

Monmouth Comprehensive School
Ysgol Gyfun Trefynwy



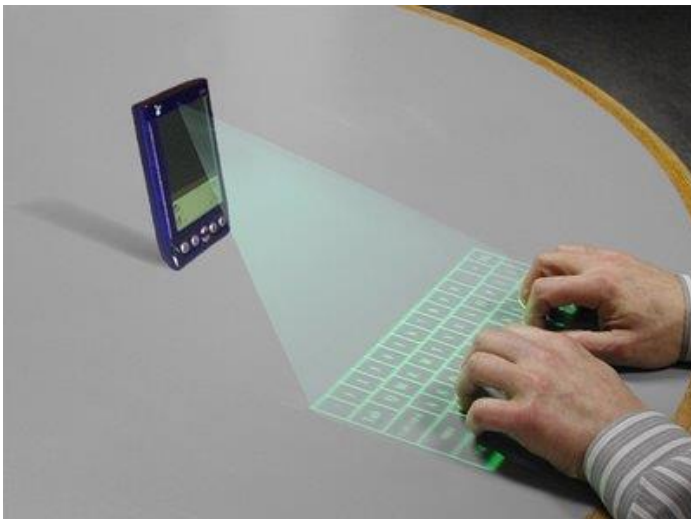
Year 9 Options Process
2025-2026



Information Evening
10th November 2025

Our changing world...

Where do you see yourself in five or ten years' time?





So what do I need from my education today?

- I need to broaden my knowledge and understanding of areas of interest.
- I need to be able to pursue my passions and interests.
- I need to have a broad range of skills including literacy, numeracy and digital competence.
- I need to have some understanding of the world of work.
- I need to know about my local community and the changing world around me.
- I need to become more independent.



Curriculum Reform in Wales



Wave 1

- GCSE Art and Design
- GCSE Business
- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE Core Cymraeg
- GCSE Cymraeg Language and Literature (Single and Double Award*)
- GCSE Drama
- GCSE English Language and Literature (Single and Double Award*)
- GCSE Food and Nutrition
- GCSE French
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE German
- GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy (Double Award)**
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Religious Studies
- GCSE Spanish
- Level 2 Award in Additional Core Cymraeg

SEPT 2024

**FINAL
SPECIFICATIONS
PUBLISHED**

SEPT 2025

**FIRST
TEACHING**

AUG 2027

**FIRST
AWARDING OF
QUALIFICATION**

Wave 2

- GCSE Dance
- GCSE Design and Technology
- GCSE Digital Media and Film
- GCSE Digital Technology
- GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare
- GCSE History
- GCSE Integrated Science (Single Award)
- GCSE Physical Education and Health
- GCSE Social Studies
- GCSE The Sciences (Double Award)
- Level 2 Award in Additional Mathematics***

From September 2026, existing GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics will also be available alongside the new double and single award options for at least three years. You can read more about this decision [here](#).

SEPT 2025

**FINAL
SPECIFICATIONS
PUBLISHED**

SEPT 2026

**FIRST
TEACHING**

AUG 2028

**FIRST
AWARDING OF
QUALIFICATION**

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Core Subjects



Core

Double English Language and Literature	9 Lessons
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Double Mathematics and Numeracy	9 Lessons
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Double Science	9 Lessons
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Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh Baccalaureate) or Triple Science	3 Lessons
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Wellbeing	2 Lessons
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Physical Education	3 Lessons
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Welsh	5 Lessons
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KS4 Curriculum at MCS



Here, at Monmouth Comprehensive, we believe in offering a wide range of options. Details of all our subjects are given further in our Options booklet. Students have some choice of **how** they study as well as **what** they study. Some subjects are more “applied” or more practical than others, and are assessed in a different way from more traditional exams.

LEARNING CORE 40 Lessons

There are no choices to be made here

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • English Language and Literature | 9 lessons |
| • Maths and Numeracy | 9 lessons |
| • Double Science | 9 lessons |
| • PE | 3 lessons |
| • Welsh | 5 lessons |
| • Wellbeing | 2 lessons |
| • WBQ Skills Challenge Certificate or Triple Science | 3 lessons |

8 GCSEs/Entry Levels

+

OPTION A 5 Lessons

+

OPTION B 5 Lessons

+

OPTION C 5 Lessons

+

OPTION D 5 Lessons

One subject chosen from each column on the Option Choice Sheet.

Students should see this as an opportunity to follow their particular interests and aptitudes and to keep their options open for future Post-16 pathways.

Every effort will be made to arrange the subjects into columns that give the greatest number of sensible combinations. Year 9 students are asked to indicate their possible choices to aid in the construction of option columns. This is called ‘Free Choice’. However, it may not be possible to set up a teaching group for a subject in a particular column if too few students choose it. Conversely, numbers may have to be restricted for safety or resource reasons if there is a large demand for a certain subject. Students will be added to option groups as their option forms are submitted to the school reception; all students are therefore asked to submit a reserve choice. In the very small number of cases where we have to use these, we will notify you so that there can be further discussion, if required.

4 GCSEs / Level1/2 First Awards

Key Stage 4 GCSE Option subjects (choose 4)



GCSE

Art and Design	German
Built Environment	Health and Social Care
Business	History
Computer Science	Digital Technology
	Music
Design Technology: Product Design	Art and Design (Photography)
Design Technology: Fashion & Textiles	Physical Education
Drama	Psychology
French	Religious Studies
Geography	Spanish

Key Stage 4 Vocational Option subjects (choose 4)



Level 1/2

Level 1/2 Award in Engineering	Level 1/2 Award in Sport & Coaching principles
Level 1/2 Award in Public Services	Level 1/2 Award in Hospitality and Catering

Can I mix types of qualifications?



