



SJB Sixth Form

COURSE GUIDE

Introduction

Rhagymadrodd



As you progress through Year 11, I know how hard you are working to perform to the best of your abilities. I am sure this will help you to achieve your ambitions and receive the results you deserve in August 2025. It is important you give careful thought to the choices available to you at post-16. I know many of you will already be exploring your options and thinking about the best possible destination for you. I believe SJB Sixth Form is the right place for you.

Our sixth form has approximately 200 students and, therefore, is smaller than a College environment. However, in my opinion, this is one of our main strengths. There are only around 65-weeks of learning during life in the sixth form and, from my experience, it is important that students are known by staff so that they are fully supported during their two-years of study. The support (and occasional “nagging”) you will receive from staff in school doesn’t stop at sixth form because we are committed to ensuring that all students achieve their best in examinations and have a successful pathway to university, college, training or employment.

Academically, our students consistently perform well when compared to schools/colleges locally and nationally. Consequently, should you join us, we guarantee that we will do our very best to support you to achieve your full potential. While many students go on to highly-regarded universities, we ensure that every student has a progression route to the next stage of their chosen educational or career journey.

To support you to make the best choices available, we have a clear entry pathway to support all routes of learning, as set out below

1. 3 A Levels plus the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales

5 or more A*-C grades in full course GCSE subjects, including at least 3 or more B grades (courses equivalent to GCSE do not count).

2. 3 A Levels/Level 3s/BTECs plus the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales

5 or more A*-C grades in a mixture of full course GCSE subjects, including predominantly C Grades, and including GCSE equivalent courses (a 'combination route' is strongly recommended for students who fall into this category).

Most A Level subjects have an entry requirement of at least a C grade at GCSE. However, there are additional entry criteria for certain subjects

- for individual science A Levels, you must have achieved at least a B grade in Triple or Double GCSE science at Higher Tier, and, in addition, at least a B grade in mathematics at Higher Tier if you want to study physics;
- for A Level mathematics, you must have achieved at least a C Grade in both GCSE mathematics and GCSE numeracy and at least one B grade in either subject; and
- for A Level English literature, you must have achieved at least a C Grade in both GCSE English language and GCSE English literature and at least one B grade in either subject.

Please be aware, the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales (AdvSBW) qualification is a **compulsory element** of both curriculum pathways.

Ultimately, you have one chance in education. So, you must choose the right place for you to thrive. We very much hope this will be SJB Sixth Form!

Thank you for your hard work so far this year. I wish you every success with your GCSE studies and in making the right decision for your next steps.

Marc Belli
Executive Headteacher

About Us

Amdanom Ni



I would like to extend a very warm welcome to those of you considering joining us for SJB Sixth Form! Our school community is very proud of our sixth form students and the important role they play in the life of St John's.

SJB Sixth Form has a well-developed curriculum with a wide range of academic subjects on offer, as outlined in this course booklet. There are also see additional subjects available via our Cynon Valley Consortium school partners: Aberdare Community School (ACS) and Mountain Ash Comprehensive School (MACS).

We have high expectations of our students 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 SJB Sixth Form students are not new to our school, having chosen to continue their studies in an environment in which they are known and valued personally. However, students who come from other schools also experience a warm welcome and quickly find themselves at home here.

SJB Sixth Form is a vibrant, faith-based community that prides itself on an inclusive and positive approach to personal development. Our aim is to encourage and support every student to achieve their full potential. The pastoral and academic support provided for all students, combined with a varied Enrichment Programme, makes SJB Sixth Form an exciting and rewarding learning environment.

Our aim is to offer a post-16 experience that shapes students for life beyond school, so alongside our range of academic courses, we offer many different super-curricular, extra-curricular and social activities, as well as opportunities to develop leadership skills.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all students every success and happiness in their post-16 learning pathway.

Thank you for taking the time to read the information in this options booklet, and please feel free to see me/email me if you have any queries at all about SJB Sixth Form in general and/or your options, in particular.

We look forward to welcoming you to Year 12 in September 2024!

Sarah Rees
Head of Sixth Form

Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales

Examination Board: WJEC



Level and Type of Qualification

AS/A2

Course outline

The Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales (AdvSBW) qualification supports students to become effective, responsible and active citizens, equipping them with skills for future study or to enter the job market. The qualification is designed to be taken alongside other level 3 qualifications, including A levels.

What will I study?

