



2024-2026



**YSGOL
PENGLAIS
SCHOOL**

SIXTH FORM

INFORMATION AND OPTIONS BOOKLET

LLYFRYN GWYBODAETH AC OPSIYNNAU

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Dear Student,

Firstly, thank you for considering us for your post-sixteen education. The courses you choose will be the courses you study in our Sixth Form from September 2024 to Summer 2026. The next two years in Penglais are very important years in your education and we are proud to be able to offer a broad curriculum at Key Stage 5.

It is very important that you select your courses based on detailed advice and guidance from a variety of sources. Some of the courses in Key Stage 5 have not been offered at Key Stage 4, so it is very important you consider carefully. As you are aware your choices will also heavily influence your career and your pathways after you leave us. There are many pathways open to you once you have A Level qualifications and Level 3 BTECs, such as university, colleges, and apprenticeships.

Make sure you speak to the appropriate staff at the parents' evening on Thursday 1st February 2024. All of our teachers will be able to provide advice and guidance on appropriate choices for you. There is also a Careers Advisor based in school, and appointments can be made through Student Services or your Head of Year.

Please read the options sheet carefully, and hand in your completed sheet to your form tutor on **Monday 5th February 2024**. If you are coming from a different school, please send your completed form to Mr J Barnes, Sixth Form Manager, as soon as you have made your decision. His email address is Barnesj232@penglais.org.uk

The school reserves the right to change the options available, and this can be due to staffing or budget changes, as well as the numbers wishing to opt for a subject. The school may also need to run the options process twice, so please make sure you have a second option in mind for each box.

I would like to wish you well with your choices and hope you find our booklet informative.

Should you have any questions regarding the information in the booklet please do not hesitate to contact Mrs J Elgood, Head of Sixth form on ElgoodJ@penglais.org.uk or ring on 01970 624811.



Ms H G Leighton
Deputy Headteacher

School Information

Head teacher - **Ms M Hughes**

Deputy Head teacher - **Ms H Leighton**

Head of Sixth Form - **Mrs J Elgood**

Sixth Form Manager – **Mr J Barnes**

Careers Education and Guidance Co-ordinator - **Ms F Hill**

Careers Advice and Guidance Advisor (CWW) – **Angela Jones and Carwen Hughes-Jones**

Careers specialist for students in Resource Bases - **Mrs S Gardner**

The Sixth Form Team

Head of Sixth form
Sixth Form Manager
Attendance Officer
Learning Coach
Learning Coach
Learning Coach
UCAS Learning Coach
UCAS Learning Coach

Mrs J Elgood
Mr J Barnes
Mrs C Davies
Mr C Johannes
Miss H Yates
Mr H Bowman
Dr M Lewis
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General Information

Welcome to Penglais School

Penglais has much to offer young adults, and 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 contribute to society.

Penglais School's Vision: Striving for Excellence

Ysgol Penglais School is a happy, ambitious, diverse, and high achieving school where everyone is respected and valued. We are a strong, actively inclusive community where everyone cares for each other. By developing our independent skills and working with staff, families, and others in the community we will achieve and become our very best. The school is vibrant with students and staff co-operating, learning, thinking, and working hard. We empower students to take on challenges and recognise that is the key to individual growth. By developing confidence, resilience, bravery, independence and acceptance, our students will become responsible 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, confidence, and responsibility
- Embracing diversity and celebrating success
- Being proud and active citizens in our communities

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 enroll 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.

How many subjects will I study?

In Year 12 three or 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, careers, and university support.

Entry Requirements

The basic entry requirement to the Sixth Form is 5 GCSE's at C grade or above, ideally including English and Mathematics. It is possible to resit these, but the choice of subjects open to students will be limited.

Each subject may also have their own entry requirements to study that course. Please refer to the table on page 9 and the 'Entry requirements section' on the subject page for more details.

Enrichment and 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.

- 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 may 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. The list below are examples of some of the leadership roles we offer in the sixth form:

- Head Boy and 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

The Sixth Form Careers and University Support team are a very effective team of specialists who have helped Penglais students to gain offers from many of the top universities in the UK as well as internationally, when appropriate. However, irrespective of where you are applying, or the subject you wish to study after school, the team will help you to find the best fit for you, ensuring that you acquire the skills, knowledge and experience to find the right career path. 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, 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 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.