- You can study a large number of GCSEs.
- You can choose only GCSEs if you wish.
- You can combine GCSEs with a Level 1 or 2 vocational qualification.

KS4 Courses- Grades and Levels awarded



Level	GCSE	Vocational
Level 2	A*	Distinction
	A	Merit
	B	Pass (L2)
	C	
	D	Pass (L1)
	E	
Level 1	F	
	G	

How to choose



How to choose your pathways for next year?

Think about three things:

- What subjects do **you currently** enjoy?
- What **future** job or course might **you** want to follow?
- What type of **assessment** works for **you**?

How **not** to choose your pathways for next year?

- What your friends are choosing
- What teachers you like.

How do students make their choices?



Year 9 Options Course e-booklet is available via the MCS website and QR code:



A Google Form link to complete **the Free Choice Survey** will be emailed to parents on Thursday 20 November.



Option Block Paper Form for firm choices published Monday 19 January.

	A	B	C	D	E
Mathematics					
Science					
English					
History					
Geography					
Art					
Music					
Physical Education					
Religious Education					
Modern Foreign Languages					
Other subject(s) if not available					

Other subject(s) if not available: **Design**

Other subject(s) if not available: **French**

Other subject(s) if not available: **PE**

Other subject(s) if not available: **Health & Social Care**



Exemplar Option Block Survey (note-not the real one!)

	A	B	C	D
Science/Social Sciences			Psychology	Health and Social Care Psychology
Languages	Spanish German	French German Spanish	Spanish	French
Level 1 & Level 2 Awards	Sport & Coaching Principles	Public Services	Engineering	Sport & Coaching Principles
Technical/Applied	Built Environment Digital Technology Physical Education Fashion & Textiles	Food & Nutrition Physical Education Product Design	Built Environment Food & Nutrition Physical Education	Computer Science Physical Education
Creative/Expressive Arts	Drama Music	Art	Art Drama	Art Music
Humanities	Business Studies Geography Religious Studies	History Geography Religious Studies	Business Studies History	Business Studies History Religious Studies
Select one Option from each column	<i>Sport¹</i>	<i>French²</i>	<i>P.E.³</i>	<i>Health & Social Care⁴</i>

Technology
Signature of head of DT required if you intend to study more than one technology subject
Signature
5

Computing
Signature of head of computing required if you intend to study more than one computing subject
Signature
6

Physical Education
Conversation with your P.E. teacher if you intend to study Physical Education & Sport Award
Signature
7

Date Received
Office Use Only

Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
Signature

Every effort has been made to arrange the subjects into columns that give the greatest number of sensible combinations. In December Year 9 students were asked to indicate their possible choices to aid in the construction of these columns. However, it may not be possible to set up a teaching group for a subject in a particular column if too few students choose it. Conversely, numbers may have to be restricted for safety or resource reasons if there is a large demand for a certain subject. Students will be added to option groups as forms are submitted to the school reception; all students are therefore asked to submit, with a reserve choice, when ready. In the very small number of cases where we may have to use this reserve choice, we will notify you so that there can be further discussion, if required.

Other subject (s) I would consider..... *Drama*

Name..... *James*

Form.....

.....

Are my choices set in stone?



No! However....

The Free Choice Survey is used to design the curriculum model for next year.

We cannot guarantee that all subjects will run or all combinations of subjects will be possible.

There will be an opportunity to change course at Option Block Survey time and we will do our best to accommodate where possible.

Help and advice



- MCS Year 9 GCSE Options e-booklet is your essential online guide to help you make an informed choice!
[Monmouth Comprehensive School - KS4 Pathways](#) or scan QR code.
- Your subject teachers.
- Your Form Tutor and Head of Year.
- Your parents.
- Careers Wales (www.careerswales.com)





Gyrfa Cymru
Careers Wales

Careers Wales

You don't always have to take a certain subject to get into a particular career – but there are exceptions you need to be aware of.

If you're considering a career in languages or related to art and design, you will most likely need to have those GCSEs to progress. But subjects such as business or psychology, can often be started at A level (or equivalent) and even at degree level.

Maths and English GCSEs are asked for by all universities and the majority of employers, but all your GCSEs give you the best foundation for education, training and employment.

Careers Wales website have an A- Z on career ideas and information on GCSEs you would need for certain jobs.

