

## Timetabling the Key Stage 4 National/Foundation Welsh BaccaLaureate Qualification

Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School is an 11 to 16 mixed community school maintained by Neath Port Talbot local authority. There are currently 635 pupils enrolled at the school.



John Griffiths is the Welsh BaccaLaureate Co-ordinator within the school.

### How have you timetabled the Welsh BaccaLaureate this year?

The school timetables 2 hours a week for Welsh BaccaLaureate. However skills were developed in year 9 through a mini challenge in enterprise.



Booklets are used for teaching and learning prior to the start of each challenge. The booklets allow learners to undertake activities both in the classroom and outside. The school promotes self-study and research, with homework being a fundamental aspect of Welsh BaccaLaureate. The booklets cover a number of skills even those that might not be directly assessed in a challenge assessment This develops learner knowledge to allow the learner to understand why they need the skills and how they are transferable, fully preparing the learner for the challenges.

### Why and how did you choose this model?

We started by developing the skills in year 9, this allowed the school to allocate more time for KS4 work. The school would like to expand the skills development in year 9 further in the future.

### How it is working so far?

We are running out of time, the challenges are taking longer than anticipated.

### Have you encountered any issues with this model?

There is more in the syllabus than meets the eye, online marking and saving adds to teacher workload and time.

### What will you change about Welsh Baccalaureate timetabling in the future?

In year 9 a mini challenge was run for Enterprise and Employability, which was internally assessed. In hindsight we should have started with the Community Challenge. In future years we are planning to do the Enterprise Mini Challenge in year 8 and preparation for the Community Challenge in year 9.

At KS4 we will continue with the Community Challenge (returning to it later for the evaluation) followed by the Enterprise and Employability Challenge. Hopefully, all will be completed by the summer term for the Global Citizenship Challenge.

### What key advice would you give to other centres?

- Once you teach a skill in theory it does not need to be taught again e.g. SWOT. There needs to be clarity in the delivery model/scheme of work for the team delivering Welsh Baccalaureate.
- Timetable IT rooms from the start of the academic year.
- Continuity in the Welsh Baccalaureate teaching team from year 9 skills development through is vital for the success of the qualification.
- Getting an established team instead of retraining annually.
- For Community, a range of organisations were engaged with prior to assessment. The organisations supported the development of the skills and the external organisations trained the learners. This was undertaken to increase teaching and learning opportunities and experiences.

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*The revised Welsh Baccalaureate KS4 National/Foundation qualification was introduced from September 2015. Entries for the three Challenges can be submitted either for the January or June Series during the two years of the course. The Individual Project entries must be submitted during the second year of the course in either the January or June series. Further information can be found on the WJEC website at [www.wjec.co.uk/welshbaccalaureate](http://www.wjec.co.uk/welshbaccalaureate).*