

# Ysgol Gatholig Crist y Gair

Prosbectws Cwricwlwm



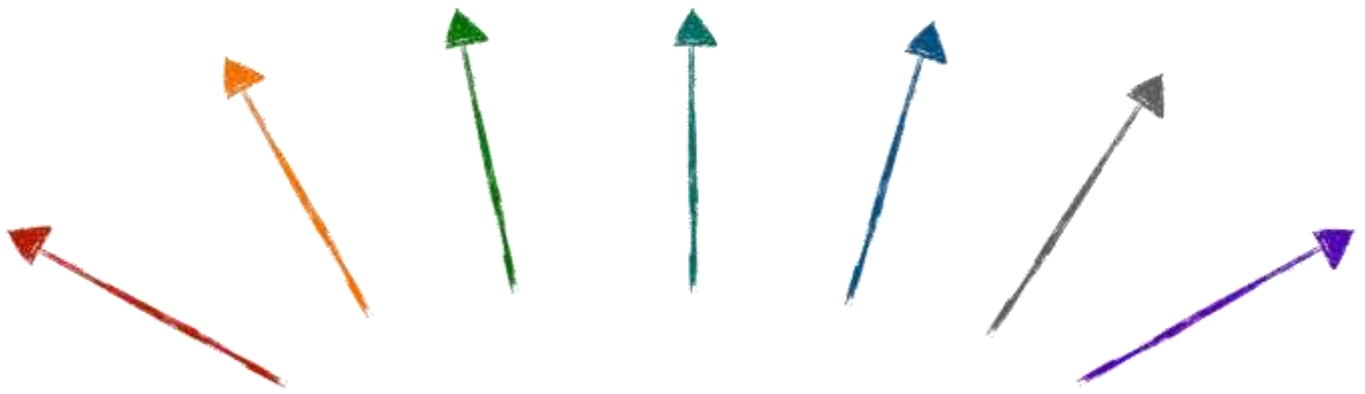
## Christ the Word Catholic School

Curriculum Prospectus



Educating Our Young  
in the Light of Christ





# OPTIONS

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is the most exciting time of the year for our Year 9 pupils. Options time means that our pupils are about to make choices affecting the rest of their lives. This is why we must be sure that the choices they make are for all the right reasons.

Year 9 pupils are able to **choose 3 subjects** to study throughout Year 10 and Year 11. They will sit examinations and controlled assessments during this time.

As parents/carers you will want to be sure that your child has made sound choices based on a broad and balanced curriculum. Please take the time to find out about the courses available for study and discuss the various options with your child.

Before your child makes their final choice, please take some time to have a good look at this booklet and talk to your child about the subjects they would like to choose and why. Be prepared and ready to help shape your child's future.

This booklet lists all subjects that we are able to offer as a school, however, which ones run each year will depend on how much demand there is for them. Every pupil at Christ the Word Catholic School will study the core subjects up to GCSE or equivalent level. These are:

- Religious Studies
- English Language and Literature (Single or Double Award)
- Mathematics and Numeracy Double Award
- Science Double Award or Applied Science Double Award
- Welsh
- Equality and Diversity
- Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh Baccalaureate)

Have a read of the information in the next few pages and scan the QR code for full details on each subject.

Dear Students,

The information in this booklet will help you make informed choices about the courses for next year and enthuse you about the challenges ahead. You can also access information on the Careers Wales Website at [careerswales.com](http://careerswales.com) or by scanning the QR code below. If you have any queries or comments, please see the teachers indicated on each page. Your Form Tutor, Heads of Department, Head of Year 9, Miss Cannon, Senior Staff and Careers Wales will also be pleased to help you, if needed.



# Compulsory & Option Subjects

## Religious Education & Humanities

Religious Studies (Compulsory)  
History  
Geography

## Creative Arts & Culture

Art and Design  
Photography  
Music  
Drama  
Performing Arts

## Language, Literacy & Communication

Cymraeg (Compulsory)  
English Language and Literature Single Award (Compulsory)  
English Language and Literature Double Award (Compulsory)  
French

## STEM—Science, Technology & Mathematics


Mathematics and Numeracy Double Award (Compulsory)  
Science or Applied Science Double Award (Compulsory)  
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)  
Psychology  
Food and Nutrition

