



**Sixth Form
Courses
for
September
2010**

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THE SIXTH FORM AT YSGOL RHIWABON – 2010/11

INTRODUCTION FROM MRS ANGELA WILLIAMS - HEADTEACHER

Your future

The purpose of this booklet is to help you, our prospective new Sixth Formers, to understand the choices you have as well as to describe the Sixth Form at Ysgol Rhiwabon. I hope that this booklet will help you to make the right decisions about your future.

A quality sixth form (98% pass rate at A level)

Our Sixth Form has an excellent reputation. There has been a steady improvement in examination results during the past few years, culminating in our students' outstanding success in 2009. We are also proud to be a Welsh Baccalaureate School and this exciting course is available to all Year 12 students. We pride ourselves on giving ample support and help to students who find the work challenging, and also on stretching the most able students. Our small classes enable us to give all students the individual attention they need. We not only believe that small is beautiful - it works.

Making the right choices

Our aim is to ensure that you have an appropriate mixture of academic and vocational courses to choose from, and to provide you with a proper balance of supervision and real opportunities to develop independence. The Welsh Baccalaureate qualification will provide opportunities for students to gain key skills qualifications, to learn about Wales in a European and world context, to improve language skills, to study a range of PSE topics and to take part in work experience, enterprise and community activities. The result for our students is a broad educational experience and a highly-regarded qualification. Our sixth formers also benefit from greater freedom as well as the chance to exercise more responsibility. Many of our students contribute to worthwhile activities in school such as our Talking Newspaper for the Blind, peer education scheme and supporting younger pupils in class.

Do I want to leave school or stay on?

This booklet is intended for those who want to go on to post-16 education, as well as those who at this stage are undecided. That doesn't mean it is necessarily right for you to stay on at school. For some students, leaving school or pursuing their education elsewhere is the right choice. There are however a number of advantages to staying on at school - even if this is traditionally the time of year when GCSEs can make you feel as if you never want to see another book in your life!

Continuing your studies at Ysgol Rhiwabon

For all our students the security of knowing what you're doing next year, that you know the place and a lot of the people in it, or are going to be somewhere small enough to get to know others and be quickly known yourself is important. You will have continuity of pastoral and teaching staff at a time when things move fairly quickly: a sixth-form career is a brief affair - one or two years seem to rush by at some speed!

If you join the Sixth Form from another school, your situation in the Sixth Form is hardly any different. In a small Sixth Form we get to know you and your needs quickly. We want you to succeed and are committed to helping you in every possible way. I promise that you will feel at home and on course in no time!

Student support

In the sixth form we encourage students to be more independent, and in the end their success or failure depends on them. We do however place considerable importance on monitoring the progress of individual students, discussing progress with them and setting targets for improvement. We see communication with parents as important. Our student support and monitoring structures are designed to ensure that, as far as possible, our students succeed.

Security and quality

Full details of all courses, BTEC, A/S, A2 and the Welsh Baccalaureate are in this booklet. Your programme of courses will be negotiated individually with your personal tutor. Entry to some courses will depend on your existing skills and knowledge, and of course your GCSE qualifications. Your eventual courses will be determined by your career hopes, your interests, and the balance which will be required in all education programmes. The need for breadth is built into the new post-16 curriculum. Through our guidance system we aim to ensure that our students are helped to make proper choices at the outset, and to check that progress is being maintained.

Kathleen Davies bursaries

Students following A level courses in our sixth form are eligible to apply for financial support from this trust. Its purpose is to assist students undertaking higher education courses by paying a significant part of their course fees. Further information and application forms are available from Mrs Cox, Headteacher's PA.

The future...

...is challenging but bright! Make sure you get the best results you can at GCSE or BTEC and I look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form in September. If you wish to find out more about the school then please visit our school website at www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk

Angela Williams
Headteacher

A MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT PRESIDENTS

Rob Hughes (Student President)

I have been studying at Ysgol Rhiwabon since Year 7 and am currently in my last year studying for my A levels.

There are many advantages that come from studying in a sixth form, the major advantage being the support that you receive. Due to the small class sizes at Rhiwabon support is always available from the subject teachers which is extremely useful when it comes to coursework assignments.

Sixth form students also have access to their own computer suite which is situated next to the library. This is invaluable for private study periods. Recently the sixth form common room has been refurbished by Scottish Power and is now complete with a hot drinks machine and a kitchen area. At Rhiwabon sixth form students also take part in the Welsh Bac which is extremely useful when it comes to getting into university as well as developing skills for life.

I have really enjoyed my time in the sixth form and would recommend the experience to anyone.

Rebekah Butler (Student President)

Since I was elected Student President I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Being elected by my fellow students and teachers gave me the confidence to speak out and take action on issues raised by my peers. I have been faced with responsibilities and challenges that I have embraced to the best of my ability. These responsibilities have helped me to gain and become more confident in desirable skills such as communication through meeting people. I have also developed my ICT skills producing power point presentations to the sixth form on various issues such as common room transformation.

The role of Student President has opened many opportunities for me and has even helped me in my university applications and interviews. I have represented my school in various functions such as Awards Ceremonies where I met important local figures. I have been an active member of the school Sixth Form Committee where we strive to improve facilities and activities for the sixth form. Over my time so far as Student President I have not only gained and improved skills, but I have gained confidence in myself which I believe will help me in my further education and in my future career.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Ysgol Rhiwabon. The benefits of being in a small sixth form with close relationships are many.

We believe that students at
Ysgol Rhiwabon Sixth Form:

- develop practical skills which will help them into the world of work
- work as team members
- are good role models for younger students
- are responsible for their own learning
- enjoy enrichment opportunities
- become confident young adults with some political and economic awareness
- enter University life well-prepared as focused, independent students
- learn to live as responsible community members
- learn in a caring and friendly environment

GENERAL INFORMATION

Who can go into the Sixth Form?

Ysgol Rhiwabon Sixth Form is open to students of all abilities. We have planned our courses so that there will be opportunities for you to study in the Sixth Form whatever your GCSE results. The important thing is that you are able to choose a curriculum which suits your future needs, enables you to gain qualifications and provides enjoyment and challenge. In order for us to offer a full range of courses in the Sixth Form we work collaboratively with Maelor School, Penley, and Yale College. This means that some of the courses will be delivered at other centres, or will be delivered jointly by us and another centre. At Ysgol Rhiwabon Sixth Form we have a responsibility and obligation to develop the personal, social and care aspects of learning. Even if you attend courses elsewhere, we are your 'home' centre and all matters to do with your progress will be monitored and reported through us.

How is the Sixth-Form curriculum different?

In the Sixth Form you will study a smaller number of subjects than at GCSE. Courses are studied in more depth and are therefore allocated a larger number of teaching hours. You will also be expected to do **private study** in school in the time when you do not have a lesson. The total number of hours which we expect you to allocate to the study of a subject is called **learning time** and we will be telling you how many hours we expect you to do per subject when you start your courses.

In the Sixth Form you will choose to study either AS/A levels over one or two years or a vocational course for one year. It may also be possible to combine AS courses with vocational courses. In addition you will attend lectures and engage in activities which will lead to the Welsh Bacallaureate Qualification.

How will I choose my courses?

You need to consider the following:-

Which courses may be useful for your future either in employment or in Higher Education?

Which subjects are you good at? Your GCSE results will help you to decide this.

Which subjects will you enjoy studying? The subject section in this booklet which describes each course will help you to make up your mind. There are some new subjects to consider here which you may not have studied before. Find out as much as you can before making your decision.

