



**6th Form Options  
Course Information Booklet**

# A Level Art & Design

## What you will study

There is a single module at AS:

- Coursework Portfolio

This is a broad based course in Fine Art, Alternative Media. Students have to complete projects in two areas from a list which includes Fine Art (painting and drawing), Graphic Design (printmaking), digital media, ICT and photography. Projects involve researching a 'theme' using a range of media, materials, and techniques used by artists.

There are two modules at A2:

- Personal Investigation
- Externally set assignment

## How you will study

5 hours a week of formal teaching, with at least 4 hours a week of personal study for practical and



written homework. Each lesson focuses on a new technique, so attendance at lessons is essential. Projects are presented in large A3 sketchbooks and on A1 sheets.

All projects are heavily supported by digital media—photography and film. You will have the opportunity to visit galleries and exhibitions, and participate in Artist in Residence workshops.



## How you will be assessed

The examination board is WJEC. Further information on this specification is available on [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

Completion of coursework and student progress is monitored through continuous assessment and weekly target setting. The Controlled Assignment is set in February, with a 15 hour examination in April. Both AS and A2 are assessed internally and moderated externally. All units are displayed for assessment in May.

## Your options after this course

Students can use the A2 Art & Design qualification together with other A levels to gain entry onto most university courses. There are considerable career opportunities available as a result of having an A level Art & Design qualification.

Further information from Mr S. Sherrington, Subject Leader in Art.

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## Why choose Art & Design?

- Develop your self-motivation, initiative, independent thinking and problem solving skills.
- The course will challenge your creative abilities and sharpen your critical thinking.
- Denbigh High School students have an excellent record in going on to Art and Design based careers.





# A Level Biology

## What and how you will study

A Level Biology builds upon the great foundations a student has made at GCSE level Biology, ideally suited to Additional Science students, but also accessible for high achieving Applied Science students (C+ at GCSE or Level 2 Merits and Distinctions).

Topics covered at AS level include:

- cell organisation, including practical microscopy lessons
- an in-depth look at the properties and roles of the fundamental chemicals of life
- the workings of the lungs, heart and digestive system
- the monitoring and maintenance of biodiversity.

The year 13 units cover; respiration, homeostasis, microbiology, biotechnology, genetics, reproduction and much more.



During the fortnightly ten hours of Biology A Level studies there will also be opportunities to hone practical skills via higher level practical tasks and assessed modules based upon investigations derived from the classroom learning experiences.

## How you will be assessed

The examination board is WJEC. In both AS and A2 the assessment is comprised of two, externally



marked, summer exams per year and these make up 90% of your overall A Level grade. The final 10% comes from the practical element which is assessed in year 13.

You will also be expected to keep organised, thorough notes on your practical skills and findings in the course lab book. This is gradually completed over the two year period and used as evidence of ability and exposure to the required practical elements of the course.

## Your options after this course

Biology has applications to many career and further study choices- it keeps your options open. It is a great choice of subject and can be useful for many areas of work; medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, sport science, physiotherapy, pharmacy, diet and nutrition, optometry, nursing, zoology, marine biology or forensic science.



To find out more about this course, speak to Mr. S. Jones, Head of Science.



## Why choose Biology?

- Biology opens your eyes to the natural world around you and instils a sense of awe and amazement in all those that study it.
- Biology is a stepping stone to myriad courses.
- Biology allows you to develop your skills of enquiry as well as your practical skills.
- Biology enables development of high level numeracy & literacy skills.





## A Level Biology

To study Biology you have to have attained at least a C grade at GCSE level.

### What you will study

There are 2 units of study at AS (40%):

- Unit 1 - Basic Biochemistry and Cell Organisation (20%)
- Unit 2 – Biodiversity and Physiology of Body systems (20%)

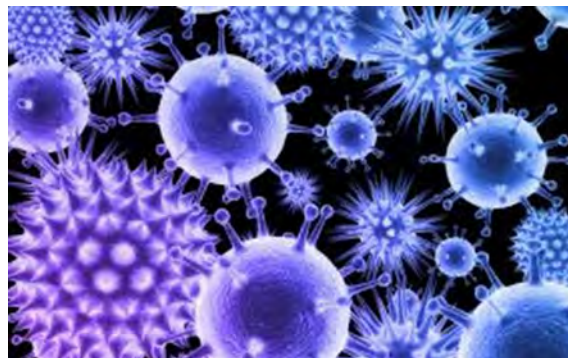
There are 3 units of study at A2 (60%):

- Unit 3 – Energy, Homeostasis and the Environment (25%)
- Unit 4 – Variation, Inheritance and Options (25%)  
The options are: Immunology and Disease, Human Musculoskeletal Anatomy or Neurobiology and Behaviour. You will only study one option.
- Unit 5 – Practical exam (10%)  
This unit comprises two tasks:  
Experimental Task  
Practical Analysis Task



### How you will study

4.5 hours a week of formal teaching, with at least 4 hours a week of personal study. Homework and independent study are important features of the course.



### How you will be assessed

The examination board is WJEC. Each unit is assessed by an exam, which will take place in June of the first year for AS. A2 units are examined in June of the second year. Papers may be retaken to improve upon grades.

### Your options after this course

Biology complements and balances other courses such as Chemistry, Maths, Physics, Psychology and others at higher or further education. Career opportunities include Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry, Physiotherapy, Forensic Science, Environmental Health and Food Sciences, Physiotherapy and Nursing.

Further information from Mrs A. Turner,  
Biology Teacher.

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### Why choose Biology?



Biology develops a breadth of knowledge relating to the living world, from the internal workings of organisms to the ethical considerations of genetics. Biology is a 'cutting edge' science and it is constantly in the news: GM crops, stem cells, DNA profiling, the control of diseases, global warming and many other social and environmental issues. Specific topics covered include biodiversity and physiology of body systems, genetics and evolution, cell organisation, evolution and conservation.



