

Hawarden High School
Ysgol Uwchradd Penarlâg

Sixth Form Prospectus

2017-18



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Hawarden High School
Ysgol Uwchradd Penarlâg

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Welcome



Welcome to our Hawarden Sixth Form prospectus. Our objective here is to provide you with all the relevant information to help you make considered choices regarding your post 16 education.

We are proud of our Sixth Form and equally proud of our students.

The school has a history of excellence and the promise of an outstanding future. Our vision and aims are to provide the best opportunities for all students. We have a highly motivated and committed staff who will always go that extra mile to help learners achieve their full potential in whatever area they choose.

Our Sixth Form provides numerous opportunities for our students to experience success whether it is academic or extra-curricular and I encourage all students to embrace the opportunities that the school presents.

I hope that you find our prospectus informative and if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr P Ellis
Headteacher

A word from the Director of Sixth Form Studies



A*, A or B grades. We offer a broad range of academic and vocational subjects in our sixth form, delivered by highly qualified teachers with a broad range of experience, to ensure you achieve your full potential.

Hawarden Sixth Form offers the opportunity for our students to become well rounded individuals with the skills required for successful applications into further education, higher level apprenticeships or employment. Obtaining excellent qualifications is fundamental to sixth form life, but this is balanced with the aim of developing essential personal qualities through involvement in activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, debating competitions, sport, school productions, ski trips and charitable work. Sixth form students also play an integral role in the

overall life of the school with their appointments as Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputies, Senior Prefects and Prefects, supporting the school ethos and wider community.

We endeavour to work with each student as an individual to assist you in achieving your ambitions whilst ensuring that you have an enjoyable and successful time within Hawarden Sixth Form. We look forward to welcoming you into our excellent, friendly and supportive sixth form centre, where students are invited to visit at any time during the year. If you would like to receive information about applying and enrolling in the Sixth Form please contact Mrs Lynne Williams on 01244 526400 or e-mail to lynne.williams@hawardenhigh.flintshire.sch.uk

Mrs R Southwell
Director of Sixth Form Studies

Success is Built on Team Work

Hawarden Sixth Form is committed to developing the maximum potential of all its pupils, both as individuals and as responsible members of the community, and to prepare them for a lifetime of learning.

"The school provides pupils with a very rich variety of extra curricular activities and experiences." Estyn

What our students think...



"Hawarden Sixth Form has given me great opportunities to develop not only academically but as an individual within the local community. The teachers are available to support and guide all students to succeed to their best potential. Hawarden Sixth Form is guaranteed to give students the skills they require for the future."

Kris
Year 13



"At Hawarden Sixth Form there is a welcoming and friendly atmosphere throughout the school. I have always been supported throughout my studies to ensure I reach my full potential and achieve my personal goals and more."

Isobel
Year 13



"Hawarden Sixth Form has given me the opportunity to develop as a person, allowing me to work independently but with the assurance that I have support if I need it. Being in Sixth form has helped me build my confidence and feel comfortable in the welcoming learning environment Hawarden has to offer."

Eloise
Year 13



"Hawarden Sixth Form has allowed me to build upon my GCSE results and reach my full academic potential. I am currently in the process of completing my UCAS application to Cambridge".

Sam
Year 13



"Hawarden Sixth Form is more like a family. Everybody is willing to help each other with any work that they are struggling with and the teaching staff are very supportive and ensure that you reach your potential!"

Serena
Year 12

What do we offer?

Courses

We offer a broad range of courses, including:

- AS/A2 and Vocational courses with excellent examination results
- Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification
- 1:1 support, provided by Learning Coach
- Acquisition of further skills

30 challenging activities, both physical and mental, involving a high level of team building and leadership skills. During the initial induction days students also receive guidance about course choices and there is opportunity to socialise within the sixth form centre and meet your learning coach (Tutor) and sixth form leadership team.

Induction Experience

Hawarden welcomed over 200 pupils into the sixth form in September 2016, starting the year with an induction programme. Wise-Up Group provided team building, the students were involved in a wide variety of over

Sixth Form Centre

With a vibrant programme of social activities arranged by the Sixth Form Leadership Team. Sixth Form students use the Sixth Form Centre as a social base. There are two newly refurbished common rooms available,

two study rooms, and a newly appointed coffee room. Private study is an important part of Sixth Form life. Facilities include two study rooms, with ICT suites in the Sixth Form house, which are equipped with printing facilities, and the Library.

The centre has the following facilities:

- New kitchen facilities
- Two newly refurbished common rooms
- Excellent study and ICT facilities
- FREE Wifi

Our Library is well resourced with newspapers, books, course related magazines, periodicals and ICT access. New this year is the

provision for Sixth Form students to use their own devices in school by connecting our FREE Wifi.

Extra curricular activities

Hawarden Sixth Form is well known for its extra curricular activities, and we encourage all students to participate fully. The school enjoys a long tradition of students involving themselves in community service activities, sports, public speaking and debating, creative arts, working with additional need groups, primary schools and local and national charity organisations. Getting involved in this will be fun, very much appreciated and extremely rewarding.



induction experience



Newly refurbished common room



Study facilities

What do we offer?

Initiatives

- We offer the 5 x 60 sports initiative and pupils have the opportunity to continue to expand their experiences in sport and fitness
- Participation in Flintshire, regional and national public speaking and debating competitions
- French Exchange experiences
- Trips to the USA
- Management training exercises, such as the Engineering Education Council's schemes
- Coaching and direction of school teams
- Opportunities to develop skills as peer counsellors
- Sixth Form students elected as members of the Hawarden Junior Community Council
- Support pupils in the development of numeracy and literacy basic skills
- Volunteering opportunities within our Additional Needs provision, including involvement in more able and talented activities
- Fundraising including, Alder Hey, Helping the elderly, Poppy Appeal, Save the Family and Macmillian



Rotary Youth Leadership Scheme

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is Rotary's leadership training program for young people. Following nominations from tutors and interviews with Hawarden Rotary Club & Hawarden Community Council Eloise Bull and Raphaelle Soffe successfully secured a place to the scheme, spending a week in August at the Outdoor Education Centre at Arthog on the Gwynedd coast.

Candidates worked together in groups to solve mental and practical problems, the successful outcomes dependent upon effective teamwork, the key elements of this were taught throughout the week. The course took place over five days and included orienteering, caving, canoeing

(river & sea), climbing and abseiling activities. The course culminated with an all-day event with the teams competing in a set of tasks employing all the learned skills from the week.

We are very grateful to Hawarden Rotary Club for sponsoring Raphaelle and to Hawarden Community Council who gave Eloise the opportunity to take part, both Raphaelle and Eloise were extremely grateful for the opportunity to extend their leadership skills, which will be put to good use in their roles of Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl.

"It was an amazing experience that I know I'm going to remember for the rest of my life."

Eloise Bull

"My team was amazing; we lost everything, but we bonded like glue."

Raphaelle Soffe

The Seren Network Supporting Hawarden's Brightest



Hawarden Sixth Form is a committed partner within the Seren Network, which is designed to support Wales' brightest sixth formers achieve their academic potential and gain access to leading universities. Hawarden Sixth Form will inspire students about future career aspirations - nurturing their students to give them the best possible education and provide them with the skills to make the most of the opportunities available to them.

Year 13 Leaving Dinner May 2016

at CHESTER RACECOURSE



Careers

Work Experience

All Sixth Form students undertake one week's optional work experience during year 12. Employers and Universities recognise and value any voluntary work which students choose to arrange.

Interview Preparation Days

This event is supported by major local employers, including Tata Steel, Gas Safe Europe, Glyndwr University, Redrow Homes Plc, Tesco, Careers Wales and Read Construction.

Career and Apprenticeships

We are able to provide help and support for those students who wish to look into the possibility of an apprenticeship. Our close link with Careers Wales means that we are able to pass on information about apprenticeships available through companies such as Airbus. Each year Airbus and Tata attend school to give a presentation about the opportunities offered for apprenticeships in Engineering, Logistics and Purchasing and over the last few years a number of students have secured positions with Airbus after gaining the required examinations results. Each student is offered maximum support with career, apprenticeship, university or 'gap year' applications.

Our higher education, apprenticeship and careers induction programme helps prepare students for life after Sixth Form. The opportunity to attend a Skills Cymru Apprenticeship Roadshow in Llandudno in October to explore potential openings

- Guest speakers from industry
- Close liaison with Careers Wales
- Assistance with apprenticeship applications

Mrs J Parry our Careers and Work Related Education Coordinator, and Mrs L Palmer, our Careers Wales Advisor, are also available to ensure that all of the information that is needed is available. Our Careers Library contains information on a wide range of careers, apprenticeships, copies of University prospectuses together with computerised databases of Post 18 information.



UCAS information



UCAS information

We have links with a number of Universities throughout Wales and the UK, regularly inviting speakers from these universities to school to inform students about college life, finance and accommodation.

Each year a number of students are successful in their ambitions to gain places at the University of Oxford and University of Cambridge.

