

2018/2019



Cardiff and Vale College
Coleg Caerdydd a'r Fro



St David's
Coleg Catholig Dewi Sant
Catholic Sixth Form College

FOREWORD

Thank you for your interest in Cardiff West Community High School Sixth Form.

Our Sixth Form provides a wealth of expertise and pathways to help you find your way to an excellent future and chosen career. The Cardiff West Community High School Sixth Form works in close partnership with Cardiff and Vale College and St. David's Catholic College to provide students with a unique educational experience. We are committed to providing high-quality post-16 education for students in the West Cardiff area.

Collaboratively we offer a wider curriculum, leading to vibrant and relevant opportunities for our students. Together we offer a superb mix of academic and vocational qualifications, enabling students to select the courses which meet their needs and interests.

Our collective sixth form provision ensures a truly personalised programme of support so that all young people can achieve their very best, in an environment where aspirations are high, levels of care, support and guidance are second to none and where excellence thrives. We are very proud of our academic attainment: in 2017 students achieved 21% A*-A, 76% A*-C in A Levels and Vocational qualifications, and 99% pass rate.

We hope that you will enjoy planning your sixth form options, and look forward to welcoming you to our sixth form.

Steven Richards

Head of Sixth Form

**EXPERTISE
PERSONALISED
PROGRAMME
SUCCESSFUL
FUTURE**



WELCOME

Welcome to the Cardiff West Community High School Sixth Form Prospectus.

We are a brand new secondary school serving the west of Cardiff. We are fortunate to have excellent creative partners who work with us to provide a varied and high quality curriculum offer. We are proud to work with Cardiff and Vale College (CAVC) and St David's College to offer a top quality educational experience at Post-16 level.

Our motto is 'Create your World' and our core values are those of Ambition, Resilience and Trust.

We have a unique working relationship with 9 Creative Partners who supply enriching opportunities and work experience for our students. Our nine partners are BBC Wales, Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff and Vale College, Cardiff Creative Skills, University of South Wales, Welsh National Opera, Amgueddfa Cymru/National Museum of Wales, Cardiff Metropolitan University and Cardiff Council.

Our successful sixth form is superbly led by Mr Richards. We are always happy to welcome visitors to our school and sixth form.

Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus. Further details can be found at www.cardiffwestchs.cardiff.sch.uk

Martin Hlland

Headteacher

What can I study?

Post-16 studies will enable you to select from a range of AS/A2 Level and vocational courses. At Level 3 you can study three or four AS Level courses, or a number of vocational courses which are each equivalent to an A Level, or a combination of the two. You will also study the Welsh Baccaulaureate which will contribute much to your personal development. We also offer courses at Level 1 and 2 depending on your grades.

What Level is right for me?

With the Cardiff West Community High School Sixth Form you can study courses at a range of levels – so whatever level applies to you we offer a programme of study to suit your needs and interests.

The table below provides an idea of levels and the entry requirements needed.

	Level 3	Level 2
ENTRY REQUIREMENT	AS/A Level & BTECs/ vocational courses 5 x GCSEs A-C including English & Maths	Combination Programme (GCSE Equivalence) 3 x GCSE D grades
CONTENT	Choose 3 subjects & Welsh Bacc. Subject entry dependent on GCSE results	English & Maths + 3 other subjects
LENGTH	2 years Full time	1 year Full time
PROGRESSION	University, Employment, apprenticeships or training.	Level 3 AS/A Levels, Level 3 vocational courses, employment, apprenticeships or training.

HOW TO APPLY

All year 11 students will be given an application form. Application Forms can be requested from steven.richards@cardiffwestchs.cardiff.sch.uk 02920 672700



10 REASONS TO COME TO SIXTH FORM

1. There is a big gap between high school and the world of work or university study, and Sixth Form can go a long way towards bridging it.

2. Better Prospects: Your prospects of future training, higher education and employment will be hugely improved by studying a post-16 course.

3. Variety of courses: there are courses for all students, in various subjects at a range of levels – from A Levels to career-focused courses such as BTECs.

4. Confidence and drive: Post 16 students have high aspirations and the confidence to reach their goals.

5. Opportunities for university study: You will increase your chances of going to university. Indeed, many of our students have successfully gone on to study at University.

6. Train for the career you want: If you have your sights set on your ideal career then sixth form study will help you develop the qualifications and skills required for the industry you want to work in.

7. Transferable skills: All courses in sixth form will prepare you for your future career or further learning, equipping you with the necessary skills, both academic and practical, to succeed.

8. Respect: All students are treated with respect and are expected to be mature and responsible.

9. Supported independence: Sixth form offers learning within an independent but structured environment that also helps you to develop personally and socially.

10: Great success rate: In 2017 students achieved 21% A*-A, 76% A*-C in A Levels and Vocational qualifications and 99% pass rate.



Level 3 options: Level 3 Career-focused courses

These Level 3 vocational courses focus on providing you with the skills and knowledge sought by employers in industry. You'll gain practical hands on experience as well as an in-depth understanding of your subject and the skills to succeed in the sector.

These vocational qualifications can be combined with A Levels. The table below demonstrates some possible combinations that can be studied:

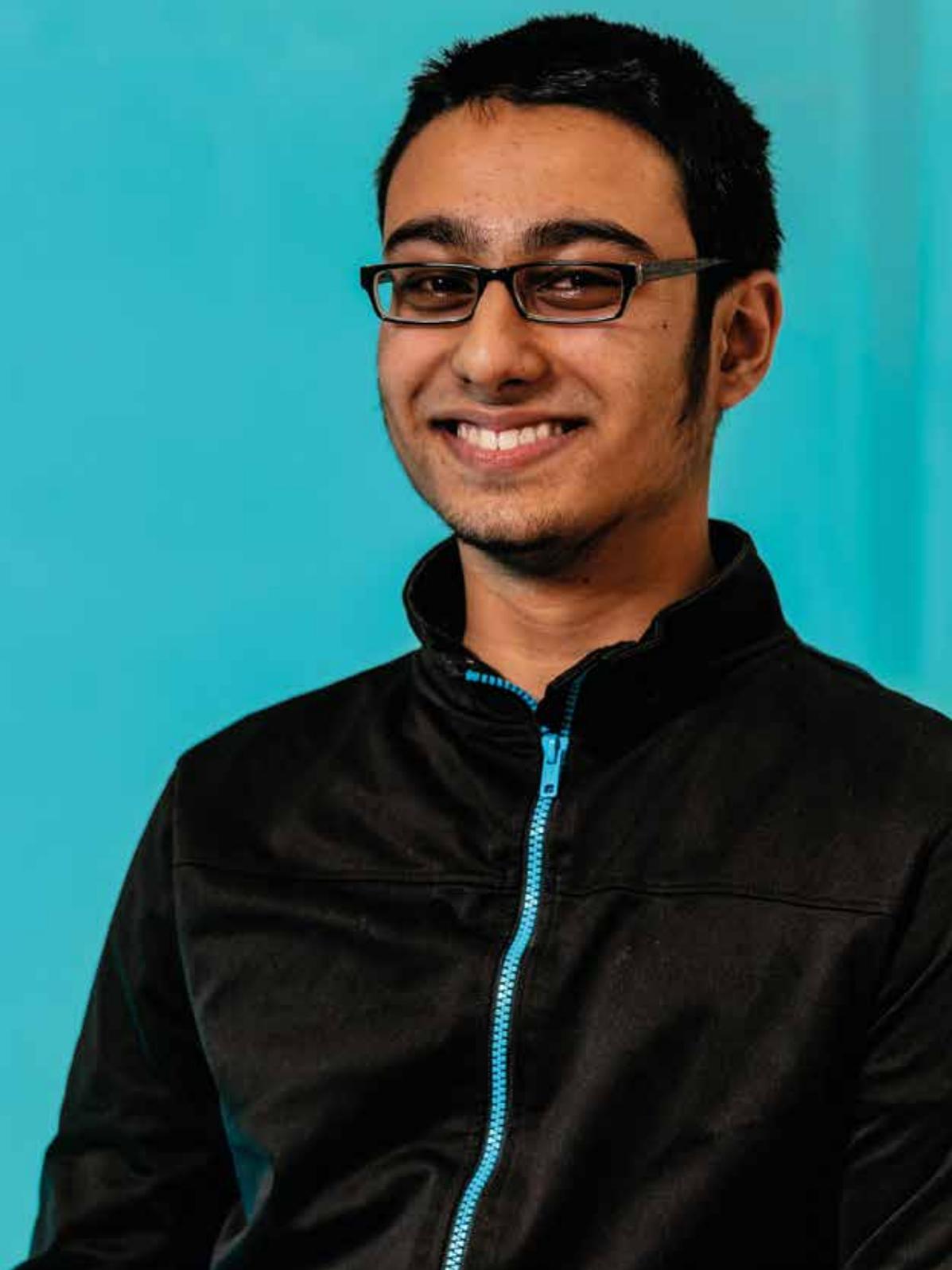
Vocational	Vocational	AS Level
Information Technology (CAVC)	Creative Media (CAVC)	Law
Creative Media (CAVC)		Art
Health and Social Care (CAVC)	CACHE – Childcare (CAVC)	Sociology
Travel and Tourism (CAVC)	Public Service (CAVC)	Religious Education