# ST BRIGID'S SCHOOL YSGOL SANTES FFRAID



## A Level Business

**To study Business at Advanced Level, you will need to have 5 GCSEs grade C and above, to include English Language.**

### What you will study

There are two units of study at AS (40%):

- Business Opportunities—Unit 1 (15%)
- Business Functions—Unit 2 (25%)

There are two units of study at A2 (60%):

- Business Analysis and Strategy—Unit 3 (30%)
- Business in a Changing World—Unit 4 (30%)

**Business Opportunities**— this unit focuses on start up businesses and small to medium sized businesses. It covers the main concepts of setting up a new business; the types of business organisations; the markets that they operate in and their stakeholders.

**Business Functions**— this unit broadens the context of business and gives learners the understanding that to succeed in a competitive market you have to consider the core functions of business

**Business Analysis and Strategy**— this unit builds on the theory introduced in units 1 and 2, and it emphasises understanding and the analytical techniques that develop business strategy

**Business in a Changing World**— this unit focuses on how businesses adapt to succeed in a dynamic external environment. Learners will understand that businesses operate in a global marketplace.

### How you will study

4.5 hours a week of formal teaching, with at least 4 hours a week of personal study.



Homework and independent study are important features of the course.

### How you will be assessed

The examination board is WJEC. Further information on this specification is available on [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

Business Advanced Level is assessed by examination, which will take place in May of the first year for AS. A2 units are examined in June of the second year. Papers may be retaken to improve upon grades. The NEA is completed in Year 13 over the course of the year.



### Your options after this course

Business provides students with a wide range of transferable skills and can lead to a range of degree courses such as Law, Psychology, Journalism, and Archaeology. Popular career routes include roles in politics, publishing, law, social care, business and management and teaching.



Further information from Mrs. E . Sargent,  
Subject Leader in Business.



### Why choose Business?

You will gain an understanding of the dynamic business environment and the importance of entrepreneurial activity in creating business opportunities and sustaining business growth. You will have the opportunity to develop an appreciation of strategic, complex and inter-related of business issues from a local to global perspective.

You will gain an appreciation of the strategic, complex and inter-related nature of business issues from a local to a global perspective.



## A Level Chemistry

To study Chemistry at GCE level, it is necessary to have attained a good grade in either GCSE Chemistry or in your GCSE Chemistry units. It is also strongly advisable that you study GCE Mathematics, as there is a sizeable mathematical element to this course.

### What you will study

#### AS (2 Units)

##### UNIT 1

*THE LANGUAGE OF CHEMISTRY, STRUCTURE OF MATTER AND SIMPLE REACTIONS (20%)*

##### UNIT 2

*ENERGY, RATE AND CHEMISTRY OF CARBON COMPOUNDS (20%)*

#### A2 (3 Units)

##### UNIT 3

*PHYSICAL AND INORGANIC CHEMISTRY (25%)*

##### UNIT 4

*ORGANIC CHEMISTRY AND ANALYSIS (25%)*

##### UNIT 5

*PRACTICAL (10%)*

The molecule below is a product of one of the WJEC experiments performed at A2. What do you think it is?



### How you will study

There are 4.5 hours a week of formal teaching. You should be doing **at least** 4 hours per week of independent study (not including homework). This independent study is backed up with access to the school's AS and A2 Chemistry Google Classrooms.

### How you will be assessed

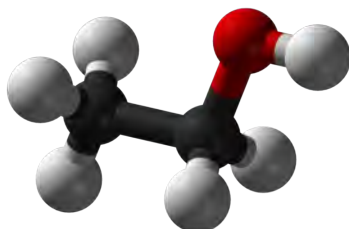
The examination board is WJEC. Further information on this specification is available on [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

Each unit is assessed by an examination, which will take place in June of the first year for AS. A2 units are examined in June of the second year. AS papers may be retaken to improve upon grades.

### Your options after this course

Many pupils who study 'A' Level Chemistry at St. Brigid's go on to study scientific based degrees at Russell Group universities in such fields as Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Chemistry, Pharmacy and the Natural Sciences.

Further information from :  
Dr. Humberstone BSc (Hons) NPQH



### Why choose Chemistry?

The main aim of the course, is to make learning enjoyable and thus, encourage students to be enthusiastic about both the theoretical and practical aspects that Chemistry has to offer .





## A Level Drama and Theatre

**To study Drama and Theatre Studies you must be creative, imaginative and willing to take on new challenges in this exciting course.**

### What you will study

There are two units of study at AS (40%):

- Unit 1 — Theatre Workshop—Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated
- Unit 2 — Written examination: A series of questions based on 'Ubu Roi' by Alfred Jarry

There are two units of study at A2 (60%):

- Unit 3 — Text in Action—Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner
- Text in Performance — Written examination:

Candidates will be expected to work in response to a theme set by WJEC and prepare one performance in Year 12 and two performances in Year 13. In each case candidates will either act or demonstrate a technical production skill with a group of performers. The performance will include:

- scenes / extracts from a published text
- a piece devised by the group. An evaluation of performance work for both pieces will be required. The unit is externally marked.

### How you will study

5 hours a week of formal teaching, with extra rehearsals where necessary. Independent study is a key feature of the course. Homework is also an important element for personal progression.



### How you will be assessed

The examination board is WJEC. Further information on this specification is available on [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

Each unit is assessed by an exam, which will take place in June of the first year for AS. A2 units are examined in June of the second year. Papers may be retaken to improve upon grades.

### 'To Inspire and Be Inspired'

The performing arts have transformative power. More than just entertainment, the performing arts interpret society, and whether satirising, educating, or celebrating, help us to understand our world.

Our intention is to provide our students with a positive and creative environment in which to inspire the imagination through a range of ideas, techniques and rehearsal methods.

Students will have the opportunity to develop linguistic and communication skills and improve confidence and self-belief.

