

KING HENRY VIII SCHOOL

Ysgol Brenin Harri'r VIII



UT PROSIM

SIXTH FORM SUBJECTS

Pynciau Chweched Dosbarth

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Welsh Baccalaureate / Skills Challenge Certificate /Y Bagloriaeth Cymru / Dystysgrif Her Sgiliau

A student who is studying for Level 3 courses (e.g. A Levels) will follow the Advanced **Welsh Baccalaureate** which will be the equivalent of one A2. This is a two year course and carries the same UCAS tariff as other A Levels (up to 56 UCAS points for A*)

To successfully complete an Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate a student will need to:

- Achieve the Skills Challenge Certificate at Advanced Level, which will be graded A*-E at Level 3
- Have achieved a GCSE in English Language at Grade C or higher (this can be retaken in Y12)
- Have achieved a GCSE in Mathematics or GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy at Grade C or higher (this can be retaken in Y12)
- Achieve at least two full Level 3 qualifications (e.g. Advanced Levels and Level 3 BTECs)

To achieve the Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC) students will need to complete the following:

- An **'Individual Project'**, in which the following skills will be assessed - Literacy, Numeracy, Digital Literacy, Planning & Organisational, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- An **'Enterprise and Employability'** Challenge, in which the following skills will be assessed - Numeracy, Digital Literacy, Creativity and Innovation and Personal Effectiveness
- A **'Global Citizenship'** Challenge, in which the following skills will be assessed - Literacy, Creativity and Innovation, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- A **'Community'** Challenge, in which the following skills will be assessed - Personal Effectiveness and Planning and Organisation

There will be dedicated Skills Challenge lessons for students to develop the necessary skills and to produce the required assessments. There are no examinations, instead the project and the three challenges will be assessed in a similar way to traditional coursework.

All Welsh Universities will include the Advanced SCC in their offers.

Most other universities and most courses within universities also accept the SCC. Even the most competitive courses such as Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science will accept it as an alternative to an A level grade.

e.g. Medicine – Cardiff, Exeter, Leicester, Manchester, Plymouth, Southampton.

Veterinary Science/Medicine – Bristol, Liverpool, Nottingham.

Dentistry – Bristol, Cardiff.

Offers for other courses can take on the following formats:

- Accepted in a 3 grade offer as an alternative to an A level or vocational qualification.
e.g. including Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Exeter, Lancaster, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, LSE, Loughborough, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Sheffield, Southampton, UCL, York

- Accepted as fourth grade (usually B or C) alongside a reduced 3 grade offer. e.g. Bath, Warwick
- Accepted in tariff points offer
e.g Brighton, Chester, Edge Hill, Harper Adams, Hull, Liverpool John Moores, Manchester Met, Oxford Brookes, Plymouth, UWE

Oxford and Cambridge Universities may take a different approach in their consideration of assessment for admission as they assess applicants holistically. Students are encouraged to draw upon relevant SCC experiences when writing their personal statement and should refer to them at interview, even taking a copy of their Individual Project with them. Generally the SCC is not included in their 3 A level grade offers, however, it may be used as part of an offer.

The following statement is quoted from the new specifications for the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate course.

The central focus of the Welsh Baccalaureate at Advanced level is to provide a vehicle for level 3 learners to consolidate and progress the development of essential and employability skills. It will provide experiences which will enable learners to be better prepared for their future destination, whether university, further training or employment. The emphasis in the Welsh Baccalaureate is on applied learning (i.e. acquiring and applying a range of transferable skills. Learners will develop skills through engagement in purposeful tasks; applying knowledge and understanding in contexts appropriate for level 3 learners. The Welsh Baccalaureate will encourage the learner to value skills development as a key aspect of education and life-long learning. Offering a learning experience relevant to the needs and demands of the workplace will develop learners' confidence, drive and initiative, preparing them to enter, succeed and progress in the world of work.

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

Contact

Miss L. Trew – Subject Leader Lifeskills

Art and Design / Celf a Dylunio

The AS and A level in **Art and Design** offer students intellectual and practical challenges via a wide range of design briefs.

Year 12 will be a broad based course designed to allow students and staff to identify individual strengths and skills. It will comprise of one self-directed design brief. This will be submitted as coursework in April.

Year 13 will consist of a personal investigation, which will be coursework and an extended essay. There will be an externally set assignment to be completed in May. The paper will be given out in February.

Course Outline

Endorsed areas of study:

- Fine Art
- Graphic Design
- Three Dimensional Design
- Textiles/Fashion
- Photography
- Critical and Contextual Studies

Key Facts

Specification: WJEC

The Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Specification require candidates to develop practical skills and develop their understanding of Art, Craft and Design.

Entry Recommendations:

- GCSE grade B or above in Art is desirable but grade C will also be considered
- A willingness to adapt to new methods of working
- A creative and inquisitive mind and an ability to work independently to research and develop practical skills

Career Opportunities:

- Graphic Designer
- Film/Video/Photography
- Fine Art
- 3D Design
- Fashion/Textiles
- Theatre Design

Contact

Mrs A. Evans - Subject Leader Art

Biology / Bioleg

The **Biology** A-level course has undergone some radical changes to bring it right up-to-date with exciting developments in Biology in the world around us. The 21st Century has seen a revolution in our knowledge of living organisms and in biotechnology in particular. The WJEC course aims to help sixth formers understand some of the most important advances in Biology while at the same time laying the foundations for future study.

Course Outline

The specification is divided into a total of 5 units, 2 AS units and 3 A2 units. Weightings noted below are expressed in terms of the full A level qualification.

