



Aberdare Community School
Ysgol Gymunedol Aberdâr

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Post-16

Aberdare Community School
Sixth Form Prospectus



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SIXTH FORM PASTORAL TEAM |



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WELCOME TO

ABERDARE

SIXTH FORM!



Thank you for your interest in Aberdare Community School Sixth Form. Making the choice about where to continue your studies after year 11 is an important decision. It can often be quite complicated as there are so many options for you to consider.

We hope that you will be excited by what is available as outlined in this prospectus. As you will see, we have a well-developed curriculum with a wide range of academic and vocational subjects. With a Sixth Form capacity of over 300 pupils, we are able to organise learning in average class sizes of 15 students, which allows for greater individual guidance and direction. At Aberdare Community School, we have high expectations of all of our learners and aim for the highest standards possible. We are convinced that this is best achieved in an environment where students feel confident, secure and happy.

Most of our Sixth Form students are not new to our school, having chosen to continue their studies in an environment in which they are well known and valued. Students who come from other schools experience a warm welcome and quickly find themselves at home here. The Sixth Form is a vibrant community that prides itself on an inclusive and positive approach to personal development. Our expectations of our pupils are high and we look for prospective pupils who have good attendance, punctuality and behaviour records, alongside a positive work ethic.

The pastoral and academic support provided for all learners is excellent. This combined with an Enrichment Program and a wide range of extra-curricular and social events makes Aberdare Community School an exciting and rewarding environment in which to continue your studies. Our aim is to encourage and support every learner to achieve his or her full potential.

I look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to our Sixth Form.

| Mrs C MORGANS
HEADTEACHER

HEADTEACHERS WELCOME

WHY CHOOSE ABERDARE SIXTH FORM? |

At Aberdare Sixth Form, we are driven by creating unique learning experiences that deliver results for our students. After all, learning does not necessarily just take place in the classroom. We aspire to offer you a post-16 experience that shapes you for life outside of school. We offer a varied range of academic and vocational courses, mentoring, community work and other extra-curricular activities. Our A-Level and BTEC results are consistently high and demonstrate the excellent teaching and learning that exists at Post-16.

Pupils who wish to study in our sixth form traditionally need to gain at least 5 good GCSEs. The sixth form courses on offer run in partnership with our other partner secondary schools in the Cynon Valley and pupils are able to choose courses in these schools should they wish. Here at Aberdare Community School we offer many Level 3 courses for pupils to choose from, offered in our other partnership schools in Mountain Ash Comprehensive and St John the Baptist CIW High School. A free bus service operates between the schools on a regular basis, should pupils opt to study subjects at these schools.



EXPECTATIONS |

The school day begins at 8.45am, with the last formal lesson ending at 3.00pm.

All pupils are allocated form groups and are expected to be in school for registration at the start of the day and to attend all their lessons. During form periods, important information is distributed to pupils and form tutors monitor attendance, academic progress and provide personal support for all pupils. Studying at Aberdare Community School Sixth Form is a full-time provision.

RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE SIXTH FORM |

As well as privileges and benefits there are, as you might expect, certain responsibilities. These come as a natural and practical part of being a young adult learner.

Sixth Form students are expected to set a good example to the rest of the school. They are also expected to respond to requests for assistance from teachers, senior leadership or any member of the support staff.

| SENIOR PREFECT TEAM

Sixth Form students represent the school. They are expected to show visitors around, attend some evening functions and act as guides to new pupils. Students appointed to the Sixth Form Committee must attend meetings regularly and frequently.

The Sixth Form Committee is appointed by a panel of governors and staff. The Committee consist of:

- Head Boy and Head Girl
- Senior Deputy Head Boy and Senior Deputy Head Girl
- Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl
- Senior Prefects

The sixth form committee meet on a regular basis and form an important part of Y Senedd. These individuals are responsible for organising sixth form events such as the school prom and various fundraising activities.

SIXTH FORM FACILITIES & ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES |

Here at Aberdare Community School, the sixth form have access to a range of facilities exclusively available to them.

SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM AND STUDY AREA |

Situated next to the library, Post-16 students are provided with a quiet study area for working, researching and revision, which includes a dedicated IT suite for the sole use of sixth form pupils.

Alternatively, there are many breakout areas located around the school allowing for individual or collaborative learning with both peers and teachers, together with internet access, electrical sockets and portable sound booths.

| SIXTH FORM INTERNET CAFÉ

All pupils in the sixth form have access to the internet café located next to the sixth form common room. This café is only accessible for staff and sixth form pupils and is open from 9am – 2.00pm.

SCHOOL FACILITIES |

Aberdare Community School's building contains state of the art facilities, providing pupils with access to high tech equipment, creating opportunities to refine your talents. The building cost around £50 million to build, and is built next to a sports centre with access to a swimming pool, running track and sports hall.

Within the building there are two MAC suites, a drama studio, over eight computer suites, specialist technology classrooms and science laboratories. The school also features a university style lecture theatre, where all sixth form assemblies are held.