### Further Progression

We have a strong reputation for preparing students to go on to some of the most prestigious Performing Arts establishments in the country. But whether you wish to tread the boards or simply enjoy the experience, the skills learnt are transferable, and will help in all aspects of future career progression



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### Why choose Drama and Theatre Studies?

- Enjoy the challenge.
- Develop Performance and design skills
- Improve confidence and communication
- Work in a creative environment



# A Level English Language & Literature

## What you will study:

Did you enjoy GCSE English Language **and** Literature? If you want to learn how to write with flair; if you want to understand how language shapes meaning; if you have a keen eye for the detail in texts: - English Language and Literature AS is the course for you!

At AS level you will study the fundamental principles of language study so that you are able to investigate, describe and analyse examples of spoken and written language in use. You will also use the skills and knowledge that you acquire to produce effective original writing.

In addition, you will develop your knowledge of dramatic techniques, your skills as interpreters of performance texts and your analysis of how writers present their viewpoint.

At A2 you will develop a wider knowledge of literary and linguistic terminology through the study of Shakespeare, prose and comparison of unseen texts. You will also have the opportunity to develop your wider reading through study of a chosen genre.

## How you will study:

5 hours a week of formal teaching, with at least 4 hours a week of personal study. Your specialist teachers will support you in your classwork and provide guidance for your independent study. You will be expected to participate in group work, presentations and discussion, undertake individual research and read widely to support your studies.

## How you will be assessed:

The examination board is WJEC The specification is English Language and Literature Further information on this specification is available at [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

## AS (2 units)

**Unit 1:** Comparative Analysis and Creative Writing

2 hour examination (20%)

**Unit 2:** Drama and Non-Literary Text Study

2 hour examination (20%)

**A level** (The above plus a further 3 units)

**Unit 3:** Shakespeare

2 hour examination (20%)

**Unit 4:** Unseen Texts and Prose Study

2 hour examination (20%)

**Unit 5:** Critical and Creative Genre Study

Non-examination assessment: 2500—3500 words (20%)

## Your options after this course

A detailed study of English Language and Literature at A level will provide a suitable foundation for the study of English through a range of higher education courses. The study of English will equip you with many of the skills required for a wide range of careers including journalism, marketing, business, law, teaching and many others. An excellent complement to the study of other languages or literature, an AS or A Level in English Language and Literature provides prospective employers or institutions of further education with evidence of your analytical and writing skills, your ability to work independently and your understanding of the ways in which language shapes meaning.



Further information from Miss A Roberts, Subject Leader in English.



## Why choose English Language and Literature?

- This course develops articulate, creative and informed students.
- Explore how English language influences the way we speak and behave, and how literature is used to explore this development.
- Learn how to communicate effectively to benefit your future career.
- Excellent gateway subject to a range of higher education courses and careers.





# ST BRIGID'S SCHOOL YSGOL SANTES FFRAID



## A Level English Literature

To study English Literature you should ideally have attained at least a B grade at GCSE level.

### What you will study

There are two units of study at AS (40%):

- Prose and Drama—Unit 1 (20%)
- Poetry Post-1900—Unit 2 (20%)

There are three units of study at A2 (60%):

- Poetry Pre-1900 and Unseen Poetry—Unit 3 (20%)
- Shakespeare—Unit 4 (20%)
- Non-Examinable Assessment - Prose Study—Unit 5 (20%)

### Aims

The course aims to develop skills of literary analysis through creative engagement with a range of prose, poetry and drama texts, combined with opportunities for independent research and interaction in lessons, where open discussion of texts and issues arising from them is encouraged. You will gain a deeper understanding of the heritage and changing traditions of literature in English and also have the opportunity to research and analyse texts you have chosen yourself for the coursework task,

**Non-examinable assessment (NEA)** Learners will write one 2500-3500 word assignment based on the reading of two prose texts from different periods, one pre-2000 and one post-2000, nominated by the centre or chosen by the students, with guidance.



### How you will study

4.5 hours a week of formal teaching, with at least 4 hours a week of personal study. Homework and independent study are important features of the course.

### How you will be assessed

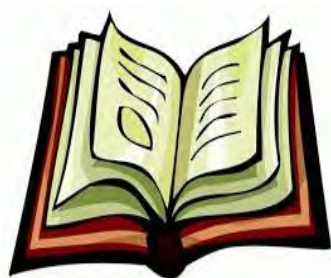
The examination board is WJEC. Further information on this specification is available on [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

Units 1-4 are assessed by an exam, which will take place in May of the first year for AS. A2 units are examined in June of the second year. Papers may be retaken to improve upon grades. The NEA is completed in Year 13 over the course of the year.

### Your options after this course

A course in English Literature can enable progression to a range of courses at further or higher education and for future career paths such as journalism, teaching, social work, the law and the civil service, broadcasting, business and finance in addition to many other areas which require excellent communication skills.

Further information from Miss. H . Parry-Hughes, BA (Hons), MA — Assistant Headteacher



### Why choose English Literature?

- A Level English Literature is ideal if you have an inquiring, critical or analytical mind-set. Learn transferable skills, which keep your career options open. It combines well with other humanities subjects and is an ideal contrasting subject for Mathematics and Science.
- A Level English Literature is a facilitating subject, which is listed as being highly desirable at competitive universities.



# A Level Geography

## What you will study

The AS course is divided into 2 units:

### Unit 1 Changing Landscapes

Section A: Changing Landscapes: Glaciation  
Section B: Tectonic Hazards

### Unit 2 Changing Places

Section A: Changing Places  
Section B: Fieldwork Investigations (1 Physical Geography investigation and 1 Human Geography investigation based on fieldwork)

The A2 course consists of 3 units.