The two-year course is made up of three projects

1. Global Community Project;
2. Future Destination Project; and
3. Individual Project.

Students will develop and apply the four integral skills (planning and organisation; critical thinking; problem-solving; and creativity and innovation) and have opportunities to develop the three embedded skills (literacy; numeracy; digital competence). Students take part in a variety of exciting activities and contexts, which will be based on the United Nations sustainable development agenda and Wales's Wellbeing Goals, as defined by the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales).

How will my work be assessed?

- **Global Community Project (25%).** Students will select a global issue to investigate, share their knowledge with others and take part in community action;
- **Future Destination Project (25%).** Students will gain an understanding of themselves, exploring future employment and wellbeing goals, and explain how this can be achieved; and
- **Individual Project (50%).** Students will plan, manage and research a topic linked to their future career. They will create a written dissertation or an artefact.

Career opportunities and progression

The course enables students to develop important skills that enables students to take forward to university and/or employment. Developing these skills helps enable students to become effective and responsible citizens and can have a profound effect on their future success and wellbeing.

Staff contact

Mrs Davies

Staff contact email

DaviesE370@hwbcymru.net

Art and Design

Examination Board: WJEC



Level and Type of Qualification

AS/A2

Course outline

The Art and Design course allows students to explore a wide range of artists and processes. Students are free to work in several different mediums and techniques.

The course is split into three distinct sections over two years; Year 12 concentrates on the production of a creative portfolio of work, whilst Year 13 consists of a personal project and an externally set task.

What will I study?

Students are encouraged to continue to build on the artistic foundations that they will have established during their Key Stage 4 studies. The main body of our introduction phase looks at some of the most prominent artists that have worked within the specialism from the last 150 years and introduces new ways of working to the students within a workshop environment. This should be seen as an opportunity to experiment and further develop familiar methods of expression. Further support will then be offered as students follow personal lines of inquiry.

Year 13 studies revolve around adapting a story for the stage or screen. Candidates will then focus on their externally set task.

How will my work be assessed?

Whilst we compartmentalise the units for organisational ease, the Exam Board sees the body of work as three distinct areas; 'Portfolio', which accounts for 40% of the overall mark, Personal Inquiry (36%) and the Externally Set Assignment (24%).

There are four equally-weighted assessment objectives that each unit needs to satisfy: AO1 Contextual Understanding, AO2 Creative Making, AO3 Reflective Recording and AO4 Personal Presentation. Students will be familiar with these requirements if they sat GCSE.

Career opportunities and progression

Specialising in sixth form allows candidates a far greater opportunity to look particularly at an area that genuinely interests them. The usual path for 'artists' to take is to move on to a foundation course following their time in sixth form, before moving into a degree specialism to prepare them for the world of work. There are thousands of job opportunities connected to the creativity fostered within the art room. In the past three years alone, we have seen former students enter areas of professional practice as diverse as computer games design, fashion photography, fine art, illustration, graphic design and animation. It is one of the few industries still growing and prospects for graduates entering the marketplace remain good.

Staff contact

Mr Bradbeer

Staff contact email

BradbeerR@hwbcymru.net

Biology

Examination Board: WJEC



Level and Type of Qualification

AS/A2

Course outline

You will follow the WJEC A-Level biology specification available at www.wjec.co.uk/biology. To access this course, you need to achieve a minimum of two B grades at Double Award science or a B grade at biology in triple science.

What will I study?

In Year 12, you will study the basics of biology, ie. biological molecules, enzymes, cell structure and organisation, and transport in and out of cells.

In Year 13, you will build on your AS knowledge by studying respiration and photosynthesis, microbiology, the human nervous system and the structure of the kidney. There are also calculations all throughout the course so having a sound grasp of mathematics is essential.

How will my work be assessed?

There are five modules in the whole course

In Year 12

Unit 1 – External exam worth 20% of the final grade; and

Unit 2 – External exam worth 20% of the final grade.

In Year 13

Unit 3 – External exam worth 25% of the final grade;

Unit 4 – External exam worth 25% of the final grade; and

Unit 5 – Practical exam worth 10% of the final grade.

Career opportunities and progression

Biology is the basis for a variety of degrees and professions. Medicine, veterinary science, physiotherapy, nursing, midwifery and dentistry are just a few of the degrees for which biology is usually required. You will learn several practical skills and be required to work as a team at times, which again will be useful for future employment.

Many universities understand the demands of A Level biology and therefore look favourably at this qualification for entry on to their courses.

Staff contact

Miss McCoy

Staff contact email

McCoyH1@hwbcymru.net

Business Studies

Examination Board: WJEC



Level and Type of Qualification

AS/A2

Course outline

This course introduces students to the dynamic business environment and the importance of entrepreneurial activity in creating business opportunities and sustaining business growth. Students will have the opportunity to develop a wide range of essential skills required for Higher Education and employment.