We use the VESPA system to structure Learning Coach meetings. The VESPA system focuses on five skills; vision, effort, systems, practice and attitude, that are important for non-cognitive development. We believe that having a vision, making a habit of effort, building effective systems, engaging in high stakes practice and having the correct attitude can be practised and learned. We aim to provide a non-judgemental environment where students can critically assess themselves, and experienced staff advise students and suggest intervention or coaching activities that are designed to help change student behaviours.

“Students who are success seekers are not bluffed by setback, poor performance, failure or academic adversity. They take the lesson to be learnt and move on.” Martin (2010)

Subject Entry Requirements

Subject	Entry requirements
Art, Craft & Design	C in Art GCSE
Biology	BB IN Science Double award or B in Biology GCSE B in Maths GCSE
Business	No entry Requirements
Chemistry	BB in Science Double award GCSE or B in Chemistry GCSE B in Maths or Numeracy GCSE
Drama & Theatre Studies	No entry requirements
English Literature	C in English Literature GCSE
French	C in French GCSE
Geography	C in Geography GCSE
Health & Social Care	C in English GCSE
History	C in History GCSE
ICT	C in ICT GCSE
Mathematics	B in Maths at higher tier
Further Mathematics	A in Maths at higher tier
Media Studies	No entry requirements
Music	C in Music GCSE or equivalent experience
Physical Education	B in Physical Education GCSE
Physics	BB in Science double award GCSE or B in Physics GCSE B in Maths GCSE AS level Maths to be taken, recommended to take full A level
Product Design	C in Product Design GCSE
Psychology	B in English GCSE C in Maths GCSE
Religious Studies	No entry requirements
Spanish	C in Spanish GCSE
Sociology	C in English GCSE C in Maths GCSE
Tourism	No entry requirements
Welsh Second Language	C in Welsh GCSE
Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales	No Entry requirements but assumed learners will have achieved qualifications to level 2 – Subject is required to be taken by all learners

Art, Craft and Design

Subject Leader

Mrs T Harper

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

Brenda Malikinon

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 un-endorsed 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, organized, motivated and passionate about the subject.

What you will 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 artwork 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 practicing 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

Biology

Subject Leader

Miss K Edwards

EdwardsK249@penglais.org.uk

"What can be more important than the science of life to any intelligent being who has the good fortune to be alive?"

Isaac Asimov

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 climate and on 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 and biodiversity loss.

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 Organization)
- 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 carry out local fieldwork at Castle Rocks and are offered the opportunity to attend various lectures and virtual conferences such as Protect Our Planet Day to gain insight into the work of real-life scientists.

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 in Double Science GCSE/grade B in Biology separate science GCSE plus grade B or above in Mathematics GCSE

Business

Subject Leader

Mrs R Bentley

BentleyR1@penglais.org.uk

'A business that makes nothing but money is a poor business'

Henry Ford

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. Cambridge Technical's 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 organizations that can exist.

How will you be assessed?

You will be assessed through coursework and examinations. Five units have to be completed for the Extended Certificate (equivalent to an A level).

Unit 1 The Business Environment – assessed by an external examination. In this unit you will develop an understanding of how and why businesses operate in the way they do. You will look at a range of different types of business and business structures, and explore how the ownership of a business and its objectives are interrelated.

Unit 2 Working in Business – assessed by an external examination. This unit will cover the skills and understanding needed to work effectively within a business environment. This includes arranging meetings, working with business documents, making payments, prioritising business activities and communicating with stakeholders.

Unit 4 Customer and communication – assessed by coursework. In this unit you will learn the purpose, methods and importance of communication in business and the suitability of different forms of communication for different situations. You will develop the skills that will help you create a rapport with customers and have the opportunity to practise and develop your business communication skills.

In Year 13, your teacher will select the fourth and fifth units you will study. This will be based on the interests of the group. These units will be assessed through coursework or external examination.

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 Cambridge Technical. 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

No further entry requirement is needed.

Chemistry

Subject Leader

Mr P Black

BlackP3@penglais.org.uk

"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

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 organize. The A-Level Chemistry course teaches you these essential life skills.

What will I 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 colors 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 requirements

A grade BB or above in Double Science GCSE/grade B in Chemistry separate science GCSE plus grade B or above in either GCSE mathematics or numeracy.