Expert assistance with UCAS application forms

Guest speakers from universities and colleges.

Targeted support for Oxbridge candidates, utilising community representatives and former students.

Organised trips to the G-Mex exhibition in Manchester. Year 12 students attended a UCAS Convention at Manchester, giving students the chance to talk to a variety of different universities about the courses and facilities they can offer.

We have close links with a number with Russell Group universities and provide students every opportunity to visit Open Days and consult with Admission Tutors.

Additional Opportunities Available to Support Post 18 Applications

- Participation in Fieldwork programmes
- Opportunity to become Peer Councillors & 'Buddies'
- Management training exercises with the 'Engineering Education' programme
- Involvement in the Hawarden Remembrance Day Parade and Remembrance Service for community representatives
- Young Engineers conferences at Bangor University
- University Bursary Programme, supported by Hawarden Community Council
- Financial speakers, Fitness speakers, Gap Activity Projects & Driving Standards Agency
- Presentations by external agencies about finance, health and wellbeing, gap year opportunities and DSA
- Involvement in UN debate
- Students attend 'Med-Link', 'Medi-six' & 'Vet-Link' courses in preparation to study Medicine & Veterinary science
- Students attend 'Oxbridge' conference in preparation for university applications
- Expert tuition, Sixth Form Centre & study rooms, proven track record of excellent exam results
- Continued sporting achievements for a wide variety of teams
- Welsh Innovation Award success for A Level D&T students
- Engineering links with E-on
- Summer School opportunities
- Student success in securing IT and Engineering apprenticeships



Student Leadership Team

The team is a prominent and important student body. They are appointed via an application and interview process, involving representatives in the spring of year 12 (shadowing year 13 students team until the end of year 12) and will carry out their roles until they leave in year 13.

Students demonstrate the ability to act as respectable role models and ambassadors for the school with an excellent track record of commitment and involvement in the school and wider community

and excellent attendance and punctuality.

The team works together to make things happen and have a voice in the developments of the Sixth Form facilities.

The team represents the school at both informal and formal occasions and events, some of which may take place after school.

Some of the charities that the team have been involved in include helping the elderly, Poppy Appeal, Save the Family and Alder Hey.



Head Boy - **Sam Robertson**, Head Girl - **Raphaëlle Soffe**, Deputy Head Boy - **Kristofor Hall-Ellis**, Deputy Head Girls - **Eloise Bull & Isobel Deevy**, Prefects - **Emily Barraclough, Holly Belcher, Sophie Gregory-Coleclough, Niamh Peers, Niamh Yale-Helms**

Working with you for you



Mrs R Southwell

We will help you to design a personalised programme of study to suit YOUR interests, abilities and ambitions. By working together we can help all of our students to succeed.

Learning coaches

As a member of the Sixth Form, you will be placed in a tutor group under the guidance of a Learning Coach, who will provide you with guidance and mentoring whilst constantly monitoring your progress and achievements.

Your coach will help you to prioritise your goals by setting targets. All students have different needs and we see each one of you as an individual whose experiences may be enhanced by the provision of specific guidance based on any problems or queries that may arise within your subject areas.

Learning Coaches are also available to talk to students about any other problems causing concern.

Learning coaches are:

PATIENT
NON-JUDGEMENTAL
SUPPORTIVE
HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOUR
RESPECTFUL
APPROACHABLE
CARING
COMMITTED

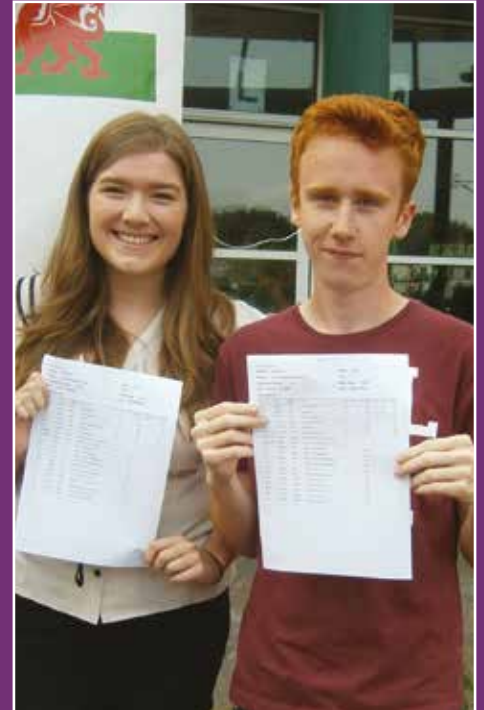
Mrs R Southwell, Director of Sixth Form is available to offer you help and guidance, being well placed to provide you with useful contacts or to act as a link between you and subject teachers if necessary.

EMA Educational Maintenance Allowance

Post-16 students in Wales can apply for an Education Maintenance Allowance, (EMA - Wales) This is a weekly payment of £30, dependent on parental income. The EMA is an allowance to support students in full time education.

Applications forms and further advice and guidance are available at www.studentfinancewales.co.uk

Excellent A Level Results 2016



Headline Statistics A Level 2016 (or equivalent):

- 29 A* grades were awarded
- Half of all grades received were A*, A or B
- The school's overall pass rate this year is 98.1%

Notable Successes at Advanced Level (or equivalent):

- Hari Fletcher, our Head Boy, achieved 4 A* grades and a B grade. He went on to read Mathematics and Physics at University of Warwick
- Oliver Moore, our Deputy Head Boy, achieved 4 A* grades in reading Mathematics at Durham University
- Lauren Jones, our Head Girl, achieved 2 A* grades, an A and B grade and is at University of Edinburgh reading Mathematics with Management
- Sam Dibble who achieved an A* grade and 3 A grades will be reading Civil Engineering at Imperial College, London
- Charlotte Naylor who achieved an A*, 2 As and a B grade goes on to read English Language at Newcastle University
- Megan Jones achieved an A* an A and a B grade and goes on to read English Language and Linguistics at University of Sheffield
- Leon Chan who achieved 3 A grades will read Biomedical Sciences at Imperial College London

The Year 12 AS results were also exceptional and the students' excellent achievements will support their successful progression at A2 Level.

A Level Results 2011-2016										%		%		%
	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total	A* - A	A* - A	A* - C	A* - C	A* - E	A* - E
Applied Science	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	3	75.00	4	100.0	4	100.0
Art	0	2	6	12	17	5	0	42	2	4.76	20	47.62	42	100.0
Biology	3	11	12	24	9	12	3	74	14	18.92	50	67.57	71	95.9
Business	2	7	16	37	20	7	1	90	9	10.00	62	68.89	89	98.9
Chemistry	5	10	14	11	3	5	0	48	15	31.25	40	83.33	48	100.0
DT Food	0	2	2	1	2	2	0	9	2	22.22	5	55.56	9	100.0
DT Product Design	1	11	21	12	13	1	0	59	12	20.34	45	76.27	59	100.0
Drama	0	7	15	11	5	2	0	40	7	17.50	33	82.50	40	100.0
English Language	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	6	1	16.67	6	100.0	6	100.0
English Literature	4	10	49	64	40	11	1	179	14	7.82	127	70.95	178	99.4
French	1	1	3	1	1	2	0	9	2	22.22	6	66.67	9	100.0
Further Maths	1	3	4	2	1	3	0	14	4	28.57	10	71.43	14	100.0
Geography	0	5	12	9	8	5	0	39	5	12.82	26	66.67	39	100.0
General Studies	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	100.0
Health and Social Care	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	6	0	0.00	4	66.67	6	100.0
History	3	12	30	30	5	0	1	81	15	18.52	75	92.59	80	98.8
ICT	2	7	30	21	12	3	0	75	9	12.00	60	80.00	75	100.0
Law	0	5	11	17	10	7	6	56	5	8.93	33	58.93	50	89.3
Maths	9	21	19	27	16	10	4	106	30	28.30	76	71.70	102	96.2
Media	2	11	33	28	9	0	0	83	13	15.66	74	89.16	83	100.0
Music	1	0	1	3	1	0	0	6	1	16.67	5	83.33	6	100.0
PE	1	3	5	8	8	4	6	35	4	11.43	17	48.57	29	82.9
Physics	1	7	7	22	10	6	0	53	8	15.09	37	69.81	53	100.0
Politics	1	3	4	5	1	2	0	16	4	25.00	13	81.25	16	100.0
Psychology	0	5	5	12	13	13	3	51	5	9.80	22	43.14	48	94.1
Sociology	0	2	3	10	12	6	4	37	2	5.41	15	40.54	33	89.2
Sport	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	100.0	2	100.0	2	100.0
Welsh	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	4	2	50.00	3	75.00	4	100.0
Welsh Baccalaureate	35	261	30	15	0	0	0	341	296	86.80	341	100.0	341	100.0
Total	75	411	336	389	221	106	29	1567	486		1211		1538	
%	4.79	26.23	21.44	24.82	14.10	6.76	1.85		31.01		77.28		98.15	
Cumulative %	4.79	31.01	52.46	77.28	91.38	98.15	100.0							

Sixth Form Destinations 2016

At Hawarden Sixth Form we take a great interest in where our students' progress to for Higher education. Despite rising university costs 46 of our students have secured places at university.

