



**Aberdare Community School**  
Ysgol Gymunedol Aberdâr

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@SixthFormACS



# Post-16

**Aberdare Community School**  
**Sixth Form Prospectus**



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## SIXTH FORM PASTORAL TEAM |



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WELCOME TO

# ABERDARE

SIXTH FORM!



Thank you for your interest in Aberdare Community School Sixth Form. Making the choice about where to continue your studies after year 11 is an important decision. It can often be quite complicated as there are so many options for you to consider.

We hope that you will be excited by what is available as outlined in this prospectus. As you will see, we have a well-developed curriculum with a wide range of academic and vocational subjects. With a Sixth Form capacity of over 300 pupils, we are able to organise learning in average class sizes of 15 students, which allows for greater individual guidance and direction. At Aberdare Community School, we have high expectations of all of our learners and aim for the highest standards possible. We are convinced that this is best achieved in an environment where students feel confident, secure and happy.

Most of our Sixth Form students are not new to our school, having chosen to continue their studies in an environment in which they are well known and valued. Students who come from other schools experience a warm welcome and quickly find themselves at home here. The Sixth Form is a vibrant community that prides itself on an inclusive and positive approach to personal development. Our expectations of our pupils are high and we look for prospective pupils who have good attendance, punctuality and behavior records, alongside a positive work ethic.

The pastoral and academic support provided for all learners is excellent. This combined with an Enrichment Program and a wide range of extra-curricular and social events makes Aberdare Community School an exciting and rewarding environment in which to continue your studies. Our aim is to encourage and support every learner to achieve his or her full potential.

I look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to our Sixth Form.

| Mrs C MORGANS  
HEADTEACHER

## WHY CHOOSE ABERDARE SIXTH FORM? |

At Aberdare Sixth Form, we are driven by creating unique learning experiences that deliver results for our students. After all, learning does not necessarily just take place in the classroom. We aspire to offer you a post-16 experience that shapes you for life outside of school. We offer a varied range of academic and vocational courses, mentoring, community work and other extra-curricular activities. Our A-Level and BTEC results are consistently high and demonstrate the excellent teaching and learning that exists at Post-16.

Pupils who wish to study in our sixth form traditionally need to gain at least 5 good GCSEs. The sixth form courses on offer run in partnership with our other partner secondary schools in the Cynon Valley and pupils are able to choose courses in these schools should they wish. Here at Aberdare Community School we offer many Level 3 courses for pupils to choose from, offered in our other partnership schools in Mountain Ash Comprehensive and St John the Baptist CIW High School. A free bus service operates between the schools on a regular basis, should pupils opt to study subjects at these schools.



### EXPECTATIONS |

The school day begins at 8.40am, with the last formal lesson ending at 3.00pm.

All pupils are allocated form groups and are expected to be in school for registration at the start of the day and to attend all their lessons. During form periods, important information is distributed to pupils and form tutors monitor attendance, academic progress and provide personal support for all pupils. Studying at Aberdare Community School Sixth Form is a full-time provision.

### RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE SIXTH FORM |

As well as privileges and benefits there are, as you might expect, certain responsibilities. These come as a natural and practical part of being a young adult learner.

Sixth Form students are expected to set a good example to the rest of the school. They are also expected to respond to requests for assistance from teachers, senior management or any member of the support staff.

### | SENIOR PREFECT TEAM

Sixth Form students represent the school. They are expected to show visitors around, attend some evening functions and act as guides to new pupils. Students appointed to the Sixth Form Committee must attend meetings regularly and frequently.

The Sixth Form Committee is appointed by a panel of governors and staff. The Committee consist of:

- Head Boy and Head Girl
- Senior Deputy Head Boy and Senior Deputy Head Girl
- Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl
- Senior Prefects

The Sixth Form Committee meet on a regular basis and form an important part of the Senedd and are responsible for organising sixth form events such as the school prom and various fundraising activities.



## SIXTH FORM FACILITIES |

Here at Aberdare Community School, the sixth form have access to a range of facilities exclusively available to them.

### SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM AND STUDY AREA |

Situated next to the library, Post-16 students are provided with a quiet study area for working, researching and revision, which includes a dedicated IT suite for the sole use of sixth form pupils.

Alternatively, there are many breakout areas located around the school allowing for individual or collaborative learning with both peers and teachers, together with internet access, electrical sockets and portable sound booths.



### SCHOOL FACILITIES |

Aberdare Community School's building contains state of the art facilities, providing pupils with access to high tech equipment, creating opportunities to refine your talents. The building cost around £50 million to build, and is built next to a sports centre with access to a swimming pool, running track and sports hall.

Within the building there are two MAC suites, a drama studio, over 5 computer suites, specialist technology classrooms and science laboratories. The school also features a university style lecture theatre, where all sixth form assemblies are held.



### LOCKERS |

Personal Lockers are available to hire on an annual basis for a cost of £5. These lockers are situated in the common room and are able to store all personal belongings, textbooks, exercise books, tablets & laptops.



### | SIXTH FORM INTERNET CAFÉ

All pupils in the sixth form have access to the internet café located next to the sixth form common room. This café is only accessible for staff and sixth form pupils and is open from 9am – 2.00pm.



## ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES |

Your time in sixth form can be a rewarding and enjoyable experience. How enjoyable it is, depends on your contribution. Our enrichment programme takes place every Wednesday afternoon. The programme of enrichment is designed to help students to develop skills that studying alone can't teach them.

Participating in our enrichment programme will enable you to:

- Engage in sporting activities to enhance your lifestyle
- Enhance your personal development
- Participate in clubs and forums to add to your hobbies and personal interests
- Enhance your personal knowledge and skills
- Add to your CV and improve your employment prospects

We believe our students will be provided with a range of activities that will truly enrich their experience with us.

### ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ON OFFER |

- Competitive Sports
- Individual Sports
- Enterprise and Innovation activities
- Unique programmes for high aspiring students such as the Seren Hub
- School Newsletter
- Fundraising activities
- Young Writers Group
- Debating Society
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Book Club
- Chess Club
- Photography Club
- Student Ambassadors
- Game Development Academy



## STUDENT AMBASSADORS |

This is an exciting role offering you the opportunity to volunteer during Open Evenings, Parents' Evenings, Primary school visits and Taster Days and Celebration Evenings. These could involve escorting visitors around the school, meeting and greeting prospective learners and their parents/carers, providing tours of the school and facilities. You will be expected to communicate your experiences with prospective learners and assisting your teachers during key events throughout the year.

This experience will benefit your CV and UCAS application. Being a student ambassador will enable you to share your student experience and gain invaluable skills in the process.

## | WELSH AND BILINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

We aim to promote the use of Welsh Language wherever possible. Aberdare Community School offers many opportunities for students and staff who want to practise, improve and use their Welsh skills both in the workplace and in a learning environment.

All pupils can apply to become a Pupil Leader of Welsh. This prestigious role will develop your Welsh language skills through a series of Welsh medium enrichment activities. You will assist with the running of Welsh Club and work closely with the URDD to offer Welsh-themed activities to all pupils. This role involves an activity weekend in North Wales with Year 8 pupils during the spring term.

As well as Welsh themed events, the school offers a range of clubs in other language such as Spanish & French.

*Keep an eye out for themed language events, activities and clubs that take place throughout the academic year.*

## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES |

### LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

#### COMMUNITY |

Our sixth form work alongside year groups to raise funds and awareness for many local charities. Sixth formers support younger pupils in class, leading reading workshops and act as mentors and sports coaches. Through these opportunities, students add much to the school and the wider community, while gaining knowledge and skills to support their career aspirations.