What can I study?

The career-focused, vocational courses on the following pages are all offered at Level 3 and can be combined with A Level courses.

2018/2019 OUR COURSES



Level 3 Health and Social Care

Would you like to make a difference and start a career in the UK's large and varied care sector? This course gives you the opportunity to gain the knowledge, skills, experience and industry qualifications you need to start your career. You will spend time in valuable work placements in different care settings related to your chosen course – such as nurseries or care homes. Your time at college focuses on developing your knowledge in relevant topics such as, safeguarding, and equality and diversity in the sector – taught by staff who are industry professionals.

What will I study?

Year 1:

You will study:

- Developing effective communication in health and social care
- Health, safety and security in health and social care
- Development through the life stages

Year 2:

- Development through the life stages
- Equality, diversity and rights in health and social care
- Safeguarding adults and promoting independence

What next?

The qualification is ideal preparation for a Level 4 Diploma in Health and Social Care that leads to professional registration with the Care Council for Wales. It also provides a good basis for a degree in Health and Social Care when combined with other A Levels.

It is also ideal preparation for direct entry into employment. Indeed, caring is an important and rapidly growing area of work in Wales that offers a strong range of career opportunities for dedicated and well qualified professionals. Over 100,000 people are employed in the care sector in the Cardiff City Region. This is forecast to grow 7% by 2020 with an increase in jobs. UKCES, 2013

Course-specific entry requirements

GCSE at grade C or above in English Language and a Science subject or Mathematics is required.

Level 3 Information Technology

IT skills are hugely valuable for employers in all sectors. Develop your knowledge and skills in IT and Computing and open doors to a wide range of careers. This qualification is designed to support learners who are interested in learning about the computing sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in the computing sector. It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels.

What will I study?

Year 1:

BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Computing:

Equivalent to to 0.5 of an A Level. In the first year students study two units, both mandatory, of which one is externally assessed with an exam. Learners study the fundamental principles of how computer systems work, including the role of hardware and software, the way components of a system work together and how data in a system is used. Students also study IT system security threats and the methods used to protect against them. Students undertake activities to protect IT systems from security threats, including data encryption.

Year 2:

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Computing:

Equivalent to one A Level. The extended certificate builds on the knowledge gained from the National certificate in computing. In the second year students study Principles of Computer Science which covers the principles that underpin all areas of computer science. It also develops computational-thinking skills and how to apply those skills to solve problems. As part of this course students learn to design and write programs in C++. Students also investigate website development principles, and they learn to design and develop a website using scripting languages.

What next?

The course is an ideal step towards direct employment in IT, an apprenticeship or to a broad range of higher education degree courses when combined with A Levels.

Course-specific entry requirements

GCSE at grade C or above in English Language and Mathematics is required.

Level 3 Public Services

The BTEC qualification in Public Services will develop knowledge and skills for employment in a broad range of armed forces or uniformed public services. This includes the army, navy and air force as well as the police force, fire brigade and ambulance service. Many of the skills developed on the course are directly transferrable to a range of other careers.

What will I study?

You will explore a number of topics relevant to a range of public services.

These include:

Government, policies and the public services – You'll examine government policies, the legislative process and the effects that government policies can have on the public services, the personnel working within them and the provision of services.

Land based activities – Land-based outdoor and adventurous activities are widely used by many providers of outdoor experiences to fulfil the needs of their programmes and clients. These include mountain walking, rock climbing, mountaineering, caving and orienteering. You will enhance your abilities and understanding of land-based activity skills and your knowledge of good practice in the outdoors.

Planning and management of major incidents

– With constant news coverage of major incidents of one description or another in our media, it is important that learners wishing to pursue a career in local government, aid agency work, the NHS, the emergency services or armed forces have knowledge of the work these organisations carry out.

What next?

The qualification is a good preparation for direct entry to public service careers as well as a range of higher education degree courses when combined with other A Levels.

Course-specific entry requirements

GCSE at grade C or above in English Language and Mathematics is required.

Level 3 Creative Media

The BTEC qualification in Creative Media Production will develop your skills for a broad range of careers in film, TV and other forms of media production. Wales has a strong and developing media production industry with both large and smaller independent production companies, many of which are at the cutting edge of TV and film production. The course is a step towards a career in this exciting area of work.

What will I study?

Units:

Pre-production techniques for creative media production

You will gain an understanding of the requirements for a specific media production and will learn to prepare, plan and deliver pre-production documentation.

Communication skills for creative media production

You'll develop the skills to be able to pitch a media production proposal using appropriate technology.

Optional units:

Writing for television and video

You'll develop an understanding of the commissioning process for writing for television and video and will practice researching and producing scripts and proposals for television and video production.

Single camera techniques

Understand the features of single camera production and develop the techniques for production.

Units:

Research techniques

This unit will teach you to apply a range of research methods and techniques and present your research.

Optional units:

Music video production

In this exciting unit you'll learn about the styles, conventions, and techniques of music videos, including planning, music and production.

Film and video editing techniques

You will gain an understanding of the development and principles of editing and be able to prepare moving image material for editing.

What next?

The course is an ideal step towards direct employment in the media industry, an apprenticeship or to a range of higher education degree courses when combined with other A Level subjects.

Course-specific entry requirements

GCSE at grade C or above in English Language is required.

Level 3 Diploma in Medical Science

Medical Science is the science of dealing with the maintenance of health and the prevention and treatment of diseases. The main purpose of the qualification is to provide learners 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.

What will I study

Year 1

Unit 1 – Human health and disease

This unit develops knowledge and understanding of human anatomy and physiology. The unit will develop an understanding of the function of organ systems and some problems that can occur in these systems.

Unit 2 Physiological measurement techniques

This unit develops knowledge and understanding about the physiological measurements that can be made to assess the function of major body systems.

Unit 3 Medical science research methods

This unit develops knowledge and understanding of planning, conducting and reporting of research in medical sciences using a range of methodologies and techniques.

Year 2

Unit 4 Medicines and treatment of disease

This unit develops knowledge and understanding about the science of medicines, and how they work through their interactions with body systems. It also introduces cancer, its relationship to genetics, and the range of therapeutic treatments available.