Staff at school will be happy to discuss your plans and ideas with you. You may want general advice or to speak to a subject teacher about a particular course. Your final decisions do not have to be made until the start of the new term in September when we will be holding induction days for all prospective sixth formers. Part of this time will be for an individual interview with a senior member of staff to discuss your curriculum and timetable for the year ahead.

How many courses can I study?

To study AS or A levels you need to have obtained higher-grade passes at GCSE level. The number of subjects you will be advised to study depends on the number of higher-grade passes you have obtained, also what is deemed sensible along with the Welsh Baccalaureate.

AS/A Levels

Students achieving good GCSE results will be able to study up to **four** AS courses in Year 12. It is likely that most students will choose to reduce their range of study to **three** A2 courses in Year 13. Students who do not do quite so well at GCSE may choose to study **three** AS courses in Year 12 and then study **two** or **three** A2 courses in Year 13. It will also be possible to mix vocational courses with A levels if the timetable permits. Students may also resit GCSEs with support from subject teachers; fees will be payable by individual students.

Vocational Courses

Students will be able to study for qualifications without achieving higher-grade passes at GCSE. Students may also wish to improve their GCSE results and this will add to their study time.

What courses will be on offer in the Sixth Form?

We will be offering a wide range of AS and A levels for you to choose from. You will choose your courses from five subject blocks, rather as you did in Year 9 with option subjects. We will be arranging the subjects in blocks so that the most popular combinations of subjects can be taken. At the present time the following AS/A levels are expected to be available:

AS/A Level

Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, English Literature, History, Geography, Economics, Sociology, Theatre Studies, French, Physical Education, Art, Music, Information Technology, Welsh, Religious Studies, Psychology, Electronics, Media Studies and Design Technology.

Vocational Courses

Health and Social Care

Engineering

BTEC First Certificate in Sport

Please note that courses will only run if there are sufficient numbers of students to ensure that the courses are viable.

At the time of writing, we are in the process of developing collaborative arrangements with other post-16 providers in the Wrexham area to enhance the provision for our young people. We will keep students and parents up to date with these developments.

APPLIED SCIENCE (AS and A2)

Entry requirements: C in Additional/Applied Science (Higher Tier)

Applied Science AS is a new course offered in the Science Department. The course is suitable for all levels of ability and has a mix of Biology, Chemistry and Physics modules.

Students for which the course is intended, would include those with an interest in Science, though not wishing to study it to degree level. Students with a keen interest in AS or A2 PE and wanting to have a suitable companion course and those with an interest in the application of Science in employment.

Course details:

AS Applied Science:

Assessment is made up of 2 portfolio based assignments totaling 67% of the award and one written examination 33%.

Unit 1: Portfolio

Investigating Science at Work: Students research a broad range of aspects of local and national businesses that make use of science.

Unit 2: Examination

Energy Transfer Systems

The emphasis is on biological and physical transfer systems. This unit is closely linked to AS PE modules.

Unit 3: Portfolio

Chemical Analysis;

This unit has a forensic science aspect. It includes chemical analytical techniques such as those used in forensic analysis. This involves a great deal of lab time, research and testing of samples.

A2 Applied Science:

Assessment as above.

Unit 7: Portfolio of **Scientific Investigation.**

Subject content to be agreed between student and course co-ordinator. Large scale science practical.

Unit 8: **Examination**—Medical Physics:

This unit studies various machines used in the diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions. Students study the use of X-ray, MRI, CAT etc in medicine.

Unit 15: **Portfolio**—Pathology;

Students visit and study the pathology service, this includes carrying out modern techniques used in DNA analysis, using newly acquired machines.

Further Information: Mr G Timms, Maelor School, Penley

ART AND DESIGN

Art can be studied for 1 year at AS Level or 2 years at A Level. The course is modular and consists of 4 units of study, 2 coursework units and 2 controlled assignments. The course is aimed at students who have successfully completed GCSE Art and Design. Students will need to be highly motivated as the course requires a great deal of independent study. Students will develop and extend practical and theoretical skills, experimenting with a wide range of media and processes, from personally selected starting points. Students will experience visits to galleries and practical workshops.

Specifications

AS Level

ART 1 Coursework Portfolio One unit of coursework based on themes and subject matter demonstrating different processes, developed from personal starting points.

ART 2 Controlled Assignment One unit where candidates are presented with an externally set assignment at the start of the preparation period for the supervised controlled test. This will be a continuous period of focused study of 8 hours.

A Level

ART 3 Personal Investigation One unit of coursework based on themes and subject matter developed from personal starting points. Students are required to communicate their understanding through integrated images and texts that include a written element of no less than 1,000 words.

ART 4 Controlled Assignment One unit where candidates are presented with an externally set assignment at the start of the preparation period for the supervised controlled test. This will be a continuous period of focused study of 12 hours.

Sketchbooks Sketchbooks should be used to support all units of work.

Assessment

AS Level

ART 1 Coursework Portfolio is 60%.

ART 2 Controlled Assignment is 40%.

A Level

ART 3 Personal Investigation 60%.

ART 4 Controlled Assignment 40%.

All 4 Assessment Objectives are to be covered equally in all 4 units.

AO1 Contextual Understanding

AO3 Reflective recording

AO2 Creative Making

AO4 Personal presentation

Exam papers are presented in February.

All work will be selected, evaluated and presented for assessment by the students. They will present an exhibition of their work at the end of the course for moderation.

Key Skills: These are integral to the study of Art and Design and all 6 Key Skills are identified in all units. Students will be required to collect evidence of their achievements, with a focus on Communication.

Career Choices: Art combines well with History, Media Studies and Expressive Arts. Art is a popular subject at degree level with a vast number of Art, Craft and Design specialisms available. It is a useful qualification for those considering careers in advertising, marketing, design and media.

Further Information: See Mrs L Moore or Mr E Roberts

BIOLOGY

Biology is a modular course that consists of 6 modules. At AS there are 3 modules, one practical and 2 theory. At A2 there are also 3 modules, again, one practical and 2 theory.

The minimum needed to study A-level Biology is:

- C at GCSE Science & Additional Science, B grades on the B1 and B2 papers & a C grade at GCSE Maths.

The qualification builds upon knowledge, understanding and practical skills gained in your GCSE Science courses.

You will develop practical skills, by planning experiments, collecting data, analysing results and making conclusions. You will also learn how scientific models are developed, the applications and implications of science, the benefits and risks that science brings and the ways in which society uses science to make decisions.

We will be following Edexcel's new GCE Biology course.

AS Biology

Module 1 – Lifestyle, Transport, Genes and Health (75minute exam)

- Biochemistry of biological molecules. Enzymes. Cell membranes and Transport in and out of cells.
- DNA and RNA – its replication and protein synthesis.
- Monohybrid inheritance. Gene mutations. Gene therapy – social and ethical issues.

Module 2 – Development, Plants and the Environment (75 minute exam)

- Structure of prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells and their specialisations.
- Meiosis. Genotype and environmental influence. Stem cell research and its implications.
- Biodiversity, adaptations, natural selection and taxonomy.
- Plant cell structure, water transport in plants and the uses of plant products.

Module 3 – Practical Biology and Research skills

- Report of 1500-2000 words.
- Based on a visit to a site of biological interest or on research into a biological topic.