### Unit 3 Global Systems & Global Governance

Section A: Global Systems: Water & Carbon Cycles  
Section B: Global Governance, Change and challenges (population migration and global governance of the world's oceans)  
Section C: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges

### Unit 4 Contemporary Themes in Geography

Section A: Tectonic Hazards  
Section B: Contemporary themes in Geography: Ecosystems/Weather & Climate/ Energy Challenges and Dilemmas)

### Unit 5 Individual Investigation

An independent study on a topic of your choice, that is researched and submitted for marking.



## How you will study

5 hours a week of formal teaching, supported by personal study. A minimum of 4 field visits.

## How you will be assessed

The examination board is WJEC. Further information on this specification is available on [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

**Unit 1:** a 2 hour written examination accounting for 24% of the qualification. 5 compulsory structured questions with data response.

**Unit 2:** a 1hr 30min written examination accounting for 16% of the qualification. 5 compulsory structured questions with data response.

**Unit 3:** a 2hr written examination accounting for 24% of the qualification. 4 compulsory structured questions and 2 extended response questions

**Unit 4:** a 2hr written examination accounting for 16% of the qualification. 1 extended response question and 2 essays

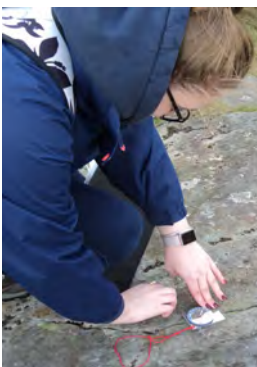
**Unit 5:** non-examination assessment accounting for 20% of the qualification. Individual investigation of approx 3000 words.

## Your options after this course

Geography provides a firm foundation for progression into a wide variety of careers or courses in Higher Education.



Further information from Mrs D. Howlett, Subject Leader of Geography.



## Why choose Geography?

- Geography is interesting, varied and deals with topics that are relevant to the world today.
- As a 'facilitating subject', Geography is one of the subjects preferred by Russell Group universities. Studying Geography will help you keep your options open when choosing a degree, as you will demonstrate the breadth of knowledge and skills top universities want.
- The transferable skills developed will help make you more employable!





# A Level Government & Politics

## What you will study

At **AS Level** you will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the political system in the UK. There are two compulsory units:

**Unit One: Government in Wales and the United Kingdom** examines the British Constitution, the Judiciary, how parliament and government works, the Welsh Assembly and the impact of devolution.

**Unit Two: Living and participating in a democracy** examines citizenship in the UK, elections and the electoral process, voting behaviour and the role of pressure groups.



At **A2 Level** you will specialise in the study of political concepts and theories, and in the government of the USA. There are two compulsory units:

**Unit Three: Political concepts and theories** examines liberalism, conservatism, socialism, communism and nationalism, and the differences between these political 'isms'.

**Unit Four: Government of the USA** examines the US Constitution, the role and function of Congress, the

President, the Supreme Court, the electoral process and voting behaviour.



## How you will study

5 hours a week of formal teaching, with at least 4 hours a week of personal study.

You will be expected to undertake background reading to build up your knowledge and understanding. You will have to analyse sources, draft your own notes and write essays, conduct research, participate in discussions, and answer examination-style questions.

## How you will be assessed

You will sit two written examinations for AS level and two for the A2 qualification.

The examination board is WJEC. Further information on this specification is available on [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk).

## Your options after this course

The skills you develop in Government & Politics will give you an excellent foundation for many degree courses and employment. It is useful if you want a career in management or the public services.

Further information from Dr. P. Evans, Acting Subject Leader in History.



## Why choose Government & Politics?

- Develop your knowledge of how Wales, Britain and the United States are governed.
- Gain an understanding of the differing political ideologies and what they stand for.
- It is an interesting subject which develops your learning skills.
- Understand what is going on in the news.



# A Level Health & Social Care

## What you will study

This specification includes contemporary issues in relation to the provision of an ethical and sustainable health and social care system in Wales. Active learning and personalisation are promoted by giving you opportunities to investigate care issues and topics of your own choice. Following a broad study of health and social care at AS and an opportunity to develop depth of knowledge and understanding in adult health and social care at A level.

## What skills you will develop

By studying Health and Social Care, you will be able to demonstrate that you:

- Understand the ethical, social and political issues affecting the health and social care and childcare sectors
- Have an awareness of the principles and values which underpin health and social care and childcare
- Understand the child-centred or person-centred approaches to care
- Can interpret and evaluate theories in health and social care and childcare, and reflect on how they affect the provision of services
- Can identify the sociological, psychological and biological factors that contribute to good health, and explain the role of government and professionals in promoting and maintaining good health
- Can use literacy, numeracy, research and digital competency skills as appropriate within their study

## How you will be assessed

This course is divided into a total of four units, two AS units and two A2 units. Weightings noted below are expressed in terms of the full A level qualification.

### AS level: Year 1

AS Unit 1: Promoting health and wellbeing will be assessed through a written examination:

- 2 hrs, 20% of qualification (80 marks)
- a range of question types presented as a question and answer booklet. All questions are compulsory.

AS Unit 2: Supporting health, well-being and resilience in Wales is assessed through non-examination assessment: marked by your teacher and externally moderated by WJEC:

- approximately 30 hrs, 20% of qualification (100 marks)

### A level: Year 2

Units 1 and 2, plus:

A2 Unit 5: Theoretical perspectives of adult behaviour is assessed through a written examination:

- 2 hrs 30 mins, 30% of qualification (100 marks)
- a range of question types presented as a question-and-answer booklet in two sections:

- Section A (40 marks) relates to pre-release material
- Section B (60 marks) all questions are compulsory

A2 Unit 6: Supporting adults to maintain health, wellbeing and resilience is assessed through non-examination assessment, marked by your teacher and externally moderated by WJEC:

- approx 40 hrs, 30% of qualification (100 marks)
- a task that assesses your knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to the development, health, wellbeing and resilience in adults in Wales and requires you to produce an information resource for someone planning a future career in the adult health and social care sector.

