

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to all our parents and carers. We hope you had an enjoyable and restful time with your children over the Christmas and New Year period and were able to make some special family memories together.

This term has begun positively across the school. Year 5 pupils have started exploring computer programming, developing key problem-solving and digital skills that will support their learning across the curriculum. In Year 11, students have begun their mock examinations, an important opportunity for them to prepare for the summer exams and identify areas for further improvement.

Meanwhile, Year 9 students have been busy in Humanities, writing thoughtful reflections on their work and considering how they can continue to improve their learning at home. This focus on reflection and self-improvement is an important step in developing independent learners.

We are also delighted to share some excellent news regarding our Numeracy Mathematics GCSE entry in November. A class of Higher Tier pupils achieved amazing examination results this week. The pupils entered early all achieved A\*-C grades with 14 of them achieving the highest grades of A\*/A. We are extremely proud of their hard work and commitment.

As we continue through the term, we would like to highlight the importance of regular attendance and wearing correct school uniform. Being in school every day and ready to learn makes a significant difference to pupils' progress and wellbeing. We thank parents and carers for their ongoing support in reinforcing these expectations at home.

Please find below a reminder of the Progress Evening dates for each year group.

<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>	Year 9 Core Progress Evening
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>	Year 9 Options Evening
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>	Year 11 Targeted Progress Evening
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>	Year 8 Progress Evening
<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> / Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026</b>	N-Year 6 Progress Evening
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>	Year 10 Progress Evening
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>	Year 7 Progress Evening

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to another positive and productive term ahead.



## Whole School information

### Key Dates

Term dates and INSET dates are below for the remainder of the academic year.

TERM	DATES	HALF TERM	INSET DAYS
Spring	5.1.26 – 27.3.26	16 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Summer	13.4.26 – 20.7.26	25 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2026

Date	Event
Friday 16th January 2026	Headteacher's surgery 3.15-4.45pm
Thursday 5th February 2026	Year 10 Success Evening 4.30-5.30pm
Thursday 12th February 2026	Year 9 Progress Evening for core subjects
Monday 16th February	Week of half term

### School Uniform

Thank you to all pupils who came back to school wearing the correct and extremely smart uniform. A reminder that the base of the Ysgol Afon Wen uniform is grey. This includes grey trouser or skirts with grey tights. Please could pupils not wear white socks over their grey tights.

More information on the school uniform can be found on the school website [Ysgol Afon Wen – Uniform](#).



### Headteacher's Surgery

Mrs Crockett, Headteacher, will be available on Friday 16th January 2026 from 3.15- 4.45pm to meet with any parent/carer who wish to raise a concern, discuss a particular aspect of the school, or arrange a meeting for further dialogue. To book an appointment please contact [admin@ysgolafonwen.rctcbc.cymru](mailto:admin@ysgolafonwen.rctcbc.cymru)



## Celebration of Success

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been commended by their Progress leader or teachers. Well done!

<b>Nursery</b>	Louie Davies & Calon Hawkins	<b>Year 4</b>	Aneira Johns & Grace Vaughan	<b>Year 9</b>	Bria Collins & Newman Ayandeki
<b>Reception</b>	Huxley Hazel & Holly Hughes	<b>Year 5</b>	Josie Withers & Ellie-Jane Nuthall-Jones	<b>Year 10</b>	Teni Abodunrin & Mahmud Arikewushola
<b>Year 1</b>	Caleb Bartlett & Poppy Reekie-Wakeham	<b>Year 6</b>	Harrison Coles & Jack Marchant	<b>Year 11</b>	Lola Knowles & Jamie Morgan
<b>Year 2</b>	Taran Woods & Mizan Shah	<b>Year 7</b>			
<b>Year 3</b>	Jacob Thomas & Cayleb Williams	<b>Year 8</b>			

## Celebration of Success

See below some of the excellent work from the GCSE Photography course using lolly pop sticks to create a human face. This demonstrates the level of creativity within this subject. Well done Year 10.