UNIVERSITY	COURSE
Aberystwyth University	Software Engineering (inc Integrated Industrial & Prof Trg)
Bangor University	Applied Marine Biology
Cardiff Metropolitan University (CUWIC)	Sport Coaching
Durham University	Mathematics (4 years)
Edge Hill University	Genetics; Primary Science Education with QTS
Harper Adams University	Veterinary Nursing
Imperial College London	Civil Engineering; Biomedical Science
Lancaster University	Chemical Engineering; Medieval and Renaissance Studies; Psychology
Leeds Metropolitan University	Law with International Business
Liverpool John Moores University	Business Management; Mechanical Engineering
Liverpool University	Law with Business Studies; Geography and Planning; Politics and International Business; Criminology; Computer Science (with a year in industry)
Loughborough University	Civil Engineering
Manchester Metropolitan University	Business Management; Early Years and Childhood Studies; English and Multimedia Journalism; Product Design and Technology; Psychology with Counselling and Psychotherapy; Wildlife Biology
Manchester University	Mathematics
Newcastle University	Ancient History and Archaeology; English Language; Law
Northumbria University	Applied Sciences Foundation Year; Psychology with Criminology
Nottingham Trent University	Sport Science and Mathematics
Royal Veterinary College (University of London)	Bio-veterinary Sciences
Swansea University	Biology (with a year in industry); Computer Science (with a year in industry)
University of Chester	Journalism; Musical Theatre and Performance; Primary Education (5-11) with QTS; Sport and Exercise Sciences
University of Edinburgh	Mathematics with Management
University of Reading	Biomedical Sciences
University of Salford	Business and Management with Professional Experience Year
University of Sheffield	English Language and Linguistics
University of Warwick	Maths & Physics



Drama



ICT

Subject Information



Art



Product Design

Applied Science

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science (601/7436/5)

BTEC courses provide learners with the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life. The content covers aspects of science such as laboratory science, environmental science, biological, chemical and physical science. To access the course you should have achieved at least a grade C or higher in GCSE Science/Additional Science or achieved at least a pass in a Level 2 BTEC Science course. You should also have achieved at least a grade C or higher in both GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics.

The course will require students to

- complete internal assessments to build up a coursework portfolio
- listen and respond to a variety of scientific sources
- use scientific knowledge and understanding to accurately express facts and ideas, viewpoints, develop arguments, analyse and evaluate, in speech and writing
- investigate scientific phenomena and complete practical investigations
- understand how to create and use scientific reports to a professional standard

Summary Assessment

Mandatory units completed in year 12:

Unit 1 - Principles and Applications of Science I

Unit 2 - Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques

Unit 3 - Science Investigation Skills

One further optional unit will also be delivered.

Career Opportunities

The BTEC National Subsidiary Diploma in Applied Science has been developed in the science sector to give learners the opportunity to acquire technical skills, vocational skills, knowledge and understanding which are transferable, give full-time learners the opportunity to enter employment in science or to progress to vocational qualifications such as the BTEC Higher Nationals in Applied Biology, Applied Chemistry or health related or other science-related qualifications. The course will also allow students to increase their understanding of the role of the science technician or assistant practitioner.

Course Leader: Mr S C Fordwhalley

Art & Design

WJEC GCE Art and Design (2001/3001)

This course is intended to meet the requirements of students who wish to progress to study Art in college or university and is the perfect pathway to undertake an Art Foundation Course. While it is an advantage to have studied Art at GCSE level, this is not essential. The A level course requires a questioning mind, and a student who is not afraid to experiment creatively. An enthusiasm for the subject is important as well as an interest in and enjoyment of art, craft and design. The aim of the course is to help individuals think more independently as well as encouraging and promoting their intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive development.

The course will require students to

- be investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills, using aesthetic understanding and critical judgement
- have independence of mind in relation to developing their own ideas, refining their own intentions and personal outcomes
- gain experience of working with a broad range of media, including traditional and new media and technologies
- have an understanding of the interrelationships between art, craft and design processes and an awareness of the contexts in which they operate
- develop knowledge, understanding and application of art, craft, design and media and technologies in contemporary and past societies and cultures
- have an awareness of different roles, functions and audiences and consumers of art, craft and design practice

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (40%) A portfolio of work focused on a guided personal creative enquiry. Internally assessed, externally moderated.

A2 Unit 2 - (36%) A portfolio of work focused on an independent personal creative enquiry. Internally assessed, externally moderated.

A2 Unit 3 - (24%) Examination - Externally set, 6 weeks preparation and 15 hours to produce a final outcome. Internally assessed, externally moderated.

Career Opportunities

Unendorsed Art & Design enables candidates to demonstrate their ability to undertake work from a wide area of studies: fine art, graphic communication critical and contextual studies, 3d design, textiles, photography, lens and light based media.

The benefits of the Art & Design course are that it offers students a rich and diverse range of experiences. The syllabuses are broad-based and the assignments set are intended to stimulate a personal response and individual interpretation. This requires students to be well motivated and show evidence of a strong commitment to the subject.

Course Leader: Miss M Davies

Biology

WJEC GCE Biology (B400QS)

The study of Biology provides students with an insight into the living world. The wide breadth of topics includes understanding of the internal workings of organisms in physiology and the interdependence of living things in ecology, social issues including human influence on the environment and the ethical considerations of genetics. An investigative approach is promoted throughout the course, developing practical skills as well as an understanding of the scientific method. Through this practical work, students will develop an enquiring and critical approach that is applicable to their own data, the work of others and information available in the subject of Biology and beyond.

The course will require students to

- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of Biology and how they relate to each other
- develop and demonstrate a deeper appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of the scientific methods used in Biology
- develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills
- develop interest and enthusiasm for Biology, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject
- appreciate how society makes decisions about biological issues and how Biology contributes to the success of the economy and society
- apply mathematical skills to interpret and analyse data that they collect or are presented with

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (20%) Basic Biochemistry and Cell Organisation - Examination

AS Unit 2 - (20%) Biodiversity and Physiology of Body Systems - Examination

A2 Unit 3 - (25%) Energy, Homeostasis and the Environment - Examination

A2 Unit 4 - (25%) Variation, Inheritance and Options - Examination

A2 Unit 5 - (10%) Practical Examination

Higher Education Opportunities

The Biology course builds on skills, knowledge and understanding students will have already gained through their study of Biology at GCSE. The content taught and styles of learning provide an excellent transition into study of a biological science course in further education, including biomedical science, nutrition, animal science, medicine, biochemistry, pharmacy, forensic science and many more. The qualification will also particularly complement qualifications in Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, Mathematics or Sport as well as demonstrating to higher education establishments and future employers an ability to understand and critically analyse a range of information.

Course Leader: Miss S Bunn

Business

WJEC GCE Business (5260/5238)

This is a popular AS/A2 course with students who wish to pursue either a degree course, set up their own business or are simply looking for a stimulating and challenging course that has relevance to everyday life. The course will focus on the dynamic nature of the contemporary business world, providing opportunities for research into topical business issues and offering opportunities for the development and application of a full range of academic skills.

The course will require students to

- develop an awareness of other types of business organisations and the markets they operate in
- study a variety of topics such as, Business Organisation, Human Resources, Finance and Marketing
- study of people within business which is a core theme common to AS
- gain a good understanding of and the ability to use analytical techniques appropriate for the real business world
- develop decision making skills transferable to a wide range of careers

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (15%) Business Opportunities 1 hour Examination

AS Unit 2 - (25%) Business Functions 2 hour Examination

A2 Unit 3 - (30%) Business Analysis and Strategy 2 hour Examination

A2 Unit 4 - (30%) Business in a Changing World 2 hour Examination

Higher Education Opportunities

The course provides a foundation to studying a wide variety of degree level courses at University including International Business Management, Accounting and Finance, Marketing or Economics.

Career Opportunities

The nature of the skills developed in Business would allow the pursuit of a career in a wide and varied number of fields including Retail, Human Resources, Financial Services, Logistics, Marketing, Public Relations or Project Management.

NB: You do not need to have studied Business at GCSE level, although there is a clear progression and development of previous areas of study.

Course Leader: Mrs A Jones

Chemistry

WJEC GCE Chemistry

Chemistry is one of the most important advanced level courses but also one of the most rewarding. The course develops an enthusiasm for Chemistry; develops analytical and problem solving skills; provides an insight into how science works beyond the laboratory; provides a pathway to further study.