#### | MUSIC & DRAMA

Aberdare is renowned for providing opportunities for pupils to develop their creativity and confidence, especially through music & drama. Post-16 students are actively encouraged to get involved in school productions, choir and orchestra. Pupils with a strong interest in music are encouraged to use our state-of-the-art recording studio to record music.

#### PEER MEDIATION |

All Sixth form students have the opportunity to train as Peer Mediators. Over a three day period, pupils learn the skills needed to encourage younger pupils to open up and communicate concerns regarding friendship issues or worries about school work. They also learn how to support conflict resolution between younger pupils. Through the training, students develop their public speaking skills as they deliver assemblies to lower-school pupils. Many sixth formers opt to use the Peer Mediation scheme as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate Community Challenge.

*For more information on the Peer Mediation programme, please contact Miss J Williams.*



#### | PEER MENTORSHIP

All pupils in Year 13 are encouraged to act as a peer mentor, supporting younger pupils in improving their reading skills, as well as developing Literacy and Numeracy. They meet pupils once a week during registration. Their work has very positive outcomes and impacts upon pupil's enthusiasm for reading.



## SPORTING OPPORTUNITIES |

Healthy, active students are better learners and at Aberdare Community School we encourage Post-16 pupils to make full use of facilities on offer. Students can also join our successful Senior Sports teams, representing the school in events across the country.

We work in partnership with sports providers to offer bespoke training programmes in both Football and Rugby. The school has successful Senior Football, Futsal, Rugby, Netball and Hockey teams. Many of our pupils have represented Wales and Cardiff Blues across various sports.

Should you wish to study Sport at Level 3, we provide the opportunity to gain 1, 2 or 3 A-Level equivalents in Sport through our bespoke programme. Further information can be found in the courses section of this booklet.

### SPORTS ACADEMY |

As a school, we run our own Sports Academy Programme, specialising primarily in Rugby and Football development. Talented boys and girls in these sports can apply to join the academy. In the academy, pupils study conventional Level 3 courses in Physical Education alongside the Welsh Baccalaureate and undertake a technical programme in their chosen sport intended to support their development as elite athletes.

In addition to this, we have now extended this provision to pupils who may wish to study traditional Advanced Levels but who are talented in a sport such as golf, swimming, weightlifting or cycling. Pupils study their chosen subjects and as a school, the Director of sport will oversee the organization of a bespoke technical programme. For some pupils, a scholarship may be available.

*For more information on our sports academy, please contact Mr A Price, Director of Sport and Health & Wellbeing.*

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD PROGRAMME |



All pupils over the age of sixteen are eligible to participate in the Gold award (providing they have completed the Bronze and Silver levels of the Award.) We also offer Direct Entry into the Gold Award for students who have not had the opportunity to go through Bronze and Silver. The award at Gold Level is made up of five sections:

1. Service – this involves some form of beneficial service to the community in which you live for an hour each week over a minimum of 12 months.
2. Skill – this involves the development of new or existing skills or hobbies for an hour a week over 6 or 12 months.
3. Physical – this involves participation in some sport or other physical activity and developing your skill, technique and knowledge for an hour a week over 6 or 12 months.
4. Residential Project – this involves a period of five days/four nights away from home with no more than two of your friends, joining a worthwhile activity with other young people. For example, an environmental project, sailing course, university summer school.
5. Expedition – this involves two expeditions; a training expedition for three days/two nights and a final expedition for four days/three nights. The expedition involves planning and undertaking 8 hours of journeying per day as a part of a group as well as camping and cooking as a self-sufficient group.

Those pupils doing direct entry will have to extend the timescales on one of the sections to 18 months and also complete two extra expeditions to bring them up to Gold standard. You will meet regularly with your mentor who will create a be-spoke program with you to in order to achieve this prestigious award.

*For more information on the DofE award, please contact Mrs S. Lyons – DofE Leader.*



## EDUCATIONAL VISITS & RESIDENTIALS |

Our students benefit from numerous opportunities throughout the year to experience life and learning beyond school. To enhance your learning experience, Aberdare Community School offer a range of trips and visits abroad for sixth form pupils to take advantage of.

### SKI TRIP TO SOUTHERN EUROPE |

For the thrill seekers, Aberdare Community School run a successful Skiing trip to Southern Europe. The school give priority to sixth form pupils wanting to attend.



### | JAZZ BAND TRIP TO BELGIUM

Each year, the schools Jazz Band visit Belgium to perform a series of gigs in the capital. All pupils who play a brass instrument, or study A-Level Music are invited to attend this prestigious event.

### MFL VISIT TO SPAIN / FRANCE |

The MLF department arrange an annual visit to Barcelona in Spain and/or Paris in France to develop their language skills and experience their culture. Sixth form pupils opting to study MFL as an A-Level will have the opportunity to accompany staff and pupils on this trip.

### | WELSH BACCALAUREATE RESIDENTIAL AT ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY

As part of their individual investigation for Welsh Baccalaureate, all pupils in Year 12 experience a visit to Aberystwyth University, where they meet with subject specialists in their chosen area and decide a suitable title for their projects.

### GEOGRAPHY VISIT TO ITALY |

The geography department run an annual visit to Sorrento, Italy, visiting Pompeii, Mount Vesuvius and Naples. Pupils studying Geography at A-Level will have the opportunity to accompany staff and younger pupils on this trip.

### | WELSH DEPARTMENT RESIDENTIAL AT LLANGRANNOG URDD CAMP

The Welsh department run an annual trip to Llangrannog URDD camp. Sixth Form pupils studying Welsh, alongside Sixth Form prefects, have the opportunity to attend and act as SWOGS for the weekend, developing a number of skills in the process.

### SENIOR SPORTS TEAM TOURS |

This year, our senior rugby team visited Texas, USA, to play matches against senior teams from Westlake, Lake Travis & Woodlands High Schools. Pupils visited Houston, Austin, League City & Galveston. Each year the PE department run tours to places including France, Italy and Spain.

### | BUSINESS & ECONOMICS VISIT TO NEW YORK

Pupils have the opportunity to visit famous landmarks such as the Empire State Building, Brooklyn Bridge and experience some of the culture the Big Apple has to offer.

### PHYSICS TRIP TO SWITZERLAND |

Pupils studying Physics are able to visit Geneva, Switzerland, and discover CERN, one of the worlds largest and most respected centres for Scientific research.

### | ICT VISIT TO WASHINGTON

Pupils studying ICT or Computing are able to visit the Microsoft Headquarters in Washington, USA and learn to develop software from leading Microsoft experts.

### | OUTLOOK EXPEDITION TO ASIA

Every 3-4 years the school organise an outlook expedition to southern Asia. During the expedition, pupils experience the culture of the destination and work on a volunteering project set before departure. This experience can also be linked to your DofE Gold Award.

## BROADENING YOUR HORIZONS | MAXIMISING YOUR POTENTIAL

### SUPPORTING MORE ABLE AND TALENTED LEARNERS |

Aberdare Community School is committed to supporting it's high aspiring students. We have a dedicated and unique programme of activities and events, which will enable you to stand out from other equally able students from across the country.

The programme includes:

- University level courses.
- Motivational speakers.
- Higher education conferences organised by Oxford and Cambridge Universities.
- Student support with university entry exams.