- **AS Unit 1:** Basic Biochemistry and Cell Organisation
Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes worth 20% of qualification
A range of short and longer structured questions, some in practical context and one essay
- **AS Unit 2:** Biodiversity of Body Systems
Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes worth 20% of qualification
A range of short and longer structured questions, some in practical context and one essay
- **A2 Unit 3:** Energy, Homeostasis and the Environment
Written exam: 2 hours 25% of qualification
A range of short and longer structured questions, some in practical context and one essay
- **A2 Unit 4:** Variation, Inheritance and Options
Written exam: 2 hours 25% of qualification
A range of short and longer structured questions, some in practical context and one essay
Choice of one option out of three:
 - Immunology and Disease
 - Human Musculoskeletal Anatomy
 - Neurobiology and Behaviour
- **A2 Unit 5:** Practical examination worth 10% of the qualification

Key Facts

Specification: WJEC

Entry Recommendations:

- GCSE Biology grade B or above or Double Award Science at grade BB or above is essential
- GCSE Mathematics and English at grade B or above

Career Opportunities:

There are many career opportunities in Biology and universities offer over 400 different courses such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, biochemistry, cell biology, nursing, pharmacy, physiology, sports science and zoology. Biology A levels are highly regarded by universities and allows entry into many courses not directly related to the subject.

Contact

Mrs J. Spencer - Subject Leader Biology

Chemistry / Cemeg

Chemistry underpins our everyday existence. It is responsible for the advances in quality and comfort of our lives. It is absolutely central to our understanding of the natural world. Everyday items that we take for granted, such as toothpaste, cosmetics, washing powders and perfumes were developed with the help of chemists. Mobile phones, laptops and even fabric for sports clothing are equally dependent on chemistry. Chemistry is also at the forefront of developments in nanotechnology and the study of climate change.

Chemistry in Years 12 and 13 offers students the opportunity to develop an excellent range of skills, including numeracy, problem-solving, data handling, analysis, team working and laboratory skills. It is an essential qualification for those planning to study medicine, dentistry, veterinary science or forensics, and even chemistry itself! It is also a subject that is favoured by university admissions tutors for the range of skills that students develop.

Course Outline

- **Physical Chemistry:** Explaining observations in the physical world, such as why do ice cubes float?
- **Inorganic Chemistry:** Industrial processes and environmental aspects
- **Organic Chemistry:** The study of carbon based compounds, including all life on earth!

Practical Techniques

An essential part of chemistry is understanding how to carry out a variety of practical techniques in a safe and effective manner.

AS Chemistry (Year 12)

Two theory modules and 12 practical activities;

- AS Unit 1: The language of chemistry, structure of matter and simple reactions (20% of A level)
- AS Unit 2: Energy, rate and the chemistry of carbon compounds (20% of A level)
- 12 practical activities have to be carried out and recorded. These are not formally assessed

A2 Chemistry (Year 13)

Two theory modules, 12 practical activities and a practical examination;

- A2 Unit 3 Physical and Inorganic Chemistry (25% of A level)
- A2 Unit 4 Organic Chemistry and analysis (25% of A level)
- A2 Unit 5 Experimental task and practical theory paper (10% of A level)
- 12 practical activities have to be carried out and recorded. These are not formally assessed

Key Facts

Specification: WJEC

Entry Recommendations:

- GCSE Chemistry grade B or above or Double Award Science at grade BB or above is essential
- GCSE Mathematics and English at grade B or above
- An average GCSE B grade score or above

Career Opportunities:

Medicine; Dentistry; Veterinary Science Management; Forensic Science; Biochemistry Chemical Industry; Pharmaceutical Industry.

Contact

Mr D. Williams - Subject Leader Chemistry

Design and Technology – Product Design / Dylunio a Thechnoleg – Dylunio Cynnyrch

The core elements of this subject are Designing and Making in a wide variety of contexts that are related to the real world whenever possible. Students will be encouraged to develop investigative skills, original design ideas, informed decision making, their own manufacturing skills, (both traditional and new), independent working strategies and an awareness of social and environmental issues related to designing. The practical outcomes can be realised in any material - wood, metal, plastic, textiles, papers/boards or combinations of these. Great emphasis is also placed on the use of ICT to enable students to design and manufacture products where appropriate using Computer Aided Design/ Manufacturing.

Course Outline

DESIGNING

- Products and applications
- Environmental and consumer factors
- Marketing and research
- Designing and innovation

MAKING

- Materials and components
- Industrial and commercial practice
- Manufacturing processes
- Systems and control

ASSESSMENTS

AS Level - 2 Units

- Unit 1: Exam Paper (50%)
- Unit 2: Design and Make Task (50%)

A Level - 2 Units

- Unit 1: Exam Paper (50%)
- Unit 2: Major Project (50%)

Key Facts

Specification: WJEC

Entry Recommendations:

- Grade C or above in a GCSE Design and Technology subject or BTEC Engineering (Merit or above)

Career Opportunities:

- Product Designer, Engineering, Manufacturing, Architecture, Graphic Design, Art and Design, Fashion and Textiles, Set design and prop making, Software Design, Games Design, Education and many more

Contact

Mr J. Curran - Subject Leader Technology

English Literature / Llenyddiaeth Saesneg

English offers a wide-ranging and fascinating specification. It affords a chance to improve powers of analysis; to sharpen reading skills; to deepen sensitivity; to learn to criticise without being judgmental. All these are essential life skills. Studies also explore literary, historical, economic, scientific and philosophical contexts, in an atmosphere of discussion and debate.

Course Outline

AS Course Content

- **Unit 1:** 2 hour external examination - closed text; 20% of the qualification
Section A – Prose fiction pre-1900 - *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
Section B - Modern Drama - *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams
- **Unit 2:** 2 hour external examination - open text, (clean copy) 20% of the qualification
Poetry post 1900- Seamus Heaney's *Fieldwork* and Owen Sheers' *Skirrid Hill*
Section A - Critical analysis of modern poetry
Section B - Poetry comparison

A2 Course Content

- **Unit 3:** 2 hour external examination - open text, (clean copy)
Section A – Poetry pre 1900 - *The Merchant's Tale* by G Chaucer
Section B – Unseen poetry comparison
- **Unit 4:** 2 hour examination – Shakespeare – *Hamlet*- closed book
Section A- Shakespeare extract
Section B- Shakespeare essay

Key Facts

Specification: WJEC

Entry Recommendations:

- GCSE grade B in either English Language or English Literature

Career Opportunities:

English is a versatile subject. It can be combined with any other subject (options allowing), e.g.: Journalism/Media, Personnel Management, Law, Teaching/Academia, Speech Therapy/Psychology.