Further information can be obtained from Mrs. D Williams, Health & Social Care Tutor



## Why choose Health & Social Care and Childcare?

- The WJEC A level in Health and Social Care will equip you with thorough and in-depth knowledge, understanding and skills related to the development and care of individuals throughout the life span.
- You have the opportunity to develop your understanding of influences on human growth, development, behaviour and wellbeing. You will also gain a detailed understanding of the social, physical, emotional and cultural needs of people who use care and support services, and recognise that each individual has a unique blend of abilities and needs.
- You will gain a thorough understanding of how service provision in Wales supports the development and wellbeing of individuals, to be able to make informed decisions now and in later life.



# A Level History

## What you will study

There are two modules at AS:

- **Europe in the Age of Absolutism and Revolution, 1682-1815.** The main developments of the reigns of Peter the Great of Russia, Frederick the Great of Prussia, France under the rule of Louis XV and Louis XVI, conflict between the Great Powers—Seven Years War, Revolutionary War, Napoleonic War
- **Reform and Protest in Wales and England, 1783-1832.** Radicalism and the fight for parliamentary reform: the impact of the French Revolution, popular protest—Luddism, Spa Fields, Peterloo massacre, Swing riots, 1832 Reform Act



There are two modules at A2:

- **The American Century, 1890-1990.** The struggle for Civil Rights—Jim Crow, Supreme Court activism, role of Martin Luther King, consequences of the Civil Rights movement. The making of a super power — inactive, reactive & proactive
- **Reform and Protest in Wales and England, 1783-1848.** Protest and campaigns for social reform — Chartist movement, Rebecca Riots, development of the Whig and Tory Parties, reform of the Poor Law, Factory and Mine legislation, campaign against child labour

## How you will study

5 hours a week of formal teaching, with at least 4 hours a week of personal study. Lessons will be divided equally between British and European history.



You will be expected to undertake background reading to build up your knowledge and understanding. You will have to analyse sources, draft your own notes and write essays, conduct research, participate in discussions and answer examination-style questions.

## How you will be assessed

You will sit two written examinations for AS level and for the A2 qualification, together with a unit of internal assessment (coursework).

The examination board is WJEC. Further information on this specification is available on [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk).

## Your options after this course

The skills you develop in History will give you an excellent foundation for many degree courses - for example Law, Accountancy, Psychology, Journalism, Education, Business management, Archaeology, Leisure and Tourism.

Further information from Dr. P. Evans, Acting Subject Leader in History.



## Why choose History?

- History is a Humanities subject which combines well with other subject areas.
- It will develop your ability to communicate clearly and to structure concise, logical arguments.
- Assess the significance of historical events and individuals and set them in context.



## A Level History

To study History you have to have attained at least a C grade at GCSE level.

### What you will study

There are three units of study at AS (40%):

- Period Study—Unit 1 (20%)
- Depth Study—Unit 2 (20%)

There are three units of study at A2 (60%):

- Breadth Study—Unit 3 (20%)
- Depth Study—Unit 4 (20%)
- Non-Examinable Assessment— Unit 5 (20%)

**Period Studies**— Learners study one period of around 100 years. The focus of study in this unit is on developments and changes over a broader timescale and learners study a range of significant topics each spanning a substantial duration.

**Depth Study**—The depth study requires candidates to study a shorter aspect of history in much greater depth. This unit encourages learners to use a wide range of different types of historical evidence.

**Non-examinable assessment (NEA)**—Learners investigate an issue of historical debate through a study of different historical interpretations. This encourages learners to use a range of evidence, both contemporary and made later, to explain how and why different historical interpretations are formed.



### How you will study

5 hours a week of formal teaching, with at least 4 hours a week of personal study. Homework and independent study are important features of the course.



### How you will be assessed

The examination board is WJEC. Further information on this specification is available on [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

Units 1-4 are assessed by an exam, which will take place in May of the first year for AS. A2 units are examined in June of the second year. Papers may be retaken to improve upon grades. The NEA is completed in Year 13 over the course of the year.

### Your options after this course

History provides students with a wide range of transferable skills and can lead to a range of degree courses such as Law, Psychology, Journalism, Medicine and Archaeology. Popular career routes include roles in politics, publishing, law, social care, business and management and teaching.

Further information from Miss. K . Voice,  
Subject Leader in History.

### Why choose History?

- A Level History is ideal if you have an inquiring, critical or analytical mindset.
- Learn transferable skills, which keep your career options open. It combines well with other humanities subjects and an ideal contrasting subject for maths and science.
- A History degree is an investment in your future.
- 







# A Level Mathematics

## What you will study

There are two units of study at AS (40%):

- Pure Mathematics - Unit 1 (25%)
- Applied Mathematics - Unit 2 (15%)

There are two units of study at A2 (60%):

- Pure Mathematics - Unit 3 (35%)
- Applied Mathematics - Unit 4 (25%)

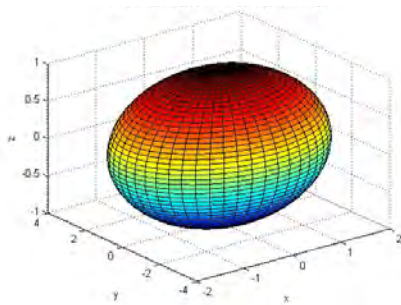
**Pure Mathematics** involves the study of calculus, algebra, trigonometry and analytical geometry. Knowledge of these topics is essential to the student who wishes to embark on further study with any mathematical content.

**Applied Mathematics** includes:

**Statistics** which involves the study of probability and statistical techniques. It is useful to support work in biological and social sciences, and for use in business, commerce and manufacturing industry.

and

**Mechanics** which involves the study of mathematical modelling and applied calculus. It is useful to support work in Physics and to prepare for Higher Education studies in Engineering, Mathematics and Physics.