## Lateness

Arriving on time helps pupils start the day calmly and ready to learn. Thank you for supporting us in making this happen

### Our Approach (Years 7-11)

- Late = after the first bell at 8.30am
- Two lates in the same week = after school detention on Friday
- Late on Friday counts toward next week's total

### Top Tips for a Smooth Morning

-  **Prepare the night before:** Lay out clothes, pack bags, and check homework.
-  **Set a consistent bedtime:** A good night's sleep makes mornings easier.
-  **Use alarms wisely:** One for waking up, another as a "time to leave" reminder.
-  **Plan breakfast ahead:** Quick, healthy options save time.
-  **Leave a buffer:** Aim to be ready 10 minutes before you need to leave.

**"Success starts with showing up on time."**

## Attendance this week

Nursery	80%	Year 4	87%	Year 9	84%
Reception	87%	Year 5	88%	Year 10	79%
Year 1	86%	Year 6	87%	Year 11	79%
Year 2	88%	Year 7	91%		
Year 3	90%	Year 8	85%		

Please help to support our aim for high attendance. When children miss school, they miss key lessons that are hard to fully catch up on. This can affect their confidence, progress, and enjoyment of learning.

We understand that illness and exceptional circumstances do happen. However, whenever possible, ensuring children attend school every day helps give them the best chance to succeed.





## 100% Attendance

We are delighted to celebrate all pupils who achieved 100% attendance during the Autumn Term. Your commitment, resilience, and dedication to learning are truly commendable.

Activate				
Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Osian Kipling	Amy Blake	Everleigh Baker Jones	Thomas Blake	Mylee Bluett
Toby Pincott	Georgie Holloway	Georgia Elley	Quinn Driscoll	Iwan Cowlshaw
	Torvi Lewis	Poppy Perry	Sophia Elley	Tomos Haines
			Lewis Ivin	Seb Hughes
			Megan Strange	Kingsley Lacey
				Malia Rees
				Logan Thorngate
				Kyrian Ugochukwu

Achieve		
Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Roimot Abolarinwa	Omotayo Abiona	Daniel Agbo
Saalihah Alabi	Perfect-Favour Aikoriogie-Osahon	Treasure Aikoriogie-Osahon
Newman Ayandeji	Taqua Albarony	Karen Lee
Stanley Brock	Lucy Crockett	Nmesoma Obioma
Amber Crockett	Harry Griffiths	Xavier Warner
Alyssa Light	Demi Hayes	
Izzy Mardon-Hughes	Connor Morgan	
David Ogundare	Chinaza Obioma	
Daniel Ogunleye	Temidayo Oyebola	
Favour Oladipo	Amelia Phillips	
Temidola Oyebola		
Kayden Pardoe		
Ava Williams		





## 100% Attendance

Congratulations to the following pupils who achieved 100% attendance in the Autumn term. An excellent achievement. Well done!

Advance				
Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Matilda Brookman	Teniola Abiona	Zion Abodunrin	Deborah Akinniran	Bright Aikoriogie-Osahon
Oliver Davies	Sofia Desmier	Marvellous Aikoriogie-Osahon	Imeth Edirisinghe	Corey Elley
Isabella Hann	Ella Dunn	Amarni-Mai Jones	Ava Fisher	Bonnie Evans
Jayden Lee	Ewaoluwa Omotoso	Pako Malebye	Daniel Fiske	Akain Handugala Gamage
Annabel Mathias	Scarlett Palmer	Brody Pascoe	Jasmine Grant	Maddison Jones
Greyson Mccall	Ioan Strange	Miya Rees	Eby Joby	Evan Kyrychenko
Sasha Mccall		Nathan Ugochukwu	Payton Jones	Mia Roffey
Joseph Phillips			Seren-Gwen Jones	Brayden Watton
Nansi Sims			Ella Lewis	Logan Winfield
			Teddy Lloyd	
			Callum Matthews	
			Frankie Mcfadden	
			Harper-May Meech	
			Emmanuel Obioma	
			Jubril Oluwaseun Olatunbi	
			Gideon Olomu	
			Temidire Oyebola	
			Harley Pocock	
			Levi Shephard	
			Sophie Spencer-Wise	
			Justen Usar	

We are delighted to celebrate all pupils who achieved 100% attendance during the Autumn Term. Your commitment, resilience, and dedication to learning are truly commendable.