However, the skills acquired through studying English are recognised as essential in almost any career. It is, of course, fundamental to have effective communication skills, empathy and emotional literacy. Studying the works of the greatest writers is still the best way to learn how to think, and how best to express one's thoughts.

Contact

Mrs C. James - KS5 English Leader

French / Ffrangeeg

French is a global language, spoken on five continents; in Europe it is the big player, second only to our own language. Industry and commerce are always on the look-out for French speakers. Having a language is increasingly valuable and gives you that extra edge in the job market. At university, you can do single Honours French, but more and more commonly, you can combine it with almost any other subject - science, technology, business or arts. You are usually offered the added attraction of a year abroad in a French speaking country.

We concentrate on practical communication in AS and A level French and an important element of the course is the regular small-group work. The four skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) are developed by studying different aspects of life, society and culture.

Course Outline

The new A Level specification content covers the two main areas of interest:

- Social issues and trends
- Political, intellectual and artistic culture

Under these two areas of interest a total of four themes have been chosen to offer learners an extensive and pertinent learning experience.

AS Course Content

- Being a young person in French-speaking society
- Understanding the French-speaking world (including the study of a French film)

A2 Course Content

- Diversity and difference
- France 1940-1950: The Occupation and the post-war years (including the study of a literary text)

Assessment

- This qualification is made up of a total of five units: two at AS and three at A level
- Units 1 (AS) and 3 (A level) are speaking assessments; Unit 2 (AS) and Unit 4 (A Level) are combined listening, reading, translation and critical response examinations (an essay based on the film of study for Unit 2); Unit 5 (A Level) is a critical and analytical writing examination based on the literary text

Key Facts

Specification: WJEC

Entry Recommendations:

- GCSE grade B in French (minimum of grade B in writing and speaking assessments)

Career Opportunities:

- Commerce and industry, Executive, Media, Sales and marketing, Travel and tourism, Retail, Education, Public Administration, Engineering, Translator/interpreter, International Organisations, Banking and Finance, EU bodies e.g. administrative and legal

Contact

Mrs C. Pearman – Subject Leader Modern Foreign Languages

Geography / Daearyddiaeth

Geography is a flexible subject as it can be classified as an arts, science or social science subject. Geography at AS and A2 Level consists of physical and human topics and adopts a modern approach to the subject allowing pupils to develop an understanding of the natural world, human impacts on the environment and the challenges facing both the developed and developing world. There will be opportunities to undertake a number of fieldwork investigations as a part of this course. The skills gained through planning an investigation in AS and A2 are valued by universities as excellent preparation for conducting extended projects as undergraduates. Geography will further develop your literacy, numeracy, IT and decision making skills.

Course Outline

AS Course Content

Unit 1: Changing Landscapes

- Glaciated Landscapes
- Tectonic Hazards

Unit 2: Changing Places

- Changing places – economic, social, demographic and settlement changes
- Fieldwork Investigation in Physical and Human Geography

Assessment

One written paper for each unit. Each paper will have structured question with data response, one of which tests research/fieldwork.

A2 Course Content

Unit 3: Global Systems and Global Governance

- Global Systems – Water and Carbon Cycles
- Global Governance- Processes and patterns of global migration and global governance of the Earth's oceans
- 21st Century Challenges

Unit 4: Contemporary Themes in Geography

- Tectonic Hazards
- Economic Growth and Challenge: China and Weather and Climate

Unit 5: Independent Investigation

- One written independent investigation of 3000-4000 words, based on the collection of both primary and secondary information

Assessment

One written paper for Units 3 and 4 with a range of structure questions with data response, extended response and essay questions. The Individual Investigation is non-examined.

Key Facts

Specification: WJEC

Entry Recommendations:

- GCSE grade B or above in Geography, Mathematics and English

Contact

Mr G. Morgan – Subject Leader Geography

Government and Politics / Llywodraeth a Gwleidyddiaeth

Government and Politics is an increasingly popular subject that will enable students 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. Through a compulsory element on governing modern Wales, the specification will make a contribution to the development of citizenship. It will be supported by resources for what is necessarily an evolving subject for study.

At AS Level, candidates will 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. For those who continue to A level, there will be further specialisation at A2, through optional units in *US Politics* and *US Government*, and *Political Ideologies* and *Challenges in Contemporary Politics*.

Course Outline

AS

- People, Politics and Participation
- Governing Modern Wales

A2

- Political ideologies
- Challenges in contemporary politics

Key Facts

Specification: WJEC

Entry Recommendations:

- GCSE English Language at grade C or above

Career Opportunities:

- Law
- Research
- Marketing
- Journalism

Contact

Mrs A. Davies – Subject Leader Government and Politics

History / Hanes

Besides the study of the subject itself, **History** provides training in evaluating and presenting evidence, arguing a case and making logical statements in writing. These traits are valued by many employers of graduates and offer a path to a wide range of career opportunities. An A Level in History is also considered by many universities as a desirable choice, being seen as a “facilitating” subject which opens up a range of other academic areas to students.

It will consist of some elements of British History and some of World History. It will be available at AS and A-level.

Course Outline

A-Level History is divided into a total of five units, two AS units and three A2 units. AS candidates follow one period study and one in-depth study. A level candidates re-visit the same period and in-depth study, as well as looking at an additional topic.

Period Study - Wales and England - The Stuarts (1603 - 1714)

The period study requires candidates to study an extended chronological period of a hundred years or more. This places emphasis on the need to understand the process of historical change and its causes and consequences, both long and short term.

In-depth Study - America in Crisis (1840 - 1861)

This requires candidates to study a relatively short period in much greater depth. In all aspects of their study, candidates will use a wide range of different types of historical sources. These will include both contemporary and later sources and historical interpretations.

