Ysgol Gatholig Crist y Gair

Prosbectws Cwricwlwm



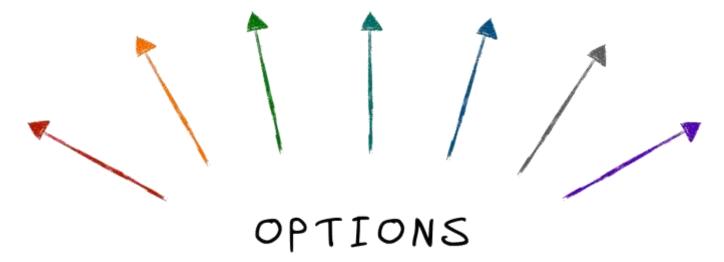
Christ the Word Catholic School

Curriculum Prospectus



Educating Our Young in the Light of Christ





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.

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 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.



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.

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

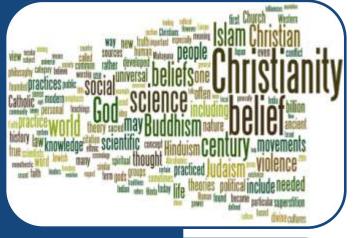
Equality and Diversity (Compulsory)
Skills Challenge (Compulsory)
Health, Social and Childcare
Tourism
Retail Business
Hospitality and Catering
Sports and Coaching (Level 1&2)

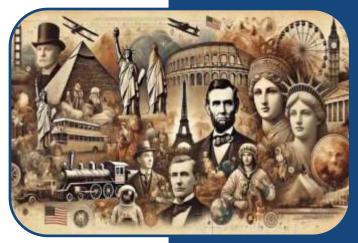
Religious Education & Humanities

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.









develops critical thinking, analysis, and evaluation skills by exploring key historical events and themes. We focus on how crime and punishment has changed between 1500 to the present day, what life was like in America during the 1920s and how Britain dealt with the Great Depression, W.W.II and making Britain a fairer society post 1945.

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

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.

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.

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.

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!



Language, Litteracy & Communication

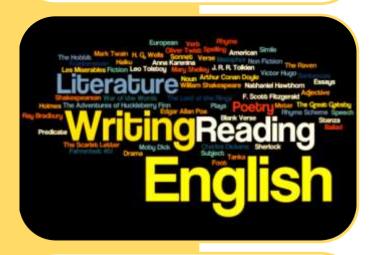
Welsh GSCE is to encourage learners to value using Welsh outside of the classroom. Learners develop their ability to use Welsh for socialising and in the workplace with opportunities to see, hear and read a rich and diverse range of Welsh materials. Learners develop their linguistic skills to use Welsh confidently in and outside of school.





Award is a core subject focusing on communication, analysis, and interpretation of diverse texts. It includes four key units: poetry, prose, nonfiction and drama. Assessment is 60% exams and 40% coursework. The course builds literacy and critical thinking skills, particularly supporting careers in media, law and education.

Award is a core subject that explores a wide range of texts, enhancing communication, analysis and creative skills. It covers poetry, prose, Shakespeare and non-fiction themes like belonging, power and change. Assessment includes exams (60%) and coursework (40%), preparing students for diverse careers.





on the vocabulary and skills taught in KS3 and further develop their understanding of French. Learners demonstrate their understanding by using a range of vocabulary, grammar and structures, as well as demonstrate their awareness of the culture and society of countries where French is spoken.

Science, Technology & Mathematics

Maths and Numeracy Dbl.

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.

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 problemsolving skills and understand the important role that science has in society.

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.

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



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.

Vocational & Services to People

knowledge-based qualification that covers early stage learning and concepts relating to equality and diversity, particularly relating to society, the workplace and the community. This will enable learners to develop a level of knowledge beyond the standard employer training experience, which will provide them access to further learning routes and career progression.



回接幾回 Skills **Challenge** The Welsh Baccalaureate develops key crosscurricular skills, aiding future education and employment. focuses on seven essential skills including literacy, numeracy, and problem-solving. The qualification comprises the Skills Challenge Certificate (a GCSE with four components) and Supporting Qualifications (core GCSEs and additional subjects).

is suitable for learners aged 14-16 who are interested in learning about the development and care of individuals throughout the life cycle, from conception to later adulthood. Learners will develop a greater insight into human growth and development, promoting and maintaining health and well-being to achieve positive outcomes.

knowledge, understanding and skills of customer service and quality customer experiences. It encourages you to research different types of tourist destinations and identify key features and appeal. It will allow you to acquire the knowledge and understanding in order to be able to review the business of tourism, its importance in the UK and the issues it faces.

a fast-paced environment? Do you thrive in a fast-paced environment? Do you dream of starting your own business one day? From marketing and merchandising, to good customer service - are you fascinated by the world of retail business and eager to discover how it all works? If so, it's time to uncover your potential!

fantastic option if you enjoy practical learning, creativity and working in a learning, creativity and working in a fast-paced industry. It is a great subject to study as a mix of theory and practical lessons keeps learning exciting. If you're passionate about food, customer service, events or running a business, this is an excellent choice. It teaches skills for work, life and future career opportunities.

Vocational Award in Sport and Coaching Our Vocational Award in Sport and Coaching principles will develop learners' knowledge and understanding of the Sport and Coaching sector and provide them with opportunities to develop associated practical skills, including coaching and sports analysis. It covers fitness for sport, improving sporting performance and coaching principles.

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

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

Future Directions

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

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.



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

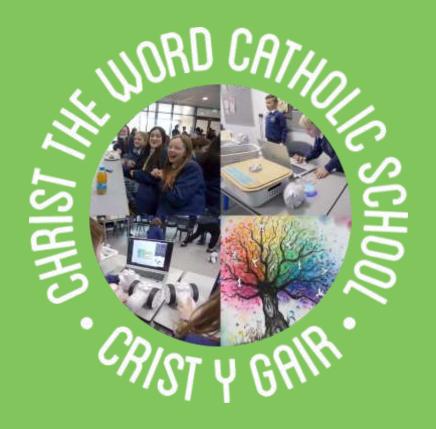
How to confirm your choices

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**th **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

christtheword.co.uk