

# Croeso i

## Year 9 Parent Information Evening

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dydd Mawrth Tachwedd 12

5-6pm

### **Introduction and Welcome**

Mrs Davies - Assistant Headteacher

### **A Chronology of the GCSE Options Process**

Miss Feldon - Head of Year

### **Mini Presentations from Leaders of Core Subjects**

Mr Jones and Mrs Young – English, Miss Draper – Mathematics, Mr Sinkowski – Science, Mrs Aggleton – Welsh

### **Language Learning at MCS**

Miss Jill Snook – Head of International Languages Faculty

### **Guest speaker – The Importance of Languages in the World of Work**

David Binns - CEO of Sanako UK and Ireland

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Subject Leaders to update course information.	Subject Leaders/KJN	Request: 21 <sup>st</sup> October
Review Option Booklet and Free Choice Form	CHM/CEG/LWE/KJN	From 8 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>Tutor Contact Evening</b>	<b>HFE – Form Tutors</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> November</b>
Options Launch with students – <b>Introductory Wellbeing lesson and Assembly</b>	<b>CEG/CHM/HFE</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> November</b>
Options Booklet & Free Choice Google Form issued.	Form Tutors/LWE	28 <sup>th</sup> November
Free Choice Google Form Complete	Form Tutors	13 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Approach to learning Autumn Term report sent home</b>	<b>All subject teachers</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> December</b>
<b>Christmas Break</b>		
Faculty/Subject Option Discussions	Faculty/Subject Leaders, Staff	January – March
<b>Wellbeing lesson and Assembly focussing on resilience and confidence</b>	<b>Form Tutors</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> January</b>
<b>Well Being lesson and Assembly focussing on decision making support</b> Options Form issued	<b>Form Tutors</b> <b>CEG.CHM</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> January</b>
<b>Year 9 Parents Evening</b>	<b>All subject teachers</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>
<b>Careers and Higher Education Fair</b>	<b>KJN</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> February</b>
Block Choices Form Return Deadline	Form Tutors/LWE	14 <sup>th</sup> February
‘Mopping up’ session to complete Options Form	HFE/CEG/CHM	21 <sup>st</sup> February
Options review and student interviews	CEG/CHM/RNE/HFE/BGN/MDA	Week Beginning 10 <sup>th</sup> March
Option Review complete	CEG/CHM/RNE/HFE/BGN/MDA	28 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Easter Break</b>		
Timetabling	LWE/CHM	April onwards
<b>Whitsun Half Term</b>		
<b>GCSE lessons begin!</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> June.</b>
<b>End of term full report sent home</b>	<b>All subject teachers</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> July</b>

# English - Saesneg

Year Nine, Year Nen and GCSE

Mr Jones and Mrs Young –

# Year Nine – Blwydden Naw

- Students are not set, they're placed in mixed ability groups. This will continue into GCSE
- Current groups are working well so we don't foresee much movement or change to present grouping arrangements
- We set homework once every two weeks
- Assessment is continuous throughout the academic year, very much like it was in Y7 and Y8
- Units of work revolve around whole texts

# Year Nene and GCSE

- New GCSE English qualification gives our students two possible pathways: double award and single award
- The vast majority will sit the double award option, which combines both language and literature study
- A small number of students will sit the single award. This will also allow them to sit English as a foundation subject (replacing the entry level qualification), which will give students every possible chance of leaving school with an English qualification
- Students will be assessed through a series of both external examinations (60%) and non-examination assessment (NEA) (40%)
- The WJEC proposes to offer examination from 2026. Students are likely to begin sitting NEA and examination in Y9 (nen) and Y10
- Text choices are still under review at this point, as is the precise shape of the two-year course
- We can, however, confirm that *Of Mice and Men* is no longer available to study at GCSE

## INTRODUCTION

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.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

**Unit 1 CONTEXT AND MEANING** - in Unit 1, you will study a range of poetry from the WJEC anthology, engaging with the concept of Context and Meaning.