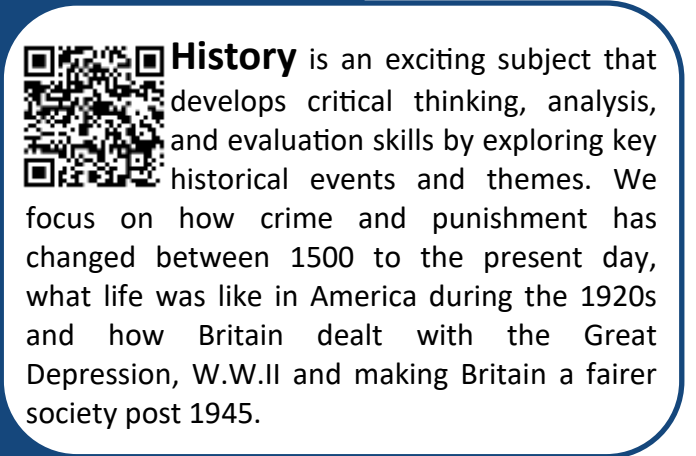
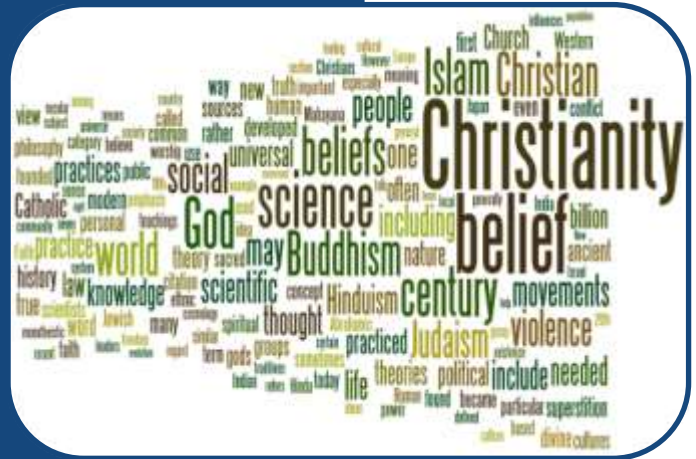
## Vocational & Services to People


Equality and Diversity (Compulsory)  
Skills Challenge (Compulsory)  
Health, Social and Childcare  
Tourism  
Retail Business  
Hospitality and Catering  
Sports and Coaching (Level 1&2)

# Religious Education & Humanities




 **Religious Studies** is a core subject that develops knowledge and understanding of religious and non-religious beliefs, values, teachings, practices and philosophical convictions. Through the systematic study of Catholic Christianity and Judaism, learners will explore how to think morally, spiritually and theologically.




 **Geography** is a dynamic subject that explores the interactions between people and the environment, developing analytical and problem-solving skills. It covers physical geography topics such as rivers, tectonics, ecosystems, alongside human geography themes like urbanisation, development and resource management.




# Creative Arts & Culture


 **Art and Design** is made up of 100% coursework and builds upon the skills learnt throughout Key Stage 3. Pupils will start by responding to a set brief. They are required to undertake contextual research on artists and art movements. They will produce drawings and designs from observation, memory and imagination from primary and secondary sources and collect visual research on a theme.




 **Photography** is made up of 100% coursework, giving you hands-on experience with professional photography equipment while developing your technical and creative skills. You'll explore composition, lighting and editing, gain expertise in Photoshop and analyse the work of famous photographers to inspire your own projects while helping you build a professional portfolio for the creative industry.



 **Music** the GCSE qualification will support you to develop performance and creative skills, understand musical forms, styles and genres, appreciate how to communicate musically, explore music created and performed by others to help develop your own talents, reflect on, evaluate and refine your work, explore diversity, identity and culture.

 **Drama** is designed to give you a broad and balanced experience. You will be given the opportunity to develop not only your performance skills but also your design skills in areas such as lighting, sound, set design, costume, hair and make-up. You will collaborate in devising your own piece of theatre and perform it for an audience. You can choose to concentrate on acting or design.

 **Performing Arts** Do you have a passion for performance? Are you a budding actor, dancer or musician? Do you want to discover more about the fantastic roles behind the scenes – from costume design and make-up, to set design and lighting? If so, it's time to uncover your potential – find out more about this exciting qualification today!





# Science, Technology & Mathematics



## **Maths and Numeracy Dbl. Award**

**Award** is a core subject that allows learners to build on their knowledge and understanding of number, algebra, geometry, and data. In addition, pupils learn about key financial aspects of everyday adult life, such as dealing with payslips, bills, and savings. This double award GCSE is unitised, with 3 examinations.



**Science Dbl. Award** involves the study of all three sciences. These will be assessed in separate units but will result in one qualification worth two GCSEs. The course will develop your understanding of many areas of science and also develop your practical and problem-solving skills.



