

**YSGOL PENGLAIS
SCHOOL SIXTH
FORM OPTIONS
BOOKLET**

COURAGE. STRENGTH. HEART.

“Penglais Sixth Form is a supportive community where you are encouraged to take one or many of the career enhancing opportunities on offer”

Penglais Sixth Form student

“There is a great structure in Penglais of lessons, study sessions and non contact lessons. I have felt supported but also developed the independence skills I will need in university!”

Penglais Sixth Form student

“Penglais Sixth Form affords me a vast support network of students and staff. It has a welcoming atmosphere and a positive learning environment which helped me achieve my potential”

Penglais Sixth Form student



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General Information

WELCOME TO PENGLAIS SCHOOL

Penglais has much to offer young adults. Each student is valued and supported as an individual. Our core philosophy is that students enjoy a love of learning, that they have high aspirations and are well-rounded individuals who contributes to society.

WHY STUDY AT PENGLAIS SCHOOL?

We provide comprehensive provision for 250 students aged 16-19. We offer a friendly, dynamic and inspiring environment for learning. We have an experienced and specialist Sixth Form team who support and advise individual students on a daily basis. Students enrol in Penglais Sixth Form from many secondary schools and soon make many new friends in a happy and supportive environment.

Our large Sixth Form enables us to offer a broad range of subjects and option combinations at A level. Our teachers are experienced and have deep subject knowledge to inspire you in your chosen subjects. There are a few vocational qualifications offered at level 3 which have direct equivalence with A levels.

HOW MANY SUBJECTS WILL I STUDY?

In Year 12 three/four subjects are studied at AS level along with the Welsh Baccaulaureate.

In Year 13 three subjects and the Welsh Baccaulaureate are followed.

Alongside the subject qualifications on offer there will be a wide range of enrichment opportunities, leadership experiences, and careers and university support.

OUR SCHOOL VISION

Ysgol Penglais School is a happy, ambitious and high achieving school where everyone is respected and valued. We are a strong community where everyone cares for each other, knowing that only through collaboration and respect will we achieve and become our very best. The school is vibrant with students and staff co-operating, learning, thinking and working hard. We recognise that overcoming challenges is key to success and by developing bravery, confidence and resilience our students will become successful citizens of their communities, Wales and the world.

We will achieve this vision together by:

- Being respectful and kind
- Being ambitious and resilient
- Developing independence and confidence
- Celebrating diversity and success
- Taking pride in belonging to our community

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The basic entry to the Sixth Form is to have achieved five GCSEs at C grade or above, ideally including English and Mathematics. It is possible to resit English or Mathematics, but the choice of subjects open to students will be limited. Please see details under each subject for subject-specific entry requirements.

Art, Craft & Design

The Art, Craft and Design course has been designed to provide engaging and innovative creative learning experiences, where art, craft and design practice is meaningfully integrated with theoretical knowledge and understanding. This course provides learners with opportunities to develop a broad foundation of critical, practical and theoretical skills at AS, which offers learners a holistic understanding of a range of practices and contexts in the visual arts, crafts and design fields, culminating in greater specialism and achievement in A2.

Throughout this Art, Craft and Design course students will show evidence of extending their own and others' ways of seeing the world. Students will be encouraged to interpret their own individual project in a personal way and use visual language to support their intention sensitively and thoughtfully. The unendorsed route will enable students to explore a range of two or three-dimensional approaches to their studies.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

This course is for anyone who would like to continue to develop their artistic skills and contextual knowledge of art and design. It will suit students who are enthusiastic, organised, motivated and passionate about the subject.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Students will be encouraged to develop their creativity using a range of media and to work on a variety of scales. Many skills will be explored including experimental drawing and painting, 3-dimensional work, textiles, and drawing from life. Independent study outside of timetabled lessons is essential to underpin thorough investigation, experimentation and development of ideas leading to a final outcome. It is also vital that the art work demonstrates clear connections with the work of historical and contemporary artists.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Penglais students will be entered for AS Level and decide at the end of AS whether to continue to A2.

AS Unit 1 40% Personal Creative Enquiry (Coursework)

A2 Unit 2 36% Personal investigation (Coursework)

A2 Unit 3 24% Externally Set Assignment (15 hour exam)

At A2 students will also be required to complete a critical and contextual personal study inspired by artists of their choice, presented in both written and visual form (1000-3000 words), which will be included in their project.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

Workshops led by practising artists, discussion and community art projects.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU?

The A Level course provides a basis for progression to the Foundation Diploma in Art and Design or higher education courses in fashion, product or graphic design. This subject has many transferable skills which can be applied to other careers ranging from tattoo artist to forensic scientist. Art or Design is essential for those intending to study architecture at university.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

A minimum of C grade in the subject at GCSE.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Mrs T Harper, Subject Leader Art
(TAW@penglais.org.uk) B3

"It is not what you paint, but how you paint, that makes a great work of art" Brenda Malikinson

Biology

Biology helps us understand the big picture it enables us to understand how life arose, how it evolved, the chemical reactions that sustain it, how individual organisms' cells, tissues, organs and systems function and how all living things are connected via chains, webs and cycles.

Biology is at the forefront of ecological issues: biologists are engaged in vital ecological conservation work to mitigate the current devastating impact that the human population is having on habitats and other species. Biology is at the heart of many social and economic issues: by studying Biology, students are able to develop informed decisions about their own health and about significant issues such as genetically modified crops, stem cell research, editing of the human genome, the use of antibiotics, climate change, pollution, and habitat destruction.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

You need an enquiring mind, an interest in practical work, an ability to make sense of and retain a large amount of information, and the initiative to apply what you have been taught to new situations. You must be a self motivated, independent learner who can take responsibility for your own progress.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

At AS level we study two units. Basic Biochemistry and Cell Organisation (Unit 1) and Biodiversity and Physiology of Body Systems (Unit 2). Both units include theory and practical work.

At A2 Level there are another two units: Energy, Homeostasis and the Environment (Unit 3) and Variation, Inheritance and Immunology and Disease (Unit 4).

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

AS Unit 1 20% Theory exam (Basic Biochemistry and Cell Organisation)

AS Unit 2 20% Theory exam (Biodiversity and Physiology of Body Systems)

A2 Unit 3 25% Theory exam (Energy, Homeostasis and the Environment)

A2 Unit 4 25% Theory exam (Variation, Inheritance and Options)

A2 Unit 5 10% Practical exam (experiment, statistical analysis and interpretation of microscope images,)

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

A level students usually have the opportunity to go on local field trips and to attend lectures given by academics and professionals working in Biology related fields. E.g. in 2018/19 students did fieldwork on Castle Rocks and were invited to lectures at Aberystwyth University and Bronglais Hospital.

Students can also enter the British Biology Olympiad – previous Penglais students have achieved a silver award.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD TO?

Biology is useful for careers in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, conservation, teaching and research. It also provides transferable skills that can be used in most other careers and jobs.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade BB or above is required in Double Science.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Miss K Edwards, Subject Leader Biology (KAE@penglais.org.uk) C5

*“What can be more important than the science of life to any intelligent being who has the good fortune to be alive?”
Isaac Asimov*

Business

This course will give you an insight into the dynamic world of business. It is not just a theoretical subject; it is about real life. You will investigate problems which real businesses are currently facing and use your initiative to develop possible solutions. BTECs are vocational qualifications that are designed to give you a work-focused alternative to A Levels.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

The course has been designed to give you opportunities to demonstrate and develop the practical application of knowledge and understanding in the areas of work that appeal to you. This will enable you to develop your research skills as you work, both independently and with colleagues, to progress through your qualifications.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

In your study of Business you will look at a variety of firms in different industries and need to have an interest in the world around you. To start with you will focus on what businesses are, why they exist, what their aims are, and how one measures their success. You will study six units during your course covering a range of relevant business topics, learning and applying your knowledge. The units you complete will be based on real businesses, giving you a practical understanding of this subject. You will learn about the business environment and how this influences the different business organisations that can exist.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

There are no exams in BTEC Business. You will be assessed through coursework. Six units have to be completed for the full Subsidiary Diploma.

Unit 1 The Business Environment

Unit 2 Business Resources

Unit 3 Introduction to Marketing

Unit 4 Business Communication

Unit 5 Developing Teams in Business

In Year 13, you select your sixth unit from a list of options.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

There may be occasions where guest speakers attend your lessons.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU?

Careers could be pursued in a variety of businesses from administration and IT services, to sales and marketing, research, accounting, insurance, legal and financial services and retail management. There are also several large businesses which have management training schemes that can be applied for.