## How you will study

5 hours a week of formal teaching, with at least 4 hours a week of personal study. Homework and independent study are important features of the course.



## How you will be assessed

The examination board is WJEC. Further information on this specification is available on [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

Each unit is assessed by an exam, which will take place in June of the first year for AS. A2 units are examined in June of the second year. Papers may be retaken to improve upon grades.

## Your options after this course

Mathematics is an excellent preparation for many degree courses and professions. It is very useful for students going on to study Medicine, Engineering and Science Degrees. Some professions such as Accountants and Architects require a strong mathematics background.

Further information from Mrs K Flanagan, Subject Leader in Mathematics.



## Why choose Mathematics?

- Enjoy the challenge.
- Helps with other subjects with a high mathematics content.
- Recent analysis has shown that students with an A level in mathematics earn substantially more than those without.



## A Level Photography

The Photography course promotes a wide range of skills and attributes and is suitable for anyone with a genuine interest in visual culture. You will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of photographic media, techniques and processes which will include both traditional and new technologies. During this course you will produce practical and critical / contextual work in one or more areas including portraiture, still-life photography, photo-journalism, and computer manipulated photography.

Please note, you do NOT need a GCSE in Art to take this course.

### Progression routes:

Further study of photography or related subjects in higher education from fine art to commercial design. Career opportunities include fashion, journalism, travel and sport photography or commercial photography.

### What you will study

There is one unit of study at AS (this is a non-examined assessment)

- 40% of A level qualification
- (100% of AS qualification)

There are two units of study at A2

- Unit 2 (non-exam assessment) : 36% of A2 qualification
- Unit 3 (externally set assignment): 24% of qualification

### Explanation of Units 1/2/& 3:

#### Unit 1:

- An extended, exploratory project/portfolio and outcome/s based on themes and subject matter which are personal and meaningful to the learner. The Enquiry must integrate critical, practical and theoretical work

**Unit 2:** Consists of **two** integrated parts:

- A major in-depth critical, practical and theoretical investigative project/portfolio and outcome/s based on themes and subject matter that have personal significance.
- An extended written element of 1000 words

minimum, which may contain images and texts and must clearly reuse an appropriate working vocabulary linked to practical and theoretical work terminology.

**Unit 3:** Consists of **two** parts:

#### **Part 1: Preparatory study period**

- The externally set assignment materials are to be released to learners from 1 February (in the second year of the course) and will consist of a series of visual and written stimuli, which are to be presented to the learner at the start of the preparatory study period.
- One of the stimuli is to be selected by the learner and used as a starting point from which to elicit a personal response.

#### **Part 2: 15 hour period of sustained focus work**

- The resolution of learners' ideas from the preparatory work must be completed during the designated **15** hours and they must show how their planning relates to the outcome/s.
- The period of sustained focus work must be completed under supervised conditions.

Learners will be required to select, evaluate and present their work for assessment. The Externally Set Assignment will be set by WJEC, assessed by the teacher and externally moderated.

Link to student area of WJEC Art & Design Photography is: <https://www.wjec.co.uk/students/>



### Why choose Photography?

"A Level Photography gives you the freedom to explore and capture your own ideas, whilst you are developing new technical skills. We have found the subject really enjoyable because it allows you to expand your own creativity and showcase your individual style, which we document in our sketch-books. Our end of year display is a great way of showing off the work we have done throughout the year and allows others to appreciate it too!"

Anna Williams & Emily Carpenter. (photography students)

# A Level Physical Education

## Who should study P.E. at A level?

If you're a talented performer, or have a real interest in sport, then A Level P.E. is for you. Pupils wishing to study P.E. at A Level should have both the aptitude and interest in the practical and theoretical dimensions of sport; this building on their experiences from GCSE.

## Subject content

The specification is divided into a total of 4 units, 2 AS units and 2 A2 units.

Units 1 and 3 have a theoretical focus and units 2 and 4 focus towards improving physical performance. Units 1 and 2 are studied at AS and 3 and 4 at A2. AS contributes 40% and A2 contributes 60% towards the overall A Level.

<b>Unit 1</b>	Theoretical focus	Exploring physical education	24%
<b>Unit 2</b>	Practical focus	Improving personal Performance in P.E.	16%
<b>Unit 3</b>	Theoretical focus	Evaluating physical education	36%
<b>Unit 4</b>	Practical focus	Improving personal Performance in P.E.	24%

## Theoretical and practical content

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

## How you will be assessed

The examination board is WJEC. Further information on this specification is available on [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk).



## How you will study

Students will receive 5 hours per week of formal teaching, with students expected to complete at least 5 hours per week of independent learning time.

## Your options after this course

Physical Education can lead to many career and further study pathways. Degree pathways for further study include coaching, teaching, physiotherapy, dietetics, strength and conditioning, physiology, psychology and professional sports performance. P.E. is a fantastic subject and can be useful for so many areas of work.

Further information from Mr. Eden Fenlon,  
Physical Education Curriculum Leader



## Why choose A Level P.E.

- A stimulating mixture of practical and theory in PE and Sport.
- A Level P.E. particularly encourages the development of skills and behaviours such as teamwork, leadership, performance analysis, resilience, evaluation, analysis and synthesising concepts.
- The knowledge and understanding of the importance of physical education has never been as important as it is in today's society.



# A Level Physics

## What you will study

AS-Level and A-level Physics allows students to appreciate how fundamental Science works and to study optional topics that particularly interest them including—Sports Physics, Medical Physics and Environmental Physics.

There are five units in the specification – two at AS and three at A2.

Four of the units are assessed by exam with one unit assessing investigative and practical skills.

Practical investigations play a large role in the course and are the main focus that drives the content.

## AS Modules

- Motion, Energy and Matter.
- Electricity and Light.