### THE SEREN NETWORK | OXBRIDGE HUB

Aberdare Community School are proud to be part of the Seren Network – a network designed to support Wales's highest achieving sixth formers in achieving their academic potential and gaining access to leading universities. Enrolment criteria is set by the Seren Network and is based on GCSE results. Students who achieve four or more A\* grades at GCSE Level are usually invited to participate in the Rhondda Cynon Taff Seren Hub. This elite programme is only available to MAT pupils with the aim of maximising their potential in their subjects.

### | HIGHER EDUCATION +

Aberdare is part of a HE+ scheme being run in collaboration with Cambridge University. Schools and colleges in RCT work together to ensure that the most able students are encouraged to participate in the programme. It's an extra-curricular opportunity which encourages students to apply to the best universities, including Oxbridge.

*For more information on The Seren Network and Higher Education+, please contact Mr P. Juliff, Progress Leader Years 12 & 13.*

### STUDENT VOICE |

We place great emphasis on the importance of student voice and students at Aberdare Community School are given opportunities to express their views on the teaching and learning they receive. Sixth Form students are involved in the review of teaching and learning at Key Stage 5 as we believe your views on how you learn will keep on improving the learning experience. A youth parliament led by Sixth Form pupils allows students to become more involved in the decision making process at Aberdare Community School and strengthens the sense of community that is central to the schools ethos.

### | Y SENEDD ABERDÂR

A forum through which your voice can be heard and real change can be brought for the students of ACS. An opportunity to discuss a variety of topical matters, ranging from mental health and wellbeing to LGBTQ++.

Pupils can participate in one of the following 6 committees within the school:

- Teaching and Learning
- Anti-Bullying
- UNCRC
- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- LGBTQ++
- Eco and Healthy Schools

Other sub-committees include:

- Digital Learning
- e-Safety



## DESIGNING YOUR FUTURE | HELPING YOU ACHIEVE YOUR POTENTIAL

Aberdare Community School takes pride in preparing Post-16 students for the next step in their learning journey beyond school, be it applying for university, apprenticeships or preparing for employment. Our dedicated and highly experienced UCAS team of personal tutors will work very closely with you to support your preparation for application and interview. This will include specific guidance for early applications to Oxford and Cambridge Universities and applications to Medical, Veterinary or Dental courses.

We collaborate with Careers Wales Service and external agencies in a bid to support successful integration into the world of work for those choosing employment as their post sixth form pathway.

### ACADEMIC GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT |

Deciding which direction to go from here can be daunting. At Aberdare Community School, we are committed to providing you with the tools and support to ensure you choose the path best suited to you. You will work closely with your form tutor, who will offer support and guidance from applying to university, apprenticeships and employment.

Extensive PSE provision will help to support your personal development and prepare you for university, employment or gap-year programmes.

### | ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Formal, written reports are provided for each student, once in Year 12 and once in Year 13. These reports provide detailed feedback on a student's progress. Parent's Evenings for both Year 12 and Year 13 are held annually. Any parent who has a concern about their son's or daughter's progress is encouraged to contacting the Head of Sixth Form at any time.

### CAREERS GUIDANCE |

All students are supported and encouraged in nurturing positive aspirations based on realistic self-appraisal and awareness of the steps and processes needed to achieve their goals.

In years 12 and 13, individual interview simulations

for those seeking employment or a higher education place. Careers Wales is also involved in assisting with individual choices and in providing a counselling service following receipt of AS and A2 results.

### PREPARING FOR UNIVERSITY AND CAREERS |

We provide students with relevant and up to date information about university entry and alternatives to university. Sixth form tutors are on hand to offer advice to students.

Year 12 students attend a Skills Cymru event in Cardiff in the autumn term, which provides them with information about higher education, apprenticeships and career opportunities. Throughout the year, various employers are invited into school to talk to Year 12 about the careers available within their areas. Many of our students are also able to attend subject-specific information days at local universities.

### | UCAS SUPPORT

Year 12 students are given opportunities to attend Higher Education conventions, courses and Open days. Year 12 and 13 students are given regular guidance on the process of choosing a university course, drafting their personal statements, preparing the application form and submitting the final application through the UCAS Apply system.

Towards the end of the summer term, parents are invited into school so that we can give them information about the UCAS process, how the school deals with student's applications and student finance. UCAS club is held on a Thursday for personal guidance on completing the application process.

### UNIVERSITY SUMMER SCHOOL |

Many universities in Wales and England offer summer school placements. These placements allow you to experience university life by attending a range of workshops in the department of your choice and includes 2-3 nights stay on campus. These placements usually offer guaranteed progression routes to a scheme of your choice should you decide to apply to study a degree at that university.

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT COURSES |

### THE FIRST STEP TO YOUR FUTURE

We understand that choosing the right courses to study at A-Level can be difficult. A feature of ACS Sixth Form is the close consultation between the individual student and the sixth form team to decide the best combination of courses for the student during Years 12 and 13. This process begins in the spring term and includes post-examination results advice.

When you make your initial application to sixth form, we ask that you choose three to four subjects using our subject trawl system. This will help us to do our very best to accommodate all student's preferred subject choices.



### GCE ADVANCED LEVEL COURSES |

Most subjects are divided into four units or modules, with some subjects containing a mixture of practical, oral and written modules. The majority of our a-level courses contain both coursework and exam based modules. Specific details of each subject can be found in this booklet.

It's possible to gain an AS qualification at the end of Year 12, should a pupil decide not to continue with that subject into Year 13.

*Please note, a requirement of returning to Sixth Form is that 3 subjects are chosen, inclusive of the Welsh Baccalaureate.*

### GRADING SYSTEM |

All GCE Advanced Level subjects are graded on the same A\* - E scale, with a grade U as an unclassified or fail grade. BTEC courses are given the grading of Distinction\*, Distinction, Merit or Pass.

The UCAS tariff points should not have any impact on student's decisions on qualification choices at school or college, or their preparation for Higher Education. Universities and colleges are autonomous organisations and each year they decide how to set their entry requirements.

#### A-Level UCAS Points

Grade A\* and BTEC Distinction\* = 56 Points  
 Grade A and BTEC Distinction = 48 Points  
 Grade B and BTEC Merit = 40 Points  
 Grade C and BTEC Pass = 32 Points  
 Grade D = 24 Points  
 Grade E = 16 Points

#### AS Level UCAS Points

Grade A and BTEC Distinction = 20 Points  
 Grade B and BTEC Merit = 16 Points  
 Grade C and BTEC Pass = 12 Points  
 Grade D = 10 Points  
 Grade E = 6 Points

### | BTEC LEVEL 3 COURSES

BTEC courses are vocational in nature and comprise of mandatory units as well as specifically chosen optional units. Many of the BTEC qualifications offered at ACS are assessed through assignment based projects and do not contain any exam element. Some BTEC qualification offered are equivalent in size to two A-Levels. All BTEC level 3 qualifications are equal in size to our GCE Advanced Level courses.

## LEVEL 3 COURSES |

### ADVANCED WELSH BACCALAUREATE QUALIFICATION - SKILLS CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE |

All pupils at ACS Sixth Form study the Welsh Baccalaureate at Advanced Level. This is a compulsory element of returning to the sixth form.

The new revised and more rigorous Welsh Baccalaureate is based on a Skills Challenge Certificate and Supporting Qualifications and has been designed and ratified by the Welsh Assembly Government and the WJEC. The primary aim is to promote essential skills for employment.