**Unit 2 BELONGING** - in Unit 2, you will study a prose text, engaging with the concept of Belonging and themes of community, *cynefin* and citizenship.

**Unit 3 INFLUENCE AND POWER** - in Unit 3, you will study a range of non-fiction texts, engaging with the Influence and Power of writers, and how writers and speakers exert power and attempt to influence others.

**Unit 4b MOTIVATIONS** - in Unit 4b, you will have a choice to study a play or a prose text, engaging with the concept of Motivations of writers and characters, exploring reasons for attitudes, behaviours and beliefs.

**Unit 5 CONTINUITY AND CHANGE** - in Unit 5, you will study a Shakespeare play and pre-20<sup>th</sup> LC poetry. You will consider the concept of Continuity and Change, and how attitudes, ideas and language have changed over time.

**Unit 6 CONNECTIONS** - in Unit 6, you will study non-fiction texts, focusing on the concept of Connections. You will explore links between different texts, relating texts to time, place, language, and relationships.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Units 1, 4b and 6 are examined units, together worth 60% of your qualification. Each exam lasts 90 minutes and will consist of low-tariff extract-based questions, an extended essay response and a piece of creative fiction or non-fiction writing.

Units 2, 3 and 5 are non-examined assessments, together worth 40% of your qualification. Each unit will consist of two tasks, one that will assess your written response to the relevant text(s) and one that will assess your oracy skills.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

GCSE English Language and Literature is a core subject and as such helps to develop a wide range of skills for your future:

- Communication Skills - expressing yourself through clear and creative use of language
- Reading Skills - reading, listening to and researching a range of texts, analysing meaning and scrutinising reliability
- Contextual Analysis Skills - engaging with the significance of purpose, audience, and contexts of speaking, reading and writing
- Literacy Skills - developing and applying an understanding of grammar and uses of vocabulary.

## CAREERS USING 'ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE'

GCSE English Language and Literature is designed to equip you with a rich variety of skills for your future in education and the workplace. It is a widely valued qualification that provides a strong foundation for further study of literature, language, and a wide range of other academic subjects at A level and beyond. It can open the door to an array of career paths such as law, journalism, media production, advertising, marketing, teaching, politics, public relations, and publishing.

FIND OUT MORE - TALK TO YOUR TEACHER TODAY!

# Science – Gwyddoniaeth

A Mastery Curriculum

Mr Sinkowski – Science

# What do we mean by 'mastery curriculum?'

- Our students get an opportunity to:
  - Review
  - Consolidate
  - Embed
  - Broaden

....KNOWLEDGE



# Our curriculum is knowledge rich

- This is in preparation for GCSE
- In Year 9, knowledge is contextualised
- Students get an opportunity to apply and analyse

# The three sciences are integrated at KS3

- Each topic contains aspects of each scientific discipline
- Students get the opportunity to integrate their knowledge
- There are five topics:
  - Flight
  - Human Impact
  - Forensics
  - Sports Science
  - Mobile Phones

# Assessment in Science

- Tests at the end of each unit:
  - 40 marks in total
  - 20 marks recall
  - 15 marks application of knowledge
  - 5 marks how science works
- End of Year exam:
  - This will contain an equal weighting of Biology, Chemistry and Physics content learned from across the five units studied.
  - Data from this will be used to determine whether students study Double or Triple Science.

# The importance of revision

- Google Classroom – this will contain retrieval practice questions, answer booklets, Google quizzes, further reading
- Students will take their booklets home upon completing each topic and will usually have a week/ten days to prepare for the assessment
- The date of the end of year exam will be published well in advance, again communicated via Google Classroom

# Key Stage 4

- There is still the opportunity to study Triple Science.
- The 'new' curriculum starts with our current Year 8 students.
- Separate lessons, with three subject specialists in Biology, Chemistry and Physics will begin in the last half term.

