

St Cyres School

Sixth Form Prospectus 2019



Strive **T**ogether **C**hallenge **Y**ourself **R**ealise **E**veryone can **S**ucceed

Introduction by the Headteacher

I am delighted to present our Sixth Form Prospectus to our existing Year 11 students and their parents as well as to students and their parents who come and join the St Cyres School community in order to benefit from the excellent standard of education we provide within a caring and supportive environment.

At St Cyres School we are very proud of our Sixth Form and the achievements of students. In August 2018, 23% of all grades were A* or A, 83% of all grades were A*-C and the vast majority of our pupils have entered higher education. We aim to equip students not only with excellent academic qualifications, but also a wide range of skills and experiences that are valued and demanded by employers and higher education. Our Sixth Form students are proud of the dedicated teaching and learning areas that have been developed with them in mind and value the staff who support them in exceeding their potential.

Mr P Davis is our Director of the Faculty of the Welsh Baccalaureate and Post - 16 Education and he leads an excellent team, which draws on the outstanding work of our specialist subject teachers.

Dr J P Hicks

Headteacher

General Information

Entry Requirements

We will advise you of courses and options that are suited to you. The majority of courses are for AS and A Level, and therefore we will be asking for:

- at least 5 GCSE passes at grades A* - C drawn from at least five different subject areas or higher in the subjects you choose to study
- Welsh Baccalaureate National/Foundation KS4 Skills Challenge Certificate Grade C is strongly recommended.

This will enable you to:

- choose up to four subjects at AS Level or equivalent vocational qualifications in Year 12
- continue with three or all of these subjects at AL or equivalent in Year 13.

Making the Right Choice

Making the right choice of course needs careful thought and discussion. When selecting from the courses available, bear the following in mind:

- choose subjects you have enjoyed and in which you are doing well
- check the courses cover topics that you will continue to enjoy
- check the courses have the right balance of coursework and examination work to suit your preferred learning style
- check the course will prepare you for your preferred university course/career
- discuss your choices with our independent Careers Wales Adviser.

The Programme of Study in the Sixth Form

All Year 12 students will benefit from:

- a two-day residential conference at Swansea University which introduces students to the range of skills required for successful Sixth Form study
- 8 hours per subject per fortnight.
- 6 hours for the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Skills Challenge
- Up to 14 hours of non-contact time to complete homework and develop skills

Level 3 Qualifications

A Level courses are completed in two sections: the AS section in Year 12 and the A2 section in Year 13. It is very important for students to understand the key link between

the success in AS and their final A Level grade. Some subjects offer vocational qualifications which are achieved through the submission of assignments over the two-year period with an examination in one or more modules of the course in some subjects. These qualifications are fully recognised by universities and HE institutions. All students study the National Welsh Baccalaureate (post-16) Diploma

Enriching the Curriculum

At St. Cyres we firmly believe in education beyond the classroom. A whole range of enrichment activities are provided to ensure that our students develop as active young people who are able to make a positive contribution to their local community.

Some of the community-based activities undertaken by our students include fundraising for charities, the school production, supporting local primary school children in mathematics, and literacy, numeracy and 'buddying' support for younger pupils in the school. All Year 12 pupils act as peer mentors to younger pupils. Students also have the opportunity to gain qualifications in British Sign Language and Sports Leadership.

Students have the opportunity to take part in a variety of programmes which enhance their ability to compete for the most sought-after university courses. These include MedWales, Rotary Young Leaders and 'Youth Speaks' programmes, Duke of Edinburgh Gold, Silver and Bronze awards, the Engineering Education Scheme Wales, Eversheds Unlocked programme for aspiring lawyers, and Shares for Schools. The Sixth Form has established excellent links with Higher Education, and regular visits by many departments to local universities further increase our students' chances of success. This is by no means an exhaustive list.