What will I study?

Year 12 - AS units covered

- Unit 1: Business opportunities. This unit focuses on new business start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). In addition to covering the main concepts of setting up a new business, students will learn about other types of business organisations and the markets they operate in and their various stakeholders; and
- Unit 2: Business functions. This unit broadens the context for students and will include all types of business organisations, ranging from recently-formed small businesses to well-established multinational companies. Students will learn how, must succeed in a competitive market, all businesses must consider the core functions of business.

Year 13 - A2 units covered

- Unit 3: Business Analysis and Strategy. The emphasis in this unit is on understanding and using analytical techniques and developing appropriate business strategies. Students will learn how to construct and analyse a range of decision-making models and investment appraisal methods used by businesses to decide on their strategy; and
- Unit 4: Business in a Changing World. This unit focuses on how businesses adapt to succeed in a dynamic external environment. Students will learn that businesses now operate in a global marketplace, and they need to consider a wide range of external factors that affect their day-to-day activities, decision-making and strategy.

How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1: Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes. Short answer and structured questions;

Unit 2: Written examination: 2 hours. Data response questions;

Unit 3: Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes. Data response plus structured questions; and

Unit 4: Written examination : 2 hours 15 minutes. Case study plus one essay (choice of three).

Career opportunities and progression

An A Level in Business would be beneficial if you are thinking of going into a career in many areas, including accountancy, banking, administration, human resources and recruitment, advertising and marketing, and sales.

Staff contact

Miss Mead

Staff contact email

MeadS20@hwbcymru.net

Chemistry

Examination Board: WJEC



Level and Type of Qualification

AS/A2

Course outline

You will follow the WJEC A Level Chemistry specification available at www.wjec.co.uk/chemistry. To access this course, you need to achieve a minimum of two B grades at Double Award science or a B grade at Chemistry in triple science.

What will I study?

In Year 12, you will study the basics of chemistry, ie. Atom, moles calculations, rates of reactions and energy changes. This will be followed by an in-depth look at organic chemistry, where you will learn about many of the chemicals that make our everyday lives easier.

In Year 13, you will learn more about organic chemistry and how acids and bases react. These are just a few of the topics you will study. There are calculations all throughout the course so having a sound grasp of mathematics is essential.

How will my work be assessed?

There are five modules that make up the full course

In Year 12

Unit 1 – External exam worth 20% of the final mark; and

Unit 2 – External exam worth 20% of the final mark.

In Year 13

Unit 3 – External exam worth 25% of the final mark;

Unit 4 – External exam worth 25% of the final mark; and

Unit 5 – Practical exam and written exam worth 10% of the final mark.

Career opportunities and progression

Chemistry is the basis for a variety of degrees and professions. Medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy and dentistry are just a few of the degrees for which chemistry is usually required. You will learn several practical skills and be required to work as a team, which again will be useful for future employment. Many universities see chemistry as a logical thinking subject and therefore look favourably at this qualification for entry into courses such as accountancy, law and business, to name but a few.

Staff contact

Dr Williams

Staff contact email

WilliamsG187@hwbcymru.net

Criminology

Examination Board: WJEC



Level and Type of Qualification

Level 3 Applied Certificate/Diploma

Course outline

Criminology is a topical, interdisciplinary subject that draws from sociology, psychology and law to examine the issues surrounding crime and the criminal justice system. Looking at how crime is defined, why people offend and the consequences of crime, criminology examines the role of the various agencies and institutions that make up the criminal justice system. This course will enable you to apply theories of criminality, and you will also develop the knowledge and skills to research policy in practice, assess campaigns for changes in awareness and examine information to review verdicts in criminal cases.

What will I study?

In Year 12 (Applied Certificate, equivalent to an AS Level)

- Unit 1 – Changing Awareness of Crime. Students will assess how the public, based on media portrayal, measurement by the state and social values, perceives crime. Study of these areas will culminate in the creation of a campaign to raise awareness on a specific criminal offence; and
- Unit 2 – Criminological Theories. Students will analyse and evaluate a wide range of theoretical explanations for criminal behaviour.

In Year 13 (Applied Diploma, equivalent to an A Level)

- Unit 3 – Crime Scene to Court Room. This unit will provide an understanding of the criminal justice system from the moment a crime has been identified to the verdict. Students will develop the understanding and skills needed to review the justice of verdicts in criminal cases; and
- Unit 4 – Crime and Punishment. In this unit, students will evaluate the effectiveness of the process of social control in criminal justice policy, with a focus on agencies in the criminal justice system, such as the police, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), probation and prisons. Students will discover the way our laws are made as well as studying methods used by society to bring about social control.