You could also progress to university to study for a degree or similar level course in a wide range of subjects after achieving your BTEC. You will be well prepared to study Business at university, providing you with UCAS points equivalent to an A Level. Whatever you decide to do next, a Business qualification will allow you to keep your options open.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of C grade in the subject at GCSE.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Mrs Bentley, Subject Leader Business
(RJB@penglais.org.uk) F2

"A business that makes nothing but money is a poor business." ~ Henry Ford

Chemistry

Chemistry is the study of matter and energy and the interaction between them. There are many reasons to study chemistry, even if you aren't pursuing a career in science. It is sometimes called the "central science" because it connects other sciences to each other, such as biology, physics, geology, and environmental science. Although a challenging subject, with hard work and determination you can attain grades that will look fantastic when applying for jobs and further education.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

Chemistry suits students who have an enquiring mind and who enjoy using logic to solve problems. It will require you to work hard at understanding how chemistry can be used to explain real life scenarios. Chemistry requires you to be thorough and organised and the A-Level course teaches you these essential life skills.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The course is split into modules, with two units taught at AS and the further two taught at A2 Level, with a practical exam undertaken towards the end of Year 13. In Year 12 each topic builds on knowledge gained at GCSE. We begin by looking at the structure of the atom, explain phenomena such as radioactivity and the flame colours of elements, as well as explore the evidence that provides us with our current understanding of electronic structure. We also develop the moles calculations and look at how this is done with solutions as well as gases, and further develop the skill of using the ions sheet to write balanced and ionic equations. We look at and explain the patterns in the physical and chemical properties of the elements and their compounds and the energy changes that take place during chemical reactions. In Year 12 we also delve deeper into organic chemistry which looks at the chemistry of carbon compounds, gaining the knowledge needed for understanding biochemistry and drug synthesis. In Year 13 we build on each of the modules studied in Year 12 giving you a good grounding for studying chemistry and its related fields at a higher level.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

The AS Level is assessed through two written exams at the end of Year 12 and the A2 through 2 written and one practical exam at the end of Year 13.

AS Unit 1 20% Structure of Matter and Simple Reactions

AS Unit 2 20% Energy, Rate and Chemistry of Carbon

A2 Unit 3 25% Physical and Inorganic Chemistry

A2 Unit 4 25% Organic Chemistry and Analysis

A2 Unit 5 10% Practical examination and written analysis tasks

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Royal Society of Chemistry visits the department to allow students to use expensive equipment such as infra-red spectrometers and NMR machines to study and identify molecules as well as allowing us to monitor the rate of chemical reactions. Students also enter the RSC Chemistry Olympiad and the Cambridge Challenge.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU?

Studying Chemistry allows you to develop subject specific and transferable skills, which are all highly regarded by universities and employers. It can lead to roles in scientific research, drug synthesis, chemical engineering, pharmacy, geology, mineral extraction industries, environmental and energy sectors, journalism, and education. It is also an essential qualification to study medicine and veterinary science.

ENTRY REQUIREMENT

A grade BB or above is required in Double Science.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Mr P Black, Subject Leader Chemistry (pwb@penglais.org.uk) C6 or Ms K. Reyers, Subject Leader Chemistry (kdr@penglais.org.uk) C3

"Modern chemistry, with its far reaching generalizations and hypotheses, is a fine example of how far the human mind can go in exploring the unknown beyond the limits of human senses" Horace G. Deming

Drama and Theatre Studies

Theatre today allows us to be rooted in historical context as well as contemporary practice. The distinction between 'drama' and 'theatre' is, of course, implicit in the original Greek from which the words are derived. Thus, 'theatre' means 'to gaze on' implying the presence of spectators, whereas 'drama' is 'a thing done' or an event in which those present are not so much onlookers as active participants.

Theatre allows us to examine the issues that are at the core of our very existence and make social comment through artistic expression. Good theatre creates discussion. Discussion creates a stir in opinions and feelings, which allows for change to happen. This is the essence of drama and theatre.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

If you are passionate about the arts, interested in drama and theatre as an art form in its own right, visit the theatre regularly and have a passion for reading, writing and talking about different ideas or a combination of all of the aforementioned then Drama and Theatre Studies is an option you should consider. With both acting and design/technical pathways available at all points in the course; there is something for students with all interests. Drama and Theatre Studies is a unique opportunity to explore ideas, capture the imagination and reflect and ponder upon the bigger picture!

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

At A Level, you will have the opportunity to study several influential theatre practitioners and theorists as well as more contemporary theatre companies in order to help you create and devise your own work. Practitioner study will help you develop your creative skills, and realise your own artistic intentions, with a core focus on communicating meaning to an audience whilst sticking to a theatrical style.

You will study at least three complete play texts of varying styles and of different periods in history through practical exploration and discussion, allowing you to further develop your practice. The course is designed to assist in developing your own practical and academic skills to aid you in becoming informed practitioners of drama and theatre. It will also offer you many opportunities to view and discuss live theatre in order to inform your work.

The course comprises of two practical units which equate to 60% of the final mark, and two written examinations which equate to the final 40% of the final mark.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Theatre visits, workshops with visiting practitioners, residential visits to London, annual school production and student led production opportunities

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU?

Careers in (but not limited to): the arts, theatre, television, teaching, journalism, business, psychology, arts therapy, media, law, social work, facilitation, or the world of academia. Whichever career path you choose, the study of Drama and Theatre gives you transferable skills that can be made use of in most careers.

ENTRY REQUIREMENT

Students do not have to have studied GCSE drama to take A Level Drama and Theatre Studies.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Mr B. Stott, Subject Leader Drama (bas@penglais.org.uk)

"I can take any empty space and call it a bare stage. A man walks across this empty space whilst someone else is watching him, and this is all that is needed for an act of theatre to be engaged." – Peter Brook

English Literature

Do you enjoy reading and discussing what you have read? Are you interested in the ideas that have shaped Western culture and the ways that writers communicate? Whether you are an avid reader, have ambitions to become a writer or are interested in developing your communication skills, English Literature is a course with a lot to offer.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

Those well suited to the study of English will be motivated to read and find satisfaction in the close analysis of texts, characters and themes. They will appreciate the opportunity to research independently and may want to develop analytic and communication skills for future career paths. A clear, accurate written style is also a huge advantage.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

At AS Level you will read and analyse the poetry of Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath, A Streetcar named Desire by Tennessee Williams and Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte. In Year 13, you will read Shakespeare's King Lear, a wide range of poetry including the works of John Keats, and a combination of two novels, one published within your lifetime.

A2 Level English requires learning about historical and literary contexts, so prepare to step across the Atlantic to America in the 1940s and back in time to Victorian culture and Shakespeare's England. You will also be introduced to literary criticism, including feminist and psychoanalytic perspectives. Your coursework will teach you how to plan an extended assignment with your chosen theme at the centre. Recent projects have included works by contemporary novelists including Kate Atkinson, Richard Flanagan and Rose Tremain, alongside 19th century writer, Thomas Hardy.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Exam questions will include close analysis of extracts as well as extended essay writing. Assessment objectives are outlined in the specification.

AS Unit 1 20% (Prose and Drama)

AS Unit 2 20% (20th Century Poetry)

A2 Unit 3 20% (19th and Unseen Poetry)

A2 Unit 4 20% (Shakespeare)

A2 Unit 5 20% (Prose Study coursework)

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

Yearly research trips to the National Library of Wales, visits to the Arts Centre for live-screening of theatre productions such as Jane Eyre and King Lear, and the chance to interview a local author in school. These are all opportunities that have been available recently.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU?

A qualification in English Literature is an excellent foundation for studying many other subjects at college or university level, including law, media, journalism, languages and the humanities. It develops your powers of analysis and your ability to construct and convey arguments in both spoken and written form. It can also cultivate an understanding of what it means to be human, how human beings communicate, and how we can better appreciate both other cultures and our own. These are great skills whatever path you take in the future.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of C grade in the subject at GCSE.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Mrs J Davies, Faculty leader for English
(jxd@penglais.org.uk) D13

"It may be a scary prospect, but what tends to happen is that you fall in love with a book you would have never picked up if it wasn't for studying English. It is a fascinating subject and really enjoyable because you are in a supportive environment, surrounded by others who are also excited by books. The teachers are just as passionate and are able to listen to your ideas, however complex or strange they may be... because you are admired for your thoughts and personal responses to literary texts." Sixth Form Student

French

We live in an increasingly global society and communication has never been more important. Studying languages at A Level develops communication skills, broadens horizons and enhances future career opportunities. Employers consistently rank skills in modern foreign languages as among the most desirable in an ever-competitive global jobs' market.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

If you love languages, by higher level study at A Level you will develop your oral fluency and conversation skills through a range of stimulating and absorbing topics, while extending and perfecting your grammatical knowledge. All lessons are taught predominantly in French, although grammar may be introduced in English.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

At AS, the core content is: Social issues and trends: 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; Political, intellectual and artistic culture: Understanding the French-speaking world, regional culture and heritage in France, French-speaking countries and communities, Literature, art, film and music in the French speaking world; Grammar and the film *Le Havre* (Aki Kaurismäki, 2011).

