



Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari

Options Booklet (KS5)

September 2011



Gorau Gwaith Gwasanaeth



CYFLEOEDD

YN AGOR DRYSAU'R DYFODOL
OPENING DOORS TO THE FUTURE



Dear Student,

I would personally like to welcome you to the beginning of a new, and exciting, chapter in your life. You are about to embark on a pathway of learning which will, hopefully, open doors for a happy and prosperous future.

You will have the opportunity to study your chosen subjects to the level which suits your needs, and I would strongly advise you to partake of the many extra curricular activities on offer. Your future employers will expect that you have the necessary qualifications, however they will also require you to have the skills and aptitude to succeed in the twenty first century.

I expect you to conduct yourself as a developing, mature, individual who will be a positive role model for younger students.

Meirion Stephens

Headteacher

HEADTEACHERMr. Meirion Stephens B.Sc

DEPUTY HEADTEACHERMrs. Rhian Phillips

KS5 PROGRESS LEADERMr. Stephen J. Wilshaw

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Important Dates

Thursday, 18 August, 2011:

GCSE results

(between 9.00am and 1.00pm in the school)

Tuesday, 6 September, 2011:

First day of Christmas Term

School starts for Years 7 and 12 ONLY.

An opportunity to discuss your choices with Subject Leaders of your choice.



Introduction

Being part of year 12 and 13 is an exceptional experience. New privileges and responsibilities abound, which will give you a new taste of the experience of being part of the school community. However, you will still be an integral part of the school, liable to guidance and advice, as are all others. We believe that this combination is the best provision for 16+ students. To ensure that you are making the right choice before joining us, we would like to introduce this booklet to you.

Our main aim in years 12 and 13 is to prepare students for the responsibilities and freedom of adult life. With this in mind, we strive to:

- ensure open entry, according to the policy, to all who choose to return at the end of year 11
- provide a wide and flexible range of subjects within the resources of the school
- provide a variation of courses, along with relevant advice, to meet students' individual needs and abilities
- support each individual's progress to his/her own ability, by encouraging self-evaluation via the Progress File
- develop the key skills, and personal qualities required for the future i.e. self-discipline, orderliness, the ability to work independently and in a group, effective and confident communication
- provide a range of social and cultural activities whilst strengthening the awareness of Welshness
- create an atmosphere which is conducive to academic progress and personal development

Welcome to Year 12

Returning to the sixth form is a **GOOD CHOICE**.

You will have more freedom, and you are assured to complete your work with the support of your teachers, tutors and the Progress Leader.

The relationship between you and your teachers is different – it is a far more mature relationship.

You will receive more responsibility and privileges as a member of the sixth form.

You have permission to spend one lesson a day socialising in the Lounge, and it must be said that Llanhari has a sixth form block, which is envied throughout Wales!

At the end of year 13 a luxurious event is held – in a top class hotel. DJs and evening gowns to be worn!

You have the opportunity to contribute to the full life of the school, to make life-long friends, and to find unique friendship. Make the most of this unforgettable experience.





The Next Step

There are a number of reasons why a great many of our year 11 pupils choose to return to the sixth form in Llanhari.

This booklet will give you a taste of life in the sixth form. A taste of the business, the various extra-curricular activities and details of the wide range of courses available.

When asked for their comments on why they chose to return to the sixth form, these were some replies from students:

Teachers know me

If I don't work I know the teachers will badger me!

Many of my friends are coming back and I will know a lot of people

Llanhari's sixth form has a good reputation

There are so many other things to do in the sixth form.

There are many various courses for you:

- New Advanced Subsidiary courses which lead to the full Advanced Level (you even have a chance to study some courses in conjunction with Colleges and other Schools).
- Vocational Courses
- and various other opportunities to keep your interest!



Year 12 Entrance Policy

The school is willing to consider any pupil's request for post 16 education, providing he/she has the relevant prior qualifications and a positive attitude towards his/her studies and school.

The school will advise students as to the possible programmes of study.

Post 16 Study Programme

The post 16 curriculum allows students to study Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and BTEC subjects in year 12, and A2 and BTEC subjects in year 13.

You are required to choose UP TO 4 AS subjects in year 12. Pupils do not have to choose 4 subjects by any means. The AS subjects are examined on a modular basis and the school has decided to hold these examinations in January (following discussions with the Subject Leader) and June of year 12. Pupils are accredited a certificate of achievement in AS subjects. Pupils are expected to pass examinations in their AS optional subjects before they can be entered for those subjects at A2 level in year 13.

In addition to AS/BTEC subjects you will be given the opportunity of choosing subjects leading to a Vocational Qualification.

You will also get the opportunity of doing re-sits in Welsh, English, Mathematics and Science at GCSE. These examinations take place in November and June of year 12.

We will be placing the subjects into columns (9 lessons for each AS subject; 9 or 18 for Vocational/BTEC subjects). You are required to choose the best learning pathway for your future needs. See the options form.

Essential Skills Wales

The Essential Skills encompass the necessary skills required by young people to successfully make the transition from school to further or higher education or work:

- the ability to communicate effectively orally or in writing
- the ability to analyse, interpret and apply numerical data
- the effective use of information technology to access and present information
- to work in collaboration as part of a team
- to manage one's own education to improve performance
- to develop problem-solving skills to identify solutions in unfamiliar situations.

The Government amended post 16 education to include nationally recognised Essential Skills.

These are:

Main Essential Skills:

- Communication
- Application of Number
- Information Technology

Along with the Wider Essential Skills:

- Working with others
- Improving one's own learning and performance
- Problem Solving

These are integrated into every programme of study. Every sixth-form pupil in Llanhari will receive training in at least one of these Essential Skills. You will encounter some of them in your optional subjects, and will have to master others by attending specific lessons or by taking part in extra-curricular activities. With your personal tutor's help you will map these skills against your optional subjects. You will have the opportunity of studying these Essential Skills to three different levels: Level 1, 2 or 3 (Level 3 being the highest of course). You are not expected to study all six of the Essential Skills but you will decide which Essential Skill to study/develop in consultation with your Skills tutor. UCAS show clearly the importance of the Essential Skills and recognise their value by allocating points to the main ones (see UCAS Tariff).



Vocational Courses

Students will have the opportunity to study vocational courses on the levels.

Advanced Subsidiary, BTEC and Advanced.

The following subjects are offered:

- Catering
- Health and Social Care (AS and A Level – double award)
- Sport and Leisure
- Public Services
- CACHE Early Years

The Vocational subjects are:

- graded the same as Advanced Level subjects i.e. awarded grades A-E.
- awarded UCAS points as are Advanced Level subjects.
- Grades Pass, Merit or Distinction are awarded for BTEC.

Students are encouraged to study vocational subjects alongside traditional subjects.

BTEC First National Diploma/Certificate

Subjects are offered:

- Public Services
- Business

UCAS Tariff

Single Units	GCE AS/A			Score (UCAS)
	3 Unit Award e.g. AS	6 Unit Award e.g. Advanced Level	12 Unit Award e.g. Advanced Level (double award)	
			A*A*	280
			A*A	260
			AA	240
			AB	220
			BB	200
			BC	180
			CC	160
		A*	CD	140
		A	DD	120
		B	DE	100
		C	EE	80
	A	D		60
	B			50
	C	E		40
Level 4	D			30
Level 3	E			20
Level 2				10

BTEC National (Certificate) e.g. Public Services

Distinction – 120 points, Merit – 80 points, Pass – 40 points.

BTEC National (Diploma) e.g. Sport

Distinction/Distinction – 240 points, Distinction/Merit – 200 points, Merit/Merit – 160 points, Merit/Pass – 120 points, Pass/Pass – 80 points.

UCAS also accredit points to a member of other qualifications.

For further information visit the UCAS website www.ucas.co.uk



Sixth Form Block

This is home to years 12 and 13 within the school. It comprises eight classrooms, a Canteen, Lounge and a Study Centre. Younger pupils come to the block for lessons from time to time, but the other rooms are all intended specifically for use by the sixth form.

The study area comprises a suite of computers for sixth form use only. Light refreshments and drinks are available in the canteen during the morning. Along with other pupils you have the opportunity to buy breakfast (between 8.20am and 8.40am) and lunch (between 12.20pm and 1.20pm) in the lower-school cafeteria. **No food or drink is to be taken out of the Cafeteria at any time during the day.**

Whenever you don't have formal lessons, you are expected to work independently in the Study Centre, where you will find a CD-ROM and Internet service.

At the beginning of the year you are required to note your periods of study on your timetable.

For reasons relating to safety and order, you are instructed not to bring cars to school. If for any reason you need a car, you can apply for permission by submitting a letter by a parent or guardian. The same applies to leaving school premises to go home during lesson periods. You must receive the consent of the Head of the Sixth Form, one of the sixth-form tutors or a Deputy Headteacher in all instances. Don't forget to clock-out and inform the school office in each instance. During lesson periods everyone should be either in a lesson, in the library, the Resources Centre, the Lounge or the Canteen. If in your opinion your timetable does not adequately meet your requirements, you should consult your tutor about how best to amend the situation. Permission has now been granted for students to go to the village of Llanharry during their free periods only – **NOT DURING MORNING BREAK OR LUNCH BREAK.** Students are required to sign out and sign in at the main office when following this procedure.

Uniform

Items marked with a * can only be purchased at school.

Girls:

- Black skirt or trousers
- Red & white blouse*
- Black sweater with school emblem*
- Black shoes (low heels)
- Dark-coloured coat

Boys

- Black sweater with school emblem*
- School tie (from the school)*
- Dark grey cotton trousers
- White shirt
- Grey/black socks
- Black, plain shoes
- Dark-coloured coat

WEARING TRAINERS, DENIM OR LEATHER JACKETS/COATS IS NOT PERMITTED.

It is also strongly recommended that no other valuable garments be worn in school.

Tutorial Groups

Students are divided into tutorial groups with no attempt made to allocate the groups on the basis of Arts or Science subjects or to differentiate between pupils pursuing two-year courses and those pursuing one-year courses. Every pupil is required to attend the registration period at the beginning of the day and at the beginning of the afternoon. A high percentage of absences (more than 5%) are considered to be cause for concern and the student may be summoned to a meeting along with parent or guardian to discuss the issue further. The tutorial group will have the responsibility of preparing a presentation for the morning assembly. The

registration period is also seen as an opportunity to deliver Personal and Social Education, to arrange and develop CYNGU (IAP, your Individual Action Plan).

The tutorial groups are expected to organize assemblies from time to time on Tuesdays and Fridays.



Extra Curricular Activities

This is one of the most important aspects of sixth-form life and it is important to emphasise the opportunity it gives of adding to your Progress File and developing wider Essential Skills. This document should be used as a Curriculum Vitae when thinking about your future career. You should make additional entries on a regular basis stating which new skills you acquire and which experiences you gain during your time in the sixth form.

You are encouraged to seize every opportunity to broaden your educational and social horizons. Many departments, for instance, rely on the sixth form to hold clubs during lunchtime or after school. You will also get the opportunity of representing the school in conferences and competitions, while everyone is given the chance to contribute to the school eisteddfod and the Urdd Eisteddfod. As students in year 12 and 13, you have a valuable contribution to make as house-leaders, or representatives of various charities within the school. Visits and trips are arranged from time to time – home and abroad. There is also a significant social event with the farewell dinner for year 13 in the Summer.