Unit 5 – Clinical laboratory techniques

This unit develops knowledge and understanding about the clinical laboratory techniques that can be used to assess body functions. It relates knowledge and understanding of human physiology and biochemistry to clinical measurement test results through an understanding of the principles of the measurement techniques.

Unit 6 – Medical case study

This is a synoptic exam based upon the content of all units in the qualification.

What next?

The Level 3 Diploma in Medical Science is for learners who are interested in careers related to healthcare and medical research. Medical scientists are at the forefront of healthcare services, as they are vital in the diagnosis of disease, determining the effectiveness of treatments and searching for new cures. A significant proportion of career opportunities in this sector are at degree level. When supported by other appropriate qualifications, the Level 3 Diploma in Medical Science will enable progression to higher education to a range of Applied Science programmes, such as biomedical science, life sciences, and physiology.

Course-specific entry requirements

5 GCSEs at grade A*–C including Core Science, Mathematics and English.

Level 3 Travel and Tourism

Would you like a career in the travel and tourism industry, with exciting opportunities to work across Wales or worldwide? The BTEC qualification in Travel and Tourism will develop knowledge and skills for employment in a broad range of careers such as a travel agent, holiday representative or aircraft cabin crew member.

The travel and tourism industry is growing rapidly in Wales leading to an exciting range of new employment opportunities. Tourism is the UK's 5th largest industry and supports 3 million jobs. CAVC LMI Update, 2015.

What will I study?

Year 1

Unit 1 The travel and tourism industry

Unit 2 The business of travel and tourism

Units 8 Long haul destinations

Year 2

Units 8 Long haul destinations

Unit 4 Customer service

Unit 2 The business of travel & tourism

What next?

Many students go straight into employment in roles in hotels, events management, tourist attractions and holiday resorts. Progress onto our renowned Cabin Crew course and join students who have gained employment with airlines including Emirates, British Airways, Virgin, EasyJet and more. Many students also go onto university to study related courses including tourism, events management and business.

Course-specific entry requirements

GCSE at grade C or above in English Language and Mathematics is required.

Level 3 Sport

The BTEC Level 3 qualification in Sport is delivered at the brand new Cardiff International Sports Campus – the inspirational new home for CAVC Sport. This facility features classrooms alongside excellent sports facilities including a large gym, fitness studios, 3G pitch and athletics track.

The BTEC qualification in Sport provides an understanding of the essential skills and knowledge needed when looking to build a career in sport. The sport and leisure sector employs 27,000 paid employees in over 2,100 organisations across Wales providing great opportunities and progression routes into employment for students.

What will I study?

Anatomy and physiology

You'll learn about the human body and how it is made up of many different systems that work together and allow us to take part in a huge variety of sport and exercise activities. An athlete can go from rest to all-out sprinting in a matter of seconds, whereas an endurance athlete can continue exercising for many hours at a time.

The skeletal and muscular systems work together to allow our bodies to perform a vast range of different movements. Our cardiovascular and respiratory systems act as a delivery service, working together to supply oxygen and nutrients to the body which in turn is used to produce energy for muscular contraction.

Physiology of fitness

You will have no doubt experienced the effects of exercise on your body; your heart beats faster and your breathing rate increases, but have you ever wondered what else is happening inside your body to allow you to perform physical activity and exercise?

The body has a number of systems that work together to allow you to take part in exercise by increasing the oxygen and energy supply to your muscles. In this unit you will learn about how these body systems respond to exercise in both the short and the long term.

Assessing risk in sport

The health and safety of sports participants is in the spotlight more now than it has ever been. It is more important than ever to make sure all risks are minimized prior to sports participation. This unit gives learners knowledge and experience that can be used to help promote a culture of health and safety in sport.

What next?

The course provides a foundation for starting professional work in the sports industry, or progressing to further study.

Course-specific entry requirements

GCSE at Grade C or above in 5 subjects including English Language and Maths is required for the course.

Level 3 Diploma in Environmental Science

The Environmental Science course will provide learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills in key scientific principles to support progress to higher education or employment in areas related to environmental science or clinical laboratory skills. The qualification requires learners to apply biological, chemical and physical principles to environmental issues and to provide solutions to environmental problems.

What will I study?

Learners who follow this qualification will study four units. The units that will be studied are:

- Managing energy for a sustainable future;
- The living environment and conservation;
- Monitoring our physical environment;
- Scientific principles and the environment.

Each unit has a clear environmental purpose which focuses the learning of scientific principles and skills in the unit in a meaningful environmental context. The units have been written to help develop the:

- Knowledge and understanding of biological, chemical and physical principles underlying environmental science
- Skills necessary to perform laboratory and field work
- Ability to solve problems in an environmental context
- Skills needed to do project based research and presentation
- Ability to learn in work-related contexts
- Ability to work alongside others in a professional manner
- Skills for independent learning and development.

These are very important to employers and higher education. Learners who complete the qualification should have a broad appreciation of work in the environmental sector allowing for progression into further education, employment or training.

What next?

The Level 3 Diploma in Environmental Science is for learners who are interested in careers related to the Environment and Environmental research. A significant proportion of career opportunities in this sector are at degree level. There are opportunities for suitably qualified individuals to work as pollution scientists, biodiversity officers, water quality experts, environmental managers, waste managers, conservation officers, environmental consultants etc.

Course-specific entry requirements

5 GCSE's at grade A*–E including Core Science, Mathematics and English.

Level 3

Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate

The central focus of the Welsh Baccalaureate at Advanced level is to develop essential and employability skills. You will develop more complex skills, attributes and behaviours and will undertake experiences which will help prepare you for your future, whether that involves university, further training or employment.

The emphasis in the Welsh Baccalaureate is on applied learning i.e. acquiring and applying a range of transferable skills. The Welsh Baccalaureate will encourage the learner to value skills development as a key aspect of education and life-long learning. Offering a learning experience relevant to the needs and demands of the workplace will develop learners' confidence, drive and initiative, preparing them to enter, succeed and progress in the world of work. The Welsh Baccalaureate is based on a Skills Challenge Certificate alongside Supporting

Qualifications. The requirements of both the Certificate and the Qualifications must be met in order to achieve the overarching Welsh Baccalaureate.

What next?

Whatever your plans for the future, Welsh Baccalaureate will help you to develop and demonstrate an understanding of and proficiency in essential and employability skills. These are the skills that are highly valued by employers and further and higher education institutions alike.

The Supporting Qualifications include two mandatory GCSEs of English Language or Welsh Language together with Mathematics-Numeracy at grades A*-C. Learners require two A levels grade A*- E, or equivalent level 3 qualifications totalling at least 600 GLH.

Welsh Baccalaureate aims to enable learners to develop and demonstrate an understanding of and proficiency in essential and employability skills. These are the skills that employers and next-stage educators value and which learners need for learning, work and life. The seven essential and employability skills are:

- Literacy
- Personal Effectiveness
- Numeracy
- Creativity and Innovation
- Digital Literacy
- Planning and Organisation
- Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

At this level a particular focus is placed on independent learning. However, an important feature of the qualification is the entitlement for the experiences and progress of learners to be enhanced and underpinned by regular tutorial support and mentoring. Each learner is allocated a Learner Coach and has an entitlement to regular one-to-one interviews and individual help, support and guidance.

The Learner Coach is able to advise the learner on their progress and approach to all aspects of their Welsh Baccalaureate programme. They will encourage the learner through appropriate action planning and target setting, to take more responsibility for their own learning. They will also advise learners of where to seek additional expert advice, support and guidance.

CACHE Level 2/3

Certificate in Child Care and Education

This qualification introduces the knowledge needed to work with children in a variety of settings and prepares you for vocational related training. It is suitable for learners who wish to work with children and young people in a range of settings including nurseries and schools.

