIC SERVICES	External exam unit 1 Role and work of public services	Week beginning 16 th January	Unit 1 Contributes to final grade
History	Mock Examination Unit 1 Medicine in readiness for June external exam	Between 5 th and 16 th December	Internal Mock Exam (PPE)
	Unit 1 External Examination	June but date not released yet	External Exam
Tourism	Mock Examination Unit 1 in readiness for June external exam	Between 5 th and 16 th December	Internal Mock Exam (PPE)
	Unit 1 External Examination	June but date not released yet	External Exam

Parents Evening English only Thursday 1st December 2022

Parents Evening for all subject except English will be on 27th April 2023

Mock exams (PPEs) in all subjects, except ones which have already sat external examination will take place between the 19th and 30th June



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