In addition to all of this, we try and forge a friendly relationship with the local village community. A thanksgiving service is held in the local parish church, with the produce collected going towards a deserving local cause. At Christmas, the village pensioners are invited to the school and there is a visit to the Cylch Meithrin in Pontyclun to entertain the little children. This year it is hoped that some pupils will join the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. There are also ample opportunities to take part in many extra-curricular activities.

All of these things are, to a large extent, dependent on the support and enthusiasm of students and you are encouraged to make the most of your opportunities. If you have any other ideas, you can present them to the Sixth Form Council.

Prefect Duties and the Sixth Form Council

Everyone in the sixth form is given the opportunity of acting as a prefect, although year 13 students reduce the burden of their responsibilities in the Spring term. The responsibilities can be summed up as consisting of three areas: WELSHNESS, ORDER, and SAFETY.

You can expect to act as a prefect in the following situations:

1. As a prefect who is accountable to a personal tutor according to demand. This can entail helping to distribute information, collect money, organise social events and so on.
2. As a prefect for the whole school:
 - Your contribution in promoting the Welsh language as the language for socialising within the school must be emphasised at this point
 - In dry weather, you are asked to ensure that no one is in the building first thing in the morning, break time or during the lunch hour
 - In wet or stormy weather, you are asked to ensure that pupils of the lower school assemble in the Canteen and that pupils of the middle school assemble in the locker area of the middle hall
 - Pop into the toilets from time to time and note any improper behaviour or vandalism
 - At lunchtime try and assist the teachers who are on duty, in particular by ensuring that the lunch queue is formed in an orderly manner

- Try and prevent any wrongdoing – against property or against another person. If you are disobeyed, do not attempt to use force but rather seek the assistance of a teacher, or note the disobedient pupil's name if the incident happens on a school bus. Be our eyes and ears!
- Be prepared to offer assistance or advice to junior pupils and be sure to behave in such a manner as to command the respect you are due.

Prefects' responsibilities are allocated and reviewed by members of the Sixth Form Council. A team of higher prefects is elected to assume responsibility for leading the teams with different responsibilities relating to life in the sixth form, as well as contributing on a whole-school basis. This takes place at the beginning of the Spring term in year 12. The responsibility for holding regular meetings, setting out an agenda and keeping minutes falls to the students themselves. The Council serves as a forum for the sixth form to express their views while overseeing the use of the facilities within the block. Head Prefects are appointed, with deputies, concurrently with the election of the Council.

Independent Study

There will be many periods during the day when you will have no lessons timetabled. You are instructed to make constructive use of these periods since acquiring independent study skills is essential if your period in the sixth form is to be a successful one. It also provides valuable preparation for Higher and Further Education. You may use the Resource Centre to this end.



Support, Encouragement and Advice

Since you become adults and face examinations and career choices, the 16+ period is an important one for you. This is why you are provided with a pastoral structure.

The most important person in this respect is your Personal Tutor who will remain in daily contact with you and will oversee your general progress, your subject progress, and your Essential Skills progress. The Progress Leader will be at hand to advise you on Higher and Further Education matters, while the Careers Service offers specialist advice.

Your personal role in targeting your short-term and long-term objectives and working out a strategy to meet them is just as important. This is the aim of the Individual Development Plan (CYNGU). At the end of year 11 you will also have received a Progress File, and during your time in the sixth form you will be asked to update it and make new entries to cover the experiences you gain and the new skills you acquire.

In addition to this, there are one or two sets of examinations in year 12. The first occurs early in the Spring term. The second is held towards the end of the Summer term. This will be the time of the final modular examinations for Advanced Subsidiary subjects. You will get a full certificate from the examinations board at the end of these. Parents' evenings are arranged for years 12 and 13. Your progress will be monitored regularly. Should your progress give cause for concern, your parents will be invited to discuss the situation with the Progress Leader. Similarly, your parents are welcome to contact the school if your progress gives cause for concern.

Careers

A careers advice programme is arranged as follows:

- during pastoral periods
- in the Resource Centre where you will find a collection of literature relating to Higher Education, Further Education and careers
- at interview with the school Careers Officer
- by visiting careers conferences
- by practising interview techniques
- by undertaking a period of Work Experience

Work Experience

Everyone in year 12 will take part in work experience lasting at least a week. In addition, links are forged with business and industry at every possible opportunity, e.g. through shadowing schemes, visits and conferences.

Opportunities in the Sixth Form

- Year 7 & 8 Science Club
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- European Parliament Competitions
- Full Higher Education Programme
- Nat West – The school bank
- Oxford and Cambridge 'Target Schools' Scheme
- Public speaking in Welsh and English
- Young Enterprise
- Music Department Prefects
- Parents' Evening Prefects
- Year 7 Homework Club
- Careers and Higher Education Prefects
- Various duties around the school
- University of Glamorgan Study Skills Workshops
- Voluntary Work
- Sixth Form Induction Course
- Occasional work experience
- Sixth Form Council
- CEWC Debating Competitions
- C.H.I.P.S. (anti-bullying) Committee
- Toe-by-Toe
- Years 7 – 8 Class Prefects
- Year 7 Maths Club, Swm a Swm
- Young Engineers Programme
- Llanhari Primary School Reading Scheme - Book Buddies
- Various duties around the school
- Millennium Volunteers.



Preparing for the Sixth Form

The end of Year 11 is an important milestone in your school career. Thus far you have been following a strict timetable, with lessons during every period of the day. Your education has been supervised and guided by others, who deemed that you were not yet mature enough to carry out the work yourselves. By the time you get to 16, society in general recognises your status as a young adult and you are provided for in a different manner in school as well. Many meetings and courses are arranged in order to prepare you for this transition.

GCSE Results Day

These are released mid August. Advice will be available in the school on the second day back in September (in the absence of the rest of the school).

Year 12 and 13 Students' Contract

As a member of the Senior School at Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari, I undertake to meet the requirements below:

- use the Welsh language in school and in so doing encourage the school's junior pupils to take pride in the language as part of European Civilization.
- conduct myself in a positive manner and maintain a positive attitude so as to bring credit to the school and to myself and conform to Year 12/13 uniform guidelines and rules.
- attend the lessons that have been timetabled for me including assemblies, courses, lectures or visits.
- complete the work I am given by the deadline set and follow guidelines relating to study time and study skills.
- make the most of every opportunity to enhance my skills and experiences in order to enhance and extend my education and personal development.
- promote the school's aims and objectives in every possible way and adhere to its rules and regulations.

In conjunction with students' success and cooperation in fulfilling the requirements and following these guidelines, the school undertakes to do all it can to provide them with every possible opportunity to maximize their educational and social development and growth as individuals, in accordance with the welfare and expectations of the school community.

We may refuse entry to the Sixth Form if we are not confident, based on KS4 behaviour and attitude, that a student can adhere to the above.

Signed:Student

Signed:Parent/Guardian

Signed by Personal Tutor:

Signed by Year 12/13 Leader of Learning:

Date:

The Education Course

SUMMARY AND PREFACE

These are the options open to 16+ students

Education – Full-time in school or College

Studying vocational courses or general courses such as GCSE, AS, A2 or BTEC courses – warrants an Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) up to £30 a week (depending on household income).

Youth Training:

- The workplace
- Vocational Training
- NVQ2 minimum
- Training Allowance – approx. £40 per week

Youth Training

Training Credits

Preparatory Training:

Mobile work with the opportunity of experiencing several vocational fields

Training allowance -

approximately £35 per week

Informal work:

with training dependent on employer's conditions/goodwill

Full-time Employment

Formal work:

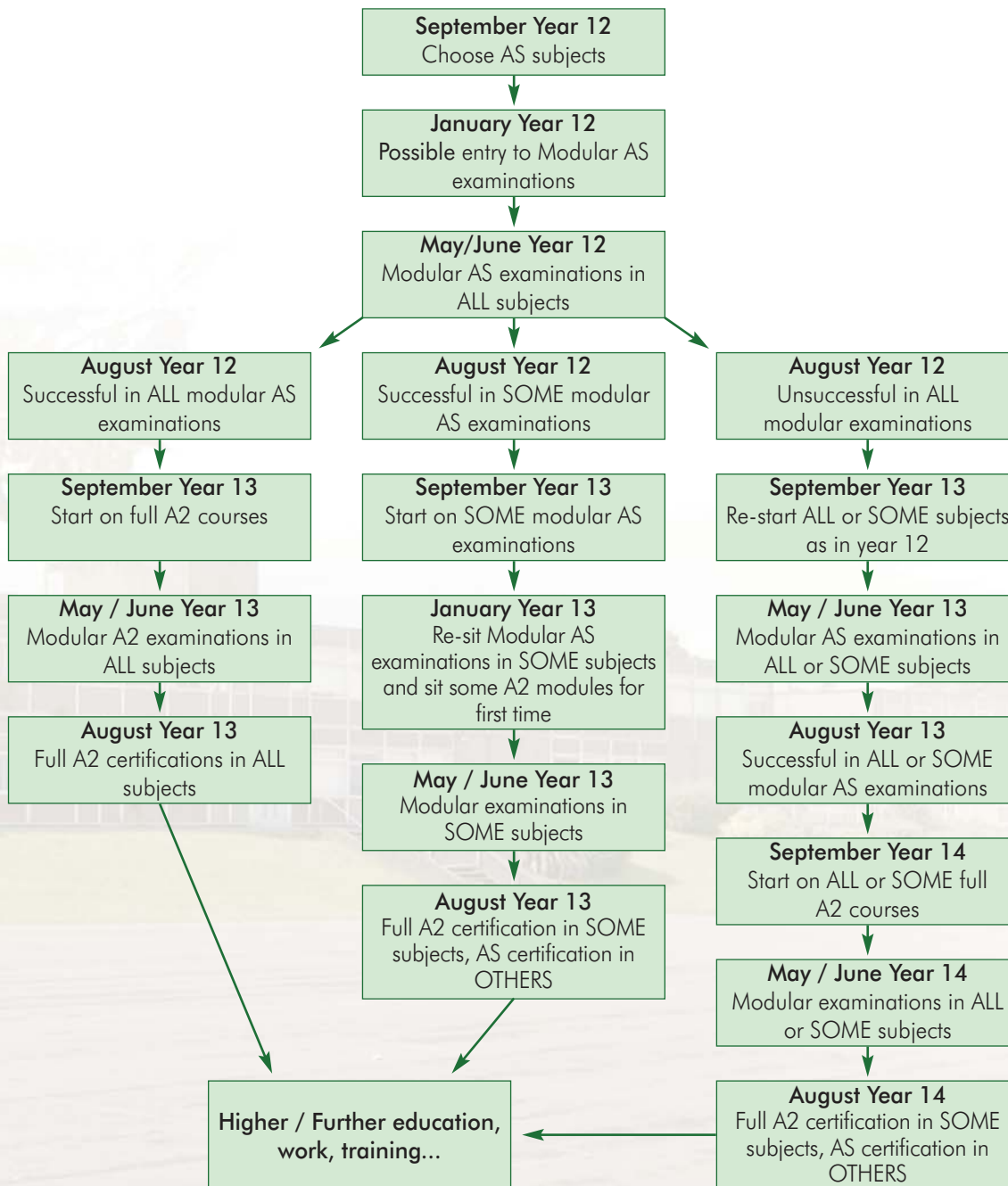
Modern Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship

One-day-a-week college course (National Traineeship)

*NOTE: Those under 18 may not claim unemployment benefit

Progression Routes (this is NOT an exhaustive list)





Art and Design AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

1 year AS and 1 year A2.