Care, Support and Guidance

All of our students are individuals with different needs. They will be guided and supported throughout their time in the Sixth Form in the following ways:

- assistance with the development of individual learning plans in each subject area linked to the achievement of challenging targets
- one-to-one interviews with their Learning Coach and Sixth Form Team
- regular opportunities to inform the discussions of the Sixth Form Council
- support from our Careers Wales Adviser

Applying to St. Cyres Sixth Form

- a) **Pupils currently at St. Cyres School:** Year 11 pupils have been given the opportunity to consider joining our sixth form in assembly and learning coach time. Pupils will be given access to the online prospectus in order to consider their choices prior to the Sixth Form Open Evening. Once they have

completed our online options form, they will be seen by senior staff for further advice and guidance on their option choices.

- b) **Pupils from other schools:** We welcome enquiries from pupils in other schools who are currently in Year 11 (or international equivalent). Please Email our Sixth Form Administrator, Ms. A. Harrison for further details and an application form. aharrison@stcyres.org

Contact Us

Sixth Form Office Telephone: (029)20 352487

Email: WBQ and Sixth Form Administrator: (Ms Amy Harrison)
aharrison@stcyres.org

Email: Director of Post 16 Education: (Ms L Jones)
ljones@stcyres.org

The Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate

The Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate is an over-arching formal qualification, which recognises everything our students achieve during their time in Years 12 and 13. The combination of personal skills development and the subject options make it a highly valued award. The qualification is widely recognised by Higher Education institutions throughout the UK. In recent years our students have consistently gained offers which include the Welsh Bac from Russell Group universities as well as other leading universities.

Structure of the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate

The Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate comprises the Skills Challenge Certificate, supporting qualifications (2 or more A levels or vocational equivalent), and the achievement of grade C or above in Maths and English at GCSE.

The Skills Challenge Certificate

- **The Individual Project**

By completing the Individual Project our students develop skills through carrying out a substantial research activity with an emphasis on future educational or career aspirations.

- **Enterprise and Employability Challenge**

By completing the Enterprise & Employability Challenge our students develop enterprise skills and attributes which enhance their employability. At the heart of the Challenge is the development of an enterprising mind-set which concentrates on releasing individual potential, taking into account factors such as job market, recruitment procedures, lifestyle expectations and managing personal finance.

- **Global Citizenship Challenge**

The purpose of the Global Citizenship Challenge is to develop learners' skills, whilst providing opportunities to understand and respond appropriately to global issues.

- **Community Challenge**

The purpose of the Community Challenge is to develop learners' skills, whilst encouraging learners to identify, develop and participate in opportunities that will benefit a community. They will focus on real-life concerns and needs whilst engaging in activities which aim to make a real difference.

The Skills Challenge Certificate and Higher Education

The Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate is the same size as an A Level and is graded in the same way (A* to E). UCAS allocate the same tariff points for university entry as for an A Level.

Level 3 Subjects

St. Cyres school offers the following subjects for study in the Sixth Form. All subjects are taught at Level 3.

- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- Drama and Theatre
- English Language and Literature
- English Literature
- Food Science
- French
- Geography
- Government and Politics
- Health and Social Care
- History
- ICT
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Medical Science
- Music
- PE
- Photography
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Welsh

NB: Our curriculum offer is conditional on there being a viable number of pupils in each teaching group. If for any reason a subject becomes non-viable, pupils will be requested to seek an alternative option.

Art & Design A Level

A Level Art & Design is challenging and fulfilling. The creative industries are an important growth area and this course provides the ideal platform for any student wishing to pursue a career in the extensive areas of creative design and visual arts. It will also appeal to those students who have been successful at GCSE and wish to maintain a creative balance in their studies.

At AS students will complete a 'Personal Creative Enquiry' from a choice of themes for the duration of Year 12. They will take part in technical and experimental workshops alongside producing sketchbook studies. At A2, there will be a 'Personal Investigation' and an Externally Set Task.

Practical work forms the majority of the A Level Art curriculum, including the emphasis on developing observational drawing skills. Written critical awareness and the appreciation of artists will also play an important part in the development of students' coursework units.

[What do I need to start the course?](#)

A qualification in GCSE Art at Grade C or above is essential.

Biology A Level

We are all alive and related to every other living organism. Biology is the study of life. In Biology, nothing makes sense except in the light of evolution. Biology qualifications support many diverse courses in higher education and careers; for example, in Medicine, Dentistry, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Optometry, Veterinary Science, Forensic Science, Environmental Science, Food Science, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Genetics, Teaching and Sports Science.