Drama and Theatre Studies

Subject Leader

Mr B Stott

StottB3@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

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 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 the afore mentioned 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.

How will you be assessed?

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 requirements

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

English Literature

Faculty Leader for English

Mrs J Davies

Daviesj2739@penglais.org.uk

"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

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 Grade C in the subject at GCSE.

French

Head of Modern Foreign Languages

Mrs H Evans

EvansH727@penglais.org.uk

“Our language is the reflection of ourselves. A language is an exact reflection of the character and growth of its speakers” by Cesar Chavez

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 marginalization, 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 (theatre, cinema, literature), 1945-1950: rebuilding and restructuring, repercussions for modern day France, Grammar and the novel *Kiffe Kiffe demain* (Faïza Guène, 2004).

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 language 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

Geography

Subject Leader

Mr D Johnson

JohnsonD26@penglais.org.uk

"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

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

Health and Social Care, and Childcare

Subject Leader

Ms N Jenkins

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

Florence Nightingale

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.

Who would it suit?

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.

What will you study?

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. The 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 Health and Well-being: examination unit; 20%
- UNIT 2: Supporting health, well-being, and resilience in Wales; non-examination unit (coursework); 20%
- UNIT 3: Theoretical Perspectives (child or adult behavior): examination unit; 30%
- UNIT 4: Supporting health, well-being, and resilience (child or adult development): non- examination unit (coursework); 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

It is not a requirement to have studied Health and social care at GCSE but it is required that you have a C in English GCSE

History

Subject Leader

Miss T Leighton

LeightonT3@penglais.org.uk

"Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it"

George Santayana

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, organizing 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, that resulted in the Peterloo Massacre.

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 how and why historical interpretations change

over time. You will have the opportunity to study **either** the origins of the Second World War **or** the impact of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

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

ICT

Faculty Leader for Science
and Digital Technology

Mr S Jones

JonesS512@penglais.org.uk

'The science of today is the technology of tomorrow'

Edward Teller

As the world continues to thrive in the digital age, the demand for professionals with computing skills has increased exponentially and the emergence of technology has made the computing industry a lucrative career pathway.

Who would it suit?

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

What will you study?

Learners study 2 mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Communication and Employability Skills for IT & Unit 2: Information Systems and a choice of optional units, including Unit 19: Spreadsheet Modelling

Then a further 2 units:

- Unit 23: Database Design
- Unit 27: Digital Graphics & Unit 43: Understanding social media for Business.

How will you be assessed?

The assessment objectives (Pass, Merit, Distinction) are applicable to the specification as a whole for each unit.

Enrichment opportunities

Visits to the local university department.

Where might it lead you?

The qualification gives learners transferable skills and knowledge which are valued in both higher education and the workplace and prepares them for a range of higher education courses and job roles. It will also enable access to an IT, Software, Web, or Telecoms Apprenticeship.

Entry requirements

There are no entry requirements for this qualification, but a GCSE in Digital Technology would be an advantage.

Mathematics

Faculty Leader of Mathematics

Dr J Devlin

DevlinJ@penglais.org.uk

"The only way to learn mathematics is to do mathematics"

Paul Halmos

A Level Mathematics is a challenge awaiting all those who enjoy mathematics. It will equip you with 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 Mathematics behind forces and motion and complements ideas studied in Physics.

How will you be assessed?

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

- AS Pure Mathematics 25% Exam
- AS Applied Mathematics 15% Exam
- A2 Pure Mathematics 35% Exam
- A2 Applied Mathematics 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 might it lead you to?

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.

Entry requirements

A grade B or above in Mathematics at higher tier.

Further Mathematics

Faculty Leader of Maths

Dr J Devlin

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"Mathematics is the door and key to the sciences"

Roger Bacon

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 link between mathematical concepts and would happily read a mathematics book for pleasure.

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 Mathematics 13 1/3% Exam
- AS Further Statistics 13 1/3% Exam
- AS Further Mechanics 13 1/3% Exam
- A2 Further Pure Mathematics 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 might it lead you?

Most students who study Further Mathematics are 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 A or above in Mathematics at higher tier.

Media Studies

Subject Leader

Mrs K Porter

PorterK5@penglais.org.uk

'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.'