Course Description:

AS:

One unit of course work based on a portfolio of research work. This unit will contribute 60% of the final marks. Terminal exam with a choice of questions and sufficient time to research and prepare. The exam question will contribute 40% of the final marks.

A level:

One unit of course work based on a portfolio of research work. This unit will contribute 60% of the final marks. Terminal exam with a choice of questions and sufficient time to research and prepare. The exam question will contribute 40% of the final marks.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary)

Grades A* – E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

If possible, try and combine your investigations with topics and themes used in other AS subjects. This will allow you to utilize your expertise and make efficient use of your precious time.

What ever the subject of your investigations, there are a few rules you would be wise to follow. Collect as much information, ideas and resources as you can on your subject matter.

It is important that you keep a record of all your investigations, and useful, therefore, to keep a sketch book/visual diary, and a file for written work. You will be awarded for detailed investigation work.

Spend time at the beginning of each week looking through newspapers, and the 'TV guide', for exhibitions and programmes which might be useful to you and your fellow students in the group. Record this information in your sketch book as research.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

AS AR1 course work 60% and AR2 final exam 40%.

A2 AR3 course work 60% and AR4 final exam 40%.

Progression/Career Opportunities:

A tradition of pupils progressing to Foundation course and from there to degree.

Art Textiles AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

1 year AS and 1 year A2.

Course Description:

AS:

One unit of course work based on a portfolio of research work. This unit will contribute 60% of the final marks. Terminal exam with a choice of questions and sufficient time to research and prepare. The exam question will contribute 40% of the final marks.

A level:

One unit of course work based on a portfolio of research work. This unit will contribute 60% of the final marks. Terminal exam with a choice of questions and sufficient time to research and prepare. The exam question will contribute 40% of the final marks.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary)

Grades A* – E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

If possible, try and combine your investigations with topics and themes used in other AS subjects. This will allow you to utilize your expertise and make efficient use of your precious time.

What ever the subject of your investigations, there are a few rules you would be wise to follow. Collect as much information, ideas and resources as you can on your subject matter.

It is important that you keep a record of all your investigations, and useful, therefore, to keep a sketch book/visual diary, and a file for written work. You will be awarded for detailed investigation work.

Spend time at the beginning of each week looking through newspapers, and the 'TV guide', for exhibitions and programmes which might be useful to you and your fellow students in the group. Record this information in your sketch book as research.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

AS AR1 course work 60% and AR2 final exam 40%.

A2 AR3 course work 60% and AR4 final exam 40%.

Progression/Career Opportunities:

A tradition of pupils progressing to Foundation course and from there to degree.



Biology AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

AS: 1 year • A2: 2 years

Course Description:

Biology covers a wide range of topics including the core principles of Biology, genes and genetic engineering and the effects of the environment. You will learn to differentiate and assimilate detailed information and to draw logical conclusions from scientific evidence. Read on to find out more about our courses

Accreditation:

AS: A-E • A2: A*-E

Examination board:

WJEC

Course Content:

AS Content

Unit BY1: Basic Biochemistry and Cell structure

This unit incorporates the biochemistry and structure which is fundamental to the functioning of living organisms: structure and function of biological compounds and enzymes; basic cell structure and organisation; cell division; cell membranes; membrane transport.

Unit HB2: Biodiversity and Physiology of Body Systems

This unit includes the study of the relationship between organisms through their evolutionary history, energy uptake and nutrients, gas exchange, transport system, and the defence mechanisms of the human body.

Unit BY3: Practical work

Comprises a written report of a school set investigation and an exercise on observation using a microscope.

A2 Content

Unit BY4: Metabolism, Microbiology and Homeostasis

This unit involves the study of energy supply in living organisms along with microbiology and populations; homeostasis and nervous system plus a brief overview of some adaptations and non-mammalian systems.

Unit BY5: Environment, Genetics and Evolution

This unit involves the study of variation and evolution plus genetics and applications; ecosystems and energy flow along with human effects on the environment.

Unit BY6: Practical work

Comprises a written report of a school set investigation and an exercise on observation using a microscope.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

AS

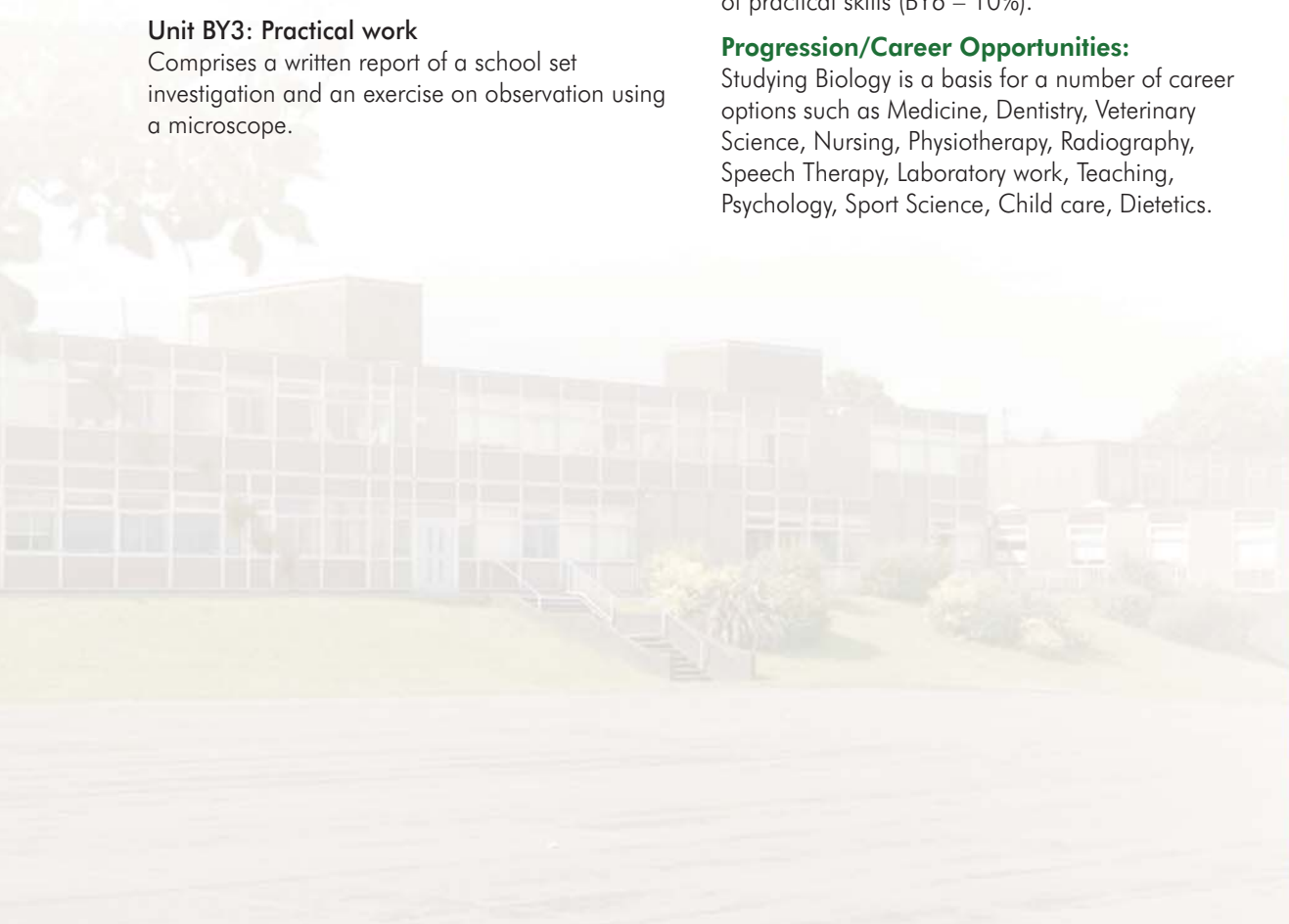
Two written papers BY1 (40%) and HB2 (40%), each of 1 hour 30 minutes duration. Practical work BY3 (20%) comprising a written report of a school set investigation and a microscope exercise which is externally marked.

A2

For the full A2 qualification, the AS modules contribute to the final grade (BY1 – 20%, HB2 – 20%, BY3 – 10%). There are two additional modules that are assessed through examination (BY4 – 20%, BY5 – 20%) and a further assessment of practical skills (BY6 – 10%).

Progression/Career Opportunities:

Studying Biology is a basis for a number of career options such as Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Radiography, Speech Therapy, Laboratory work, Teaching, Psychology, Sport Science, Child care, Dietetics.





BTEC Extended First Certificate Business (Level 2)

Length of Course:

1 year

Course Description:

BTEC Firsts are Level 2 qualifications designed to provide specialist work-related qualifications in a range of sectors. They give learners the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to prepare for employment or further study.

The BTEC Extended first certificate will give learners an understanding of business organisations as well as practical skills required in workplace settings and in setting up a business.

The qualification is equivalent to 2 GCSEs grades A*-C

Accreditation:

BTEC Extended First Certificate in Business

Examination Board:

Edexcel

Course Content:

All students will be required to study:

- Unit 1: Business Purpose
- Unit 2: Business Organisations
- Unit 11: Customer Relations in Business
- Unit 17: Starting a Small Business

Method of Assessment/Examination:

Assessment will be through the medium of assignments and practical assessment.

Assignment portfolios will be graded:

Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Progression/Career Opportunities:

On successful completion of a BTEC First qualification, learners can progress to or within employment and/or continue their study in the same or related vocational area.

BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Hospitality and Catering Principles

Length of Course:

2 years.

Course Description:

The course gives learners the opportunity to:

- engage in learning which is relevant to them and will provide opportunities to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life
- gain the knowledge and understanding needed to progress in their chosen industry
- achieve a nationally recognised Level 3 vocationally related qualification
- progress to employment in a particular vocational sector
- progress to related general and/or vocational qualifications
- develop functional skills

Accreditation:

The overall grading is a pass, based upon the successful completion of the minimum credit as determined by the rules of combination.

Examination Board:

Edexcel

Course Content:

The course consists of 8 mandatory units:

- Unit 1 – Development of Working Relationships in Hospitality
- Unit 2 – Health, Safety and Security in the Hospitality Working Environment
- Unit 3 – Preparation, Cooking and Finishing of Hot Sauces
- Unit 4 – Preparation, Cooking and Finishing of Dressings and Cold Sauces
- Unit 5 – Preparation, Cooking and Finishing of Fish Dishes
- Unit 6 – Preparation, Cooking and Finishing of Meat Dishes
- Unit 7 – Preparation, Cooking and Finishing of Poultry Dishes
- Unit 8 – Preparation, Cooking and Finishing of Vegetable Dishes

Method of Assessment/Examination:

The assessment is criterion referenced, based on the achievement of specified assessment criteria. All units are assessed by means of externally set and marked multiple choice tests which will be administered by the centre.

Progression/Career Opportunities:

At the end of the course there are many options available to candidates i.e. move on to higher education or enter employment and/or training.



BTEC National Level 3 in Sport (Development, Coaching and Fitness)

Length of Course:

Two years

Course Description:

There is a wide range of units, which gives the opportunity to cater for the students needs. Students must produce a substantial file on every unit of work. There are a variety of ways that the students can display their knowledge including written reports, oral presentations in the classroom, power point presentations, posters and information leaflets and practical work on video. Students work as a team as individuals and in pairs. Students are given extended opportunities within the world of sport that take them out of the classroom. Contacts are made with the Sport, Leisure and Health industries.