Key Facts

Specification: WJEC

Entry Recommendations:

- GCSE grade C or above in History is advisable but good ability in English will be taken into account

Career Opportunities:

- Law
- Journalism
- Management
- History teaching
- Archaeology
- Primary teaching

Contact

Mrs K. Corken - Subject Leader History

Law / Y Gyfraith

Have you ever wondered what it takes to become a solicitor or what the difference is between a barrister and a solicitor? Are you curious to know why some people are found guilty of criminal offences and others are found innocent, why some are charged with murder and some with manslaughter? Have you ever thought about the sorts of people who become judges and why there are different courts? Have you ever thought it an injustice that some people commit serious crimes but don't get sent to prison? If you want any of these questions answered then you should opt for **Law**. This course not only gives you a grounding in the main principles of English and Welsh laws but it also helps to develop your knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of the English Legal System.

Course Outline

On the AS course you will study two units: -

UNIT 1 – NATURE OF LAW AND THE WELSH AND ENGLISH LEGAL SYSTEMS

- Section A - This section will look at how laws are made and what role both the House of Commons and House of Lords has on the legislative process. It will also look at what influences operate on Parliament e.g. media and pressure groups and the Law Commission. This section also looks to where Parliament can delegate the making of legislation and what controls operate on this process. In addition to this you will be able to study the way in which statutes are interpreted and the role that judges play in decision making
- Section B - This section will look at the court system (both civil and criminal) as well as exploring other ways of resolving disputes (ADR). It covers professional people involved in the law (barristers, solicitors and judges) as well as looking at lay people (juries and magistrates). This section also looks at funding and other sources of advice

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes.

UNIT 2 – THE LAW OF TORT

- This section will develop knowledge and understanding of liability in negligence for injury to people
- It covers damage to property and liability in relation to lawful and unlawful visitors
- Students will also gain understanding of remedies, including damages, mitigation of loss and injunctions

Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes.

The A2 course requires the study of a further two units.

UNIT 3 – THE PRACTICE OF SUBSTANTIVE LAW

- HUMAN RIGHTS LAW - The rules and theory of human rights law, provisions in the European Convention of Human Rights, restrictions, how it is enforced and the debate relating to the protection of human rights in the UK
- CRIMINAL LAW – The rules and theories of criminal law, general elements of liability, offences against the person and property offences. It also considers defences that are available

Written examination: 2 hours.

UNIT 4 – SUBSTANTIVE LAW PERSEPECTIVES

In this unit you will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of legal rules and principles, and to analyse and evaluate legal rules, principles, concepts and issues. Relevant case law and authority will need to be used.

Written examination: 2 hours.

Key Facts

Specification: WJEC

Entry Recommendations:

- A genuine interest in the legal system the criminal justice system is required
- A minimum of 5 GCSE passes A*-C, including English is required. GCSE grade B in English would be preferable

Career opportunities:

A law degree obviously allows for a business or legal career, such as a solicitor, barrister or legal secretary. It can also lead to roles with in the public sector and politics. It is relevant for banking, finance and accountancy careers and also supports jobs in the fields of media and advertising.

Contact

Mrs J. A. Davies - Subject Leader Law

Mathematics / Further Mathematics / Mathemateg / Mathemateg Bellach

There will be few subjects or careers at degree level and beyond which will remain untouched by **Mathematics**. In its own right as a logical abstract subject, it can approach a form of art. As an applied subject it is dominant both as the language of science and a tool of research.

In this course mathematical skills and concepts will be developed further in Pure Mathematics or Core Mathematics and applied in the areas of Mechanics and Statistics.

Course Outline

In Year 12, we will be offering 2 courses: Maths AS and Further Maths AS.

- **Maths AS** will comprise of a Pure Mathematics component Unit 1 and an Applied Component Unit 2
 - **The Pure Maths paper** (120 marks) will consist of a number of short and longer, both structured and unstructured questions, which may be set on any part of the subject content of the unit. A number of questions will assess learners' understanding of more than one topic from the subject content. The total assessment time is 2 hours and 30 minutes. A calculator will be allowed in this examination
 - **The Applied paper** will consist of two sections:
Section A: Statistics (40 marks)
Section B: Mechanics (35 marks)
The total assessment time of 1 hour 45 minutes can be split between Section A and Section B as learners deem appropriate. The paper will comprise a number of short and longer, both structured and unstructured questions, which may be set on any part of the subject content of the unit. A number of questions will assess learners' understanding of more than one topic from the subject content. A calculator will be allowed in this examination
- **Further Maths AS** will comprise of 3 compulsory units
 - AS Unit 1: Further Pure Mathematics
 - AS Unit 2: Further Statistics
 - AS Unit 3: Further Mechanics

In Year 13, if the student continues with their Maths studies, they will need to complete one more Pure Module and one more Applied module.

Further Mathematicians will complete one more Pure Module and then one Applied module from a choice of two.

Assessment

- All exams in AS Maths are 2 hour 30 minutes and 1 hour 45 minute papers and there is no coursework. Calculators are allowed in all papers
- In Further Maths the AS exams are 1hour 30 minutes long and calculators are allowed in all papers

Key Facts

Specification: WJEC Maths and Further Maths

Entry Recommendations:

- Maths GCSE grade A or A* is required and pupils need to appreciate that the course is heavily reliant on good algebraic skills

Career Opportunities:

A wide range of employers welcome a Maths A-level qualification. It is seen as an indication of the ability to think logically and structure problem solving tasks. Maths at A-level is required or highly desirable for a large number of degree courses, such as; Engineering, Computing, Physics and Medicine. Mathematics is also very useful for Psychology, Sociology and Economics.

Contacts

Mr S. Williams – Curriculum Leader Mathematics

Media Studies / Astudiaethau'r Cyfryngau

Those of us who live in the Western and other highly industrialised and technological societies inhabit cultures which have been described as Media saturated. Students of **Media Studies** will have the opportunities to analyse many different media texts including: film, television, print and video games. There will also be an opportunity for students to produce and analyse their own texts.

Course Outline

The AS course is made up of two units.