There are four components to the new Welsh Baccalaureate; Community Challenge, Global Citizen Challenge, Enterprise and Employability Challenge and the Individual Project. Department staff are already involved in the Welsh Assembly's resource development groups ensuring that we are at the forefront of developments for this new course and can offer our pupils the very best experience of the course. We have already secured partnerships for the Community Challenge with organisations such as Cardiff City FC, the WRU and the Blues and with Universities such as Cardiff and Aberystwyth and the Museum of Wales.

*How does the course work?*

There are a prescribed amount of hours for each component. Pupils attend lessons for the teaching and learning programme. These lessons will cover the Essential and Employability skills required for the Skills Challenge Certificate, such as critical thinking and problem solving or creativity and innovation. At the end of the teaching and learning programme pupils will sit a "challenge" (much like a controlled assessment). Each pupil will be individually graded for each challenge.

The course is assessed through the following units:

- Individual Project – 50%
- Enterprise & Employability – 20%
- Global Citizenship – 15%
- Community Challenge – 15%

If a pupil passes all four of the components they will receive the Skills Challenge Certificate. This is a stand-alone qualification which is a L3 equivalent. Should pupils then pass their A-Levels (and have C grades or above in the Numeracy and Literacy

GCSE's or equivalents) then they will also achieve the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification.

This qualification has been ratified by the Russell Group Universities and will be accepted by UCAS as an A Level equivalent qualification. At Advanced level, pupils will be expected to take on a greater level of independent study, with regards to the Individual Project.

*For more information on the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification, contact Mrs C Smith, Leader of Learning for the Welsh Baccalaureate.*



### | GCSE RE-SIT OPPORTUNITIES

Aberdare Sixth Form offer weekly re-sit classes for GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics for those who narrowly missed out on a C grade. These classes are compulsory for those who did not gain a C grade in either of these subjects.

*For more information on re-sit opportunities, contact Mr Juliff, Progress Leader Year 12 & 13.*

## LEVEL 3 COURSES |

We work closely with our consortium schools to ensure there are a wide range of courses available for all types of learners. Below is a breakdown of courses available within the consortium. A more detailed subject option booklet is available from the school. Please note that subjects will be withdrawn if there is insufficient demand.

### APPLIED SCIENCE |

PEARSON BTEC Level 3

Subject Contact: Mr J Richards



Course Description: This two year course is equivalent to one A-level, but has no examination - all assessment is coursework based. Students will gain a good understanding of the science used to reflect aspects of employment within a science organisation. In year 12, you will study units on: Fundamentals of Science, Working in the Science Industry and Scientific Practical Techniques. You will then go on to study a further 3 units in Year 13.

### ART & DESIGN – FINE ART |

WJEC Level 3

Subject Contact: Mr N Comerford



Course Description: This WJEC AS/A level specification in Art & Design is designed to enable learners to gain a sequential and incremental learning experience from a broad introductory foundation of art, craft and design related to option choice at AS, through to greater specialism and achievement at A-level. The AS represents the first year of a two year A-level qualification but it can be studied separately. It consists of one unit:

- Unit 1: Personal Creative Enquiry (40% of A level), internally assessed, externally moderated.

The A level consists of the AS Unit 1 plus two additional units:

- Unit 2: Personal Investigation (36% of A level), internally assessed, externally moderated.
- Unit 3: Externally Set Assignment (24% of A level), internally assessed, externally moderated.

This specification provides the flexibility and capacity to build on, and extend, the breadth and depth of learners' creative practice and offers the choice of a broad-based general course, plus six endorsed title options with no prohibited entry combinations.

### BIOLOGY |

WJEC Level 3

Subject Contact: Mrs J Nicholls



Course Description: This specification is divided into a total of 5 units, 2 AS units and 3 A2 units. The AS represents the first year of a two year A level qualification but it can be studied separately.

- Unit 1: Basic Biochemistry and Cell Organisation (AS)
- Unit 2: Biodiversity and Physiology of Body Systems (AS)
- Unit 3: Energy, Homeostasis and the Environment (A2)
- Unit 4: Variation, Inheritance and Options (A2)
- Unit 5: Practical examination (A2)

Units 1-4 are assessed by external examinations consisting of a range of short and longer structured questions and one extended response. Units 1 and 2 are taken at the end of year 12, units 3 and 4 at the end of year 13. Practical work is an intrinsic part of this specification and is carried out throughout the course. A practical exam (Unit 5) is taken at the end of year 13. Practical work is vitally important in developing a conceptual understanding of many topics and it enhances the experience and enjoyment of biology. The practical skills developed are also fundamentally important to learners going on to further study in biology and related subjects, and are transferable to many careers.

Students are required to have achieved at least a grade B (preferably an A) at higher level in GCSE Biology or Additional Science to progress onto this course. We also strongly advise that students attain at least a grade B in English and Maths at GCSE due to the high levels of literacy and numeracy required for the course.

**BUSINESS STUDIES |***WJEC Level 3**Subject Contact: Mrs L Wooller (taught at SJB)*

Course Description: This course is designed for students who have an interest in exploring the world of business in a practical way. You will have a chance to develop an understanding of how businesses work in the real world. This course is assessed through four written exams sat at the end of each year:

- Unit 1: Business Opportunities – 15%
- Unit 2: Business Functions – 25%
- Unit 3: Business Analysis & Strategy – 30%
- Unit 4: Business in a Changing World – 30%

There are opportunities to re-take exam elements in the summer of each year.

**CHEMISTRY |***WJEC Level 3**Subject Contact: Mrs J Nicholls*

Course Description: This specification is divided into a total of 5 units, 2 AS units and 3 A2 units. The AS represents the first year of a two year A level qualification but it can be studied separately.

- Unit 1: The Language of Chemistry, Structure of Matter and Simple Reactions
- Unit 2: Energy, Rate and Chemistry of Carbon Compounds
- Unit 3: Physical and Inorganic Chemistry
- Unit 4: Organic Chemistry and Analysis
- Unit 5: Practical Examination

Practical work is an intrinsic part of this specification. It is vitally important in developing a conceptual understanding of many topics and it enhances the experience and enjoyment of chemistry. The practical skills developed are also fundamentally important to learners going on to further study in chemistry and related subjects, and are transferable to many careers.

Students are required to have achieved at least a grade B (preferably an A) at higher level in GCSE Chemistry or Additional Science to progress onto this course. We also strongly advise that students attain at least a grade B in English and Maths at GCSE due to the high levels of literacy and numeracy required for the course.