Accreditation:

Pass, Merit or Distinction (A*-E A Level Equivalent)

Examination Board:

Edexcel

Course Content:

12 Units have to be completed over the 2 Year period. This is an example of how the units are shared into 3 main areas.

Practical Experience.

Students must offer at least 2 activities to a high standard. Two team activities & 2 individual activities where skills, rules and regulations are studied. The role of Officials in sport. Sports leaders. Fitness testing. Training and Fitness for sport.

Sport Industry links & experiences:-

Health & Safety in Sport. Sports Development. Sports in Society. Sports Leadership. Sports Coaching.

Experiences in the Community:-

Exercise, Health & Lifestyles. Nutrition for Health. Working with Children.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

There is no examination.

Students must keep to deadlines for every piece of work. Student's work is continually assessed as they complete the work according to requirements. There is the opportunity to re-draft the work as many times as necessary before the final draft. Verbal and written feedback is given on every piece of work with specific targets on how to improve and succeed.

Progression/Career Opportunities:

The course gives a solid foundation for the study of different aspects of Physical Education in a range of further and higher education colleges, from the vocational through to the degree courses in Sport Science. It can also lead to employment within the industries of Health and Fitness, Nutrition and Leisure.



BTEC Performing Arts

Course length:

Two years.

Course Description:

This course gives students the opportunity to develop their interest and their skills in all aspects of the performing arts. It is a very hands-on course which concentrates on the practical elements of the performing industry. By providing a very broad spectrum of opportunities and experiences, learners will gain a very clear insight into the way the performing arts world works in practice. The course will concentrate on developing both individual and group performing skills and techniques.

Entry Requirements:

Interest and enthusiasm!

Qualification:

BTEC Level 3, which is equivalent to one A Level, grade A-E.

Examination Board:

Edexcel in partnership with WJEC.

Course Content:

Over the two years students will study six units which will include: acting techniques, performing before an audience, musical theatre, the voice, dance, directing techniques, the arts industry and technology in the theatre.

During the course students will have the opportunity to take part in workshops, visit the theatre and local performing arts colleges.

Assessment/Examination:

This course does not involve a final written examination but does include written and practical assessment regularly throughout the course. Each unit is assessed continuously and independently. Students keep journals and records for each unit and are assessed during and after successfully completing the units. These assessment range from teacher led internal assessments to externally assessed elements.

There are three levels of achievement:

Pass, Merit, Distinction.

Future Pathways:

- The Performing Industry.
- Media.
- Arts Administration.
- Public Relations.
- Education e.g. teaching.
- A degree in Performing Arts, Drama, Dance, Music Performance.

Business Studies AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

2 years

Course Description:

This course provides information and understanding about the world of business, it examines the objectives of business institutions and how they achieve those objectives. The aim is to get students to think of business in a critical way, to develop evaluation and analytical skills in an integrated way. They will have the opportunity to examine the aims and objectives of businesses with respect to the economy, the European Community, the workforce and society. They will study marketing, and its importance, deal with planning and analysing business accounts, see why people and businesses work in different ways to produce in the local, national and international context. Because of the nature of the course, it is not necessary for students to have followed the GCSE course in order to gain entry to the Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced courses.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary)
Grades A* – E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

Advanced Subsidiary:

The Business Framework and Business Functions.

Advanced:

Business Decision-Making and Business Strategy and Practice.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

Advanced Subsidiary:

Two papers at the end of the first year which contribute towards the AS qualification.

BS1 The Business Framework

(short answer questions) 40% (20%) 1 ¼ hour

BS2 Business Functions

(data response and short answer questions)
60% (30%) 1 ¾ hours

Advanced:

Two papers at the end of the second year which contribute to the A2 qualification.

BS3 Business Decision Making

(case study) 25% 2 hours

BS4 Business Strategy and Practice

(short answer and problem solving + essay)
25% 2 hours

Progression/Career Opportunities:

The Business Studies course prepares students for a wide range of courses and careers – even establishing their own business. Previous students have gone on to study Business at universities all over the country, including Oxford. Others have chosen to study subjects such as Law, Computing and Accountancy whilst others have found Business Studies to be an essential background in careers such as Art and Graphics.

CACHE Level 2

Length of Course:

1 or 2 years depending on the timetable.

Course Description:

This qualification prepares you for working, under supervision, with children and their families in various placements and situations within the Children's Services sector. The qualification is divided into three stages: Award, Certificate and Diploma with the Award and Certificate leading to the Level 2 Diploma.

Accreditation:

CACHE Level 2 Award/Certificate/Diploma in Child Care and Education.

Examination Board:

CACHE- Awarding Council in Child Care and Education.

Course Content:

The course examines various aspects of Child Care. You will study the following units:

- Introduction to working with children
- Child Development
- Safe and healthy environment for children

- Children and play
- Professional skills and Communication within child care and education
- The child care practitioner in the workplace
- One optional unit

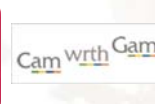
The course also contains an element of work experience in a Child Care and Education establishment.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

The course is delivered and assessed through the medium of Welsh. The assessment contains a multiple choice test, assignments, portfolio and written evidence of practical work carried out in the placement.

Progression/Career Opportunities:

On successful completion of the course you can progress to study higher level courses, i.e. Award/Certificate/Diploma CACHE Level 3 in Child Care and Education, or to work, under supervision, in a Child Care and Education establishment - e.g. Nursery Assistant in a school, Day Nursery or Cylch Meithrin.



CACHE Level 3



Length of Course:

2 years

Course Description:

This qualification prepares you for working with children and their families

in a variety of locations and circumstances within the Children's Services sector. The qualification is divided into three stages: Award, Certificate and Diploma. The Award and Certificate lead to the Diploma.

Accreditation:

CACHE Level 3 Award/Certificate/Diploma in Child Care and Education.

Examination Board:

CACHE- The awarding body in Child Care and Education.

Course Content

The course looks at different aspects of Child Care. You will study the following units:

- Introduction to working with children
- Development from birth to 16 years old
- Supporting children
- Keeping children safe
- The main principles of the practitioner working with children

- Promoting a safe environment for children
- Play and learning in the education of children
- Caring for children
- Developing professional skills within child education
- 3 optional units

Methods of Assessment/Examination:

The course is delivered and assessed through the medium of Welsh. Assessment comprises of assignments, a portfolio of work, short answer tests based on a case study, investigative task and evidence of practical work in the placement.

Progression/Career opportunities:

This qualification enables you to work in a wide variety of jobs in the field of child care and education. This includes primary schools, family centres, toddler groups, day nurseries and many others.

Once qualified you can progress to study higher education courses, for instance nursing or teaching. These courses will be conditional on individual university or further education college entrance policies.

Chemistry AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

Gain an advanced subsidiary qualification at the end of year 12 and an Advanced GCE at the end of year 13.

Course Description:

The course is designed to encourage students to:

- Develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for the subject.
- Appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how Chemistry contributes to the success of the economy and society.
- Develop a deeper appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of How Science Works.
- Develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary)
Grades A* – E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

The AS course consists of three modules.

- CH1 – Controlling and Measuring Chemical Change.
- CH2 – Properties, Structure and Bonding.
- CH3 – AS Practical Chemistry.

The A2 course consists of the three modules noted above plus three additional modules:

- CH4 – Analysing and Building Molecules.
- CH5 – Physical and Inorganic Chemistry.
- CH6 – A2 Practical Chemistry.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

The course is delivered through the medium of Welsh. During the AS course there are two written examinations (CH1 – 40%, CH2 – 40%). The CH3 module consists of internally assessed practical tasks, and contributes 20% to the overall mark.

For the full A2 qualification, the AS modules contribute to the final grade (CH1 – 20%, CH2 – 20%, CH3 – 10%). There are two additional modules that are assessed through examination (CH4 – 20%, CH5 – 20%) and a further assessment of practical skills (CH6 – 10%).

Progression/Career Opportunities:

The minimum requirement for access to these courses is at least a 'C' grade in GCSE Core and Additional Science.

A good grade in Chemistry Advanced Subsidiary opens a number of doors, and a good grade in the full A level is essential for some university courses such as Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science.



Computing AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

1 Year (AS)

1 Year (A2)

Course Description:

The course includes theory (65%) and coursework (35%). The theory is challenging, concentrated, and is worth twice as much as the coursework when assessed. Both aspects, theory and coursework, require rational and logical thinking, a sound working knowledge of mathematics and an interest in things technical. Also, the coursework requires creativity, perseverance and the willingness to work independently and meet strict deadlines. Learning how to write and understand computer programs is an essential part of the course, as there is a need to produce a substantial amount of code in the project work. Although there is little connection between the GCSE and the Advanced courses, you will be expected to achieve at least a grade B in the GCSE ICT Short Course and, it is advisable that candidates have attained a grade B in GCSE Mathematics, before considering the Advanced course.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary)

Grades A* – E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

Advanced Subsidiary

Theory:

CG1:

Software, System Development, Data and Applications

CG2 (Coursework):

Designing a software system solution to a given problem, involving analyzing, designing, developing software, documentation, system testing and evaluation.

A2

CG3:

Software, System Development, Data and Applications (extended)

CG4 (Coursework):

Designing a software system solution to a problem of the student's choosing, involving analyzing, designing, developing software, documenting testing and evaluating the system.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

Advanced Subsidiary

Theory:

CG1 (3hr Examination):

Software, System Development, Data and Applications

CG2 (Assessed Coursework):

A waypoint assessment system, whereby sections of the coursework is submitted frequently ("Mini Deadlines"). Final submission is in March, following which, coursework is marked in-house and externally moderated.

A2

CG3 (3hr Examination):

Software, System Development, Data and Applications (extended)

CG4 (Assessed Coursework):

A waypoint assessment system, whereby sections of the coursework is +submitted frequently ("Mini Deadlines"). Final submission is in March, following which, coursework is marked in-house and externally moderated.

Progression/Career Opportunities:

Clearly, success in the AS leads to progression to the A2 course. This course provides a solid base for progression to a computing based career, either in a workplace (e.g. apprenticeship with a technical company), or within higher education. Alumni of the course have gone on to study software engineering and artificial intelligence degrees, and now work for some major software houses.



Design and Technology: Product Design AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

Two years

Course Description:

The Design and Technology course offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for candidates to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems in a wide range of contexts relating to their personal interests. Design and Technology develops candidates' interdisciplinary skills and their capacity for imaginative, innovative thinking, creativity and independence. The specification builds upon the knowledge, understanding and skills established by the National Curriculum and GCSE, whilst at the same time, accommodating the needs of candidates who have not studied Design and Technology at GCSE level. Naturally, the course offers a logical progression for those candidates who have studied Graphical Products, Resistant Materials Technology or Textiles Technology to GCSE level.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary)

Grades A* – E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

The specification content is presented under the two assessment objectives of designing (AO1) and making (AO2) as follows:

(AS) Designing and innovation:

Developing candidates' ability to design and enhance their basic design skills in order to solve problems.

(AS) Product analysis:

Understanding the requirements a product must satisfy.

(AS) Materials and components:

Developing a general appreciation of the wide range of materials and components available to designers and manufacturers.

(AS) Industrial and commercial practice:

This section is about understanding various methods of production and being able to apply appropriate commercial practices in practical projects.

(A2) Human responsibility:

This section is about acquiring the knowledge and understanding needed to support design activities through an increased awareness of the designer's social, moral, ethical and legal responsibilities.

(A2) Public interaction:

A product's design and its place in the market, for example, how a design idea may be transformed into a marketable product.