At A2 Level, the core content is: Social issues and trends: Diversity and difference, migration and integration, cultural identity and marginalisation, cultural enrichment and celebrating difference, discrimination and diversity; Political, intellectual and artistic culture, France 1940-1950: The Occupation and the post-war years, from June 1940-May 1945 (occupation, liberation and end of World War II), life in Occupied France and the cultural dimension (théâtre, cinéma, littérature), 1945-1950: rebuilding and restructuring, repercussions for modern day France, Grammar and the novel *Le Bal* (Irène Némirovsky 1930).

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

AS Unit 1: Speaking (12%) 48 marks
AS Unit 2: Listening, reading, translation, writing (28%) 84 marks
A2 Unit 3: speaking on independent research project (18%) 72 marks
A2 Unit 4: Listening, reading, translation (30%) 100 marks
A2 Unit 5: Critical response in writing (12%) 40 marks

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

Films and talks (such as from the Institut Français) independent study.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU?

A languages or joint language degree at university, a wide range of careers in international companies and foreign travel, teaching, journalism, the arts, finance and almost any field.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of C grade in the subject at GCSE.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Mrs L Carver, Leader of Languages Faculty (LAC@penglains.org.uk)
E7

"Language is the sound of our humanity".

Geography

Geography is an exceptional subject in that it bridges the social sciences (human geography) with the natural sciences (physical geography). Human geography involves the consideration of the dynamics of cultures, societies and economies, whilst physical geography concerns the understanding of the dynamics of physical landscapes and the environment.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

Are you interested in and inspired by the world around you? Are you curious about the differences in cultures, political systems, economies, landscapes and environments across the world? Do you want to understand the causes of inequalities between places and social groups? Do you think you can solve the world's problems? If so then Geography is the subject for you.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

At AS Level you will study: Glacial Systems and Landscapes, Tectonic Hazards, Changing Places and a Geography fieldwork investigation

At A2 Level you will also study: Water and Carbon Cycles, Tectonic Hazards, Global Systems and Global Governance, Geography fieldwork investigation.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

AS Unit 1 - Changing Landscapes (24%)

AS Unit 2 - Changing Places (16%)

A2 Unit 3 - Global Systems and Governance (24%)

A2 Unit 4 - Contemporary themes in Geography (16%)

A2 Unit 5 - Independent Investigation (20%)

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

Helping as a Geography Assistant in the department, Subject specialist conferences at our local Geographical Association branch, speakers from local universities, field work, residential visits, teaching and supporting GCSE Geography students.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU?

The most recent HESA survey of university graduates showed more than 90% are in work or further study within 5 months of graduating. The higher than average employment in professional and managerial roles and higher than average salaries of geography graduates reflects the knowledge value-added in the course of their higher education, together with their strong transferable skills base (Quarterly Labour Force Survey 2010). People with qualifications in geography go on to work in a wide field of employment, e.g. business and commerce, urban planning, government, international development, resource management, geology, law, oceanography, environmental consultancy, meteorology and catastrophe modelling to name a few.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of C grade in the subject at GCSE.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Mr D Johnson, Subject Leader Geography
(DXJ@penglais.org.uk) B14

“Geography students hold the key to the world’s problems.”
“Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant, it is one of the most exciting, adventurous and valuable subjects to study today.” Michael Palin CBE,
President of the Royal Geographical Society

Health & Social Care

Health and Social Care GCE provides a multi-disciplinary approach to studying something which is critical to all – health. The subject explores how we gain it, how we maintain it and the ways in which we can lose it. Health is not simply physical. Our approach incorporates the psychological, social and emotional consequences that accompany any state of health and considers the complex, interactive relationship between these aspects and our physical well-being.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Health is relevant to all on a personal level. Students will learn the importance of taking responsibility for their own health and well-being and of pro-actively maintaining it throughout their lives. However, with annual increases in life expectancy, it is also likely that the care-giving role is one that many students will assume at some point in their lives, whether they are trained for it or not. This course therefore is relevant and purposeful for all, whether students intend to go into a health-related profession or not.

Thus, students will also view health from ‘the other side’, as providers of care, focusing on key principles which guide the practice of the good care-giver, such as communication, dignity, confidentiality and compassion. They will also view health from a wider perspective, considering health and social care provision in Wales and the UK. This will include analysis of health inequalities across class, gender, ethnicity, age, and locality, as well as exploring inequalities in provision, such as those between rural and urban communities. Do we have enough consultants, GPs and nurses? The human, financial and political decisions driving standards of provision and the changing role of the third sector will be debated.

WHO WILL IT SUIT?

This course will suit those with an interest in people, in health and who enjoy carrying out primary and secondary research. It is a broad, multi-disciplinary A level. Its investigative and problem-solving approach to developing specialist knowledge and understanding lays the foundation for successful performance at university level in any area.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

UNIT 1: Promoting Quality Care and Communication: examination unit; 20%
UNIT 2: Promoting Good Health: coursework unit; 30%
UNIT 3: Provision of Health, Social Care and Children’s Services: a 10 hour controlled assessment task; 20%
UNIT 10: The Care of Older Individuals: coursework unit; 30%

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities arise to undertake voluntary work in local health organisations. Practitioners (including ex-students) and voluntary workers from the local community contribute to the A level, particularly in year 13, supporting student achievement in the controlled assessment work.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU?

Students often pursue careers in social work, mental, child or adult nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, teaching, early learning, psychology, family support, national and international charity work.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of C grade in the subject at GCSE.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

See Mrs A. Trotter, Leader of Social Sciences (ALT@penglais.org.uk) E5.

‘I think one’s feelings waste themselves in words, they ought all to be distilled into actions and into actions which bring results.’

Florence Nightingale.

History

History is a rewarding, interesting and thought provoking subject in its own right. However, it also encourages you to develop a range of transferable skills, which are highly valued by universities and by employers, such as flexibility, making judgements, problem solving, understanding people, organising and evaluating information, essay writing, the ability to communicate, research skills and the ability to establish theories and support them with evidence. History provides you with many of the skills required for success in the modern world.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

Are you fascinated by the past and what it tells us about the modern world? Do you like to discover why things happen? Are you prepared to work hard, read widely and challenge yourself? Are you excited about developing yourself as an independent learner? If the answer to these questions is 'yes' then you should choose history.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

AS Level

- Unit 1 British History c.1780-1880, with a focus on the hardships faced by ordinary people and the protest, like the Peterloo Massacre, that resulted.
- Unit 2 American Civil War, which looks at the exciting story of how and why the American Civil War broke out in 1861, with a sharp focus on the lives and experiences of the slaves.

A2 Level

- Unit 3 British History c.1890-1990, has a sharp focus on social history with an investigation into poverty, the creation of the NHS, the cultural changes brought about by the Swinging Sixties and the impact of Margaret Thatcher.
- Unit 4 American Civil War, will focus on the role played by Abraham Lincoln in fighting the American Civil War and in freeing the slaves.
- Unit 5 Coursework, you will be given an opportunity to develop as an independent historian, through the investigation of an aspect of the First World War.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

- AS Unit 1 20% (Exam)
- AS Unit 2 20% (Exam)
- A2 Unit 3 20% (Exam)
- A2 Unit 4 20% (Exam)
- A2 Unit 5 20% (Coursework)

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

These vary from year to year, but have included: trips to the USA, seminars and workshops at Aberystwyth University and opportunities to support younger students in their understanding of history.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU?

Employers and universities value history as a serious, rigorous and facilitating subject. The study of history provides excellent preparation for a number of career routes in many professional fields such as law, academia, politics, teaching, business, or journalism. More importantly, the skills developed, such as analysis, evaluation and the ability to comprehend and manipulate complex information, help create confident learners with flexible minds, which is valuable for a wide range of different professions. Indeed, the ability to be able to develop and sustain an argument with clarity and precision is a core part of this subject.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of C grade in the subject at GCSE.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Miss T.A.Leighton, Subject Leader History, (TAL@penglais.org.uk) A11 or MR D Payne, Head of Humanites (DRP@penglais.org.uk) A13

“Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it”.

ICT

This specification encourages candidates to become discerning users of ICT, developing a broad range of ICT skills and knowledge and understanding of ICT. This should form a basis for progression into further learning, including progression from AS to A2, and/or employment.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

Students who have a desire to further their ICT knowledge and develop skills which are applicable in a broad range of workplace contexts.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The ICT A Level course is divided into a total of 4 units, 2 AS units and 2 A2 units. Unit 1 focuses on Information Systems and Unit 2 is a Desk Top Publishing (DTP) & Multimedia Task. Unit 3 focuses on the Use and Impact of ICT and in Unit 4 you analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate a solution to a problem of your choice requiring the use of a relational database.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Penglais students will be entered for AS Level and decide at the end of AS whether to continue to A level.