Your time in sixth form can be a rewarding and enjoyable experience. How enjoyable it is, depends on your contribution. The programme of enrichment is designed to help students to develop skills that studying alone can't teach them.

Participating in our enrichment programme will enable you to:

- Engage in sporting activities to enhance your lifestyle
- Enhance your personal development
- Participate in clubs and forums to add to your hobbies and personal interests
- Enhance your personal knowledge and skills
- Add to your CV and improve your employment prospects

We believe our students will be provided with a range of activities that will truly enrich their experience with us.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ON OFFER |

- Competitive Sports
- Individual Sports
- Enterprise and Innovation activities
- Unique programmes for high aspiring students
- School Newsletter
- Fundraising activities
- Young Writers Group
- Debating Society
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Book Club
- Chess Club
- Photography Club
- Student Ambassadors
- Game Development Academy

BROADENING YOUR HORIZONS | MAXIMISING YOUR POTENTIAL

SUPPORTING MORE ABLE AND TALENTED LEARNERS |

Aberdare Community School is committed to supporting its high aspiring students. We have a dedicated and unique programme of activities and events, which will enable you to stand out from other equally able students from across the country.

The programme includes:

- University level courses.
- Motivational speakers.
- Higher education conferences organised by Oxford and Cambridge Universities.
- Student support with university entry exams.

THE SEREN NETWORK | OXBRIDGE HUB

Aberdare Community School are proud to be part of the Seren Network – a network designed to support Wales's highest achieving sixth formers in achieving their academic potential and gaining access to leading universities. Enrolment criteria is set by the Seren Network and is based on GCSE results. Students who achieve four or more A* grades at GCSE Level are usually invited to participate in the Rhondda Cynon Taff Seren Hub. This elite programme is only available to MAT pupils with the aim of maximising their potential in their subjects.

| HIGHER EDUCATION +

Aberdare is part of a HE+ scheme being run in collaboration with Cambridge University. Schools and colleges in RCT work together to ensure that the most able students are encouraged to participate in the programme. It's an extra-curricular opportunity which encourages students to apply to the best universities, including Oxbridge.

STUDENT VOICE |

We place great emphasis on the importance of student voice and students at Aberdare Community School are given opportunities to express their views on the teaching and learning they receive. Sixth Form students are involved in the review of teaching and learning at Key Stage 5 as we believe your views on how you learn will keep on improving the learning experience. A youth parliament led by Sixth Form pupils allows students to become more involved in the decision making process at Aberdare Community School and strengthens the sense of community that is central to the schools ethos.

| Y SENEDD ABERDÂR

A forum through which your voice can be heard and real change can be brought for the students of ACS. An opportunity to discuss a variety of topical matters, ranging from mental health and wellbeing to LGBTQ++.

Pupils can participate in one of the following 6 committees within the school:

- Teaching and Learning
- Anti-Bullying
- UNCRC
- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- LGBTQ++
- Eco and Healthy Schools

Other sub-committees include:

- Digital Learning
- e-Safety

DESIGNING YOUR FUTURE | HELPING YOU ACHIEVE YOUR POTENTIAL

Aberdare Community School takes pride in preparing Post-16 students for the next step in their learning journey beyond school, be it applying for university, apprenticeships or preparing for employment. Our dedicated and highly experienced UCAS team of personal tutors will work very closely with you to support your preparation for application and interview. This will include specific guidance for early applications to Oxford and Cambridge Universities and applications to Medical, Veterinary or Dental courses.

We collaborate with Careers Wales Service and external agencies in a bid to support successful integration into the world of work for those choosing employment as their post sixth form pathway.

ACADEMIC GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT |

Deciding which direction to go from here can be daunting. At Aberdare Community School, we are committed to providing you with the tools and support to ensure you choose the path best suited to you. You will work closely with your form tutor, who will offer support and guidance from applying to university, apprenticeships and employment.

Extensive PSE provision will help to support your personal development and prepare you for university, employment or gap-year programmes.

| ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Formal, written reports are provided for each student, once in Year 12 and once in Year 13. These reports provide detailed feedback on a student's progress. Parents' evenings for both Year 12 and Year 13 are held annually. Any parent who has a concern about their son's or daughter's progress is encouraged to contacting the Head of Sixth Form at any time.

CAREERS GUIDANCE |

All students are supported and encouraged in nurturing positive aspirations based on realistic self-appraisal and awareness of the steps and processes needed to achieve their goals.

In years 12 and 13, individual interview simulations can be provided for those seeking employment or a higher education place. Careers Wales is also involved in assisting with individual choices and in providing a counselling service following receipt of AS and A2 results.

PREPARING FOR UNIVERSITY AND CAREERS |

We provide students with relevant and up to date information about university entry and alternatives to university. Sixth form tutors is on hand to offer advice to students.