## Modules at A2

- Oscillations and Nuclei.
- Fields and one from:
  - Alternating currents
  - Medical physics
  - The physics of sports
  - Energy and the environment
- Investigative and practical skills in A2 Physics.

## How you will study

5 hours a week of formal teaching, with at least 4 hours a week of personal study.

## How you will be assessed

The examination board is the WJEC.

The specification, guidance, past papers and mark schemes can all be downloaded free from the WJEC website <http://www.wjec.co.uk>



## Your options after this course

A-level Physics is a traditional A-level subject and is identified as a key facilitating subject by the Russell Group of Elite Universities. Physics is a solid choice for students considering a career in Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Computing, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Environmental Science. Physics will also prepare students for careers in many areas of industry, such as those within the engineering or electronics sectors.

Further information from Mr Jon Breese, Science Department.



## Why choose Physics?

- Understand natural science at its most fundamental and the part it plays in the functioning of our world and beyond.
- Develop your appreciation of how Science works in practice and its relevance beyond the laboratory.
- You will gain analytical, evaluative and practical skills, including the ability to plan and manipulate information and data.



# A Level Product Design

## What you will study

There are two modules at AS:

- Written Exam 2 hours 20%
- Design and Make task 20%

Think about the objects that you love. Your mobile phone with its delicious curves was designed on a computer screen. The car you yearn for started life as a reduced size clay model. As a 3D designer you are at the crossroads of a number of skills.

You'll look at materials, production processes and the impact of cost and design. You'll produce some coursework using your own design with a range of materials and media.

You will learn how to assemble data and assess it, how to investigate facts and use deduction, how to put over your point of view, how to work as a team, and how to take responsibility for your own learning.

Experience training on the latest manufacturing equipment. You will use state of the art CNC equipment, including laser cutters, CNC milling / routing and 3D printing.

There are two modules at A2:

- Written Exam 2 Hours 30mins 30%
- Design and Make project 30%

## How you will study

5 hours a week of formal study in the workshops, classrooms and the ICT Studio. You will need to allocate a minimum of four hours of additional personal study in school and at home in order to improve your skills. You need to be prepared to develop your sketching, CAD and making skills to a high level.



*Year 12 Audio Project*

## How you will be assessed

The examination board is the WJEC. The draft specification, guidance and mark schemes can all be downloaded free from the WJEC website, [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk).

Your AS work is assessed in a two hour written paper accounts and in a coursework design portfolio.

## Your options after this course

3D design could take you into a number of exciting career paths. Of course there's product or automotive design. But what about computer generated cartoons? Or maybe CAD for industry appeals to you more? This course could take you into architecture, teaching, manufacturing, advertising or engineering.

Further information from Mr. G. Jones, Subject Leader in Design & Technology.



## Why choose Product Design

- Learn more about the influence of design in the world around us.
- Develop your creative and problem-solving skills to produce a satisfying end product.
- Take part in the EESW project solving real problems for industry.

# A Level Psychology (WJEC)

## To study AS Psychology you will need

A GCSE grade 'B' or above in English or Welsh, Mathematics, or Numeracy and Science. Assuming you attain a grade in the AS Psychology course then you can upgrade to the A2 course.

## What you will study

A Level Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. Psychological research aims to understand all aspects of human behaviour and apply findings to benefit individuals in society. Research in psychology seeks to understand mental health treatment, and many other areas affecting health and daily life.



## Modules includes:

- Approaches in psychology (biological, psychodynamic, behaviourist, cognitive and positive).
- Contemporary debates in psychology.
- Principles of research methods, including two key studies in psychology.

## How you will study

5 hours a week of formal teaching, with at least 4 hours a week of personal study. Homework and independent study are important features of the course.

A wide range of teaching and learning methods are adopted including group-work, individual study, class discussions, lectures and learning on-line using internet resources.



## Skills you will develop

Evaluation skills, research skills, numeracy skills, extended writing, application of knowledge skills, organisation skills, revision skills, time management

## How you will be assessed

There are two external examinations each year, in May/June. The length of each exam is 90 minutes. There are also mock examinations and regular homework tasks.

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## Your options after this course

As psychology is the study of the mind and behaviour, it can be used in many careers that require knowledge of how people think and react, such as: clinical psychology, forensic psychology, health psychology, sports psychology, physiotherapy, social work, teaching, advertising, marketing, nursing, medicine, criminology, neuroscience, occupational psychology and management.





# ST BRIGID'S SCHOOL YSGOL SANTES FFRAID



## A Level Religious Studies

**To study Religious Studies you must have attained grade C or above in GCSE Full Course.**

### **What you will study**

There are two units of study at AS (40%):

- \*An Introduction to the Study of Religion (15%)
- \*An Introduction to Religion and Ethics and the Philosophy of Religion. (25%)

There are three units of study at A2 (60%):

- \*A Study of Religion (20%)
- \*Religion and Ethics (20%)
- \*Philosophy of Religion (20%)

**A Study of Religion involves an in-depth study of some of the key features of a world religion, ranging from religious figures to religious practices.**

**Religion and Ethics involves an in-depth study of ethical concepts and theories, ranging from moral absolutism to Utilitarianism. It also involves the application of the theory to issues such as Abortion, Euthanasia, Nuclear War and Animal Experimentation.**

**Philosophy of Religion includes topics such as The Problem of Evil and Suffering, Arguments for the existence of God, and Challenges to religious belief.**



### **How you will study**

4.5 hours a week of formal teachings, with at least 4 hours a week of personal study.

### **How you will be assessed**

The examination board is WJEC. Further information on this specification is available on [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

Each unit is assessed by an examination which will take place in May of the first year for AS. A2 units are examined in June of the second year. Writing accurately will be assessed in all responses with every question requiring extended writing.

### **Your options after this course**

Religious Studies will undoubtedly be useful in a number of careers: Teaching, Travel, Police, , Armed Forces, Medicine, Nursing, Law, Journalism, Media and Social Work to name a few.