Excellent attendance is a key part of success, and you have set a fantastic example for others. Well done for making every day count!

Keep up the great work as we move into the Spring Term – let's aim even higher together!





## Afon Wen Way



# YAW WAY

*“This is the Afon Wen way”*



## YAW WAY

YSGOL AFON WEN CODE OF CONDUCT

<p>RESPECT FOR MYSELF</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I will behave in a way that keeps myself and others safe</li> <li>I will not bring prohibited items to school</li> <li>I will respect myself and others</li> </ul>
<p>RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I will respond politely and honestly to all members of our community</li> <li>I will listen to directions and respond appropriately</li> <li>I will treat others with kindness</li> </ul>
<p>RESPECT FOR LEARNING</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I will work to the best of my ability</li> <li>I will be punctual</li> <li>I will complete tasks on time and to the best of my ability</li> <li>I will take pride in my work</li> <li>I will respect the right of others to learn</li> </ul>
<p>RESPECT FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I will keep our classrooms / buildings and outside areas tidy</li> <li>I will move around in a calm and orderly manner</li> <li>I will dispose of litter appropriately</li> </ul>
<p>RESPECT FOR OUR COMMUNITY</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I will respect and value the diverse and inclusive nature of our school community</li> <li>I will be polite and sensible whilst travelling to and from school and representing our school</li> <li>I will show respect to all visitors</li> </ul>



## YAW WAY

*“This is the Afon Wen way”*

NORMS	ROUTINES
<p><b>COMMUNICATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff and pupils will greet each other appropriately</li> <li>“Bore da / Shw'mae / How are you?”</li> <li>We will stop walking when spoken to</li> <li>We will look at each other</li> </ul>	<p><b>UNIFORM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will wear the appropriate items</li> <li>We will not wear hoodies</li> </ul>
<p><b>LUNCH / BREAK TIMES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will eat food in canteen areas / outside only</li> <li>We will use the bins available</li> <li>We will remember that we are a nut free school</li> </ul>	<p><b>ASSEMBLY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will attend on time</li> <li>We will wear full school uniform</li> <li>We will sit with our form and Form Tutor</li> <li>We will listen and contribute with respect</li> </ul>
<p><b>TOILETS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will use the toilets during break / lunch</li> <li>One person per cubicle</li> <li>Unless for medical reasons, we will not access toilets during lessons</li> </ul>	<p><b>START OF LESSON</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will arrive on time</li> <li>We will be greeted by the classroom door</li> <li>If safe, we will knock the door before we enter</li> <li>We will remove coats</li> <li>We will stand behind our chairs until we are asked to sit</li> <li>We will follow the seating plan</li> <li>We will get our equipment ready</li> <li>We will follow directions</li> </ul>
<p><b>CORRIDORS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will walk on the left hand side</li> <li>We will open the door for others</li> </ul>	<p><b>END OF LESSON</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will tidy our area / pack our equipment</li> <li>We will follow directions</li> <li>When asked, we will stand behind our chair</li> <li>We will wait to be released by our teacher</li> </ul>
<p><b>MOBILE PHONES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are a no-phone zone, from gate to gate</li> </ul>	



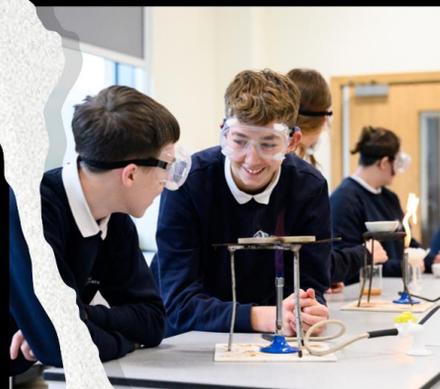



## Uniform Swap Shop



## Uniform Swap Shop

Monday 19th  
January 2026  
@3.15pm  
Activate Hall





## Activate Phase (Nursery to Year 3)

### New Year Resolutions

Year One have thought about new year resolutions this week. Excellent phonic writing too!