How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime – Non-examined controlled assessment;

Unit 2 – Criminological Theories - External examination;

Unit 3 – Crime Scene to Court Room - Non-examined controlled assessment; and

Unit 4 – Crime and Punishment - External examination.

Career opportunities and progression

Students can progress on to a variety of degree courses, including criminology, law, psychology, forensic science or sociology. Alternatively, the course will enhance an application to work in the criminal justice sector, with the National Probation Service, the courts and tribunal service, the National Offender Management Service and the Police as potential career pathways.

Staff contact

Mrs Price

Staff contact email

PriceV9@hwbcymru.net

Design Technology: Product Design

Examination Board: WJEC



Level and Type of Qualification

AS/A2

Course outline

The course offers a unique opportunity for students to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems. Design and technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. It encourages students to use creativity and imagination when applying iterative design processes to develop and modify designs, and to design and make prototypes that solve real world problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values.

What will I study?

You will develop knowledge and understanding of topics including sustainability, health and safety, the iterative design process, designers, industrial and commercial manufacturing processes, materials and the product life cycle.

How will my work be assessed?

In Year 12

Unit 1: Written examination (2 hours). A mixture of structured and extended questions (20%); and

Unit 2: Design and Make Task (40 hours). Internally assess and externally moderated (20%).

In Year 13

Unit 1: Written examination (2 hours, 30 minutes). A mixture of structured and extended questions (30%); and

Unit 2: Sustained Design and Make Project (60 hours). Internally assess and externally moderated (30%).

Career opportunities and progression

This course will allow you to access the world of work in a variety of designing, engineering, manufacturing, and technical disciplines.

Many students access design courses at degree level in various universities and colleges, including Loughborough, Brunel, Swansea, Cardiff Met and the University of South Wales.

We also take part in the EESW Sixth Form Project. This involves the school being paired with an employer, who will set a project brief related to a real problem. The project helps develop a range of skills, offers an insight into engineering and experience of solving a real problem; the work can be submitted to receive a gold CREST award.

Staff contact

Mrs Juliff

Staff contact email

JuliffL9@hwbcymru.net

English Literature

Examination Board: WJEC



Level and Type of Qualification

AS/A2

Course outline

The course consists of five modules completed over two years. The AS course consists of two modules in Year 12 and the A2 course consists of a further three modules in Year 13.

What will I study?

In Year 12

- Unit 1: Prose and Drama. You will study the nineteenth century classic novel, *Jane Eyre*, by Charlotte Brontë and the twentieth century American play, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, by Tennessee Williams; and
- Unit 2: Poetry. You will study a pair of twentieth century poets, Seamus Heaney and Owen Sheers.

In Year 13

- Unit 3: Poetry and Unseen Poetry. You will study the pre-eminent seventeenth-century metaphysical poet, John Donne. You will also be required to answer a comparative question on unseen poems;
- Unit 4: Shakespeare. You will study Shakespeare's most famous tragedy, *Hamlet*; and
- Unit 5: Prose Study. This is a coursework unit, based on two prose texts. One must be pre-2000 (*The Colour Purple* by Alice Walker) and the other post-2000 (*Life of Pi* by Yann Martel).

How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1: 2-hour closed text examination, worth 20% of the whole A Level (50% of AS).

Unit 2: 2-hour open text examination, worth 20% of the whole A Level (50% of AS).

Unit 3: 2-hour open text examination, worth 20% of the whole A Level (1/3 of A2).

Unit 4: 2-hour closed text examination, worth 20% of the whole A Level (1/3 of A2).

Unit 5: an NEA assignment of 2,500 to 3,500 words, worth 20% of the whole A Level (1/3 of A2).

Career opportunities and progression

English literature is, of course, a highly relevant subject in preparation for any arts/humanities degree course at university. It is valued as one of the top academic A Levels (known as 'facilitating subjects') by Russell Group Universities.

English literature is also a very useful qualification for a wide range of future jobs, with its focus on high-level reading and writing skills, analytical thinking, and clear communication, both orally and in writing. Some careers which English graduates have traditionally pursued include teaching, writing, journalism, librarianship, archive work, editing, publishing, broadcasting, civil service, local government, politics, marketing, public relations and social work.

Staff contact

Mrs Rees

Staff contact email

ReesS67@hwbcymru.net

Geography

Examination Board: WJEC



Level and Type of Qualification

AS & A2

Course outline

AS

Unit 1 Changing landscapes; and
Unit 2 Changing Places.