The principal areas of study for AS are **Basic Biochemistry and Organisation**: cell structure, biological compounds including DNA and the synthesis of proteins, enzymes and their technological use; **Biodiversity and the Physiology of Body Systems** - classification, adaptations for gaseous exchange and transport, reproductive strategies, adaptations for nutrition, parasitism.

In addition, for A Level, the following will be studied in the second year: **Metabolism, Microbiology and Homeostasis** and **Environment, Genetics and Evolution-genetics**.

There will also be a practical examination.

[What do I need to start the course?](#)

Minimum grade B in Science (achieved from the Year 11 components) is essential, but an A grade is advisable. English and Maths at grade B or higher is also required.

Business A Level

A Level Business is a discipline which enables you to develop practical skills, as well as being a highly prized academic qualification. It can open the door for a career in virtually all areas of industry, law, commerce, accountancy, public administration, the services or journalism. In addition, it provides a solid foundation for further study at degree, HND or professional qualification level.

The course has four modules, two taken at AS and a further two at A2. The modules will engage with **The Business Environment, Business Objectives', Marketing, Accounting and Finance, Operations Management and People in Organisations.**

In addition, you will be given the opportunity to take part in **Shares 4 Schools**, an online competition that gives a team of pupils the opportunity to invest £1,500 in the UK Stock Market. Students have the opportunity to compete against other British schools and gain an understanding of trading on the Stock Exchange.

[What do I need to start the course?](#)

Business at GCSE is not essential, but C or above in Maths and English is required.

Chemistry A Level

Chemistry transforms our lives. Without our knowledge of chemistry, there would be no fertilisers (80% of the world would starve), no purified water, aspirin, penicillin, anaesthetic or adhesives. Research has led to flat screens and mobile phones!

Opportunities for students with A Level Chemistry are extensive and it is a first choice requirement for the following courses: **Chemical Sciences** (including chemistry, environmental chemistry, marine chemistry, medicinal chemistry, pharmaceutical chemistry); **Agriculture; Food Science; Medicine:** Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Medical Sciences, Anatomy and Physiology. Chemistry is the second choice A Level required for Biological Sciences and Chemical Engineering.

At AS students will follow the **Language of Chemistry, Structure of Matter and Simple Reactions** as well as **Energy, Rate and Chemistry of Carbon Compounds**. The content at A2 will cover **Physical and Inorganic Chemistry and Organic Chemistry and Analysis**.

There will also be a practical examination.

[What do I need to start the course?](#)

Minimum grade B in Science (achieved from the Year 11 components) is essential, but an A grade is advisable. English and Maths at grade B or higher is also required.

Computer Science A Level

Computers are widely used in all aspects of government, business, industry, education, leisure and the home. Computer Science is a highly academic subject which demands both logical understanding and creativity in order to design, write, test and debug computer applications. You will learn to develop computer applications, a high-level computer language and the theory behind computers.

The AS course is split into two modules. This consists of a theory module and an on-screen examination.

In Unit 1 '**Software, Systems Development and Applications**' includes the study of computer architecture, communication, data representation, data structures, programs, algorithms, logic, programming methodologies and the impact of computer science on society.

Unit 2 will examine your practical skills and the use of Python as a programming language.

The A2 course is split into a further three modules and this is made up of two theory modules and one project module.

[What do I need to start the course?](#)

A grade B in Computer Science and a grade B in Higher Tier Maths Numeracy.

Design Technology A Level

Design and Technology develops the attitudes and abilities relevant to modern working practice. It is accepted by universities as an entrance subject and is a stepping stone to future design careers in industrial, product, interior or graphic design, engineering, architecture, town planning. It also gives experience for those wishing to pursue careers in engineering or manufacturing.

The AS course will look at **Design and innovation; Products and their applications; Materials and components; Industrial and commercial practice** in DT1.

DT2 is a 'design and make task' consisting of design folio and practical work.

At A2 the course will explore **Human responsibility; Public interaction and technology; Production systems and control; Technological understanding and awareness**.

In addition, students will complete a substantial 'design and make' project from a wide choice of briefs.

What do I need to start the course?