What will I study?

This qualification is a two year programme. The course covers a range of relevant topics including:

- an introduction to working with children
- child development from conception to 16 years
- supporting children; keeping children safe
- the principles underpinning the role of the practitioner working with children.

You may also have the opportunity for a placement in a related setting as part of the Experience in the workplace module.

What next?

This qualification can lead to further training opportunities, including the CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Children's Care, Learning and Development and the CACHE Level 3 Extended Diploma in Children's Care, Learning and Development.

Diploma in Criminology

WJEC Level 3 Diploma in Criminology is a qualification with elements of Psychology, Law and Sociology that complements studies in humanities related subjects. The qualification would support learners' progression from any study at Level 2, particularly GCSEs in Sociology, Law or Psychology. The course will go beyond the traditional academic study with guest speakers from agencies involved in services/practice that the Criminology course material covers.

What will I study?

Certificate (year 1)

Module 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, or change the perception of a specific criminal offence.

Module 2 – Criminological Theories:

Students are required to familiarise themselves with, and evaluate a wide range of socio-psychological theoretical explanations for criminal behaviour.

Diploma (year 2)

Module 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. Learners will develop the understanding and skills needed to examine information, in order to review the justice of verdicts in criminal cases.

Module 4 – Crime and Punishment:

Learners will apply their understanding of the awareness of criminality, criminological theories and the process of bringing the accused to court, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of social control to deliver criminal justice policy.

What next?

On successful completion of this course, many learners could apply to and be offered places at university on courses related to Criminology, Sociology, Law or Psychology. Alternatively, the course will enhance an application to work in the areas of the criminal justice sector, social and probation work.

Course-specific entry requirements

Grade C in English Language.



AS and A Level courses

These courses can be studied as a combination with Level 3 vocational courses if you choose.

AS/A2 Art

This specification provides learners with opportunities to develop a broad foundation of critical, practical and theoretical skills at AS, which offers learners a holistic understanding of a range of practices and contexts in the visual arts, crafts and design fields, culminating in greater specialism and achievement at A Level.

What will I study?

You'll be encouraged to develop:

- Intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive capabilities
- Investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills, aesthetic understanding and critical judgement
- Independence of mind in developing, refining and communicating your own ideas, your own intentions and personal outcomes.
- An interest in, enthusiasm for, and enjoyment of art, craft and design
- The experience of working with a broad range of media
- Knowledge and experience of real world contexts and, where appropriate, links to the creative industries
- Knowledge and understanding of art, craft, design and media and technologies in contemporary and past societies and cultures.

What next?

This subject combines well with many other subjects, however, it is recommended that no more than one practically-based subject is studied alongside Art as the work-load may be excessive.

Students may progress to Higher Education within the field of Art and Design.

Past students have gone on directly to degree or HND courses in history of art, graphic design, fine art, fashion and textiles, art history, etc. However, the majority take a Foundation Studies course before applying for degree courses.

Course-specific entry requirements

Art and Design at grade C or above and the necessary aptitude and commitment to Art and Design. A grade C or above in D&T or Textiles will be accepted, subject to discussion, and in exceptional cases, students might be accepted without the minimum qualification on production of a suitable portfolio of work. There is some written work so the ability to communicate in written English is important.

AS/A2 Biology

The WJEC Biology AS course is a good balance of traditional Biology and more modern topics. It reinforces a lot of GCSE work, provides a firm grounding in the subject and supports the other Sciences and Mathematics as well. Opportunities are provided to develop practical skills, techniques and procedures. The A2 course provides an in-depth coverage of fundamental areas of physiology and biological theory. Practical skills are improved by experimental work and a residential field trip.

What will I study?

AS Level (year 1)

Unit 1: Basic biochemistry and cell

organisation: The unit covers: cell structure and function, cell organelles - their structure and function, structure and replication of DNA, biological molecules, and cell membranes.

Unit 2: Biodiversity and physiology

of body systems: This unit covers: cell differentiation, transport in plants and animals, the digestion system, variation, biodiversity, classification and evolution, and animal behaviour.

A Level (year 2)

Unit 3: Energy, homeostasis and the

environment: This unit covers: respiration and photosynthesis, energy transfer and food production, and regulation of internal environments including blood sugar and temperature regulation.

Unit 4: Variation, inheritance, and

immunology and disease: This unit covers: variation, selection, genetic inheritance, gene expression and gene cloning, immunology.

Unit 5: Investigative and practical skills in A2 Biology

What next?

The full A Level in Biology provides the basis for students who wish to proceed to Higher Education to study biology, medicine, veterinary science and other scientific careers. It is also a route to nursing, teaching, physiotherapy and laboratory based work, as well as linking directly with environmental science and sustainability.

Course-specific entry requirements

To study AS Biology we require a grade BB in Core and Additional Science (Applied Science is not appropriate). Alternatively we accept a grade B for GCSE Biology as a Separate Science. A minimum combination of Grades BC at higher tier is required in GCSE English Language and Mathematics.

AS/A2 Business Studies

This course introduces learners to the dynamic business environment and the importance of entrepreneurial activity in creating business opportunities and sustaining business growth. Learners will have the opportunity to develop awareness of contemporary business issues relevant to the Welsh business environment.

What will I study?

AS Level (year 1)

Unit 1: Business opportunities

Business Opportunities: This unit focuses on new business start-ups and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). The content in this section is based around the concept of starting a new business and the issues that surround the process of planning a new business. In addition, learners should be aware of other types of business organisations and the markets they operate in and their various stakeholders.

Unit 2: Business functions

This unit broadens the context for learners and will include all types of business organisations, ranging from recently formed small businesses to well-established multinational companies. Learners need to understand that, in order to succeed in a competitive market, all businesses have to consider the core functions of business. Learners will study the following content areas: marketing, finance, people in organisations (human resources), and operations management.

What next?

The full A Level in Business provides the basis for students who wish to proceed to Higher Education to study law, business management, marketing, accountancy, finance, and banking.

Course-specific entry requirements

GCSE Mathematics and English grade A*-C. There is no requirement for GCSE Business Studies.

A2 Level (year 2)

Unit 3: Business analysis and strategy

As the title suggests, the emphasis in this unit is on understanding and using analytical techniques and developing appropriate business strategies. Learners need to understand, construct and analyse a range of decision-making models and investment appraisal methods used by businesses to decide on their strategy. Analytical skills will be developed to investigate business opportunities and problems in a number of different contexts and evaluate a range of quantitative and qualitative data to suggest possible strategic responses from businesses.

Unit 4: Business in a changing world

This unit focuses on how businesses adapt to succeed in a dynamic external environment. Learners need to understand that the business world never stands still and there are continuous opportunities and threats to businesses of all sizes. Learners need to understand that regardless of size, 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.

AS/A2 Chemistry

Chemistry is the underpinning science in society. It plays a part in every aspect of our lives from the medicines we use to keep us healthy to the fertilisers we use on the land to maximise crop yields. Consequently this exciting qualification covers everything from simple atomic structure to the catalysts that ensure we produce essential chemicals in an environmentally sustainable manner.

What will I study?

AS Level (year 1)

Unit 1: The Language of chemistry, structure of matter and simple reactions

The structure of atoms is examined along with the calculations that allow us to determine expected yields from chemical reactions. In addition, we will look at reversible reactions and the structures of several solids, relating these structures to the observed chemical and physical properties of the elements and compounds.

Unit 2: Energy, rate and chemistry of carbon compounds

Energy changes of reactions are studied as well as the factors that affect the rates of chemical processes. This module also introduces organic (carbon) chemistry and spectroscopy.