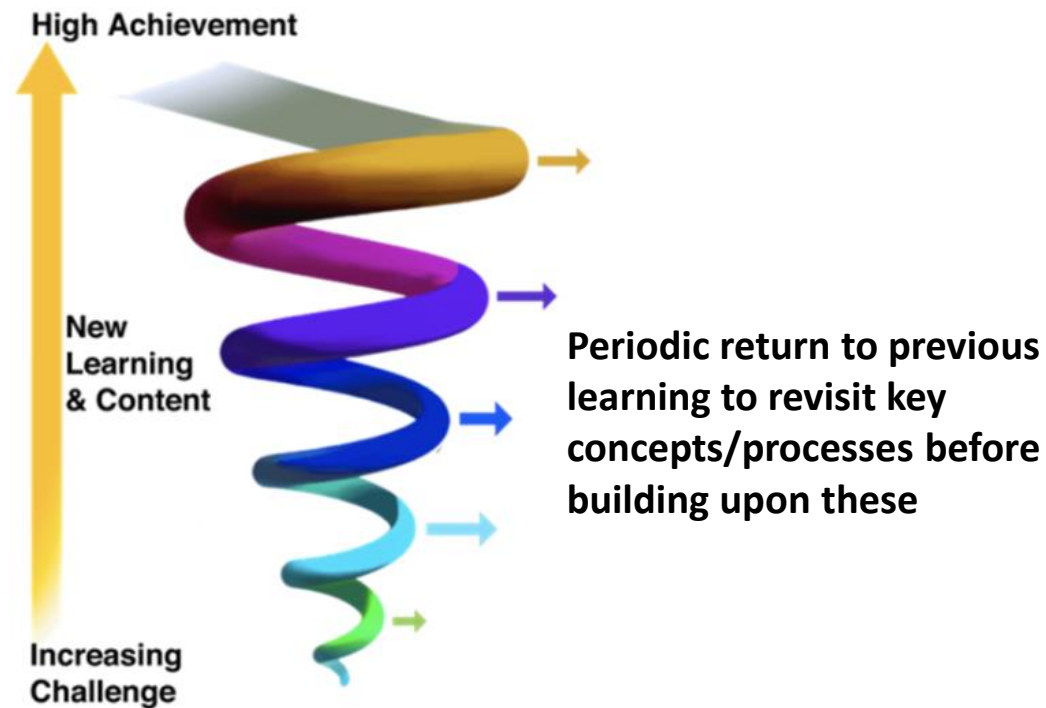
# Mathematics - Mathemateg

Year Nine, Year Nen and GCSE

Miss Draper

# Mathematics – Blwyddyn 9

During Year 9 we continue with our spiralling curriculum, focussing on recapping and consolidating the skills developed in Years 7 and 8 and building on these further as we progress towards GCSE.



# What are we teaching?

Our Mathematics curriculum is split into 4 areas - these are called the 'Statements of What Matters':

- The **number system** is used to represent and compare relationships between numbers and quantities.
- **Algebra** uses symbol systems to express the structure of mathematical relationships.
- **Geometry** involves naming and classifying shapes and structures. Reasoning about the sizes and properties of shapes and their surrounding spaces helps learners to make sense of the physical world and the world of mathematical shapes.
- **Statistics** represent data, **probability** models chance, and both support informed inferences and decisions.



# Why are we teaching it?

The sequencing of the topics ensures that concepts are re-visited and built upon, both within this topic and as we progress through the year.