Pupils need to have innovative ideas and flair for design work. Students will need to have completed a GCSE course in either Graphical Products, Resistant Materials, Systems and Control or Textiles. It is strongly advised that students should have achieved at least a B in these subjects.

Drama and Theatre A Level

In the first year of study pupils take part in two units. Unit 1 (24%) is internally assessed and they are required to create and develop a performance based on a reinterpretation of an extract from a text provided by the WJEC. The performance must be influenced by a practitioner or theatre company. As well as performing, pupils have to produce a creative log and an evaluation. Unit 2 (16%) is a written exam where pupils are required to answer questions on a set text and evaluate live theatre.

In the second year of study pupils complete Unit 3 (36%) and Unit 4 (24%). In Unit 3 pupils respond to a stimulus and create two pieces of theatre, one devised and one from an extract within a text. The performances have to be in contrasting styles and must be influenced by either a practitioner or theatre company that differs from the ones chosen in Unit 1. Upon the completion of the performances, pupils have to then reflect on their work in a written evaluation. In Unit 4 pupils explore two texts and the written exam is split into two sections. Section A focuses on one text and requires pupils to answer questions as a director, designer and actor whereas Section B focuses on the other text and pupils explore how the text can be adapted for a contemporary audience.

[What do I need to start the course?](#)

Students will normally have achieved at least a grade B in GCSE Drama.

English Language and Literature A Level

In Language and Literature, you will study a range of texts, from Shakespearean tragedy to modern autobiography, across the range of genres, both fiction and non-fiction. This scope of reading and close study will also inform your creative writing and influence your choices of texts for coursework.

English Language and Literature will give you an awareness of the writer's craft and also see how everyday texts are constructed and received. You will develop valuable skills for career choices including journalism, law, publishing and teaching.

At AS Level, in the '**Comparative Analysis and Creative Writing**' unit you will study Poetry pre-1900 and Creative Writing and Commentary. In the '**Drama and Non-Literary Texts**' unit you will study a post-1900 text and a non-literary prose text.

At A2, Unit 3 allows for the study of a Shakespeare play, Unit 4 prepares students for unseen text analysis and a novel and Unit 5 is the '**Critical and Creative Genre Study**'.

[What do I need to start the course?](#)

An A or B grade in both English Literature and Language will provide you with a good base for the subject at AS.

English Literature A Level

English Literature will appeal to students who enjoy reading and discussing books. You will study a wide range of texts from modern novels and poetry to Shakespeare and Chaucer. In addition to preparing you for a degree course in English, English Literature A Level will also help students to develop analytical skills and the ability to develop an argument, which are valuable for careers in law, marketing and journalism as well as teaching

At AS Level in the **'Prose and Drama'** unit you will study a Victorian novel and a twentieth century play. This year students studied 'Jane Eyre' and 'A Streetcar Named Desire'. In the **'Poetry Post-1900'** unit you will develop the skills of critical analysis by studying poetry collections from two contrasting poets.

At A2, there will be a unit on **'Poetry Pre-1900 and Unseen Poetry'**, one on **'Shakespeare'** and a controlled assessment on two prose texts

What do I need to start the course?

A or B grade in both English Literature and Language will provide you with a good base for the subject at AS. You should also enjoy reading.

Food Science BTEC Level 3

Food Science is the study of the physical, biological, and chemical makeup of food and the concepts underlying food processing. The Food Science Level 3 qualification complements Health and Social Care, PE and Vocational Science and can lead to careers in agriculture, health and hospitality.

The course comprises of two sections. In Year 12 students will study food preparation and practical cooking skills as well as a theoretical content focusing on nutrition. This will lead to the **Certificate**, achieved at Pass (E), Merit (C) and Distinction (A).

In Year 13, students will complete Unit 2 which is a pre-released brief. Unit 3 and Unit 4 are coursework projects based on either '**Food Science**' or '**Current Issues in the Food Industry**'. Students complete a project which includes evidence of practical cooking and food experiments. This will lead to the **Diploma**.

[What do I need to start the course?](#)

Students will have achieved a C in Science, Catering or another Technology subject.

