

Year 10

Parents' Information Evening

September 15th 2026.



The Argoed Way

- Vision for excellence
- Mindset and culture
- Teaching and learning model
- The Three R's

Learning together
Working together
Succeeding together



School Vision

A happy and successful school where our students:

- **Achieve Excellent Progress in their Learning** through...
- **Positive Attitudes to Learning** with...
- **Outstanding Care, Support, Provision and Guidance** and...
- **Inspirational Teaching and Leadership** that promotes the...
- **Wellbeing of the Whole School Community**



Our Expectations

All students to be:

Ready
Responsible
Respectful

And must have-

- Excellent Attendance
- Excellent Punctuality



Courses at Key Stage 4

Core subjects with qualifications;

- Mathematics
 - English Language and Literature
 - Science (Double Award or Single Sciences)
 - Welsh
 - Welsh Baccalaureate (skills challenge certificate)
-
- Option Subjects
-
- Vocational Level 2 Qualifications



Other Qualifications

Subject	New Qualification	GCSE Equivalent
Work Related Education	Agored Cymru – Level 2 Certificate in Work Related Education	2 B grades equivalent
Level 2 courses	Level 2 courses in Customer service, fire safety, risk assessment and mental Health.	Pass all 4 for a B grade equivalent
Bespoke Courses	College courses and Other outside providers	Grades vary depending on course studied



New GCSE Subjects

All GCSEs have now been changed to reflect the new curriculum.

The following subjects all have new specifications;

Mathematics and Numeracy, English Language and Literature,
Double Science, History, Geography, RE
Business, Computer Science, Digital Technology
Product Design, Food and Nutrition, Health and Social Care
Art, Music, Drama, PE
Welsh, Spanish

More information on the specifics of each course can be found in the Year 9 option booklet or by searching for the course on the WJEC website.
All vocational courses will remain the same for the current Year 10.



New GCSE Maths

Mathematics and Numeracy (Double Award)

Unit 1: Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy (Calculator) **30%**

Unit 2: Non-calculator **30%**

Unit 3: Calculator-allowed **40%**

Two tiers of entry:

Higher Tier: A*-D

Foundation Tier: C-G

Learners may be entered at different tiers across the 3 units.

Grades awarded as A*A*, AA, BB, CC, DD, EE, FF, GG there are **no separate grades**.

All papers will be added together to award final grade.

Unit 2 will be sat in **June 2027 (End of Year 10)**

Unit 1 will be sat in **November 2027**

Unit 3 will be sat in **June 2028 (End of year 11)**

Each term learners will be provided with topics being studied and which units the mathematical concepts will appear on.

Useful websites to use:

Mathswatch, corbettmaths, mathsdiy, GCSEpod, Clickview



New GCSE English Language & Literature (Double Award)

Overview

Two year course, equivalent to two GCSEs

What's Studied

- Poetry & Context
- Non-fiction texts
- An Inspector Calls (modern play)
- Macbeth (Shakespeare)
- Creative writing
- Transactional writing

Students will study the following texts:

An Inspector Calls by JB Priestley

Macbeth by William Shakespeare

Reading these texts in advance will be beneficial to students in preparation for their assessments.

Assessment

Exams (60%) – three 90-min papers with essay and creative writing tasks.

- Unit 1 Exam to be completed in June 2026: Poetry and Creative/Non-fiction writing
- Unit 4b Exam to be completed in November 2027: Drama and Creative Writing
- Unit 6 Exam to be completed in June 2027: Non-fiction Reading and Non-fiction Writing

NEA (40%) – written responses and assessed speaking/oracy tasks to be spread across the 2 year course

Resources will be shared on Teams and will include:

A Poetry Anthology and supporting resources
A Non-Fiction Anthology and supporting resources



New GCSE English Language & Literature (Single Award)

Overview

Two year course, equivalent to one GCSE

What's Studied

- Poetry & Context
- Non-fiction texts
- An Inspector Calls (modern play)
- Creative writing
- Transactional writing

Assessment

Exams (60%) – two 90-min papers with essay and creative writing tasks.

- Unit 1 Exam to be completed in June 2026: Poetry and Creative/Non-fiction writing
- Unit 4b Exam to be completed in November 2027: Drama and Creative Writing

NEA (40%) – written responses and assessed speaking/oracy tasks to be spread across the 2 year course

Students will study the following texts:

An Inspector Calls by JB Priestley

Reading this text in advance will be beneficial to students in preparation for their assessments.

Resources will be shared on Teams and will include:

A Poetry Anthology and supporting resources
A Non-Fiction Anthology and supporting resources



Welsh Bacc and Skills Challenge Certificate

The Welsh Baccalaureate is an overarching qualification that the Welsh Government want all learners in Wales to aspire to achieve by the end of their time in Secondary Education.

To achieve the qualification learners must -

- Get 5 GCSE's including English and Maths
- Successfully complete the Skills Challenge Certificate

Skills Challenge Certificate

- Learners have 2 lessons per fortnight to complete the Skills challenge certificate
- All work will be completed in class
- It is the equivalent of one GCSE in its own right
- It is purely project based – there are no exams

Learners will complete 3 units of work:

Unit 1 – Enterprise and Employability – worth 25% of final grade - Sept to Jan Yr 10