A2 Biology

Module 4 – Natural Environment and Species Survival (90 minute exam)

- Photosynthesis and energy transfer within ecosystems. Nutrient recycling.
- Evidence for global warming.
- Evolution through natural selection and speciation.
- DNA profiling and PCR.
- Structure of bacteria and viruses. Infectious diseases and immunology.

Module 5 – Energy, Exercise and Coordination (90 minute exam)

- ATP, Glycolysis, aerobic and anaerobic respiration. Impact of exercise on the body & improving performance.
- Control and functioning of the heart. Ventilation and cardiac output.
- Homeostasis.
- Nervous system. Brain structure and development. Imbalances in brain chemicals. Hormonal coordination.
- Human Genome Project.

Module 6 – Practical Biology and Investigative skills.

- Report of 2700-3000 words.
- Based on an experimental investigation that you devised and carried out using statistics.

Key Skills: Opportunities will be available throughout the course for levels 2 and 3.

Field trips are a compulsory part of the course at both AS and A2.

Subject choices: Biology combines well with Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Geography, PE and Psychology.

Further

Information: See Mr J Loynes or Mr J Gordon

CHEMISTRY

Chemistry AS level is a one-year course comprising 3 units. Students may continue for a second year, completing a further 3 units to obtain Chemistry A level. The course followed is WJEC Chemistry. The topics covered build upon GCSEs in Science, Additional Science and Chemistry. The topics for further study include atomic structure, the mole, bonding, the periodic table, energetics, rates of reaction and organic chemistry.

Specifications

AS Level

CH1 Controlling and measuring chemical change
CH2 Properties, structure and bonding
CH3 Practical Assessment

A2 Level

CH4 Analysing and building molecules
CH5 Physical and inorganic chemistry
CH6 Practical Assessment

Assessment

AS Level Two end-of-unit papers and a practical assessment.

A2 Level Two end-of-unit papers and a practical assessment.

Subject Choices: Physics and Biology provide a great combination with Chemistry, but you can choose any other subject.

Careers: Chemistry is a desirable qualification for most careers, for example medicine, nursing, engineering, teaching, sport science, forensics, art restoration, the media and computer game development.

Further

Information: See Mrs G Mann or Mr M Leather or visit the school science website

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

AS Level

DT1 20% 2 hours

Product Design Examination Paper

This paper will contain two sections which will assess candidates' knowledge and understanding drawn from the subject content for one focus area listed under:

3.1.1 Designing and innovation; 3.1.2 Product analysis;

3.2.1 Materials and components; 3.2.2 Industrial and commercial practice.

Section A questions require short answers: Section B questions require open-ended essay type responses.

This component is externally assessed by the WJEC.

DT2 30% (approximately 60 hours)

Design and Make Task

Candidates will submit one design and make task which will satisfy the AS assessment criteria.

This component is marked by the centre and moderated by the WJEC.

A Level (the above plus the following A2 units)

DT3 20% 2½ hours

Written Paper

This paper consists of two sections and will assess candidates' knowledge and understanding drawn from the whole subject content of one focus area. Section A questions require short answers and Section B questions require open-ended essay type responses and will specifically address the subject specification content listed under:

3.1.1 Designing and innovation; 3.1.2 Product analysis;

3.1.3 Human responsibility; 3.1.4 Public interaction;

3.2.1 Materials and components; 3.2.2 Industrial and commercial practice.

3.2.3 Processes; 3.2.4 Production systems and control

This component is externally assessed by the WJEC.

DT4 30% (approximately 60 hours)

Major Project

Candidates will undertake a single substantial project. Each year the WJEC will set eight themes for the project, though candidates may also submit their own proposals for approval. The project requires candidates to demonstrate the integration of designing and making skills and knowledge and understanding.

Candidates will submit a major project which will satisfy the A level assessment criteria.

This component is marked by the centre and moderated by the WJEC.

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

This specification is divided into a total of 4 units, 2 AS units and 2 A2 units. Weightings noted are expressed in terms of the full A level qualification.

Further

Information: See Mr H Williams

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

This specification is divided into a total of 4 units, 2 AS units and 2 A2 units. Weightings noted below are expressed in terms of the full A Level qualification.

AS (2 units)

DA1 20% Practical performance **60 marks** (80 UMS)

Unit title: Performance workshop.

For this unit candidates will either act in a group or contribute their chosen technical production skill to a performance from a set text and a devised piece. They will work on the ideas of two practitioners.

The unit is internally marked and externally moderated.

DA2 30% Written paper (2 hour paper) **120 marks** (120 UMS)

Open text exam

Unit Title: Text in Performance

Candidates will answer three questions:

- one pre-1900 text from a prescribed list.
- one post-1900 text from a prescribed list.
- live theatre review.

The unit is externally marked.

A LEVEL (the above plus a further 2 units)

DA3 30% Practical performance **150 marks** (120 UMS)

Unit Title: Performance on a set theme

Candidates will be expected to work in response to a theme set by WJEC and prepare two performances. In each case candidates will either act or demonstrate a technical production skill with a group of performers.

The performance will include:

- scenes/extracts from a published text
- a piece devised by the group.

An evaluation of performance work for both pieces will be required.

The unit is externally marked.

DA4 20% Written paper (2½ hour paper) **80 marks** (80 UMS)

Unit Title: Text in Context

1. **Two** set texts from a prescribed list: one pre-1900 and one post-1900. This is an 'open text' examination – candidates will be asked to discuss the play as a whole, including the following aspects:
 - theatrical context
 - performance history
 - theatrical challenges of text in terms of acting
 - theatrical challenges in terms of production skills
 - personal reaction to the text
2. Directorial analysis of an unseen text.
There will be four sections to the paper:
 - ground plan
 - design/costume
 - lighting/sound
 - movement

The unit is externally marked.

Content summary:

This externally examined written unit requires the detailed study of one set play text and one prescribed historical period of theatrical development.

Assessment:

This externally assessed unit takes the form of a 2 hour and 30 minute written paper in three sections.

Sections A and B require students to explore one play, from a choice of three set play texts, from the point of view of a director in both an academic and practical way.

In Section C a selection must be made of one from a choice of three historic periods of theatre history. A live performance of a play from the chosen period must be experienced and evaluated and a comparison made with the original staging conditions of the play.

Subject Theatre Studies combines well with English, History, Geography, Sociology, Media and

Choices: Music. Many other combinations have been taken over the years.

Career: Variety of work in theatre, media, arts, television and radio.

Further

Information: See Miss N Davies

ECONOMICS

Economics can be studied for one year at AS level or two years at A level. The course is modular and consists of 4 modules of study: 2 modules are studied for AS level and 2 further modules are studied for A level. It is not necessary for candidates to have studied Economics before and no prior knowledge of the subject is necessary. An interest in current affairs would be helpful. In lessons students will be introduced to theory and then have opportunities to apply their knowledge and discuss real-life situations involving the use of data.

Specifications

AS Level

- Module 1 An Introduction to Microeconomics and Macroeconomics.
A study of markets. What determines the price and quantity of products sold by our businesses and shops? How do businesses operate?
- Module 2 Microeconomic and Macroeconomic Theory.
A study of the UK economy. How does our economy work? The determination of output, employment and prices. A study of government policy. How does the government control the economy to achieve its objectives?

A2 Level

- Module 3 Competitive behaviour, Macroeconomics and Globalisation (1)
The theory of the firm. This unit looks at how firms operate in different types of markets.
- Module 4 Competitive Behaviour, Macroeconomics and Globalisation (2)
The Economy – this unit looks at the issues of inflation, unemployment, growth and trade in more detail.

