

A LEVEL BIOLOGY / CHEMISTRY / PHYSICS

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2025

Welcome back! We hope you enjoyed a well deserved break over the summer.

UNIT 5 – PRACTICAL EXAMINATION DATES 2026

Dates have been set for the next set of Unit 5 practical examinations. Information can be found on the subject web pages – [Biology](#) / [Chemistry](#) / [Physics](#).

FREE ACCESS TO SCRIPTS

WJEC teachers also benefit from access to free marked exam scripts from the Summer 2025 assessment series.

Your learners' scripts will be available to download from [Portal](#) from results day onwards.

Autumn Term Professional Learning opportunities

Our Assessment Feedback Package for 2025-26 is an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of how assessments are marked or moderated. This integrated suite of resources and training brings together free access to Principal Examiner reports, marked scripts, and online assessment feedback sessions. Learn more about how you and your learners can benefit from our Assessment Feedback Package here: [Assessment Feedback Package 2025-26](#). You can download the most recent Principal Examiner Reports and register for FREE, online feedback events on your qualification page.

Free online assessment feedback sessions based on the summer 2025 series are being held in November for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Booking for all events can be made [here](#).

LEVEL 3 MEDICAL SCIENCE

The Level 3 Applied Certificate/Diploma in Medical Science has been updated. The new specification, for first teaching in September 2025, can be found here: [Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification \(Applied Qualification\) in Medical Science \(Extended Certificate\)](#)

A free Preparing to Teach professional learning event is available during the spring term. This can be booked [here](#).

[Following a consultation under the guidance of Canolfan Bedwyr, which is Bangor University's Centre for Welsh Language Services, Research and Technology \(who are responsible for Y Termiadur Addysg\), a decision was made to change the Welsh language terminology currently in use for 'speed' and 'velocity'.](#) An important point to make here is that Canolfan Bedwyr consulted with WJEC, mathematics and physics subject specialists, the national literacy tests specialist panel and teachers who currently teach these subjects in secondary schools.

The problem

The central issue with the current terminology is the inconsistency which exists between:

- Language in common, everyday use:
The word 'cyflymder' is used for 'speed' outside school including in professional situations (such as any discussion relating to speed limits etc). 'Buanedd' is an old historical term which doesn't form part of everyday language.
- Primary education:
Pupils learn the term 'cyflymder' for 'speed' in primary school.
- Secondary education:
When they reach secondary school, pupils need to change to using 'buanedd' for 'speed' without understanding why that is. Years later, the use of 'cyflymder' for 'velocity' is introduced.
- Educational subjects:
'Cyflymder' is used for 'speed' in subjects like Physical Education and Information Technology but then 'cyflymder' is also used for 'velocity' in the subjects of Physics and Mathematics.

This inconsistency confuses pupils, especially as they move from primary to secondary education or in resources or activities which encompass both periods. The recent national numeracy tests are such an example, where a decision has to be made as to which term to use, with these tests being given to primary and secondary pupils. This problem will continue despite the fact that changes will be coming to these tests over the next few years.

The change

- To use 'cyflymder' for 'speed' across all levels of education (reconciling with common speech)
- Coin the new term 'felosedd' for 'velocity'
- Dispose of the term 'buanedd' as a technical term

Arguments for change

- It would reconcile terminology across primary and secondary education
- It would reconcile school terminology with common speech
- It would follow modern terminology principles (that is keeping familiar words for familiar concepts)

Implementing the change - Current GCE specifications

GCE Mathematics / Further Mathematics specifications

For now, 'buanedd' (speed) and 'cyflymder' (velocity) will continue to be used in these specifications.

However, the AS units of these specifications will be changed to align with the GCSE specification **from September 2027 onwards**. Then **from September 2028 onwards**, the A Level units of these specifications will also be changed. In fairness to all candidates sitting/resitting GCE Mathematics/Further Mathematics over the next few years, the English terms will be placed in brackets in the examination papers from 2026 onwards.

GCE Biology / Chemistry / Physics specifications

For now, 'buanedd' (speed) and 'cyflymder' (velocity) will continue to be used in these specifications.

However, the AS units of these specifications will be changed to align with the GCSE specification **from September 2028 onwards**. Then **from September 2029 onwards**, the A Level units of these specifications will also be changed. In fairness to all candidates sitting/resitting GCE Biology/Chemistry/Physics examination papers over the next few years, the English terms will be placed in brackets in the examination papers from 2026 onwards.

Implementing these changes will cause an additional burden initially in the short term, but we do feel that pupils will benefit from making this change in the long term in order to ensure consistency of terminology across their entire educational journey.

If you have any queries then please contact the science team.

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