



St Cyres School

SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

YOUR GUIDE TO THE ST CYRES SIXTH FORM 2026

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

I am delighted to present our Sixth Form Prospectus to our existing Year 11 students and their parents, as well as to students and parents who are interested in joining the St Cyres School community. Either way, by choosing St Cyres 6th Form, you will benefit from the excellent standard of education we provide within a caring and supportive environment.

In many ways, the Sixth Form is the most exciting stage of students' education and at St Cyres we aim to provide our students with a stimulating environment in which they can excel. For us, the Sixth Form is about looking ahead and we are here to help guide our students as they make some very important decisions about their future.

At St Cyres School we are very proud of our Sixth Form and the achievements of our students. Outcomes at A Level are very strong and the vast majority of our pupils progress to higher education institutions across the UK. 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 facilities that have been developed for them and they value the staff who support them in reaching their potential. Equally, we are proud of them, their successes and proud of what they bring as senior students to the school.

Ms Lesley Jones is the Head of the 6th Form and she leads an excellent learning coach team, as well as drawing on the outstanding work of our specialist subject teachers. Ms Jones will be able to address any queries about 6th Form options, or give more general information about life in St Cyres 6th Form so please do not hesitate to get in touch with her if you have any questions.

Mr P Lewis
Headteacher





Head Boy and Girl Team

From left to right: Ollie (Deputy Head Boy), Joanne (Head Girl), Gabriel (Head Boy), Elin (Deputy Head Girl)

Strive Together Challenge Yourself Realise Everyone can Succeed







What our 6th Form looks like

The Sixth Form at St Cyres offers a stimulating, vibrant and challenging environment for learning. We have high expectations of all of our Sixth Formers and aim to develop an enduring interest and excitement for their chosen subjects as well as the necessary skills to succeed in a rapidly globalising world. Our Sixth Formers have enquiring minds and we enjoy facilitating academic debate and higher level thinking skills

We place a strong emphasis on developing leadership in our Sixth Formers and many pupils hold positions of responsibility as part of the prefecture or Head Boy/Girl Team: the Sixth Form are at the heart of the school community and inspire younger pupils in all areas of school life.

A strong system of support and guidance

Students receive outstanding pastoral and educational advice at St Cyres. You will be part of a Learning Coach group and your Learning Coach will oversee your progress. Your Learning Coach will be a specialist in Post-16 issues, and will help you to manage the transition to a whole new way of learning, as well as providing you with the guidance you will need to decide on your future plans.

A caring approach to students' progress

Regular assessments and target setting effectively helps staff and students keep track of their progress. The first of these will be used to ensure that the courses students have chosen will enable them to make progress and succeed at the end of Year 13. We set minimum grades targets early in Year 12, based on GCSE results. We will always offer support where students encounter problems at any time throughout their studies.

CARING
SUPPORTIVE
EXPERIENCED



Head of Year 12 & Year 13: Ms Lesley Jones

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Russell Group Universities

45% of our 2024 cohort were accepted into Russell Group Universities

The Russell Group consists of twenty four members that are deemed to be world-class research-intensive universities. Each university is a unique institution with their own history and ethos.

The Russell Group

University of Birmingham

University of Bristol

University of Cambridge

Cardiff University

Durham University

University of Edinburgh

University of Exeter

University of Glasgow

Imperial College London

King's College London

University Leeds

University of Liverpool

London School of Economics and Political Science

University of Manchester

Newcastle University

University of Nottingham

University of Oxford

Queen Mary University of London

Queen's University Belfast

University of Sheffield

University of Southampton

University College London

University of Warwick

University of York

The Seren Network

At St Cyres we have developed an extremely effective working relationship with the Seren Network. For example, visiting lecturers from prestigious universities such as Oxford and Cambridge come to St Cyres and deliver lectures to pupils from other schools. The 6th Form Team regularly facilitate wider learning experiences for our Seren Network pupils, such as visits to Oxford and attending the Seren National Conference.



THE SEREN NETWORK



Must be from 5 different subject areas

A satisfactory reference from your current Head of Year. This will highlight your aptitude to learning and effort at GCSE studies.

At least 5 GCSEs A*-C

Entry Requirements

This will enable you to

Study four AS levels in Yr12

Choose a Pathway, either 1 or 2.