- AS Unit 1: Investigating the Media
This unit assesses knowledge and understanding of media language, representation, media industries and audiences. The exam consists of three sections;
 - Section A: Selling Images – Advertising and Marketing
One-stepped question based on unseen print and audio-visual resource material and requiring reference to the advertising and marketing products studied
 - Section B: News in the Online Age
One two-part question requiring reference to the news products studied. There is a choice of question in the second part of the examination
 - Section C: Film Industries – from Wales to Hollywood
One two-part question based on two films studied
- AS Unit 2: Creating a Media Production
 - A media production, including individual research and planning, created in response to a choice of briefs set by the WJEC, and applying knowledge and understanding of key concepts
 - An individual reflective analysis of the production

The **A2 course** is made up of **two units**.

- A2 Unit 3: Media in the Global Age
This unit assesses knowledge and understanding of media language, representation, media industries and audiences. The exam consists of three sections;
 - Section A: Television in the Global Age
One two-part question based on two television programmes studied
 - Section B: Magazines – Mainstream and Alternative Media
One two-part question based on two magazines studied
 - Section C: Media in the Digital Age – Video Games
One two-part question based on two video games studied
- A2 Unit 2: Creating a Cross-Media Production
 - A cross-media production including individual investigative research and development. This unit will also involve students applying their knowledge and understanding of key concepts and digital convergence
 - An individual critical analysis of the production

Key Facts

Specification: WJEC

Entry Recommendations:

- 5 GCSE passes grade A* - C or above, including English Language

Career Opportunities:

Journalism, Public Relations, Marketing, Teaching, and many more.

Contact

Mr J. Jones – Lead teacher Media Studies

Music / Cerddoriaeth

The **Music** department at King Henry VIII School is an ideal place to study at Advanced Level. There is extensive support from the department staff throughout the course. Students are encouraged to work to their strengths and both contemporary and traditional musicians are able to achieve their potential through careful choice of performance and composition options. The range of set works and theoretical aspects of the course allow students to be challenged, yet prepared for future study in the world of music.

The Music department also offers students exceptional opportunities for performance, often alongside professionals. This includes orchestral and choral performances, and whole-school productions in collaboration with the drama department.

Course Outline

AS

- Solo and/or ensemble performance on voice or instrument. This is expected to be between 6 and 8 minutes in total
- Two compositions (using acoustic instruments or ICT packages) lasting a total of around 5 minutes. The task is undertaken under controlled conditions. (30%) The first composition is completed in response to a brief set by the examination board; the second is 'free'
- An examination paper based on both familiar and unfamiliar music. The appraising exam is based upon two main areas of study; the symphony during the classical period (involving one work set for detailed study, Haydn, symphony 103) and the study of 4 major musical theatre composers and their shows

A2

- Students specialise in Performance and Composition (either free composition or stylistic studies)
- The examination paper is based upon set works which are studied in greater depth than at AS Level

Key Facts

Specification: WJEC

Entry Recommendations:

- A good pass in GCSE Music. There is no requirement to have achieved a pass at a Grade examination in either instrument or voice, but students will need to perform to Grade 5 level by the end of Year 12. A sound knowledge of basic music theory is also required. A commitment to researching music, listening and score study is also essential

Career Opportunities:

Professional Performer, Primary & Secondary Teacher, Recording Engineer/Producer, Multimedia, Mass Media, Music Therapy, Librarian, Hospitality & Event Management, Business Management.

Contact

Mr M. Hunt – Subject Leader Performing Arts

Physics / Ffiseg

From smaller than a nucleus of an atom to the giant scale of galaxies; from events that take place faster than a billionth of a second to the age of the universe, the study of **Physics** encompasses all! The qualification builds on knowledge and understanding developed in GCSE.

Course Outline

The specification is divided into a total of 5 units: 2 AS units and 3 A2 units. Weightings noted below are expressed in terms of the full A level qualification.

AS (2 units)

- **Unit 1 - Motion, Energy and Matter**
Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes worth 20% of qualification
Short answer and extended answer structured questions, some in a practical context
- **AS Unit 2 - Electricity and Light**
Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes worth 20% of qualification
Short answer and extended answer structured questions, some in a practical context

A2 Level (the above plus a further 3 units)

- **Unit 3 - Oscillations and Nuclei**
Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes worth 25% of qualification
Short answer and extended answer questions, some in a practical context, comprehension question
- **Unit 4 - Fields and Options**
Written examination: 2 hours 25% of qualification
Short answer and extended answer questions, some in a practical context. Choice of one option out of four:
 - Alternating Currents
 - Medical Physics
 - The Physics of Sports
 - Energy and the Environment
- **Unit 5 - Practical Examination**
10% of qualification

Key Facts

Specification: WJEC

Entry Recommendations:

- GCSE Physics grade B or above or Double Award Science at grade BB or above is essential
- GCSE Mathematics and English at grade B and above
- An average GCSE B grade score or above

Career Opportunities:

Physics leads to a wide range of courses and careers. These could be: from Higher National to degree level courses ranging from Physics, Medicine to Engineering, employment in many areas, including scientific research, engineering, broadcasting, aviation, international commerce and many more.

Contacts

Mr M. Herbert-Jones - Subject Leader Science

Psychology / Seicoleg

We study human behaviour from the 5 key perspectives in Psychology. **Psychology** is an increasingly popular subject with a potentially massive range of post-education opportunities. Psychology is the science of the mind and behaviour and has the status of a science in all of the universities in the United Kingdom for admissions purposes. It seeks to explore the line between human behaviour and our genetic and biochemical make-up and the social conditions in our environment.

Course Outline

AS Course Content:

- Perspectives in Psychology
- Positive Psychology
- Cognitive Psychology
- Psychodynamic Psychology
- Biological Psychology
- Behavioural Psychology
- Research methods used in Psychology
- Contemporary debates in Psychology

A2 Course Content:

Three of the six topics will be studied

1. Addictive behaviours
 2. Autistic spectrum behaviours
 3. Bullying behaviours
 4. Criminology
 5. Schizophrenia
 6. Stress
- Real World Applications of Psychology
 - Issues and Debates in Psychology

Key Facts

Specification: WJEC

Entry Recommendations:

- At least a grade B in Mathematics and a grade B in English Language GCSE

Career Opportunities:

Personnel Management, Social Work, Marketing, Psychiatric Work, Educational Psychology, and many more.