A2

Unit 3 Global Systems and Global Governance;
Unit 4 Contemporary Themes in Geography; and
Unit 5 Independent Investigation.

What will I study?

In Year 12

- Unit 1 Changing landscapes: Changing Coastal Landscapes and Tectonic Hazards (24%); and
- Unit 2 Changing Places: Changing Places and Fieldwork Investigation (16%).

In Year 13

- Unit 3 Global Systems and Global Governance: Water and Carbon Cycles, Global migration and global governance of the oceans, and 21st Century Challenges (24%);
- Unit 4 Contemporary Themes in Geography: Tectonic Geography, Economic Growth and Energy Challenges and Dilemmas (16%); and
- Unit 5: Independent Investigation (20%).

How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1: Changing Landscapes - Written examination: 2 hours, worth 24%;
Unit 2: Changing Places - Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes, worth 16%;
Unit 3: Global Systems and Global Governance - Written examination: 2 hours, worth 24%;
Unit 4: Contemporary Themes in Geography - Written examination: 2 hours, worth 16%; and
Unit 5: Non-exam assessment: 3,000 – 4,000 words, worth 20%. One written independent investigation, based on the collection of both primary data and secondary information.

Career opportunities and progression

Geography has been identified by the Russell Group universities as the subject that gave students access to the greatest number of courses outside of the subject area.

There are many jobs that would use the knowledge and skills taught in Geography directly. These include jobs that deal with the environment; travel and tourism; economics and the financial sector; local and national Government; development agencies; planning; social work; public utilities (Gas, Electricity and Water); surveying; mapping; meteorology; law and retail.

Staff contact

Mr Wiltshire

Staff contact email

WiltshireM1@hwbcymru.net

History

Examination Board: WJEC



Level and Type of Qualification

AS/A2

Course outline

The A level History course has five modules

Unit 1: Wales and England, 1780-1880;
Unit 2: Weimar Germany and Its Challenges, 1918-1933;
Unit 3: The American Century, 1890-1990;
Unit 4: Nazi Germany, 1933-45; and
Unit 5: Non-Examination Assessment – independent research topic

What will I study?

Unit 1: This is a Period Study of Wales and England, 1780-1880. The specific topics covered are

- Politics and government in Wales and England, 1780-1880; and
- Popular protest, 1815-48.

Unit 2: This is an In-Depth Study of Weimar Germany, 1918-33. The specific topics covered are

- The challenges facing the Weimar Republic;
- The extent of change in foreign and economic policy; and
- The changing fortunes of the Nazi Party.

How will my work be assessed?

There are 2 examinations at the end of Year 12.

There are 2 examinations at the end of Year 13.

Unit 5 (undertaken in Year 13) is a non-examination assessment worth 20% of the overall total.

Career opportunities and progression

You will develop a broad range of transferable skills relevant to many careers: law, accountancy, journalism, politics, civil service, archiving and teaching.

History is valued as one of the top academic subjects for entry to highly competitive courses and universities. Former students of the department have gained places at the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Warwick, Cardiff, London School of Economics (LSE) and Queen Mary University of London (QMUL).

You will have all the support that you need from the teaching staff for you to succeed.

Staff contact

Ms Bell

Staff contact email

BellF2@hwbcymru.net

Mathematics

Examination Board: WJEC



Level and Type of Qualification

AS/A2

Course outline

A Level mathematics is a challenging, stimulating subject that will directly improve your problem solving and logic skills. This is why employers have such a high regard for candidates with A Level mathematics.

What will I study?

You will follow the WJEC A Level mathematics specification available at <http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/mathematics/r-mathematics-gce-2017/>

A Level mathematics is made up of 4 modules. The pure core modules involve the study and solving of equations using graphs and algebra. You will solve quadratic equations, trigonometric equations and will use logarithmic functions and exponential functions. The applied mathematics module is essentially using simple equations to model real-life situations. The module is made up of questions based on statistics and mechanics. Mechanic topics include modelling the motion of a golf ball, a boat, or a man sprinting the 100m. You will study Forces and how they affect motion. Statistical topics look at probability distributions and cover various techniques of analysing data.

How will my work be assessed?

Year 12

Unit 1: Pure mathematics – Written examination (2 hours and 30 minutes), worth 25% of A Level and 62.5% of AS qualification; and

Unit 2: Applied mathematics – Written examination (1 hour and 45 minutes), worth 15% of A Level and 37.5% of AS qualification.

Year 13

Unit 3: Pure mathematics – Written examination (2 hours and 30 minutes), worth 35% of A Level; and

Unit 4: Applied mathematics (1 hour and 45 minutes), worth 25% of A Level.