Assessment

AS level Assessment is through:
Compulsory short-answer questions to assess all of the AS content.
One compulsory data response question and two, two-part essays to assess all of the AS content.

A level All of the above plus:
Compulsory short-answer questions and one synoptic essay from a choice of three to assess all of the A level content.
One data response question from a choice of two and one synoptic essay from a choice of three.

Key Skills: Opportunities to develop key skills in communication, number and IT are identified in all units and students will be required to collect evidence of their achievements.

Career Choices: Economics combines well with History, Geography, Sociology, Psychology and is also popular with Mathematics, English, Information Technology and French. Economics is a popular subject at degree level. It is a useful qualification for those considering careers in business, finance, retailing or management.

Further Information: See Mr D Thompson

ELECTRONICS

Entry requirements: C in Additional/Applied Science and Mathematics

This is a relatively new course which takes into account the rapidly changing world of electronics. If you are interested in how electronic systems work and want to understand some modern digital electronic then this is the course for you. This course is an ideal introduction to both electronics engineering and computer science and for those with an interest in technology. No prior electronics experience needed.

The subject is taught through collaboration with the Maelor School in Penley. The course has dedicated equipment for practical work and typed notes are provided.

Course details:

Specification

AS level

(35%) ET 1: **Digital and Analogue Design:** The unit introduces the use of decision logic systems to produce digital outputs and amplifiers as a method of changing a voltage signal.

(35%) ET 2: **Circuits and Components:** The unit investigates the function and use of different electronic components and methods of circuit design.

(30%) ET 3: **Control Systems:** Mini project, focusing on programming controllers in a high level language.

A2 Electronics: AS plus

(15%) ET 4: **Communication Systems:** Investigates the different methods of electronic communication.

(20%) ET 5: **System Application:** The unit investigates design and construction of systems using the concepts introduced and practical applications of electronic systems.

ET 6: **Project Report:** The major project involves planning and developing an electronic system.

Each module is a mixture of theory and practical exercises, which allow each topic to be investigated fully.

Further

Information: Mr G Timms, Maelor School, Penley

ENGLISH LITERATURE

English Literature can be studied for one year at AS level or two years at A level. Two units are studied for AS level and two further units for A level.

It is a requirement for students to have attained at least a 'C' grade at GCSE for English or English Literature.

During the course students will be encouraged to develop an enjoyment of literary studies based on an informed personal response to a range of texts. It encourages responses to each of the major literary genres of poetry, prose and drama.

Specification

AS Level

Unit 1 Poetry post 1900
(Two poets to be studied)

Drama post 1900
(1 text to be studied)

Unit 2 Prose Study 1800 – 1945
Students will be required to
(a) Study two texts and produce a piece of coursework analysing the texts.
(b) Creative writing – in response to wider reading of prose.
(c) A written commentary on the creative writing

A2 Level

Unit 3 Period and genre study
3 texts – one written coursework comparing texts from different periods and genres, including poetry and prose.

Unit 4 Critical Reading of Poetry:
Pre-1800 Poetry.

Shakespeare and related drama text.

Assessment

Unit 1 2½ hour external examination
(30%)

Unit 2 Internal assessment.
(20%) - a portfolio containing three written assignments.

Unit 3 Internal assessment
(20%) - 1 written coursework comparing texts.

Unit 4 2½ hour external examination.
(30%)

Key Skills Subject Choices

Opportunities exist to develop key skills in communication, working with others and improving own learning.

Career Choices

English Literature is a popular subject at degree and higher level. An A2 qualification can provide entry onto a wide range of courses in higher education. It is a useful qualification for those considering careers in various occupations, including writing, teaching, research, publishing and journalism.

Further

Information: See Mrs K Hatfield or Mrs Ferron-Evans

FRENCH

French can be studied for one year at AS level or two years at A level. AS and A2 each consist of 2 assessment units which are taken at the end of the course. The level of AS is that expected of candidates half way through a full Advanced level course. Candidates will have already gained a knowledge and understanding and have developed a range of language skills through their study of French at GCSE. During the course there will be an opportunity to participate in a study visit to Normandy. Visits to universities, open days and theatre trips will be organised. We aim to develop an appreciation of France and its culture.

Specifications

AS Topics

Leisure and lifestyles.

The individual and society.

A2 Topics

Environmental issues.

Social and political issues.

The study of a French book, film or region.

Assessment

Will be in speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Key Skills: There are opportunities to develop key skills in Information Technology, Working with Others and Improving Own Learning and Performance.

Subject Choices: French combines well with many subjects and universities are offering a variety of courses with a MFL. Students often study English, Geography, Economics, History, Sociology and Mathematics.

Career: There are many career opportunities in commerce and industry for people who are conversant with the language and culture of another country, particularly within the EC. The skills developed in language learning are valuable in many careers such as broadcasting, journalism, teaching, secretarial work and all levels of management. Increasingly universities and employers are recruiting language students. Continuing your studies in French undoubtedly increases your employment opportunities. A language is an invaluable skill in many careers.

Further

Information: See Miss F Jones

GEOGRAPHY

Geography can be studied for one year at AS or two years at A level. The course is modular and consists of four units of study. Two units are studied for AS and two units for A level. Topics studied at GCSE are a good preparation for the A level course and the course contains elements of both physical and human geography. Fieldwork is an essential requirement of the AS course. The following fieldwork opportunities are provided:

- Patterns of migration in the local area
- Liverpool – inner city regeneration
- Beddgelert – a changing rural settlement
- Cwm Idwal – a glacial landscape
- River Clywedog – sediment analysis

Specification

AS Level

Unit 1 Changing physical environments – climate change, tectonic and hydrological change.

Unit 2 Changing human environments – population change, settlement change.

A2 Level

Unit 3 Contemporary themes and research in geography – students to choose from six optional themes:

Physical options: One from

- 1 Extreme environments – desert and tundra
- 2 Landforms and their management – either glacial or coastal.
- 3 Climatic hazards.

Human options: One from

- 4 Development
- 5 Globalisation
- 6 Emerging Asia – the geography of either India or China.

Unit 4 Sustainability – food supply, water supply, energy, cities.

Assessment

AS Level

Units 1 and 2 will each be assessed by a 1½ hour written paper. Each paper will have three structured questions with stimulus material, one of which will test research/fieldwork.

A2 Level

Unit 3 will be assessed by a 2¼ hour written paper. In this paper students will write two essays, one from each of the two contemporary themes. There will also be a question based on their research enquiry and the findings of their research.

Unit 4 will be assessed by 1¾ hour written paper using pre-release material.

Key Skills:

Key skills are integral to the study of AS/A level Geography. The following key skills can be developed through this specification:-

Communication
Application of number
Problem solving
Information and Communication Technology
Working with others
Improving own learning and performance.

Subject Choices:

Geography combines well with both arts and science subjects. In particular, it goes well with History, Economics, Sociology and Biology.

Career:

Geography is a popular subject at degree level. It is a useful qualification for a wide range of careers including teaching, business, planning, local government, environmental/land management and service industries such as tourism.

Further

Information: See Mr H Phillips

HISTORY

History can be studied for one year at Advanced Subsidiary (AS) or two years at Advanced Level (A2).

The course is modular, consisting of a total of four modules. The periods chosen are 'Tudor Times in England and Wales' and 'The Time of the Reformation in Germany'. Although it is an advantage if students have studied History at GCSE, it is possible to take up the subject in Year 12 if students have gained good grades at GCSE, especially in English.