French A Level

An A Level in a modern foreign language such as French is always very highly regarded by universities and employers alike. It will develop and sharpen your linguistic and communication skills both in the studied language and in English, while broadening your grasp and understanding of international current affairs and foreign cultures. It will open up your horizon by giving you access to courses, potential careers and life opportunities that you would not otherwise be able to envisage in the future. French opens the door to the study of other languages such as Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, all of which can be started ab initio at university.

At AS Level you will study the following topics: 'Being a Young Person in French Speaking Society': Family structures, traditional and modern values, friendships, relationships, youth trends, issues and personal identity, educational and employment opportunities. In the second unit 'Understanding the French Speaking World' you will study regional culture and heritage in France, French speaking countries and communities, literature, art, film and music in the French speaking world. At A2 you will study: 'Diversity and Difference' including migration, cultural identity and enrichment. In the second unit 'The Occupation and the Post-War Years' you will study life in Occupied France (1940-1945) as well as the rebuilding years (1945-1950) through texts and films. The 2-year course includes the study of a film in Y12 and a book in Y13.

[What do I need to start the course?](#)

Students will normally have achieved at least a grade C in GCSE French.

Geography A Level

Geography offers insights into understanding the world around us and the contemporary issues it tackles. Issues such as climate change, hazards, environmental degradation and development are all covered in the course. Career paths are varied. Geography graduates work in planning, teaching and research, as environmental consultants, surveyors, cartographers, architects and GIS analysts. Many Geographers move into finance, law, accountancy, marketing or the civil service.

At AS Level Unit 1 you will study the coastal and glaciated landscapes and tectonic hazards in '**Changing Landscapes**' and in Unit 2 you will study population and settlement change and human and physical fieldwork in '**Changing Places**'.

A two-day residential fieldwork course in the Gower enriches the course.

At A2, '**Global Systems and Global Governance**' covers water and carbon cycles, global migration and global governance of the Earth's oceans and in '**Contemporary Themes in Geography**' students will investigate global tectonic hazards, economic growth in China and the energy challenge.

Students will also complete an independent investigation, based on the collection of both primary data and secondary information through field visits.

[What do I need to start the course?](#)

Students will have a C or above in Geography.

Government & Politics A Level

Students may use their A Level in this subject as a stepping-stone to further study at university. It is also a useful addition to many career pathways but in particular, the media, law and fields of government and administration at local and national levels.

At AS the **Main Features of the British System** are investigated, especially the role and increasing powers of the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, Parliament and the Welsh Assembly. Students will also study **People, Politics and Participation** looking at the main political parties and pressure groups, voting behaviour and elections.

At A2 students will study the exciting and very different **'Politics and Government in the United States'** looking at the President, Congress and Supreme Court as well as many other aspects of the changing political scene in the post Obama era. Advantage is taken of opportunities to meet and listen to real politicians where possible. We visit the UK Parliament in Westminster and some students also visit Washington and New York.

[What do I need to start the course?](#)

GCSEs with grade B or above in English and History are advisable.

Health and Social Care A Level

Health and Social Care is an Applied course which aims to help students develop an understanding of the factors which affect health and wellbeing. The course is designed for students who are interested in a career in health care services such as nursing, midwifery, paramedics and those interested in social care.

Health and Social Care topics are interesting and varied. The units covered will include: promoting quality care, communication in care settings, care practice and provision.

Students will undertake literature research, carry out interviews and plan and present a health promotion campaign. Students will investigate the job roles, skills and qualities needed by professionals working in Health and Social Care sectors, and students will be encouraged to undertake relevant work experience.

[What do I need to start the course?](#)

A minimum of a C grade in GCSE English is advised.

History A Level

The study of History allows students to better understand their roots as well as the development of the nation in which they now live. Over the duration of the course, students will learn how the UK and Europe were shaped. Students will develop skills of evidence analysis, causation, historical change, empathy and interpretations.

At AS student will study '**Royalty, Rebellion and Republic 1625 – 1660**' when they will be posing questions like 'Why did our own country tear itself apart and what was the impact? What new and strange radical ideas resulted? Was Oliver Cromwell a great parliamentarian hero or a cruel man? In '**Europe in an Age of Conflict c.1890 – 1991**' students study the '**First World War, 1914-1918**', '**Italy and Germany, c.1918-1945**, the impact of the **Russian Revolution** and the significance of changing relations in **Europe 1945-1991**.