AS Unit 1 24% (Information Systems) Written Paper

AS Unit 2 16% (Presenting Information)

A2 Unit 3 36% (Use and Impact of ICT) Written Paper

A2 Unit 4 24% (Relational Databases)

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

Visits to the local university department.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU?

This subject has been developed for students who wish to progress to higher education or to the world of work, where understanding how ICT can be used in society and organisations, and the implications of its use, will be a valuable asset.

If you have a really technical interest in ICT, you could work for a bank or corporation helping to design systems which transfer information from a database to a terminal. But if you are more interested in the user interface, you could work in advertising or for a handset manufacturer. Information is everywhere, so ICT is a sound career move.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of C grade in the subject at GCSE.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Mr A Vaughan, Subject Leader ICT,
(AMV@penglAIS.org.uk) A8

'The science of today is the technology of tomorrow.' -
Edward Teller

Mandarin

(Cambridge Pre-U Certificate)

The Cambridge Pre-U Mandarin Chinese syllabus equips learners who are learning Mandarin Chinese as a foreign language with the skills to survive in a Chinese environment. The syllabus also provides a stepping stone for university courses in Chinese and Chinese studies. As well as allowing learners to develop their language skills, the syllabus fosters an awareness of Chinese culture and history.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

If you enjoy language, by further study for the Cambridge Pre-U you will develop oral fluency and conversational ability by means of stimulating and absorbing topics. It will at the same time extend written and grammar skills

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The study areas will cover core topics of family; youth; education; media; work and leisure; equality of opportunity. Cultural and historic aspects will be studied in English and will cover the founding of the People's Republic of China; Chinese economic trends since 1978; emerging China – its population, environment and population migration. There will be further opportunities to study literature and/ or a film. For this section there is a choice of fiction such as *Chronicle of a Blood Merchant*, Yu Hua (trans. Andrew Jones, First Anchor Books) *The Song of Everlasting Sorrow: A Novel of Shanghai*, Wang Anyi (trans. Michael Berry, Weatherhead Books on Asia) or the film 'The Blue Kite' Tian Zhuangzhuang.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1-Speaking (20 mins): Externally assessed Oral. One topic will be prepared in advance by the student (20% exam marks)

Paper 2-Listening, Reading and Translation (2h 30m) Externally set and marked written paper (30% exam marks)

Paper 3-Writing and Usage (2h 25): Externally set and marked written paper (25% exam marks)

Paper 4-Chinese Culture written in English (2h 30m): Externally set and marked written paper (25% exam marks)

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

There will be language and cultural workshops given by specialist teachers from China. Also opportunities to visit museums and galleries as organized by the Confucius Institute.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU?

A languages or joint language degree at university, a wide range of careers in international companies and foreign travel, teaching, journalism, the arts, finance and almost any field. The course would enable pupils to take the KS2/ KS3 test, which qualifies students to take up studies in an area of their choice at a University in China.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

AQA GCSE Level 4

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Mrs L Huws / Miss Chai Zhi, Mandarin Teachers MFL Dept (luh@penglais.org.uk) E4 or Mrs Lucy Carver Head of Faculty (LAC@ penglais.org.uk) E7

“Language is the sound of our humanity”.

Maths

A Level Mathematics is a challenge awaiting all gifted and able mathematicians. It will equip you with the knowledge and understanding of a wide variety of mathematical processes and skills. A Level Mathematics will join the dots between the concepts studied at KS4 and help you to develop a logical mind.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

The course suits students who enjoy the challenge of analysing and solving problems and the satisfaction and confidence gained from achieving the correct answer. It would especially suit students considering careers in science, psychology, medicine, accountancy, architecture, business and engineering.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The Mathematics course covers Pure Mathematics and Applied Mathematics (Mechanics and Statistics). Pure Mathematics extends GCSE algebra and trigonometry and includes new topics such as calculus and numerical methods. Statistics is about the analysis and interpretation of data in order to make conclusions about it. Mechanics is the maths behind forces and motion.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Assessment objective weightings are shown below as % of the full A Level:

AS Pure Mathematics 25% Exam

AS Applied Maths (Mechanics and Statistics) 15% Exam

A2 Pure Mathematics 35% Exam

A2 Applied Maths (Mechanics and Statistics) 25% Exam

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

You will have the opportunity to compete in the UKMT senior mathematics challenge, university mathematics taster sessions and master classes.

WHERE IT MIGHT LEAD YOU?

A Level Mathematics is required for higher education courses in Mathematics, Science, Economics, and Engineering and is highly regarded by the majority of employers and universities because of the demands it makes and the skills it develops. A survey found that an A Level in Mathematics in itself led to salaries 8% higher than those of young people with otherwise similar backgrounds, by their mid-twenties.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade B or above in Mathematics and Numeracy GCSEs.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Dr J Devlin, Leader of Maths Faculty, (JJJ@penglais.org.uk) B5

“The satisfaction gained from mastering a problem in Mathematics is worth all the frustrations and difficulties you first feel when faced with the problem.”

Further Maths

Further Mathematics is a second A Level Mathematics which both broadens and deepens the mathematics covered in A Level Mathematics. Students taking Further Mathematics will find it a rewarding, stimulating, and empowering experience. Further Mathematics provides a chance to explore new and more sophisticated mathematical concepts. It also enables students to distinguish themselves as able mathematicians in the university and employment market and it makes the transition to a mathematics-rich university course easier.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

This course would suit students who love Mathematics for its own sake. It is also increasingly recommended for students going on to study physics or engineering at university. You should be the type of student who enjoys seeing links between mathematical concepts and would happily read a mathematics book for pleasure. Any student capable of passing an A Level in Mathematics should also be able to pass AS/ A2 Level Further Mathematics.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

In addition to the topics that you will study with A Level you will begin a journey that includes imaginary numbers, matrices and differential equations. You will take a combination of further pure modules and applied modules in AS Level. In A2 Level you will focus on Pure Mathematics and Mechanics.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Assessment objective weightings are shown below as % of the full A Level:

AS Further Pure Maths 13 1/3% Exam

AS Further Statistics 13 1/3% Exam

AS Further Mechanics 13 1/3% Exam

A2 Further Pure Maths 35% Exam

A2 Further Mechanics 25% Exam

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

As with A Level Mathematics you could compete in the UKMT senior mathematics challenge, university mathematics taster sessions and master classes.

WHERE IT MIGHT LEAD YOU?

Students who study Further Mathematics are usually looking to apply to get on to a highly mathematical course at university, such as engineering, physics, or mathematics itself. Some prestigious university courses will only accept students with Further Mathematics qualifications. It is worth checking university prospectuses as the value given to this subject will differ according to the institution.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade B or above in Mathematics and Numeracy GCSEs.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE

Dr J Devlin, Leader of Maths Faculty, (JJD@penglais.org.uk) B5

“Mathematics is the door and key to the sciences” Roger Bacon

Media Studies

Our world today is driven by a combination of information and entertainment values. There has been an explosion of different means of communication in print, television and online. This market for information is extremely competitive. Media is the study of a range of contemporary topics, where you will explore key concepts while looking closely at production processes and technologies.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

You will enjoy this if you like to be both creative and practical. You will be developing a critical and analytical approach to media and media production. It is important that you are interested in a range of media products and how they shape the world we live in. You will become increasingly confident with digital technologies such as cameras and media software, so you should have an interest in developing these skills. You will also need to be an independent researcher as you will investigate TV dramas, film, music, radio, video games and magazines.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Broadcasting (television, radio, film, radio news/current affairs programmes and audio/ visual promotional material such as music videos); on line media (websites, blogs, podcasts, music/film downloads and video games); and print (newspapers, magazines, advertising and marketing texts including promotional materials). Over the two years you will investigate a wide range of media texts, acquire an understanding of media languages and conventions and the ways these are used. You will complete at least two major practical production projects.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

AS: Unit 1: Investigating the Media 24% (Selling Images, Advertising and Music Video, News in the Online Age, Film Industries – from Wales to Hollywood) - Written examination.

AS: Unit 2: Creating a Media Production 16% (audio-visual, print, online) Non-exam assessment: internally assessed and externally moderated by WJEC.

A2 Unit 3: Media in the Global Age (Television in the Global Age, Magazines: Mainstream and Alternative Media, Media in the Digital Age - Video Games) 36% - Written examination.

A2 Unit 4: Creating a Cross-Media Production 24% (research • development, production, critical analysis) Non-exam assessment: internally assessed and externally moderated by WJEC.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Film premieres, visiting speakers, visits to media institutions, as well as reporting and filming opportunities for the school and local community.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU?