Non-core course choices

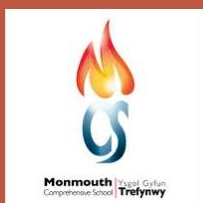
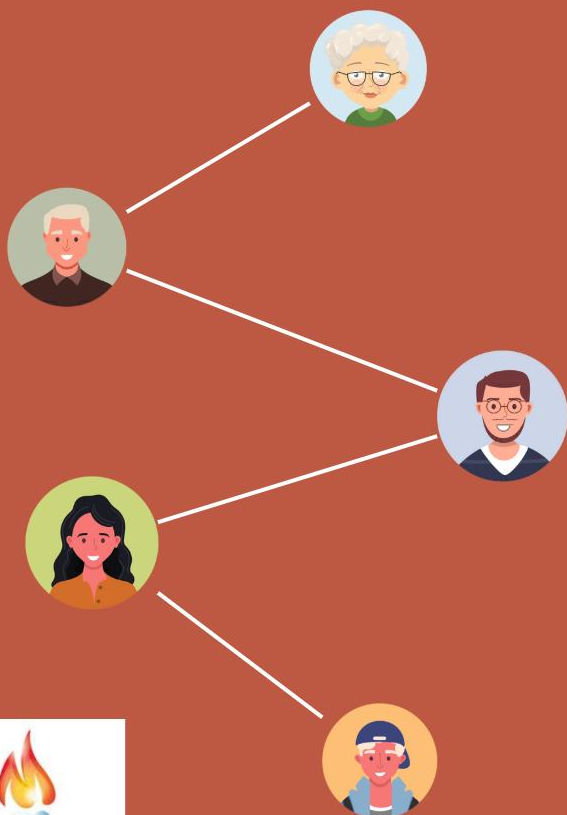
Social Sciences



Health and Social Care GCSE

Psychology GCSE

Business GCSE



GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

Year 10	Year 11
Unit 1: Introduction to the Business World Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes 30% of qualification	Unit 3: Business Strategies for Success Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes 30% of qualification
Unit 2: Key Business Considerations Non-examination assessment: 5 hours 15% of qualification	Unit 4: Business Creation Non-examination assessment: 8 hours 25% of qualification

Key themes include: Business and Society, Entrepreneurship, Business Ethics, Innovation, Economics, Opportunities & Challenges

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Year 10	Year 11
Unit 1: Health and Social Care, and Childcare in Wales in the 21st Century Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of qualification	Unit 2: Adult Health and Social Care Non-examination assessment: 12 hours 30% of qualification
Unit 2: Adult Health and Social Care Non-examination assessment: 12 hours 30% of qualification	Unit 3: Childcare Non-examination assessment: 12 hours 30% of qualification

Key themes include: Life Cycle, Growth & Development, Health and Wellbeing, Legislation, Needs and Illness across the Lifespan





PSYCHOLOGY

Year 10	Year 11
Paper 1: Studies and Applications in Psychology	Paper 2: Studies and Applications in Psychology
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Criminal Psychology• Developmental Psychology• Psychological Problems• Research Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Influence• Memory• Sleep and Dreaming• Research Methods

Key theme of Neuropsychology runs throughout both papers

IMPORTANT POINT: This is an English GCSE so both papers are sat in Year 11, graded 1 - 9

Non-core course choices

Technology



GCSE

COMPUTER SCIENCE
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY
BUILT ENVIRONMENT
FASHION AND TEXTILES
PRODUCT DESIGN

L1/2 VOCATIONAL

ENGINEERING
HOSPITALITY AND
CATERING

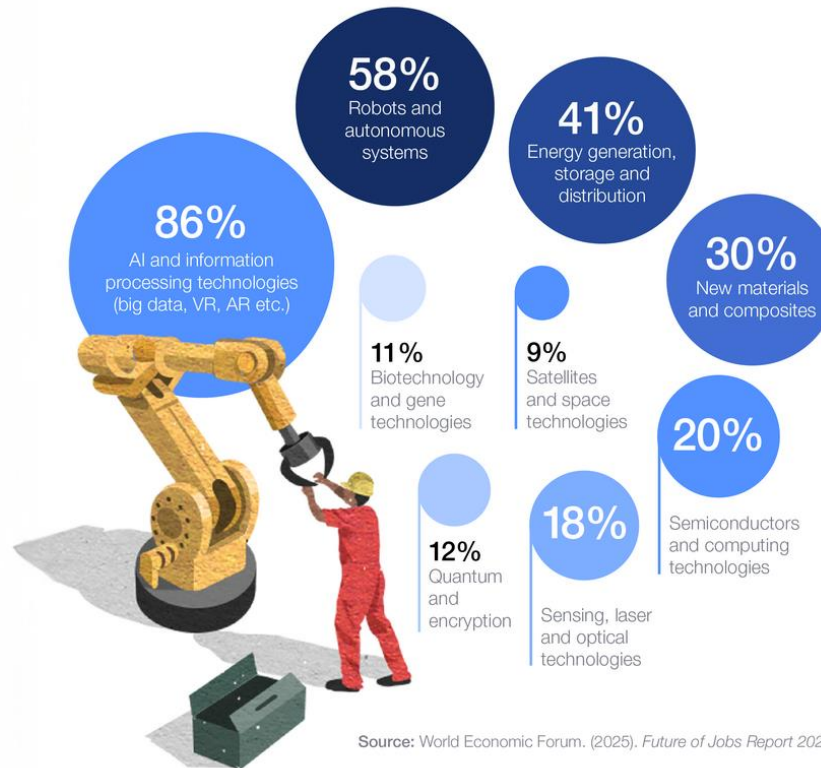


Future of Jobs Report 2025

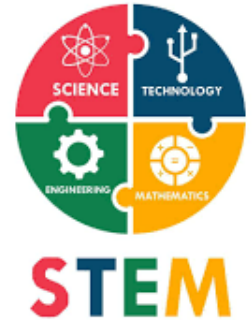
Trends in AI, robotics and energy technologies are most likely to drive business transformation



Share of employers expecting the technology to transform their organization



Source: World Economic Forum. (2025). *Future of Jobs Report 2025*.



Why choose a Computing discipline?