** Calculators are permitted in each of the papers.*

Career opportunities and progression

A Level further mathematics is a challenging course. Students should be achieving at least an A grade at higher tier GCSE mathematics and numeracy to take on the challenge of A Level further mathematics with confidence. However, the course has tremendous benefits; as well as the amount of subject matter studied by candidates, only 5,000 students across the UK study A Level further mathematics. This ensures that the qualification stands out on UCAS applications and CVs, particularly when applying for jobs where professional qualifications will be studied for. Since A Level further mathematics is studied in conjunction with A Level mathematics, you will then have two A Levels in mathematics, which will make you a formidable candidate for university courses and for future career prospects involving mathematics.

Staff contact

Mr Morris

Staff contact email

MorrisG28@hwbcymru.net

Further Mathematics

Examination Board: WJEC



Level and Type of Qualification

AS/A2

Course outline

A Level further mathematics is a single A Level with modules being run in conjunction with A Level mathematics.

What will I study?

You will follow the WJEC A Level further mathematics specification available at <http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/mathematics/r-mathematics-gce-2017/>

A Level further mathematics is made up of 5 modules.

How will my work be assessed?

Year 12

FM Unit 1: Pure mathematics – Written examination (1 hour and 30 minutes), worth 13.3% of A Level;

FM Unit 2: Statistics – Written examination (1 hour and 30 minutes), worth 13.3% of A Level; and

FM Unit 3: Mechanics – Written examination (1 hour and 30 minutes), worth 13.3% of A Level.

Year 13

Unit 4: Pure mathematics – Written examination (2 hours and 30 minutes), worth 35% of A Level; and

Unit 5: Statistics or Unit 6 Mechanics (1 hour and 45 minutes), worth 25% of A Level.

** Calculators are permitted in each of the papers.*

Career opportunities and progression

A Level further mathematics is a challenging course. Students should be achieving at least an A grade at Higher Tier GCSE mathematics and numeracy to take on the challenge of A Level further mathematics with confidence. However, the course has tremendous benefits; as well as the amount of subject matter studied by candidates, only 5,000 students across the UK study A Level further mathematics. This ensures that the qualification stands out on UCAS applications and CVs, particularly when applying for jobs where professional qualifications will be studied for.

Since A Level further mathematics is studied in conjunction with A Level mathematics, you will then have two A Levels in mathematics, which will make you a formidable candidate for university courses and for future career prospects involving mathematics.

Staff contact

Mr Morris

Staff contact email

MorrisG28@hwbcymru.net

Medical Science

Examination Board: WJEC



Level and Type of Qualification

Level 3 Diploma

Course outline

You will follow the WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Medical Science specification available at <https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/medical-science-level-3/>. To access this course, you need to achieve a minimum of CC grades at Double Award or Triple science at GCSE, along with a C in at least one English and one mathematic GCSE.

What will I study?

In Year 12, you will study the following three units: Human health and disease, physiological measurement techniques and medical science research methods; and

In Year 13, you will build on your year 12 knowledge by studying an additional three units: medicines and treatment of disease, clinical laboratory techniques and medical case study.

How will my work be assessed?

There are six modules in the whole course

In Year 12

Unit 1 - Human health and disease – External written exam worth 25% of the diploma;

Unit 2 - Physiological measurement techniques – Internal assessment worth 12.5% of the final diploma; and

Unit 3 - Medical Science research methods - Internal assessment worth 12.5% of the final diploma.

In Year 13

Unit 4 - Medicines and treatment of disease – Internal assessment worth 25% of the final diploma;

Unit 5 - Clinical laboratory techniques – Externally marked assignment worth 12.5% of the final diploma; and

Unit 6 - Medical case study – External written exam worth 12.5% of the diploma.

Career opportunities and progression

The main purpose of the qualification is to provide students with the knowledge, understanding and skills in key scientific principles to support progress to Higher Education or employment in areas of medical science, such as job roles in physiological sciences or clinical laboratory services.

The Level 3 Applied Diploma in medical science is supported by many Higher Education Institutions, including: Bangor University, Bristol University of the West of England, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Swansea University and the University of Chester.

Staff contact

Dr Williams

Staff contact email

WilliamsG187@hwbcymru.net

Physical Education

Examination Board: WJEC



Level and Type of Qualification

AS/A2

Course outline

A Level physical education will enable you to engage in a practical course, which is designed to encourage you to be inspired, motivated and challenged by the subject and enable you to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career pathways. Through studying A level physical education, you will acquire the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to develop and maintain your performance in physical activities and understand the benefits to health, fitness and well-being. Students would normally have completed a GCSE in physical education, but this would not necessarily exclude candidates who had not done so, depending on their academic and practical ability. However, the specification has been designed to provide progression by building on the knowledge, understanding and skills set out in the GCSE course. Students are expected to compete for a club outside of school (as a minimum).