(A2) Processes:

Developing a detailed knowledge and understanding of a broad range of processes leading to the acquisition of associated skills through practical activity.

(A2) Production systems and control:

Applying knowledge of production systems and control techniques to provide valid, reliable data and information in order to manufacture quality products.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

- AS DT1 20% Product Design Examination Paper (2 hours)
- AS DT2 30% Design and Make Task (approximately 60 hours)
- A2 DT3 20% Written Paper (2½ hours)
- A2 DT4 30% Major Project (approximately 60 hours)

Progression/Career Opportunities:

The AS/A2 specifications will be of interest to a wide range of students including those who intend to follow a career or further course of study in Design and Technology or a related field. Those who have other interests or aspirations will benefit from the many transferable skills achieved by following the course.



Drama and Theatre Studies AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

Two years

Course Description:

During the one/two-year course, students will be given the opportunity to:

1. Deconstruct and practically explore a variety of plays written by Welsh, Greek, Elizabethan, American and European playwrights in preparation for their practical and written exams.
2. Develop an understanding and working knowledge of the nature of drama and the related technical elements involved in theatre.
3. Stimulate critical thought and appreciation of drama and theatre, considering how social, cultural and historical backgrounds influence playwrights.
4. Further develop and adopt the skills necessary for improvising and contributing to devised work.
5. Gain a working knowledge of theatre practitioners such as Stanislavski, Artaud, Brecht, Boal and Berkoff.
6. Appreciate pieces of live theatre- providing opportunities to visit theatres around Cardiff and London.
7. Develop an understanding of the importance of roles such as director, designer and actor in the theatre.
8. Undertake extensive research into drama and theatre over the centuries.
9. Foster and develop key skills and social skills.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary) Grades A* – E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

Advanced Subsidiary (Year 12)

DA1 – Practical Examination (20%) –

Two performances:

1) A scene from a set text, and 2) A devised scene in response to the set text. Both performances must reflect understanding and response to the ideas of two practitioners, such as Stanislavski, Artaud, Brecht, Boal and Berkoff.

DA2 – Written Examination 2 hours (30%) –

Response to questions on the following

i) Pre-1900 text, ii) Post-1900 text, and iii) Theatre Review.

Advanced Level (Year 13)

DA3 – Practical Examination (30%) –

Two Performances in response to a set theme:

1) A scene from a set text, and 2) A devised scene.

Students will be expected to evaluate elements of this unit under examination conditions within 24 hours of the performance. Both performances must reflect understanding and response to the ideas of two practitioners, such as Stanislavski, Artaud, Brecht, Boal and Berkoff.

DA4 – Written Examination 2½ hours (20%) –

Response to questions on the following

i) Pre-1900 text, ii) Post-1900 text, and iii) Directorial Analysis.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

DA1 Practical Examination 20%

Internally Assessed/Externally Moderated

DA2 Written Examination 30%

Externally Assessed

DA3 Practical Examination 30%

Externally Assessed

DA4 Written Examination 20%

Externally Assessed

50% Practical Examination

50% Written Examination

Progression/Career Opportunities:

As a result of following this course, you could increase your chances of employment as it helps develop social and key skills. A good AS/Advanced grade will certainly prepare students who wish to pursue a higher education course in this field, work within the performing arts/Media industry or education.



English Literature AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

2 years

Course Description:

English Literature has always been a popular choice at Llanhari, enjoying excellent AS and A level results. It is nevertheless a vigorous course, demanding a high level of commitment and independent, wider reading from pupils. Both the AS and A level courses have been completely revised so that they provide far more exciting opportunities for candidates to read widely, write creatively and explore their individual responses to a range of texts, both modern and classical. Candidates will have ample opportunities to compare and contrast core and partner texts, practice their analytical skills and to develop their knowledge of both English, Anglo-Welsh and American literature, thus developing 'the insight of an artist, the analytical precision of a scientist and the persuasiveness of a lawyer.'

Four subject specialists will teach the course, Mrs C. Lewis, Miss S. Jones and Mrs E. Goodridge.

AS:

LT1: Poetry post 1900 Drama post 1990

LT2: Prose Study pre 1900

Creative Response to Reading. (Internal assessment)

A:

LT3: Period and Genre Study, classical and modern texts. (Internal assessment)

LT4: Poetry pre 1800 (Synoptic)

Drama pre 1800 (Shakespeare)

Accreditation:

AS: First year. Grades A-E

A2: Second year. Grades A* - E

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

The course involves an introduction to the study of Classical and Modern English, Anglo Welsh and American Literature.

- **Modern poets studied:**
Seamus Heaney and Owen Sheers
- **Modern drama:**
Brian Friel: Dancing at Lughnasa
- **Classical poets:**
John Donne and a selection of other classical and 'Metaphysical' poets
- **Classical drama:**
Shakespeare: King Lear and Sophocles: Oedipus Rex (Greek Tragedy)

Method of Assessment/Examination:

LT1: External examination: 2 ½ hours; open text.

LT2: Internal assessment: three pieces of work totalling approximately 3,000 words.

LT3: Internal assessment: a folder of approximately 3,000 words.

LT4: External examination: 2 ½ hours; closed text.

Progression/Career Opportunities:

English is a flexible and adaptable subject that opens up a wide range of career choices. Graduates in English possess skills in written and spoken communication, working independently and thinking critically, which are highly valued by employers.





Film Studies AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

2 years

Tues & Thurs. 4.30-6.30pm (Yr 1)

Mon & Wed 4.30-6.30pm (Yr 2)

Course Description:

Ever watched a film and wondered why that piece of music was used or why the script used that specific type of language? Once you have done this course you will never watch a film in the same way again. Our staff are experts in this field and one even worked on Doctor Who. Come and study this course and you will.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary)

Grades A – E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

Year 1 (AS):

Explore mainstream Hollywood cinema with films taken from different genres, analyse audience response to films and study films from the British & American Film Industry

- Unit 1 – Explaining Film Form
- Unit 2 – British & American Film

Year 2 (A2):

You will develop skills from AS level to explore the world cinema industry and the impact of film in social contexts.

- Unit 3 – Film Research & Creative Projects
- Unit 4 – Varieties of film Experience

Method of Assessment/Examination:

You will sit 2 exams – 1*2.5 hours in year 1 and 1*2.75 hours in year 2. You will also produce 2 pieces of coursework; one in year 1 and the other in year 2

Entry Requirements:

4 GCSEs at grade C or above, including English Language or equivalent qualification which will be discussed at interview and also a genuine interest in film. Parental permission must be granted to permit access to this course as some of the material viewed in this subject is rated 18+ and considered more adult in nature.

Progression/Career Opportunities:

- Entry to Higher Education at Bridgend College or University
- Employment/Apprenticeship in the Media Industry
- 140 maximum UCAS points attached to this course

Fine Art Animation AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

1 year AS and 1 year A2.

Course Description:

As. One unit of course work based on a portfolio of research work. This unit will contribute 60% of the final marks. Terminal exam with a choice of questions and sufficient time to research and prepare. The exam question will contribute 40% of the final marks.

A level. One unit of course work based on a portfolio of research work. This unit will contribute 60% of the final marks. Terminal exam with a choice of questions and sufficient time to research and prepare. The exam question will contribute 40% of the final marks.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary)

Grades A* – E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

If possible, try and combine your investigations with topics and themes used in other AS subjects. This will allow you to utilize your expertise and make efficient use of your precious time.

Whatever the subject of your investigations, there are a few rules you would be wise to follow. Collect as much information, ideas and resources as you can on your subject matter.

It is important that you keep a record of all your investigations, and useful, therefore, to keep a sketch book/visual diary, and a file for written work. You will be awarded for detailed investigation work.

Spend time at the beginning of each week looking through newspapers, and the 'TV guide', for exhibitions and programmes which might be useful to you and your fellow students in the group. Record this information in your sketch book as research.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

AS. AR1 and AR2 course work 60% and AR3 final exam 40%.

A2. AR4 and AR5 course work 60% and AR6 final exam 40%.

Progression/Career Opportunities:

A tradition of pupils progressing to Foundation course and from there to degree.



French AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

AS: 1 year A2: 2 years

Course Description:

The course is based on TOPICS. ORAL work constitutes 20% of the course. An external examiner assesses candidates. In the Listening, Reading and writing examination. Students have control over the CDs, i.e. they can listen as many times as they wish within a time limit. This paper accounts for 30% of the course.

Skills developed during Key Stage 4 are built on.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary)

Grades A* – E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

AS: Themes studied are –

Leisure and Lifestyles, The Individual in Society

A2: Themes studied are -

Environmental Issues, Social and Political Issues

Two items from the Guided Studies Option are also studied.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

Candidates may sit the two AS components in June of the first year of the course, (FN1 and FN2). Unit FN2 may be resat the following January. (The best result is carried forward). No dictionaries are allowed in external examinations. The weighting of 50% for AS and 50% for Advanced is represented in the table below where the total marks for AS and A2 are 158 each. The marks given for each assessment objective (AO) also reflect the appropriate weighting of each of the three assessment objectives.

AS

FN1: Oral – 12 – 15 mins

AO1: 16.7(33.3) • AO2: - • Ao3: 3.3 (6.6)
(40% of AS, 20% of A2)

FN2: Reading, Listening and responding – 2.5 hrs

AO1: 2.4 (4.9) • AO2: 18.4 (36.7) • AO3: 9.2 (18.4)
(60% of AS, 30% of A2)

Candidates may sit these two components in May/June of the first year. Alternatively, some or all of these components can be sat in May/June of the second year.

A2

FN3: Oral – 15 – 20 minutes

AO1: 10 • AO2: 6.7 • AO3: 3.3
(20%)

FN4: Listening, Reading and Responding (3 hrs)

AO1: 4.9 • AO2: 15.9 • AO3: 9.2
(30%)

Students are expected to take part in a weekly one hour session with the Foreign Language "Assistant".

Progression/Career Opportunities:

Speaking another language can open up a host of opportunities for young people. You might want to work or study abroad, or simply take an extended holiday or gap year. Remember, all foreign travel is much more rewarding (and much less stressful!) if you can communicate with the local people. You'll find out more about the way they work, their cuisine and their social lives - and you'll be able to gain an insight into the country that is much deeper than that of a tourist! French compliments many subjects because of the numerous opportunities that arise to use languages in any chosen career. There are so many options available to you. Here are a few: media, market research, personal assistant, recruiting agency, interpreter, translator, languages teacher, The Foreign Office, travel and tourism industry, engineering, marketing, technology, voluntary and charitable work. Recently, some Universities have stated that a foreign language least GCSE level would be required by applicants.





Geography AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

2 years

Course Description:

Geography is interesting and relevant to your lives - it is the study of the world around us, in Wales, Europe and Globally. You will be taken on a voyage to study environmental and social issues in a variety of places including - Paris, India, Amazonia and the Sahel. A wide range of themes will be studied, as noted below in the course content, and a great emphasis is placed on the pupils developing their key skills by giving many opportunities to develop their skills, solving problems and to work independently. An emphasis is placed on the pupils developing a mature understanding of contemporary issues, with the aim of developing them into responsible citizens who appreciate the need for sustainable development and an awareness of the viewpoints of other people.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary)

Grades A – E (A Level)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

AS

G1 – Changing Physical Environments

G2 – Changing Human Environments

A Level

G3 – Contemporary Themes and
Research in Geography

G4 – Sustainability

Method of Assessment/Examination:

AS

G1 – 1 hour 30 minutes Written Paper (25%)

Three structured questions with stimulus materials, one of which tests research/fieldwork

G2 – 1 hour 30 minutes Written Paper (25%)

Three structured questions with stimulus materials, one of which tests research/fieldwork

A Level (the above plus a further 2 units)

G3 – 2 hours 15 minutes Written Paper (30%)

Section A – Two essays (one human and one physical) on Contemporary Themes.