Further information from Mrs R. E. Ellis, Religious Studies teacher.



## **Why choose Religious Studies?**

Religious Studies is an interesting subject as it deals with the big issues that are most important in life. It will help you to understand life better and to reflect on your own values, opinions and attitudes.



# ST BRIGID'S SCHOOL YSGOL SANTES FFRAID



## A Level Spanish

To study Spanish you should ideally have attained at least a B grade at GCSE level.

### What you will study

There are two units of study at AS (40%):

- Speaking (NEA)—Unit 1 (12%)
- Listening, Reading, Translation and Critical Response in writing—Unit 2 (28%)

There are three units of study at A2 (60%):

- Speaking (NEA)—Unit 3 (18%)
- Listening, Reading, Translation—Unit 4 (30%)
- Critical analysis in response to writing—Unit 5 (12%)

### Aims

The WJEC GCE Spanish course provides an engaging and exciting opportunity for learners to build upon their previous study of Spanish. The course aims to enhance their linguistic skills and promote and develop their capacity for critical and analytical thinking through the language of study. Learners will engage with intellectually stimulating texts, films and other materials in the other language and will develop their ability to interact effectively with users of the language in speech and in writing.

**Non-examinable assessment (NEA)** Learners will be given a speaking assessment at both AS and A2 level. At AS level, the speaking assessment will last 12-15 minutes and the learner will be expected to respond to two stimulus cards. At A2 level, the speaking assessment involves a presentation of an independent research project (2 mins). A discussion on the independent research project will then follow (9-10mins)



### How you will study

4.5 hours a week of formal teaching, with at least 4 hours a week of personal study. Homework and independent study are important features of the course.

### How you will be assessed

The examination board is WJEC. Further information on this specification is available on [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

Units 1-5 are assessed by an exam, which will take place in May of the first year for AS. A2 units are examined in June of the second year. Papers may be retaken to improve upon grades. The NEA is completed in Year 13 over the course of the year.

### Your options after this course

Modern languages like Spanish provide students with a range of invaluable and transferable skills. These skills will allow students to progress onto a variety of degree courses such as Law, Psychology, Teaching, Business, Medicine and Architecture. A degree in Spanish itself or Modern foreign languages can lead to roles in the civil service, the broadcasting industry or the business world

Further information from Mrs. E Adams

### Why choose Spanish?

- A Level Spanish is ideal if you have an inquiring, critical or analytical mind-set.
- Learn transferable skills, which keep your career options open. It combines well with other humanities subjects and an ideal contrasting subject for Mathematics and Science.
- A Level Spanish is a facilitating subject, which is listed as being highly desirable at competitive universities.
- Knowledge of a second language can help with the acquisition of a third or fourth language





# A Level Welsh (2<sup>nd</sup> Language) Cymraeg

## AIMS OF THE COURSE:

This course aims to develop students' spoken and written Welsh. Students will learn how to use the language in a wide variety of situations. They will study a number of modern Welsh texts and study the media in Wales, enabling them to appreciate Wales' rich, cultural heritage. The course aims to develop students' confidence in their use of Welsh and to take their place in a bilingual society at the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## CONTENT OF THE AS:

- ◆ **Unit 1** The Film and Oracy – students study the film 'Patagonia' and discuss it in pairs or groups. They will also be questioned individually about their chosen topic for Unit 2.
- ◆ **Unit 2** Written coursework – students have a choice of themes from which to choose.
- ◆ **Unit 3** Language and Poetry – This written examination aims to improve students' written Welsh and they will also study a number of modern Welsh poems.

## CONTENT OF THE A2:

- ◆ Unit 4 - The Drama and Oracy – students will study the drama 'Crash' and will be expected to discuss the use of Welsh on social media, in the theatre as well as in films and magazines. Students will also complete a synoptic assessment individually.
- ◆ Unit 5 –The Welsh language in Society and concurrent use of language – Students answer questions about historical events to do with the Welsh language and the challenges which face the language today. They will also be expected to respond in Welsh to an article written in English.
- ◆ Use of Language and The Short Story – the aim is to further develop students' written Welsh and to respond personally to one of four short stories.

## ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE:

- AS** – UNIT 1 – A twenty minute oral examination groups of three or pairs followed by about 5 minutes of individual questions. (15% = 60 marks)



UNIT 2 – Written coursework. (10% = 60 marks)

UNIT 3 – A two hour language and poetry examination.(15% = 120 marks)

## A2

UNIT 4 – A half hour oral examination in groups of three or pairs followed by about five minutes of individual questions. (25% =75 marks)

UNIT 5 – A two hour written examination on 'Welsh in Society' and students will respond in Welsh to a passage written in English. (15% = 80 marks)

UNIT 6 – A two hour examination on use of language and the short story. There will also be a synoptic assessment. (20% = 100marks)

## SKILLS/APTITUDES NEEDED TO SUCCEED:

A passion for the Welsh language and a desire to find out more about the heritage and culture of Wales.  
A commitment to avail oneself of all the opportunities to speak and use the Welsh language outside the classroom.



We would expect students to have achieved a 'B' in the Higher Tier papers at GCSE level.

Further information Mrs. L Evans - Subject Leader Cymraeg

# Cymraeg

## BENEFITS AND USES:

Students who study Welsh will develop their communication skills throughout the two years of study. The benefits of studying Welsh with a view to working in Wales are obvious, particularly in the public sector and in education. Many private sector companies are also realising the benefits of providing a Welsh language service and need employees who can offer these skills. The skills and discipline needed to succeed at AS and A Level will help students as they progress into higher education and the world of work. Welsh 'A' Level will also support other subjects if students wish to study outside of Wales and has equal status with all other A Levels. Fluency in two languages can also help with the acquisition of a third and fourth language. Finally, studying Welsh can also bring personal satisfaction when students can answer 'Yes I can' to the question 'Can you speak Welsh then?'