Continue with a minimum of three of these subjects Year 13

Level 3 Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales

The Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales (Level 3) is an innovative qualification that promotes learning inside and outside of the classroom, **providing learners with opportunities to select their own areas of study** whilst advancing their skills of Planning and Organisation; Critical Thinking and Problem Solving; Creativity and Innovation; and Personal Effectiveness (the 'Integral Skills'). Building on their achievements at level 2, the qualification helps learners develop complex skills, attributes and behaviours and provides experiences which enable them to be better prepared for their future destination, whether higher education, apprenticeships, training or employment.

The Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales (Level 3) qualification is made up of three units referred to as Projects. These are **assessed internally** through project work.

Structure of the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales

Global Community Project

The Global Community Project supports learners to develop and demonstrate application of the Integral Skills whilst considering complex global issues and participating in community action to promote citizenship in a sustainable world and Wales.

This makes up 25% of the qualification and is completed in Year 12.

Future Destinations Project

The Future Destinations Project supports learners to develop and demonstrate application of the Integral Skills whilst exploring future destination goals for life, employability and citizenship in a sustainable world and Wales.

This makes up 25% of the qualification and is started in Year 12 and completed in September of Year 13.

The Individual Project

Through completion of the Individual Project, learners will develop and demonstrate application of the Integral Skills whilst planning, managing and conducting an independent research project (written research report or artefact).

This makes up 50% of the qualification and is introduced in the summer of Year 12 with the aim of completion by Easter of Year 13.

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.

UCAS

Strive Together Challenge Yourself Realise Everyone can Succeed

Making the Right Choice

Making the right choice of course needs careful thought and discussion. When selecting from the courses available, we encourage students to consider the following:

- choose subjects you have enjoyed and have succeeded in
- 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; look at things like your results so far and consider where you were most successful
- check the course will prepare you for your preferred university course/career
- discuss your choices with our independent Careers Wales Advise

WHAT SUBJECTS DO YOU ENJOY?

WHAT AM I GOOD AT?

WHICH SUBJECTS DO I NEED FOR MY FUTURE?

Success will depend to a large extent on making the right subject choices, so our advice is to take time and work through the process of choosing options methodically.

“Now you’re a Sixth Former and in non-compulsory education it is so important that you choose your subjects wisely. You must make sure you choose subjects that you enjoy as you are more likely to be motivated to achieve your best”

Sixth Form Pupil from the Class of 2020

Making the Right Choice

What subjects do you enjoy?

You will achieve most highly, when you enjoy subjects. Choosing subjects based on external pressure means you are unlikely to enjoy learning about them or completing work for them. However, you should also remember that you might not know whether you enjoy a subject until you've tried it. It may be that it's only as you begin your 6th Form studies you really develop your interests in areas new to the curriculum.

Pathways

To support you make the best choices available we have a clear entry pathway to support all routes of learning:

Pathway 1

- 4 AS Levels and WBQ

7 or more A*-C grades in full course GCSE subjects, from different subject areas, which include at least **4** B grades (courses equivalent to GCSE do not count).

Pathway 2

- 3 AS Levels and WBQ

5 or more A*-C grades in full course GCSE subjects, **from** different subject areas. Students must take at least **one** vocational subject (BTEC).

What am I good at?

Your engagement with a subject needs to be matched by ability in the subject or the skills needed for that subject. Before starting an A Level course, be sure you have the right skills set or you'll struggle with the demands of the course. E.g. Humanities subjects help develop your ability to debate and construct arguments so a good standard of English is beneficial or you need a secure mathematical foundation for Physics. The best people to advise you are the teachers who know you, as well as the 6th Form Team who are familiar with the demands of different subjects. Your

Which subjects do I need for my future?

Often you might not need specific subjects; but if you intend to go on to Higher Education, you should check any specific entry requirements. E.g. medicine or veterinary science have specific requirements. A list of courses our students often go on to study, and the A Levels often required to study them, is provided.

The Programme of Study in the Sixth Form

How to Apply

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 google form, they will be seen by senior staff for further advice and guidance on their option choices. **Remember to choose either pathway 1 or pathway 2.**

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 Team, for further details and an application form.* Sixthformadmin@stcyres.org

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.

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.

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 success at 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 Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge. Qualification.