In A2 students will complete the '**The American Century c. 1890-1990**' through the struggle for Civil Rights and the making of a superpower.

[What do I need to start the course?](#)

Students are expected to have achieved a C grade at GCSE, although a B grade is recommended. Students who have not studied History at GCSE will be considered.

Information Communication Technology (Applied) A Level

Applied ICT offers students a highly contemporary experience in ICT. The qualification aims to better prepare students for the wider world of work and encounter real life situations of the multi-faceted ICT society we live in today.

This is a course aimed at students who wish to become advanced users of computer software.

At AS, the **eBusiness** module develops an understanding of how Businesses use ICT to maintain a competitive advantage. The **eSkills** module is a practical module that develops the skills needed in order to manage the data within an eBusiness. Students will develop a spreadsheet and database using many of the advanced features in Microsoft.

At A Level the **eProject** module is a practical module which develops students' skills in Project Management. Finally, the **eStudio** module looks at the importance of promotional campaigns to raise consumer awareness when marketing new or re-launching existing products or services. The module develops students' skills in developing high end promotional products for the consumer market. Students will use graphics and animation packages to develop their material.

What do I need to start the course?

We would recommend students achieve at least a C grade at GCSE ICT in order to follow the course, although consideration will be given to students who have not achieved this.

Mathematics A Level

The aim of this course is to provide students with a good basic understanding of Mathematics which is a foundation for further study in the subject, and to provide support for students taking other AS or A Level courses. In Mathematics students enjoy the challenge and the satisfaction of finding the correct solution to a problem. Mathematics is one of the most traditional subjects but is also essential for more modern subjects such as Engineering and many science courses in university.

Single Option Mathematics: A Level Mathematics. Those students who follow the Mathematics course as a single subject will study a total of four modules in Pure Maths, Mechanics and Statistics. All four units are compulsory. 40% of the full qualification is studied at AS level in Year 12 (25% for Unit 1 Pure and 15% for Unit 2 Mechanics/Statistics), 60% of the full qualification is studied at A2 level in Year 13 (35% for Unit 3 Pure and 25% for Unit 4 Mechanics/Statistics).

Double Options Mathematics: A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics: Those students who follow Mathematics as two A Level subjects will study a total of nine modules: Students will complete the full A level course of 4 units in Year 12. Students will study the full Further Mathematics A level in Year 13. Further Mathematics consists of 3 compulsory modules at AS level in Year 12 on Pure, Mechanics and Statistics (13 1/3% each module). In Further Maths, Unit 4 Pure (35%) is compulsory and there will be a choice between Mechanics (25%) and Statistics (25%). This course will provide an excellent foundation for all aspects of Mathematics and for further study at university.

Pure Mathematics topics include Calculus, Algebra, Trigonometry, Co-ordinate Geometry. Mechanics topics include Newton's Laws of Motion, Application of vectors to problems in dynamics and Statics, differential equations. Statistics topics include Descriptive statistics, Probability, Distribution Theory, Sampling Theory, Estimation, Regression and Hypothesis Testing. In Further Mathematics students will be developing further an understanding of mathematical modelling.

What do I need to start the course?

Mathematics at A Level is an academically demanding subject which calls for total commitment over the period of two years. It is strongly recommended that students achieve at least Grade A at GCSE Mathematics.

Media Studies A Level

We live in a completely media saturated age. It is virtually impossible to escape the influence of the mass media or ignore the way it shapes our viewpoints, opinions and understanding of the world around us.

At AS Level in Unit 1, **Investigating the Media**, students will analyse the media through exploring language, representations and key industries as well as examining audience responses. This is complimented by Unit 2, **Creating a Media Production**, where students choose a medium (from music video, film or online news) through which to show understanding of media processes via a combination of research, planning, production and evaluation elements.