Computers are everywhere and Computing is part of everything we do Consider a world without computers, you will begin to understand why developing your knowledge of the world of computing has become such a critical success factor in modern life.

A huge range of pathways and employment opportunities exist in the world of computing and digital technologies but it's equally true that computers are transforming just about every aspect of today's world. Whether you choose to specialise in computing, or use your computing knowledge to improve your performance in other areas, choosing to improve your computing skills will never be a bad decision.

Computing enables you to develop your logical and problem solving skills

Computing offers great opportunity for creativity and innovation

Computing skills are highly transferable and sought after

Growing Demand For Digital Skills

Home
» Education » Computing and digital literacy can help young people secure more opportunities

FUTURE OF EDTECH 2024

Computing and digital literacy can help young people secure more opportunities



Recruiting for tomorrow's technology workforce: the current state of UK tech talent

All Tech News > Expert advice

Bridging the UK Skills Gap in the Tech Sector

August 22, 2024, 11:58 am

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE **BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE** **DATA STORAGE** **DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION** **INNOVATION** **JOBS** **MANAGEMENT**

Current and future demand for digital skills - a call to action

Two pieces of research examining current demand for digital skills in the UK job market, and looking at the digital skills needed to succeed now and in the next 10 years

Published 13 June 2019
From: [Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport](#)

Documents



[No longer optional: employer demand for digital skills](#)

PDF, 2.3MB, 108 pages

FUTURE LONDON » **SKILLS**

Demand for digital skills is greater than ever: Here's how employers and staff must adapt

A shortage of workers with expertise has created a digital skills deficit. This is what needs to be done

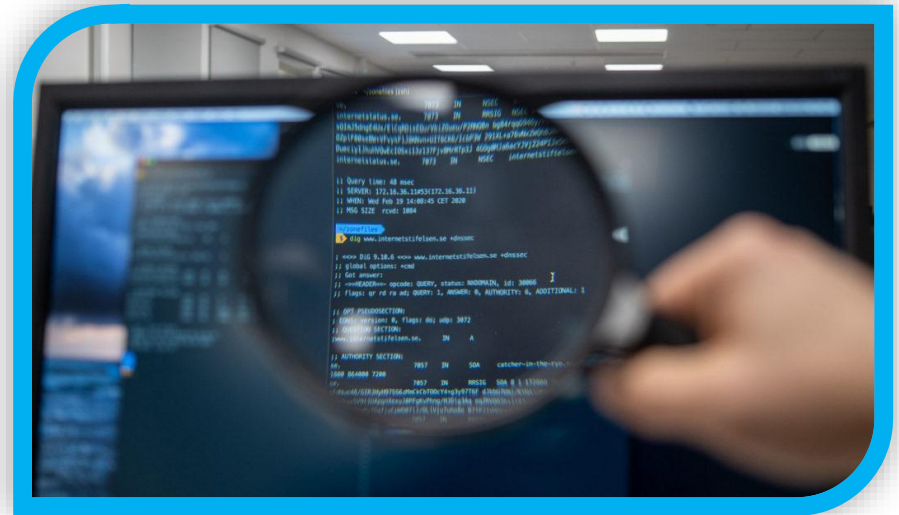
Shortage of tech skills and 600,000 job vacancies costing UK economy £63 billion a year

by [Neil Franklin](#) • [HR](#), [News](#), [Technology](#)

Opportunities in Computing

Examples of Computing careers

- Web Development
- Software Developer
- Project Management
- Cybersecurity
- Games and interactive systems
- Systems analysis
- Artificial Intelligence
- Financial and security systems
- Robotics / Internet of Things
- Social media platforms and marketing
- ...plus so many more



Computer Science GCSE

What will you study?

Unit 1: Understanding Computer Science

This unit helps you to build your understanding of practical aspects of computing such as hardware, software, systems, networks and communication, whilst developing your ability to plan, manage and deliver computer-based solutions for everyday needs and problems.

Unit 2: Computer Programming

This unit gives you the opportunity to develop your programming skills, before using them to create a solution to a real-world problem.

How will you be assessed?

Unit 1: Understanding Computer Science

Assessed by a 1 hour 30 minutes on-screen examination

Unit 2: Computer Programming

Assessed by a 2 hour on-screen examination based on a pre-released brief

Each unit has an equal 50% weighting of the overall qualification



Digital Technology GCSE

Unit 1: The Digital World

This unit helps you to build your understanding of Digital Technology systems and their role and value in today's world

Unit 2: Digital Practices

In this unit you will develop your skills in a range of digital applications to create a solution to a real-world problem

Unit 3: Communicating In The Digital World

In this unit you will develop knowledge and skills in social media and online marketing and create digital assets and communications

How will you be assessed?

Unit 1: The Digital World

Assessed by a 1 hour 30 minutes on-screen examination 40% of qualification

Unit 2: Digital Practices

Assessed by Non Examined Assessment 40% of qualification

Unit 3: Communicating In The Digital World

Assessed by Non Examined Assessment 20% of qualification



GCSE BUILT ENVIRONMENT



This qualification allows learners to develop the practical skills involved in different stages of a building's life-cycle.



It encourages them to investigate their own built environment and understand the impact it has on the economy, society, culture and the natural environment.



This course is a good starting point towards a career in the construction and built environment sector, whether in trade-based, professional or managerial roles, or by learners who want to increase their understanding of the built environment more generally.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- **Unit 1 35% Online Exam**
- **Unit 2 40% Non Examination Assessment.**
- **Unit 3 25% Non Examination Assessment.**



WHAT WILL STUDENTS LEARN?