Year 12 students attend a Skills Cymru event in Cardiff in the autumn term, which provides them with information about higher education, apprenticeships and career opportunities. Throughout the year, various employers are invited into school to talk to Year 12 about the careers available within their areas. Many of our students are also able to attend subject-specific information days at local universities.

| UCAS SUPPORT

Year 12 students are given opportunities to attend Higher Education conventions, courses and Open days. Year 12 and 13 students are given regular guidance on the process of choosing a university course, drafting their personal statements, preparing the application form and submitting the final application through the UCAS Apply system.

Towards the end of the summer term, parents are invited into school so that we can give them information about the UCAS process, how the school deals with student's applications and student finance. UCAS club is held on a Thursday for personal guidance on completing the application process.

POST-SIXTEEN ADMISSION PROTOCOL |

Pupil success in post sixteen education is due to the breadth of provision available, providing learners with sufficient time, support and flexibility to fulfil their learning potential. Progression to further education is maximised through an effective core programme, main qualifications, community learner industry focus (CLIF) and work experience. Pupils' ability, aptitude and individual needs will be considered in formulating effective programmes of study in line with WAG post 16 planning framework. Schools within the CVC will work with other partner schools and a wide range of community, academic and workplace-based organisations to provide a balanced programme with suitable outcomes for individual learners promoting inclusion in post sixteen education.

Key Elements

- Ensure the right pupils are able to access the right programmes within the CVC and thereby maximise their outcomes.
- Ensure quality assurance mechanisms are in place in relation to, programme allocation, delivery and suitability of pupils for the programmes set.
- Provide quality educational experiences and outcomes for all learners
- Optimise use of resources reducing unnecessary duplication of provision within the consortium while maintaining enough flexibility to react to learner needs
- Maintain cost-effectiveness and efficiency of programmes
- Develop a sustainable provision.

UNIFORM |

The same rules apply to sixth form uniform as the rest of the school, with the only variation being a different colour tie. All students are expected to wear the following:

- Plain black trousers (no jeans or leggings) or skirt (must be knee length)
- Black shoes – no branded trainers or canvas shoes
- Black socks (no ankle socks or trainer socks. Socks should be of an appropriate length)
- White shirt or blouse
- Sixth form tie
- School blazer with ACS logo – (optional black v-neck jumper with ACS logo can be worn during colder periods – this must be worn alongside the school blazer)
- Plain black jacket or coat

Please note that cardigans, hoodies and sweatshirts are not permitted

| EDUCATIONAL MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)

If you are concerned that you might struggle to settle down in the Sixth Form for financial reasons then the availability of EMA may help you. Education Maintenance allowance is an income-assessed weekly allowance of £30. This helps students with the cost associated with studying at A-Level. To be eligible for this allowance, certain requirements must be met.

For more information on the EMA, please contact Mrs J Wakefield.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT COURSES |

THE FIRST STEP TO YOUR FUTURE

We understand that choosing the right courses to study at A-Level can be difficult. A feature of ACS Sixth Form is the close consultation between the individual student and the sixth form team to decide the best combination of courses for the student during Years 12 and 13. This process begins in the spring term and includes post-examination results advice.

When you make your initial application to sixth form, we ask that you choose three to four subjects using our subject trawl system. This will help us to do our very best to accommodate all student's preferred subject choices.

GCE ADVANCED LEVEL COURSES |

Most subjects are divided into four units or modules, with some subjects containing a mixture of practical, oral and written modules. The majority of our a-level courses contain both coursework and exam based modules. Specific details of each subject can be found in this booklet.

It's possible to gain an AS qualification at the end of Year 12, should a pupil decide not to continue with that subject into Year 13.

GRADING SYSTEM |

All GCE Advanced Level subjects are graded on the same A*- E scale, with a grade U as an unclassified or fail grade. BTEC courses are given the grading of Distinction*, Distinction, Merit or Pass.

The UCAS tariff points should not have any impact on student's decisions on qualification choices at school or college, or their preparation for Higher Education. Universities and colleges are autonomous organisations and each year they decide how to set their entry requirements.

A-Level and BTEC UCAS Points

Grade A* and BTEC Distinction* = 56 Points

Grade A and BTEC Distinction = 48 Points

Grade B and BTEC Merit = 40 Points

Grade C and BTEC Pass = 32 Points

Grade D = 24 Points

Grade E = 16 Points

AS Level and BTEC UCAS Points

Grade A and BTEC Distinction = 20 Points

Grade B and BTEC Merit = 16 Points

Grade C and BTEC Pass = 12 Points

Grade D = 10 Points

Grade E = 6 Points

| BTEC LEVEL 3 COURSES

BTEC courses are vocational in nature and comprise of mandatory units as well as specifically chosen optional units. Some of the BTEC qualifications offered at ACS are assessed through assignment-based projects and do not contain any exam element. All BTEC level 3 qualifications are equal in size to our GCE Advanced Level courses.

Please note, a requirement of returning to Sixth Form is that 3 subjects are chosen, inclusive of the Welsh Baccalaureate.

| GCSE RE-SIT OPPORTUNITIES

Aberdare Sixth Form offer weekly re-sit classes for GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics for those who narrowly missed out on a C grade. These classes are compulsory for those who did not gain a C grade in either of these subjects.