At A Level, Unit 3, **Media in the Global Age**, allows students to develop an understanding of the symbiotic nature of modern media platforms through studying set texts from TV, magazines and video games. Unit 4, **Creating a Cross-Media Production**, involves using research to write up an investigation and then make a production piece, followed by an evaluation e.g. research, plan and create a sequence for a new Channel 4 or BBC3 programme aimed at an audience aged 18 – 25 followed by creating promotional material for the programme, to include webpages and print-based material.

What do I need to start the course?

Students will need at least a C grade in English and experience of ICT/Photography, preferably at GCSE level.

Medical Science Level 3 Diploma

The Level 3 Diploma in Medical Science is for students 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

Studying the Level 3 Diploma in Medical Science allows time in the curriculum for other qualifications to be studied alongside it. These would typically be A Levels such as Psychology or Chemistry or Health and Social Care.

The students will study 6 units over the two years: Human health and disease; Physiological measurement techniques; Medical Science research methods; Medicines and treatment of disease; Clinical laboratory techniques; Medical case study. Three units are examined internally and the remaining three are examined externally.

The units which are examined externally will be based on pre-release material available to teachers 1-2 months before the examinations. The qualification will be graded *A-C.

[What do I need to start the course?](#)

Minimum grade D in Science (achieved from the Year 11 components) is essential, but an C grade is advisable. English and Maths at grade C is also advisable.

Music A Level

The WJEC specification allows learners the opportunity to develop skills in the three distinct but related disciplines of performing, composing and appraising. All learners study the Western Classical Tradition, engaging with landmark orchestral or choral repertoire, to develop knowledge and understanding of music. Learners will use the musical techniques and conventions of this tradition to compose one piece of music to a brief. To offer contrast and breadth of study, at AS learners also choose one area of study from a choice of three, either Rock and Pop, or Musical Theatre or Jazz.

The areas of study and strands at A2 allow learners to continue their studies from AS in greater depth. Learners choose two further strands of music from a choice of five. There is a distinct Welsh flavour to two of these strands allowing learners to engage with the music of contemporary Welsh composers and performers. The specification is flexible and allows the areas of study to be taught concurrently or consecutively. This specification also gives learners freedom to express their own.

[What do I need to start the course?](#)

Students will have a B or above in GCSE Music and be working towards Grade 5 in an instrument/voice.

PE A Level

This course has been designed to allow learners to develop an appreciation of physical education in a wide range of contexts. It is designed to integrate theory and practice with an emphasis on the application of theoretical knowledge. Learners will develop an understanding of how the various theoretical concepts impact on their own performance, through the integration of theory and practice. Learners will also have the opportunity to develop an awareness of contemporary issues relevant to physical education and sport in Wales.

The WJEC AS and A level in physical education provides a coherent combination of four areas of study:

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

Any of the areas of study can be assessed in any of the units. The content can be assessed in units 1 and 3 as part of the written examinations and in units 2 and 4 as part of the analysis and evaluation of performance. The specification enables learners to understand the interrelationships between the areas of study and apply them in a variety of contexts.

[What do I need to start the course?](#)

It is desired that students have previously studied Physical Education or Sports Studies obtaining a minimum of Level 2 Merit or GCSE B grade equivalent. Students must be able to perform competently in two sporting activities. English and Maths at grade C or higher is also required.

Photography A Level

Studying Photography is an excellent way of progressing to a career in the media or an art related profession. The subject includes all sorts of skills, not just taking photographs. Your imagination and creativity is developed enormously alongside literacy, technical IT skills, planning and organising your own work and progress, working with others as part of a team and a broad understanding of the photographic industry. The photographic equipment retail market is also considered.

You do not need to have studied Photography for GCSE but it would be an advantage.

At AS you will complete a personal project usually on a topic or hobby incorporating technical camera skills and digital image manipulation. You will also complete a controlled assessment on a range of questions set by the examination board.

In Year 13, you will continue with your studies throughout A2 beginning with a personal project that differs to the AS project and there will be another controlled assessment set by the examination board.

What do I need to start the course?

Photography is available to all Year 12 students with or without previous experience. GCSE Photography would be an advantage. A digital SLR camera would be a requirement for the course.

Physics A Level

Physics is crucial to understanding the world around us, inside us, and beyond us. If you have a logical and numerate mind, enjoy challenging concepts and are always asking why things happen, then Physics is for you.