A2 Level (year 2)

Unit 3: Physical and inorganic chemistry

The periodic table is studied in more depth than at AS. In particular the chemistry of the Transition Elements and Groups III, IV and VII is examined. The creation of electric potentials between two different elements is explored in detail along with further studies of energy changes that occur during reactions. Finally, the way in which experimental results can lead to detailed determination of the processes that take place during a reaction are studied.

Unit 4: Organic chemistry and analysis

This module explores a wide range of classes of organic chemicals and their characteristic reactions. Methods of analysis and properties peculiar to certain organic species are also studied.

Unit 5: Practical – This unit consists of two equally weighted tasks that are performed under exam conditions. The first is a practical activity and the second assesses the candidate's knowledge of practical and analysis skills.

What next?

As well as the classic combinations with Physics, Biology and Mathematics, most subjects can be successfully studied alongside Chemistry.

For those wishing to pursue a career in medicine, veterinary science and many other scientific careers, Chemistry is an absolute must. Additionally, the range of careers open to chemists confirms the high regard in which someone with such an all-round set of skills is held.

Course-specific entry requirements

To study AS Chemistry, we require a grade BB in Core and Additional Science (Applied Science is not appropriate). Alternatively, we accept a grade B for GCSE Chemistry as a Separate Science. A minimum combination of Grades BC at higher tier is required in GCSE English Language and Mathematics.

AS/A2 Computer Science

Computer Science relies on an understanding of the rules of specific languages at a fundamental level. It also encourages an awareness of the management and organisation of computer systems, extending learners' horizons beyond the school or college environment in the appreciation of the effects of computer science on society and individuals.

What will I study?

AS Level (year 1)

Unit 1: Fundamentals of computer science

This unit investigates computer architecture, communication, data representation, data structures, software applications, programs, algorithms, logic, programming methodologies, and the impact of computer science on society.

Unit 2: Practical programming to solve problems

This unit consists of a series of set tasks completed onscreen by candidates. These tasks will assess the practical application of knowledge.

A Level (year 2)

Unit 3: Programming and system development

This component investigates programs, data structure, algorithms, logic, programming methodologies and the impact of computer science on society.

Unit 4: Computer architecture, data, communication and applications

This component investigates computer architecture, communication, data representation, organisation and the structure of data, programs, algorithms and software applications.

Unit 5: Programmed solution to a problem

You will discuss, investigate, design, prototype, refine and implement, test and evaluate a computerised solution to a problem chosen by you, which must be solved using original code. This is a substantial piece of work, undertaken over an extended period of time.

What next?

This course provides an excellent foundation for progression to higher level qualifications in a wide range of subjects as it gives students the opportunity to develop essential cross-curricular skills such as team working, problem solving skills and logical thinking. Careers directly related to Computing would require further study in the field but would include Software Engineer, Programmer, Systems Analyst, Systems Development Engineer and Computer Technician.

Course-specific entry requirements

Grade B or above at GCSE Mathematics. A GCSE in Computer Science would be advantageous but not essential.

AS/A2 Economics

The course is designed to encourage students to investigate and understand the importance of Economics to the wider economic and social environment, develop an understanding of a wide range of economic concepts and an ability to use those concepts in a variety of different contexts and use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of economics and develop an ability to think as an economist.

What will I study?

AS Level (year 1)

Unit 1: Introduction to economic principles

Unit 2: Economics in action

The AS specification is based upon the principle of creating an introductory broad, but basic, understanding of how markets and the economy work. E.g., it introduces learners to the key concepts of demand and supply in both individual markets (microeconomics) and the whole economy (macroeconomics). Learners will be required to use basic models to develop a critical understanding of economics issues and explore current economic behaviour, drawing upon data from local, national and international sources, including data which relates to the Welsh economy. The AS content is divided essentially into microeconomics and macroeconomics.

A2 Level (year 2)

Unit 3: Exploring economic behaviour

Unit 4: Evaluating economic models and policies

Learners will be expected to use more complex micro and macro models applied to a wider range of local, national and international contexts, including data which relates to the Welsh economy. Learners will be required to develop a more critical approach to the evaluation of economic models and current economic problems. The synoptic essays will draw upon different elements of the specification content and evaluate alternative arguments and theories. The subject content in the A2 has been grouped into three broad areas of study: microeconomics, macroeconomics, and trade and development.

What next?

The full A Level in Economics provides the basis for students who wish to proceed to Higher Education to study law, business management, marketing, accountancy, finance and banking.

Course-specific entry requirements

GCSE English grade A*-C and Mathematics grade A*-B.

AS/A2 English Language and Literature

English Language and Literature is a subject that requires students to identify and consider the ways in which attitudes and values are created and conveyed in speech and writing. The focus of study will be the interpretation of written and spoken language, to include poetry, prose and drama as well as a range of non-literary texts. There will also be opportunities for original writing. The literature side is dedicated to poetry and prose in the first year and drama in the second. Possible texts include a poetry anthology and Shakespeare alongside contemporary authors and dramatists.

What will I study?

AS Level (year 1)

Unit 1: Comparative Analysis and Creative Writing

This unit examines learners' abilities to explore connections across a wide range of texts. It encourages extensive wider reading and provides opportunities for learners to select appropriate methods of analysis when exploring non-literary texts.

Unit 2: Drama and Non-literary Text Study

Learners will engage critically with their set text and explore the richness of the English language. In responding to non-literary texts, learners should be able to recognise the bias, the moral outlook, the prejudices, attitudes and values of speakers and writers and to be able to analyse how these are conveyed through the use of language.

A2 Level (year 2)

Unit 3: Shakespeare

While learners will engage critically with the text as a work of literature, this unit also offers opportunities for exploring the richness of the English language and its historical development set within the context of when the text was produced and received.

Unit 4: Unseen Text and Prose Study

This unit encourages learners to develop their ability to read widely and engage critically with a range of texts whilst developing further learners' techniques of analysis and evaluation.

Unit 5: Coursework

This unit gives opportunities for learners to independently select an aspect of prose study that interests them and to study one text within that genre. In addition, learners are given the opportunity to select wider reading to inform their studies in this unit and to reflect on the learning that has taken place.

What next?

A Level English is a pivotal subject which means that most subjects go well with it. Therefore, many careers are open to the English student. However, the most obvious professions are law, journalism, teaching, administration, civil service, banking, the media and creative industries.

Course-specific entry requirements

GCSE English grade A*–C.

AS/A2 English Literature

As a literature student you will be encouraged to actively engage with a range of literary genres from poetry to prose and drama. We will focus upon the way in which structure, form, and language shape meaning as well as draw stylistic and thematic parallels between texts. There is also a significant opportunity for original writing.

Core text authors include: Charlotte Bronte, Christopher Marlowe, Philip Larkin, Carol Ann Duffy, Shakespeare, Geoffrey Chaucer, and William Blake.

What will I study?

AS Level (year 1)

Unit 1: Prose and Drama

This section requires students to respond critically and creatively to a prose text and to a drama text. They are expected to communicate fluently, accurately and effectively their knowledge, understanding and judgement of texts; to show understanding of the cultural and contextual influences on readers and writers; and to accurately use quotations from and references to texts and sources.

Unit 2: Poetry Post-1900

For this unit, learners are required to read two paired poetry texts. They will then be asked to critically analyse one of the poems, and then to compare the two.

A2 Level (year 2)

Unit 3: Poetry Pre-1900 and Unseen Poetry

Candidates are required to answer one question based on the reading of one poetry text. Students will be assessed on their knowledge and understanding of an extract from the text, and on their wider knowledge and understanding of the text as a whole.

Unit 4: Shakespeare

Students will be asked to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of their chosen play, based on an extract from it. Students will then be required to demonstrate their wider knowledge of the play as a whole.