**CRIMINOLOGY |***WJEC Applied Diploma**Subject Contact: Miss E Feehan*

Course Description: Available as a one year course for the Applied Certificate, which is equivalent to an 'A/S' grade or as a two year course for the Applied Diploma. Criminology encompasses many elements of psychology, law and sociology and complements studies in the humanities subjects of Geography, History & RS. It will equip you with the knowledge and understanding of contexts linked to the criminal justice system and is suited to further study at HE level in University. You will be assessed through the following method:

- Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime – Non-Examined Assessment – 25%
- Unit 2: Criminology Theories – External Examination – 25%
- Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom – Non-Examined Assessment – 25%
- Unit 4: Crime & Punishment – External Examination – 25%

**CYMRAEG / WELSH LANGUAGE |***WJEC Level 3**Subject Contact: Miss S Frederick*

Course Description: This course builds and expands on the grammar studied at GCSE. You will acquire the language skills needed to appreciate Welsh Literature and Media, focusing on modern themes and advanced literacy techniques. You will study the following units:

- Unit 1 – Oracy Examination based on the film 'Patagonia' – 15%
- Unit 2 – Internal Written Assessment based on Welsh culture or history – 20%
- Unit 3 – Written Examination based on five famous Welsh poems – 15%
- Unit 4 – Oracy Examination based on the Welsh play 'Crash' - 25%
- Unit 5 – Written Examination based on the history of the Welsh Language and it's development over the past 60 years – 15%
- Unit 6 – Written Examination based on Welsh grammar in short stories – 20%

**D&T - PRODUCT DESIGN |**

WJEC Level 3

Subject Contact: Miss L Webb (taught at SJB)



Course Description: You will develop the understanding and knowledge required to design, develop, model, construct and evaluate a range of products from given design briefs and self-researched areas. Manufacturing will include modern and traditional methods including use of a 3D printer and laser cutter.

- ASU1 - 2 hour written exam - 20%  
Mix of structured and extended writing questions assessing knowledge and understanding of technical, designing and making principles.
- ASU2 – Coursework - 20%  
A design and make based project working from a design folio and sketchbook. Project themes are generated by students in discussion with staff.
- A2U3 – 2.5 hour written exam - 30%  
Mix of structured and extended writing questions assessing knowledge and understanding of technical, designing and making principles.
- A2U4 - Coursework (WJEC set task) - 30%  
A major design and make based project working from a design folio and sketchbook. Project themes are generated by students in discussions with staff.

**DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES |**

WJEC Level 3

Subject Contact: Miss K Walker



Course Description: This course is designed to promote a balance between practical theatre making and the theoretical understanding of Drama and Theatre. This stimulating and engaging course of study encourages learners to make connections between dramatic theory and their own practice. Learners study five performance texts representing a range of social, historical and cultural contexts. The complete texts are studied for the written examinations and the key extracts are divided between the two practical units. Learners also study two influential theatre practitioners and produce three performances.

Pupils will study the following units over the course of two years:

- Unit 1: Theatre Workshop – Non-exam assessment.
- Unit 2: Text in Theatre – Written Examination – 1hr30mins
- Unit 3: Text in Action – Non-exam assessment.
- Unit 4: Text in Performance – Written examination – 2hr30mins

**ENGINEERING |**

BTEC Level 3

Subject Contact: Miss L Webb (taught at MACS)



Course Description: The Engineering sector offers huge potential for learners interested in the sector. The UK is currently regarded as a world leader in sectors including renewable energy, space, low carbon, aerospace, creative industries, utilities, automotive and bioscience. Between 2010 and 2020 Engineering enterprises are projected to have 2.74 million job openings, including over 400,000 technician roles.

Who is this qualification for?

The main purpose of this qualification is to allow learners to develop the core specialist knowledge, understanding and skills, including Health and Safety in the Engineering Workplace and a choice of either Mechanical Principles and Applications or Electrical and Electronic Principles, required by the sector.

**ENGLISH LITERATURE |**

WJEC Level 3

Subject Contact: Mrs C Woodfine



Course Description: This is an engaging course where you will be encouraged to develop your enjoyment of literature and literary studies. You will be expected to approach and respond to a range of texts in a creative fashion.

The new WJEC GCE English Literature course has a five-unit structure which includes the study of Shakespeare, as well as a wide selection of more modern poetry, prose and drama. You will be provided with an opportunity to write creatively in a chosen style and will also be asked to provide an analysis of your own work. You will also have the opportunity to discuss the texts and your responses in an open and supportive environment.



The English Literature course will be both challenging and rewarding. Students are required to have achieved at least a grade B in GCSE English Literature in order to progress onto this course.

## FRENCH |

WJEC Level 3

Subject Contact: Mrs D Hope (taught at MACS)



Course Description: The course provides students with a good skills-based knowledge of both the French language and the society and culture of the French speaking world. Students build upon the four skill areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing as studied at GCSE. You will be assessed through the following units:

- AS Unit 1: Speaking – 12%
- AS Unit 2: Listening/Reading/ Translation/Writing – 28%
- A2 Unit 3: Speaking – 18%
- A2 Unit 4: Listening/Reading/ Translation/Writing – 30%
- A2 Unit 5: Writing – 12%

## FURTHER MATHEMATICS |

WJEC Level 3

Subject Contact: Mrs N Innes (taught at SJB)



Course Description: Students who study Mathematics at A level may study Further Mathematics as an additional A level. Further Mathematics comprises of units in Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics, building on concepts and theories studied in A level Mathematics. Pure Mathematics consists of induction, complex analysis, matrices, series and polar co-ordinates. Mechanics consists of vectors, circular motion and differential equations. Statistics consists of statistical inference and hypothesis testing.

You will be assessed through examinations sat at the end of Year 12 and 13. A total of three exams are sat in the summer of Year 12. In year 13, pupils specialise in either further mechanics or statistics. A pure exam will be sat, alongside an exam in their chosen specialism, worth a combined 40% of the overall qualification.

## GEOGRAPHY |

WJEC Level 3

Subject Contact: Mr S Alexander



Course Description: The Geography course will cover both Physical and Human Environments and the complex interactions of processes that shape our World. Importantly it looks at the careful relationship the human race has with our environment and how people are often forced to adapt and mitigate the effects of processes on their environment. The WJEC Geography course is one of the few new A Levels that allows coursework to count for 20% of the overall course.

In year 12, you will be studying changing places and changing landscapes. In changing places, you will focus on coastlines and tectonics (volcanoes and earthquakes). In changing places, you will focus on how rural and urban areas are rapidly changing and adjusting to 21<sup>st</sup> century living. You will also complete four fieldwork experiences.

In year 13, you will study water and carbon cycles, the global governance of migration and oceans, development in Sub-Saharan Africa and the energy challenges and dilemmas. There is also an additional independent investigation component worth 20% of the course.

## HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE |

WJEC Level 3

Subject Contact: Miss L Webb



Course Description: Level 3 Health and Social Care is an area to work in which gives many varied opportunities for you to make a difference to people's lives in a positive way. At the same time you are gaining many transferable skills. Working in health and social care professions can also take you to different parts of the country and overseas. The opportunities are endless. In year 12 you will study units 1 and 2, consisting of the AS Level. In Year 13, you will go on to study a further 2 units to achieve the A-level. You will be assessed through the following:

- Unit 1: Promoting Quality Care and Communication – written examination – 20%
- Unit 2: Promoting Good Health – coursework and campaign – 30%

- Unit 3: Provision of Health, Social Care and Children's Service – coursework – 20%
- Unit 4: Influences of Food and Fitness on Health and Well-Being – coursework – 30%

## HISTORY |

WJEC Level 3

Subject Contact: Mr N Keeble



Course Description: This specification is divided into a total of 5 units, 2 AS units and 3 A2 units. The AS represents the first year of a two year A level qualification but it can be studied separately.

- **Unit 1:** Politics, Protest and Reform 1780-1880
- **Unit 2:** Germany 1919-1933
- **Unit 3:** The American Century 1890-1990
- **Unit 4:** Germany 1933-1945

Students will be given the opportunity to study a variety of different topics from British and non-British history and provides them with an excellent breadth and depth of knowledge as well as transferable skills which can be applied to other subjects and careers.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY |

Pearson BTEC Level 3

Subject Contact: Mr M Hills



Course Description: This A-level takes a hands-on, practical approach to ICT. You will learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. You will develop a range of specialist ICT skills and knowledge by building on your prior understanding of ICT. This A-Level seeks to provide innovation and promotes student creativity through paperless schemes of assessment. Real world problems require real world solutions, solutions that acknowledge the multi-faceted nature of ICT in society today. Pupils are assessed through a series of six units studies over two years.