Media communication is now a feature of almost any sector. It is valued by a wide range of universities which offer degrees in creative media, marketing, public relations, advertising, business and the arts.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of C grade in the subject at GCSE.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Mrs Porter, Subject Leader of Media Studies (KSP@penglais.org.uk) E8 or Mr Stott (BAS@penglais.org.uk) E1

A former student said, 'Media Studies is an enjoyable and exciting subject as it allows you to see that everything in the Media is done for a reason, and gives an insight into the different approaches a producer must take in order to construct a successful text.'

Music

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

If you are an enthusiast of music, you will enjoy this course! It is a rigorous, academic and in-depth study of the subject – but with room for creativity. Anyone who enjoys the subject would be welcome.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

At AS level, you will study the development of the Western Classical Tradition. You will also study a piece of music in detail (known as a “set work”), as well as looking at a variety of music through an “area of study”. Optional strands include musical theatre (Porter, Rogers and Hammerstein, Lloyd Webber etc), rock and pop or jazz music (1940-1965).

At A2 level, you will study another ‘set work’ in detail, as well as looking in detail at music of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Optional strands include studying topics as diverse as impressionism, chamber music in Wales, American music theatre or jazz music. Alongside these, you will also complete two compositions – as well as rehearsing for your performances (see below).

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

AS 40% of overall qualification

AS Unit 1: Performance (minimum of two pieces as a soloist or ensemble) – 12%

AS Unit 2: Composition (two compositions) – 12%

AS Unit 3: Appraisal (written exam) – 16%

A2 60% of overall qualification - Two routes to take

A2 Unit 4 Performing:

- Route A: Perform 3 pieces - 22%

- Route B: Perform 2 pieces - 14%

A2 Unit 5 Composing:

- Route A: Two Compositions - 14%

- Route B: Three Compositions - 22%

A2 Unit 6: Appraisal (written exam) - 24%

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

There are plenty! Orchestra, wind band, ‘Band Pres Penglais’, choir, chamber choir, jazz band(s), various cover bands, chamber orchestra, acoustic trios, a (growing) big band, string orchestra, three percussion ensembles, a

‘Rock Choir’, folk sessions, a string quartet, an ‘A Capella’ choir, various rock bands.... We have them all at Penglais. If you want to be involved, you will be welcomed with open arms. If you can’t see something you want (but want to start it), we will find a way to support you, to make it happen!

We also regularly attend concerts at the nearby Arts Centre (often with free or reduced tickets for KS5 music students), enjoying the wealth of talent which visits the town to perform. This includes the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, which visits a number of times each year.

We also work closely with Ceredigion County Music Service, with whom there are plenty of opportunities to get involved as a musician.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU?

Possibly not where you think! Music is both an academic and a creative subject. Scientific studies show that studying music demonstrates the ability to be disciplined, whilst also being creative. This is attractive to both universities and employers - many medics, doctors, engineers and more have enjoyed A Level music (not as a ‘creative subject’, but as an intensive, rigorous and enjoyable course in its own right).

Of course, you may want to carry on studying the subject – and end up at a conservatoire, university or music college (amongst the myriad of other opportunities open to music students). Where will it take you?

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of C grade in the subject at GCSE.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Mr Budd, Subject Leader Music (p.budd@penglais.org.uk)
D1

“Music is the mediator between the life of the senses and the spirit” Beethoven

Physical Education

The WJEC AS and A2 level course in physical education is extremely diverse. It allows you to enhance your own sporting performance by exploring the psychological, physiological and biomechanical foundations of sport and develop an understanding of how these are important in optimising performance. The topics will increase your interest in how our bodies push themselves to their physical peak, and gain an understanding of what gives Olympic Champions their psychological edge over their competitors. It will intrigue you into thinking why nearly one billion people would watch a single sporting event and understanding the increasing role technology plays in today's physical activity and sport.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

To study PE, you need to be participating at a high level in one sport. The course is fast paced and diverse and covers many subject areas which you will need to apply to sport and physical activity. You will also need to be confident in coaching a session or officiating a competitive game, as this is also a part of the assessment.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

During the A Level you will study 6 theoretical modules: applied anatomy and physiology, biomechanical movement, skill acquisition, sport psychology, sport and society and the role of technology in physical activity in sport.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED

These assessment objectives are applicable to the specification as a whole. Assessment objectives are shown below as percentages of the full A Level.

AS Unit 1: 24 % (Written Examination: 1 and 3/4 hours)
AS Unit 2: 12% (Practical - Performance in one activity as a player and as a coach or official)
AS Coursework : 4% (Personal Performance Profile)
A2 Unit 3: 36% (Written examination: 2 hours)
A2 Unit 4: 12% (Practical performance in one activity as a player/performer, coach or official)
A2 Coursework:12% (Investigative Research)

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

A visit to Aberystwyth University Sport Science department to carry out research related to the course.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU?

PE could lead you on to one of many sports-related degree courses that are available. A Level PE also enables you to grasp a wide range of skills from research to debate. It can also help to develop an organised well-rounded student to cope with the demands of university life. There are many employment opportunities which include coaching, teaching, biomechanics, sports rehabilitation, officiating, sports technology development, sports management and the media.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of C grade in the subject at GCSE.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Mrs C Phillips, Subject leader P.E, (CAP@penglais.org.uk)
PE Office

“Never let the fear of striking out, keep you from playing the game” Babe Ruth

Physics

Physics is a fundamental subject that underpins the whole of science, and a good understanding of its principles is essential in our increasingly technological world. Physics is a challenging but exciting subject that has the power to inspire every student.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

Physics suits students who have enjoyed studying science and mathematics at KS4. It is for those who would like to develop a detailed understanding of how the universe works and then use that understanding to shape our future.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The Physics A Level is split up into five modules, which will allow clear progression pathways, from GCSE to AS/A Level, through to higher education. Each module covers a particular aspect of physics, so that you will be able to build on your knowledge of the laws of physics and apply your understanding to areas from sub atomic particles to the entire Universe.

The AS focuses on the physics of: Mechanics, Waves, Energy, Forces, Stars, Circuits, Particle Interactions and Photons and the subjects of superconductivity, leptons and quarks, the photoelectric effect and LASERS.

The A2 focuses on Circular Motion, Thermal Physics, Radioactivity and Nuclear physics, Capacitance, Electrostatic, Gravitational and Magnetic fields. You will learn about Einstein's famous $E=mc^2$ equation, dark matter and extra solar planets as well as how particle accelerators such as the synchrotron at CERN work. The A2 course also includes a practical examination to assess your practical skills.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The AS Level is assessed through two written exams at the end of Year 12 and the A2 through 3 written and one practical exam at the end of Year 13.

AS Unit 1 20% Motion, Energy and Matter

AS Unit 2 20% Electricity and Light

A2 Unit 3 25% Oscillations and Nuclei

A2 Unit 4 25% Fields and Options

A2 Unit 5 10% Practical examination and written analysis tasks

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Previous Physics students have had the opportunity to spend two days in The Physics Department at Aberystwyth University where they have carried out physics investigations, attended lectures and gained experience of university studies.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU?

Physics is highly regarded by universities and employers. It can lead to roles in scientific research, as well as a range of careers in areas such as law; finance; astronomy; engineering; architecture; medicine; communications and transport; music, theatre, film, and television; multimedia design and development; the environmental and energy sectors; journalism; and education.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade BB or above is required in Double Science and a B in Maths. It is recommended that Maths is followed at AS Level.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Mr S R Jones, Subject Leader Physics, (SRJ@penglais.org.uk) C3

“Physics provides our most powerful means of understanding and explaining the universe, and tells us inspiring stories of human imagination and courage”

Product Design

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

The course enables learners to identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions, and make and test prototypes. Learners should acquire subject knowledge in design and technology, including how a product can be developed through the stages of prototyping, realisation and commercial manufacture. Learners should consider small and large commercial / manufacturing contexts and gain an insight into design and technology activity in the creative industries.

WHO WILL IT SUIT?

This course is suitable for students who are creative, hard-working, well organised and have good independent learning skills. It is preferable for those students to have previously studied design at GCSE but not essential as long as the student is passionate about design and has transferable skills from other subjects previously studied.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Students will study a range of topics : How manufactured products typically involve multiple materials, processes and techniques that designers need to be able to discriminate between them; the requirements for product design, development and manufacture; appropriate use of digital technologies; aesthetics; ergonomics and anthropometrics; design for manufacturing and the main features of manufacturing industries; the regulatory and legislative framework for health and safety and safe working practices; the use of feasibility studies on the practicability of proposed solutions to problems; how to achieve an optimum use of materials and components; the implications of intellectual property; the role of marketing, enterprise, innovation and collaboration in

the development of products and in-depth technical principles specifically for Product Design.

HOW WILL IT BE ASSESSED?

Product Design students will be entered for AS Level and decide at the end of AS whether to continue to A Level.