Throughout KS3 we are building key skills that will support students as they move forward into GCSE's and beyond:

- **Conceptual understanding:** students will be able to explain and express concepts, while increasing their breadth of knowledge.
- **Communication using symbols:** Students understand the mathematical symbols they are using (e.g.  $^2$ ,  $\sqrt{\quad}$ ,  $\pi$ ) and use correct units (e.g. cm,  $\text{cm}^2$ )
- **Fluency:** students will be able to recall facts through questioning and effectively apply skills to increasingly complex calculations. These skills will be revisited through the year in 'Do Now' Tasks.
- **Logical reasoning:** Use of problem solving, contextualised lessons will help students make connections and transfer learning into new contexts.
- **Strategic competence:** Consistent use of correct and appropriate mathematical language will support links in further topic areas e.g. finding factors of a number and factorising in algebra

# How are we teaching/assessing it?

- **Teaching resources** – Students have workbooks for each unit of work
  - Limits the amount of copying down
  - Increases the pace, so students have more time completing independent tasks in their exercise books
  - Knowledge organisers for each unit, to support revision
- **Assessments** at the end of each unit
  - Students revise from their booklets
  - Teacher assessed
  - Feedback given
  - Average score from units will be reported on end of year report
- **Homeworks– Mathswatch**
  - Online homework given at the end of each sub topic (on average every 2 weeks)
  - Instant feedback (whether the answer is correct or not)
  - Video's of topics to recap or relearn as needed
- **Google Classroom** – Catch up classroom
  - All lessons are uploaded to support with any absence/catch up/revision

# Moving forward – New GCSE's

Current Year 9's will be the first cohort to sit the new

**Double Award GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy.**

We received the specification around a month ago and are in the process of developing a scheme of work to support all students in achieving their potential.

# Core Subject

## Mathematics & Numeracy (Double Award)

In GCSE Mathematics & Numeracy, you will build on the knowledge and understanding you have of topics within number, algebra, geometry, and data. You will be taught the key financial aspects of everyday adult life, such as dealing with payslips, bills, and savings. A good understanding of the content of this qualification is the perfect platform to those hoping to follow a STEM career.

### WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course has 3 units:

#### UNIT 1: Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy

In this unit you will learn life lessons that will help you become a financially well-informed adult. Think about terms or acronyms you may have heard about like 'National Insurance', 'VAT' or 'AER' - these will become familiar to you. Financial opportunities and pitfalls will be addressed, and you will learn how to read important documents like payslips, bills and bank statements.

All sorts of other real-world contexts will also be taught and assessed, making this unit relevant and interesting.

#### UNIT 2: Non-calculator

You will explore concepts where you won't need your calculator in this unit. You will deepen your understanding of probability and explore new ideas within algebra and geometry, like quadratic graphs and circle theorems.

#### UNIT 3: Calculator-allowed

This unit has the biggest weighting of all three units, and you can have your calculator by your side. There is lots of data handling and statistics in this unit as well as new geometry concepts such as Pythagoras' Theorem and Trigonometry.

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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

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

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

### WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- You will develop an understanding of the different areas of mathematics and how they relate to each other.
- You will extend your range of mathematical skills and techniques and be able to use and apply them to a range of real-life contexts.
- You will gain a strong foundation in financial mathematics to prepare you for life and work.

### CAREERS IN MATHEMATICS

A GCSE in Mathematics and Numeracy can lead to a variety of career paths. These include jobs such as: financial analyst, computer programmer, medical scientist, actuary, software developer, economist, data or research analyst, accountant, teacher.

FIND OUT MORE - TALK TO YOUR TEACHER TODAY!



Made for Wales.  
Ready for the world.

# Welsh - Cymraeg Blwyddyn 9 (Year 9)

Mrs Aggleton

# Cymraeg- Blwyddyn 9 (Year 9)



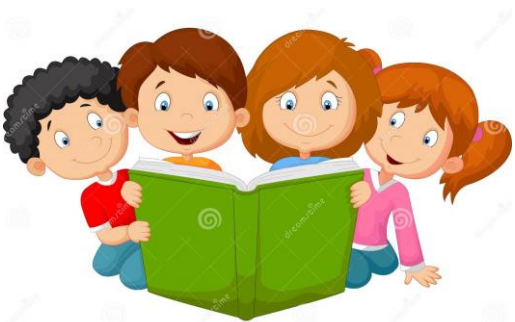
- We are preparing for the GCSE now- skills, language and assessments.
- Consolidating the different tenses learnt since year 7.
- Practising spontaneous speaking and written skills, similar to GCSE requirements.
- Also, allowing students to gain an appreciation of Welsh Culture and Media and the history of the language, showing that Welsh is a living and thriving language for outside of the classroom too!
- S4C programmes, music and an introduction to Welsh Literature.

