

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2025

WJEC GCSE SCIENCES

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

PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT UNIT (ALL GCSE SCIENCE QUALIFICATIONS)

The dates for the practical assessments are: Monday 5 January – Friday 13 February 2026.

TASK BASED ASSESSMENT UNIT

(APPLIED SCIENCE QUALIFICATIONS ONLY)

The dates for the task based assessments are: Monday 3 November – Friday 19 December 2025.

For both the Practical Assessment Unit and the Task Based Assessment Unit please ensure that provisional entries are submitted promptly. This information will be used to despatch examination papers to centres so it is vital it is as accurate as possible. In addition, if modified examination papers are required requests must be received as soon as possible. The “Instructions for Teachers / Exams Officers” documents will be despatched to centres by the end of September.

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](#).

New Made for Wales GCSEs The Sciences (Double Award) and Integrated Science (Single Award)

We are excited to launch the new specifications for GCSE The Sciences (Double Award) and GCSE Integrated Science (Single Award). Here are some key dates for your diaries including information on upcoming Professional Learning opportunities.

Key dates

Publish approved specifications: 30 September 2025

Publish sample assessment materials: 17 December 2025

Publish guidance for teaching: 22 January 2026

PL Events and Materials

PL Type	Aims	Format and Notes
Your Guide to the new specification module Available from end of September 2025	<i>To support your understanding of the specification document.</i>	<i>This asynchronous module will be on the "training on demand" tab of your qualification page on the WJEC website. You will need to register to access a link to view.</i>
Parent / Options evening flyers Available from end of September 2025	<i>To support you to provide information to parents and learners before start of study.</i>	This PDF will be published on your qualification's home page.
Live Online Qualification Briefing & Q&A Available 2nd half autumn term 2025. Events are open for registration. Visit the <i>Training</i> tab on your new qualification's webpage to view dates and register. GCSE The Sciences (Double Award) - 18/11/25 and 25/11/25 (English) 19/11/25 and 26/11/25 (Welsh) GCSE Integrated Science (Single Award) - 2/12/25 and 9/12/25 (English) 3/12/25 and 10/12/25 (Welsh)	<i>To support your understanding of the new qualification, its content and assessment structure. The live event will also refer to resources and upcoming PL and offer an opportunity to put questions to our Subject Teams and specification experts.</i>	<i>These live online events will be advertised on the WJEC website, and you will be required to register via a link. They will be hosted on Teams Live (Townhall).</i> <i>The events will be presented by WJEC Subject Advisors with Q&A support from WJEC Subject Officers. There will be English medium and Welsh medium events (except for English and Welsh qualifications).</i>
* Preparing to Teach (face-to-face) Available from 09/02/26 to 27/03/26 Registrations for the Pan Wales INSET days will be collected via your head teacher. No registrations through WJEC's website.	<i>To support teaching the new specification. There will be a focus on understanding the assessments, assessment objectives, content and teaching approaches based on the specification, sample assessment materials and guidance for teaching.</i>	<i>These days take place on designated regional INSET days - there are 12 days in this series held across Wales, including 2 Welsh medium days and 1 bilingual day. Registrations will be collected via your head teacher/head of centre.</i> <i>These events will be led by WJEC Subject Advisors and our expert presenting teams.</i>
Exam and NEA Walk-throughs Available summer Term 2026 Access via the WJEC Portal secure website	<i>To support you and your learners to understand the structure of question papers/NEA briefs, question types, assessment objectives and marking methods.</i>	<i>These pre-recorded PPT will initially be published on the WJEC Portal secure website only.</i>

* Your designated regional WJEC face-to-face INSET date (Preparing to Teach) can be found here: [Made-for-Wales GCSEs - Professional Learning | TGAU Gwneud-i-Gymru - Dysgu Proffesiynol](#)

[Following a consultation under the guidance of Canolfan Bedwyr, which is Bangor University's Centre for Welsh Language Services, Research and Technology \(who are responsible for Y Termaidur Addysg\), 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 'buannedd' 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 'buannedd' 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

New GCSE/Level 2 specifications (teaching from 2025/2026)

Based on the recommendations of Canolfan Bedwyr therefore, 'cyflymder' (speed) and 'felosedd' (velocity) will be used in the following new qualifications:

- GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy (double award) specification - teaching from 2025
- Level 2 Additional Mathematics specification - teaching from 2026
- GCSE The Sciences (double award) - teaching from 2026
- GCSE Integrated Science - teaching from 2026

In order to mitigate for any confusion which may be caused by this change, the English terms will be put in brackets the first time the terms appear in an examination paper.

Current GCSE/Level 2 specifications

Please note: these changes relate to the new specifications only, there will be NO change to the terms used in the current specifications.

'Buanedd' (speed) and 'cyflymder' (velocity) will continue to be used in the following specifications:

- GCSE Mathematics/Numeracy specification (current)
- Level 2 Additional Mathematics specification (current)
- GCSE Science specifications (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Science Double Award, Applied Science Single Award/Double Award) (current)

From 2026 onwards, the terms in English will also be placed in brackets in the examination papers of the above specifications. This is to avoid any confusion for the candidates sitting one of the current GCSE Science specifications and the new GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy specification (teaching from 2025).

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

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