WHERE CAN IT LEAD?

Combined with apprenticeships, further or higher education:

Trades

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| • Plasterer | • Sustainable Building Design |
| • Carpenter | • Building Surveying |
| • Bricklayer | • Architecture |
| • Electrician | • Real Estate Management |
| • Plumber | • Construction Management |
| • Gas fitter | • Facilities Management |
| • Mason | • Land Surveying |
| • Painter | • Quantity Surveying |
| • Roofer | • Project Management |

- Theories, ideas and concepts related to the built environment.
- The different stages within the life cycle of the built Environment.
- How different trades and services relate to each other.
- An appreciation of the built environment, including its design, creation, use and maintenance, and its role in their daily lives.
- Skills in planning projects.
- Practical skills in designing or constructing elements.
- Knowledge and understanding of the tools, materials and processes used in designing, constructing, valuing and using the built environment, including how they change over time.

L1/L2 ENGINEERING

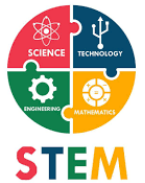


This qualification gives good base knowledge into the world of Engineering.

The course is largely theory based and gives you an opportunity to understand materials, manufacturing processes and why they are used. It allows you to develop your understanding of how engineered products work.

WHAT WILL STUDENTS LEARN?

- **Essential knowledge relating to many aspects of engineering and technological developments.**
- **Safe practices within the engineering workplace where students explore suitable PPE etc and have to prove that they can work safely and effectively in a workshop.**
- **Research and test the properties of materials commonly used in the world of Engineering.**
- **Investigate and focus on the analysis of an engineered product. Disassembly of existing products within the investigation.**



WHERE CAN IT LEAD?

- This course can lead to BTEC L3 Engineering (Maths and physics is also essential for this)
- Apprenticeships, Further and higher Education.



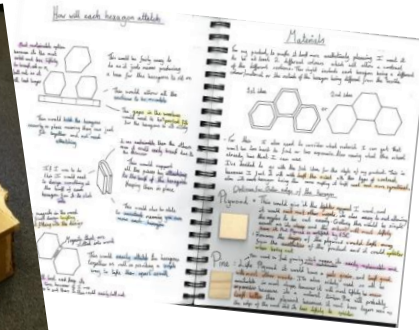
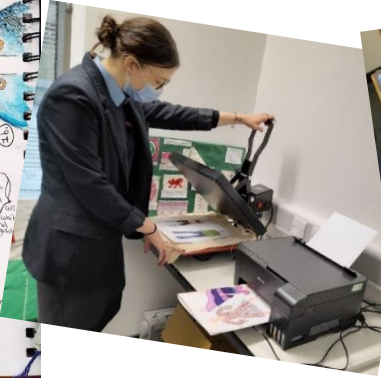
- Structural Engineering
- Transportation Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Aerospace Engineering
- Marine Engineering
- Automotive Engineering
- IT Engineering
- Network Engineering
- And More

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- Unit 1 25% Online Exam
- Unit 2 25% Non Examination Assessment.
- Unit 3 25% Non Examination Assessment.
- Unit 5 25% Non Examination Assessment.

GCSE

GCSE



These subjects allow individuals to express their creativity and come up with innovative solutions to real-world problems.



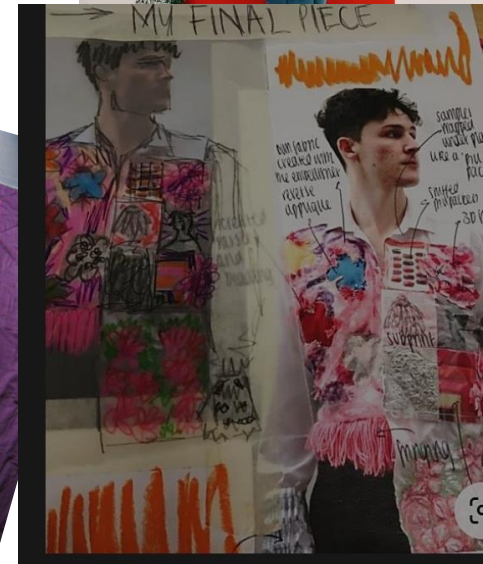
FASHION AND TEXTILES

YR10 work

Builds a range of practical skills with the theory contents to develop Confidence,



The skills learnt in YR10 are then used to design and create a product of their choice to solve problems or highlight problems to raise awareness.



FASHION AND TEXTILES GCSE

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- 30% Exam
- 70% Non Examination Assessment.

What will STUDENTS LEARN?

- Wider influences on design, including modern, historical, social/cultural, environmental and economic factors.
- Practical skills including construction and decorative techniques including the theory behind them.
- Smart and modern materials. Electronic Textiles.
- The Iterative Design Process.
- CAD CAM.
- Fabrics and Fibres.
- Concept sketches and contract designs; final collection ideas.



WHERE CAN IT LEAD?

Combined with further or higher education:

Personal stylist

Fashion designer

Costume designer

Interior designer

Print designer

Buyer for retail stores

Textile Journalist

Garment technologist

Fabric designer

Theatre design

Fashion promotion

Management in retail

The list is endless.....