For more information on re-sit opportunities, contact Mr Lovell, Head of Sixth Form.

LEVEL 3 COURSES |

We work closely with our consortium schools to ensure there are a wide range of courses available for all types of learners. Below is a breakdown of courses available within the consortium. A more detailed subject option guides, including videos and presentations, are available at the following website: <http://www.cynonvalleyconsortium.co.uk>. Please note that subjects will be withdrawn if there is insufficient demand.

APPLIED SCIENCE | BTEC

Subject Contact: Mr D Jones



Course Description: Two-year course which is equivalent to 2 A Levels. Students must complete 8 units. Four units in year 12 and four in year 13. Of the 8 units, 3 are assessed externally. In year 12 students will sit a 1.5hr exam and complete a 4.5hr practical assessment and analysis task. In year 13 students will sit a 2hr synoptic exam. All other units will be assessed internally through written coursework. The requirements of the qualification will mean that learners will develop transferable and higher order skills which are valued by higher education providers and employers alike.

- Unit 3: Energy, Homeostasis and the Environment (A2)
- Unit 4: Variation, Inheritance and Options (A2)
- Unit 5: Practical examination (A2)

Units 1-4 are assessed by external examinations consisting of a range of short and longer structured questions and one extended response. Units 1 and 2 are taken at the end of year 12, units 3 and 4 at the end of year 13. Practical work is an intrinsic part of this specification and is carried out throughout the course. A practical exam (Unit 5) is taken at the end of year 13. Practical work is vitally important in developing a conceptual understanding of many topics and it enhances the experience and enjoyment of biology. The practical skills developed are also fundamentally important to learners going on to further study in biology and related subjects, and are transferable to many careers.

Students are required to have achieved at least a grade B (preferably an A) at higher level in GCSE Biology or Additional Science to progress onto this course. We also strongly advise that students attain at least a grade B in English and Maths at GCSE due to the high levels of literacy and numeracy required for the course.

ART & DESIGN |

Subject Contact: Mr N Comerford



Course Description: This WJEC AS/A level specification in Art & Design is designed to enable learners to gain a sequential and incremental learning experience from a broad introductory foundation of art, craft and design related to option choice at AS, through to greater specialism and achievement at A-level. The AS represents the first year of a two year A-level qualification but it can be studied separately. For those wishing to follow an endorsed route, we offer Photography. AS consists of one unit:

- Unit 1: Personal Creative Enquiry (40% of A level), internally assessed, externally moderated.

The A level consists of the AS Unit 1 plus two additional units:

- Unit 2: Personal Investigation (36% of A level), internally assessed, externally moderated.
- Unit 3: Externally Set Assignment (24% of A level), internally assessed, externally moderated.

This specification provides the flexibility and capacity to build on, and extend, the breadth and depth of learners' creative practice and offers the choice of a broad-based general course, plus six endorsed title options with no prohibited entry combinations.

BIOLOGY |

Subject Contact: Mrs J Nicholls



Course Description: This specification is divided into a total of 5 units, 2 AS units and 3 A2 units. The AS represents the first year of a two year A level qualification but it can be studied separately.

- Unit 1: Basic Biochemistry and Cell Organisation (AS)
- Unit 2: Biodiversity and Physiology of Body Systems (AS)

BUSINESS STUDIES | BTEC

Subject Contact: Mrs L Wooller



Course Description: This course is designed for students who have an interest in exploring the world of business in a practical way. You will have a chance to develop an understanding of how businesses work in the real world, using well known case study organisations. The course is equivalent in size to one A Level. Learners will study 4 units over two years:

- Unit 1: Exploring Business -Mandatory unit
- Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign - Mandatory and externally assessed unit
- Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance – Mandatory and externally assessed unit
- Unit 4: Optional unit

External Assessments are available twice a year.

*A-Level Business is also offered at SJB. Please refer to the CVC Website for more information on this course.

CHEMISTRY |**Subject Contact: Mrs J Nicholls**

Course Description: This specification is divided into a total of 5 units, 2 AS units and 3 A2 units. The AS represents the first year of a two year A level qualification but it can be studied separately.

- Unit 1: The Language of Chemistry, Structure of Matter and Simple Reactions (AS)
- Unit 2: Energy, Rate and Chemistry of Carbon Compounds (AS)
- Unit 3: Physical and Inorganic Chemistry (A2)
- Unit 4: Organic Chemistry and Analysis (A2)
- Unit 5: Practical Examination (A2)

Practical work is an intrinsic part of this specification. It is vitally important in developing a conceptual understanding of many topics and it enhances the experience and enjoyment of chemistry. The practical skills developed are also fundamentally important to learners going on to further study in chemistry and related subjects, and are transferable to many careers.

Students are required to have achieved at least a grade B (preferably an A) at higher level in GCSE Chemistry or Additional Science to progress onto this course. We also strongly advise that students attain at least a grade B in English and Maths at GCSE due to the high levels of literacy and numeracy required for the course.

