



Skills Challenge Certificate/Welsh Bacallaureate

Guide for Parents & Students

Tonyrefail Senior School aims to provide every student with a pathway that will ensure they achieve their potential and achieve success.

Many students always ask us about the Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh Bacallaureate) and whether they need to opt for the subject. At Tonyrefail we highly recommend the Welsh Bacallaureate and nearly all of our students include the subject in their learning pathway.

I have outlined below our latest Welsh Bacallaureate data in regards to University offers and previous success rate that has ensured our students always attend their first choice university.

TCS Offers 2020

- Students made applications to 56 different universities. 53 of these accept the Welsh Bacallaureate (Oxford, Durham and London School of Economics do not include offers with WB). Offers made to these candidates all required a minimum of 3 A grades in facilitating subjects.
- 95% of Universities in the UK view it equivalent to any other A Level.
- Successful medicine applications at University College London, University of Manchester and Queen Mary College London, all have accepted the Welsh Bacallaureate as the third A level with 2 other Sciences (Maths, Further Maths, Biology, Physics, Chemistry).
- 81 unconditional offers made to 43 students this year. 100% of students have studied the Welsh Bacallaureate as part of their pathway.
- 298 conditional offers made to students this year who studied the Welsh Bacallaureate. 295 offers included the Welsh Bacallaureate as part of the offer.
- 99.3% of offers made included the Welsh Bacallaureate as a part of the offer.
- 91 offers for Russell Group Universities (A collective of 24 research-intensive UK universities who have a shared commitment and focus to research and outstanding teaching and learning experiences). 88 of these offers accepted the Welsh Bacallaureate.
- 96% of offers for Russell Group Universities included the Welsh Bacallaureate.
- For 88% of students studying full A Levels it was their best or equal to their best grade.

I have outlined below frequently asked questions from students on whether Welsh Baccalaureate should be part of their pathway.

Q - I am currently achieving A* -A grades in all my subjects which includes Maths, English and Triple science. I am hoping to study Medicine at Oxford University should I take Welsh Baccalaureate?

A - Oxford University would require a pathway including at least two subjects from Mathematics, Biology, and Chemistry. We would suggest you opt for 4 A levels.

Q- I am targeted mainly B grades at GCSE's, what would you recommend I take?

A- It is important to discuss in full what you would like to do at A level and ensure the courses help with your future choices. A suitable pathway may include 3 A levels that might include a combination of A level and BTEC Courses plus studying the Welsh Baccalaureate.

Q - I will achieve mainly C grades and some distinctions and merits in my BTEC courses. I do prefer coursework to exams. Would Welsh Baccalaureate be too difficult for me?

A -Welsh Baccalaureate will be a good subject to add to your learning pathway. Welsh Baccalaureate is 100% coursework and with hard work and commitment you will achieve the success you have worked towards achieving.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any information you may require by emailing Sixthform@tcs.cymru