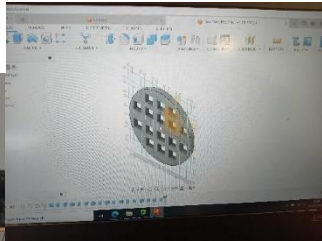
PRODUCT DESIGN

YR10 work

Laser Cutter



3D
PRINTING



YR11 WORK





PRODUCT DESIGN GCSE



WHERE CAN IT LEAD?

Combined with further or higher education:

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- **30% Exam**
- **70% Non Examination Assessment.**

What will STUDENTS LEARN?

- **The Iterative Design Process.**
- **Knowledge of materials & their properties. Testing of materials and manufacturing methods.**
- **How products are made commercially and in a workshop.**
Practical - cutting, shaping and joining different materials by using a range of equipment, tools and machinery when designing and making a product.
- **Environmental & Sustainability issues.**
- **Smart and Modern technologies.**
- **CAD CAM.**
- **Developing graphic skills when designing.**



Industrial design

Product design

Furniture design

Interior designer

Engineering jobs

Set Design

Journalist

Trades

Automotive design

Graphic design

The list is endless.....



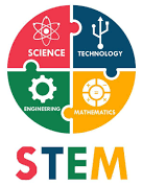
L1/L2 ENGINEERING



This qualification gives good base knowledge into the world of Engineering. The course is largely theory based and gives you an opportunity to understand materials, manufacturing processes and why they are used. It allows you to develop your understanding of how engineered products work.

WHAT WILL STUDENTS LEARN?

- **Essential knowledge relating to many aspects of engineering and technological developments.**
- **Safe practices within the engineering workplace where students explore suitable PPE etc and have to prove that they can work safely and effectively in a workshop.**
- **Research and test the properties of materials commonly used in the world of Engineering.**
- **Investigate and focus on the analysis of an engineered product. Disassembly of existing products within the investigation.**



Hospitality and Catering L1/2



This course is designed to develop your practical cooking skills, as well as to give you an understanding of how the Hospitality and Catering industry works.

There is a strong emphasis on gaining the required knowledge via practical work so it is ideal for someone who prefers to learn “by doing”.

WHAT WILL STUDENTS LEARN?

- A range of hospitality and catering providers; how they work and how they can be successful.
- Issues related to healthy and safety, food safety, laws and legislations.
- Nutrition and dietary requirements for individual needs.
- Develop food preparation, cooking skills, presentation skills, plating and serving.
- Transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.

- **Unit 1 40% Online Exam**
- **Unit 2 60% Practical Exam supported with Non Examined Assessment**

Career paths

Events
Management



Nutrition



Professional Cookery



Product Development



WHERE CAN IT LEAD?

Environmental
Health



Education



Catering



Food Safety



Food Science



Non-core course choices

Humanities



Geography GCSE

History GCSE

Religious Studies GCSE

PAST

PRESENT

FUTURE

... the skills and experiences conferred by studying a humanities subject can transform their working life, their life as a whole, and the world around them.

Professor Dan Grimley, Head of Humanities at Oxford University,
2023



... how to think critically, research effectively ... deepens your understanding of the world: vital skills in our time of disinformation, cults and AI.

Francesca Simon, author of 'Horrid Henry' – Oct 2025



GCSE Geography



“70% of all UK adults agree that young people need to study geography to prepare them with the skills and knowledge needed to work in “green jobs”. YouGov June 2024

Unit 1 – Our Physical and Human World

Exam Based Assessment sat in Year 10 – 30% of GCSE

Core Topics and Understanding of Geography covering –
Drainage Basins/Rivers
Coastal Environments
Migration – Causes, Impacts and Management
Settlement Change – Urbanisation and Global Cities.

Unit 2 – Fieldwork Skills NEA

Set and Marked by WJEC
25% of GCSE

Covering set topics including –
Flows, Settlement, Sustainability, Mitigating Risk, Inequality, Place and Space, Change over Time.

Unit 3 – Dynamic and Diverse World

Exam Based Assessment sat in Year 11 – 30% of GCSE

Core Topics and Understanding of Geography
Covering –
Inequality – Development
Weather, Climate Change, Physical and Human Global Challenges.

Unit 4 – Sustainable Solutions NEA

Set by WJEC marked in School and sent off – Worth 15% of GCSE

Sustainable Decision Making Exercise
based on a set of resources from the WJEC, requires submission of independent research to support the task.

Geography gives you the **skills** to interpret the world around you through the lens of a Geographer. Geography gives you the **skills** and **aptitudes** to ask questions about the past, observe the present and predict what will happen in the future 😊

History GCSE

The Black Death –
an international
tragedy. NEA: 20%

Citizenship

Empathy

Tolerance

Tudor Wales
Exam: 30%

Problem
Solving

WHY STUDY HISTORY

Critical
Analysis

Debate

20th C USA
Civil Rights
Exam: 30%

20th Century
Britain – moving
to modernity.
NEA: 20%

Jobs:
Accountant
Lawyer
Civil Service
Project Manager
Journalist
Business Consultant

History is the study of humanity, of life. ... it is through history that we learn about ourselves ... how our everyday actions, technology, and language originated ... but most of all, we learn how our society became what it is today.
Bettany Hughes, Historian.