A former student

Our world today is driven by 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); online 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

No further entry requirement is needed.

Music

Subject Leader

Mrs R Rhys

RhysR6@penglais.org.uk

"Music can change the world"

Beethoven

At Penglais, we follow the WJEC A Level Music course; this is a broad, academic, and flexible curriculum that allows learners to develop as performers, composers, and musicologists. The course can lead to studying music at either a university or a conservatoire, as well as being a highly desirable subject for other courses at university level (such as law and medicine). In particular, A Level Music is highly regarded as an academic subject by universities; studying it demonstrates many transferable skills, and this is recognised by both universities and employers. Students also receive free instrumental or vocal tuition whilst they are studying the course.

Who would it suit?

Anyone who is an enthusiastic musician and is willing to learn. If you have any questions about your suitability for the course, do get in touch.

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?

Pupils studying AS and A Level Music at Penglais will receive free instrumental or vocal tuition whilst they are studying the A Level Music course. These lessons are delivered via experienced peripatetic teachers from Ceredigion County Music Service. At Key Stage 5 level, instrumental and vocal lessons are timetabled to be delivered during free lessons or study periods wherever possible.

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 covers 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 and various rock bands. We also run a programme called 'Talking Shop', specifically for GCSE and A level musicians. This involves a monthly programme of visiting professional musicians who deliver workshops and engage in Q&As with our GCSE and A level students. Previous participants include Dame Evelyn Glennie, Eric Whitacre and members of both the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Welsh National Opera. 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 (too numerous to mention) 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 – composing, music therapy, music tech, arts management...). Where will it take you?

Entry requirements

A minimum of C grade in the subject at GCSE, or equivalent experience; see Mr Budd for more details.

Physical Education

Subject Leader

Mrs C Phillips

PhillipsC69@penglais.org.uk

"Never let the fear of striking out, keep you from playing the game"

Babe Ruth

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 how these are important in optimizing 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 organized 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 B grade in the subject at GCSE

Physics

Faculty Leader for Physics

Mr S Jones

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"Physics is experience, arranged in economical order"

Ernst Mach

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 subatomic 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 will you be 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

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 or B in Physics Single GCSE and a B in Mathematics. It is required that Mathematics is taken at AS Level but is recommended to complete the full A level in Maths if planning on applying for a Physics related course at University.

Product Design

Faculty Leader of Creative

Mr J Evans

EvansJ892@penglais.org.uk

"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, Designer at Bleugg Creative (former Penglais student)

The WJCE GCE in Design and Technology offer 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 and 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 you 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 know have careers in the design industry.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of C grade in the subject at GCSE

Psychology

Subject Leader

Miss S Griffiths

GriffithsS85@penglais.org.uk

"The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind."

William James (1842-1910)

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 we have escalating levels of mental illness in the UK, why addiction is so pervasive in society and 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. According to Health and Safety at Work Executive, stress is responsible for over 11 million lost days at work. 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 are provided with opportunities to enter national, annual Psychology A level essay writing competitions. These are usually open to pupils in year 12.

Where might it lead to?

Psychology A Level will inform, 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 minimum of a grade 'B' is required in English GCSE and a grade C grade in Mathematics GCSE

Religious Studies

Subject Leader

Mrs J Jacques-Butterworth

Jacques-ButterworthJ5@penglais.org.uk

'Where knowledge ends, religion begins.'

Benjamin Disraeli

Religion and Philosophy is the philosophical examination of the themes and concepts involved in religious traditions as well as the broader philosophical task of reflecting on matters of religious significance including the nature of religion itself, alternative concepts of God or ultimate reality, and the religious significance of general features of the cosmos.

Religious Studies allows us to examine the issues that are at the core of our existence and make social comment through discussion. Discussion creates a stir in opinions and feelings, which allows for change to happen.

Who would it suit?

It would suit people who want to:

- Investigate ultimate questions such as " why does evil exist?" and " what is the purpose of life?"
- Study topics that explain the diversity of life and religion in the modern world
- Improve philosophical thinking skills and the ability to think outside of the box
- Understand contemporary ethical and religious issues such as medical ethics and religious fundamentalism
- Develop communication skills and learn to clearly express your views and increase your self-confidence.