Unit 5: Coursework, Prose Study

This unit requires learners to submit an assignment based on the reading of two prose texts by different authors, one published pre-2000 and the other published post-2000.

What next?

A Level English Literature is a Russell Group 'facilitating subject'. Many careers are open to English students. However, the most obvious professions are law, journalism, teaching, administration, civil service, the media and creative industries.

Course-specific entry requirements

GCSE English grade B or above.

AS/A2 Geography

Geography will enable pupils to study a number of issues which are of contemporary national and global importance. The course allows students to extend and develop their knowledge of a range of physical and human environments at a variety of scales and levels of development.

What will I study?

AS Level (year 1)

Unit 1: Changing landscapes.

Students will study Changing Coastal Landscapes and Tectonic Hazards.

Unit 2: Changing places which includes changing populations, economies and settlements. Students will also be assessed on their own fieldwork investigations in both human and physical environments.

A2 Level (year 2)

Unit 3: This unit includes students studying "Water and Carbon Cycles", "Change and Challenges Processes and patterns of global migration and global governance of the Earth's oceans" and "21st Century Challenges."

Unit 4: Contemporary themes in geography. Further studies of Tectonic Hazards and two optional themes from four: • Ecosystems • Economic Growth and Challenge: India or China or Development in an African Context • Energy Challenges and Dilemmas • Weather and Climate. This unit will be assessed by essays.

Unit 5: Independent investigation.

One written independent investigation, based on the collection of both primary data and secondary information. (This will take place as a residential weekend trip and is essential to the course.)

What next?

This course provides a firm basis for any further study in geography and a pathway to a geographical career. Due to the broad nature of the subject, and the skills acquired throughout the course, it combines well with both science and arts subjects to lead to university courses in such areas as journalism, teaching, surveying, accountancy and planning. Students who choose not to go into Higher Education will have developed a range of transferable skills that allow them to explore a wide range of employment opportunities.

Course-specific entry requirements

A grade C or above in GCSE Mathematics and English is essential. Students with B grade or above at GCSE are best suited to the course. However, no prior learning in Geography is required, but a strong GCSE profile would help in all stages of the course.

AS/A2 History (Modern)

Modern History takes a period of upheaval in European society and provides learners with the opportunity to develop a coherent understanding of the past. The course develops an understanding of three key areas: a study of social change in England and Wales (c.1880-1980); The French Revolution (c.1774-1815); and Politics and Society in Germany (c.1881-1989).

What will I study?

AS Level (year 1)

Unit 1: Politics, people, and progress in Wales and England c.1880-1980.

This 'Period Study' is focused on the Twentieth Century. An essay-based module, pupils will study the development of the Labour and Liberal governments, unemployment in the 1920s, votes for women, and the impact of war on England and Wales.

Unit 2: France in revolution c.1774-1815.

In year one, students will cover the first half of this topic in a source-based exam. Students will study a topic usually uncovered by the National Curriculum, and learn about the French Revolution. Starting with the late Early Modern period, students will research French society, covering the Storming of the Bastille, the growth of Republicanism, and the overthrow of the monarchy.

A2 Units (year 2)

Unit 3: Changing leadership and society in Germany c.1871-1989.

In year two, pupils will move on from British study to cover a century of German history. Key figures such as Bismarck and Hitler will be studied, whilst the

content ranges from the Unification of Germany to hyperinflation, to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Assessment is made by essay-based exam.

Unit 4: France in revolution c.1774-1815.

Pupils will continue their study of the French Revolution, this time covering the period 1792 to 1815. In another source-based exam paper, students will gain an insight into the mass executions of monarchy and aristocracy, rise of Napoleon, and the wars he led.

Unit 5: Non-examination assessment.

Pupils will complete a 4,000 word investigation. This will be based on the topics from Unit 1 and will consider the successes and failures of the Suffragettes.

What next?

History is an excellent basis for students who wish to proceed to Higher Education, and is one of the recognised 'facilitating subjects' that will help students gain access to top Russell group universities. A traditional and highly regarded qualification, it gives learners high-level skills and works well with most subjects. This course is particularly effective for those wishing to continue into history, law, journalism, archaeology, education, or politics.

Course-specific entry requirements

A grade C or above in History or a grade C or above in English (if History was not taken at GCSE).

AS/A2 Law

This course is on a new specification for 2017 but has yet to be finalised by the WJEC. AS Law divides into two areas – the nature of law and the Welsh and English legal system and the law of tort. It requires students to study areas such as the civil and criminal justice systems, the application of the law to scenarios and, new for September 2017, is the study of the law of tort.

At A2, learners will study two further areas of substantive law – criminal law and human rights law – providing them with a breadth of knowledge of core legal subjects.

What will I study?

AS Law (year 1)

Unit 1: The Welsh and English legal systems:

This unit looks at the nature of law and the Welsh and English legal systems. It focuses on the structure of the Welsh and English legal systems. Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of sources of primary and secondary law in the Welsh and English legal systems and will consider how those laws are used by judges in making decisions. They will also develop knowledge and understanding of the criminal justice system, civil justice system including relevant legal personnel and legal funding. Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of the Devolution Settlement in Wales and its impact.

Unit 2: The Law of tort: This unit looks at the rules, theory and application of an area of substantive law – the law of tort. Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of topics such as negligence and the award of damages and will be required to apply the elements of the law to hypothetical scenarios.

A2 Level (year 2)

Units 3 and 4: Criminal law and human rights law: Learners will study two further areas of substantive law – criminal law and human rights law.

Study at A2 level looks at developing the legal skill of applying the law to scenarios and also develops the legal skills of evaluating legal rules, principles, concepts and issues. Year 2 is assessed via two written examinations which will require students to answer scenario based questions and essay based questions.

What next?

Students wishing to study Law at university will not be disadvantaged by studying A Level Law. The course helps them prepare for the LNAT test and develops students' legal skills.

Law has links with Politics; it also develops analytical and evaluative written skills which support a number of other studies including English and History.

Course-specific entry requirements

GCSE grade A*–C in at least one analytical subject (e.g. English, History or Religious Studies) is recommended.

AS/A2 Mathematics

The emphasis of the course is on using and applying Mathematics. The AS specification has been selected to develop abilities to reason logically, and to understand the relationship between 'real world' problems and mathematical models. The A2 specification extends students' range of mathematical skills and techniques and uses them in more difficult unstructured problems. Students will develop an awareness of the relevance of Mathematics to other fields of study, to the world of work, and to society in general.

What will I study?

AS Level (year 1)

Core 1: Algebra, coordinate geometry, differentiation.

Core 2: Integration, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms.

Mechanics 1: Kinematics, forces, momentum, moments and lamina.

AS Level (year 2)

Core 3: Differentiation, integration, trigonometry and functions.

Core 4: Vectors, differential, equations, further integration and trigonometry.

Statistics 1: Discrete random variables, probability, binomial distribution, poisson distribution, continuous random variables.

What next?

Mathematics provides a useful route into many careers. The ability to think logically and be able to solve problems are highly valued skills in the work place. Mathematics is now a requirement for a number of university courses and is also an advantage for many subjects including: actuarial work and insurance; economics and business; management, finance, and accountancy; computer science and ICT; medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy; genetic engineering and physics; social sciences; and law.

Course-specific entry requirements

Grade B or above in GCSE Mathematics.

AS/A2 Psychology

Psychology is a fascinating subject which will allow you to understand human behaviour and the reasons why we behave in the ways that we do. To gain this understanding of human behaviour, psychologists study behaviour through experiments and observations of visible actions. Psychologists also consider hidden internal mental processes and try to explain the inner workings of the mind.