The course will require students to

- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other
- develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods
- develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem solving skills
- develop their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject
- understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society

Summary Assessment:

AS Unit 1 - (20%) The Language of Chemistry, Structure of Matter and Simple Reactions, Examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes

AS Unit 2 - (20%) Energy, Rate and Chemistry of Carbon Compounds, Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

A2 Unit 3 - (25%) Physical and Inorganic Chemistry, Examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes

A2 Unit 4 - (25%) Organic Chemistry and Analysis, Examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes

A2 Unit 5 - (10%) Practical Examination

Higher Education Opportunities

Chemistry involves abstract concepts which are linked together in many ways. For this reason Chemistry A Level is highly thought of by universities and employers. Chemistry AS or A Level qualifications are highly respected and can lead to many different pathways and careers such as: medicine, engineering, finance, scientific research, business, IT, industry, education and many more.

Course Leader: Dr A Heath

Computer Science

WJEC GCE Computer Science (601/5391/XGCE & 601/5345/3)

The WJEC AS and A2 in Computer Science qualification for Wales has been designed to give an in-depth understanding of the fundamental concepts of computer science and a broad scope of study opportunities.

This specification has been designed to free centres in order to concentrate on innovative delivery of the course by having a streamlined, uncomplicated, future-proof structure, with realistic technological requirements.

The course will require students to develop

- an understanding of, and the ability to apply, the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation
- the ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so
- the capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- the capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science
- mathematical skills and language skills
- the ability to articulate the individual (moral), social (ethical), legal and cultural opportunities and risks of digital technology

Summary Assessment:

AS Unit 1 - Fundamentals of Computer Science – (62.5%) Written examination: 2 hours

AS Unit 2 - Practical Programming to Solve Problems – (37.5%) On-screen examination: 2 hours

A2 Unit 3 - Programming and System Development – (20%) Written examination: 2 hours

A2 Unit 4 - Computer Architecture, Data, Communication and Applications – (20%) Written examination: 2 hours

A2 Unit 5 - Programmed Solution to a Problem – (20%) Non-exam assessment

Higher Education Opportunities

Computing (multiple options), Computer Science (multiple options), Information Technology (multiple options), Computer Graphics (multiple options), Information Systems (multiple options), Information Management, Applied Computing Studies, Digital Media (multiple options)

Career Opportunities

Chief Information Officer (CIO), network administration, computer programming, software engineer/ architect, software tester, computer game developer, ICT security engineer, database developer/ administrator, multimedia specialist, systems analyst, web developer, technical author.

Course Leader: Mr A J Roberts

Drama & Theatre Studies

WJEC GCE Drama and Theatre Studies (2121/3121)

The course aims to develop candidates' interest and enjoyment in theatre both as a performer and an informed member of an audience. Students will foster an enthusiasm for and a critical appreciation of the subject, and develop an understanding and appreciation of the significance of social, cultural and historical influences on the development of drama and theatre. Students are given a range of opportunities to develop a variety of dramatic and theatrical skills, integrating theory and practice through an understanding of critical concepts.

The course will require students to

- explore and experiment with styles of performance and techniques
- read and analyse plays, in the role of designer, director and actor
- visit the theatre
- communicate and collaborate ideas within a group
- evaluate and review live theatre, and study plays from different historical periods
- explore a range of performance skills, through the study of practitioners and different styles of theatre

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (24% - 90 marks) Theatre Workshop: Non-exam assessment, internally assessed, externally moderated. Learners will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre based on a reinterpretation of an extract from a text, developed using the techniques of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company. Learners must produce: a realisation of the performance or design; a creative log; and an evaluation.

AS Unit 2 - (16% - 60 marks): Text in Theatre: Written examination, 1hr 30m. A series of questions based on a set text.

A2 Unit 3 - (36% - 120 marks) Text in Action: Non-exam assessment externally assessed by a visiting examiner. Learners will participate in the creation, development and performance of two pieces of theatre based on a stimulus and must produce a process and evaluation report within one week of completion of the practical work.

A2 Unit 4 - (24% - 95 marks): Text in Performance: Written Examination, 2hr 30m. Two questions based on two different texts.

Higher Education Opportunities

Pupils will develop a range of life skills and perhaps most importantly enhanced communication skills that will prove invaluable within the workplace. Students will also be given the opportunity to study for Trinity guildhall Speech and Drama exams to gain further UCAS points. It is a highly respected qualification and many students study Drama at higher education, however many have also used Drama A Level to take alternative pathways to study degrees in medicine and law etc.

Course Leader: Mrs J Jarvis

English Language

WJEC GCE English Language (2151/3151)

This specification is designed to foster learners' independence as they explore English Language in a variety of contexts. It provides learners with opportunities to develop a wide and deep knowledge of the systems of the English language and of issues relating to language and its uses. Throughout this course learners are presented with opportunities to develop their own creativity, both in the ways they think about language and in the ways they develop expertise in using language to communicate. This course develops the skills learners have gained at GCSE and uses them to discover and analyse language in exciting and previously unexplored ways.

This course will require students to

- develop and apply their understanding of the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis and study of language
- explore data and examples of language in use
- engage creatively and critically with a varied programme for the study of English
- develop their skills as producers and interpreters of language
- independently investigate language in use

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (20%) Exploring Language. This unit encourages learners to engage with language use in different situations. It gives them the opportunity to apply their critical skills and their language knowledge.

AS Unit 2 - (20%) Language Issues and Original and Critical Writing. This unit encourages learners to engage with language issues and to use language creatively.

A2 Unit 3 - (20%) Language over Time. This unit encourages learners to engage with language across time. It gives them the opportunity to apply their analytical skills and their knowledge of language change.

A2 Unit 4 - (20%) Spoken Language and Creative Re-casting. This unit encourages learners to engage with spoken language and to produce an original piece of writing. It is designed to give them opportunities to apply their analytical skills and to communicate creatively in different ways.

A2 Unit 5 - (20%) Language and Identity. This unit gives opportunities for language research which has a personal relevance. It is designed to engage learners with the theme of language and identity.

Career Opportunities

English Language allows you to develop skills which will be invaluable in a wide area of career options such as:- professions where contact with people requires knowledge of inter-personal skills in written and verbal forms; the media, law, medicine and related fields. psychology , psychotherapy, occupations with children, business and human resources.

Course Leader: Mr R Jones

English Literature

WJEC GCE English Literature (1720/2720)

The AS and A Level English Literature course will encourage you to develop your interest in and enjoyment of literature as you read a range of contemporary and classic novels, plays and poetry. You will engage creatively with lively and stimulating texts; analyse and evaluate what you read; explore the backgrounds of texts and other people's interpretations of them. You need to have a genuine enthusiasm for reading.

The course will require students to

- read both set texts and others that they have selected for themselves
- engage creatively with a range of texts and ways of responding to them
- develop and apply their knowledge of how to analyse and evaluate
- explore the backgrounds of the texts they are reading and others' interpretations of them
- work independently to deepen their understanding
- have an interest in people, ideas and life

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (20%) Poetry and Drama 1: A classic pre-1900 novel and twentieth century play

AS Unit 2 - (20%) Poetry Post -1900: In Depth study of two twentieth or twenty-first century poets

A2 Unit 3 - (20%) Poetry Pre-1900 and Unseen Poetry: Classic poetry and a range of more modern poems for analysis and comparison

A2 Unit 4 - (20%) Shakespeare: Detailed study of one of Shakespeare's greatest plays

A2 Unit 5 - (20%) Prose Study Coursework: One 2500-3500 word assignment based on the reading of two prose texts from different periods, one pre-2000 and one post-2000

Higher education opportunities

English Literature, Law, Marketing and PR, Media, American Studies, Creative Writing, Journalism, Linguistics, Publishing.

Career Opportunities

Advertising, administration, broadcasting, civil service, diplomatic service, journalism, law, librarianship, marketing and market research, personnel management, psychotherapy, psychiatry, public relations, publishing, retail management, script writing, teaching, tourism and many more.

Course Leader: Mr R Jones

French

WJEC GCE French

This course is designed to encourage students to develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, language; develop an understanding of the language in a variety of contexts and genres; communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language for a range of purposes; develop awareness and understanding of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of countries or communities where the language is spoken. In addition to developing your language skills and extending the vocabulary and grammar which you have already learned at GCSE, you will extend your knowledge about French and French speaking countries.

The course will require students to

- listen and respond to a variety of spoken sources, including authentic sources
- use the language to accurately express facts and ideas, viewpoints, develop arguments, analyse and evaluate, in speech and writing
- read and respond to a variety of written texts, including authentic sources, covering different contexts, registers, styles and genres
- adapt spoken and written language appropriately for different situations and purposes
- understand and apply the grammatical system and a range of structures
- study aspects of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of one or more of the countries or communities whose language is being studied

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (12%) Speaking

AS Unit 2 - (28%) Listening, reading, translation into English and critical response in writing to the film

A2 Unit 1 - (18%) Speaking – based on independent research project

A2 Unit 2 - (30%) Listening, reading and translation into French

A2 Unit 3 - (12%) Critical and analytical response in writing to the book

Links Abroad

To study French you must have a genuine interest in learning the language, with a desire to listen, read and surf the net in French of course! An interest in Europe and what is going on in the world and an interest in developing and discussing opinions and points of view is essential.

