

First results 2017 Newsletter

“The new Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate provides learners with a broad and balanced range of experiences. We have worked with key Welsh organisations to produce engaging Challenge Briefs and with Higher Education Institutions to produce Project Proposals that inspire students and enhance their skillset which are transferable across their other qualifications. We congratulate all candidates who achieved the qualification, which reflects the hard work and commitment of both the students and their teachers.”

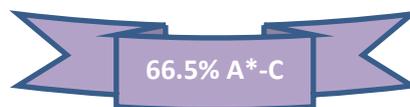
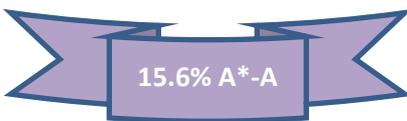
Caroline Morgan, WJEC Welsh Baccalaureate Framework Manager

Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh Baccalaureate)

The Advanced SCC is equivalent to an A level graded A*-E and recognised by most universities.

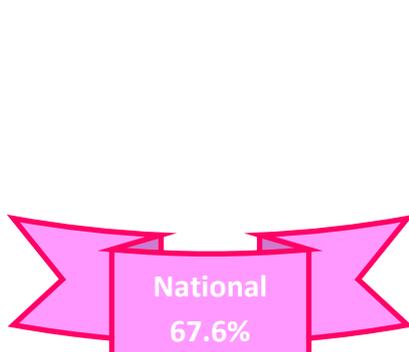


To be awarded an A* a student must achieve at least 270 out of 300 marks (90%).



Key stage 4 National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate

Equivalent to a GCSE - National graded A*-C, Foundation graded Pass*-Pass



Advanced level

Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School

Out of 64 Candidates entered for the Welsh Baccalaureate from Archbishop McGrath, Catholic High School, 15 achieved an A*. This is a fantastic achievement for staff and pupils of the Bridgend Sixth Form.



From left to right Asher Perkins, Chloe Griffiths, Courtney Davies, Olivia Pritchard, Joshua Wallace, Lucy Clare, William Picton, Bailey Heredge, Callum Sadler, Jo Brunton, Kate Pearce, Lydia Thomas

Adam Kearns who achieved an A* in the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh Baccalaureate) along with an A* in Economics, and A in Music and an A In Mathematics stated that the most important skills he developed via the Skills Challenge Certificate, were research skills and literacy skills. Adam's Individual Project Title was 'How Far have we Recovered from the Recession in 2008?'

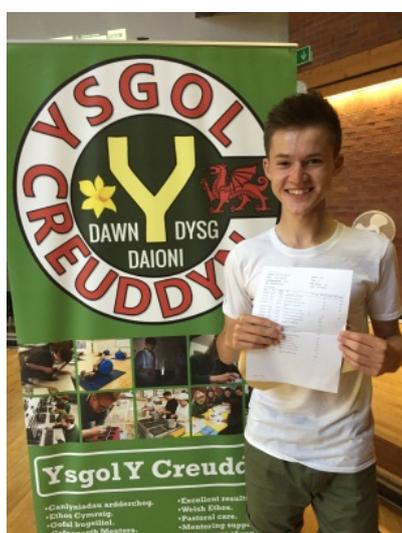


Isabelle Keller left the school last year and is now studying Digital Media in **University of West England**. She said 'The research skills I learnt in the Welsh Bacc have helped me a lot. A big part of my degree involves looking at media in a critical way, writing and summarising my own research has really helped. People I have spoken to have said they might have struggled without the skills they developed in the Bacc.'



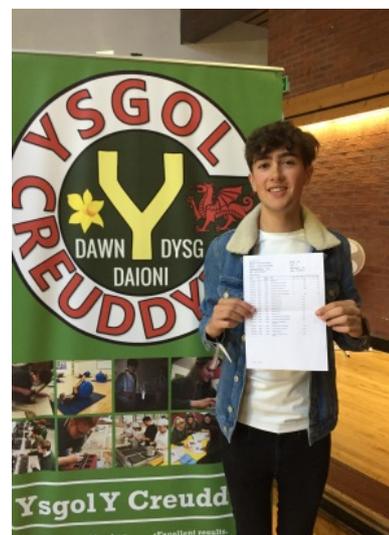
Ysgol Y Creuddyn

Students of Ysgol Y Creuddyn, Llandudno also achieved fantastic results, with all candidates entered achieving A*-C in the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate. **Owain Gethin, Deputy Head** of the school stated, *'We are very proud of our students' achievements. These are excellent Welsh Baccalaureate results for the school and is testament to how hard the students worked. This has been a great start for the new course and we look forward to building on the success of these results.'*



Osian Elis achieved the results he needed to study History at **Oxford University**, he told WJEC, *'I needed to get an A* in History A level and an A and A* in two other subjects - I am happy that the SCC gave me this one A*. The topic for my Global Citizenship Conference really helped with my A level Geography work and my Individual Project was based on Welsh History and the Welsh language that I got to discuss at my interview for Oxford.'*

Ciaran Eynon also achieved an A* in the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate, which he said ensured his place to study Mathematics at **Warwick University**, a fantastic achievement.