Specifications

AS Level

Unit HY1 – Period study: Aspects of the History of Wales and England, c.1483-1603 (Tudor History)

Assessment: 1 hour 30 minutes – two structured questions from a choice of three (30%)

Unit HY2 – In-Depth Study: The German Reformation c.1500—1555

Assessment: 1 hour 30 minutes – one set of questions from a choice of two (20%)

A Level

Unit HY3 - Internal assessment arising from the In-depth Study (coursework)

Assessment: One personal assignment of 3000-4000 words completed as coursework in the autumn term (20%)

Unit HY4- Topics and themes relating to the Period Study (HY1) and the chosen In-Depth Study (HY2)

These include:

Mary Stuart and England's relations with Catholic powers, c.1568-1588 (General topic)

Poverty, vagrancy and the poor in Wales and England, c.1483-1603 (Outline theme)

The Peasant's War c.1521-1525 (In-Depth study)

Charles V and the German Reformation, c.1515-55 (In Depth Study)

Assessment: 2 hours 30 minutes-three questions from a choice of six (one general topic, one outline topic and one in-depth study; 30%)

Key Skills: Opportunities exist to develop key skills in communication, IT, problem- solving and working with others and to generate evidence of these.

Subject History combines well with many subjects, in particular English, Geography, RS, Languages, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, Art, Music and Drama. It can also be a refreshing addition to any A level course, including the Sciences.

Career: History is a useful A level qualification for students going on to university to study a range of courses or for students going straight to a career. It can lead to study or work in law, journalism, research work, e.g. for television, police work, archaeology, archives, librarianship, teaching, social work or any career which requires the study of an academic subject.

Further

Information: See Mrs K Ellis or Mrs A Navarro

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

The WJEC Advanced Information Communication Technology

Information and Communication Technology is about the *application* of skills, knowledge and understanding. The content is delivered in a practical way to enable candidates to recognise the purpose of knowledge and to be able to draw on it in practical situations.

The A level specification consists of two parts: Part 1 (AS) and Part 2 (A2).

Part 1 (AS) may be taken separately and added to A2 at a further examination sitting to achieve an A level qualification, or alternatively, both the AS and A2 may be taken at the same sitting.

Candidates must complete the two AS units plus a further two units to complete A Level Information & Communication Technology. The A2 units will contribute 50% of the total A level marks.

		Weighting within A2	Weighting within Advanced
IT3*	Use and Impact of ICT	60%	30%
IT4*	Relational Database Project	40%	20%

The Advanced level Units are

Unit IT3 Use and Impact of ICT (A2)

This is a written paper with two sections, A and B, presented as a question paper requiring a separate answer booklet. The paper is designed to assess breadth and depth of knowledge of the ICT3. The paper is marked out of 100.

Unit IT4 Relational Databases (A2)

Candidates are required to use ICT hardware and relational database software to solve a realistic problem of their choosing. In doing so they are required to produce a clear set of user requirements, develop a design specification, implement and test the database, produce user documentation and show evidence of managing their work effectively. This project should represent about 50 hours of supervised time.

At A Level, candidates are expected to demonstrate a greater depth to their ICT skills, an increased emphasis on the commercial aspects of ICT systems and an increased sensitivity to the wider effects of their work.

This is a substantial piece of work, undertaken over an extended period of time.

Further

Information: See Mr D T Jones or Mr S Mackreth

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics can be studied for one year at Advanced Subsidiary (AS) or two years at Advanced Level (A2).

The course is modular and consists of 6 units of study:

3 units are studied for AS and a further 3 units are studied for A2.

To commence an AS or A2 course in Mathematics students are expected to have achieved at least a Grade C at GCSE.

Higher tier Mathematics at GCSE is the best preparation for these courses. However, students who have taken GCSE at the Foundation tier are given additional support and guidance and have coped successfully in previous years.

Specifications

AS The units of the Advanced Subsidiary Examination are:
Unit C1] Pure Mathematics - an extension of GCSE Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry
Unit C2] together with an introduction to Calculus.
Unit M1 Mechanics 1 - an introduction to the basic principles of mechanics.

A2 The additional units for A level are:-
Unit C3] Pure Mathematics - further development of work covered at AS.
Unit C4]
Unit S1 Statistics – a development of probability and statistical methods.

Assessment

AS Level Each unit is assessed through a written paper of 1½ hours sat in June. An aggregate of the uniform marks from these papers will lead to an AS award entitled 'Mathematics'.

A2 Level Marks from a further 3 written papers on units C3, C4 and either M1 or S1, together with AS marks will lead to the award of Advanced Level Mathematics.

Key Skills: Key skills are integral to the study of mathematics and a number of them may be assessed in the context of the subject.

Subject Choices: Mathematics has become an increasingly popular choice in the sixth form and is studied with a wide variety of other subjects.

Career: Teaching is structured to cater not only for those wishing to pursue a career in Mathematics, Science or Engineering, but also for those whose main interest lies in Geography, Economics etc. and who find mathematics to be a useful part of their AS/A2 programme.

Further Information: See Mrs J Roberts, Mr J Hotchkiss or Miss C Jones

MEDIA STUDIES

Media Studies can be studied for one year at AS Level or two years at A Level. The course consists of 4 units of study: 2 units are studied at AS Level and 2 further units are studied at A Level. An interest in current affairs and the media in general is useful for studying this course; a GCSE in Media Studies is also necessary.

The course is designed to allow students to draw on their existing experience of the media and to develop their abilities to respond critically to the media. A wide variety of media is studied, including digital media technologies.

Creative work is also encouraged to enable students to gain a greater appreciation of the media through their own production work. Synoptic assessment takes place during the units at A level.

AS Level

MS1: Media representations and responses:- this unit allows students to analyse the media, exploring audience responses.

Assessment: A written paper of 2½ hours.

MS2: Three pieces of linked work produced by the student

- a pre production reflecting research and planning
- a production developed from the pre production
- a report of 1200-1600 words

Assessment: Coursework.

A2 Level

MS3: (synoptic) – students produce three pieces of linked work.

- a research investigation
- a production (informed by the investigation)
- a brief evaluation

Assessment: Coursework.

MS4: (synoptic) Media – Text, Industry and Audience:- this unit is a progression from AS but involves the introduction of theoretical perspectives of the media. Students will make a detailed study of three different media industries.

Assessment: A written examination of 2½ hours.

Key Skills: Opportunities to develop key skills in communication, problem solving, IT, working with others and Improving own Learning and Performance at Level 3.

Subject

Choices: Media Studies combines well with IT, Sociology, English and Theatre Studies

Career: Media studies is a popular subject at degree level. It is a useful qualification for those considering careers in a wide range of occupations relevant to a media-saturated society.

Further

Information: See Mrs S Cooper or Mrs A Duncan-Wild

MUSIC

Music can be studied for one year at AS level, and a continuation to A level will depend on student demand. The course is modular and consists of 6 units: 3 are studied for AS level and an additional 3 at A2. The specification provides a balanced scheme of assessment which builds on the skills, knowledge and understanding established at KS4 GCSE level promoting progression through AS to A level and providing a foundation for further study. There is no specific requirement for prior learning, although candidates would have already gained a knowledge and understanding and have developed a range of musical skills through their study of music at GCSE level. An ability to perform vocally or instrumentally to a Grade 4 (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) is advisable before beginning this course at either AS or A2 level.