AS Unit 1: 20% Written examination: 2 hours

AS Unit 2: Design and make task 20% Non-exam assessment: approximately 40 hours

A2 Unit 3: 30% Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes

A2 Unit 4: Design and make project 30% Non-exam assessment: approximately 60 hours

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

Students who create the most innovative projects have the opportunity to be entered for the WJEC innovation awards.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU?

There are many opportunities that stem from studying Product Design at A level. Careers in product design, product design engineering, marketing, business, and graphic design are examples. In recent years we have seen students be accepted and be successful on the UK's leading design degree courses and have many past students who now have careers in the design industry.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of C grade in the subject at GCSE.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Mr Evans, Design and Technology subject leader and Head of Creative & PE Faculty (jme1@penglais.org.uk)
D4

"I was always excited about going to design lessons, simply because I could be myself and create my ideas, things that nobody else thought of. Creativity is not art, it's not design, it's accepting that you think differently to what some may call 'the norm' or 'the proper way'; it's the skill set to solve problems in a way that hasn't been done before"

Dave Griffiths (past Penglais student) Designer at Bleugg Creative

Psychology

Psychology explores reasons for behaviour, so to do this subject well you will need to be curious about the actions of people and enjoy problem-solving. You will also need to be a skilled reader and a competent writer. There are different approaches in psychology, most of which have an empirical basis, therefore you will need to learn key research skills: how data are gathered, analysed, evaluated and used to provide an evidence base for our understanding of human behaviour.

WHO WILL IT SUIT?

It will suit those who are keen to learn something new and challenging at AS level. It will draw on your learning from subjects studied earlier in your schooling. It will integrate these experiences and help you shape that learning into something completely new. It will suit the inquisitive, the curious and those who, when reading a novel, are fascinated by the motivations of the characters. It will suit those who are keen followers of current affairs and want to understand the real motivations behind a terrorist action; why Britain chose Brexit; why we have escalating levels of mental illness in the UK; why random acid attacks have spread in London; why suicide is the leading cause of death in men under the age of 45.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

You will be thrown straight into the study of what makes us human by exploring the diverse routes psychologists have taken. You will explore the wonderful, dynamic interaction between nature and nurture, whether we really have free will, or whether we are programmed to behave in certain ways from the start. What influences shape our being? To what extent does our sex and culture shape our actions? Finally, we will reflect on the positive approach. Whilst maintaining an empirical approach, positive psychologists have turned their attention from abnormality to look instead at what makes people happy.

At A2 level, you will look at the myriad causes and treatments available for serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia. We explore the complex causes of addiction, how we can defend ourselves and others from its poisonous threat and embrace the challenges of life, being, living in 21st century Britain, instead of seeking to escape them. Stress can be a precursor to serious mental health problems, therefore it is a key area of study at A2.

We explore what we mean by 'stress' and its physiological and psychological impact. We consider how we can build resilience, so that we are ready, prepared and able to cope with it.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

AS Unit 1 Past to present: 20% - 1 hour and 30 minutes, written examination.

AS Unit 2 Using Psychological concepts: 20% - 1 hour and 30 minutes, written examination

A2 Unit 3 Psychological implications in the real world 40% - 2 hours and 30 minutes

A2 Unit 4 Psychology; Applied Research Methods 20% - 1 hour and 30 minutes

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Students will have the opportunity to attend a UK A Level conference during the course of their A level. They may also be involved in the Festival of Social Science and local psychology events. There will be opportunities to enter national essay writing competitions and hear presentations from ex-students who have studied psychology at university.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU?

Psychology A Level will inform and maybe change the way you view yourself, others and life in general. Should you wish to pursue Psychology at university, the paths are endless. You can specialise in educational, forensic, occupational, counselling or sports psychology and follow careers in retail management, health, social services, nursing, law, journalism, politics or the criminal justice system.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade B is required in English GCSE and a grade C in Maths GCSE.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Mrs Trotter, Head of Social Sciences (ALT@penglais.org.uk) E5

"The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind." William James (1842-1910)

Spanish

The ability to communicate in a foreign language has never been more important and Spanish is the third most widely spoken language in the World. Studying languages at post-GCSE level develops communication skills, broadens horizons and enhances future employability.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

AS and A2 Level Spanish would suit students with an interest in languages. If you love languages, through higher level study you will develop your oral fluency and conversation skills through a range of stimulating and absorbing topics, while extending and consolidating your grammatical knowledge. Lessons are taught primarily in the target language and topic areas broaden your understanding of the Hispanic world both culturally and politically.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

At AS, the two main themes are: social issues and artistic culture. You will also perfect your grammatical understanding of the language and study the film; *Volver*, directed by Pedro Almodóvar (2006). As the director was a protagonist in the *Movida Madrileña*, a cultural renaissance that followed the death of Spanish dictator Francisco Franco, this allows us to debate the social issues that influenced his work.

At A2 Level, the core content is: *Los dos Españas* (post-civil war Spain- present day), Multiculturalism and Artistic culture. Needless to say, we consolidate all grammar and regularly complete reading and translation tasks extracted directly from the Spanish broad-sheet newspapers: *El País* and *El Mundo*. The literature element of this course involves studying the acclaimed novel; *Requiem por un campesino español* (R.Sender, 1953), which figures on several first year courses at university level.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

AS Unit 1: Speaking (12%) 48 marks

AS Unit 2: Listening, reading, translation, writing (28%) 84 marks

A2 Unit 3: speaking on independent research project (18%) 72 marks

A2 Unit 4: Listening, reading, translation (30%) 100 marks

A2 Unit 5: Critical response in writing (12%) 40 marks

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Hispanic films at the WOW Film festival at Aberystwyth Arts Centre. As lead school for MFL in ERW, we are invited to attend exhibitions and conferences put on by Aberystwyth, Cardiff, Swansea and Oxford Universities. There is also an annual trip to Spain where students attend a full-immersion Spanish Language course.

WHERE IT MIGHT LEAD YOU:

A languages or joint language degree at university, a wide range of careers in international companies and foreign travel, teaching, journalism, the arts and finance. In this global job's market, post-GCSE language study can lead to work in almost any field. The truth is, language skills are in short supply.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of C grade in the subject at GCSE.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Mrs L Carver, Leader of Languages Faculty, MFL (lac@penglais.org.uk) E7

Mientras se gana algo no se pierde nada. (Cervantes, 1560)

Sociology

Sociology is the study of human society, including its development, functions and organisation. It focuses on contemporary society and includes political theory and current events, viewed through the perspectives of pioneers of sociology, such as Marx, Durkheim, Weber, and more recent contributions from Giddens, Oakley, Firestone and Pakulski and Waters. All provide explanations for human behaviour within a social context.

Is the UK an ordered, harmonious society or a society in conflict? Are social divisions along the lines of class, gender, ethnicity, locality and age an inevitable part of a meritocratic system, or do they reflect oppression and domination? Do we live in a meritocratic society? To what extent does the experience of ill-health and early mortality in the UK reflect social divisions? These are all questions considered by sociologists and you will study these issues.

The course will help you to develop reflective, critical thinking and analytic and evaluation skills. What is certain is that once you embark on the course, you will never think about society, your place within it, or the place of others - familiar and unfamiliar to you - in the same way again.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

Anyone who likes to think, who is open to ideas, likes to explore patterns in data and to analyse them and who enjoys critical evaluation. Enjoyment of reading and writing is advantageous, as reading the news and keeping up-to-date with political developments is important for those following the course. The subject fits well with other social science subjects, such as Psychology, and Health and Social Care and will help support learning in those areas.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Sociology A level is divided into a total of four units, two AS unit and two A2 units. The AS units include the study of the way in which people acquire culture, how it is transmitted, the socialisation process and the acquisition of identity. This is followed by study of the family and households. The second unit focuses on sociological enquiry and the sociology of education, viewed from a range of theoretical perspectives. At A2 level, in a third

unit, students explore issues of power and control in society in relation to health and disability. Students also look further into methods of sociological enquiry at this stage and learn to design, justify and evaluate sociological research. The final component, SY4 focuses on issues of social inequality that emerge from the latest government statistics relating to social class, gender, ethnicity, age and nation.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

AS Unit 1 – Acquiring Culture: written examination -15%

AS Unit 2 - Understanding Society and Methods of Sociological Enquiry: written examination – 25%

AS Unit 3 – Power and Control: 2 hours – 25%

AS Unit 4 – Social Inequality and Applied Methods of Sociological Enquiry: 2 hours fifteen minutes – 35%

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Students are also provided with opportunities and support to enter annual Sociology A level competitions run by the ESRC and the British Sociological Society. Students will also be given the opportunity to attend an A level Conference during the course of their study. At a local level ex-students will explain how sociology has shaped their lives.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU?

Students who study often then pursue careers in social work, social policy, politics, teaching, research work, lecturing, community development work, law (criminal, corporate, and family law), nursing, probation work, journalism, national and international charity work.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade C or above in English language GCSE.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Mrs A. Trotter, Leader of Social Sciences (ALT@penglais.org.uk) E5.