What will I study?

Physical Education provides a coherent combination of four areas of study

1. Exercise physiology, performance analysis and training;
2. Sport psychology;
3. Skill acquisition; and
4. Sport and society.

How will my work be assessed?

Year 12

- Unit 1: 60% of AS Qualification – written examination (1 hour 30 minutes); and
- Unit 2: 40% of AS Qualification - Non-examination assessment, including one activity as a player/performer and one as a coach or official; and a written piece of coursework in the form of a Personal Performance Profile (PPP), linked to your chosen practical activity.

Year 13

- Unit 3: 36% of A Level qualification - written examination (2 hours);
- Unit 4: 24% of A level qualification - Non-examination assessment, including one activity as a player/performer and one as a coach or official; and a written piece of coursework in the form of an Investigative Research, linked to your chosen practical activity

Career opportunities and progression

The specification provides a suitable foundation for specialist study in both physical education and sports studies in Higher Education and for other areas of study. The specification provides an excellent foundation for candidates intending to pursue careers in teaching and coaching, sports development, the leisure industry, recreational management, health, leisure and fitness and professional sport.

Staff contact

Mr Llewellyn

Staff contact email

LlewellynS41@hwbcymru.net

Physics

Examination Board: WJEC



Level and Type of Qualification

AS/A2

Course outline

You will follow the WJEC A-Level Physics specification, available at www.wjec.co.uk/physics

To access this course, you need to achieve a minimum of two B grades at Double Award Science or a B grade at Physics in Triple science, and at least a B grade in GCSE mathematics or numeracy.

What will I study?

In Year 12, you will study Unit 1: motion, energy and matter, and Unit 2: electricity and light. These give an insight into the world of particle physics and quantum physics; and

In Year 13, you will study Unit 3: oscillations and nuclei and Unit 4: fields and options, from which you do one of the following: AC theory, medical physics or physics of sport and energy. You will carry out experiments during the course associated with each Unit.

How will my work be assessed?

In Year 12

Unit 1 – External exam worth 20% of the final grade; and

Unit 2 – External exam worth 20% of the final grade.

In Year 13

Unit 3 – External exam worth 25% of the final grade;

Unit 4 – External exam worth 25% of the final grade; and

Unit 5 – Experimental task and practical analysis task exam worth 10% of the final grade.

Career opportunities and progression

There are many opportunities for those who pursue physics at A Level. Apart from pure research and teaching, many students go on to follow careers in medicine as medical physicists, the Ministry of Defence (MOD), defence industries, the military as pilots or ground staff/technicians, engineering (civil, mechanical, electrical and bio engineering), aerospace industries, computing (hardware and software research), nanotechnology, telecommunications, and communication industries and providers.

Staff contact

Mr Jenkins

Staff contact email

JenkinsR241@hwbcymru.net

Psychology

Examination Board: WJEC



Level and Type of Qualification

AS/A2

Course outline

Psychology explores the workings of the mind and how thought processes work. A mathematical and scientific background and the ability to create essays in a range of structures (argumentation, descriptive) are essential for successful study. This course is 100% examination based.

What will I study?

Psychology explores the workings of the mind and how thought processes work. A mathematical and scientific background and the ability to create essays in a range of structures (argumentation, descriptive) are essential for successful study. This course is 100% examination based.

How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1: Psychology: past to present;
Unit 2: Psychology: using psychological concepts;
Unit 3: Psychology: implications in the real world; and
Unit 4: Psychology: applied research methods.

All four units are examination-based assessments, with 7 hours of examinations across the four units. This is divided into three, 1.5 hour and one 2.5 hour examination. Assessment is via a range of essay-based questions and responses to studies that need to be analysed and evaluated.

Career opportunities and progression

As a result of successfully completing this course, students can progress towards the study of psychology as an undergraduate at Higher Education level. Psychology can also be taken as part of a Joint Honours degree with another subject, often involving other sciences, humanities or art subjects or philosophy and ethics.

Many careers that involve working with people consider a psychology degree very favourably, including advertising, marketing, charity, law, healthcare, public sector, recruitment and human resources, and social care.