Teach us our past, teach us other people's pasts, and we will become more rounded, more tolerant and more engaged human beings.
Natalie Haynes - historian

GCSE Religious Studies



GCSE RS Foci



Year 10

Unit 1 30%
Teachings,
Beliefs &
Practices

Unit 2 NEA 20%
Religion &
Relationships

Examined
end of Year
11

Examined
end of Year
10

Year 11

Unit 3 30%
Roles, Rights,
Responsibility

Unit 4 NEA 20%
Religion &
Human Rights

Both examined end of Year 11

What students say

RS is a lesson
I always look
forward to

Lessons
are never
boring

It is important to
learn about
different cultures
and beliefs

RS has helped
me to
understand
people and the
world around
me

I'm really
glad I took
RS

I really enjoy
all the
practical
lessons

I took RS so that I
could become more
open minded

RS is important.
It is the here and
now

I love the way RS is
taught. We dance, try
new foods, re-enact
festivals, perfect exam
technique

RS is not just about
God. You learn about
cultures, festivals,
morality. It is essential
to learn about the
world we live in.

What can I do with it?

Teaching

Law

Nursing &
Medicine

Journalism &
Media

Police

Social Work

Non-core course choices

International Languages



French GCSE

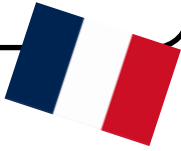
German GCSE

Spanish GCSE

International Languages : Spanish , German French



**Language is a tool to
all aspects of
learning.**



How will a language help you ?

Identity and Values

Community

Environment

**Sport, Health and
Well Being**

History

Geography

Food / Fashion

Art / Music /Film / Theatre

**Politics / Social
Issues**

Literature

Career

Connections

Culture

Cognition

Confidence

Unit 1 NEA 30%

Speaking

Unit 2 NEA 15%

Reading & Writing

Unit 3 EXAM 20%

Listening

Unit 4 EXAM 35%

Reading & Writing

Non-core course choices

Performing and Expressive Arts



- Art and Design GCSE
- Art and Design (Photography) GCSE
- Drama GCSE
- Music GCSE

PEA at MCS

The Performing and Expressive Arts Faculty at Monmouth Comprehensive School inspires **creativity, confidence, and collaboration** through Drama, Music, and Art & Design. We believe the arts are for everyone, providing opportunities to explore passions, celebrate diversity, and develop essential skills for life. Our vision is to empower students to think imaginatively, work together, and take pride in their achievements, all within a supportive community where they feel secure to express themselves. By fostering a sense of belonging and shared purpose, **we prepare students for a successful and fulfilling future both in and beyond the arts.**



Music

Specification Overview

Mrs Ritter, Mrs Riordan

Unit 1: Performing

Non-examination assessment

Performance: 4-6 minutes (at least two pieces)

Marked by the centre and moderated by WJEC

32.5% of qualification

78 marks

Summary of assessment

Learners perform a minimum of **two** pieces of music giving a total performance time of 4-6 minutes (each piece should be a minimum of 1 minute).

Learners can choose to perform solos or independent parts within ensembles, or a combination of both, in their chosen style(s) of music, without a conductor.

Learners can choose to perform on any instrument or voice, or technology, or a combination of these.

Unit 3: Appraising

Digital only examination: 1 hour 30 minutes (approximately)

Marked by WJEC

35% of the qualification

84 marks

Summary of assessment

Questions requiring objective responses, short and extended answers, in response to the chosen set works and unseen extracts.

Unit 2: Composing

Non-examination assessment

2 compositions (3-6 minutes total recommended)

Reflective Log

Marked by the centre and moderated by WJEC

32.5% of qualification

78 marks

Summary of assessment

Learners compose **two** original pieces of music with a recommended total duration of between 3-6 minutes, **one** in response to their own devised brief and **one** in response to a brief set by WJEC.

Learners present a reflective log based on the compositional process of **either** the composition in response to their own devised brief **or** the composition based on the brief set by WJEC.



Drama

Mrs Pearce, Ms Price



Specification Overview

Unit 1: Devising Theatre

Practical non-examination assessment
40% of qualification

96 marks

Summary of assessment

Response to a stimuli set by WJEC, assessed by the centre and moderated by WJEC. The stimuli will be available on the WJEC Portal during the September of the first year of study. The stimuli will be changed annually.

Learners can choose either acting **or** design. Learners will create, refine and perform a piece of theatre. Learners will also produce a Reflective Log of the process in a non-prescribed format.

Learners can work in groups of between **two** and **five** actors. Up to **four** additional learners, each working on a different design skill, may work with each performing group.

Unit 3: Interpreting Theatre

On-screen examination: 2 hours
30% of qualification

72 marks

Summary of assessment

Questions requiring objective responses, short and extended answers, in response to set text and unseen texts.

Unit 2: Performance from a Text

Practical non-examination assessment
30% of qualification

72 marks

Summary of assessment

Marked by visiting examiner. Learners can choose either acting **or** design.

Each actor must interact with other actors and/or the audience for a minimum of five minutes. Designers will give a non-assessed viva outlining their ideas.

Learners can work in groups of between **two** and **four** actors. Up to **two** additional learners, each working on a different design skill, may work with each performing group.





GCSE ART & DESIGN

WHAT CAN I DO WITH ART?

Beyond GCSE/A-level there are many different types of 'Art' degrees with specialisms that could lead to work in a wide variety of careers including:

Architecture, Photographic Journalism, Fashion Design, Animation, Illustration, Sculpture, Advertising Design, Graphic Design. Career opportunities could also be found in **set design, web and games design, film and television, gallery curation, restoration and interior design-** to name just a few!