University Entry requirements for popular courses

ACCOUNTANCY	Usually no specific A Level, although Business Studies can be useful in preparing students
ARCHITECTURE	One design orientated course such as Art or Product Design and occasionally Mathematics.
ART & DESIGN	At least one design-orientated subject – progression often via Art and Design Foundation.
BIOCHEMISTRY	Chemistry and another science (usually Biology) recommended.
BIOLOGY	Usually Biology and Chemistry.
CHEMISTRY	Chemistry and often another science/Mathematics is required.
COMPUTER SCIENCE	Computer Science is desirable and Mathematics is a common requirement.
CRIMINOLOGY	No specific requirement but having at least one essay-based subject is useful
DESIGN TECHNOLOGY	Product Design and usually a portfolio of work in the specific field you choose to progress into.
DENTISTRY	Chemistry and usually Biology, sometimes Mathematics and/or Physics.
DRAMA	None specified, although English and/or Drama may be stipulated. Acceptance is likely to be down to a successful audition.
ECONOMICS	Usually Mathematics and many aspects are covered in Business Studies.
ENGINEERING	Mathematics/Physics combination usually stipulated; Maths/Chemistry for Chemical Engineering. No need for Product Design.
ENGLISH (& LITERATURE)	English Literature or English Language and Literature usually required.
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	Usually two from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Geography.
FASHION & TEXTILES	Usually at least one design-orientated subject - progression is often via Art and/or Fashion and Textiles, often a portfolio is required
GEOGRAPHY	Geography usually required, although not exclusively.
HISTORY	Often no specific subjects, although History stipulated most regularly.
LAW	No specific requirements; often preference for 'facilitating' subjects including one 'essay-based' subject.
MATHEMATICS	Mathematics and sometimes Further Mathematics.
MEDIA/COMMUNICATIONS	No specific subject requirements. Design subjects useful for some courses. A portfolio of work is often required, from subjects such as ICT, Media or Art/Photography.

University Entry requirements for popular courses

MEDICINE	Chemistry, Biology and either Mathematics or Physics will qualify you for all medical schools.
MUSIC	Music and ABRSM Grade VII/VIII.
MODERN LANGUAGES	An A level in the language to be studied is stipulated, although an additional language can be useful. To study a new language any language A level is usually required.
NURSING & MIDWIFERY	Medical Science and Health and Social Care are useful but most courses are focused on the UCAS tariff points and performance at interview. Mrs Shearer interviews for nursing and is a good person to ask for advice.
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	Some courses ask for Biology but Health and Social Care provides a good base of knowledge.
OPTOMETRY	Usually two of Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics.
PHARMACY	Chemistry and one from Biology, Physics and Mathematics, although some courses require Chemistry, Biology and Maths.
PHILOSOPHY	No specific subject requirements but a Humanities subject, especially RE, is useful.
PHYSICS	Physics and Mathematics.
PHYSIOTHERAPY	Biology is usually essential for entry, sometimes with a second science. PE might also be a requirement for some universities.
POLITICS	None usually specified, but Politics, History and Sociology are all useful.
PSYCHOLOGY	Often none specified
RADIOGRAPHY	Minimum of one science subject, although two may be preferred.
SOCIAL SCIENCES	No specific subject requirements, although a social science and numerical subject could be useful.
SPORTS SCIENCE/STUDIES	Sometimes one, possibly two science subjects.
TEACHING	For Primary at least one National Curriculum subject recommended. Advisable to undertake the (secondary) subject you wish to teach. *note that GCSEs in Maths and English Language at a C grade are needed and for Primary, Science at C or above is also needed.
VETERINARY SCIENCE	Chemistry and Biology with Mathematics or Physics.

For more information consult www.ucas.com and/or university websites

UCAS

Strive Together Challenge Yourself Realise Everyone can Succeed

THE SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM AT ST CYRES

We offer a range of two year courses plus the Advanced WBQ Skills Challenge Certificate

The following courses are offered for September 2026. Please note that all subjects depend on sufficient numbers to make them viable.

Level 3 Subjects

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

- Art and Design
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Criminology
- Design Technology
- Digital Technology
- Drama and Theatre
- Economics
- English Language and Literature
- English Literature
- Further Mathematics
- French
- Geography
- German
- Government and Politics
- Health and Social Care and Child Care
- History
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Medical Science
- Music
- Music Technology
- PE
- Performing Arts
- Photography
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- 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. Examples of courses that our past pupils have gone on to study include Architecture, Graphic Design, Fashion, Illustration, Special Effects and Fine 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/BB in Science (achieved from the Year 11 components) is essential, but an A/AB grade is advisable. English and Maths at grade B or higher is also required.