Course Leader: Mr G Evans

Geography

WJEC GCE Geography

You will study the meaning, causes, impacts and management of global challenges. How we can influence global challenges through our own lives. Topics include climate change, natural hazards, population and migration. You will study the interactions and connections between physical and human processes and learn how these affect global and local people, economies, environments, politics and patterns.

The course will require students to

- gain an in depth understanding through Geographical Research of a given topic
- gain an understanding of how physical and human issues influence lives
- learn the ways in which humans can manage the physical environment
- develop as global citizens who recognise the challenges of sustainability and the implications for their own and others' lives

Summary Assessment

Five units including one research module which will be linked to two field studies conducted in year 12, one geographical skills module and one module each of physical and human geography.

The WJEC is in the process of updating the A level specification for Geography for teaching from September 2016. More details will be made available when the final course is approved by the board.

Five units including one human and one physical module in AS. At A2 you will study global systems, contemporary themes and complete an individual research investigation.

Career Opportunities

With a qualification in Geography you can move into a career in anything from an Expedition Advisor and a Trekking Company Manager, to a Foreign News Editor and a Scientific Officer – from a Marine Biologist and an Aid Project worker to a Film Producer and a Communications Officer. The world of work really does become your oyster. Geographers are typically able to work in both arts and science fields which open doors into many exciting careers.

In recent years 5 of our previous pupils have gone on to qualify as geography teachers, two of which have trained at Oxford University. Every year a number of our students go on to study geography or environmental degrees.

Course Leader: Mr C Smith

German

WJEC GCE German

This course is designed to encourage students to develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, language; develop an understanding of the language in a variety of contexts and genres; communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language for a range of purposes; develop awareness and understanding of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of countries or communities where the language is spoken. In addition to developing your language skills and extending the vocabulary and grammar which you have already learned at GCSE, you will extend your knowledge about Germany and German speaking countries.

The course will require students to

- listen and respond to a variety of spoken sources, including authentic sources
- use the language to accurately express facts and ideas, viewpoints, develop arguments, analyse and evaluate, in speech and writing
- read and respond to a variety of written texts, including authentic sources, covering different contexts, registers, styles and genres
- adapt spoken and written language appropriately for different situations and purposes
- understand and apply the grammatical system and a range of structures
- study aspects of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of one or more of the countries or communities whose language is being studied

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (12%) Speaking

AS Unit 2 - (28%) Listening, reading, translation into English and critical response in writing to the film

In total 40% of the A Level, but can be taken as a stand-alone qualification with reduced UCAS points.

A2 Unit 1 - (18%) Speaking - based on independent research project

A2 Unit 2 - (30%) Listening, reading and translation into German

A2 Unit 3 - (12%) Critical and analytical response in writing to the book

In total 60% of the A Level

Career Opportunities

Languages can be used in a range of careers in marketing, law, engineering, retailing & leisure and tourism etc. German combines very well with ICT skills and can be an asset in your future career.

A study visit to Berlin in Year 12 will give you the opportunity to practise your German.

Course Leader: Mr G Evans

Health And Social Care

WJEC (Single Award) Health and Social Care

This offers students the opportunity to complete a demanding course delivered by experienced teachers who are able to provide support and guidance. It provides an excellent foundation to a variety of degree courses and professions. Students may progress to study Nursing, Social Work, Teacher Training, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Youth Work, & Holistic Therapies at various universities. It provides opportunities to extend volunteering, both within and outside of the school community. It will include attending a conference where the guest speakers will provide students with the communication skills to prepare and deliver presentations .

The course will require students to

- develop and sustain an interest in Health, early years care and education, social care and issues affecting the care sector
- acquire knowledge and understanding of health, early years care and education and issues affecting the health and social care sector
- develop skills that will enable them to make an effective contribution to the care sector including skills of research, evaluation and problem solving in a work related context
- apply knowledge, understanding and skills
- prepare for further study and training

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (20%) Promoting Quality Care and Communication: Written Examination

AS Unit 2 - (30%) Promoting Good Health: Internal Assessment: Coursework Project

A2 Unit 3 - (25%) Provision of Health, Social Care and Children's Service: Controlled Assessment

A2 Unit 4 - (25%) Care for older individuals Optional Unit: Internal Assessment: Coursework Project

Career Opportunities

Relevant work experience placements will be sought for students. Throughout the course students will employ an investigative and problem solving approach to study preparing them to progress to study; nursing, social work, teacher training, occupational therapy, psychology, youth work, & holistic therapies at various universities.

Course Leader: Mrs H Ellis

History

WJEC GCE History (2231/3231)

A qualification in History is useful in its own right; it also complements many other subjects such as English and Geography. History could be a useful AS/Advanced Level course for those who are concentrating on the Sciences. It is also an enjoyable subject, which can open doors to a large number of further education and degree courses. It is also essential that prospective historians have a sense of time and place.

The course will require students to be able to:

- evaluate historical events
- analyse historical events
- explain the causes and consequences of historical events
- consider the process of historical change and its causes, consequences and significance
- research historical events
- communicate effectively

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (20%) Politics, Protest and Reform In Wales and England c.1780-1880 Period Study - Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

AS Unit 2 - (20%) Germany - Weimar and its Challenges C.1918-1933 Depth Study Part 1 - Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

A2 Unit 3 - (20%) The American Century c.1890-1990 Depth Study Part 2 - Breadth Study. Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

A2 Unit 4 - (20%) Nazi Germany C.1933-1945. Written Examination: 1 Hour 45 Minutes

A2 Unit 5 - (20%) Historical Interpretations Non-Exam Assessment: 3000-4000 words

Career Opportunities

History as an academic study can lead to a variety of opportunities. It is an obvious pathway to the study of History at university, whether ancient or modern. It is also a useful link with other subjects such as Law that many students study.

Course Leader: Mr J Roberts

ICT

WJEC GCE Information Communication Technology (2241/3241)

Information Communication Technology (ICT) offers the opportunity for you to identify and solve problems by developing systems in a wide range of contexts relating to your personal interests. ICT encourages you to develop interdisciplinary skills, your capacity for imaginative, innovative thinking whilst being creative and independent learners. Students will also have opportunities for acquiring skills needed in the IT profession such as co-operative working and project management. These practical skills can be developed in areas of ICT that are of interest to them.

The course will require students to be able to

- develop and sustain your innovation
- be creative using your ICT capability
- produce high quality systems
- develop a critical understanding of influences, processes and products have on ICT activity
- complete wide range of activities to develop an understanding of commercial practices
- develop project management, implementation and evaluation skills

Summary assessment

AS Unit 1 - (30%) Information Systems, Examination Paper: ICT Information Systems

AS Unit 2 - (20%) Presenting Information, Internal Assessment: Multimedia project, including web design, recording and editing a video and creating original animations for inclusion in the website

A2 Unit 3 - (30%) Use and Impact of ICT: Examination Paper

A2 Unit 4 - (20%) Relational Databases Project: The project requires you to demonstrate the integration of design skills and knowledge and understanding with management of a project

Higher Education opportunities

Computer science, software engineering, computing, computer game applications development, computer games technology information and interface design, business computing and it, business information technology, web design and software development, graphic and digital design, computer software development.

Career Opportunities

You will be a strong candidate for work as a business and office manager, human resources officer, database administrator, information systems manager, IT consultant, network engineer, systems analyst or systems developer, graphic designer, web designer.

Course Leader: Mr A Roberts

Law

WJEC GCE Law (2251/3251)

This course is designed to provide students with an excellent grounding in various aspects of the Law, developing their knowledge and enthusiasm for the subject. Law provides the framework for modern society, impacting on all our lives. Studying Law offers the chance to question how society is regulated. It embraces every aspect of our lives, from crime to the environment, from buying a bus ticket to resolving international disputes. This is a very popular course which has traditionally yielded very good A Level passes for our students.

The course will require students to

- communicate, both written and oral, with the ability to construct clear and well-reasoned arguments
- find and manage large quantities of information from both printed and electronic sources
- think clearly and logically to analyse and solve problems
- the capacity for independent thinking and the ability to critically evaluate the law and think about where it needs to be reformed
- be organised and disciplined; the ability to work independently
- work well with others and develop their ideas as a group

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (25%) Understanding Legal Values, Structures and Processes Examination

AS Unit 2 - (25%) Understanding Legal Reasoning, Personnel and Methods Examination

A2 Unit 3 - (25%) Understanding Substantive Law: Freedom, the State and the Individual Criminal Law – Criminal Law and Justice Examination

A2 Unit 4 - (25%) Understanding Law in Context: Freedom, the State and the Individual Criminal Law – Criminal Law and Justice Examination

Career Opportunities

An extremely high percentage of our students decide to pursue a career in the Legal profession and have gone on to study Law at university. You will be a strong candidate for a number of career opportunities with the skills, knowledge and understanding you can gain from studying Law as an A level.