Specifications and Assessment

AS Level

Unit 1 (30%) Performing. Ensemble and/or solo performance lasting 8-10 minutes.

Unit 2 (30%) Composing. Two contrasting compositions, one of which must be stimulated by the Western Classical Tradition.

Unit 3 (40%) Listening and Appraising.

Paper 1 – analysis exam based on Western Classical music, pop, rock and jazz.

Paper 2 - Aural perception exam.

A2 Level

Unit 4 Performing. Solo and/or ensemble performance of approximately 12 minutes.

Unit 5 Composing. Two compositions based on different areas of study.

Unit 6 Listening and Appraising. Part 1 - Aural and Stylistic Perception. A board-set test based on pre-recorded music taken from Western Art Music of the 20th and 21st centuries. Part 2 – A board-set test of 1½ hours. Candidates will study a prescribed set work and place the work within a broader musical perspective.

Students choose to specialise in a particular unit at A2 level. The specialist option will count for 20% of the overall A level, while the other two will count for 15% each. An extra task must be undertaken in the specialist unit.

Key Skills: Communication, IT, Working with Others, Improving Own Learning and Performance.

Subject Choices: Music combines well with History, Theatre Studies, Art, English and Mathematics.

Assessment: Performance is assessed by a visiting examiner.
Composition is assessed internally in the form of a portfolio.
Listening and appraising is assessed by external written examinations.

Career: Variety of work in arts, media, theatre, primary and secondary teaching and Music Peripatetic Service.

Further

Information: See Mr G Erlandson or www.wjec.co.uk

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS STUDIES

PE can be studied for one year at AS level or two years at A level. 2 modules are studied for AS level and 2 modules for A level. It is not essential for students to have studied PE at GCSE. In lessons theoretical concepts will be introduced and applied to sporting situations. An interest in sporting activities will be a distinct advantage.

Specifications

AS Examinations

Unit 1 – PHED1

Opportunities for and the effects of leading a healthy and active lifestyle

60% of AS, 30% of A Level

2 hour written examination

84 marks

Two sections:

Section A – six structured questions

Section B – application of theoretical knowledge to a practical situation

Available January (2010 onwards) and June

Unit 2 – PHED2

Analysis and evaluation of physical activity as a performer and/or in an adopted role/s

40% of AS, 20% of A Level

Internal assessment with external moderation

100 marks

Candidates perform, analyse and evaluate the execution of core skills/techniques in isolation and in structured practice as either a player/performer and in an adopted role or two adopted roles.

Available in June only.

A2 Examinations

Unit 3 - PHED3

Optimising performance and evaluating contemporary issues within sport

30% of A Level

2 hour written examination

84 marks

Three sections:

Section A – how exercise physiology can optimise performance

Section B – how application of psychological knowledge can optimise performance

Section C – contemporary influences in sport and their impact on the performer

Available in June only

Unit 4 – PHED4

Optimising practical performance in a competitive situation

20% of A Level

Internal assessment with external moderation

120 marks

Candidates perform, analyse and evaluate their own performance, identify weaknesses, and suggest causes and appropriate corrective measures.

Available in June only

Further

Information: See Mr E Partridge

PHYSICS

Entry requirements: B or above in Additional Science and C in Mathematics at GCSE level.

Physics explains natural and artificial physical processes. The ideas covered in the course will connect to everyday life, people and society. It will give you choices and points you to many different careers including those using physics.

Both AS and A2 courses will be modular. The AS course is designed to be completed in one year. The A2 course will be completed in the second year following the successful completion of the AS course.

The AS course provides a sound foundation to the A2 course as well as providing a satisfying experience for those with a love of Physics.

The A2 course leads to an A level Physics qualification, which will enable students to go on to study Physics, Engineering and a whole host of other courses.

Course details:

Both AS and A Level will be modular courses. The AS course is designed to be completed in one year. The A2 part of the A Level course will be completed in the second year following the successful completion of the AS course.

Specification

The AS course consists of three examinations and practical coursework.

Module 1: Particles, quantum phenomena and electricity. 40% of AS.

Module 2: Mechanics, materials and waves. 40% of AS.

Module 3: Investigative and practical skills in AS Physics. 20% of AS.

The A2 course consists of a further three modules with practical coursework.

Module 4: Fields and further mechanics. 20% of A level.

Module 5: Nuclear and Thermal Physics and Astrophysics. 20% of A level.

Module 6: Investigative and practical skills in A2 Physics. 10% of A level.

50% of the full A level is from marks achieved at AS level.

Further

Information: Mr G Timms, Maelor School, Penley

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology can be studied over one year at AS and two years at A2. At AS you are introduced to all the core areas of study which includes key assumptions underlying the different approaches to psychological enquiry, methods of research and areas of debate. You will need to acquire not only knowledge and understanding of psychological theories, terminology, concepts and methods of study but also be able to communicate this understanding in a clear and effective manner. Additionally you will be required to analyse and evaluate these theories, concepts and methods. When you successfully complete this qualification you will have the basic knowledge, understanding and analytical skills to go on to study Psychology at A2.

Specifications

AS Level

Unit 1 You will study the following areas: The cognitive approach and the social approach, You will also carry out practical research sessions where you collate and analyse data.

Unit 2 You will study the following areas: The learning approach, the psychodynamic approach, the biological approach. Again, relevant practical research studies will be carried out in class.

Assessment:

The AS course is made up of two Units of which Units 1 and 2 make up 50% of the overall marks. These Units are examined through two-separate written papers.

A2 Level

There are two Units of work that are covered at A2 each one building on the key approaches studied at AS.

Unit 3 Students will select two applications from Child Psychology, Criminological Psychology, Health Psychology or Sports Psychology.

Unit 4 This unit draws on material from across the course in order to explore different psychological perspectives, current issues and debates in the field. Students also study aspects of Clinical Psychology.

Careers: Psychology is a popular subject at degree and higher levels. An A2 qualification in psychology can provide entry onto a wide range of vocational courses or it can provide direct entry into employment, especially into caring, sports management, occupational and media sectors.

Further

Information: See Mrs F Roberts

PUBLIC SERVICES

KEY FACTS:

This is a one or two year BTEC course equivalent to an AS or A level qualification. Like all BTECS, the focus is on practical skills in a relevant context; in this case the public services sector, and there are no external exams. All assessment is on practical skills and coursework. As we are offering this course in response to students who may wish to pursue a career in the uniformed public services, we will be selecting units to reflect their interests.

The new specification is out only in draft at present, but the provisional structure is as follows:

Government, Policies and the Public Services – compulsory unit

Leadership and Teamwork in the Public Services – compulsory unit

Citizenship, Diversity and the Public Services – compulsory unit

Outdoor and Adventurous Expeditions – optional unit

Command and Control in the Uniformed Public Services – optional unit

Or

Understanding Discipline in the Uniformed Public Services – optional unit

Students would take three units on the 1 year course from a mix of the compulsory and optional units, and would take all five on the two year course.

There may be changes to the optional units selected once the specification is available in full, but we would like to consult those students who select this option about which units most appeal to them.

Further Information: Mr G Timms, Maelor School, Penley

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Religious Studies can be studied for one year at AS level or two years at A level.

The course is modular and consists of 4 modules of study.

It is an advantage to have studied the short or full course of Religious Studies at GCSE. However, students who have gained at least grade C in English are also suitably equipped for this specification.