Catrin Wellsbury will go on to study Law at **Cardiff University**, and explained, *'An A* in the SCC contributed to my entrance requirements to study Law at Cardiff. I was given the opportunity to discuss my Individual Project at my interview as it was a law based topic.'*

Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen

Students from Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen also had very positive experiences of studying the qualification. Here are some of their views:



Hero Douglas

Hero Douglas achieved an A* for the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate and will go on to Study Music at **Oxford University** - *'The SCC helped me achieve the grades I needed to get into Oxford University. It also helped me gain valuable skills that helped me with my other A levels. It is a challenging and inspiring course.'*

Heledd Evans - *'Thanks to the SCC I am going to University!'*

Alaw Williams - *'I have learned valuable skills whilst studying the SCC which has boosted my confidence in preparation for University. Thanks to the Bac I am confident to present to an audience.'*

Kyle Allen - *'The employability skills the SCC gave me has meant that I will be fast tracked on my college course next year.'*



Anna Hughes, Alaw Fon, Ffion Eaton, Ellen Jones, Natalie Roberts



William Kyle Jones, Tom Thomas, Deian Parry Williams

Neath Port Talbot College

Neath Port Talbot College's Sixth Form Academy achieved an amazing pass rate of 25%, A*-A, 60%, A*-B and 86% A*-C grades, with over 200 students achieving the 'Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate'. These outstanding results have enabled the students to access a range of University places and employment opportunities.

Some of the successful students include Daniel Oakes, former pupil of Dwr-Y-Felin Comprehensive School who achieved Advanced SCC A*, A Levels in 3D Design (A*), Psychology (A), Geology (A).

He said: "Studying the Welsh Bacc. enabled me to develop a range of skills that I would not have achieved from A level study alone. In particular, my Individual Project on *anxiety and depression* will undoubtedly be beneficial in **Cardiff University** where I will be studying Psychology."

Ryan Dhillon, former pupil of Dyffryn Comprehensive School achieved Advanced SCC (A), A Level Sociology (B), History (C), and is going on to **Swansea University** to study Law.

"Without Welsh Bacc. I would not have met my offer requirements. I enjoyed the course and the lecturers were all really helpful and supportive."

Following the **Apprenticeship** route is Matthew Ellis who achieved Advanced SCC (A), 2 A* Applied Business, Economics (B).

"I am now going on to do an apprenticeship with **JP Morgan** the investment bank in financial services, located in Bournemouth. I think that the best thing about Welsh Bacc. is the fact that it taught me the employability skills and things like time management which will be essential to my new workplace," he explained.



(L/R): Matthew Ellis, Daniel Oakes, and Ryan Dhillon

"I am really pleased with the outstanding Welsh Bacc. results achieved. It has allowed a significant number of learners to gain places at University. We have also found that a number of **top employers** are now welcoming the qualification as they recognise the range of transferable skills that equip the individual to face the challenges of employment and thrive." **Leah Johns, Welsh Bacc. Co-ordinator**

Quotes from Universities

The entry requirement for most university courses is 3 grades, tariff points are less popular. In terms of the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate nearly all universities and courses will offer one of these options:

- Requirements are as for A-levels where you can substitute a non-subject specific grade for the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate at that grade*
- Includes Skills Challenge Certificate as a fourth subject with lowering of 3 A level grades*

Warwick University

Warwick welcomes applicants who are studying the Welsh Baccalaureate at Advanced Level and recognise this when making any offer. In addition to our typical offer an alternative offer would be made to applicants taking the Skills Challenge Certificate. The alternative offer would be one grade lower and include obtaining grade C or above in the Skills Challenge Certificate. The one grade reduction would not be in any essential subjects required for a course e.g. if the typical offer was AAA including A in Mathematics the alternative offer would be AAB including A in Mathematics and

Oxford University

The University recognises that Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate will provide an applicant with the opportunity to develop research and academic skills relevant for study at Oxford, particularly through the independent research project. Candidates are encouraged to draw upon relevant Welsh Baccalaureate experience when

National/Foundation KS4

Sara Davies, WJEC KS4 Welsh Baccalaureate Officer commented:

Following the introduction of the new specification in 2015 we are particularly pleased to see such a high percentage of students gain the qualification, which reflects the hard work and commitment of both the pupils and their teachers. 50.7% of candidates gained the National Welsh Baccalaureate with a further 40.1% gaining the Foundation Welsh Baccalaureate. Congratulations to all."