Section B – Candidates design and carry out a research enquiry based on a chosen theme.

G4 – 1 hour 45 minutes Written Paper (20%)

Decision Making Exercise.

Progression/Career Opportunities:

One of the advantages of Geography is that it is a very useful subject for further study in a range of courses in further and higher education and a variety of careers. As a subject it bridges the arts and the sciences and contains a breadth of skills and experiences valued by colleges and employers throughout the country. In the past, our students went onto a variety of fields including Law, Geology, Medicine, Town and Country Planning, Psychology, Business, Computing, Education, Engineering, Journalism and Media, and Leisure and Tourism.

Government and Politics AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

Two years

Course Description:

The Advanced Subsidiary Government and Politics specification allows you to develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the political system of the UK, through the study of two compulsory units. The first focuses on participation and voting behaviour, electoral systems, political parties and pressure groups/protest movements and the second on the process of government, looking at parliamentary structures, core executives and multi-level governance in both Wales and the UK as a whole. The course on the second year focuses upon the Government and Politics of the USA. This course will enable you to develop a wide range of skills including the ability to comprehend, synthesise and interpret political information; analyse and evaluate political knowledge; identify connections, similarities and differences between the areas studied select relevant material and construct and communicate arguments clearly and coherently using appropriate political vocabulary. The course also offers a range of opportunities to acquire naturally occurring evidence for your Key Skills Portfolio. This course is perfect for students with the ability to debate.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary)

Grades A* - E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

Advanced Subsidiary

GP 1 - People, Politics and Participation – this will focus on voting behaviour, the electoral system, political parties and pressure groups

GP2 – Governing Modern Wales – this will focus on the British Constitution, the core executives in Wales and Westminster and the European Union.

Advanced Level

GP3 – The Politics of the USA – this will focus on the electoral process, voting behaviour and pressure groups.

GP4 – The Government of the USA – this will focus on the constitutional framework, US congress and the Supreme Court.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

During this AS course you are expected to sit two examinations

GP1-(June 2011) People, Politics and Participation.

This will be an hour and a half examination.

Candidates will be expected to answer two structured source-based questions from a choice of four.

GP2 – (June 2011) Governing Modern Wales.

This will be an hour and a half examination.

Candidates will be expected to answer two structured source-based questions from a choice of four.

GP3 – The Politics of the USA – (June 2012).

This will be an hour and a half examination.

Candidates will be expected to answer two questions from a choice of four.

GP4 – The Government of the USA – (June 2012).

This will be an hour and a half examination.

Candidates will be expected to answer two questions from a choice of four.

Progression/Career Opportunities:

Which ever field or pathway you choose to take, Politics offers a range of transferable skills that are appreciated by colleges, universities and employers.





Health and Social Care AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

Double award (2 AS grades) – 1 year
Double award (2 A level grades) - 2 years

Course Description:

The Health and Social Care courses allows students to develop knowledge, skills and an understanding of the underlying principles of work in the field of Health and Social Care. These include an understanding of human development, an awareness of the importance of confidentiality, an awareness of how to promote and guard the rights of individuals and the ability to support individuals through effective communication. Since the courses concentrate on people and their social situations, they are closely related to sociology, biology and psychology.

In the school we attach importance to delivering the course in a practical and varied way that comprises:

- periods of work experience
- a substantial number of visits
- working with younger pupils in the school

Accreditation:

Double award (AS and A2) - Grades A*A* - EE

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

AS (double award) - units 1, 2, 3 or 4, 5 or 6
A2 (double award) - units 7, 8, 9 or 10, 11 or 12

AS

Unit 1: Promoting Quality Care and Communication Examination

Unit 2: Promoting Good Health Portfolio

Unit 3: Child Development Portfolio

Unit 4: Creative Activities in a Range of Care Settings Portfolio

Unit 5: Individuals with Disabilities Examination

Unit 6: Understanding Illnesses, Diseases & Disorders Examination

A2

Unit 7: Provision of Health, Social Care and Children's Services Controlled Assignment

Unit 8: Understanding Human Behaviour Examination

Unit 9: Working in Health and Social Care Portfolio

Unit 10: Care of Older Individuals Portfolio

Unit 11: Complementary Therapies Portfolio

Unit 12: The Influences of Food and Fitness on Health and Well-being Portfolio

Method of Assessment/Examination:

The course is studied in units and each unit is assessed either by a written examination or by submitting a portfolio of work. A grade (on the basis of advanced level grades) is awarded for each unit and these grades are used to determine the final grade.

Progression/Career Opportunities:

At the end of the course there are many options available to candidates:

- Move on to higher education - e.g. students have used the course as a foundation for studying for a degree in course such as sociology, nursing, education, speech therapy
- Employment and training – students could work and study towards a more specialised NVQ.



History AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

Two years

Course Description:

This Advanced Subsidiary/ Advanced GCE History specification allows you to acquire and effectively communicate knowledge and understanding of two different periods. The first - a period study on European History c.1878-1980, will provide an opportunity to delve into the huge changes of this period, looking at fascist Italy and the role of Mussolini, the Communist Revolution in Russia and the role of Lenin and Stalin, international relations between the two world wars, the Second World War as well as the changing face of Germany before and after the wars. The second period provides an in-depth study on one of the most exciting periods in British History, with huge political changes such as the formation of a National Government. The government also faced economic ruin, facing a great depression as well as a changing society with technological changes that allowed the use of time-saving appliances within the home and helped the advancement of women within society and the world of work. The lessons will provide an opportunity to understand the methods used by historians to analyse and evaluate, how the past has been interpreted and how judgements are made. The course also offers a range of opportunities to acquire naturally occurring evidence for your Key Skills Portfolio since each of the six skills are an integral part of the course. This course will certainly develop your interest in and enthusiasm for history.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary)
Grades A* – E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

Advanced Subsidiary

History Unit 1:

Period Study - Aspects of the History of Europe, c.1878-1980. Italy, c.1918-1944 and the Communist Revolution in Russia, c.1917-1941 [30%]

History Unit 2:

In-depth Study - Britain, c.1929-1939; the political situation, Britain's economic and social situation and the cultural and technological growth [20%]

Advanced Qualification

History Unit 3:

In-depth Study - Britain 1929-1939 - Coursework; Britain and the Czechoslovakian Crisis, 1938-1939 [20%]

History Unit 4:

Period Study - Aspects of the History of Europe, c.1878-1980; International Relations, c.1918-1945 and Germany, c.1878-1989

In-Depth Study -

Britain c.1929-1939; Britain's Foreign Policy [30%]

Method of Assessment/Examination:

During the first year (AS) you are expected to sit two examinations

Unit 1 - (June 2011)

Aspects of the History of Europe, c.1878-1980.

This will be a one hour and thirty minute examination. Candidates will be expected to answer two two-part structured questions [part (a) and part (b)] from a choice of three.

Unit 2 - (June 2011)

In-depth Study - British History. This will be an hour and a half examination, where candidates will be expected to answer one set of questions, graded in difficulty on historical sources.

In the second year (a full Advanced GCE).

Unit 3 -

Coursework on the In-depth Study - British History

Unit 4 - (June 2012)

In-depth Study/ Period Study. This is a two hour and thirty minute examination. Candidates are required to answer one open-ended essay question and one synoptic open-ended essay based on the Period Study and a further open-ended question based on the In-depth Study.

Progression/Career Opportunities:

Which ever field or pathway you choose to take, History offers a range of transferable skills that are appreciated by collages, universities and employers. Previous students have gone on to study a variety of courses, some specialising in the field of History, but others following degrees in Medicine, Journalism, Accountancy, Economics, Law to name but a few. Many have developed careers in the field of television, civil service and within the police.



Law AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

2 years

Course Description:

This interesting and useful subject is being taught wholly within the school as an AS and A level. By its study you will gain a sound basis for further study as well as develop knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of individuals as citizens including where appropriate, an understanding of moral, spiritual and cultural issues. By its means you will be able to prove evidence and aptitude in most of the key skills.

Overall by studying Law you will hopefully develop and sustain enjoyment of, and interest in, law; develop knowledge and understanding of selected areas of law and the legal system in England and Wales. You should also extend your understanding of legal method and reasoning; develop the techniques of logical thinking, and the skills necessary to analyse and solve problems by applying legal rules. The subject should also expand your ability to communicate legal arguments and conclusions with reference to appropriate legal authority and finally nurture a critical awareness of the changing nature of law in society.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary)

Grades A* – E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

Contents of the Specification - Year 12

Unit One:

Understanding Legal Structures and Processes.

Unit Two:

Understanding Legal Reasoning, Personnel and Methods.

Contents of Specification - Year 13

Unit Three:

Understanding Substantive Law: Freedom, the State and the Individual: Option 2: Criminal Law and Justice.

Unit Four:

Understanding Law in Context: Freedom, the State and the Individual – Option 2: Criminal Law and Justice.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

There is no Coursework element in this subject.

AS

Unit 1: Essay paper (25%) 1½ hours

Unit 2: Stimulus response questions (25%) 1½ hours

A2

Unit 3: Problem questions (20%) 1½ hours

Unit 4: Stimulus response questions (30%) 2½ hours

Progression/Career Opportunities:

Besides individual Law degree courses, many colleges offer courses combining Law with another subject e.g. European Language, Accountancy, Marketing, Banking and other aspects of the business world. Among the careers that could be contemplated are: Solicitor, Barrister, Police, Civil Service, Local Government, Politics, Business, Accountancy, Banking, and Marketing.



Mathematics AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

A2 - 2 years AS - 1 year

Course Description:

It is possible to study Pure Mathematics and Mechanics or Pure Mathematics and Statistics at AS or A2. The course is an introduction to Mathematics as a basis for further studies, however it is complete in itself for those who do not wish to pursue the subject further. During the Pure units pupils will learn the basic skills of Algebra and Calculus. Some units from the GCSE Higher Tier are revisited and are studied at a deeper level. Over a fortnight pupils will receive 5 hours of Pure Mathematics and 3 hours of Mechanics or Statistics

The following units are offered:

- C1, C2, C3, C4 Pure Mathematics
- M1, M2, Mechanics
- S1, S2 Statistics

The Mechanics option should appeal to students who have an interest in Physics, and the Statistics option should appeal to students who intend to study subjects like Business Studies, Biology, Geography or Economics.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary)

Grades A* – E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

Advanced Subsidiary Options

Mathematics C1, C2, M1 OR C1, C2, S1

Advanced Level Options

Mathematics C1, C2, C3, C4, M1, M2 OR C1, C2, C3, C4, S1, S2

C1, C2, C3, C4 Pure Mathematics includes:

Algebra; Co-Ordinate Geometry; Circular Measurement; Trigonometry; The Calculus; Series; Binomial Expansion; Functions; Logarithms; Vectors.

M1, M2 Mechanics includes:

Forces; Friction; Moments; Newton's Laws; Work; Power; Energy; Vectors; Gravity; Motion on a straight line; Projectiles; Motion in a circle; Differential Equations.