COMPUTING | BTEC**Subject Contact: Mr M Hills**

Course Description: Computer Science is a course intended for those students who intend to take up careers requiring computer programming abilities such as Computer Programming, Computer Game Creation and Software Engineering. This A-Level will enable students to design their own solutions to problems and produce their own programs for realistic situations. You will be assessed through the following:

- Unit 1: Communication in IT
- Unit 2: Computer Systems
- Unit 3: Computer Game Design
- Unit 4: Computer Game Development
- Unit 5: Human Computer Interaction
- Unit 6: Event-Driven Programming

There is no exam elements to this course. All units are assessed through 100% coursework elements. This course is ideal for any pupil interested in Computer Game Design and Creation, and a strong interest in Computer programming. Pupils are welcome to choose this subject alongside ICT.

CRIMINOLOGY |**Subject Contact: (Taught at MACS & SJB)**

Course Description: Criminology encompasses many elements of psychology, law and sociology and complements studies in the humanities subjects of Geography, History & RS. It will equip you with the knowledge and understanding of contexts linked to the criminal justice system and is suited to further study at HE level in University. You will be assessed through the following method:

- Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime – Non-Examined Assessment – 25%
- Unit 2: Criminology Theories – External Examination – 25%
- Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom – Non-Examined Assessment – 25%
- Unit 4: Crime & Punishment – External Examination – 25%

**CYMRAEG (AIL-IAITH) |
WELSH SECOND LANGUAGE****Subject Contact: (Taught at SJB)**

Course Description: This course builds and expands on the grammar studied at GCSE. You will acquire the language skills needed to appreciate Welsh Literature and Media, focusing on modern themes and advanced literacy techniques. You will study the following units:

- Unit 1 – Oracy Examination based on the film 'Patagonia' – 15%
- Unit 2 – Internal Written Assessment based on Welsh culture or history – 20%
- Unit 3 – Written Examination based on five famous Welsh poems – 15%
- Unit 4 – Oracy Examination based on the Welsh play 'Crash' - 25%
- Unit 5 – Written Examination based on the history of the Welsh Language and it's development over the past 60 years – 15%
- Unit 6 – Written Examination based on Welsh grammar in short stories – 20%

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES |**Subject Contact: Miss K Walker**

Course Description: This course is designed to promote a balance between practical theatre making and the theoretical understanding of Drama and Theatre. This stimulating and engaging course of study encourages learners to make connections between dramatic theory and their own practice. Learners study five performance texts representing a range of social, historical and cultural contexts. Learners also study two influential theatre practitioners and produce three performances.

- Unit 1: Theatre Workshop – Non-exam assessment.
- Unit 2: Text in Theatre – Written Examination – 1hr30mins
- Unit 3: Text in Action – Non-exam assessment.
- Unit 4: Text in Performance – Written examination – 2hr30mins

ENGINEERING | BTEC

Subject Contact: (Taught at MACS)



Course Description: The BTEC National Certificate in Engineering is a 4 unit award, which is designed to enable students to gain an understanding of the key engineering pathways and the application of engineering principles. You will study the following units:

- Engineering Principles – External Examination
- Delivery of Engineering Processes Safely as a team – Internal coursework.
- Engineering Product Design and Manufacture – Externally set
- Manufacturing secondary machining processes – internal coursework

Who is this qualification for?

The main purpose of this qualification is to allow learners to develop the core specialist knowledge, understanding and skills, including Health and Safety in the Engineering Workplace and a choice of either Mechanical Principles and Applications or Electrical and Electronic Principles, required by the sector.

Entry requirements: PASS at GCSE or equivalent in a relevant subject.

*A-Level Design Technology (Engineering) is also offered at SJB. Please refer to the CVC Website for more information on this course.

ENGLISH LITERATURE |

Subject Contact: Mrs C Woodfine



Course Description: This is an engaging course where you will be encouraged to develop your enjoyment of literature and literary studies. You will be expected to approach and respond to a range of texts in a creative fashion.

The new WJEC GCE English Literature course has a five-unit structure which includes the study of Shakespeare, as well as a wide selection of more modern poetry, prose and drama. You will be provided with an opportunity to write creatively in a chosen style and will also be asked to provide an analysis of your own work. You will also have the opportunity to discuss the texts and your responses in an open and supportive environment.

The English Literature course will be both challenging and rewarding. Students are required to have achieved at least a grade B in GCSE English Literature in order to progress onto this course.

FRENCH |

Subject Contact: (Taught at MACS)



Course Description: The course provides students with a good skills-based knowledge of both the Spanish language and the society and culture of the Spanish speaking world. Students build upon the four skill areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing as studied at GCSE. You will be assessed through the following units:

- AS Unit 1: Speaking – 12%
- AS Unit 2: Listening/Reading/ Translation/Writing – 28%
- A2 Unit 3: Speaking – 18%
- A2 Unit 4: Listening/Reading/ Translation/Writing – 30%
- A2 Unit 5: Writing – 12%

GEOGRAPHY |

Subject Contact: Mr S Alexander



Course Description: The Geography course will cover both Physical and Human Environments and the complex interactions of processes that shape our World. Importantly it looks at the careful relationship the human race has with our environment and how people are often forced to adapt and mitigate the effects of processes on their environment. The WJEC Geography course is one of the few new A Levels that allows coursework to count for 20% of the overall course.