Religious Studies complements other subjects:

- Philosophy - Religious questions are often deeply philosophical and can serve to improve the critical thinking skills necessary for philosophy.
- Psychology - Religious Studies promotes deeper thought and analysis of broader issues such as "Do humans have an in-built need for a divine being?"
- Science - Religious Studies often asks the 'why' questions and can provide an important perspective when considering the 'how' questions often asked in science.
- Art - An understanding of religious ideas, symbols and concepts is crucial to a good understanding of art.
- English - A knowledge of religious ideas, concepts and symbols is crucial to the study of literature.
- History - Religious Studies help to develop greater understanding of the religious issues behind important events in history.

What will you study?

5 units across two years. Units 1 and 2 at the end of year 12 and units 3, 4 and 5 at the end of year 13.

- **Unit 1: An Introduction to the Study of Religion**
Written examination: 1 hour 15 mins - 15% of qualification Buddhism
Covers the following religious themes: religious figures and sacred texts (part 1), religious concepts, religious life and religious practices that shape religious identity (part 1).
- **Unit 2: An Introduction to Religion and Ethics and the Philosophy of Religion**
Written examination: 1 hour 45 mins 25% of qualification.
Covers ethical thought (part 1), Aquinas' Natural Law, Fletcher's Situation Ethics and Utilitarianism, An Introduction to Philosophy of Religion, arguments for the existence of God – inductive, arguments for the, existence of God – deductive, challenges to religious belief (part 1) and religious experience (part 1).
- **Unit 3: A Study of Religion**
Written examination: 1 hour 30 mins 20% of qualification – Buddhism
Covers the following religious themes: religious figures and sacred texts (part 2), historical religious developments, social religious developments and religious practices that shape religious identity (part 2).
- **Unit 4: Religion and Ethics**
Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 20% of qualification
Covers ethical thought (part 1), Deontological ethics, Determination, Free Will
- **Unit 5: Philosophy of Religion**
Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 20% of qualification
Covers challenges to religious belief (part 2), religious experience (part 2), religious and belief (part 1 and 2).

How will you be assessed?

The course comprises of two written examinations per year which equate to 100% of the final mark.

Enrichment opportunities

Visits to places of worship, workshops with visiting practitioners, residential visits to London, amongst other opportunities.

Where might it lead you

Careers in (but not limited to): the arts, theatre, television, teaching, journalism, business ethics, arts therapy, media, social work, medicine, charity work, chaplaincy or the world of academia. Whichever career path you choose, the study of Religion gives you transferable skills that can be made use of in most careers.

Entry requirements

Students do not have to have studied GCSE Religious Studies to take A Level Religious Studies.

Spanish

Head of Modern Foreign Language

Mrs H Evans

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“Mientras se gana algo no se pierde nada”

Cervantes 1560

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 Almodovar (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 Espanas (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 Pais* and *El Mundo*. The literature element of this course involves studying the acclaimed novel; *Requiem por un campesino español* (R. Sender, 1953), which appears 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 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 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

Sociology

Subject Leader

Miss S Griffiths

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“The function of sociology as of every science, is to reveal that which is hidden”

Pierre Bourdieu

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 with a social context. Is the UK an ordered, harmonious society or a society in conflict? Are social division 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. Methods of sociological enquiry will be taught, and these are key skills for those who hope to continue their education after sixth form.

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. Sociological explanations of inequality, including Weberian, neo-Weberiana and New Right thinking, are analysed, evaluated, and linked to contemporary current affairs and social policy.

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.

Where might it lead you?

Students who study often the 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 minimum of C grade in English Language GCSE and a C grade in Mathematics

Travel and Tourism

Subject Leader

Mrs R Bentley

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"There are no shortcuts to any place worth going."

Beverly Sills

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 researching worldwide destinations, visitor attractions, marketing of Travel and Tourism organisations, 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 tourism industry? Memories of travel can last a lifetime and all travelers need the help of those who work in the 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 tourism course is for you.

What will you study?

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?

You will be assessed through coursework and examinations. Four units have to be completed for the BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate (equivalent to 1 A level).

