



# National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate

## Overview

The new National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate, has been introduced to learners at ages 14 to 19. It's format has been designed to help learners develop the skills they will need for higher education, employment and life.

The new National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate, will be universally adopted by all educational establishments in Wales, at Key Stage 4. The GCSE qualification will offer flexibility and inclusivity to all learners and will be studied alongside the learner's traditional choices at GCSE level, or vocational qualifications. Four Challenges will be completed over the two year period (Key Stage 4; Year 10 and Year 11).

The revised Skills Challenge Certificate will be rigorously assessed. It will be graded, ensuring that hard work, effort, commitment and high performance are better rewarded and recognised by higher education and employers. The National award will be graded as GCSE A\*- C and the Foundation as a Level 1 Pass\* and Level 1 Pass.

The Skills Challenge is primarily about the development, improvement and assessment of essential skills, such as Literacy and Numeracy, Digital Literacy, Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Planning and Organisation, Creativity and Innovation and Personal Effectiveness.

## Assessment



Examination



Controlled Assessment

## Examining Board

*WJEC/CBAC*

## Departmental Staff

**Mr. R. Evans** (Standards Leader & Teacher)

**Miss S Davies** (SCC Teacher & Curriculum Support)

**Ms K Carter** (SCC Teacher)

**Ms K Granville** (SCC Teacher)

**Mrs M Robinson** (SCC Teacher)



## What the experts say...

*“From our perspective, we expect students who come to Oxford to be independent thinkers, highly motivated and flexible. I truly believe that the new qualifications from Wales, especially the refocused and strengthened Welsh Bacalaureate, will help develop students in that direction.”*

**Dr Samina Khan: Oxford University**



## Course Outline

Specifications and delivery models are constantly internally refined and adjusted, to improve learning. Our school will continue to liaise closely with the Welsh Government, Regional Consortia and the WJEC, to ensure that the delivery of the National Skills Challenge is consistent with other schools throughout Wales.

**Year 10** - Learners will engage and complete the Enterprise and Employability Challenge, Community Challenge and Global Citizenship Challenge.

**Year 11** – Learners will engage in the Individual Project (50% of the course), Community Challenges and Global Citizenship Challenges.

Learners will develop and use these acquired skills. These skills will be assessed by the completion of an Individual Project (50%) and three Skills Challenges:

Enterprise and Employability Challenge (20%)  
Global Citizenship Challenge (15%)  
Community Challenge (15%)

The Individual Project and Skills Challenges will all be graded to strengthen the qualification and to reward learners who achieve high standards. Completion of these four sections will result in completion and achievement of the National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate.

## Career and Progression Opportunities

*The Skills Challenge Certificate is recognised and accepted by universities throughout the UK, as an entry qualification. The new graded Skills Challenge has strengthened this position. The more radical changes that have been introduced, will develop and assess the skills that universities profess, that all learners require for learning, work and life.*

*The Welsh Government and WJEC have invested heavily in improving the extensive Skills Challenge programme and consultation with UK universities has been extensive. Feedback has been very positive about the new specifications.*

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