

Ysgol Uwchradd **LLANIDLOES** High School
Giving Opportunities For All to Learn

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Monday 7th October 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Welsh Government has accepted the recommendations of the Review of Qualifications for 14-19 year olds in Wales report published in November 2012. This proposes building on and strengthening the Welsh Baccaulaureate to provide an overarching framework for qualifications for 14 to 19-year-olds. It is for this reason that the school has introduced the Welsh Baccaulaureate Qualification into the school curriculum at Key Stage 4.

The Welsh Baccaulaureate Qualification is delivered in Key Stage 4 during Years 10 and 11. Unlike a traditional subject, the qualification links all aspects of study and skills development, including pre-existing areas such as GCSEs, Work Experience, Essential Skills and PSE.

Learners are either entered for the foundation or intermediate award depending on their academic development and progress. Learners will then develop this further at advanced level during post 16 education, either in 6th form or college.

Please find attached an overview of the programme of study for the WBQ and also a selection of Frequently Asked Questions that may be of help. If you have any further questions regarding WBQ please feel free to contact me at the High School.

Kind regards,

Mr P Knowles
WBQ Coordinator

Mr J Jones
Year Leader



WBQ Overview

GCSEs, Essential Key Skills and Wider Key Skills

Learners will study a number of GCSE and/or college based qualifications that will contribute towards the WBQ. Essential Key Skills and Wider Key Skills also contribute to the qualification.

Personal and Social Education

This is mainly delivered on Mondays before lesson 1 whilst the rest of the School partakes in PSRE. During the two years learners will discuss

- Positive relationships
- Health and emotional wellbeing
- Active citizenship
- Sustainable development and global citizenship

Wales, Europe and the World

This is delivered on Friday's lessons and also involves external speakers and academic visits such as touring the Senedd. During the two year course learners will discuss

- Politics
- Social issues
- Economic and technological issues
- Cultural issues

Language Unit

This unit helps learners develop a second language. This is completed during Welsh lessons for English Medium learners, English lessons for Welsh medium learners or French lessons if taken as an option. Additional arrangements can be made for other languages if the learner chooses.

Community Participation

Learners complete 15 hours partaking in an activity that benefits their community some way. This may involve volunteering with a charity or sports club. Learners can either complete 15 hours during their spare time or during the school day. Activities do not have to be linked but should not be paid nor involve a family member.

Individual Investigation

This is an investigation that learners have full control of the topic. Learners research an area of interest, making a comparison with Wales and another country. It is suggested that learners chose a topic that interests them and could help them in their future studies post 16. A combination of lesson time and self-study is needed for this assignment.

Work Experience

During the end of Year 10 learners will complete a work based placement for one week. This is organised through Careers Wales.

Team Enterprise

This is completed during the final week of Year 9. Learners work in groups to develop a business idea and attempt to make a product by selling, making or providing a service.

Personal Mentor

As well as tutors and teachers, learners have access to the School's Mentoring Programme. Each learner is allocated a mentor and will meet one on one to discuss progress in all areas of study.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there an exam in the Welsh Baccalaureate?

No. Assessment is mainly through the learner's diary that is completed during the course of the two years. The Individual Investigation is the only extended essay based assessment.

Is this a new qualification?

The WBQ is now in its 10th year in Wales. We have been delivering Advanced level WBQ for 7 years at Post 16. This is the first year that it has been delivered at Key Stage 4.

Is Llanidloes the only School delivering the WBQ?

Out of the 13 Secondary Schools in Powys, 12 deliver WBQ as well as Newtown College. Every school in Wales will deliver the qualification by 2015.

Do Universities accept it?

Every university that a learner applied to in 2013 from Llanidloes High School accepted WBQ at Advanced level. This has been the case for several years. For example, a typical offer to study Politics at Oxford University is 3 A's at A level, or 2 A's and WBQ Advanced.

Could my child have studied an extra GCSE instead of WBQ?

Simply no. WBQ only takes one full lesson a week, and that is not enough contact time to complete a traditional GCSE. An option subject was removed to accommodate additional Maths and English lessons. This meant that there was only one remaining lesson for WBQ. During this time learners will gain transferable skills that will help them in other subjects, as well as completing their individual investigation. This means that learners can study a specific area that interests them such as agriculture, human rights, politics etc.

What is the WBQ worth?

As well as personal development, skill development and general "real world" experience, learners will gain a widely acknowledge Baccalaureate Qualification. At intermediate level this equates to the value of three GCSEs and at Advanced one A level.

Is there a final grade?

The qualification is currently pass/fail at both foundation and intermediate level. However, we constantly track learner progress to ensure that they reach their full potential and provide added support and guidance when needed.