Contact

Mrs A. Davies – Subject Leader Psychology

Religious Studies / Addysg Grefyddol

Are you someone with an enquiring mind, an appreciation of different viewpoints, and an ability to come to clear, balanced decisions? If you are, and you want to work with people, then **Religious Studies** will give you plenty to think about and help you acquire valuable expertise.

A study of Religious Studies provides the opportunity to study issues and questions that matter. What's the value of life? What beliefs will you live by? What different ideas about God and life after death are there? You will be encouraged to develop your own thoughts and ideas about such moral and ethical issues and questions of belief.

Course Outline

AS level comprises the study of two modules: An introduction to Philosophy and Ethics and a study of a world religion.

MODULE ONE –

PART ONE: Introduction to the study of Ethics:

- **Ethical thought** – Divine command theory, Aristotle's virtue ethics, ethical egoism
- **Natural Moral Law** – St Thomas Aquinas
- **Utilitarianism** – non-religious approach to ethical decision making
- **Situation Ethics** – Joseph Fletcher

PART TWO: Introduction to the philosophy of religion:

- **Inductive arguments** – Cosmological and teleological arguments, challenges raised by David Hume
- **Deductive arguments** – Ontological arguments, objections raised by Gaunilo and Immanuel Kant
- **Challenges to religious belief, the problem of evil** – Augustinian and Irenaean theodicy
- **Religious experience** – William James, Rudolph Otto

MODULE TWO – A study of a world Religion

- **The life of Buddha** -Social and religious background to the Buddha's life, Birth, four sights, renunciation, enlightenment, ministry and death
- **Some central concept** - Role of the historical Buddha, the three jewels, wheel of dharma, karma, pratitya samutpada and the three marks of existence (dukkha, anicca, anatta)
- **Buddhist Lifestyle** - Four Noble Truths, Eightfold Path, Monasticism in the context of the Sangha and the Lay and monastic precepts
- **Some central practices** – Meditation: Vipassana, Samantha and Zazen and Puja

ASSESSMENT

AS - Two examinations: Module 1 – Philosophy and ethics, accounting for 25% of the final A-level and module 2 – Buddhism accounting for 15% of the final A level.

A2 – Three examinations:

- Study of a religion – 20%
- A study of Philosophy – 20%
- A study of Ethics – 20%

Key Facts

Specification: WJEC

Entry Recommendations:

- Minimum of grade B in RE GCSE along with a grade C or above in GCSE English Language
- Students with a grade B or above in Sociology GCSE or History GCSE would be considered if the student does not have grade B or above in RE GCSE

Career Opportunities:

Personnel Management, Journalism and publishing, Medicine and related professions, Social work, Tourism and leisure services, Retail management, other people orientated jobs.

All universities accept students with Philosophy and Ethics onto a variety of courses in humanities, arts and sciences, as well as Philosophy, Theology or related disciplines.

Contact

Mr N. Jenkins - Subject Leader Religious Education

Sociology / Cymdeithaseg

Sociology is an increasingly popular subject with many applications in the real world. Sociology is the study of society or more specifically society's institutions. Typical questions include why do some groups (such as the middle class and girls) achieve higher qualifications in the education system? Is the media's portrayal of certain groups stereotypical? Why do men seem to commit more crimes than women? Why are some groups more likely to be in poverty than others? Students need to have an interest in current affairs and an understanding of recent social history.

Course Outline

AS

- Acquiring culture and identity
- Youth cultures
- Research Methods
- The sociology of education

A2

- Crime and deviance
- Social inequality
- Applied research methodology

Key Facts

Specification: WJEC

Entry Recommendations:

- GCSE English Language at grade C or above

Career Opportunities:

- Law
- Nursing
- Police work
- Marketing
- Teaching
- Journalism

Contact

Mrs A. Davies – Subject Leader Sociology

Theatre Studies / Astudiaethau Theatr

Theatre Studies is a fun and challenging qualification and both AS and Advanced level students should develop:

- The ability to review and analyse live theatre
- Their understanding of drama and theatre
- Subject specific terminology
- Performance and technical skills
- The ability to work creatively and collaboratively in a team
- Analyse play texts and respond to imaginatively
- The ability to work independently
- Knowledge of theatre, practitioners and playwrights

Drama is a qualification that many prospective employers, colleges and universities respect because it shows the student has the ability to work within a team, has self-control and is a motivated learner with high social and communication skills.

Course Outline

Assessment Overview

- Unit 1: Theatre Workshop (24%)
- Unit 2: Text in Theatre Written exam (16%)
- Unit 3: Text in Action (36%)
- Unit 4: Text in Performance Written exam (24%)

The Drama department follows the WJEC specification for GCE AS/Advanced Drama. Pupils will undertake Unit 1 and Unit 2 for AS Drama in Year 12. Pupils continuing onto Advanced will complete Unit 3 and Unit 4 in Year 13.

THEATRE WORKSHOP

Learners will be assessed on either acting or design. Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre based on a reinterpretation of an extract from a text chosen from a list supplied by WJEC. The piece must be developed using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company. Learners must produce:
* a realisation of the performance or design * a creative log * an evaluation.

TEXT IN THEATRE EXAM

A written exam paper where pupils will answer questions on one performance text. They will also evaluate and analyse live theatre in relation to set text. 1 hour 30 minutes.

TEXT IN ACTION

Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of two pieces of theatre based on a stimulus supplied by WJEC:

- A devised piece using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company (a different practitioner or company to that chosen for Unit 1)
- An extract from a text in a contrasting style chosen by the learner. Learners must realise their performance live for the visiting examiner. Learners choosing design must also give a 5-10

minute presentation of their design to the examiner. Learners produce a process and evaluation report within one week of completion of the practical work

TEXT IN CONTEXT

A written exam paper where pupils will answer questions on two performance texts. (2 hours 30 minutes) One of the two questions will always be an essay. Learners have a choice of which text on which to answer each question. Learners will also evaluate and analyse live theatre in relation to set texts.