Business A Level (A Level or the Applied Extended Level 3)

Within this subject you'll discover all of the exciting business concepts and theories that affect everyday life; you'll be able to apply them to a range of business context and appreciate the importance of all this in local, national and global economies. In the first year you'll discover all about Business opportunities: how businesses start up, and small-to-mid-size enterprises get established and built including market research, location, finance and revenue. This really gets you into the nitty gritty of starting and operating a business. We'll also look at the function of businesses where we broaden the context to look at all types of business organisations, all the way up to multinational companies; developing our knowledge of how these organisation market and finance themselves; how they manage and develop their staff and how they run their operations successfully.

The A2 course will explore business analysis and strategy; how to think more creatively to develop a business and pursue different growth strategies using research and evidence to move forward. Finally we'll look at how businesses adapt to succeed in our dynamic world and economic landscape; including dealing with Globalisation, and maintaining ethical standards as your business grows. Business is an exciting and dynamic subject where we really dig into how businesses set up, work and run successfully; if you've got any entrepreneurial spirit then you'll enjoy learning about what makes companies tick. We are offering two different courses with a decision of which course to follow based on discussions with pupils. Both courses cover similar content but are assessed differently. A Level Business is 100% examination and graded A* - E and Level 3 Certificate in Business is 60% non examined assessment and 40% examination and also graded A* - E and is equivalent to 1 A Level.

What do I need to start the course?

You do not need to have studied Business at GCSE but you would benefit from a C grade in mathema

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/BB in Science (achieved from the Year 11 components) is essential, but an A/AB 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 minimum of either a grade C in Computer Science **or** a grade C in Higher Tier Maths Numeracy.

Criminology Applied

Not all types of crime are alike. What different types of crime take place in our society? How do we decide what behaviour is criminal? What is the difference between criminal behaviour and deviance? How do we explain why people commit crime? What happens to those who commit a crime? Why and how do we punish people? What organisations do we have in our society to control criminality?

An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, including police officers, probation and prison officers, and social workers. With their critical thinking, analytical and communication skills, criminology graduates are also attractive to employers outside the criminal justice sector in areas such as social research and politics.

The WJEC Level 3 Diploma in Criminology is an Applied General Qualification. This means that each unit within the qualification has an applied purpose which acts as a focus for the learning in the unit. The applied purpose demands learning related to authentic case studies.

What do I need to start the course?

At least a C in English Language is required due to the extended writing needed for the production of coursework. GCSE Sociology would be useful but not a requirement for study of Criminology.





Design and 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 Product Design, Engineering or Textiles. It is strongly advised that students should have achieved at least a B in these subjects.

Digital Technology A Level

Digital Technology is a future-focused A-Level designed for students who want to understand, create, and innovate with the tools shaping today's digital world. The course explores contemporary software, emerging technologies, and real industry practices, giving you the skills and confidence to create professional-standard digital products.

The AS course is made up of two main sections: **Creative Digital Practices (Non-exam Assessment)** You will follow the complete development process to create an original digital product—currently a fully designed and functional game. You'll research, plan, design, build, test and evaluate your game, gaining hands-on experience with industry-standard tools and methods. **Innovation in Digital Technology (Exam)**

This onscreen exam explores the technologies powering the modern world—from social media platforms and cloud services to artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and the Internet of Things. It focuses on understanding how digital systems work and how they are reshaping society and business. Students who continue the subject into A-Level will also explore advanced topics such as secure system design and will develop a real, functional e-commerce website for a business scenario—perfect for anyone with creative, technical or entrepreneurial ambitions.

What do I need to start the course?

A grade C or above in GCSE Digital Technology or Computer Science is recommended, but not essential. We also welcome students who have not studied Digital Technology or Computer Science before but have an interest in digital creativity, problem-solving, or technology.





Drama & Theatre A Level

In the first year of study pupils take part in two units. Unit 1 (24%) is internally assessed and pupils 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.

Economics A Level

This course allows students to gain an understanding of both microeconomics and macroeconomics.