Course Leader: Mrs B Burrows / Mrs S Edwards

Mathematics

OCR Advanced GCE in Mathematics (3890/7890)

The study of Mathematics can be divided into Pure Mathematics units and applications units. For A Level you will study four 'core' Pure Mathematics units and two applications units. Pure Mathematics can be considered to be the 'toolkit' of the subject and familiar topics will include further study of algebra, trigonometry, graph plotting and sketching. Calculus, an area of Mathematics not encountered at GCSE, will be studied in detail. Calculus is an important component of higher education courses in Mathematics, engineering and sciences. The applications units will be Probability and Statistics modules 1 and 2.

The course will require students to

- follow mathematical arguments and examples
- understand mathematical facts, concepts and techniques
- use mathematical methods and techniques to solve problems in a variety of contexts
- use mathematical models to represent situations in the real world
- present and interpret results from models
- make accurate and efficient use of a graphical calculator for statistics and graph plotting

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - Core Mathematics 1 A calculator is not allowed for this exam. 1 ½ hour Examination

AS Unit 2 - Core mathematics 2 Calculator allowed. 1 ½ hour Examination

AS Unit 3 - Probability and Statistics 1 Calculator allowed (graphical calculator required). 1 ½ hour Examination

A2 Unit 4 - Core mathematics 3 Calculator allowed. 1 ½ hour Examination

A2 Unit 5 - Core mathematics 4 Calculator allowed. 1 ½ hour Examination

A2 Unit 6 - Probability and Statistics 2 Calculator allowed (graphical calculator required). 1 ½ hour Examination

Higher Education opportunities

Mathematics is a fascinating subject in its own right but is also a requirement for many higher education courses, especially sciences and engineering. Many of our former A Level students have continued with their Mathematics studies at a higher level, others have gone to take a wide variety of subjects leading on to many differing careers.

Career Opportunities

In recent years our former students have become mechanical engineers, sound production engineers, accountants and actuaries, doctors and medical scientists, computer graphic designers, graduate engineering apprentices, sports scientists, teachers, fashion designers and architects to name just a few. Mathematics opens all sorts of doors!

Course Leader: Mrs M Richards

Further Mathematics

OCR Advanced GCE in Further Mathematics (3892 / 7892)

Further Mathematics is designed to broaden the mathematical experiences of students and can only be taken if Mathematics has been chosen as an option. As in the Mathematics GCE course, a mixture of units of Pure Mathematics and applications units will be studied. In the Pure Mathematics units the concepts and methods studied in the Mathematics course will be developed further, in addition new areas of Pure Mathematics will be introduced: complex numbers, matrices and group theory. These areas of the course give students the opportunity to develop some of the more abstract concepts of Mathematics. The applications units cover Mechanics and Decision Mathematics, branches of Mathematics not covered in the Mathematics GCE course.

The course will require students to

- follow mathematical arguments and examples
- understand mathematical facts, concepts and techniques
- use mathematical methods and techniques to solve problems in a variety of contexts
- use mathematical models to represent situations in the real world
- present and interpret results from models
- make accurate and efficient use of a graphical calculator for statistics and graph plotting

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - Further Pure Mathematics 1: Graphical Calculator Required 1 ½ hour Examination

AS Unit 2 - Mechanics 1: Graphical Calculator Required 1 ½ hour Examination

AS Unit 3 - Decision Mathematics 1: Graphical Calculator Required 1 ½ hour Examination

A2 Unit 4 - Further Pure Mathematics 2: Graphical Calculator Required 1 ½ hour Examination

A2 Unit 5 - Further Pure Mathematics 3: Graphical Calculator Required 1 ½ hour Examination

A2 Unit 6 - Mechanics 2: Graphical Calculator Required 1 ½ hour Examination

Career Opportunities

Pure Mathematics has a beauty all of its own whilst applications of Mathematics enable us to solve many real world problems. The mathematics covered in Further Mathematics is particularly applicable to those pupils who want to study Mathematics itself after A Level or those who are considering any form of engineering as a career. However Further Mathematics is valued in any subject area that has a strong mathematical element to the course. For example complex numbers are used in aeronautical design; group theory is linked to work on structures in chemistry; mechanics will assist with engineering courses; Decision Mathematics forms a good basis for production control and computer game design.

Course Leader: Mrs M Richards

Media Studies

WJEC GCE Media Studies (2291/3291)

The AS and A Level Media Studies course will encourage you to analyse media concepts and conventions in a range of contemporary and classic texts in mediums such as films, music, TV, adverts, magazines, video games and websites. You will look at how the media represent people, places, issues and events. You will explore how we influence and are influenced by the media. Recent case studies have included 'The Dark Knight', 'Luther', Chanel adverts and 'Skyfall'. Students are encouraged to choose their own case studies based on personal interest. It is not essential to have studied GCSE Media, but it is vital to have a keen interest in most of the aforementioned areas.

The course will require students to

- watch, or read, and respond to a variety of audio-visual and print-based sources
- use media language accurately and fluently to express ideas and viewpoints, develop arguments, analyse and evaluate, in discussions and writing
- develop an understanding of the global multi-media world in which we live
- apply many communication skills to their learning by contributing to group seminars, presentations and whole class debates
- understand and explore the key concepts of media: language, audiences, representations, narratives, genre and industries
- develop personal foreknowledge of media texts through the reading of newspaper or online media supplements

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (25%) Media Representations and Responses: Exam based on three compulsory questions based on concepts of analysis, audiences and representations

AS Unit 2 - (25%) Media Production and Process: Internal assessment

A2 Unit 3 - (25%) Media Investigation and Production: A written investigation, practical production and evaluation based on a topic of personal interest

A2 Unit 4 - (25%) Text, Industry and Audience: exam based on three industries - Film, Television and Music. Three case studies are chosen as a focus for each industry

Career Opportunities

This media course complements a number of others due to its focus on key communication skills; developing and improving students' confidence and ability in debating, researching and sharing ideas. The course helps develop study skills that many find relevant for university. Media is becoming an increasingly popular subject at university and is helpful, obviously, if you are considering careers such as film/broadcast production, journalism, photography, marketing and advertising. Many former pupils studying a range of subjects, such as geography, medicine, teaching and law, comment on the invaluable communications skills developed in their Media A Level.

Course Leader: Mrs K Lumby-Jones

Music

WJEC GCE Music (2301/3301)

Music is assessed by the three distinct but related disciplines of performing, composing and appraising. The specification will give you the freedom to express your own musical interests through composing and performing in styles of your own choice and also within at least one of the specified areas of study. You will be able to play to your strengths in either performing or composing and demonstrate your ability to draw together different areas of knowledge and understanding from across areas of study in the listening and appraising examination.

The course will require students to

- focused assessment of specific performing and composing skills
- the opportunity to specialise in either performing or composing at A Level for an extra 8% of the qualification
- the opportunity to link creative and practical work with your chosen area of study
- the inclusion of a 'free choice' composition
- a choice between two set works from the Western Classical Tradition for analysis
- a choice of 'popular music' areas of study from the 20th and 21st Centuries
- exam questions which demand analysis, extended answers, comparison of musical extracts and responses to unprepared extracts of music as well as set works

Summary Assessment

The course is divided into a total of six units, three AS units and three A2 units

AS Unit 1 - Performing (12%) Externally assessed: Performance of 6-8 minutes

AS Unit 2 - Composing (12%) Externally assessed: Two compositions

AS Unit 3 - Appraising (16%) Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes - The Western Classical Tradition and either Rock and Pop or Musical Theatre or Jazz

A2 Unit 4 - Performance: Externally assessed: A (22%) 10-12 minutes or B (14%) 6-8 minutes

A2 Unit 5 - Composing: Externally assessed: A (14%) Duration: 3-6 minutes (2 compositions) or B (22%) Duration: 5-9 minutes (3 compositions)

A2 Unit 6: - Appraising (24%) Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes - The Western Classical Tradition or Religious Choral Music and Music of the Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries

Career Opportunities

Professional performer, record company opportunities, producer, marketing personnel, public relations, recording engineer, copyright lawyer, broadcaster, journalist, composer, teacher, music therapist, publishing, arts administration, instrument manufacturer, copy technologist.

Course Leader: Mrs C O'Hare

Performing Arts

Performing Arts OCR Cambridge Technicals (05770/05772)

Performing Arts Level 3 offers pupils the opportunity to understand a range of performance skills, and their place within the Performing Arts industry. This is an exciting new course that encourages students to develop their skills in readiness to seek employment or go on to higher education. With the potential of 210 UCAS points (the equivalent to 2 A' Levels), it will appeal to a range of students with a variety of interests.