Unit 2 – Individual Project – worth 50% of final grade – Feb Yr 10 to Oct Yr 11

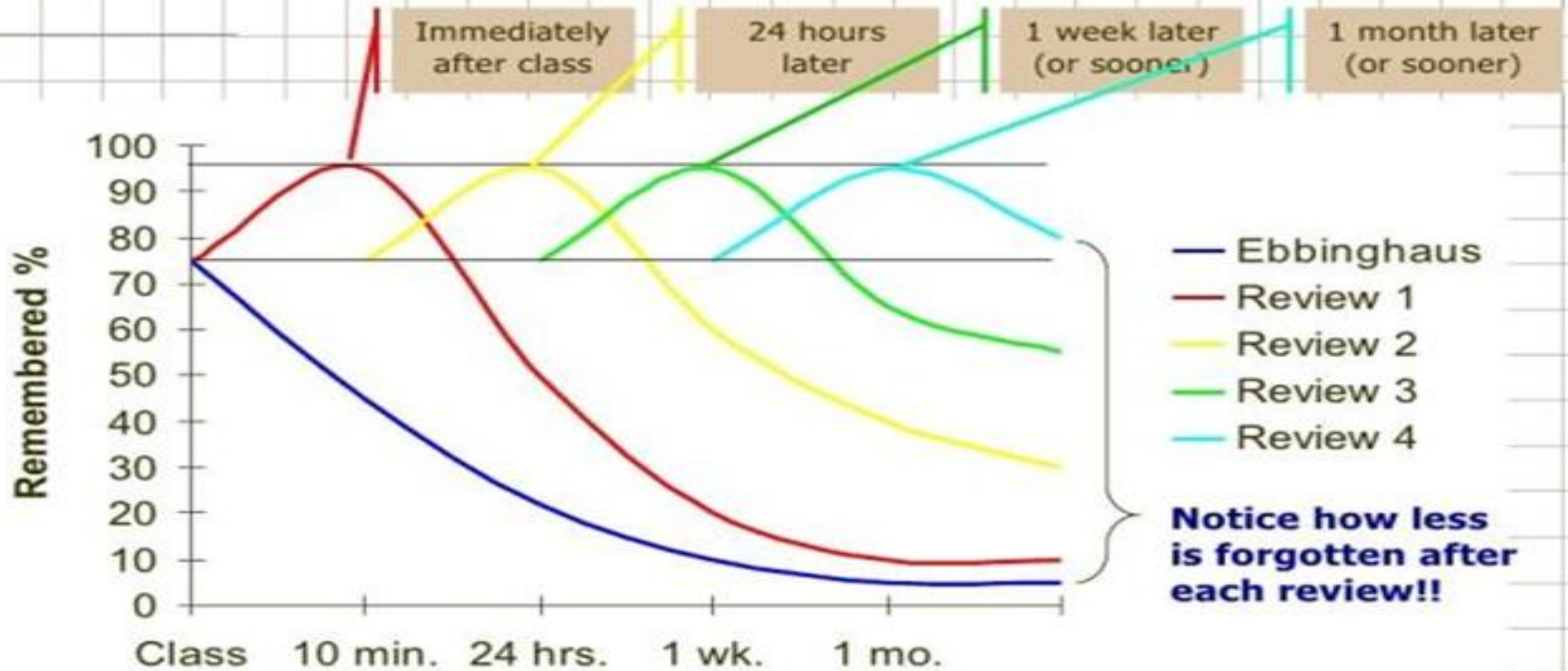
Unit 3 – Global Citizenship Challenge - worth 25% of final grade – Nov to Mar Yr 11

All units are Graded Pass L1 (D/E), Pass L2 (C), Merit (B), Distinction (A/A*)

It is vital that students attend as many lessons as possible to avoid falling behind!



Overcoming the Curve



What can students do to combat this?

Students should regularly take part in retrieval practice by:

Using "brain dumps" as a way of establishing what they know

- Creating flash cards from the previous lesson
- Creating mind maps of key topics and content
- Watch GCSE pod videos/check and challenge activities to reinforce their learning.



Online Resource Bank

GCSE POD

Username- school email address

Password- school password

(If this does not work, simply click on the office 365 tab and they will only need to enter their school password)

GCSE pod is an online platform where students can watch short clips and attempt quizzes based on their current topics. Students can also use the "Check and Challenge" option to quiz on key elements of each subject - the links below provide guides for parents

[GCSEPod](#)

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/resources/3/2407/engaging-parentscarers/parent-toolkit?open=2419>

WJEC Website – There are lots of resources and revision help including a question bank to help them prepare for exams. **Microsoft Teams**

Each subject your child is taking will have a teams page containing a range of Learning resources, past papers and learning plans

Additional materials can be found on

- Past papers- <http://www.wjec.co.uk>



What can parents do to ensure this happens? (SUPER 6)

- Show an interest (when do they have tests, coursework deadlines, NEAs)
- Support them in retrieval practice- (flashcards/mindmaps)
- Ask them to teach a topic to you
- Combat procrastination by setting a routine or schedule (little and often)
- Promote healthy sleep habits
- Minimise Distractions (phones, friends)



How to Monitor Progress

Reporting Progress

- Progress reports (2)
- Written reports (1)

Monitored by;

- *Head of Year*
- *Curriculum Leaders*
- *Subject Teachers*
- *Form Tutors*

Encourage & check

- *Use of Planners*
- *Classcharts*
- *Homework (Teams, Maths watch, GCSEpod)*
- *Learning Plans/Books*
- *Controlled assessments & coursework*



Keeping up-to-date

- School Website, Twitter, Emails, Newsletter
- Exam Board Website (WJEC)
- Subject Teachers
- Progress Leaders
- Form Tutors
- Classcharts
- Parents' Evenings
- Reports (Progress and Full Reports)



Dates for your Diary 2026/27



- Progress Reports 16th October 2026 & 25th June 2027
- Form Tutor Evening 20th October 2026
(In Person)
- Full Subject Reports 5th February 2027
- Parents' Evening 16th February 2027
(In Person)
- External GCSE Exams 10th May / 21st June 2027
- Work Experience 28th June 2027 (TBC)