Specifications

AS Level

Module 1

Religion in Contemporary Society

- a) Medical and Environmental Issues
- b) Religion and TV
- c) Religion and Community
- d) Religion and the Individual

Module 2

Buddhism

The life of the Buddha
Some central concepts
Buddhist Lifestyle
Some central practices

A Level

Students will develop their study of ONE of the above modules
+ Unit 4 Religion and Human Experience – the synoptic module which brings together the knowledge, understanding and skills learned throughout the course.

Key Skills:

are integral to the study of AS/A level RS and opportunities exist to develop key skills in Communication, Problem Solving, IT, Working with Others and Improving Own Learning and Performance.

Assessment

AS Level

Each module is assessed through TWO structured essay questions (chosen from FOUR) in 1¼ hours.

A Level

- 1 The chosen module is assessed through TWO structured essay questions (chosen from FOUR) in 1¼ hours.
- 2 One essay written under controlled conditions in 1¾ hours.

Subject Choices:

Religious Studies combines well with History, English, French, Geography, Economics and Sociology, but it can also be seen as a refreshing addition to any A level course, including the sciences.

Career:

Religious Studies is a useful A level qualification for students intending to study philosophy, theology, classical civilisations, sociology, journalism management, social sciences, nursing and psychology and many other degree courses. It is also a popular subject for those intending to follow a wide range of careers including teaching and social care, journalism, management, librarianship and the law and police force. In a wider sense Religious Studies attracts students who want to understand the religious traditions of their country and to wrestle with the 'big' questions concerning the existence of God, life after death, and the theories about the difference between right and wrong and good and evil.

Further

Information: See Miss H Piccou

SOCIOLOGY

Sociology can be studied for one year at AS level or two years at A level.

The course is modular and consists of 4 modules of study: 2 modules are studied for AS level and 2 further modules are studied for A level.

It is not necessary for candidates to have studied Sociology before and no prior knowledge of the subject is necessary. Students who have at least a Grade C in English Language will find that those skills will suitably equip them for the study of this specification. An interest in current affairs would also be helpful.

The course provides a worthwhile experience for pupils of various ages and from diverse backgrounds in terms of general education and lifelong learning.

In lessons students will be introduced to theory and then have opportunities to apply their knowledge and discuss real-life situations involving the use of data. Students will be able to reflect on their own experience of the social world in which they live.

Specifications

AS Level

Module 1 A study of Families and Households; Wealth, Poverty and Welfare; Culture and Identity.

Module 2 A study of Education; Health; Sociological Methods. Wealth, Poverty and Welfare, or Work and Leisure.

A2 Level

Module 3 A study of Beliefs in Society; Global Development; Mass Media; Power and Politics.

Module 4 A study of Crime and Deviance; Stratification and Differentiation; Theory and Methods.

Assessment

AS Level

Each unit is assessed through:-

data response questions, where questions are asked about written or numerical data provided.

Some of the questions asked may require more of a mini-essay style answer.

A2 Level

Each unit is assessed through:-

a) data response questions

b) essay questions.

The assessment objectives are common to both AS and A level. All students are required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding, interpretation and application, and evaluation skills.

Key Skills:

Opportunities to develop key skills in communication, number and IT are identified in all units and students will be required to collect evidence of their achievements.

Subject Choices:

Sociology combines well with English, Media Studies, Psychology and History and is also popular with Geography and Theatre Studies.

Career:

Sociology is a popular subject at degree level. It is a useful qualification for those considering careers in a wide range of occupations, including social work and social care, journalism in all its forms, business administration, management etc.

Further

Information: See Mrs S Cooper

WELSH SECOND LANGUAGE

INTRODUCTION

The AS and A Level Welsh Second Language Courses give an opportunity to employ all four skills reading, writing, speaking, listening – whilst giving a wider insight to Welsh literature, media and other topics (moral, social and cultural) related to modern-day Wales. The ability to communicate confidently, accurately and fluently both in written and oral work is the ultimate goal our students will reach by the end of the course.

Course Content

AS (Year 12)

This is a one-year course and there will be an examination in May/June. This course is a step on from the GCSE and it is a preparation for the Advanced Level in addition to being a qualification in itself. The course is structured as is shown below.

Unit 1 (20%)

This is an oral examination where students discuss a film. Students will need to discuss plot, theme and characters.

Unit 2 (15%)

Course Work – Students will need to create a folio containing at least 4 different forms of writing such as a magazine article, questionnaire, publicity material etc.

Unit 3 (15%)

In a formal two hour examination, students will need to show their understanding of a number of poems by modern poets and answer a section on the use of language.

A2 (Year 13)

This course leads to a full A level qualification and students studying this course will need to have studied the AS course. The qualification is recognised in all universities in the British Isles. The course is an extension and development of the AS course and is structured as shown below.

Unit 4 (15%)

Oral Examination. Students will need to discuss and show their understanding of the play studied during the Advanced Level course.

Unit 5 (20%)

A formal examination – 1¾ hours. For this part of the course students are expected to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of a selection of short stories and also to write personally on a subject which will be present in the stories. Students will also be asked to read English material and respond by writing in Welsh.

Unit 6 (15%) 1¾ hours

A formal examination. Students will be required to analyse critically and convey their personal response to the contents of a poem. Students will also answer a section on the use of language.

We feel that both the Advanced Supplementary and the Advanced Level courses are lively and interesting courses for those who wish to either extend their knowledge and understanding of the subject or to go on and study further.

It is expected that students following the AS and A Level courses take advantage of the opportunity to go on theatre trips, language courses and any activity that will promote their ability to communicate in Welsh, as much as they can.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

With the phenomenal increase in demand for people able to use Welsh confidently the Advanced Supplementary and the Advanced Level courses are ones which those who wish to pursue careers in areas such as education, television, radio, theatre, local government, national government, law etc should consider taking.

Further

Information: See Mrs A Williams and Miss H Owain

ONE-YEAR VOCATIONAL COURSES

VOCATIONAL COURSES

BTEC First Certificate/Diploma

The Certificate course is broadly equivalent to two GCSEs and the Diploma Course broadly equates to four GCSEs at Grade C or above. It may be possible to take an AS or A level alongside a vocational course and/or one or two re-sits. Through negotiation it is possible to supply a package of courses that will meet your individual requirements.

Entry Requirements

Individual results will be taken into account but as a general rule the Intermediate Vocational course would require some passes at GCSE Level. To gain this qualification it would take one year for most students though some may need two, depending on needs and individual ability levels.

BTEC First Certificates and Diploma offer direct progress on to BTEC. National programmes and higher education A BTEC First also prepares students for employment in their chosen career.

ENGINEERING - BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE

BTEC First Diplomas and Certificates offer direct progression on to BTEC National programmes. on completion of a BTEC National, students can progress to a BTEC Higher National or BTEC Foundation Degree programme.

A BTEC First also prepares students for employment in their chosen career.

Unit Combinations

For the **BTEC First Certificate** the learner is required to complete both core units and enough specialist units for a combined total of 180 guided learning hours (GLH) to complete the qualification.

BTEC First Certificate equivalent to 2 GCSEs grades A* - C.

Two Core Units

- Working Practices in Engineering (30 GLH)
The aim of this unit is to deal with the essential working practices of engineering to ensure that learners appreciate potential hazards.
- Using and Interpreting Engineering Information (30 GLH)
Will enable learners to understand how to make effective use of textual, numeric and graphical information when working with engineering drawings, technical manuals, reference tables, specifications, charts or electronic displays, in accordance with approved procedures.

