

WHITCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL

Penlline Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff CF14 2XJ

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Dear Parent

June, 2010

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your son/daughter to the Welsh Baccalaureate at Whitchurch High School. The school has been chosen to run the KS4 Welsh Baccalaureate from September 2010 following our success at sixth form level for the past two years. The Welsh Baccalaureate is an exciting qualification that adds a valuable new dimension to the subjects and courses already available to 14 – 19 year old students. It combines personal development skills with existing qualifications like A Levels, NVQs and GCSEs to make one wider award that is valued by employers and universities.

The Welsh Assembly Government introduced the Welsh Baccalaureate to transform learning for young people in Wales. It gives broader experiences than traditional learning programmes, to suit the diverse needs of young people today.

By adding personal development skills to academic study, the Welsh Baccalaureate will help your son/daughter to achieve more. It makes them better equipped for the world of work, better informed and more active citizens. Your son/daughter will become better prepared for further and higher education, as well as employment.

A Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification is also proof that your son/daughter has developed the Key Skills* considered important by employers and universities. It also shows they have furthered their personal and social education, undertaken an individual investigation, gained work experience and actively participated in a community project.

Your son/daughter will be aiming to achieve either the foundation or intermediate Welsh Baccalaureate diploma at Key stage 4. Successful completion of an intermediate diploma will enable a pupil to pursue the advanced diploma at Key stage 5.

We have worked to ensure that the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification will facilitate pupil progress at a pivotal time in their education. The structure for delivery of the qualification integrates well with the courses that your son/daughter has already opted to follow and provides greater opportunities for group and individual support. We strongly believe that incorporation of the Welsh Baccalaureate into current studies at Key Stage 4 and 5 will help to boost current attainment levels.

The selection of comments from our current and past students, universities and employers below should help to give you a flavour of why we consider this qualification to be so important and beneficial to our students:

“To study Psychology at Exeter University I was offered 3 A’s at A-level or 2 A’s and the Welsh Baccalaureate at Advanced level.” – Megan 2010.

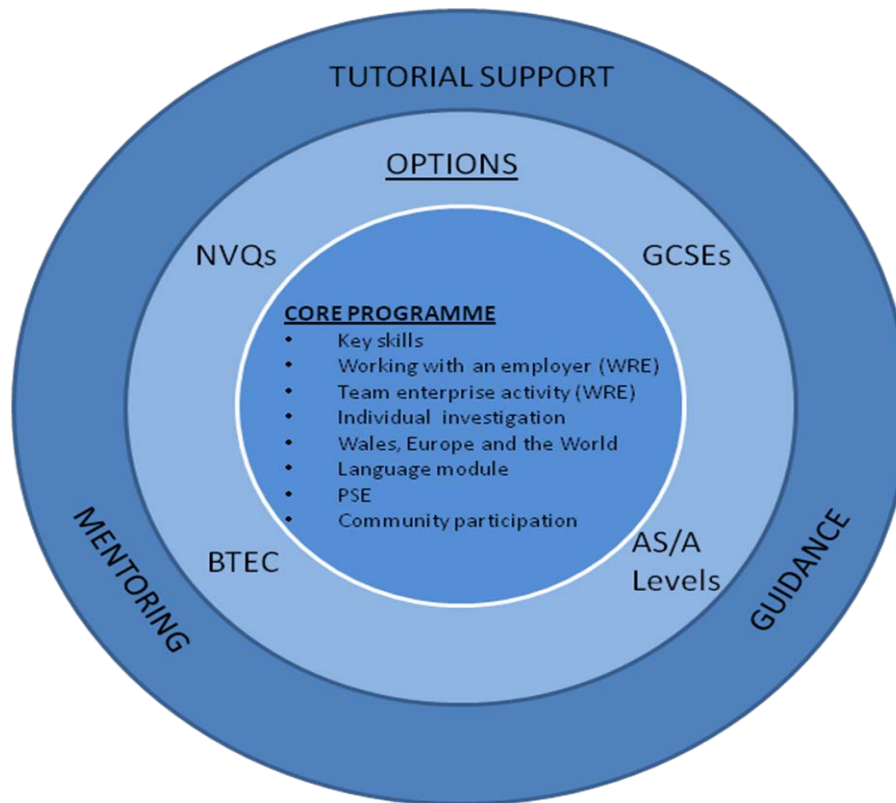
“At my recent interview for college I was asked why I didn’t have the Welsh Baccalaureate diploma.” – Owen 2010.

“The Welsh Baccalaureate bridges the gap between education and the world of work; it’s great to see young people developing more practical skills along with the theoretical skills. This will enable new employees to hit the ground running.”- Grant Jones, Head of Human Resources, Perkin Elmer Ltd.

“We welcome this qualification and accept the Core as having the recognised tariff value of 120 UCAS points. This applies across ALL of our Degree programmes, following acceptance by our Quality Assurance panel. Where individual programmes require specific course requirements then the University of Exeter will stipulate this within any given offer, usually in the form of A Level subjects.”

Dr Pamela Hoad, Head of Admissions, University of Exeter.

The main requirements of the Welsh Baccalaureate program are highlighted in the diagram below with pupils completing the compulsory core programme alongside their GCSE subjects. As you can see mentoring and individual support encompasses the whole qualification.



For further information on the specific components of the Welsh Baccalaureate at Whitchurch High school please visit the Welsh Baccalaureate section of the school website where you will find information outlining how we will meet each of the requirements listed above. Your son/daughter will also be receiving more information on this qualification during their Key stage 4 induction week from the 12th – 15th July.

Thank you in advance for your support in helping to guide your son/daughter through their Welsh Baccalaureate experience. If you have any queries relating to the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification please don't hesitate to contact me on 02920 629700 or johnn@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

Mr. N John
Assistant Headteacher Welsh Baccalaureate and elearning

***Key Skills**

Key Skills are the six skills that are important in the world of work, in higher education and in all other aspects of life. These are Communication, ICT, Application of Number, Working With Others, Problem Solving, Improving Own Learning and Performance.