### Seesaw

There is a lot of new information being shared from the class teacher on Seesaw, specifically for Read, Write Inc. Please ensure you are receiving this information. If you need another login, please speak to your child's class teacher.





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AFON WEN

# Newsletter 09.01.26

Article 24: Children have the right to the best health and medical care.

## Activate Phase (Nursery to Year 3)

### Wellbeing assembly

Our guest speaker Trish, from St Catherine's Church came into Activate assembly today to speak to the pupils about resilience and wellbeing.



**TRISH SPOKE OF RESILIENCE AND  
SHINING BRIGHT LIKE STARS IN OUR  
ASSEMBLY** ✨





## Advance Phase (Year 4 to Year 8)

### Advance Careers

#### Talking to your child about their futures in Advance:

It is important to start talking with your child about their future early on, as these conversations help them explore their interests, strengths, and aspirations in a supportive way. Beginning career discussions at this stage encourages curiosity and helps pupils develop a clearer sense of direction as they progress through their education. To support you in this, our school will be releasing fortnightly Career Spotlights designed to inspire and inform both pupils and families about a wide range of career options. Additionally, you can access year group and phase-specific guidance on our [school website](#), providing tailored resources to help you engage in meaningful conversations about your child's future. Together, we can nurture their potential and help them make confident choices for their learning journey ahead.

This fortnight's Careers Spotlight is:

# Career Spotlight!

## Paramedic

#### What does a paramedic do?

- Paramedics are special helpers who come quickly when someone is hurt or very sick.
- They use special tools and a big ambulance to take people to the hospital safely.
- Paramedics are kind and brave, and they work hard to make sure everyone gets the care they need.

#### What subjects would I need to be good at?

Science  
English  
Welsh  
Maths



#### How much does a paramedic earn?

£32,000 - £47,000

#### What kind of person do I need to be?

To become a paramedic, you need to be kind and calm, even when things are busy or scary. You must be good at listening and helping people who are hurt or sick. It's important to be quick at making decisions and working well with others like doctors and nurses.





YSGOL  
AFON WEN

# Newsletter 09.01.26

Article 24: Children have the right to the best health and medical care.

Advance Phase (Year 4 to Year 8)

## Year 6 Trip to Llangrannog

# Year 6 Residential to Llangrannog 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> February



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Urdd

### Update for Parents and Carers:

- Reminder - The final payment of £65 will need to be paid by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026, in order to secure your child's place.
- A Parent/Carer Meeting will be held at the beginning of February, where all questions and queries can be discussed. Date to be confirmed.
- Departure and Arrival Times: school - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Depart school approximately.

Estimated arrival time at Llangrannog - 11.30am

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Depart Llangrannog - 1.30pm

Arrival at School approximately- 4pm

- Communication and updates will be shared via Bromcom.
- A Medical Form and List of items pupils will need to take has been sent home with your child today. Please read both carefully, as they contain important information. The Medical Form will need to be returned to school by Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January.



## Advance Phase (Year 4 to Year 8)

### Year 6 Trip to Llangrannog



Lots of your questions you may have can also be answered by visiting the Llangrannog website, where you will find out more about the Urdd Centre and location we will be visiting.

<https://www.urdd.cymru/en/residential-centres/llangrannog>



### Activities:

Skiing

High and Low Ropes

Tobogganing

Horse riding

Go-Kart

Bean Bag Jump

Quads

Zip Line

Archery

Climbing Wall

Swimming

Bean Bag Jump

High and Low Ropes

And many more!