Specialist units

- Using Computer Aided Drawing Techniques in Engineering (60GLH)
Provide the learner with an introduction to CAD and to enable learners to produce engineering drawings to given industry standards.
- Selecting and Using Secondary Machining Techniques to Remove Material (60 GLH)
Provides a detailed understanding of manufacturing processes that are mainly associated with generating and forming of shapes through machining techniques.

Assessment

In the Edexcel BTEC Firsts all units are internally assessed.

All assessment for BTEC Firsts is criterion referenced, based on the achievement of specified outcomes. Each unit has specified criteria to be used for grading. A summative unit grade can be awarded at pass, merit or distinction:

to achieve a 'pass' a learner must have satisfied **all** the pass criteria

to achieve a 'merit' a learner must additionally have satisfied **all** the merit criteria

to achieve a 'distinction' a learner must additionally have satisfied **all** the distinction criteria.

Further

Information: See Mr H Williams

BTEC FIRST DIPLOMA IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Two core units:

Communication and Individual Rights within the Health and Social Care Sectors
Individual Needs within the Health and Social Care Sectors

Four specialist units

Vocational Experience in a Health or Social Care Setting*
Anatomy and Physiology for Health and Social Care
Human Lifespan Development
The Impact of Diet on Health

*this unit includes 60 hours of mandatory work experience and is recommended

This qualification has been accredited at level 2 in the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

First Diploma in Health and Social Care

This is a one year course, with 14 hours a fortnight teaching time and one day a week work placement. Students will be expected to do private study to complete course work.

The diploma course equates to –
Pass grade = 4 x GCSE passes at grade C
Merit grade = 4 x GCSE passes at grade B
Distinction grade = 4 x GCSE passes at grade A
Level 2 in the National Qualification Framework

The assessments are all coursework –
Unit 1 Communication and individual rights
Unit 2 Individual needs
Unit 3 Working in health and social care
Unit 5 Anatomy and physiology
Unit 6 Human life span and development
Unit 9 Diet and health

Further

Information: See Mrs C Ballamy

LEISURE AND TOURISM

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rationale

Leisure and tourism activities are firmly based within the locality, region and country. This will encourage a student-centred approach to learning together with the opportunity to apply knowledge of leisure and tourism industries in a vocationally relevant way. The approach to learning followed in this programme will allow the candidate to contextualise the learning process in a meaningful way. This approach will provide centres with opportunities to forge links with leisure and tourism businesses, especially in the local area and region. As a result, centres will be able to develop cross-sector themes and approaches so that candidates can gain an insight into related sectors, such as business, marketing, customer service, retail and hospitality and catering.

The specification encourages an appreciation of how the knowledge, understanding and skills developed in one unit impact upon and are used in another, and awareness that these, inter-relationships are what happened in the 'real' world.

The end result will be that students will develop their opportunities for progression into employment in the leisure and tourism industries or higher level qualifications in these or related sectors.

1.2 Aims and Learning Outcomes

Following a course in GCSE Leisure and Tourism should encourage students to:

- Actively engage in the study of leisure and tourism to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.
- Understand the nature of the leisure and tourism industry.
- Develop an understanding of the contribution that leisure and tourism makes to society.
- Develop an awareness that health and safety issues are integral to leisure and tourism.
- Develop an awareness and understanding of sustainable development and environmental issues.
- Appreciate diversity and recognise similarities and differences of attitudes and cultures in society.

LEISURE AND TOURISM

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

CONTENT	ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT	Weighting S Award (D Award)
UNIT 1 Leisure and Tourism Provision in a chosen area	Controlled Assessment A choice of board prescribed tasks which should be completed in 8-10 supervised hours. Internally assessed and externally moderated. 60 marks (120 UMS)	60% (30%)
UNIT 2 Leisure and Tourism Destinations	Written Paper (1 hour 30 minutes) Section A: A series of compulsory short answer questions. Section B: A series of compulsory short answer and extended writing questions based on case studies. (90 marks (120 UMS)	40% (20%)
UNIT 3 Leisure and Tourism Organisations	Controlled Assessment A choice of board prescribed tasks which should be completed in 8-10 supervised hours. Internally assessed and externally moderated. 60 Marks (120 UMS)	(30%)
UNIT 4 Choice and Change in Leisure and Tourism	Written Paper (1 hour 30 minutes) Section A: A series of compulsory short answer questions. Section B: A series of short answer and extended writing questions based on case studies. 90 marks (80 UMS)	(20%)

To obtain a double award candidates are required to study all **four** units.

The Double Award GCSE Leisure and Tourism allows candidates to develop further some of the aspects covered in the Single Award and to expand their knowledge and understanding of Leisure and Tourism. The Double Award is the equivalent of two GCSEs.

Further Information: See Mr E Partridge

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN SPORT

The Edexcel BTEC First Certificate in Sport is a 180 guided learning hour qualification which offers a bite-sized opportunity for learners to experience a vocational qualification. The course offers a vocational qualification for learners who wish to follow a shorter programme of study related to an aspect of employment that they might wish to move into; or a taster qualification which can extend their programme of study and provide an initial experience of a vocational area.

Key Features of the BTEC Firsts in Sport

The course has been designed to focus on:-

- Education and training for those working in the sport sector.
- Providing opportunities for learners to gain a nationally recognised vocationally specific qualification to enter employment in the sport sector or to progress to further qualifications such as BTEC Nationals.
- Providing opportunities for learners to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attitude essential for successful performance in working life.

Structure of the Qualification

The BTEC First Certificate in Sport consists of three units, which must include at least one of the specified core units. The units are:-

The Body in Sport (core unit)

Health, Safety and Injury in Sport (core unit)

The Sports Industry

Preparation for Sport

Planning and Leading Sports Activities

Practical Sport

Practical Outdoor and Adventurous Activities

Further

Information: See Mr Partridge

WELSH BACCALAUREATE

The Welsh Baccalaureate is a qualification which recognises what you do both in school and out of school. The qualification has been designed to provide you with a range of experiences which will equip you for the modern world.

In order to pass the WBQ you must pass your Key Skills. These are the main key skills of Communication, Application of Number and ICT and the wider key skills of Working with Others (WVO), Improving Own Learning and Performance (IOLP) and Problem Solving. You can submit one Key Skill at a time as soon as you have completed it.

You must complete an individual investigation on a topic of your choice related to Wales, Europe and the World, Personal and Social Education or Work-Related Education, all of which form part of your WBQ studies.

You will also need to provide evidence that you have spent 20 hours on the language module. You will be exempt if you study languages at A level.

You will need to take part in a team enterprise and you are expected to do thirty hours of community participation. You may already be doing some activity that qualifies - helping in the school library, coaching sport or the Sports Leadership course. The community hours can be within the school community or in the wider community.

You must also pass the subjects which you opt to study at A level or BTec. The WBQ adds breadth and balance to these studies through a programme of well-organised activities.

All sixth form students at Ysgol Rhiwabon will follow the Welsh Bac course.

Further

Information: See Mrs P Gooding



Ysgol Rhiwabon
Pont Adam
Ruabon
Wrexham
LL14 6BT
Tel: Wrexham (01978) 822392
Fax: (01978) 814918

Headteacher/Pennaeth – Angela Williams BA NPQH

"The school creates a supportive atmosphere and offers learning experiences where each student is respected as an individual regardless of gender, race or disability."

Taken from Estyn Inspection May 2009

**E-mail: mailbox@rhiwabon-high.wrexham.sch.uk
Website: www.ysgolrhiwabon.co.uk**