The career opportunities available are vast. The analytical and problem-solving skills acquired whilst studying Physics are transferable to any field. You do not automatically have to become a research scientist but you do become far more attractive to a huge range of businesses from engineering to finance to media to law.

The course is modular in nature. At AS we will study '**Motion, Energy and Matter**' as well as '**Electricity and Light**'. To complete the full A Level in Year 13, we will study **Oscillations and Nuclei, Fields and Options** and prepare for a **practical examination**.

We will have the opportunity to explore the theories of Physics that provide us with some of our deepest notions of Space, Time, Matter and Energy.

[What do I need to start the course?](#)

Minimum grade B in Science (achieved from the Year 11 components) is essential, but an A grade is advisable. English and Maths at grade B or higher is also required.

Psychology A Level

Studying Psychology helps to develop critical thinking skills based around the idea of metacognition (thinking about thinking). The focus is on developing an understanding of human behaviour according to different approaches in Psychology and applying this to specific types of behaviour such as crime or addiction. In Year 13 you conduct your own experiment and develop a practical application of maths skills, through analysing raw data and utilising spreadsheets.

In AS we will cover two modules. **Psychology: Past and Present** will enable us to look at five psychological approaches and classic pieces of research. In **Psychology: Using Psychological Concepts** we will study the contemporary debate, the principles and theory of psychological research as well as the application of research methods to a novel scenario.

In Year 13, we will study **Psychology: Implications of the Real World** and **Psychology: Applied Research Methods**.

[What do I need to start the course?](#)

A grade B in English and Maths is essential and a grade C Science is advisable.

Religious Studies A Level

Religion raises questions about what life is all about, why we are here, and what sort of people we want to be. Religious Studies gives you an opportunity to look at some of the most important questions and the different answers people suggested.

In the world of work employers look for someone with an enquiring mind, an appreciation of different viewpoints, an ability to come to clear and balanced decisions. These skills are all developed through Religious Studies. If you want to work with people - teaching, journalism, business, publishing, police work, healthcare, work with children, in caring work, or to work abroad, Religious Studies will give you plenty to think about, and valuable skills for life.

In the AS course you will follow modules in **'An Introduction to the Study of Religion'** and **'An Introduction to Philosophy of Religion/Religion and Ethics'**.

At A Level you will follow the **'Study of a Religion'**, **'Religion and Ethics'** and the **'Philosophy of Religion'**

[What do I need to start the course?](#)

We recommend that pupils have at least a grade B in English Language at GCSE.

Sociology A Level

Sociology allows learners the opportunity to develop an understanding of changing British society as well as opportunities to learn about sociological methods and research. The choice of topics can be used to support vocational studies such as health and social care, nursing and social work. The course is also a suitable foundation for the study of sociology or a related area of higher education courses such as criminology or law.

Students will be offered a choice of topics that include families, youth culture, the community, education, religion, mass media, crime, politics, health and disability, social divisions and world sociology. The emphasis on skills allows learners to develop and demonstrate their 'sociological imagination' by focusing on their own personal identity, responsibilities and roles within society.

What do I need to start the course?

Students are expected to have achieved a grade C or higher in History or RE as well as a C in English Literature or Language.

Welsh A Level

Welsh is a growing language and a strong emphasis is currently being placed on people becoming bilingual in Wales. The Welsh Government aims to create 1 million Welsh speakers by the year 2050. Would you like to be a part of this? Learning a language also provides skills that will give you the edge as you progress into higher education and employment.

The course is made up of six units, three of which are covered in your first year.

- Unit 1 Ffilm a Llafaredd is a media oral module where you will study the film "Patagonia".
- In Unit 2 Gwaith Cwrs you are free to study any aspect of Welsh culture e.g. Welsh legends, your favourite Welsh bands, actors, a city, or sports team..... the choice is yours!
- In Unit 3 Gramadeg a Barddoniaeth you will study the structure of the language and five contemporary poems.

The remaining modules are covered in Year 13 and will see you studying a contemporary play, four short stories and linguistic modules including Cymraeg yn y Gymdeithas.

[What do I need to start the course?](#)

A Grade B in Welsh at GCSE is strongly recommended.