In year 12, you will be studying changing places and changing landscapes. In changing places, you will focus on coastlines and tectonics (volcanoes and earthquakes). In changing places, you will focus on how rural and urban areas are rapidly changing and adjusting to 21st century living. You will also complete four fieldwork experiences.

In year 13, you will study water and carbon cycles, the global governance of migration and oceans, development in Sub-Saharan Africa and the energy challenges and dilemmas. There is also an additional independent investigation component worth 20% of the course.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE and CHILD CARE |

Subject Contact: Mrs R Marchant



Course Description: This course will equip you with thorough in-depth knowledge, understanding and skills related to the development and care of individuals throughout the lifespan. You will have the opportunity to develop your understanding of influences on human growth, development, behaviour and well-being. You will also gain a detailed understanding of the social, physical, emotional, and cultural needs of people who use care and support services, and recognise that each individual has a unique blend of abilities and needs. Active learning and personalisation are promoted by giving you opportunities to investigate care issues and topics of your own choice. The course follows a broad study of health and social care and childcare at AS Level and then at A Level will focus on childcare specifically. You will be assessed through the following:

- Unit 1: Promoting health and well-being - written examination - 20%
- Unit 2: Supporting health, well-being and resilience in Wales - 2 pieces of coursework - 20%
- Unit 3: Theoretical perspectives of children and young people's development - written examination - 30%
- Unit 4 Supporting the development, health, well-being and resilience of children and young people - 2 pieces of coursework - 30%

HISTORY |

Subject Contact: Mr N Keeble



Course Description: This specification is divided into a total of 5 units, 2 AS units and 3 A2 units. The AS represents the first year of a two year A level qualification but it can be studied separately.

- **Unit 1:** Politics, Protest and Reform 1780-1880 (1hr 30m examination)
- **Unit 2:** Weimar Germany 1919-1933 (1hr 45m examination)
- **Unit 3:** The American Century 1890-1990 (1hr 45m examination)
- **Unit 4:** Germany 1933-1945 (1hr 45m examination)
- **Unit 5:** Non-Examined Assessment

All units represent 20% of the A-Level qualification.

Unit 1 and 2 sat in year 12 as two written papers, and units 3 and 4 sat in year 13 as two written papers. Unit 5 is completed over the course of Year 13 as an independent study.

Students will be given the opportunity to study a variety of different topics from British and non-British history and provides them with an excellent breadth and depth of knowledge as well as transferable skills which can be applied to other subjects and careers.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) | BTEC

Subject Contact: Mr M Hills



Course Description: This A-level takes a hands-on, practical approach to ICT. You will learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. You will develop a range of specialist ICT skills and knowledge by building on your prior understanding of ICT. To achieve the full A-Level, you will study the 6 units listed below:

- Unit 1: Communicating using IT
- Unit 2: Computer Systems
- Unit 3: Computer Animation
- Unit 4: Spreadsheet Modelling
- Unit 5: Digital Graphics
- Unit 6: Multimedia Design

All units are assessed through 100% coursework. There are no exam elements to this course. You are welcome to choose this course alongside Computing.

This course is ideal for any pupil interested in following any career involving ICT. You will develop your skills in Microsoft Office, as well as developing your creative skills using the Adobe Creative Suite. You will develop your skills in Animation, Image Editing, Video Editing, Spreadsheets and Website Development. For the final unit, you will bring all these skills together to create a final website.

MATHEMATICS |

Subject Contact: Mrs S Hall



Course Description: The course comprises units in Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics. Pure Mathematics consists of algebra, calculus, co-ordinate geometry and trigonometry. Mechanics consists of dynamics (the mechanics of motion) and statics (the study of force systems). Statistics consists of probability theory and distributions. Students will study modules in all three disciplines of Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics. Mathematics is a component of the entry requirement to many higher education courses and professional careers such as engineering, technology and applied sciences. Mathematics has become a pre-requisite for many higher education courses and is a gateway into numerous professions.

You will be assessed through examinations sat at the end of Year 12 and 13. 40% of the course is studied in Year 12, while the remainder is studied in Year 13. There are opportunities to re-sit exams in Year 13.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS |

Subject Contact: Mrs S Hall



Course Description: Students who study Mathematics at A level may study Further Mathematics as an additional A level. Further Mathematics comprises of units in Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics, building on concepts and theories studied in A level Mathematics. Pure Mathematics consists of induction, complex analysis, matrices, series and polar co-ordinates. Mechanics consists of vectors, circular motion and differential equations. Statistics consists of statistical inference and hypothesis testing.

You will be assessed through examinations sat at the end of Year 12 and 13. A total of three exams are sat in the summer of Year 12. In year 13, pupils specialise in either further mechanics or statistics. A pure exam will be sat, alongside an exam in their chosen specialism, worth a combined 40% of the overall qualification.