The course will require students to

- develop their performance skills through a practically taught course
- shape the course for their own needs, by selecting the units that appeal to their strengths
- complete either a Certificate in Performing Arts or a Diploma in Performing Arts
- work independently and with others, to visit the theatre regularly, be committed to after school rehearsals and have a lively imagination
- work to their strengths, you may explore acting, dance, music, technical design in set, lighting or costume and make-up design as part of the performance elements of the course
- develop invaluable life skills that will help foster excellent employability skills

Summary Assessment

Mandatory units:

Unit 1 - Skills Development in the Performing Arts

Unit 2 - Community Arts Project

Unit 3 - Professional Practice in Performing Arts

Optional Units include: Devising Plays, The practice of directing for theatre, Musical Theatre Performance, Script Writing, Choreographing Dance, Dance Performance, Stage Management, Special Effects, Working as a Session Musician, Theatre Front of House Operations, Performance Workshop

Career Opportunities

Pupils will develop a range of life skills, and perhaps most importantly enhanced communication skills that will prove invaluable within the workplace. Many pupils go on to study Drama at higher education, or as a route into university. Students will also be given the opportunity to study for Trinity Guildhall Speech and Drama exams to gain further UCAS points.

Course Leader: Mrs J Jarvis

Photography

WJEC GCE Art and Design (2001/3001)

This option covers a broad and changing area of study with light-based imagery spanning almost two centuries. Learners might engage with early light-based images and rudimentary technology, such as a pinhole camera, as well as the most contemporary, which may include the use of digital cameras, video camcorders, photocopiers, scanners and mobile phones. They may also work exclusively with film based or digital technology or with both.

The course will require students to

- explore relevant images and resources relating to lens-based media from the past and from recent times
- research should be integral to the investigating and making process
- responses to examples must be shown through practical and critical activities
- demonstrate an understanding of the different styles, genres and traditions
- create outcomes that can be screen or print based, comprise still or moving images and might be discrete to the subject area or combined with other art forms

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (40%) Personal Creative Enquiry internally assessed, externally moderated

A2 Unit 2 - (36%) Personal Investigation internally assessed, externally moderated

A2 Unit 3 - (24%) Externally Set Assignment, internally assessed, externally moderated

Areas of Study

Photographing people, photographing places, still-life photography, documentary photography, photojournalism, experimental imagery, photographic installation, fashion photography, digital imaging, moving image (video, film, animation).

The benefits of the Photography, Art & Design course are that it offers students a rich and diverse range of experiences. The syllabuses are broad-based and the assignments set are intended to stimulate a personal response and individual interpretation. This requires students to be well motivated and show evidence of a strong commitment to the subject.

Course Leader: Ms M Davies

Physical Education

WJEC GCE Physical Education

The course takes a multi-disciplinary approach, with the focal point being on participation and performance in physical activity as part of a balanced, active and healthy lifestyle. The course is based on the interaction between the theory and practice of Physical Education. Students wishing to follow this course must have a keen interest in all sports and be self-motivating. They should enjoy reading articles and listening to discussions about sporting issues.

The course will require students to

- regularly attend lessons
- attend KS3 lessons to support and improve their coaching skills
- complete a personal performance profile as part of their coursework
- complete and submit homework on time and engage with the feedback processes
- each pupil is required to purchase a 6th Form PE polo shirt
- act as an ambassador for Physical Education and School Sport across the whole school

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (24%) Exploring Physical Education

AS Unit 2 - (16%) Improving Personal Performance in Physical Education

A2 Unit 3 - (36%) Evaluating Physical Education

A2 Unit 4 - (24%) Refining Personal Performance in Physical Education

Further Education Opportunities

Sport and exercise science, sports development, business in sport, coaching development, progressing to teaching support of physical education department.

There is an expectation that our A Level students contribute to extracurricular sport either as a performer, coach or official.

Course Leader: Miss D Gilenan

Physics

WJEC GCE Physics (5867/5848)

“All science is either physics or stamp collecting” (Rutherford)

Physics is the most fundamental of the sciences with other subjects depending on it. It is an important qualification for anyone wanting to pursue a scientific, engineering or financial career. In addition, the training it provides in solving problems in a logical and systematic manner makes it valuable to many employers even for jobs not making use of physics itself. It is essential students have a higher pass in GCSE Mathematics and either GCSE additional science or GCSE Physics.

The course will allow students to

- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other
- develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods
- develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem solving skills
- develop their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject
- understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society
- the ability to use mathematics with confidence is essential

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (20%) Motion, Energy and Matter. Written Examination

AS Unit 2 - (20%) Electricity and Light. Written Examination

A2 Unit 3 - (25%) Oscillations and Nuclei. Written Examination

A2 Unit 4 - (25%) Fields and Options (Alternating currents / Medical physics / The physics of sports / Energy and the environment). Written Examination

A2 Unit 5 - (10%) Practical Examination

Career Opportunities

Employers today actively seek out people who can prove their ability to think logically, understand complex ideas and apply them to the real world. If you want a career in science, the media, education, engineering, business, finance, IT or a host of other fields, physics can help give you the edge. Employers see a physics qualification as an indication of someone who will immediately be an asset to the organisation because of the way it trains you to think.

Course Leader: Mr M Lewis

Politics

AQA GCE Government and Politics (8067/9067)

Things are not always what they seem! Do you have an interest in current affairs? Want the opportunity to express your opinions (and explain them)? Have a desire to think, question and discuss issues which affect us all? Enjoy argument and discussion? Then the study of Government and Politics at 'A' Level is just what you need. Because of the importance and relevance of the subject matter to our everyday lives it is hoped that you will find the course interesting, valuable and enjoyable. The group may attend several conferences per year and students may have the opportunity to visit London to see aspects of the course at first-hand. Visits are sometimes arranged to European Institutions, local courts and relevant political events.

The course will require students to

- analyse, evaluate and demonstrate knowledge
- make connections and show an awareness of similarities and differences of political systems
- communicate and make coherent arguments
- have an interest in people, ideas and life
- have a genuine enthusiasm for reading
- have a readiness to be involved in discussions
- and a willingness to write about what you read

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (25%) People, Politics and Participation. 1 ½ hour Written Examination

AS Unit 2 - (25%) Governing Modern Britain. 1 ½ hour Written Examination

A2 Unit 3 - (25%) Ideologies. 1 ½ hour Written Examination

A2 Unit 4 - (25%) The Government of the USA. 1 hour Written Examination

Career Opportunities

Despite its demanding nature students enjoy their course and this is reflected in the 'A' level grades they achieve. Many become actively involved in politics and high proportions go on to study Politics/Public Administration at University.

Course Leader: Mr J Roberts

Product Design Engineering

WJEC GCE Design and Technology (TBA)

Do you love solving problems and being a creative resistant material, engineering graphics student? Product Design focuses on the use of imagination, initiative and resourcefulness within the design process to create products we use and wear and for environments we live in. You will have experience of identifying needs and developing creativity in your thinking in a wide range of materials using Computer Aided Design (CAD) and the latest CNC equipment including 3D printing. Throughout the course you will develop your critical awareness of the work of other designers and develop expertise to enable innovative ideas to be manufactured to an exceptional standard.

The course will require students to

- have a genuine interest in creating innovative control technology, graphics, fashion, architectural models, every day products or just something that hasn't been designed yet!
- consider innovation and creativity in all aspects of manufacturing and design
- consider how everyday products have evolved into their present form
- develop skills and creativity, use of modern CAD
- be adaptable to use Computer Aided Manufacture (CAM) including 3D printing and laser cutting

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (50 %) Written Examination 3hrs

AS Unit 2 - (50 %) Coursework Project focusing on design and innovation in Product Design

To complement your coursework project your observations and understanding of how people design and make products are presented in a log book

A2 Unit 3 - (50%) Written Examination 2½hrs

A2 Unit 4 - (50%) Coursework Project

Higher Education Opportunities

The A Level Product Design qualification will provide a powerful illustration about your creativity and innovation to further education and industry that you have got what it takes to manage complex projects. This qualification will open doors to studying Civil/Material/Manufacturing Engineering, Industrial Product/Graphic/Web/Games Design, Interior Design, Architecture/Architectural Engineering & Design Management & Business related degrees.

Career Opportunities

Additionally design related apprenticeships such as Land Rover Jaguar Manufacturing Engineering scheme also value this A Level. You will be a strong candidate for work as a design of many disciplines with many students moving onto architecture, product design, graphic design, engineering and manufacturing.

Course Leader: Mr M Kenny

Psychology

WJEC GCE Psychology (2331/3331)

This is one of the most popular AS/A2 courses with students whose longer term ambition is to follow a professional career through a degree path, or who are simply looking for a stimulating and challenging course that has relevance to everyday life. Classes are very popular and enable a mix of group discussion, formal teaching and student led activities.

The course will require students to

- engage fully with material of relevance and interest
- cover the five main approaches to psychology
- learn a real life therapy based on each
- cover some classic psychology studies such as Milgram's controversial obedience study and decide whether they would be allowed today
- be able to work on some practical psychology research and look into a wide range of topics such as dreams and their meanings and forensic psychology

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (20%) Past to Present: Written Examination. Psychological problems and therapies

AS Unit 2 - (20%) Investigating Behaviour: Written Examination. Psychological Research

A2 Unit 3 - (40%) Implications in the Real World. Written Examination: You will study three from six nominated behaviours; Addiction, autism, bullying, criminology, stress and schizophrenia

A4 Unit 4 - (20%) Applied Research Methods. Written Examination: Methodologies used in Psychology

Higher Education Opportunities

Educational psychology, forensic and criminal psychology, criminology, clinical psychology, sports psychology, or more general work. Psychology is also becoming more and more important in business with organisational psychologists working in industry in a variety of fields such as marketing and human resource management.