S1, S2 Statistics includes

Probability; Discrete and Continuous Distributions including Binomial, Poisson, Uniform and Normal Distributions; Confidence Limits; Hypothesis Testing.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

AS - C1, C2 and M1/S1

A2 - C1, C2 and M1/S1 at the end of Year 12

C3, C4 and M2/S2 at the end of Year 13

Each paper is equal in value and 1½ hours long.

Progression/Career Opportunities:

Mathematics is the basis to a number of different careers, from engineering to medicine, from education to physical and chemical science.





Media Studies AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

Two years

Course Description:

During the one/two-year course, students will be given the opportunity to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of media texts: genre conventions, narrative, representation, and how audiences are targeted and respond to texts in the 21st Century.
2. Investigate the ways in which media organisations create, sustain and expand their markets and their audiences.
3. Research, plan, produce and evaluate original pieces of visual and audio texts.
4. Analyse the ways in which different media organisations represent the world.
5. Examine the development of media institutions, their practices and output.
6. Experiment with media technology to produce high-quality production work.
7. Visit local media institutions such as the BBC, S4C and SONY to expand on students' knowledge of such organisations, through observation and practical exploration of modern technologies.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary) Grades A* – E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

Advanced Subsidiary- Year 12:

MS1 - Written Examination:

Media Representations and Responses - 2½ hour paper (25%)

Students will answer three questions in response to the following 1) Text 2) Representation and 3) Audience Responses.

MS2 - Written Coursework:

Media Production Processes (25%)

Students will undertake their own practical project on a particular media text (print/audio-visual) and will consequently produce three pieces of coursework: pre-production, production and a project report.

Advanced Level- Year 13:

MS3 - Written Coursework:

Media Investigation & Production (25%)

Students will undertake an independent investigative project into a particular media text, focusing on one of the following: genre, narrative or representation. For this unit, students will submit three pieces of linked coursework: one research investigation, one production piece and an evaluation of the project.

MS4- Written Examination:

Media- Text, Industry and Audience - 2½ hour paper (25%)

Students will respond to THREE different media industries studied during the course and will answer one question in Section A and two questions from Section B on the chosen texts. Their responses should reflect critical analysis and thorough understanding of the media text, industry and audience response to the text.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

MS1 - Externally assessed in January/June.

MS2 - Internally assessed and externally moderated in June.

MS3 - Internally assessed and externally moderated in June.

MS4 - Externally assessed in June.

50% - Coursework 50% - Written Examination

Progression/Career Opportunities:

As a result of following this course, you could increase your chances of employment as the course helps develop social and key skills. A good AS/Advanced grade will certainly prepare students who wish to pursue a higher education course in this field or work within the Media industry and education.



Music AS and Advanced

Course length:

Two years

Course Description:

AS: Three musical skills are developed (Performing MU1, Composing MU2, Appraising MU3)

A2: The three musical skills are developed further (Performing MU4, Composing MU5, Appraising MU6)

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary)

Grades A* – E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

AS

Performing (MU 1) 15%:

Solo and/or ensemble performance, assessed by visiting examiner. The performance should last between 8 and 10 minutes. One piece should reflect a chosen area of study.

Composing (MU2) 15%:

Two contrasting pieces of music. Compositions should last between 4 and 8 minutes. One composition demonstrating the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical tradition. One free composition

Appraising (MU3) 15%

One listening examination in 2 parts:

Part 1: 1 hour appraising test based on extracts of music (set works) taken from the two areas of study.

Part 2: 1 hour aural perception (melodic dictation, keys, chords, cadences) based on unprepared musical extracts.

A level

Performing (MU4) 15-20%:

Solo and/or ensemble performance assessed by visiting examiner. Performance should last between 10 and 12 minutes. One piece should reflect the new area of study (Music in the 20th and 21st centuries).

Optional specialism study - one piece reflecting a further area of study.

Composing (MU5) 15-20%:

Two contrasting pieces of music, lasting between 6 and 10 minutes. One composition demonstrating the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition (area of study continued from AS). One composition reflecting the new area of study (Music in the 20th and 21st centuries). Optional specialism study – one free, innovative composition.

Appraising (MU 6) 15-20%:

One written examination in two parts (2 hours). Part 1: 1 hour listening exam based on extracts of unfamiliar 20th/21st century music. Part 2: 1 hour listening/written exam requiring candidates to analyse a set work and place the work within a broader musical perspective. Part 3: Optional specialism study. 1 hour written exam requiring candidates to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of overall musical style and output of one of the set work composers.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

AS

Performing (MU1 – 15-%):

Performance assessed by visiting examiner

Composing (MU2 – 15-%):

Externally marked course work

Appraising (MU3 – 20%):

External Assessment. Part 1: 12%, Part 2: 8%

A2

(the above, plus the following 3 units, - 2 units at 15% and 1 at 20%)

Performing (MU4 – 15-20%):

Performance assessed by visiting examiner.

Optional specialism 5%

Composing (MU5 – 15-20%):

Externally marked course work. Optional specialism 5%.

Appraising (MU6 – 15-20%):

External assessment Part 1: 6%, Part2: 9%,

Optional specialism 5%.

Progression/Career Opportunities:

The Music A level course will enable you to develop skills, knowledge and information as a basis to further study either academically or for personal or social enjoyment.



Music Technology AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY – 1 year;
A LEVEL – 2 years (AS+1).

Course Description:

The course develops compositional and arranging skills using sequencing software and multi-track recorders. We shall be listening to 'popular' music from 1910 until the present day, including pop, rock and jazz, thus developing aural skills as well as gaining a knowledge and understanding of the technical aspects of the music.

Entry requirements:

The ability to manage sequencing software (e.g. 'Cakewalk') to record songs; performing skills (keyboard/guitar) and to possess good aural skills. The ability to read some music is important.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary),
Grades A* – E (A Level).

Examination Board:

Edexcel (www.edexcel.org.uk).

Course Content:

Both courses (AS and the A2) are in two parts: The Portfolio and the Listening Exam. The Portfolio includes three recording tasks, two of which are set by the examination board and the other chosen by the student. Pupils will produce a CD of the three songs and also keep a formal log of the whole process. The Listening Exam includes questions on the musical content of pop/jazz/rock music as well as the technical aspects of the recording process.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

The course contains four modules:

AS

Unit 1 – Portfolio 1 on CD and Log Book
April/May (35%)

Unit 2 – Listening Exam • 1½ hour
May/June (15%)

A2

Unit 3 – Portfolio 2 on CD and Log Book
April/May (30%)

Unit 4 – Listening Exam • 2 hours
May/June (20%)

Progression/Career Opportunities:

- Recording Studio Technician
- CD/Record Producer
- Sound Technician
(the media, theatres, various stadia...)
- The Performing World
- The World of Composing
- Education e.g. teaching

Photography AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

1 year AS and 1 year A2.

Course Description:

AS:

One unit of course work based on a portfolio of research work. This unit will contribute 60% of the final marks. Terminal exam with a choice of questions and sufficient time to research and prepare. The exam question will contribute 40% of the final marks.

A level:

One unit of course work based on a portfolio of research work. This unit will contribute 60% of the final marks. Terminal exam with a choice of questions and sufficient time to research and prepare. The exam question will contribute 40% of the final marks.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary)
Grades A* – E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

If possible, try and combine your investigations with topics and themes used in other AS subjects. This will allow you to utilize your expertise and make efficient use of your precious time.

Whatever the subject of your investigations, there are a few rules you would be wise to follow. Collect as much information, ideas and resources as you can on your subject matter.

It is important that you keep a record of all your investigations, and useful, therefore, to keep a sketch book/visual diary, and a file for written work. You will be awarded for detailed investigation work.

Spend time at the beginning of each week looking through newspapers, and the 'TV guide', for exhibitions and programmes which might be useful to you and your fellow students in the group. Record this information in your sketch book as research.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

AS: AR1 course work 60% and AR2 final exam 40%

A2: AR3 course work 60% and AR4 final exam 40%

Progression/Career Opportunities:

A tradition of pupils progressing to Foundation course and from there to degree.



Physical Education AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

Two years

Course Description:

This course integrates theory and practice enabling the individual to develop and refine their ability in their chosen activity. This is done by extensive research into learning how to improve performance. The individual will develop knowledge, skills and understanding when analysing and applying reason utilising technical vocabulary that characterise Physical Education. Students will maintain and develop their involvement in lifelong physical activity as part of a healthy lifestyle. Contemporary and social factors will be studied to examine what part they play in sport participation. Anatomy and Physiology will also be studied especially the body systems involved in training and fitness. Skill acquisition and Psychology will also be studied to examine their influence on different sports.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary)
Grades A* – E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

PE1 and PE3 Practical Performance.

Students must be able to offer an activity of a particular standard to be able to complete this unit. The content recognises the intrinsic attraction of physical activity to the students. The course is a balance of opportunities for candidates to specialise in their chosen activities as well as performing the roles of officials or coach.

PE2 Active Lifestyles and Physical Education.

Factors and opportunities that influence choices. The effect of participation both technically and psychologically. Nutrition for Performance and Health. How to develop a healthier nation.

PE4 Performance, Provision and Participation in Physical Education.

Refining sporting performance and enhancing health by studying: Biomechanics, Various tests, Training programmes, Health of the nation, Management of stress/anxiety, Motivation.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

- PE1:** - Practical Performance 30%
- Personal Performance Profile 10% (Internal Assessment)
- Coaching or Officiating 10%
- PE2:** - Compulsory structured questions plus one question requiring extended writing 50% (External Examination)
- PE3:** - Practical Performance 17.5% (Internal Assessment)
- Investigative Research 7.5%
- PE4:** - Compulsory structured questions plus one question requiring extended writing. 25% (External Examination)

Progression/Career Opportunities:

The course gives a solid foundation for the study of different aspects of Physical Education in a range of further and higher education colleges, from the vocational through to the degree courses in Sport Science. It can also lead to employment within the industries of Health and Fitness, Nutrition and Leisure.



Physics AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY – 1 year;
A LEVEL – 2 years.

Course Description:

Physics has an integral role to play in the modern industrial and technological age we live in. It forms a foundation for many disciplines such as medicine, dentistry, optics, electronics, computers, industrial research and communications.

It is hoped that the course also encourages wider reading and study of Physics and Science in general and stimulates an interest and awareness of the social, technological, environmental and economic impact of Physics on present day society.

Entry requirements

Physics/Double science – grade 'C' or higher (ideally a grade 'B' or higher).

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary),
Grades A* – E (A Level).

Examination Board:

WJEC (www.wjec.co.uk).

Course Content:

- AS** PH1: Motion, Energy and Charge
PH2: Waves and Particles
PH3: Practical Physics

- A2** PH4: Oscillations and Fields
PH5: Electromagnetism, Nuclei and options*
PH6: Experimental Physics

* There are 5 options available and our intention is to teach Medical Physics - Biological measurement and Medical Imaging.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

AS

- PH1: Written examination • 1½ hours, January (20%)
PH2: Written examination • 1½ hours, June (20%)
PH3: Practical tasks • 1 hour 40 minutes, May (10%)

A2

- PH4: Written examination • 1¼ hours, January (18%)
PH5: Written examination • 1¾ hours, June (22%)
PH6: Experimental task • 1¼ hours before Easter (10%) and Data analysis ¾ hour

Progression/Career Opportunities:

- University degree in Physics, Engineering, ICT, Medicine, Law or the Finance Sector, Education.
- 22% of Physics graduates work in ICT.
- See the Institute of Physics website, www.IOP.org or for other career ideas, www.physics.org/article-careers.asp?contentid=435&pid=404&hsub=1.



