Options Programme

Parents' Evening

Argoed High School
2026

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Objectives of Presentation

- Receive information about the KS4 choices process and the compulsory qualifications in Wales.
- The use of Careers Wales website and SIMS Options and the key dates.
- Find out about the guidance that the pupils will receive.
- Check what subjects are part of the compulsory core and what option subjects are available.
- Consider any implications of choosing options.
- Assess what choices options suit your future career plans.

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The Argoed Vision

Learning together, working together, succeeding together

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Key Dates

Event	Date
Introduction to Pupils (Assembly)	12th February 2026
Option Booklet Issued	12th February 2026
Parents' Information Evening	26th February 2026
Careers Fayre during PSE Day	Already completed
Year 9 Subject Parents' Evening	17th March 2026
Free Choice Survey Completion Date	13th March 2026
Final Deadline for option choices to be completed	26th March 2026

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Key Qualifications in Wales

- GCSE English Language and Literature (Double Award)
- GCSE Mathematics & Numeracy (Double Award)
- Welsh Baccalaureate – Skills Challenge
- GCSE Science
- GCSE Welsh Full Course

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Use of Careers Wales and SIMS

- Students will be issued usernames and passwords for SIMS options and have set up their own account on Careers Wales.

- Information and guidance is on Careers Wales website.

- Students will be asked to fill in **Free Choice Survey** and then **Final Options** via SIMS Options, details to follow.

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Choosing Options, Factors to consider:

- Subjects they **enjoy.**
- Subjects they are **good at.**
- Find out which subjects they need if they have a chosen **career** in mind.
- Keep their **options open**, must have breadth across AOLEs to cover new curriculum.

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DO NOT:

- Choose a subject because their friend is taking it.
- Reject a subject because they think it's 'for girls' or 'for boys'.
- Choose or reject a subject because they like or dislike a teacher.
- Choose a subject only because they think it will be easy.
- Choose a new subject without finding out more about it.
- Decide at the last minute.

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The Core:

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics & Numeracy
- Science
- Welsh
- RVE
- PE
- WBQ – Skills Challenge

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Options Routes

Route 1	Route 2
Choose 3 Options from options blocks	Choose 2 Options and an alternative bespoke course (to be discussed with ALN and pastoral team)

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Option Subjects

- Art and Design
- Geography
- Business
- Spanish
- History
- Digital Technology (New)
- Health & Social Care with Childcare (New)
- Food and Nutrition
- Product Design
- Music
- Drama
- Physical Education and Health (New)
- Engineering
- Computer Science
- Religious Studies

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Personalised Curriculum

- Based on individual need.
- Partnerships with external providers.
- Some Students will have a modified timetable.
- Learner Entitlement must be covered.
- New Curriculum guidance link:

[A guide to the new Curriculum for Wales]

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Subjects will only be available IF:

- There is sufficient take-up for each option subject to make it viable (if numbers are less than 10 then it is unlikely to be in a final option block), and if we can staff the course with a subject specialist.

- Some subjects may be oversubscribed.

- Pupils have been instructed to have a reserve options as the subjects chosen in their free choice may be placed in the same option block or not be in any block at all.

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What to do next

Discuss:

- At home
- Parents' Evening appointments
- In school with Teachers
- In school with Head of Year
- Careers Wales Advisor
- Use of website www.careerswales.gov.wales

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Careers Advice and Guidance

Pupils can access the Careers Wales website using their account, which they have set up. They can use the links below for some helpful research into your options choices:
Year 8 and 9 subject options | Careers Wales (gov.wales)

There are also the following links to help and support them:

Career Matching Quiz - Career Match Quiz (gov.wales) will help them see which careers they could enjoy.

The Buzz Quiz - Buzz Quiz (gov.wales) this is a fun personality test.

A-Z of Careers - Job Information (gov.wales) – general information on jobs, trends & skills etc.

Our Careers Advisor is Suzanne Parry

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Thank you and please do not hesitate to contact us should you require further information.

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