There are various approaches to Psychology and during the course you will study key pieces of research and topics from a range of these areas including criminal behaviour, eye-witness testimony, phobias, relationships and therapies such as psychosurgery. You will also study research methods and develop existing numeracy skills by looking at data and working out what it tells us about human behaviour.

What will I study?

AS Level (year 1)

Unit 1: Psychology – past to present:

This unit introduces five main psychological approaches including Biological, Behaviourist, Cognitive, Psychodynamic and Positive Psychology. You will examine lots of different topics including explanations for criminal behaviour, phobias and more.

Unit 2: Psychology – investigating behaviour:

This unit introduces psychological research methods including participant selection, conducting safe and ethical research, and design of psychological research studies. This unit also covers debates on topics such as: Should the mother be the main caregiver for a child or can other people help in this role? Can we trust what eyewitnesses say in criminal trials – is our memory as accurate as we think it is?

A2 Level (year 2)

Unit 3: Psychology – implications in the real world:

Learners are expected to apply knowledge and understanding from Unit 1 to three human / animal behaviours; Autistic spectrum behaviour, Criminal behaviour & Schizophrenia. Students will also study six controversial issues in Psychology.

Unit 4: Psychology – applied research methods:

This unit further develops student understanding of research methods studied at AS, including the practical application of two research methods to class based Psychological research studies where students gather data and interpret its meaning.

What next?

The study of Psychology at A Level is useful for a diverse range of university courses and careers including: clinical psychologist, forensic and criminal psychology, counselling, mental health nursing, lecturer in Psychology, social worker and educational psychology.

Course-specific entry requirements

At least one grade B in GCSE Science and grade C in GCSE Mathematics are required. Grade C or above in GCSE English is recommended. However, students wishing to apply to study AS Psychology who have just missed the entry requirements might still be able to take Psychology following an interview with teaching staff in September.

AS/A2 Religious Studies

Religious Studies is a course concerned with fundamental questions surrounding the meaning of human existence. The AS specification contains two units which include a wide range of topics for consideration, including an in-depth and broad study of Christianity, religion and ethics and philosophy of religion. The A level specification allows learners to continue their systematic study of these three areas. A unique character of RS is that we approach all these issues from the point of view of God and of religious faith whereas Philosophy looks first and foremost to human reason, critical thinking and the integrity of arguments.

What will I study?

AS Level (year 1)

Unit 1: This unit provides the opportunity for learners to acquire and develop knowledge and a critical understanding of some of the key features of Christianity, ranging from religious figures to religious practices.

Unit 2: This unit is in two sections. Section A provides the opportunity for learners to acquire and develop knowledge and a critical understanding of key ethical concepts and theories, ranging from moral absolutism to Utilitarianism. Section B examines some of the key features of fundamental philosophical themes, ranging from arguments for the existence of God to religious experience.

A2 Level (year 2)

Unit 3: This unit provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of their chosen religion covering themes ranging from religious figures and sacred texts to practices that shape religious identity.

Unit 4: This unit provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of fundamental ethical themes, ranging from ethical language and thought to freewill and determinism.

Unit 5: This unit provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of fundamental philosophical themes, ranging from arguments for the existence of God to the use of religious language

What next?

Undertaking Religious Studies will enable students to develop skills including: analysis of ideas, critical judgement, research, reading and interpretation of texts, discussion and debate of controversial ideas, envisaging life at other times and in other places, appreciation and respect for other viewpoints, confident participation in group discussions. Religious Studies is relevant for degrees in: archaeology, philosophy, history, law, medicine, sociology, psychology, social sciences, education, literature and general arts.

Course-specific entry requirements

It is not a course requirement to have studied RS at GCSE, although in many cases it does help. Good written communication skills are most important with a grade C or higher in English required.

AS/A2 Sociology

Sociology is a stimulating and dynamic subject. We will be studying individuals within a social setting, which includes groups, organisations, cultures and societies and the interrelationships between them. During this course pupils will have the opportunity to study social institutions such as the family, education, law, politics, the media, and religion. Pupils will study how we acquire our culture and how social structures affect individuals. We will also study the nature of power and social control, and the nature of social divisions.

A Level Sociology encourages you to:

- acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of contemporary social processes and social changes
- understand and evaluate sociological methodology and a range of research methods through active involvement in the research process,
- develop skills that enable individuals to focus on their personal identity, roles and responsibilities within society,
- develop a lifelong interest in social issues with reference to Wales in particular.

What will I study?

AS Level (year 1)

Unit 1: This unit focuses on the role of the family and how we learn to be members of society. It includes defining the family, exploring relationships within the family and issues such as diversity, gender roles, marriage and divorce.

Unit 2: This unit encourages students to explore the nature and practice of social enquiry and includes the study of the various methods employed by sociologists in their research. It also includes definitions of educational terminology; patterns and trends regarding the achievements of different social groups by class, gender, ethnicity and locality, and sociological explanations of these trends.

A2 Level (year 2)

Unit 3: This unit looks at the patterns and trends of crime, sociological explanations of crime, agents of social control, and the role of the media in such things as moral panics.

Unit 4: This unit requires students to apply their knowledge of sociological methods. It also includes the study of social inequality which includes looking at the patterns and trends of inequality in our society, and the sociological explanations for this inequality.

What next?

Sociology is useful for a range of university courses and careers including: community work, housing management, teaching, personnel management, police force, probation service, public sector administration, social work, and welfare advice work.

Course-specific entry requirements

GCSE English grade C or above is recommended.

AS/A2 Welsh Second Language

Students will be given the opportunity to express themselves in Welsh, in a written and oral form. There will also be the opportunity to write creatively, read independently, respond to different texts and appreciate literary forms. During the course, students will have the opportunity to practise speaking Welsh with the class teacher and other Welsh students. There may be an opportunity to visit Nant Gwrtheyrn, the National Language Centre in North Wales. Learners will also be given the chance to participate in extracurricular activities, e.g. Eisteddfodau.

What will I study?

AS Level (year 1)

Unit 1: Film and Oracy:

Section A: Discussing the film *Patagonia*

Section B: Personal response

Unit 2:

Students will be asked to put together a project of between 1,500 and 2,000 words, containing at least three extended pieces in different formats.

Unit 3: Use of language and poetry

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

Section B: 3 questions based on the prescribed texts.

A2 Level (year 2)

Unit 4: Drama and Oracy:

Candidates will be questioned on the following, in groups of three:

Section A: Living through the medium of Welsh

Section B: Discussing the play *Crash*

Section C: Personal response

Synoptic Assessment

Unit 5: The Welsh Language in Society and Translanguaging:

Section A: The Welsh language in society.

Questions based on the prescribed text

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

Unit 6: The use of Language and the Short Story:

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

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

What next?

Welsh is spoken by nearly 30% of the population of Wales. It is a modern living language that is used on a daily basis in many vocations, including business, local government, the media, tourism, journalism, marketing, and politics.

Course-specific entry requirements

GCSE Welsh (2nd Language) at grade B or above.

AS/A2 Physics

The AS course combines the best of the 'traditional' Physics topics (such as mechanics, materials, current electricity and radiation) with the most modern of ideas involving quantum and particle Physics. The A2 course allows for the development of physics in medical setting, whilst at the same time including the essential and fundamental topics of fields, nuclear physics, and kinetic theory.

What will I study?

AS Level (year 1)

Unit 1: Motion, energy & matter:

Mix of short and extended answer questions with some in a practical context.

Unit 2: Electricity & light:

Mix of short and extended answer questions with some in a practical context.

A2 Level (year 2)

Unit 3: Oscillations & nuclei:

Section A: Mix of short and extended answer questions with some in a practical content.

Section B: One comprehension-style question.