Monmouth Comprehensive School



Left to right: Freddie Oubridge-Brock, Katie Kearsley, Georgia Parry, Taryn Birkett, Darcie Birkett, Alicia Maclachan, Archie Oubridge-Brock

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Monmouth Comprehensive School pupils had a very valuable experience studying the Skills Challenge Certificate:

"The Individual Project gave me the opportunity to be independent and to research and explore a topic that I find really interesting and that I haven't learnt about in my other subjects." - Taryn Birkett

"The Skills Challenge gave me the freedom of choice to personalise my Individual Project and the Challenges. I like the challenge of me being in control of the research and using a range of sources and bringing them together." - Freddie Oubridge-Brock

"I have developed skills that have enabled me to meet deadlines which will be important in the Sixth Form, university and also in the workplace." - Katie Kearsy

"I enjoyed the Enterprise Challenge as it enabled me to have a choice in the outcome and also the interaction with the team and customers who bought our product." - Georgia Parry.

St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School, Wrexham

31% of pupils from St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School in Wrexham achieved A*-A in the Skills Challenge Certificate at National Level. The **Head teacher, Mr Wilkinson** said *"This has been an absolutely stunning set of results from a cohort who have excelled under the leadership of Welsh Bacc Coordinator Mrs. Suzanne Arnall and her outstanding team of teachers. This is a jewel in the 2017 results crown and I am exceptionally proud of the Welsh Bacc and Skill Challenge Certificate achievement."*

Student Grace Amedor achieved an A* in the Skills Challenge Certificate, her Individual Project looked at Genetic Modification and whether it was worth the risk. The coordinator (Sue Arnall) commented that the Dragons who watched Grace at the Enterprise and Employability Challenge pitch said she had outstanding skills - 'a future Prime Minister'.

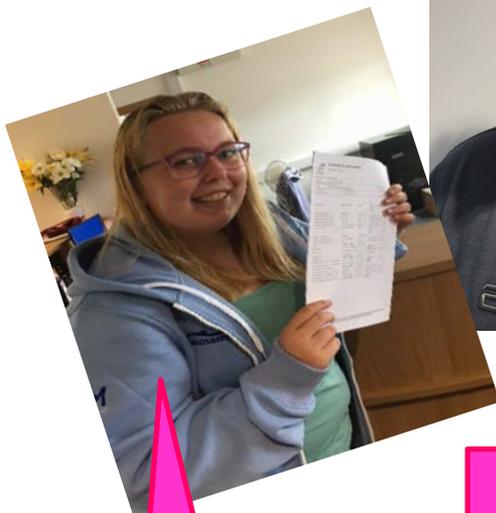


Ysgol Gyfun Dyffryn Teifi, Llandysul.

Ysgol Gyfun Dyffryn Teifi were celebrating on results day, with 100% of their pupils achieving A*-C grades in the Skills Challenge Certificate. Welsh Baccalaureate Coordinator, Julia James was delighted with the students' results, which were well deserved after two years of hard work undertaking the Challenges and Individual Project.

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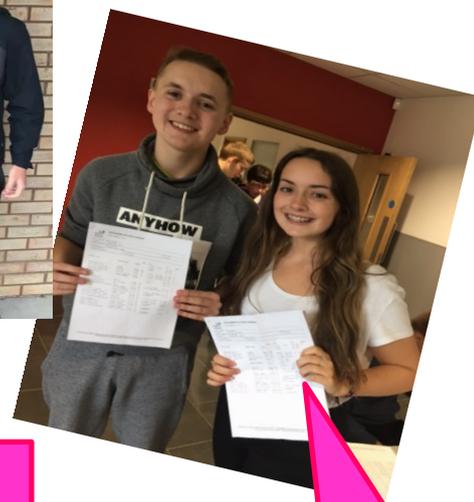
"I have learnt a number of different skills through the Baccalaureate, and have succeeded more than I expected" - Melissa



"I'm happy with my Skills Challenge Certificate C grade. The college asked me specifically to achieve the Welsh Baccalaureate" - Nathan



"We have learnt important skills that we need when we come back to school, or go to work, which is working in a team and effective communication" - Cian & Ifan



"Both of us have benefited greatly by studying and preparing for our Challenges, and we're very happy with our Welsh Bacc results" - Twins Daniel & Elen