## Advance Phase (Year 4 to Year 8)

### Year 6 Trip to Llangrannog

#### Suggested Packing List:

## Packing List

### A CHILD SHOULD BRING:

- Sleeping bag**
- Night clothes**
- Toiletries**  
- soap, shampoo and toothpaste
- Tywel**
- Spare clothes**  
- (not the best) including long sleeved tops and trousers
- Warm jumper ac anorak neu raincoat**
- Sports clothes**
- Swimming clothes and towel**
- Trainers or suitable shoes for walking**
- Old pair of shoes or Wellingtons for the horse-riding and quad bikes**
- Suitable clothing for skiing and tobogganing** i.e. old gloves and an old tracksuit or jeans
- Pencil and notebook**  
(for courses only)
- Very old clothes for our muddy adventure course** (April - October).  
Very old clothes, shoes and towel should be sent for this activity - clothes you don't mind getting very dirty or even thrown away after the activity or on returning home as this activity is very muddy - but a great deal of FUN. A bag is provided for the dirty clothes after the activity.

### IMPORTANT:

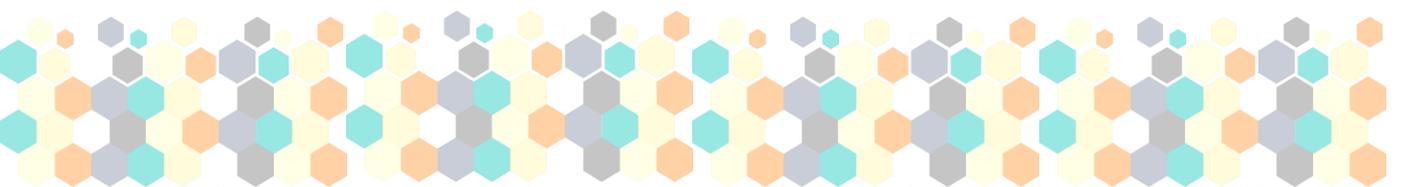
**You should ensure that a name is shown on each piece of clothing** (especially swim wear) - a large number of untagged items are left every week!

### WHAT IS NOT NEEDED

Please don't allow your child to bring a radio or personal music player (e.g. iPod), video games or expensive toys, torch or **mobile phones** (there is no reception in the area) to the Centre, and due to Health and Safety regulations, a pocket knife, aerosol sprays (please bring roll-on deodorant), portable electric equipment e.g. hair dryers, straighteners and travel irons are not permitted.

If children do bring these personal items then they will be collected at the beginning of the course and returned at the end. Any other valuables may be left at Reception for safekeeping e.g. cameras.

**We will not be responsible for any loss or damage to the above items if brought to the centre**





YSGOL  
AFON WEN

# Newsletter 09.01.26

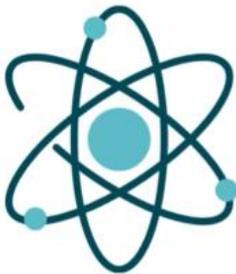
Article 24: Children have the right to the best health and medical care.

**Advance Phase (Year 4 to Year 8)**

## New Extra Curricular activity for Year 5 & 6

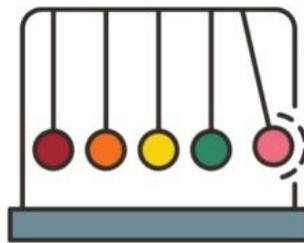


# Year 5&6 STEM CLUB



Where: Miss Thomas'  
Room/A33

When: Tuesdays  
2.50pm-3.50pm



H																	He
Li	Be											B	C	N	O	F	Ne
Na	Mg											Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe
Cs	Ba	La	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn

This session will be run by some Year 11 pupils, supported by the Science teaching team to introduce Science, Maths and Technology topics to the pupils. Sessions will start running on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January and class teachers have provided information on how to sign up.