Unit 4: Fields & medical physics:

(25%) 2hr written exam split into two sections:

Section A: Mix of short and extended answer questions with some in a practical context.

Section B: Medical Physics questions.

Unit 5: Practical physics:

Experimental task and analysis task completed individually in the Physics laboratory under exam conditions.

What next?

The full A Level in Physics provides the basis for students who wish to proceed to Higher Education to study Physics, Engineering, Materials Science, Geophysics, Medicine, Veterinary Science and other scientific careers.

'If you are a physicist you can be everything.' (Richard Feynman) Quite simply, Physics is regarded very highly as a qualification by employers and Higher Education. It does not restrict students' progression in any career as it enhances their qualification profile.

Course-specific entry requirements

Either GCSE Physics (higher tier) grade B or above, or GCSE Science grade B and GCSE Additional Science grade B or above. English Language C (higher tier) or above, and Mathematics grade B or above is required.

BTEC Extended Certificate in Applied Science

This is a two year course. You can choose to study the Extended Certificate (one A Level equivalent) or the Diploma (two A Level equivalent).

After the first year, you gain a Certificate (equivalent to one AS Level). This is a 'stand alone' qualification which then progresses onto the second year in order to gain the Extended Certificate (one A Level equivalent).

What will I study?

Year 1 (BTEC Certificate)

Unit 1: Principles and applications of science:

This unit allows you to develop your knowledge and understanding of core concepts in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, which provide a strong basis for anyone wanting to progress in any science-related career.

Unit 2: Practical scientific procedures and techniques:

You will develop practical skills in core laboratory techniques and will have the opportunity to become proficient in carrying out titrations, colorimetry, calorimetry, and thin layer chromatography.

Year 2 (BTEC Extended Certificate)

Unit 3: Scientific investigation skills:

You will build upon your science skills and knowledge from Units 1 and 2 as well as in carrying out scientific investigations. You'll cover plants and the environment, enzymes, the movement of molecules, the energy content of fuels, and electrical circuits, in addition to your skills in carrying out a scientific investigation.

Plus an optional unit.

What next?

This qualification is designed to support progression to further study at university, employment, or apprenticeship. It will give successful students the transferable knowledge, understanding and skills that will be an advantage when applying for a range of industry-linked training programmes or apprenticeships in the Applied Science sector, or other sectors.

Course-specific entry requirements

Core Science, Mathematics and English at grades A*-C.

Level 2 options:

Level 2 Combination Programme

You will study a combination of vocational courses as well as Maths and English. Literacy and numeracy are an important part of this programme and you will improve your English and Maths at GCSE level as part of the course to enable you to reach your best possible grade. You will also study the BTEC Level 2 vocational subjects listed below. These offer a wide variety of career-focused courses at Level 2 which will prepare you for future study or employment. This programme provides you with a qualification **equivalent to 5 GCSEs**.

What will I study?

English GCSE/English GCSE resit

Maths GCSE/Maths GCSE resit

Welsh Baccalaureate – post 16 level:

The Welsh Baccalaureate aims to enable you to develop your essential and employability skills. These are the skills that employers, Colleges and Universities value and learners need for learning, work and life.

The Welsh Baccalaureate makes you better equipped for the world of work, better informed and a more active citizen. It allows for more flexibility in your studies, whatever mix of courses you choose.

Information Technology – Level 2:

Skills in IT and Computing are widely valued by employers across all sectors, preparing you for a range of careers. The course includes completing assignments and projects based on realistic workplace activities, situations and demands.

The course covers a variety of subject areas including:

- The Online World
- Technology Systems
- A Digital Portfolio
- Website Development
- Animation and Digital Graphics
- Software Development

The course is an ideal stepping stone on to the Level 3 IT course or other further qualifications.

Level 2 Combination Programme:

This level 2 programme provides you with a combination of vocational, career-focused courses alongside improving your Maths and English at GCSE level. It is equivalent to 5 GCSEs.



Business Level 2

BTEC First award in Business Level 1/2:

You'll learn all about the term 'business' and how it can cover anything from a sole trader in a local market to a multinational corporation selling products to millions of people all over the world. You'll be introduced to the language and terminology used in business and will explore what businesses do, trends that affect them, how they operate and the factors that influence their success. You'll also explore finance for business the types of costs that businesses incur and how they make a profit. The course examines what makes successful businesses and how this is measured.

Creative Media Level 2

Level 2 First Award in Creative Digital Media Production:

You will gain an understanding of digital media sectors, products and platforms and will understand audiences for digital media products. You'll also explore how audiences engage with digital media products.

You'll explore planning and pitching for a digital media product looking at how to develop ideas. You can also study the key features of moving image productions where you'll gain an understanding of the technical construction of a digital moving image production and will review a production. You'll learn about digital publishing opportunities, digital publishing technology and techniques and how to produce material for digital publication.

What next?

The Level 2 Foundation programme gives you a wide variety of experience and skills and will enable you to progress to further learning in an area that interests you at Level 3 at school or in College. You will also have improved skills and a wide variety of vocational learning to support you in the future in the world of work.

Hairdressing NVQ Level 3

This level 3 City and Guilds qualification is designed to provide you with a nationally recognised vocational qualification, which will aim to prepare you to enter employment within the hairdressing industry. The course provides the knowledge and understanding needed and will help you develop the sector specific skills required to work in this industry.

What will I study?

The course will focus on equipping you with the skills and techniques to succeed in the industry including:

- Cutting Techniques
- Colouring Hair
- Colour Correction
- Creative styling and dressing
- Dressing long hair
- Monitoring Health and Safety

What next?

This course provides an excellent basis for employment in hairdressing or to progress to further qualifications in Hair and Beauty such as the Assessors Award.

Beauty Therapy NVQ Level 2*

This City and Guilds course is delivered in our purpose built salon within the school. This level 2 qualification is designed to provide a nationally recognised vocationally specific qualification, which will create opportunities for you to enter employment within the beauty industry. You will develop the skills and techniques needed to work within the salon industry.

What will I study?

- Introduction to the salon industry
- Client consultation and customer service
- Skin Care
- Enhance eyebrows and lashes
- Waxing
- Manicure/Pedicure

What next?

This course provides the opportunity to progress to further qualifications such as NVQ level 3.

*This course will be offered to identified students as there are limited spaces.

Level 1 Vocational Studies

This one year course offers learners an introduction to post 16 provision and opportunities to sample various vocational areas, from which learners will be able to make an informed decision on future progression routes. These courses also give learners an opportunity to improve their Numeracy, Literacy and IT skills.

What will I study?

Learners will further develop essential skills wales and an appropriate vocational qualification at Level 1.

What next?

On successful completion, learners will have the opportunity to progress to Level 1/ Level 2 provision at CWCH or at CAVC.

OR

Where appropriate, suitable employment will be sought with support from specialist careers advisors and outside agencies.

Entry requirements

You must have previously studied at GCSE level with grades F/G in a minimum of English and Maths or have successfully passed Vocational Access Entry 3. You will need to attend an informal interview and undertake an initial assessment.



COURSES COMING SOON!

LEVEL 3 GAMES DESIGN

The course will introduce you to different aspects of game design and the industry. You will cover topics such as design, character construction, story development and interfaces and technical structures.

LEVEL 3 CYBER SECURITY

Ideal for students with talent and passion for cyber security and information technology, skills which are increasingly valued by government, law enforcement agencies and businesses.



WWW.CARDIFFWESTCHS.CARDIFF.SCH.UK

BETTER PROSPECTS

VARIETY OF COURSES

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

RESPECT

SUCCESS!



@CardiffWestCHS

We endeavour to ensure all materials are correct at the time of going to print.
However during the course of the year details of courses may be subject to change.
Photography: Owen Mathias