S4C



# TGAU Newydd/ The new GCSE- What we know...

- 4 examinations- 2 speaking and 2 reading and writing.
- All of these will be sat in Year 11, with one speaking exam completed in the Autumn term.
- There will be questions on Welsh Literature for the first time- 2 poems and 2 short stories.
- But what is not changing is: the language and tenses and vocabulary that needs to be learnt, spontaneous speaking, development of listening, reading and writing skills.



# Core subject

## GCSE Core Cymraeg

Do you want to be able to understand and use Welsh, the language of Wales, confidently and spontaneously? Do you want to develop a valuable skill and use Welsh in further study, in the workplace and in your communities? Do you want to be a part of the government's aim and be one of the million Welsh speakers by 2050? This is a qualification that can foster your curiosity, develop your language learning skills and strategies, and open doors to further study and future jobs.

### WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will study **three broad themes of 'cynefin', identity and culture** and within these themes you will learn:

- about the value of the Welsh language socially and in the world of work
- about its use in Wales and around the world
- how to understand and use Cymraeg with others in a spontaneous and confident way
- how to develop skills for work and life
- how to respond creatively to literature.

### UNIT 1 (Responding to a Visual Stimulus) & UNIT 2 (Responding to Various Sources)

In these speaking and listening units you will learn how to understand and use Welsh with others in a spontaneous and confident way by:

- watching visual stimuli (Unit 1)
- looking at various sources for example, graph/chart, facts and/or statistics and images (Unit 2)

### UNIT 3 (Preparing for the Future) & UNIT 4 (Literature and Creative Writing)

In these units you will develop both skills, reading and writing, by responding to non-verbal reading and writing texts, practicing and responding to a variety of language forms, as well as:

- learn essential skills for the future such as translanguaging and translating (Unit 3)
- study short stories and set poems (Unit 4)

All units will be based on the three broad themes.

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

#### EXAMINATION

There will be two written examinations:

Unit 3 – 1 hour 30 minutes; 100 marks; 25% of qualification.

Unit 4 – 1 hour 30 minutes; 100 marks; 25% of qualification.

There will be a variety of reading tasks with non-verbal and written responses in both units along with descriptive, persuasive, poetic writing and express opinions tasks (Unit 3) and creative writing tasks (Unit 4).

In Unit 3, translanguaging and translating tasks will be assessed in each series. In Unit 4, one set text (from the two poems and two short stories) will be assessed in each series. You will be told before the exam (Unit 4) which set text will be used in each series.

### NON-EXAMINATION ASSESSMENT

There will be two non-examination assessments:

Unit 1 – one oral assessment for pairs (6-8 minutes) / group of three (8-10 minutes); 50 marks; 25% of qualification.

Unit 2 – one oral assessment for pairs (6-8 minutes) / group of three (8-10 minutes); 50 marks; 25% of qualification.

### WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- **Speaking and Listening Skills**  
You will develop your speaking and listening skills to be able to communicate, interact, express and justify opinions and ask and respond effectively to questions.
- **Reading and Writing skills**  
You will develop your reading and writing skills to be able to understand and respond to different types of written language in various forms including work-related language and responding to literature.
- **Analysing skills**  
You will develop your analytical skills to respond critically, evaluate relevant points and develop ideas in texts and spoken communication.

### CAREERS IN CORE CYMRAEG

#### GCSE CORE CYMRAEG

Jobs advertised in Wales often require the ability to speak Welsh as essential or desirable. If you have a GCSE Core Cymraeg qualification and if the other candidates applying for the post do not have this qualification, you have a head start.