Students will develop an understanding of economic concepts and theories through critical consideration of current economic issues, problems and institutions that affect everyday life, drawing on local, national and global contexts. This specification enables students to develop an in-depth understanding of the role markets play and the way in which governments seek to manage them. Students will gain an understanding of microeconomic and macroeconomic market models, using the models to explore current economic behaviour and make causal connections. Students will develop a critical approach to economic models and methods of enquiry, recognising the limitations of economic models. Students will develop analytical and quantitative skills in selecting, interpreting and using appropriate data from a range of sources applied in the context of AS and A level Economics.

What do I need to start the course?

In order to be able to engage with the course you will need at least a B at GCSE Mathematics.





English Language & Literature A Level

In Language and Literature you will study a number of texts, from Shakespearean tragedy to modern autobiography, across a 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 help you to foster an awareness of a writer's craft and also see how everyday texts are constructed and received. You will develop valuable skills for a wide range of 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 a wide range of career choices including law, marketing, journalism and teaching.

At AS Level in the 'Prose and Drama' unit you will study a Victorian novel and a twentieth century play, such as '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 Chaucer's 'The Merchant's Tale' with a section on unseen poetry, one on Shakespeare's King Lear, and a piece of coursework on two novels.

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. You should also enjoy reading.





Further Mathematics A Level

Further Maths broadens the mathematics covered in A Level Maths and is taught alongside the Maths A Level. The subject is an exciting part of maths that introduces you to imaginary numbers, parabolic and hyperbolic equations, matrices and proof by induction. It is extremely rewarding, but not for the faint hearted. You will then go on to delve further into imaginary numbers and also first and second order differential equations. Lastly, there is an introduction to a new coordinate system: polar coordinates. Other areas include extending further with applied modules of Further Mechanics and Further Statistics which both help to model how the world works. This could be modelling collisions of objects in Mechanics as well as making predictions using data and statistical models. This course is extremely demanding. Please note that Further Mathematics can only be selected in addition to Mathematics.

What do I need to start the course?

It is recommended that students looking to study Further Mathematics will have achieved an A grade at Maths GCSE and must also have completed the Additional Maths course.

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. Students will have the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament in Westminster.

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 Trump era. Pupils will also study a range of political ideas and ideologies such as Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Nationalism and investigate the influence of each on 21st Century Politics. Advantage is taken of opportunities to meet and listen to real politicians where possible.

What do I need to start the course?

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

Health and Social Care, and Child Care A Level

The WJEC GCE AS and A level in Health and Social Care, and Childcare equips learners with thorough and in-depth knowledge, understanding and skills related to the development and care of individuals throughout the life span from conception to later adulthood. Learners have the opportunity to develop their understanding of influences on human growth, development, behaviour and well-being. They will also gain a detailed understanding of the social, physical, emotional, and cultural needs of people who use care and support services, and recognise that each individual has a unique blend of abilities and needs.

The qualification is 50% non examined assessment (coursework).

This specification provides a suitable foundation for the study of health and social care, and childcare through a range of higher education courses, or into employment. We can support students who are interested in careers in medicine, nursing and midwifery, primary teaching, child psychology, youth work and social work alongside other health specific courses such as operating department practitioners.

What do I need to start the course?

At least a C in English Language is required due to the extended writing needed for the production of coursework. GCSE Health and Social would be useful but not a requirement for the study of Health and Social and Child Care.





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.

Mathematics A Level

The course encourages students to develop an understanding of the progression in mathematics and how different areas of mathematics can be connected. They will develop skills enabling them to recognise how a situation may be presented mathematically and to understand the relationship between 'real world' problems and other mathematical models. There is a progression of material through all levels at which the subject of Mathematics is studied. The content of AS Mathematics therefore builds upon the knowledge, understanding and skills established in studying GCSE Mathematics (Higher Tier). The course is broadly split into Pure Mathematics and Applied Mathematics (combining Statistics and Mechanics). Pure Mathematics involves algebra, geometry, trigonometry and calculus. Mechanics deals with motion and forces, whilst Statistics involves probability and discrete and continuous distributions. The WJEC programme of study in place for Years 12 and 13, consists of two modules for each of the AS and A2 Mathematics courses.

What do I need to study the course?

Minimum entry requirement is a B grade after studying the Mathematics Higher Tier course, however an A is recommended.





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

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 C/CC in Science is essential, but a B/BC grade is advisable. English and Maths at grade C is also advisable.