Staff contact

Mrs Jones

Staff contact email

JonesA180@hwbcymru.net

Religious Studies

Examination Board: WJEC



Level and Type of Qualification

AS/A2

Course outline

- An introduction to the philosophy of religion;
- An Introduction to religion and ethics; and
- An Introduction to the study of Christianity

What will I study?

An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion

- The Existence of God – inductive: Cosmological and Teleological arguments;
- The Existence of God – deductive: Ontological arguments that support the existence of God;
- The Problem of Evil: Augustinian and Irenaean theodicy; and
- Religious Experience: Looking at different types of religious experiences, including mysticism.

An Introduction to Religion and Ethics

- Ethical Thought: Meta-ethical issues and normative ethical theories;
- Nature Law: St. Thomas Aquinas' laws and precepts as a basis for moral behaviour;
- Situation Ethics: Joseph Fletcher's rejection of other ethical theories, alongside his acceptance of agape as the basis of morality; and
- Utilitarianism: Jeremy Bentham's classical Utilitarianism as a basis for making moral decisions.

An Introduction to the Study of Christianity

- Religious figures and sacred texts: The study of Jesus and the Bible as a source of wisdom;
- Religious concepts: Debating the nature of God;
- Religious life: Studying Martin Luther's arguments for justification alone; and
- Religious practices that shape religious identity: An understanding of religious identity.

How will my work be assessed?

Class-based activities and assessments, including group presentations, individual research, group discussion, peer assessment, timed assessments

2 exams at AS: 1 x 1 hour 45 minutes; and 1 x 1 hour 15 minutes; and

3 exams at A2: 3 x 1 hour 30 minutes.

Career opportunities and progression

These are many and varied. A Level religious studies provides entrance into university and to a variety of careers as diverse as teaching; charity work; healthcare professions; emergency services; immigration Office; social work; religious life, such as priesthood/ministry; youth and community work; law.

Staff contact

Mrs Davies

Staff contact email

DaviesS2505@hwbcymru.net

Welsh (Second Language)

Examination Board: WJEC



Level and Type of Qualification

AS/A2

Course outline

The AS and A Level in Welsh (Second Language) encourages students to study Welsh with interest, enjoyment and enthusiasm and communicate correctly and fluently both orally and in writing within a wide range of situations and contexts.

What will I study?

The following topics will be studied in Year 12

- Byd y Cyfryngau yng Nghymru – The media in Wales: Films, plays, television programmes and written media, with emphasis on the film Patagonia;
- Defnyddio Iaith – The use of language: Grammar and idioms; and
- Barddoniaeth Gymraeg – Welsh poetry: There is a set list of five poems that will be studied throughout the year.

The following topics will be studied in Year 13

- Byd y Cyfryngau yng Nghymru – The media in Wales: Films, plays, television programmes and written media, with emphasis on the play Crash;
- Y Gymraeg yn y Gymdeithas a Thrawsieithu – Welsh in society and translanguaging: The history of the Welsh language and the efforts of groups and individuals to defend and promote the language. Responding in Welsh to an article on current events written in English; and
- Y Straeon Byrion – The short stories: A series of four modern stories by Mihangel Morgan, Llio Mai Hughes, Marlyn Samuel and Ioan Kidd, dealing with contemporary issues in Wales and around the world.

How will my work be assessed?

- Unit 1 – 15% Group speaking assessment (externally assessed);
- Unit 2 – 10% Written project on a topic of your choice (1,500 - 2,000 words);
- Unit 3 – 5% Poetry and the use of language (written examination);
- Unit 4 – 25% Group speaking assessment (externally assessed);
- Unit 5 – 15% The Welsh Language in Society and translanguaging (written examination); and
- Unit 6 – 20% Short stories and the use of language (written examination).

Career opportunities and progression

A qualification in Welsh is very desirable when applying for many jobs in Wales. Examples include, Local/National Government, education, healthcare professions, policing, radio and television, written media, social care, tourism, hospitality, public transport, customer services, marketing and childcare.

Staff contact

Miss Hutcherson

Staff contact email

HutchersonB@hwbcymru.net

Find out more

Darganfod mwy



For more information about SJB Sixth Form and the courses available, please feel free to contact a member of the team. Details are below

- Sarah Rees, Head of Sixth Form
ReesS67@hwbcymru.net
- Veronica Price, Sixth Form Pastoral, Learning and Attendance Officer
PriceV9@hwbcymru.net



St John Baptist Church in Wales High School

Glan Road • Aberdare • Rhondda Cynon Taff • CF44 8BW

Website www.stjohnbaptist.co.uk **Email** stjohns5@hwbcymru.net

Tel 01685 875414 **Twitter (X)** @StJohnsAberdare