Key Facts

Specification: WJEC

Entry Recommendations:

- Grade C in English Language/Literature GCSE
- Grade C in Drama GCSE. Pupils wishing to take AS/A Level Theatre Studies who have not taken GCSE should talk to Mr T Mullings

Career Opportunities:

Theatre, Television, Radio, Film, Journalism, Teaching, Therapy / Psychology, Politics. What about starting your own stage school?

Contact

Mr T. Mullings - Lead teacher Drama

Welsh / Cymraeg

The importance of **Welsh** as a language and culture is rapidly being regained throughout the country. This is evident in the number of job advertisements which require a 'good understanding of the language', its compulsory status in all schools and public service companies and bilingual legal documents. There are increasing opportunities around the world for Welsh speakers, particularly in America, South America, Australia and Japan. The A-level Welsh course addresses all aspects of the subject, providing a thorough knowledge and understanding in all key skills. It is quite different to the GCSE course as it involves the study of many varied and interesting topic areas (see below) and offers a wide understanding of cultural and social aspects of the subject. By the end of the course you will be fluent in the language.

Course Outline

The AS and A Level in Welsh Second Language encourages learners to:

- study Welsh with interest, enjoyment and enthusiasm
- communicate correctly and fluently both orally and in writing within a wide range of situations and contexts
- write creatively and factually for a range of purposes
- analyse familiar and unfamiliar texts independently
- listen and respond to the opinions of others when expressing a point of view
- express an independent opinion, based on knowledge and understanding of literary and factual texts
- respond in Welsh with clarity, in a relevant, confident and structured manner
- play an appropriate role in a bilingual society at the beginning of the twenty-first century

In addition, the AS and A level Specification for Welsh Second Language should encourage candidates to make a connection between various aspects of the subject and provide a suitable foundation which will enable candidates to pursue further studies of the language in future.

AS (3 units)

Unit 1

Oral Examination: Film and Oracy;

15% of qualification 60 marks.

Section A: Discussion of Patagonia approx. 20 mins. per group.

Section B: Personal response approx. 5 mins. per candidate.

Unit 2

Non-examination Assessment;

10% of qualification 60 marks.

Candidates to write 3 extended pieces. Total of between 1,500 and 2,000 words.

Unit 3

Written Paper: 2 hours The Use of Language, and Poetry;

15% of qualification 120 marks.

Section A: A composite question which includes different types of linguistic exercises.

Section B: 3 questions based on the prescribed texts.

Advanced Level (AS & three additional units)

Unit 4

Oral Examination: Drama and Oracy;

25% of qualification 75 marks.

Section A: Living through the medium of Welsh.

Section B: Discussing a play – Crash.

Section C: Personal response.

Synoptic Assessment.

Unit 5

Written Paper: 2 hours The Welsh language in Society and Translanguaging;

15% of qualification 80 marks.

Section A: The Welsh language in society. Questions based on the prescribed text.

Section B: Translanguaging – a written response in Welsh to an English-language article.

Synoptic Assessment.

Unit 6

Written Paper: 2 hours The Use of Language and the Short Story;

20% of qualification 100 marks.

Section A: A composite question which includes different types of linguistic exercises.

Section B: 2 questions based on one of the prescribed texts (4 texts in total) and 1 synoptic question which bring together the information, understanding and skills developed in the subject. Synoptic Assessment.

Key Facts

Specification: WJEC

Entry Recommendations:

- GCSE grade B in Welsh at Higher Tier
- A minimum grade B is required in English Literature GCSE

Career Opportunities:

Business, Retail Outlets, Tourist Industries, Public Services, Education, Council, Police/ Fire Service, Television, Journalism, Banking, Health Care.

Welsh is increasingly demanded by employers throughout Wales. Obtaining Welsh at A-level would ensure that you were a highly desirable employee and this course also enables progression into Higher Education.

Contact

Miss C. Hill – Subject Leader Welsh Second Language

Applied Science BTEC Level 3 / Gwyddoniaeth Gymhwysol

The following information is correct for the course we currently offer. However, the BTEC qualifications are undergoing a period of change and the exam boards have not yet published the exact format of future courses that they will be offering. We will update this information and publish on our website as soon as we have been provided with the details.

The BTEC qualifications in **Applied Science** are QCF level 3 qualifications designed to give learners the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to prepare for employment. They have the equivalent weighting of an A level and are ideal for vocational and further educational purposes. The course is taught over two years and is project based. There are currently no examinations in this specification.

Course Outline

The course covers aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and applies scientific theory to practical situations.

Year 12

In the first year of BTEC, there are three compulsory modules all worth 10 units each:

- Fundamentals of Science
- Working in the Science Industry
- Scientific Practical Techniques

Year 13

Three further modules are selected from an extensive option list including medical science, forensic science and biotechnology. Each unit will again be worth 10 units.

Key Facts

Specification: EDEXCEL

Entry Recommendations:

- GCSE Double Award Science at grade CD or above
- A standard of literacy and numeracy supported by a general education equivalent to four GCSEs at grade A*-C

Career Opportunities:

- Quality control technician/analyst
- Hospital medical physics technician supporting the use of X-ray and other imaging / scanning equipment
- Drugs research
- Chemical industry, involved with testing materials
- Forensic science service
- Biotechnology laboratory carrying out fermentation and purification processes

Contact

Mr D. Williams - Subject Leader Vocational Sciences

BTEC Level 3 in Business / Busnes

The following information is correct for the course we currently offer. However, the BTEC qualifications are undergoing a period of change and the exam boards have not yet published the exact format of future courses that they will be offering. We will update this information and publish on our website as soon as we have been provided with the details.

If you are looking for an introduction into the different types of business organisations operating in the UK and how they function, these are the courses for you. You will learn through research and investigation into real business organisations; producing a series of coursework assignments. There are no formal examinations as this course is assessed entirely through continuous assessment.

Course Outline

In Year 12 students will complete the units below. This will lead to a BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Business (equivalent to one AS qualification):

- **Unit 1:** The Business Environment
- **Unit 2:** Business Resources
- **Unit 3:** Introduction to Marketing

A further three units will be studied in Year 13, leading to a BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Business (equivalent to one A-Level qualification):

- **Unit 4:** Business Communication
- **Unit 12:** Internet Marketing in Business
- **Unit 29:** Understanding Retail

Key Facts

Specification: EDEXCEL

Entry Recommendations:

- An interest in following a Business course
- 4 GCSE passes grade A*-C
- GCSE grade C in English and Mathematics

Career Opportunities:

These courses enable progression to both Higher Education and a wide range of employment opportunities and training in such areas as; accounting, marketing, personnel, retail and administration.