'The function of sociology, as of every science, is to reveal that which is hidden'. Pierre Bourdieu

Travel & Tourism

The main purpose of this course is to allow you to develop the core specialist knowledge, understanding and skills required by the travel and tourism sector. This includes customer service, factors that affect tourism to and within the UK, the component industries that make up the sector and the different types of organisations operating in the travel and tourism business environment.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

Do you love travel? Did you know that you could make a career out of it in the dynamic, diverse and expanding Travel & Tourism industry? Memories of travel can last a lifetime and all travellers need the help of those who work in the Travel and Tourism industry to ensure their trips run smoothly. If you enjoy learning through practical, work-related activities and completing assignments based on realistic workplace situations, then the Travel and Tourism course is for you.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Travel and Tourism provides you with a high level of understanding of many areas of the travel and tourism industry. The units studied will focus on many aspects and functions of the tourism industry and those completing the course will have a high level of knowledge about how this industry works. As a vocational course, you will also develop many skills, including time management, independent working and organisational skills.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

There is no exam in BTEC Travel and Tourism. You will be assessed through coursework. Six units have to be completed for the full Subsidiary Diploma.

Unit 1 Investigating the Travel and Tourism Sector

Unit 2 The Business of Travel and Tourism

Unit 3 The UK as a Destination

Unit 4 Customer Service in Travel and Tourism

Unit 5 Long Haul Travel Destinations

In Year 13, you select Unit 6 from a list of options.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

There may be occasions where guest speakers attend your lessons.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU?

Travel and Tourism will allow you to develop the skills of innovation, teamwork, problem solving, communication and evaluation. These are the skills that are essential to study, training and employment and are the skills that employers are constantly looking for in staff. A BTEC in Travel and Tourism can lead to employment in a variety of sectors in the tourism industry from retail sales and marketing, to holiday representatives and cabin crew.

Alternatively you could apply to university to study for a degree. You will be well prepared to study at university. A BTEC provides you with UCAS points equivalent to an A Level. Whatever you decide to do next, a BTEC in Travel and Tourism will keep your options open.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

No further entry requirement is needed.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Mrs Bentley, Learning Leader Travel and Tourism (RJB@penglais.org.uk) F2

“There are no shortcuts to any place worth going.” ~ Beverly Sills

Welsh Second Language

The ability to communicate in Welsh has never been more important. With employability now being highly competitive, the ability to converse, read and write in Welsh is a huge advantage. Studying languages at post-GCSE level also develops communication skills and broadens horizons. Employers consistently rank a potential employee's skills in Welsh as among the most desirable in an ever-competitive national jobs market especially within the Teaching, Public Service and Care industries. Language skills are transferable and with them, the world is more accessible and life enriched.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT:

AS and A Level Welsh Second Language would suit students with a good GCSE grade in the language. Through higher level study you will develop your oral fluency and conversation skills through a range of stimulating and absorbing topics, while extending and consolidating your grammatical knowledge. Lessons are taught primarily in the target language and topic areas broaden your understanding of Welsh culture and history.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY:

Students will study a wide range of diverse and thought provoking subjects and texts including Welsh Drama, the History of Wales, Patagonia and its Welsh heritage, Welsh in Society, Social Media and Journalism to name but a few. There will also be units based on language and grammar where students will be expected to show their written linguistic skills in the form of corrections, short stories and translating. The course also includes studying Welsh literature and students will closely study a collection of poems and later on some short stories. Students will also be expected to research, collect and collate information to create packages on a chosen subject. They will need to discuss their package and also show their extended writing skills by including 3 extended writing pieces within this information package. All of the above material will prepare the students to write, discuss and debate the different aspects these subjects present.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED:

These assessment objectives are applicable to the specification as a whole. Assessment objective weightings are shown below as % of the full A Level:

AS Unit 1 15% (Use of the spoken language)

AS Unit 2 10% (Using written language)

28

AS Unit 3 15% (Responding to texts)

A2 Unit 4 25% (Use of the spoken language)

A2 Unit 5 15% (Responding to texts)

A2 Unit 6 20% (Responding to texts)

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

In addition to studying the variety of topics and themes as outlined in the programme of study, students are also encouraged to immerse themselves as much as possible in Welsh culture. Attending theatre productions, shows or concerts performed through the medium of Welsh, visiting exhibitions and lectures as well as reading local papers or regularly conversing with Welsh speakers not only contributes towards improving a Welsh ethos and developing speaking skills but also give the opportunity for students to discuss their experiences both in the speaking exam with the external assessor and in their assessed written portfolio. Such experiences could also serve as valuable tools for exam questions where students can relate their own personal responses to the task in hand. Students studying Welsh as an AS subject should also show the way for younger students and set an example by promoting not only the subject but the everyday use and benefits that the language affords them.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU:

As it becomes increasingly evident that having the ability to converse in more than one language is not only beneficial with regard to employment and social matters but also to cognitive development, a qualification in Welsh as an A level subject can open doors to a variety of opportunities. Further education provides a number of courses with regard to the further study of the language and literature and also to the history of Wales. In an area such as Ceredigion, the ability to converse in Welsh is a highly valued skill, particularly for those wanting to work in various sectors of trade, social care retail or tourism to name only a few.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of C grade in the subject at GCSE.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE:

Miss Hannah Parr, Learning Leader for Welsh Second Language (hfp@penglais.org.uk) A1
“*Cenedl heb iaith, cenedl heb galon*”

Welsh Baccalaureate

The Welsh Baccalaureate (WBQ) will encourage the learner to value skills development as a key aspect of education and life-long learning. Offering a learning experience relevant to the needs and demands of the workplace will develop learners' confidence, drive and initiative, preparing them to enter, succeed and progress in the world of work. Through the Welsh Baccalaureate learners will raise their skills levels and confidence, enabling and empowering them to take their place as responsible and active citizens within a diverse society.

WHO WOULD IT SUIT?

The course is suitable for all students as it offers opportunities to develop academic skills and employability skills alike. The Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC) helps you develop more complex skills, attributes and behaviours. It will provide experiences which support your other subjects and will enable you to be better prepared for your future destination, whether university, further training or employment.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The Welsh Baccalaureate provides you with the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding of society, the community in which we live and an awareness of global issues, events and perspectives. The Skills Challenge Certificate consists of four components which are followed by all learners: Individual Project, Enterprise and Employability Challenge, Global Citizenship Challenge, Community Challenge.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

There is no exam in the Skills Challenge Certificate. You will be assessed through controlled tasks and coursework.

Community Challenge 15% - A written proposal for a community activity and 30 hours of community engagement.

Global Challenge 15% - A written standpoint (1000 words), and participation in a group conference.

Enterprise and Employability Challenge 20% - Written Business proposal and Destination Passport

Individual Project 50% - 3000-5000 word investigation or development of an artefact

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

You will have the opportunity to be supported by the University of Aberystwyth when completing your Individual Project, and there may be occasions where guest speakers attend your lessons.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU?

The advanced skills within the SCC will help you succeed in your chosen area and help secure your first job. All Welsh Universities will include the Advanced SCC in their offers. Most other universities and most courses within universities also accept the SCC. Even the most competitive courses such as Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science may accept it as an alternative to an A level grade.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

No further entry requirement is needed.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE ADVICE?

Miss K Davis, Faculty Leader KS5 WBQ, Business and Travel & Tourism (KED@penglais.org.uk) F3

"I can only control myself, my actions, my work ethic, and my attitude." Ali Krieger

Enrichment & Leadership Opportunities

Alongside the subject qualifications on offer there will be a wide range of additional enrichment opportunities. These include: leadership programmes, student-led social activities, further study, artistic or sporting pursuits as well as the chance to take on roles of significant responsibility during your time in the sixth form.

Further Study

- WBQ individual investigation

Enrichment

- Drama Productions
- Music Performances
- Competitive Sports
- Recreational Sports
- Theatre Visits
- Public Speaking
- Debating Society
- Visiting Speakers
- Overseas study visits
- Amnesty International
- Megadive
- UN Conference
- CPR Training
- BBC Digital Journalism
- Llais Penglais
- Volunteering (National Library of Wales, Local Charities)
- Assemblies
- Current Affairs

Student leadership will be a strong element of your sixth form experience. We understand that you have ambition, initiative, motivation and passion. What we can offer are the opportunities, guidance and support to ensure you can maximise your potential. We want to help you become the next generation of creative and respected leaders of the future.

- Head Boy & Head Girl
- Sixth Form Leadership Team
- Members of the student council
- Sports Ambassadors
- Sports coaching
- Student led activities, societies, charity events
- Volunteering

Careers and University Support

Careers and university preparation will be a central thread throughout your sixth form experience.