- Unit 1: Communicating using IT
- Unit 2: Computer Systems
- Unit 31: Computer Animation
- Unit 42: Spreadsheet Modelling
- Unit 40: Computer Game Design
- Unit 22: Computer Game Development

All units are assessed through coursework. There are no exam elements to this course. Pupils will develop knowledge in a range of areas including Cyber Security, Programming, Databases, Spreadsheets and Computer Networks.

Through studying this course, there is the opportunity to achieve a Diploma in ICT, equivalent to 2 A-Level's. To achieve this, pupils must study a further six units, including:

- Unit 14: Event-Driven Programming
- Unit 9: Computer Networks
- Unit 3: Information Systems
- Unit 30: Digital Graphics
- Unit 7: Organisation Systems Security
- Unit 8: e-Commerce

## MATHEMATICS |

WJEC Level 3

Subject Contact: Mrs N Innes



Course Description: The course comprises units in Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics. Pure Mathematics consists of algebra, calculus, co-ordinate geometry and trigonometry. Mechanics consists of dynamics (the mechanics of motion) and statics (the study of force systems). Statistics consists of probability theory and distributions. Students will study modules in all three disciplines of Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics. Mathematics is a component of the entry requirement to many higher education courses and professional careers such as engineering, technology and applied sciences. Mathematics has become a pre-requisite for many higher education courses and is a gateway into numerous professions.

You will be assessed through examinations sat at the end of Year 12 and 13. 40% of the course is studied in Year 12, while the remainder is studied in Year 13. There are opportunities to re-sit exams in Year 13.



**MUSIC |**

WJEC Level 3

Subject Contact: Mr R Gibbs



Music A Level is the perfect choice for talented musicians offering you the opportunity to develop your performing, listening and composing skills. Students are given the opportunity to explore a diverse range of different aspects of music, covering topics such as an investigation into significant musical developments, compositional styles and performing.

The course is split into the following units:

- U1 - AS – 30% Performance – External exam
- U2 - AS – 30% Composition – Internal exam
- U3 - AS – 40% Appraising examination – Externally marked
- U4 – A2 – 25% Performance – External exam
- U5 – A2 – 25% Composition – Internal exam
- U6 – A2 – 40% Appraising examination – externally marked

A further 10% of the A2 qualification is taken in performance or composition, at the candidate's discretion.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION |**

WJEC Level 3

Subject Contact: Mr A Price (taught at SJB)



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

Course Assessment:

- AS Unit 1: Exploring Physical Education – 1 Hour 45 Minutes Written Exam - 24%
- AS Unit 2: Improving personal performance in physical education – Practical Assessment – 16%
- A2 Unit 3: Evaluating Physical Education – 2 Hour Written Exam – 36%
- A2 Unit 4: Refining Personal Performance in Physical Education – Written Research Project – 24%

**PHYSICS |**

WJEC Level 3

Subject Contact: Mrs J Nicholls



Course Description: This specification is divided into a total of 5 units, 2 AS units and 3 A2 units. The AS represents the first year of a two-year A level qualification but it can be studied separately.

Unit 1: Motion, Energy and Matter (AS)

Unit 2: Electricity and Light (AS)

Unit 3: Oscillations and Nuclei (A2)

Unit 4: Fields and Options (A2)

Unit 5: Practical Examination (A2)

Practical work is an intrinsic part of this specification. It is vitally important in developing a conceptual understanding of many topics and it enhances the experience and enjoyment of physics. The practical skills developed are also fundamentally important to learners going on to further study in physics and related subjects, and are transferable to many careers. For pupils who study A-level Physics, there is an opportunity to visit CERN and the large hadron collider in Geneva, Switzerland.

**PSYCHOLOGY |**

AQA

Subject Contact: Miss S Frederick



Course Description: Available as a one year course for the 'A/S' grade or as a two year course for the full 'A' level. Psychology explores the workings of the mind and how thought processes work. A Mathematical & Scientific background is essential for study. This course is 100% examination based. You will be assessed through the following method:

- Unit 1: Psychology: Past to Present – 1.5 Hour Exam;
- Unit 2: Psychology: Using Psychological Concepts – 1.5 Hour Exam
- Unit 3: Psychology: Implications in the Real World – 1.5 Hour Exam
- Unit 4: Psychology: Applied Research Methods – 2.5 Hour Exam

- Mandatory units include:
- Principles of Anatomy and Physiology in Sport
- The physiology of fitness
- Assessing risk in Sport
- Fitness training and programming
- Fitness training for sport and exercise
- Sports Nutrition
- Psychology for Sports performance
- Technical and tactical skills in Sport
- The Athletes lifestyle

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES |



*WJEC Level 3*

*Subject Contact: Mr M Roberts*

Course Description: This course studies key questions of human existence which are of present-day interest and relevance. Philosophy of Religion examines questions of whether God exists and why we suffer. Ethics examines questions of what is right and wrong and how we should act. Christianity examines the key beliefs and practices of the world's most popular and influential religion.

- The Philosophy of Religion
- Religion and Ethics
- Christianity

You will be assessed through the following method:

- Two written examinations at the end of Year 12 worth a combined 40%
- Three written examinations at the end of Year 13 worth a combined 60%.

Exams sat in Year 12 can be re-taken once if required.

## SPORTS STUDIES |



*Pearson BTEC Level 3*

*Subject Contact: Mr A Price*

Course Description: This course is equivalent to one, two or three A-levels, depending on the number of units taken. Pupils can opt to study the BTEC Certificate in Sport, equivalent to one A-level, BTEC Diploma in Sport, equivalent to two A-levels, or, the BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport, equivalent to three A-levels. You will study a range of optional and mandatory units, depending on your interests. The following list details some units which may be chosen to study:

Pupils can opt to study Sport (Performance and Excellence) or Sport (Development, Coaching and Fitness.)

We offer a range of units best suited for performance individuals usually in academies or professional clubs wanting to go on to university to do a full degree or enter professional sport.

## TEXTILES |



*WJEC Level 3*

*Subject Contact: Miss N Dodd*

Course Description: This course focuses on textiles techniques and production, exploring different decorative techniques and different fashion trends, including vintage and cultural wear. You will be required to create a sketchbook/portfolio based on a theme or topic. You will then make an outcome, based on that theme, for submission with your portfolio/sketchbook. Experimentation of the different techniques will be undertaken during the first year in order to improve skills. The techniques include: silk painting, hand and machine embroidery, applique and more. Throughout the course you will be asked to take inspiration from artists, fashion designers and your own experience in order to compile different research and media to base your sketchbook and outcome on.

You will be assessed through the following:

- AS – Component 1 – Personal Creative Enquiry – 100% of AS-Level
- A2 – Component 1 – Personal Investigation – 60% of A-level
- A2 – Component 2 – Externally Set Assignment – 40% of A-Level

## STUDENT DESTINATIONS & ALUMNI |

Year on year, we are delighted with the excellent progression of our students. Many go on to study at university, with over 90% of pupils obtaining the grades required to study at their first choice of university. Many students also enjoy success in the field of work, securing higher apprenticeships and full time employment. This is testament to not only our students but the fantastic focus our staff make on mentoring students, helping with the application process and mock interview techniques.