- **Unit 1 The World of Travel and Tourism** – This mandatory unit gives you the opportunity to open up to the world of travel and tourism. You will be introduced to different types of travel and tourism and the diverse organisations that make up the industry. You will examine its scale, explore new innovations and consider the external factors that challenge its operations. This unit is taught in year 12 and it externally assessed with an exam.
- **Unit 2 Global Destinations** – This mandatory unit gives you the opportunity to broaden your knowledge of global destinations, perhaps in preparation for a career in the travel industry, or as leisure or business travellers in the future. You will make travel plans for customers with differing needs and make informed travel choices on where and how to travel. You will

understanding the many factors and trends that influence the appeal of global destinations and why popularity and appeal may change over time. This unit is taught in year 13 and assessed by exam.

- **Unit 3 Principles of Marketing in Travel and Tourism** – This is an internally assessed, mandatory unit taught in Year 12 that focuses on how successful marketing campaigns are developed for use by travel and tourism organisations to attract and engage customers. Marketing is a mix of creativity, customer service and enticing customers into making a purchase. You will be able to look at organisation’s customer service and marketing strategies before developing their own marketing plan for use by travel and tourism organisations.
- **Unit 9 Visitor Attractions** – Visitor attractions are playing an increasingly important role in the travel and tourism industry, as people have more disposable income and an increased amount of leisure time to spend it. With new markets and increasing wealth around the world, you will have the opportunity to identify and explore the types of visitor attractions available, and how they meet visitor needs and expectations. You will experience attractions first-hand and gain a full understanding of the operations within them. This is an internally assessed unit taught in year 13.

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 Level 3 Extended Certificate 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 for a degree. You will be well prepared to study at university. A BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism provides you with UCAS points equivalent to an A Level. Whatever you decide to do next, a Travel and Tourism qualification will keep your options open.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

No further entry requirement is needed.

Welsh Second Language

Subject Leader

Miss C Davies

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“Cenedl heb iaith, cenedl heb galon” – a Welsh proverb

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 with 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. If you are hoping to gain employment within Wales then gaining this AS/A level will set you apart from the crowd. 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)
- 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

Advanced Skills Bacalaureate Wales

Faulty Leader for WBQ and Business

Miss K Davis

DavisK3@penglais.org.uk

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

Ali Krieger

The Advanced Skills Bacalaureate Wales qualification is an exciting new Level 3 qualification awarded that supports learners to become effective, responsible, and active citizens ready to take their place in a sustainable global society and in the workplace. All learners

Who would it suit?

The qualification is primarily designed for learners aged 16-19 who are following a two-year course. It will normally be taken alongside other level 3 qualifications, such as a combination of A levels and/or vocational qualifications.

What will you study?

The Advanced Skills Bacalaureate Wales qualification is made up of three units referred to as Projects.

The Global Community Project supports learners to develop and demonstrate application of the Integral Skills whilst considering complex global issues and participating in local community activities (at least 15 hours) to promote citizenship in a sustainable world and Wales.

The Future Destination 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.

The Individual Project enables learners to develop and demonstrate application of the Integral Skills whilst planning, managing and conducting an independent research project (extended written project or artefact).

How will you be assessed?

Each Project is assessed through a series of tasks which require learners to demonstrate their application of planning and organisation, critical thinking and problem-solving, creativity and innovation and personal effectiveness. When completing their assessments learners will explore topics that are of relevance and interest to them within broadly defined themes linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda and Wales' Wellbeing Goals.

Assessment of the **Global Community Project** contributes 25% to the overall qualification grade and requires learners to:

- select and investigate a global issue of their choice
- make connections between the global issue they have researched and a local perspective
- plan and participate in a community action

Assessment of the **Future Destinations project** contributes 25% to the overall qualification grade and requires learners to:

- consider their skills, attributes, abilities and goals
- create a personal manifesto for their future
- collaborate with their peers to achieve a common goal

Assessment of the **Individual Project** contributes 50% to the overall qualification grade and requires learners to:

- explore a research topic of their choice
- produce and presenting a research outcome, which could include the production of an artefact
- evaluate their individual project

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 skills and behaviours developed through completion of the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales provides a suitable foundation for the study of a range of higher education courses, progression to the next level of vocational qualifications or employment.

Entry requirements

Whilst there are no formal entry requirements, it is reasonable to assume that many learners will have achieved qualifications equivalent to level 2 and will have developed skills in planning and organisation, critical thinking and problem-solving, creativity and innovation and personal effectiveness to this level. This qualification provides an opportunity to refine and develop these skills to a higher level.