MEDIA STUDIES |

Subject Contact: Miss S Morgans



Course Description: The course engages you across a wide range of media, including film, television, the internet, gaming, advertising and news. You will be given the opportunity to understand and question the media that is all around us. There is also a creative side where you will have the opportunity to create your own media. The Media industry is one of the most successful in the country and all careers in the modern age tend to have a media dimension, you can give yourself an advantage. The course comprises of four modules taught over a two year period of study. You will study the following units:

- ASU1 – Selling Images in Advertising and Music Videos, News in the online Age and Film Industry from Wales to Hollywood (exam)
- ASU2 – Research, Planning, Creating and Evaluating a Media Product based on Advertising, News or Film (Coursework)

- A2U3 – Television in the Global Age, Magazines and Changing Representation and Video Games, Media in the Digital Age (exam)
- A2U4 – Cross Media Production of Media text based on individual research into TV, magazines or video games (Coursework)

MUSIC |

Subject Contact: Mr R Gibbs



Music A Level is the perfect choice for talented musicians offering you the opportunity to develop your performing, listening and composing skills. Students are given the opportunity to explore a diverse range of different aspects of music, covering topics such as an investigation into significant musical developments, in both Classical and Contemporary genres, exploring different compositional styles and performing (vocal or instrumental) skills.

The course is split into the following units:

- U1 - AS – 30% Performance – External exam
- U2 - AS – 30% Composition – Internal exam
- U3 - AS – 40% Appraising examination – Externally marked
- U4 - A2 – 25% Performance – External exam
- U5 - A2 – 25% Composition – Internal exam
- U6 - A2 – 40% Appraising examination – externally marked

A further 10% of the A2 qualification is taken in performance or composition, at the candidate's discretion.

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY | BTEC

Subject Contact: Mr S Edwards



Course Description: In this course, worth 1.5 A levels, you will study 4 related units of work. You do not need to have studied music for GCSE or BTEC. It helps, but we have learners each year who start this course and succeed! This course is assessed through 100% coursework.

The first, Studio Recording gives you the confidence to set up a session in our own recording studio, giving you the skills to mix and edit sound to create a musical product. In the second unit, you become a music producer working to create and remix musical material. We use Logic Pro on our iMacs which is like GarageBand but with more awesome features! Much of the course is hands-on practical work and the third unit gives you the knowledge and skills to set up a live musical event. The final unit focuses on the many career pathways that are present in the music industry, real jobs for which this course is fantastic preparation.

- Unit 1 – Studio Recording
- Unit 2 – Creating Music Through Production
- Unit 3 – Music Technology and Live Events
- Unit 4 - Planning a Career in Music

PHYSICS |

Subject Contact: (Taught at SJB)



Course Description: This specification is divided into a total of 5 units, 2 AS units and 3 A2 units. The AS represents the first year of a two-year A level qualification but it can be studied separately.

- Unit 1: Motion, Energy and Matter (AS)
- Unit 2: Electricity and Light (AS)
- Unit 3: Oscillations and Nuclei (A2)
- Unit 4: Fields and Options (A2)
- Unit 5: Practical Examination (A2)

Practical work is an intrinsic part of this specification. It is vitally important in developing a conceptual understanding of many topics and it enhances the experience and enjoyment of physics. The practical skills developed are also fundamentally important to learners going on to further study in physics and related subjects, and are transferable to many careers. For pupils who study A-level Physics, there is an opportunity to visit CERN and the large hadron collider in Geneva, Switzerland.

PSYCHOLOGY |

Subject Contact: (Taught at MACS & SJB)



Course Description: Available as a one year course for the 'A/S' grade or as a two year course for the full 'A' level. Psychology explores the workings of the mind and how thought processes work. A Mathematical & Scientific background is essential for study. This course is 100% examination based. You will be assessed through the following method:

- Unit 1: Psychology: Past to Present – 1.5 Hour Exam;
- Unit 2: Psychology: Using Psychological Concepts – 1.5 Hour Exam
- Unit 3: Psychology: Implications in the Real World – 1.5 Hour Exam
- Unit 4: Psychology: Applied Research Methods – 2.5 Hour Exam

RELIGIOUS STUDIES |

Subject Contact: Mr M Roberts



Course Description: This course studies key questions of human existence which are of present-day interest and relevance. Philosophy of Religion examines questions of whether God exists and why we suffer. Ethics examines questions of what is right and wrong and how we should act. Christianity examines the key beliefs and practices of the world's most popular and influential religion.

- The Philosophy of Religion
- Religion and Ethics
- Christianity

You will be assessed through the following method:

- Two written examinations at the end of Year 12 worth a combined 40%
- Three written examinations at the end of Year 13 worth a combined 60%.

Exams sat in Year 12 can be re-taken once if required.

SKILLS CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE |



Subject Contact: Mrs C Smith

All pupils at ACS Sixth Form study the Welsh Baccalaureate at Advanced Level. This is a compulsory element of returning to the sixth form.