## **Applied Science Dbl. Award**

utilises a context-led approach to science learning and assessment. The qualification combines all three elements of Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) and applies them to the modern world. You will develop your practical and problem-solving skills and understand the important role that science has in society.



**ICT** Are you passionate about technology? Do you like solving problems? Are you curious about all things digital, and want to learn some fantastic new skills? If so, it's time to uncover your potential.



**Psychology** is an engaging and effective qualification introduces students to the fundamentals of psychology, developing critical analysis, independent thinking and research skills. Over the two years you will explore memory, perception, the brain, brain development, social influence, language, thought and communication, neuropsychology and psychological problems.



**Food & Nutrition** is a great option for students who are interested in food, health, science and sustainability. It's a subject that develops practical skills, scientific knowledge, and real-world understanding of how food impacts our lives. There is a mix of theory and practical lessons to keep learning exciting. It teaches skills for work, life, and future career opportunities.





## Ten frequently asked questions about Year 9 options



**1. Do I have completely free choice over my options?** The school will look carefully at your choices and talk with you and your parents if we believe you have selected subjects that are not appropriate for you.

**2. Will I get my choices?** We will try our best. The majority of learners will but some subjects may not run if there are insufficient numbers, others may get too full (which is why we ask you to choose a backup option).

**3. Are there combinations of subjects that are not allowed?** You can select one preferred and one backup option from each of the three blocks, other than that you may select any of the subjects that interest you.

**4. Will I have the same teachers as this year?** Probably not. The timetable is very different in Year 10. Do not pick a subject just because you like/dislike your current teacher.

**5. Will I be in the same classes as my best friends next year?** Not necessarily. Do not pick a subject just because your friend has.

**6. I enjoy PE/Music but I am not actually very good at them. Should I select these subjects?** No. Some courses demand a degree of “natural talent” and you will struggle if you do not have it.

**7. How should I choose the subjects I should study in KS4?** Use this curriculum booklet, options evening and talk to your teachers to find out about the subjects you are interested in.

**8. Will I have subjects chosen for me if I miss the deadline for completing my options?** No, but be aware that learners who complete their options will get priority and you may miss out on any subjects that may already be full.

**9. Will I be able to change my mind after completing my options?** Possibly but be aware it may be difficult to reorganise your options later in the year once the timetable has been created.

**10. Should I assume that if I hear nothing directly, I have got my options?** Yes, assume no news is good news. We will talk to you and your parents if there are any issues. You will not get final confirmation of your choices until well into the summer term.

If you have any other questions, concerns or worries about the options process, please talk to your head of year—Miss Cannon.

### 2025 Option Blocks

You can select one preferred and one backup subject from each of the three coloured blocks.

Music	Sports & Coaching	French
History	Health, Social & Childcare	Art
Tourism	Photography	Food & Nutrition
Retail Business	Drama	Performing Arts
Hospitality & Catering	Geography	Psychology

# Future Directions

## A-LEVELS

- Studied in sixth form or college over two years
- Usually requires 5 GCSEs (grades C—A\*)
- Focus on 3 subjects

## VOCATIONAL COURSES

- Includes BTECs, NVQs and Diplomas
- Focus on hands-on skills (e.g. health, business, engineering, etc.)
- Suitable for those who prefer coursework over exams

## APPRENTICESHIPS

- Work for an employer while studying for qualifications
- Available at different levels, including Higher and Degree Apprenticeships
- Ideal for gaining industry experience

## EMPLOYMENT

- Enter the workforce straight after school
- Some employers offer training and qualifications

## JOBS GROWTH WALES

Support for young people to get into work or training.

- Helps 16—19 year olds gain skills, qualifications and work experience
- Offers tailored support, including paid placements
- A great option for those unsure about their next steps

## EAL Post-16

If you have recently joined us from another country and would like some helpful advice, you may wish to visit the Bell Foundation by scanning the QR code below.



### **How to confirm your choices**

Please take the Easter break to consider your option choices carefully. Continue to research your preferred options to make sure that they are the correct choices for you.

The deadline for submission of your option choices is Monday **28<sup>th</sup> April 2025**. Scan the QR code below or ask your form tutor for the link to submit your choices.

Failure to complete the form could mean that your child's option choices are made by the school.





**Ysgol Gatholig Crist y Gair,**  
Ffordd Cefndy, Y Rhyl, LL18 2EU

**Christ The Word Catholic School,**  
Cefndy Road, Rhyl, LL18 2EU

01745 352999

[receptiondesk@christtheword.co.uk](mailto:receptiondesk@christtheword.co.uk)

[christtheword.co.uk](http://christtheword.co.uk)