Modern Foreign Languages

An A level in a Modern Foreign Language such as French, German and Spanish is always highly regarded and is a subject of status. It will develop and sharpen your linguistic and communication skills both in the studied language and in English, while enhancing your grasp and understanding of international current affairs and foreign cultures. It will broaden your horizons by giving you access to courses, potential careers, job developments and life opportunities. Your linguistic skills will also prove invaluable should you want or be required to learn yet another language in the future - for professional or personal reasons. German opens the door to the study of other languages such as Danish and Dutch for example, which share many similarities and both of which can be started at university. Spanish has close links with Italian, Portuguese and French. The courses provide an engaging and exciting opportunity for learners to build on their previous study of French / German / Spanish. Through social, intellectual and cultural themes, learners will be able to develop their linguistic knowledge and cultural understanding of the countries or communities where the languages are spoken. An opportunity to study literature and film will also allow learners to undertake a deeper analysis of language structures and increase their cultural awareness. A strong focus is placed on building learners' confidence and fluency in spoken German/ Spanish using relevant and topical themes. The requirement to research an area of personal interest related to the country or countries where the language of study is spoken aims to enhance learners' cultural appreciation and enable them to gain a greater awareness of intercultural differences.

At AS level, you will study the following topics: - Being a young person in a French, German / Spanish-speaking society

- Understanding the French/ German / Spanish-speaking world

At A2, you will study - Diversity and difference - The making of modern Germany post 1989 / The two Spains 1939 onwards/ France 1940/1950: The Occupation and post war.

What do I need to start the course?

Students will normally have achieved at least a grade C at GCSE French/ German / Spanish.

Music A Level

This is a highly practical course and is the equivalent in size to one A Level and aims to provide a coherent course of study covering both performance and the music industry. The course consists of four units in total of which three are mandatory and one is a choice from a number of units where learners choose from an area of interest.

The three mandatory units comprise of; Unit 1: Practical Music Theory and Harmony, Unit 2: Professional Practice in the Music Industry and Unit 3: Ensemble Music Performance.

Learners then choose one optional unit and these have been designed to support progression to more specialist music courses in higher education and to link with relevant occupational areas, such as composing music, improvising music and solo performance. The last unit is a choice of one of the following; Composing Music, Music Performance Session, Solo Performance and Improvising Music.

What do I need to start the course?

Students starting this qualification will already have achieved a GCSE in Music.





Music Technology BTEC

The qualification is highly practical and has been developed in consultation with employers and professional bodies to ensure that it is appropriate for those interested in working in the sector. There are two mandatory units, which cover music and sound for media as well as digital audio workstation (DAW) production. The optional units cover areas such as:

- Creative synthesis and sampling
- Remixing and reworking
- Mixing and mastering techniques
- Commercial music production.

While taking this qualification, learners will be required to engage with sector employers as part of their course, where they will be given opportunities to develop practical skills in preparation for employment.

What could this qualification lead to?

This qualification will prepare learners for direct employment in the digital music production sector and is suitable for those wanting to work in entry-level roles, such as: junior music producer, remixer, junior sound designer, music studio assistant, assistant audio restorer/digitiser/archiver.

What do I need to start the course?

Students starting the qualification will need an interest in music production and preferably a GCSE in ICT and Music.

Physical Education 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: Exercise physiology, performance analysis and training, Sport psychology, Skill acquisition and 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.





Performing Arts

If you are a student who loves performing and want to develop your practical skills in Drama, Musical Theatre, Dance or general Performing Arts, then this is the course for you. This is a highly practical course where you will spend a lot of time working with your fellow students to create unique performances that incorporate a variety of techniques. Alongside the practical work you will develop a portfolio of work where you will evidence your new knowledge and skills as well as gaining an in-depth insight into the performing arts industry and the opportunities available to you. There is no written examination in this subject as assessment is ongoing throughout the course and your teachers will be assessing you throughout. It is equivalent to one and a half A Levels and you will study it alongside your other subjects. This course will help you to improve a range of transferable skills including communication, self-expression, self promotion, organisation and teamwork.

Performing Arts Skills Development – Here you will have 3 main areas of work

- Exploring Performance Styles
- Creating Performance Material
- Performing for an Audience

The Performing Arts Industry – Here the main focus is

- Planning a Career in the Industry

What do I need to start the course?

Students would have achieved a GCSE qualification in a relevant subject.