## Achieve Phase (Year 9 to Year 11)

### Year 9 Options

The Year 9 options process will start this half term. Pupils will have the opportunity to hear about the subjects on offer to study at GCSE in Year 10 and 11. The option process will result in pupils selecting three option subjects to study in conjunction with core subjects; Mathematics, English, Science, Welsh, RE and PE.



Please note the date of the Year 9 Progress evening to discuss core subjects is Thursday 12th February 2026 with the options evening on 5th March. More information will follow.

### Year 10 Success Evening

Pupils in Year 10 and parents/carers are invited to a Success Evening on Thursday 5th February 2026. The session will run from 4.30-5.30pm and will provide families information on what pupils are studying in each of their courses, the course requirements, examination information as well as information on how to succeed at GCSE. Please ensure that you have received the letter sent about modular examinations that will take place at the end of Year 10. These examinations will count towards the final GCSE grade. **Pupils are encouraged to attend with family members.**

### Year 11 GCSE examinations

Pupils in Year 11 completed their mock examinations this week, with a few examinations to go on Monday/Tuesday. Results will be given to the pupils on a mock examinations results day to replicate the process that will take place in the summer. Pupils conduct and attitude was commendable in the examination room and hopefully pupils have been able to see the practice will help prepare them for the summer.

Provisional GCSE examination dates have been published by the WJEC and can be found here: [summer-2026-wales-and-eduqas-gcse-october-2025.pdf](#)





## Achieve Phase (Year 9 to Year 11)

### Careers

Having conversations about your child’s future is crucial during these pivotal years as they begin to make important decisions about their education and career pathways. Early discussions help them to explore their interests, strengths, and aspirations, enabling them to make informed choices that align with their goals. To support you in this, our school will be releasing fortnightly Career Spotlights designed to inspire and inform both pupils and families about a wide range of career options and opportunities. Additionally, you can access year group and phase-specific guidance on our [school website](#), providing tailored resources to help you engage in meaningful conversations about your child’s next steps. Together, we can empower your child to confidently navigate their future and achieve success.

## CAREER SPOTLIGHT: PARAMEDIC

**Elisha Miller**  
Paramedic

“Most of all, I love the feeling that I’ve helped others in their moment of need.”

[Read Elisha's story](#)



### What do Paramedics do?

A paramedic is usually the senior member of a two-person ambulance crew, supported by an emergency care assistant or technician. A paramedic is typically one of the first healthcare professionals to arrive at the scene of an emergency.

Typical duties of the job include:

- driving and staffing ambulances and other emergency vehicles
- responding to emergency 999 calls
- assessing patients, providing emergency treatment and making diagnoses
- monitoring and administering medication, pain relief and intravenous infusions
- dressing wounds/injuries
- using specialist equipment including ventilators and defibrillators
- transporting patients to hospital and continuing to provide treatment while in transit
- providing hospital staff with patient information including condition and treatment
- helping provide patient care in hospitals and other medical facilities
- communicating effectively with patients and their relatives/friends
- teaching and training members of the public to use first aid techniques correctly

### What's it like to be a paramedic?

You'll find that no two shifts are ever the same for a qualified paramedic. From making life-saving decisions, to using your judgement and skills to quickly assess patients' conditions, you'll be the nation's lifeline.

You'll be trained to resuscitate and stabilise patients using sophisticated techniques, equipment, and drugs. In an emergency, you may use high-tech equipment such as defibrillators, spinal and traction splints, as well as administering oxygen and drugs.

You'll work in a range of emergency and non-emergency situations, and will also often work alongside the police and fire and rescue services. Paramedics also work closely with other healthcare teams, such as: GPs, Nurses, Mental Health Crisis Teams and Pharmacists to manage patients in the community or closer to their home. As well as your patients, you'll also support their relatives, friends, and other members of the public.

### Relevant Subjects

- Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- English
- Welsh
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Uniformed Public Services
- BTEC Health and Social Care



### How to become

In Wales to become a Paramedic you will need to complete the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) approved BSc Paramedic Science degree.