Aside from this- students' regularly say how **Art supports their wellbeing** and offers a welcomed practical alternative and **creative outlet** amongst their other subject choices.



THE COURSE:

60% Portfolio & 40% Exam

All work for Art & Design is coursework based.

- You would be introduced to art and design through drawing, painting, sculpture and other artistic practices such as graphics, fashion, textiles, jewellery, photography, animation, printmaking and ceramics.
- You will learn about following a concept from investigation through to realisation for a variety of themes and topics.
- You begin with teacher-led projects to learn the assessment objectives before selecting your own themes to inspire your work.



IS IT FOR ME?

Do you.....

Have a real interest in the visual arts?

Have a flair for drawing and designing?

Feel you are creative in the way you think?

Wish to learn about the way art and design is used to communicate messages and meanings?

Want to be a part of the world wide language of visual communication?

& can you.....

Show an aptitude for creative thinking, independent learning and working with others, as well as the specific skills required by the subject?

GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY

Beyond GCSE/A-level, there are many photography and visual arts degrees that can lead to a wide range of creative careers, including **photographic journalism, commercial photography, fashion and portrait photography, advertising, film and television production, photo editing, visual communication, and gallery curation**. Career opportunities can also be found in areas such as **media, marketing, publishing, fine art, and digital content creation**—to name just a few!

Aside from the qualification, **photography can also offer a practical and creative outlet** that complements their other subject choices for students who may wish to explore lens based media.

60% Portfolio & 40% Exam

All work for Photography is coursework based.



Equipment:

Whilst it's not expected to have a 'posh' camera to be able access this course- students will be required to take their own photographs outside of school on a device (digital camera/phone).

IS IT FOR ME?

Do you...

Have a real interest in the visual arts and image-making?

Have an eye for composition and detail?

Feel you are creative in the way you capture and interpret the world around you?

Wish to learn how photography can be used to communicate messages, moods, and meanings?

Want to be part of the global language of visual storytelling?

And can you...

Show an aptitude for creative thinking, independent learning, and collaboration, as well as the technical and artistic skills required for photography?

THE COURSE:

You would be introduced to **photography**, exploring both traditional and digital techniques. You'll develop technical and creative skills in camera operation, composition, lighting, and image editing while investigating a range of genres such as portraiture, landscape, documentary, and experimental photography.

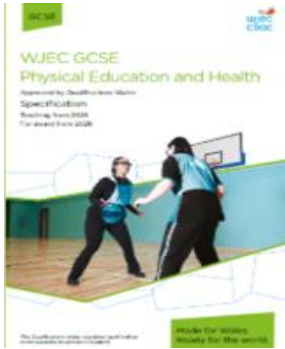
You will learn how to take a concept from research through to a final photographic outcome, beginning with teacher-led projects before developing your own themes and portfolio work.

Non-core course choices

Physical Education



- Physical Education GCSE
- Sports and Coaching Principles L2
- Public Services BTEC L2

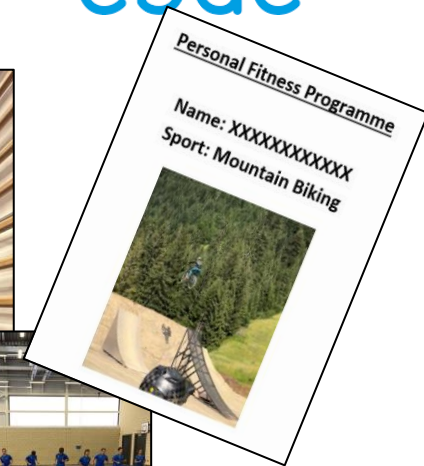


GCSE Physical Education and Health



Course Overview

Unit	Assessment	Percentage of GCSE
Unit 1: Principles of Physical Education and Health	1 hour 30 minutes Digital Examination	40%
Unit 2: Performance and Personal Training	Perform in one sport / activity Perform in a second sport / activity or coach in a sport / activity Written coursework - Personal Training Programme	60%



Sport and Coaching Principles



Course Overview

Unit	Assessment	Percentage of qualification
Unit 1: Fitness for Sport	1 hour 20 minute written exam	40%
Unit 2: Improving Sporting Performance	Coursework	25%
Unit 3: Coaching Principles	Coursework (to include the delivery of a coaching session)	35%



Public Services BTEC L2



Course Overview

Unit	Assessment	Percentage of qualification
Unit 1: The Role and Work of the Public Services	1 hour written exam	25%
Unit 2: Working Skills in the Public Service Sector	Coursework	25%
Unit 3: Employment in the Public Services	Coursework	25%
Unit 5: Health, Fitness and Lifestyle for the Public Services	Coursework	25%



Key dates and deadlines



Publication of online 'Free Choice' Survey Form

Year 9 Options Assembly for students

Year 9 'Tutors at Home' appointment

Non-core subject Taster Sessions.

Deadline submit online Year 9 Free Choice Survey

Year 9 Block Choices Form Launch

Year 9 Assembly Block Choices explained.

Year 9 Parents' Evening on School Cloud

The MCS Careers and Higher Education Fair

Block Choice Form Submission Deadline

Key Stage 4 lessons begin

Thursday 20th November

Thursday 20th November

Thursday 20th November

From Monday 24 November

Friday 12th December

Monday 19th January

Tuesday 20th January

Thursday 23rd January

Wednesday 4th February

Friday 13th February

Monday 1st June

Questions?



Staff will be available in the school canteen after this presentation to answer questions.