Photography A Level

A Level Photography explores photographers, cinematographers and artists which allows pupils to access careers in media, graphics and photography. The subject includes the development of digital skills using industry standard software and utilises iPad technology to explore contemporary practice within this area. The A Level photography course explores critical analysis of artist and photographers' work as well as their own and encourages the candidates to understand visual language. Candidates will need to have a good knowledge on the use of the camera and will require their own photography equipment.

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 a digital portfolio. At A2, there will be a 'Personal Investigation' and an Externally Set Task. Practical work forms the majority of the A Level Photography curriculum, including the emphasis on developing digital and practical photography skills. Written critical awareness and the appreciation of artists and photographers will play an important part in the development of students' coursework units.

What do I need to start the course?

Pupils will require a GCSE in Photography at Grade C or above to participate on the course. 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/BB in Science (achieved from the Year 11 components) is essential, but an A/AB 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 the 2nd year 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 the second year of the course 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 RS. If you want to work with people - teaching, journalism, business, publishing, police work, healthcare, work with children, in caring work, or to work abroad, RS 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** (Welsh in Society).

What do I need to start the course? A Grade B in Welsh at GCSE is strongly recommended.



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St Cyres Drama, Music, PA& Dance Dept @stcyres6th · 15 Jan
 It's our turn! @WithersDrama & @stcyres6th have taken our A-Level Drama students to the @frankassembly for their 'Mistamorphosis' performance. Watch @frankassembly go form Mistamorphosis! @stcyres6th #StCyresSchool #3rdYearSchools

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St Cyres Maths @stcyresmaths · 9 Nov 2023
 Congratulations to our year 12s on their Senior Maths Challenge awards and to our 6th Olympiad awards. @stcyres6th

Cardiff University School of Medicine @CUmedLearners · 15 Jan
 Only 3 days to go until our next #scienceinhealth public lecture! Book now at cardiff.ac.uk/scienceinhealth @cardiffuni @cardiffuni @CardiffNews @CUmedLearners @CUmedLearners

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Joined November 2009

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 Well done to all our @stcyres6th on their resit results today; your hard work and determination to succeed has paid off. 🎉🎉🎉 #stcyreschat #Results #Resits

Cardiff University School of Medicine @CUmedLearners · 8 Jan
 Happy 2024! Our next #ScienceInHealth lecture Thurs 13th Jan, by @meganjones101 mperla College, looks at breakthroughs in understanding our body - from brains & genes to microbes & immune systems. Join us to find out more! Register - cardiff.ac.uk/scienceinhealth @cardiffuni

Laura Hillout @MrsHilloutArt · 27 Oct 2023
 A big shout out to our fantastic @stcyres6th Photography students capturing our cultures events! We are so excited to share their work the coming weeks! Thank you for all your hard work! @StCyresSci

Cardiff Met Schools & Colleges Liaison Team @CardiffMetSCL · 15 Jan
 Having a brilliant day so far with @connor_allen92 at the Cardiff Met Literature Day @cantorianhs @garth_olvg @SixthFormGHS @HewallsSchool @stcyres6th

stcyres6th @stcyres6th · 21 Dec 2023
 Good luck to @stcyres6th Ryan who just submitted his @ucas online application! 🍀🍀🍀 #stcyreschat #Classof2024 #elater #stcyreschat #stcyres6th

3 14 31K

4 5 18K

Miss Davies @MissDaviesArt · 20 Oct 2023
 Big thank you to Kantz from @youthcoaching1 for facilitating @neaparcsoach training for @stcyres6th A superb experiential year 12's learning about questioning & active listening skill their younger peers @StCyresSchool

stcyres6th @stcyres6th · 20 Dec 2023
 The elves were lonely now school's out for Christmas - so they found a new friend! 🧝🧝🧝 #stcyreschat #ElfOnTheShelf2023 #Christmas2023

3 485

Mr Withers @WithersDrama · 9 Oct 2023
 Diolch Nathan for leading 12HWI in motivation Monday #StCyresChat @stcyres6th #MotivationMonday

4 7 1.2K

stcyres6th @stcyres6th · 9 Jan
 Congratulations to @stcyres6th Joe on a fantastic offer to study Accounting and Finance from @cardiffmet. That's all his offers now so decisions to be made! 🎉🎉🎉 #stcyreschat #Classof2024 #Fullhouse #decisionsdecisions

#ACT