There will be a wide range of opportunities for you to develop your knowledge about what you might like to do after sixth form including: visits to a range of universities; personalised coaching support for the Oxbridge application process; specialised preparation for applications to medicine, dentistry and veterinary studies; extensive support and guidance through the UCAS application process; interview technique and careers advice. All students will have the opportunity to visit a careers fair and individual career appointments can be arranged on request.

These can range from a SEREN conference on opportunities post 18 to two weeks experiencing further education in the USA. Visiting speakers during the year will inspire, challenge and encourage students to fulfil their aspirations.

SEREN students are fully involved in the Welsh Government opportunities available in Ceredigion. Unifrog is a careers and destinations platform available to Penglais students. It allows them to explore every university course,

Unifrog is a careers and destinations platform available to Penglais students. It allows them to explore every university course, apprenticeship and college course in the UK, in addition to other opportunities around the World.

Pastoral Support and Student Review

Penglais Sixth Form has a specialist team of 5 members of staff who are based in the Sixth Form Centre.

There is always a member of the Sixth Form team available to speak to students and offer advice if needed.

Each student is allocated a learning coach who will see the student at least once every half term. Students are seen much more frequently during the UCAS process.

Important Contacts

Penglais School telephone number/ Rhif ffôn yr ysgol:
01970 624811

Sixth Form Telephone Number: 01970 621163

Headteacher / Pennaeth:
Ms. M. Hughes

Head of the Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13): / Pennaeth y Chweched Dosbarth (Blynyddoedd 12 a 13) :
Mrs J. Elgood

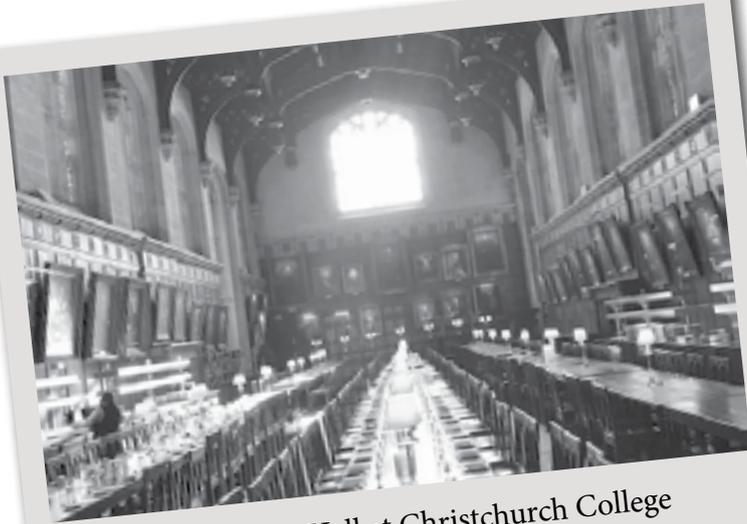
Sixth Form Manager / Rheolwr y Chweched Dosbarth :
Miss S. Thomas

Counsellor/ Cwnselydd:
Mrs. C. Maguire

Careers Education & Guidance Co-ordinator / Cydgysylltydd Addysg a Chyngor Gyrfaoedd yr
ysgol:
Mrs. F. Balchin

Careers Advice and Guidance Advisor (CWW) / Ymgynghorydd Cyngor a Chyfarwyddyd
Gyrfaoedd (CGG):
Mrs. S. Hutchings / Miss I. Jones

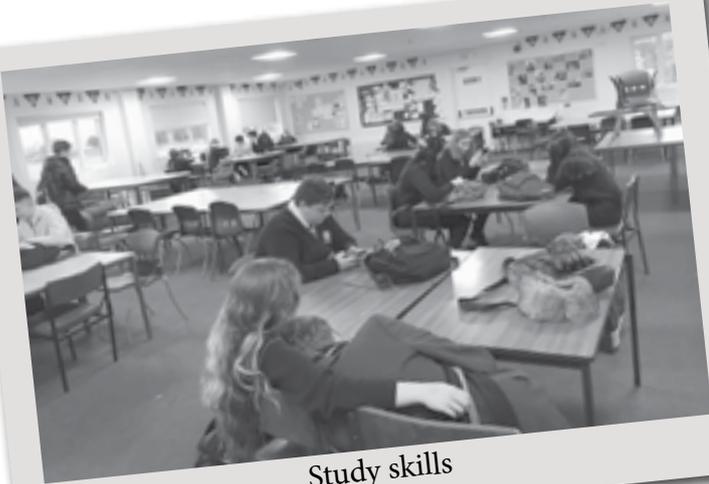
Careers specialist for students with Additional Learning Needs / Gyrfaoedd arbenigwr i blant gyda
anghenion arbennig :
Mrs. S. Gardner



Dining Hall at Christchurch College
(Harry Potter)



'Our Cup'
Environmentally aware



Study skills



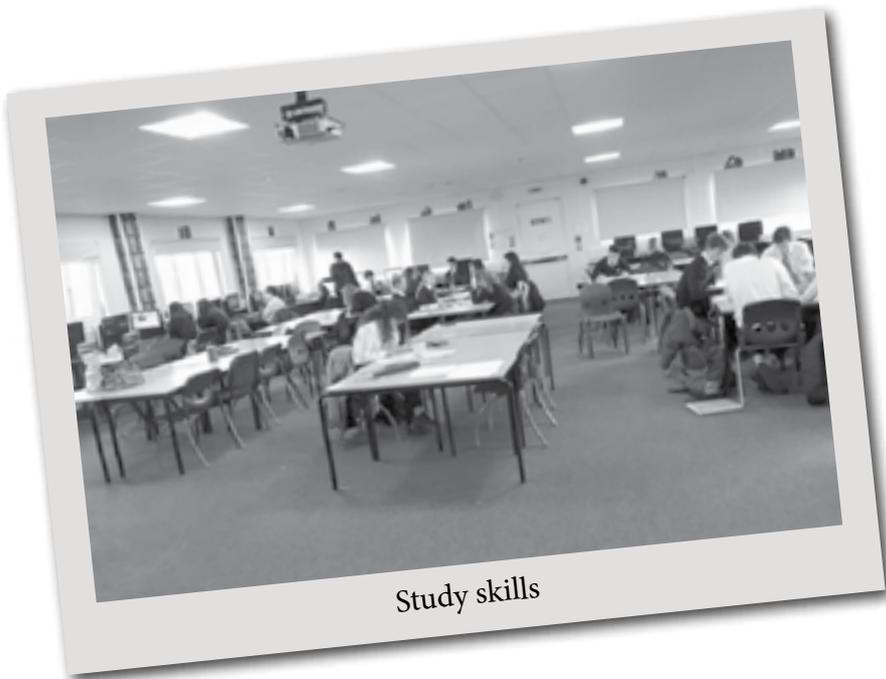
Christmas quiz



Raising money for charities



Radio 4
Any Questions?



Study skills



Raising funds for charity



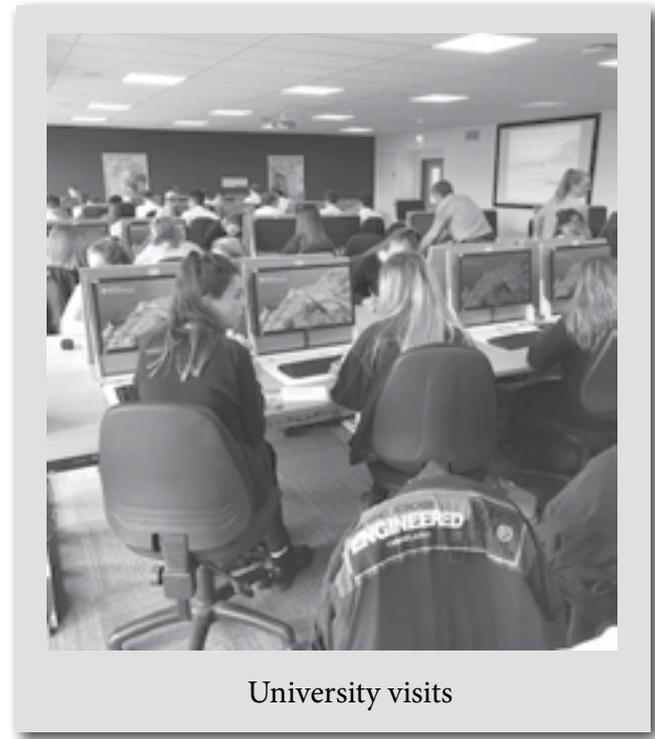
University visits



Radio 4
Any Questions?



Raising funds for charity



University visits



Raising money for charities



Leadership skills



Awards for excellent achievement



Music Performances



Supporting Penglais PTA



BBC Digital Literary Workshop



Debate Group



Radio Debate 'Hawl i Holi'



Soak the Sixth Former for Children in Need



Study Sessions



Designated building for the Sixth Form



Non Contact Lessons