### CASE STUDIES |

*“Aberdare Community School gave me the confidence to succeed both professionally and academically. Being a senior prefect enabled me to develop a range of personal skills. The Welsh Baccalaureate qualification has provided me with the opportunity to give something back to the school by helping pupils develop Literacy and Numeracy skills through a range of workshops during my Community Challenge. The school has also allowed me to partake in the Seren Hub, developing my academic skills even further.”*

LUKE EVANS – NOW STUDYING BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE AT CARDIFF UNIVERSITY |

*“I knew from a very young age that I wanted a career involving sport. The Sixth Form allowed me to participate in both the Senior Football and Rugby teams and now I’m studying Sport & Exercise at University. I studied Triple Sport and focused my Welsh Baccalaureate individual project around injuries in Sport. The facilities on offer at the Sixth Form allowed me to pursue my dream of becoming a physiotherapist.”*

| LEON MOORE – NOW STUDYING SPORTS MANAGEMENT AT UWIC



*“Choosing where to study my A-Levels was an easy decision for me. Aberdare offered a range of courses that linked to my career aspirations to become a Doctor. I already have a strong working relationship with my teachers and they understand my needs. I studied Biology, Chemistry and Maths. The facilities on offer at Aberdare are fantastic and with our own dedicated IT suite and internet café, the school provides quiet areas for me to study during my free periods.”*

MEGAN COX – NOW STUDYING MEDICAL PHARMACOLOGY AT CARDIFF UNIVERSITY |

*“There was no question about where I would continue my studies. I had everything I needed at Aberdare. I didn’t have to worry about making new friends, because most of them were joining me in Sixth Form. And, most importantly, teachers who understood where my strengths and weaknesses lay and what I needed to do to make the best for myself. I studied Law, Religious Studies and English Literature, enabling me to pursue my dream of becoming a Lawyer.”*

| REBECCA MORGAN – NOW STUDYING LAW AT CARDIFF UNIVERSITY

*“I decided to continue at Aberdare Sixth Form because I enjoyed my time so much lower down the school. I chose to study ICT, English Literature and Applied Science. The school provided many career days, subject specific workshops, talks from various employment areas and visits to university open days. These opportunities enabled me to make my decision to want to become a midwife. I was worried about the application process as this area of study is very competitive but the school has an excellent programme in place with expert advice and guidance and I was fortunate enough to study a midwifery degree at university. I can’t thank the school enough for the support they provided through this very stressful time.”*

CHLOE TALBOT – NOW STUDYING MIDWIFERY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM |

For more success stories of former pupils, visit the school website.

## POST-SIXTEEN ADMISSION PROTOCOL |

Pupil success in post sixteen education is due to the breadth of provision available, providing learners with sufficient time, support and flexibility to fulfil their learning potential. Progression to further education is maximised through an effective core programme, main qualifications, community learner industry focus (CLIF) and work experience. Pupils' ability, aptitude and individual needs will be considered in formulating effective programmes of study in line with WAG post 16 planning framework. Schools within the CVC will work with other partner schools and a wide range of community, academic and workplace-based organisations to provide a balanced programme with suitable outcomes for individual learners promoting inclusion in post sixteen education.

### Key Elements

- Ensure the right pupils are able to access the right programmes within the CVC and thereby maximise their outcomes.
- Ensure quality assurance mechanisms are in place in relation to, programme allocation, delivery and suitability of pupils for the programmes set.
- Provide quality educational experiences and outcomes for all learners
- Optimise use of resources reducing unnecessary duplication of provision within the consortium while maintaining enough flexibility to react to learner needs
- Maintain cost-effectiveness and efficiency of programmes
- Develop a sustainable provision.

## UNIFORM |

The same rules apply to sixth form uniform as the rest of the school, with the only variation being a different colour tie. All students are expected to wear the following:

- Plain black trousers or skirt (no jeans or leggings)
- Black shoes – no branded trainers or canvas shoes
- White shirt or blouse
- Sixth form tie
- School blazer with ACS logo – (optional black v-neck jumper with ACS logo can be worn during colder periods – this must be worn alongside the school blazer)
- Plain black jacket or coat

*Please note that cardigans, hoodies and sweatshirts are not permitted*



## | EDUCATIONAL MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)

If you are concerned that you might struggle to settle down in the Sixth Form for financial reasons then the availability of EMA may help you. Education Maintenance allowance is an income-assessed weekly allowance of £30. This helps students with the cost associated with studying at A-Level. To be eligible for this allowance, certain requirements must be met.

*For more information on the EMA, please contact Mrs J Miller.*

## CVC POST-16 SUMMARY GUIDELINES |

(further details are available from specific CVC documentation.)

1. Programme provision provides L3 (AS/A2 and Vocational) and L2 provision to meet the needs of all learners.
2. A maximum of 25 pupils will be allowed on all L3 courses.
3. Year 11 pupils will be interviewed and provisionally assigned to suitable post sixteen programmes of study in the Easter term of year 11, this will be a provisional offer based on predicted grades and current performance as judged by progress leaders in the base school.
4. Confirmed offer on pupils chosen programme will be secured based on final GCSE results, late submissions to programmes will be allocated on a capacity basis, pupils' aptitude for the subject and final grades.
5. A provisional programme offer will be given to pupils as part of the post 16 options process, parents and pupils will be informed of the programme offer and the necessary entry requirements.
6. All programmes of study at post 16 will require pupils to have achieved L2 in English and Mathematics or make a commitment to attend GCSE resit lessons as part of the CLIF element of the programme of study. Any pupil continuing L3 / A2 courses in year 13 must have achieved a L2 in Mathematics and English prior to year 13.
7. Each programme of study will adhere to minimum entry requirements specific to each course. Entry requirements will be set according to standards agreed by all parties delivering the subject within the consortium



8. Any pupil accessing a pure science A level should have achieved at least a B grade at GCSE.
9. CVC reserves the right to review a place on any programme of study for pupils' with poor attendance and attitude during Key Stage 4.
10. All pupils follow post 16 courses are expected to maintain high attendance and fully engage in their learning. Pupils failing to commit fully to their programme of study will have their programme of study reviewed
11. All pupils must commit to follow the four programme components as outlined in WAG advice for post sixteen planning.
12. Specific issues arising in relation to individual pupils circumstances will be reviewed by CVC lead personnel.

Further detailed guidance can be obtained from specific CVC support documentation.



## SENIOR PUPILS |

### MESSAGES FROM OUR SENIOR PUPIL LEADERS

#### HEAD BOY |

##### JACK EVANS

I have been a pupil of Aberdare Community School for five years. I am in year 13 and currently studying BTEC Level 3 Sports Studies and the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate qualification. When I decided to stay in school for sixth form I had my reservations because I would have to work independently most of the time and the work would be too much for me but the teachers talked me through what to expect and helped me with my work whether they were teaching me or not.

I have loved my time in the sixth form and a big reason for this is the number of people in the sixth form, with a smaller number of people you find yourself talking to and making friends with people you had never spoken to before. The fact you know everyone means you can feel comfortable and safe being yourself and don't have to worry about fitting in.