Psychology AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

Two years

Course Description:

This course introduces candidates to the theories and methods of Psychology. It offers them the opportunity to look at some of the explanations Psychologists provide in trying to understand humans and their interactions with the world. The course aims to develop both candidates' psychological skills and their psychological knowledge. Candidates study a variety of psychological research studies that represent the range of psychologists' interests and the methods they use.

Entry Requirements

5 GCSE's Grade A-C

A grade C or above in Mathematics, English/Welsh is preferred

Accreditation:

Grades A-E (Advanced Subsidiary) Grades A*-E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

The AS qualification is made up of two written papers that focus on the following:

- PY1: to include the study of approaches to Psychology such as cognitive, behaviourist, biological and psychodynamic with a focus on the relevant theories and therapies.
- PY2: to study the research methodology used by Psychologists in 10 core studies drawn from the main areas of Psychology

The A Level qualification is made up of two written papers that focus on the following:

- PY3: to develop understanding and be able to evaluate research methods, as well as a selection of descriptive and inferential statistics for analysis of data.
- PY4: to describe and evaluate controversies, topics and applications in Psychology including Forensic/Criminal Psychology, Relationships and Abnormal Psychology.

Each of the units looks at how Psychology can be applied in a practical setting,

Method of Assessment/Examination:

The AS Level is examined in two written papers which include PY1 = 1 hour 15minutes, PY2 = 1 hour 45minutes

The A Level is examined in two written papers which include PY3 = 1 hour 30minutes, PY4 = 2hours 30minutes

AS Level:

PY1 (40%) – Approaches in Psychology, PY2 (60%), Core Studies and Applied Research Methods.

A Level:

PY1 (20%) – Approaches in Psychology, PY2 (30%), Core Studies and Applied Research Methods, PY3 (20%) – Research Methods and Issues raised in Research, PY4 (30%), Controversies, Topics and Applications.

Progression/Career Opportunities:

The subject will be particularly appropriate for those who study, and are looking for careers in Sport, the Care and Health industry and general scientific fields.



Public Services (BTEC First Diploma)

Length of Course:

1 year

Course Description:

The BTEC First programme provides the knowledge, skills and understanding you will need when moving towards a career in the uniformed public services such as Police, Fire Services or prison service, Army, Royal Air Force and / or the Royal Navy.

Accreditation:

BTEC – Level 2

Pass, Merit and Distinction grades can be awarded – a pass in this course is equivalent to 4 GCSE, C grades

Examination Board:

Edexcel

Course Content:

The structure of the course allows you to develop your interest and gain a broad understanding of the public services. It also introduces you to new areas such as the law and its impact on the individual, the effect of crime, land navigation by map and compass.

Core units include an investigation of employment in the uniformed Public Services, the skills required as well as Fitness and Outdoor Activities.

The school works closely with a wide range of uniformed public services to deliver and assess this programme.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

This course is continually assessed. You will need to successfully complete an assignment per unit, and complete additional tasks for the merit and distinction grades.

There will be no formal examinations

Progression/Career Opportunities:

On successful completion of this programme the school offers the BTEC National qualification in year 13.

The First Diploma and National qualification can be seen as a stepping stone towards entering initial employment as a Police Community Support Officer, an Army soldier, or an RAF airmen/airwoman

Religious Studies AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

One year AS course with an option to study for a further year to attain a full Advanced Level.

Course Description:

During the course, students will study two units of work based on the Hindu and Islamic religions.

The A2 course will involve a further in-depth study of the Hindu religion and a synoptic unit on the theme Life, Death and Life after Death.

Accreditation:

Grades A-E (AS)

Grades A*-E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

AS – Students will study an introduction to Hinduism, which entails studying the diversity of beliefs within Hinduism and also look at some of the key beliefs and practices. A study will also be made of the God and Goddesses within Hinduism and of the festivals followed by believers. Students also study an introduction to Islam where they look at the foundations of the religion and some of the key beliefs and practices. In addition they will look at the life of Muhammad and Muslim family life.

A2 – Students will be required to study two units of work. The first will look at the origins of Hinduism, one of their holy books (The Bhagavad Gita), contemporary Hinduism and the attitude towards women in Hinduism. Students will also study a thematic unit of work based on differing views on life, death and life after death. They will be required to synoptically collect information, understanding and skills from their AS study and apply this to their A2 studies. Students will study four units within the synoptic units - Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and Philosophy of Religion.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

AS – Two one hour and a quarter external examinations based on each unit of work.

A2 – Two one hour and a half external examinations based on each unit of work. Students will pre prepare an answer for the synoptic paper.

Progression/Career Opportunities:

Students will be able to continue to study Religious Studies at degree level if they wish. The subject is also considered useful for many careers in modern society where an individual is required to work alongside others with differing viewpoints or beliefs. A qualification in Religious Studies shows an understanding of different beliefs and cultures. Some career opportunities with a Religious Studies qualification include: teaching, nursing, medicine, police work, social workers, journalism, television reporting, media and the law.



Sociology AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

2 years

Course Description:

By studying Sociology you will come to understand society and what happens within society. As well as studying the 'large' components of society e.g. social class or the education system there is also an emphasis on 'smaller' social groups e.g. criminals or members of youth sub-cultures. This is a course that develops many important skills. Research, studies and theories must be used to analyse and explain what happens in society.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary)

Grades A* – E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

Advanced Subsidiary

Unit 1 – Acquiring Culture.

This unit provides an introduction to the subject and the process of socialisation and culture. Within these themes the focus is on how individual and group behaviour are learned and reinforced.

One of the three following options will be studied in detail: Family and Culture, Youth Culture or Community and Culture.

Unit 2 - Understanding Culture.

a) Whilst studying this unit students will develop a deeper understanding of how certain structures affect individuals. One or two of the following are studied: Education, Y Cyfryngau, Religion

b) Social Research Methods

Advanced Level – the above must be studied along with the following:

Unit 3 – Understanding Power and Control.

The key theme to understanding this unit is the nature of social control.

One of the following are studied: Crime and Deviance, Politics, Health.

Unit 4 – Understanding Social Divisions.

a) Students will be expected to use knowledge and understanding of the previous units in order to complete the unit successfully. One of the following will be studied – World Sociology or Social Inequality

b) Social Research Methods

Method of Assessment/Examination:

Unit 1 - Examination 1 hr - January Yr. 12

Unit 2 - Examination 1½ hr - May Yr. 12

Unit 3 - Examination 1½ hr - June Yr. 13

Unit 4 – Examination 2 hr – June Yr.13

Progression/Career Opportunities:

Most universities offer degree courses in Sociology and/or related subjects e.g. criminology, social policy. Studying the subject can provide a solid foundation for further study and training within a wide variety of fields e.g. law, nursing, politics, social work, teaching, working in industry etc.



Spanish AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

AS: 1 year A2: 2 years

Course Description:

The course is based on TOPICS. ORAL work constitutes 20% of the course. An external examiner assesses candidates. In the Reading, Listening and Writing exam students have control over the CDs, i.e. they can listen as many times as they wish within a time limit. This paper accounts for 30% of the course. Skills developed during Key Stage 4 are built on.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary)
Grades A* – E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

AS: Themes studied are – Leisure and Lifestyles, The Individual in Society

A2: Themes studied are – Environmental Issues, Social and Political Issues

Two items from the Guided Studies Option are also studied.

Method of Assessment/Examination:

Candidates may sit the two AS components in June of the first year of the course, (SN1 and SN2). Unit SN2 may be resat the following January. (The best result is carried forward). No dictionaries are allowed in external examinations. The weighting of 50% for AS and 50% for Advanced is represented in the table below where the total marks for AS and A2 are 158 each. The marks given for each assessment objective (AO) also reflect the appropriate weighting of each of the three assessment objectives.

AS

SN1: Oral – 12 – 15 minutes

AO1: 16.7(33.3) • AO2: 3.3 (6.6)

AO3: (40% of AS, 20% of A2)

SN2: Reading, Listening and responding – 2.5 hrs

AO1: 2.4 (4.9) • AO2: 8.4 (36.7)

AO2: 9.2 (18.4)

(60% of AS, 30% of A2)

Candidates may sit these two components in May/June of the first year. Alternatively, some or all of these components can be sat in May/June of the second year.

A2

SN3: Oral – 15 – 20 minutes

AO1: 10% • AO2: 6.7% • AO3: 3.3%
(20%)

SN4: Listening, Reading and Responding (3 hrs)

AO1: 4.9% • AO2: 15.9% • AO3: 9.2%
(30%)

Students are expected to take part in a weekly one hour session with the Foreign Language “Assistant”.

Progression/Career Opportunities:

Speaking another language can open up a host of opportunities for young people. You might want to work or study abroad, or simply take an extended holiday or gap year. Remember, all foreign travel is much more rewarding (and much less stressful!) if you can communicate with the local people. You'll find out more about the way they work, their cuisine and their social lives - and you'll be able to gain an insight into the country that is much deeper than that of a tourist! Spanish compliments many subjects because of the numerous opportunities that arise to use languages in any chosen career. There are so many options available to you. Here are a few: media, market research, personal assistant, recruiting agency, interpreter, translator, languages teacher, The Foreign Office, travel and tourism industry, engineering, marketing, technology, voluntary and charitable work. Recently some universities have stated that in the near future, they will require that applicants have studied a MFL at least to GCSE level.



Welsh AS and Advanced

Length of Course:

AS: Year
A2: 2 Years

Course Description:

One of the aims of this course is to enable students to express themselves effectively in oral and written tasks and they are encouraged to use language creatively. They are required to read extensively as well as studying specific literary works in depth. Their ability to respond to literature and contemporary multimedia material is also nurtured in order for them to appreciate the cultural inheritance of Wales. In addition to this, U2 candidates are expected to make connections between the various elements of the course.

Accreditation:

Grades A – E (Advanced Subsidiary)
Grades A* – E (Advanced GCE)

Examination Board:

WJEC

Course Content:

Three units are studied for the AS course. In order to gain a U2 qualification, a further three units are studied.

AS

Cy1: Film: Hedd Wyn and Drama: Siwan, Saunders Lewis

Cy2: Written Coursework (3 tasks): creative and discursive writing and a script suitable for television or radio

Cy3: Use of Language and 20th Century Poetry

A2

Cy4: Novel: Un Nos Ola Leuad, Caradog Prichard and an oral assessment

Cy5: Early Poetry and Mediaeval Poetry and Prose

Cy6: Use of Language and Literary Appreciation

Method of Assessment/Examination:

AS

Cy1: Oral examination (3/4 hours approx.) - 20%

Cy2: 3 tasks which are assessed internally - 15%

Cy3: Written examination paper (2 hours) - 15%

A2

Cy4: Oral examination including a synoptic element (3/4 hours approx.) - 15%

Cy5: Written examination paper (1 1/2 hours) - 15%

Cy6: Written examination which included a synoptic assessment (2 1/4 hours) - 20%

Progression/Career Opportunities:

There is a strong academic element to this course which prepares students well for challenging College and University courses. Even so, the course also contains a number of vocational skills such as Translating and Scripting which makes it a popular choice amongst students whose strengths are primarily vocational. Past students from the Department have gone on to forge careers in Law and the Media; others in the realms of Public Relations and a number of them have gone on to teach both at Primary and Secondary level. The truth is this course opens doors rather than restricting choice.