Career Opportunities

A Level Psychology is a popular choice for those wishing to pursue an interesting career in this profession. However it's also true that studying the reasons why people act as they do will help you in any situation or career. However if you go on to complete a degree or masters in Psychology you might go on to work on one of the above psychology professions.

Course Leader: Mrs K Johnson and Mr M Savage

Sociology

WJEC GCE Sociology (2331/2251)

The study of A Level Sociology focuses on contemporary society, sociology fosters the development of critical and reflective thinking with a respect for social diversity. It provides an awareness of the importance of social structure and social action in explaining social issues. Students are encouraged to develop their own sociological awareness through active engagement with the contemporary social world and society.

The course will require students to

- develop an understanding of changing British society as well as opportunities to learn about sociological methods and research
- acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of contemporary social processes and social changes
- appreciate the significance of theoretical and conceptual issues in sociological debate
- understand and evaluate sociological methodology and a range of research methods through active involvement in the research process
- develop skills that enable individuals to focus on their personal identity, roles and responsibilities within society
- develop a lifelong interest in social issues

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (15%) Acquiring Culture 1¼ hour Written Examination.

AS Unit 2 - (25%) Understanding Culture 2 hour Written Examination.

A2 Unit 3 - (25%) Understanding Power and Control 2 hour Written Examination. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate evidence of synoptic understanding.

A2 Unit 4 - (35%) Understanding Social Divisions 2 ¼ hours Written Examination.

Higher Education Opportunities

The course is a suitable foundation for the study of sociology or a related area of higher education courses such as criminology or law. Learners will be offered a choice of topics that include families, youth culture, the community, education, religion, mass media, crime, politics, health and disability, social divisions and world sociology. The emphasis on skills allows learners to develop and demonstrate their 'sociological imagination' by focusing on their own personal identity, responsibilities and roles within society.

Course Leader: Mrs K Johnson

Spanish

WJEC GCE Spanish

This course is designed to encourage students to develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, language; develop an understanding of the language in a variety of contexts and genres; communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language for a range of purposes; develop awareness and understanding of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of countries or communities where the language is spoken. In addition to developing your language skills and extending the vocabulary and grammar which you have already learned at GCSE, you will extend your knowledge about Spanish and Spanish speaking countries. It is expected that students will have previously learnt Spanish to GCSE level or equivalent.

The course will require students to

- listen and respond to a variety of spoken sources, including authentic sources
- use the language to accurately express facts and ideas, viewpoints, develop arguments, analyse and evaluate, in speech and writing
- read and respond to a variety of written texts, including authentic sources, covering different contexts, registers, styles and genres
- adapt spoken and written language appropriately for different situations and purposes
- understand and apply the grammatical system and a range of structures
- study aspects of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of one or more of the countries or communities whose language is being studied

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (12%) Speaking

AS Unit 2 - (28%) Listening, reading, translation into English and critical response in writing to the film

In total 40% of the A Level, but can be taken as a stand-alone qualification with reduced UCAS points.

A2 Unit 1 - (18%) Speaking - based on independent research project

A2 Unit 2 - (30%) Listening, reading and translation into French

A2 Unit 3 - (12%) Critical and analytical response in writing to the book

Higher Education Opportunities

To study Spanish you must have a genuine interest in learning the language, with a desire to listen, read and surf the net in Spanish of course! An interest in Europe and what is going on in the world and an interest in developing and discussing opinions and points of view is essential.

Career Opportunities

Languages can be used in a range of careers in marketing, law, engineering, retailing and leisure and tourism. Spanish combines very well with ICT skills and can be an asset in your future career.

Course Leader: Mr G Evans

Sport

EDEXCEL BTEC Sport Level 3 (Subsidiary Diploma) (500/6751)

A recent addition to the options offered by the PE department, this course will develop your core specialist knowledge, understanding and skills in aspects relating specifically to sport, coaching and the leisure sector. The course outline includes anatomy and physiology, fitness analysis and risk assessment in sport. All lessons are delivered either in an ICT suite or in a practical setting, making use of the sports facilities around the school. The course carries 60 credits which makes the qualification broadly equivalent to one A Level. All units within the course are internally assessed and are 100% coursework based.

The course will require students to

- regularly attend lessons in order to receive mentorship through the different assignment pieces
- apply ICT skills including Microsoft Word and PowerPoint to complete assignments
- have a keen interest in sport and fitness and read around the topics covered in the course
- perform practically in order to gain a greater understanding of the concepts covered and generate data towards assessment pieces
- complete and submit assignments on time and engage with the feedback processes within the course
- act as an ambassador for Physical Education and School Sport across the whole school

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - Principles of Anatomy and Physiology

AS Unit 2 - The Physiology of Fitness

AS Unit 3 - Assessing Risk in Sport

AS Unit 4 - Fitness Testing for Sport and Exercise

AS Unit 5 - Practical Team Sports and Practical Individual Sports

AS Unit 6 - Leadership in Sport

Higher Education Opportunities

The BTEC Sport qualification would appeal to any student wishing to go into higher education, specifically to anyone considering a degree course in subjects including Sport and Exercise Sciences, Sports Development, Sports Studies, Business in Sport or Sports Coaching Development. By way of employment, the BTEC Sports Diploma is valued by the fitness and leisure industries as well as sports coaching organisations.

Course Leader: Miss D Gilsean

Welsh

WJEC GCE Welsh Second language

If you enjoyed 'Cymraeg' at GCSE then you'll enjoy A Level even more! At A Level you'll have lessons more frequently which means your speaking will improve very quickly. As well as improving your speaking skills you'll also start to learn about Welsh cultural events and activities, literature, history and politics. Taking Welsh Second Language at A Level shows any university or employer that you have developed a specialist skill to a high level.

The course will require students to:

- study Welsh with interest, enjoyment and enthusiasm
- communicate effectively and fluently, orally and in writing
- write creatively and factually for a range of purposes
- analyse familiar and unfamiliar texts independently
- listen and respond to the opinions of others when expressing a point of view
- express an independent opinion, based on knowledge and understanding of literary and factual texts

Summary Assessment

AS Unit 1 - (15%) Speaking about a film

AS Unit 2 - (10%) Assessment

AS Unit 3 - (15%) Writing Examination

A2 Unit 4 - (25%) Speaking about a play

A2 Unit 5 - (15%) Writing Examination

A2 Unit 6 - (20%) Use of language and short story examination

Higher Education Opportunities

You could go on to study for a degree in Welsh at University, or combine it with another subject like law, politics, business or education. It is an ideal qualification for going on to study linguistics or a completely new language at University.

Career Opportunities

There are many careers in Wales for which bilingualism is essential e.g. the Police Force, the Health Service and Education. Being able to speak Welsh can give you an advantage when looking for work and in social situations.

Course Leader: Mr G Davies

Advanced Welsh Baccaulaureate

WJEC Advanced Welsh Baccaulaureate Qualification

The central focus of the Welsh Baccaulaureate at Advanced level is to provide a vehicle for level 3 learners to consolidate and progress the development of essential and employability skills. The qualification will help learners develop more complex skills, attributes and behaviours. It will provide experiences which will enable learners to be better prepared for their future destination, whether university, further training or employment. The Welsh Baccaulaureate will encourage the learner to value skills development as a key aspect of education and life-long learning. Offering a learning experience relevant to the needs and demands of the workplace will develop learners' confidence, drive and initiative, preparing them to enter, succeed and progress in the world of work.

The Welsh Baccaulaureate is based on a Skills Challenge Certificate alongside Supporting Qualifications.

The Skills Challenge Certificate consists of four components which are followed by all learners:

- Individual Project
- Enterprise and Employability Challenge
- Global Citizenship Challenge
- Community Challenge

The Supporting Qualifications include two mandatory GCSEs of English Language or Welsh Language together with Mathematics-Numeracy at grades A*-C. Learners require two A levels grade A*- E, or equivalent level 3 qualification.

The focus of the Skills Challenge Certificate will be on the essential and employability skills young people need in their future lives and these skills will be developed and assessed through an Individual Project and three Challenges. The Skills Challenge Certificate has been designed to include learning and assessment which will enthuse, engage and motivate learners in the classroom, the workplace and the wider community. Learners will be required to consider how the application of their learning may impact on individuals, employers, society and the environment. The qualification has been devised around the concept of a 'plan, do, and review' approach to learning where learners are introduced to a context for learning, planning activities, carrying out activities, reviewing outcomes and learning.

Through the Welsh Baccaulaureate learners will raise their skills levels and confidence, enabling and empowering them to take their place as responsible and active citizens within a diverse society. Alongside and through the development of skills, the Welsh Baccaulaureate provides learners with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of society, the community in which they live and an awareness of global issues, events and perspectives.

Course Leader: Mrs H Ellis



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