



KS₄ Options 2018 - 2020



OPTIONS 2017-2018

An exciting new start in a new school

DECEMBER - START

Initial student free choice of all options currently offered at both Barry Comprehensive School and Bryn-Hafren School

1ST FEBRUARY - DISCUSSION

Y9 Progress Parents' Evening



OPTIONS 2017-2018

An exciting new start in a new school

Tuesday 13th February

OPTION CHOICES – include all of the subjects currently offered at both sites.

STAFFING – a key factor in allocating staff to sites will be the curriculum requirements of the students.

The options process on-going

Wednesday 14th February – Form tutors supply option forms and information booklets to those students unable to attend Options' Evening

Friday 16th February – Collate choices, all option forms returned to front reception

Subject leaders provided with lists of who has chosen their subject

March / April – Interviews

May – Confirmation, letter confirming option choices issued

Successful outcomes at Key Stage 4

A successful academic outcome for a learner at Key Stage 4 is one where, having been given every opportunity to succeed, they attain their full potential.

Regardless of what type of course is being studied, the basic principles of hard work, focus and effort remain as important drivers towards attaining goals and realising potential.

This evening is to begin to plan the next stage of your child's education. The school curriculum is shaped to develop wider opportunities for each student.

A focused curriculum, coupled with academic success, enables learners to plan for the same careers, colleges and universities as every other Vale of Glamorgan student.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum 2018

Core (Compulsory) Subjects

- English Lang/Lit
- Maths/Numeracy
- Double Science
- Skills Challenge Certificate
- Religious Studies
- Welsh
- PE
- PSE/Careers



Students choose option subjects for the remaining 40% of their timetabled curriculum

Qualifications


Each option subject will lead to one of the following qualifications:

- GCSE
- Vocational courses (equivalent to GCSEs)

All option subjects are level 2 qualifications, allowing for further study at post-16

Key Stage 4 option courses new to students

- Child Development
- Health and Social Care
- Computer Science
- Hair Salon Services
- Beauty Therapy
- Business Studies
- Engineering
- Dance
- Geology
- Photography
- College based courses –
MPCT / Automotive
Vehicle Studies




Plus existing learning areas available as Key Stage 4 option courses

- Art & Design
- Design Technology
- History
- Music
- Sport
- Drama
- French / Spanish
- ICT
- Geography
- Hospitality and Catering
- Science (triple)



Examination based courses

This is when students follow the subject content over two years and are awarded the qualification based on their performance in one or more exams.



Controlled Assessment and Examination Courses

Controlled assessments (or in some instances, practical assessments) are completed in school, under supervision and within a set time limit. They are completed at a time deemed suitable by the department throughout year 10 and 11. These assessments contribute towards the overall grade along with an external examination.

Vocational Courses

- Some vocational have at least one core units which will be assessed by **external examination** - which must be passed for an overall grade to be achieved.

The remainder of the course is assessed through practical or written tasks completed in school and at home.

- Some vocational are assessed wholly internally, with no written external examination.



Making your option selections

Students are the defining variable towards successful level 2 outcomes. Each learner has a different set of skills and abilities.

Some option subjects carry with them a significant academic demand. Learners should not burden themselves with an excessive demand, if that expectation is beyond their current level of academic attainment.

For some students, their options lead to eventual applications for competitive top university courses. For others, their options prepare them for a job seeking marketplace, with skills and qualifications that make them stand apart from other applicants.

Steps to making your choice

Pick subjects that:

- suit your abilities and interests
- deliver a broad and balanced curriculum to give you the widest possible choices at post-16
- will lead to the qualifications needed to pursue your preferred career
- you are prepared to commit to study for two years – be prepared to work hard, complete homework and revise for tests (progress will be communicated to learners/parents)

Make the decisions that are right for you

Steps to making your choice

- Find out about new courses on offer – start by speaking to the subject teachers this evening
- Current teachers can discuss suitability
- Complete and return the options form **by *Friday 16th February***

*** Option Forms will not be processed without parental signature.*

Please return this form to **Main Reception** by **Friday 16th February**

Choose one subject from each option column

Option A	Tick	Option B	Tick	Option C	Tick	Option D	Tick
Drama		Computer Science		Business Studies		Art & Design	
Design Technology		Art & Design		Design Technology		Geology	
History		French		Engineering		Photography	
Music		Spanish		Geography		History	
Sport		ICT		Sport		Triple Science	
Child Development		Geography		Hospitality & Catering		ICT	
Health & Social Care		Hair Salon Services		Dance		College – Military Prep	
		Beauty Therapy		Drama		College – Automotive	

Note: Both college options in column D have restricted numbers. Selections will be made by interview during the next half-term. If you opt for a college course – please also indicate a reserve (R) option from that column.

Learner Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____



Options

2018

Any questions?

Miss K Thomas – Senior Learning Mentor

Mr A Jones – Pastoral Co-ordinator

Mr S Jones – Assistant Headteacher

Mr A Thompson – Head of School