Contact

Mrs N. Williams - Subject Leader Business Studies

BTEC Level 3 in Health and Social Care / Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol

The following information is correct for the course we currently offer. However, the BTEC qualifications are undergoing a period of change and the exam boards have not yet published the exact format of future courses that they will be offering. We will update this information and publish on our website as soon as we have been provided with the details.

These courses provide a broad introduction into the work carried out in the Health and Social Care sector and the skills and values required to do so effectively. There are no formal examinations as this course is assessed entirely through continuous assessment.

Course Outline

In Year 12 you will carry out a week's work experience in the sector and cover the 3 units below. This will give you a BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Health and Social Care (equivalent to 1 AS qualification):

- Unit 1: Developing effective communication in Health and Social Care
- Unit 3: Health, safety and security in Health and Social Care
- Unit 4: Development through the life stages

A further three units will be studied in Year 13, leading to the BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Health and Social Care (equivalent to 1 A-Level qualification):

- Unit 2: Equality, Diversity and Rights in Health and Social Care
- Unit 10: Caring for Children and Young People
- Unit 21: Nutrition for Health and Social Care

Key Facts

Specification: EDEXCEL

Entry Recommendations:

- Successful completion of BTEC Level 2 Health & Social Care
- GCSE grade C in English and Mathematics

Career Opportunities:

These courses enable progression to both Higher Education and a wide range of employment opportunities and training in such areas as; nursing, social work, paramedic rescue services, teaching and many more.

Contact

Mrs N. Williams - Subject Leader Health & Social Care

BTEC Level 3 in Information Technology / Technoleg

Gwybodaeth a Chyfathrebu

The following information is correct for the course we currently offer. However, the BTEC qualifications are undergoing a period of change and the exam boards have not yet published the exact format of future courses that they will be offering. We will update this information and publish on our website as soon as we have been provided with the details.

This course provides you with an opportunity to gain the practical knowledge and skills you'll need to start a career in IT. The BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma is equivalent to one A-level. It is recognised by universities and included in the UCAS tariff. The six unit qualification at Distinction* carries the same number of points as an A-level grade A* (56 Points).

Course Outline

The course consists of two mandatory units which are outlined below.

- **Communication and Employability Skills for IT:**
The aim of this unit is to ensure learners understand both the personal attributes valued by employers and the principles of communicating effectively whilst developing effective communication skills and addressing their own personal development needs
- **Computer Systems:**
The aim of this unit is to enable learners to understand the components of computer systems and develop the skills needed to recommend appropriate systems for business purposes and set up and maintain computer systems

A further four units will be studied:

- Organisational System Security
- E-Commerce
- Website Production
- Digital Graphics

Key Facts

Assessment: Continuous Assessment - no examination.

Entry Recommendations:

- An interest in the communications industry plus evidence of successful study of ICT at Level 2 with a GCSE grade C or above, or equivalent pass, but individual cases will be considered

Career Opportunities:

This course is suitable for those studying in preparation for employment in the Information and Communication Technology sector, particularly in job roles where they will be expected to use ICT skills, liaise with users and carry out ICT support roles. This qualification is also suitable for those wishing to gain a Level 3 qualification to support further study in Further or Higher Education.

Contact

Mrs T. Matthews - Subject Leader ICT

BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Sport / Chwaraeon

The following information is correct for the course we currently offer. However, the BTEC qualifications are undergoing a period of change and the exam boards have not yet published the exact format of future courses that they will be offering. We will update this information and publish on our website as soon as we have been provided with the details.

The BTEC Level 3 **Sport** Award is a two year course equivalent to one A Level qualification. The course takes the form of continuous assessment – seven units giving a pass, merit or distinction as a final grade. No examination required.

The 7 unit award at distinction carries the same number of points as an A Level grade A (120 points). The BTEC Level 3 qualifications have been included in the UCAS tariff since 2005.

Course Outline

- **UNIT 1** - Principles of Anatomy and Physiology in Sport
The aim of this unit is to explore the structure and function of the skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular and respiratory systems and also to learn the fundamentals of the energy systems
- **UNIT 2** – The Physiology of Fitness
This unit provides an opportunity for learners to explore the body's response to acute exercise and how the body adapts to long-term exercise participation
- **UNIT 3** – Assessing Risk in Sport
The aim of this unit is to make the learner explicitly aware of the vital nature of risk assessment and its management within the sports industry
- **UNIT 4** – Fitness Training and Programming
The aim of this unit is for learners to be able to plan fitness training sessions and design fitness training programmes
- **UNIT 5** – Sports Coaching
The aim of this unit is to develop a learner's understanding and knowledge of the roles, responsibilities, skills and techniques of a sports coach and how to apply them whilst coaching and/or leading sports sessions
- **UNIT 7** – Fitness Testing for Sport and Exercise
The aim of this unit is to enable learners to gain an understanding of fitness testing and the importance of health screening and health monitoring tests
- **UNIT 8/9** – Practical Team Sports/Practical Individual Sports
The aim of this unit is to enable learners to explore skills, techniques, tactics and rules of team/individual sports through practical participation

ASSESSMENT

Continuous assessment – no examination.

Key Skills

- Covers all the key skills
- Communication
- Information Technology
- Application of Number
- Working with Others
- Problem Solving
- Improving own Learning

Key Facts

Specification: WJEC

Entry Recommendations:

- 5 GCSE passes grade C or above (including one science subject)
- An interest in sport

Career Opportunities:

Sports Medicine, Physiotherapist / Occupational Therapist, P.E. Teaching, Leisure Management, Sports Development Officer, Sports Coach, Fitness Instructor.

Contacts

Mrs B. Edwards – Subject Leader Physical Education
Mr G. Newman – Leader Boys Physical Education