The new revised and more rigorous Welsh Baccalaureate is based on a Skills Challenge Certificate and Supporting Qualifications and has been designed and ratified by the Welsh Assembly Government and the WJEC. The primary aim is to promote essential skills for employment.

There are four components to the new Welsh Baccalaureate; Community Challenge, Global Citizen Challenge, Enterprise and Employability Challenge and the Individual Project. Department staff are already involved in the Welsh Assembly's resource development groups ensuring that we are at the forefront of developments for this new course and can offer our pupils the very best experience of the course. We have already secured partnerships for the Community Challenge with organisations such as Cardiff City FC, the WRU and the Blues and with Universities such as Cardiff and Aberystwyth and the Museum of Wales.

How does the course work?

There are a prescribed amount of hours for each component. Pupils attend lessons for the teaching and learning programme. These lessons will cover the Essential and Employability skills required for the Skills Challenge Certificate, such as critical thinking and problem solving or creativity and innovation. At the end of the teaching and learning programme pupils will sit a "challenge" (much like a controlled assessment). Each pupil will be individually graded for each challenge.

The course is assessed through the following units:

- Individual Project – 50%
- Enterprise & Employability – 20%
- Global Citizenship – 15%
- Community Challenge – 15%

If a pupil passes all four of the components they will receive the Skills Challenge Certificate. This is a stand-alone qualification which is a L3 equivalent. Should pupils then pass their A-Levels (and have C grades or above in the Numeracy and Literacy.)

GCSE's or equivalents) then they will also achieve the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification.

This qualification has been ratified by the Russell Group Universities and will be accepted by UCAS as an A Level equivalent qualification. At Advanced level, pupils will be expected to take on a greater level of independent study, with regards to the Individual Project.

SPORTS STUDIES | BTEC



Subject Contact: Mr M Trowbridge

For those interested in Sport, this would be a natural progression from the BTEC Level 2 and GCSE PE delivered at schools across the local borough. We have over 10 years of experience delivering BTEC qualifications and know how to support and allow you to reach your full potential on this course.

We are excited to launch the delivery of the new Specification of BTEC Sport – Coaching and Development (2019) in the next academic year, looking to provide the very best teaching and learning experiences for our learners. We will also continue to pursue opportunities to collaborate with local partners who share symbiotic interests with the delivery of this high quality programme, such as SportRCT, Cardiff Metropolitan University (CMU) and the University of South Wales (USW). The course will be integral to your personal development and will require you to engage and develop your skills, acting as role models to younger learners in the school. You will become a part of our ACS Sport family.

Additionally, the course provides you with the necessary employment and independent skills to move successfully into the working world. BTEC courses also prepare you for life!

Course Structure: The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sports Coaching consists of three mandatory units.

- *Careers in the Sport and Active Leisure Industry*
- *Health, Well-Being and Sport*
- *Developing Coaching Skills*

At the School we run our own Rugby Academy programme and we are looking to develop, broaden and expand the interest and opportunities here across a range of sports, for both boys and girls. Alongside the Director of Sport, our Rugby Hub Officer will provide top-quality coaching and training plans for our talented students.

In the Academy, pupils will study the newly introduced specification for Level 3 BTEC Sport – Coaching and Development alongside the schools Welsh Baccalaureate.

Our recent successes in National competitions, status, facilities and commitment to excellence allow us the potential for our young adults to excel in their field of sport. Developing self-disciplined and independent student athletes who will go on to successful futures and form a part of their sporting DNA.

***A-Level Physical Education is also available at SJB. Please refer to the CVC website for information on this course**

THE FIRST STEP TO YOUR FUTURE...

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDING SENIOR PREFECTS, STUDENT AMBASSADORS AND COMMITTEE TEAMS.

OUR ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN NURTURING YOU TO OFFER UNIVERSITIES AND EMPLOYERS A GREAT BALANCE OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS, COUPLED WITH THE PERSONAL QUALITIES THAT WILL ENSURE THAT YOU SUCCEED AT BOTH DEGREE LEVEL AND IN THE WORKPLACE.

UCAS SUPPORT PROGRAMME AVAILABLE FROM THE SUMMER OF YEAR 12. STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM HAVING A PERSONAL TUTOR IN THE COMPLETION OF THEIR PERSONAL STATEMENT AND APPLICATION PROCESS.

COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF SUPPORT FOR ALL MEDICINE, DENTISTRY, VETINARY AND OXBRIDGE APPLICANTS, INCLUDING INTERVIEW WORKSHOPS AND SPECIALIST SUBJECT SUPPORT.

STATE OF THE ART FACILITIES INCLUDING AN INTERNET CAFÉ, DEDICATED ICT SUITE, HEALTH SUITE AND RECORDING STUDIO.

HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL SPORTS ACADEMY WITH SENIOR TEAMS REPRESENTING A RANGE OF SPORTS INCLUDING RUGBY, FOOTBALL, NETBALL & HOCKEY.

For more information about our school please get in contact:
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www.cynonvalleyconsortium.co.uk



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