I would strongly recommend sixth form because the transition is smooth and your in familiar surroundings with friends and teachers that you have already built relationships with. Teachers here are very supportive and the lessons are taught to a very high standard. The facilities the school has to offer are amazing and range from IT and MAC suites, dance and music studios, artificial 3G pitch for all sporting events and a lecture theatre.

My role as Head Boy has involved presenting at Open Evenings, giving assemblies to pupils lower down in the school on important news related topics, break and lunch duty and helping out at parents evenings. The Senior prefect team meet at regular intervals to discuss strategies on improving the school and the senior management team are very supportive on our ideas.

I hope to study Sports and Exercise Science at university and the school has provided me with the help and guidance needed to apply to university.

#### HEAD GIRL |

##### EZARA HILL

I have been at Aberdare Community School for four years now, since 2014. In those four years I've met the best people and had unforgettable experiences. I'm now in year 13 and studying Biology, Chemistry and Religious Studies. I'd recommend taking a broad range of subjects rather than focusing on just Science or just Humanities as this can give flexibility if you were to change your career choice at some point in Sixth Form. Before starting year 12 I was really worried about the work load and content I may come across in Sixth Form. The work is a lot harder than at GCSE but the teachers in the school are amazing and give you any extra support you may need.

Life in Sixth Form is very different to lower down in the school. The year group is a lot smaller and you get to know people you may have never spoken to. I've found that this has created a comfortable learning environment where everyone knows everyone. In Sixth Form you may also have the opportunity to meet students from St Johns or Mountain Ash through the consortium, so it's not just in college that you can meet new people. I travel to St Johns to study Religious Studies and this has improved my confidence with regards to meeting new people.

I'd recommend staying on for Sixth Form as it provides you with valuable life experiences, improved knowledge and skills, all within the comfort of familiar surroundings. The teachers who have taught you lower down in the school are there for you to talk to in times of stress and you are surrounded by the people you have grown up with. The teachers in the school will know you well and are able to give the best advice when applying for university courses or apprenticeships in year 13. I'm currently applying to study Biochemistry at university and the school have an excellent support programme in place to help me with everything from writing personal statements to applying through UCAS.



## ABERDARE COMMUNITY SCHOOL ALUMNI | CLASS OF 2018 SUCCESS STORIES

Aberdare Community School is delighted to announce their fourth set of A Level results and would like to congratulate all of the pupils and staff for their hard work and commitment. A fantastic 96% of Year 13 pupils secured level 3 qualifications. The percentage of pupils achieving A\*-C was 72%, with the vast majority of pupils achieving what they need for their first choice universities. This is a fantastic achievement.

Top performances came from the following individuals:

- Rebecca Adams (2A\* and an A and an A in the Welsh BaccaLaureate plus an A\* in the WJEC Extended Project : Swansea University – Chemistry)
- Megan Cox (2A's and a B plus an A\* in the Welsh BaccaLaureate: Cardiff – Medical Pharmacology)
- Abbie Evans (2A's and a C with an A grade in Welsh BaccaLaureate: Cardiff – Law)
- Luke Evans (A, 2 Bs and an A in Welsh BaccaLaureate: Cardiff Biomedical Science)
- Dylan Lucas (2As & 1 B & 1 B in Welsh BaccaLaureate: Liverpool – History & English Literature)
- Rebecca Morgan (2A's and 1 B & A in Welsh BaccaLaureate: Cardiff – Law)
- Weili Pan (2A\*, 3 B and a B in Welsh BaccaLaureate: Bath: Mathematics)
- Stephanie Pugh (1A,1 B, 1 C and an A in Welsh BaccaLaureate: Cardiff – Law)
- Samuel Rossi (1A\*, 1 A, 1 B and a B in Welsh BaccaLaureate: Cardiff – Law)
- Sian Russell (2A\*, 2 A and an A in Welsh BaccaLaureate: Bristol – Mathematics)
- Joshua Swift (2As, 1 C, B in Welsh BaccaLaureate and a B in WJEC Extended Project: Cardiff – History)
- Kyle Thomson (2A, 1 B, 1C and an A\* in Welsh BaccaLaureate: Bristol – Aerospace Engineering)
- Owen Waghorn (2A's and 1 B and an A\* in Welsh BaccaLaureate: Bristol – Mathematics & Statistics)
- Megan Williams (A,B,C and an A in Welsh BaccaLaureate: Cardiff – Biological Science)

Additionally in their BTEC Studies the following pupils were successful in attaining top grades:

Nathan Baker (AAB)  
 Travis Baker (AA)  
 Jamie Lee Begg (AA)  
 Callum Boshier (A\*A)  
 Courtney Cooksey (A\*A\*)  
 Kyle Davies (A\*A)  
 Lauren Davies (A\*A\*)  
 Sophie Edmunds (A\*A\*C)  
 Dylan Lloyd (A\*A)  
 Thomas Lock (A\*A\*A)  
 Charlie Reid (A\*A)  
 Shannon Williams (A\*A\*A\*)

We are also proud of the fourteen pupils who attained unconditional offers for their choice of course at University.

Additionally, at A/S level in Year 12 the following pupils have highly achieved in their first year of 'A' level study and we will anticipate further success with these pupils in the year ahead:

- Jessica Marie Evans (4A)
- Ffion Morris (AAB)
- Stella Warren (AAB)

# THE FIRST STEP TO YOUR FUTURE...

96% PASS RATE ACROSS ALL A-LEVELS AND 100% PASS RATE ACROSS ALL VOCATIONAL SUBJECTS.  
72% of A-LEVEL PUPILS OBTAINED A\*- C GRADES IN 2018.

33 TRADITIONAL A-LEVEL COURSES AND 12 VOCATIONAL SUBJECTS TO CHOOSE FROM ACROSS THE CONSORTIUM.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDING SENIOR PREFECTS, STUDENT AMBASSADORS AND COMMITTEE TEAMS.

OUR ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN NURTURING YOU TO OFFER UNIVERSITIES AND EMPLOYERS A GREAT BALANCE OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS, COUPLED WITH THE PERSONAL QUALITIES THAT WILL ENSURE THAT YOU SUCCEED AT BOTH DEGREE LEVEL AND IN THE WORKPLACE.

UCAS SUPPORT PROGRAMME AVAILABLE FROM THE SUMMER OF YEAR 12. STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM HAVING A PERSONAL TUTOR IN THE COMPLETION OF THEIR PERSONAL STATEMENT AND APPLICATION PROCESS.

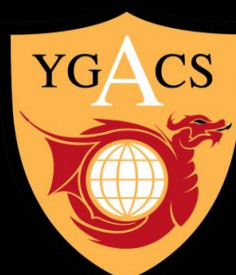
COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF SUPPORT FOR ALL MEDICINE, DENTISTRY, VETINARY AND OXBRIDGE APPLICANTS, INCLUDING INTERVIEW WORKSHOPS AND SPECIALIST SUBJECT SUPPORT.

STATE OF THE ART FACILITIES INCLUDING AN INTERNET CAFÉ, DEDICATED ICT SUITE, HEALTH SUITE AND RECORDING STUDIO.

HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL SPORTS ACADEMY WITH SENIOR TEAMS REPRESENTING A RANGE OF SPORTS INCLUDING RUGBY, FOOTBALL, NETBALL & HOCKEY.

For more information about our school please get in contact:  
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Telephone: 01685 888500 | Email: [school@aberdaireschool.co.uk](mailto:school@aberdaireschool.co.uk)

[www.aberdaireschool.co.uk](http://www.aberdaireschool.co.uk)



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