The ability to speak Welsh is important and advantageous in all areas including education, health and care, the government, media and entertainment, sport, law, marketing and much more. You can even get a job in Patagonia in South America if you can speak Welsh!

FIND OUT MORE – TALK TO YOUR TEACHER TODAY!







# Language Learning at MCS

Miss Jill Snook

Head of International Languages Faculty

MCS is one of the only schools in the region to offer French, German and Spanish at GCSE level. We would strongly recommend students opt for 1 language to have a balanced curriculum and to make them marketable in today`s global society with a real need for linguists.

This year, students will also have opportunity to engage with some Mandarin thanks to our links with Universities in China.

- The value of language learning cannot be stressed too highly. It:
- supports cognitive development
- is a life-long skill that can support personal and social development and communication skills
- can prove useful in travel and exploration
- is highly valued in the work place and by employers

**Trade, markets and work places are global communities.**

# French/German/Spanish?

The WJEC GCSEs in French/German/Spanish have been designed to enable you to use languages in meaningful ways. You will learn how to understand the language and communicate in both speaking and writing in realistic settings. You will also develop an awareness of the culture and society of the countries and communities where the language is spoken and make connections with your own language and culture.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course has 4 units. Two are assessed in examinations in the final year of study. The other two units are completed as non-examination assessments in your classroom, also in your final year of study. You will learn useful language that you could use in situations relating to leisure and wellbeing, travel and study or work.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

### UNIT 1 – Oracy

Unit 1 is a non-examination assessment of speaking and listening and will be conducted by your teacher. Firstly, you will read aloud a short sentence to show your understanding of French/German/Spanish pronunciation. You will then take part in a role play. After this, you will give a short one-minute presentation that you will have prepared in advance and have a short discussion with your teacher about your presentation. Finally you will take part in a short conversation with your teacher. This unit is worth 30% of the qualification.

### UNIT 2 – Reading and Writing

Unit 2 is also a non-examination assessment that you will complete in your classroom. With your classmates, you will study a short work (either a graphic novel, short story, film script or novel) in French/German/Spanish. You will then write a written response (up to 200 words) in French/German/Spanish about the short story/graphic novel or film script you have studied. This unit is worth 15% of the qualification.

### Unit 3 – Listening

Unit 3 is a listening examination worth 20% of the qualification. You will listen a range of speakers in French/German/Spanish and will demonstrate your understanding of what you have heard by for example, answering multiple choice questions or questions in English/Cymraeg.

### Unit 4 – Reading and Writing

Unit 4 is a written examination worth 35% of the qualification. For this assessment, you will read texts in French/German/Spanish and answers questions on them in English/Cymraeg. You will also be required to complete a translation into English/Cymraeg. Finally, you will be able to demonstrate your written language skills by writing up to 120 words in French/German/Spanish from a choice of 3 questions.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- You will learn how to communicate clearly and accurately in speaking and writing.
- You will develop your understanding of the language by reading and listening items in French/German/Spanish.
- You will learn how to contribute to discussions and conversations.
- You will develop an awareness of the culture and society of the countries and communities where French/German/Spanish is spoken.
- You will make connections with your own language.

## CAREERS IN FRENCH/GERMAN/SPANISH

A GCSE in French/German/Spanish can open up a world of opportunities to you. There are a wide range of career paths that you could follow with a GCSE in languages, including within the more traditionally linked tourist industry, armed forces, language services such as translation and interpreting, teaching and social services. However, the great advantage of having skills in another language is that they can serve you throughout your life and career; not only useful for travel, making friends and developing a general appreciation and understanding of others' identity and culture, but also potentially useful for ANY chosen career. A qualification in International Languages shows that you are a good communicator, are willing to learn, adapt and step out of your "comfort zone" – highly desirable for any prospective employer. It may also interest you to know that in today's global business world, employees with skills in international languages are known to attract higher salaries! What's not to like?

FIND OUT MORE -TALK TO YOUR TEACHER TODAY!

