



St. Martin's School

Sixth Form



SIXTH FORM OPTIONS 2017



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Learning together, achieving together.



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A very warm welcome to St. Martin's Sixth Form Centre prospectus

As the very important decision of where and what to study is made, we trust our prospectus gives you a feel for what life is like here as a sixth form student. We are confident that whether students stay with us from Year 11 or join us in Year 12 from another school, they will settle quickly and feel part of our very unique community.

Our sixth form is at the heart of our school. It is a vibrant and dynamic community where students receive high quality teaching fostered in a culture of high expectations and excellent pastoral care. All students are challenged and supported to achieve their full potential in a stimulating and engaging environment that builds upon their many talents.

Our aim is to develop in our young people the skills and personal qualities required for an ever changing world, so that they become independent, confident learners, equipped to face the many challenges in their future vocations.

This is achieved through their academic studies and the extensive range of leadership and extra-curricular opportunities that our school based sixth form provides.

I look forward to welcoming the next generation of St. Martin's Sixth Form students as they embark upon this next exciting chapter in their journey through life.



Mr L Jarvis Headteacher

A photograph of several students in a classroom, wearing blue school uniforms. A young man in the foreground is smiling at the camera, while others are focused on their work in the background.

Course Information

A level Mathematics

The WJEC AS and A2 courses in Mathematics will encourage candidates to develop their understanding of Mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment. Students will develop abilities to extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques and use them in more difficult, unstructured problems. They will recognise and understand the relationship between 'real world' problems and their mathematics.

Entry Requirements

Students need to have achieved at least a grade B at Mathematics (higher tier) and have at least a grade C in science.

English Literature

The study of GCE English Literature at St. Martin's School is a fantastic opportunity to further enhance the range of skills acquired at GCSE level. If you enjoy reading, discussing ideas and writing critical essays, you'll find this a stimulating and challenging course. You will be encouraged to develop interest in and enjoyment of literature, through reading widely, critically and analytically, across centuries. There is significant scope for independent study and the emphasis of the course will be on your development as an informed, independent reader of literary texts covering the main genres of poetry, drama and prose.

Entry Requirements

You will be expected to have achieved a B in both English Literature and Language at GCSE. You will:

- have a passion for reading and be willing conduct independent reading to widen creativity and subject knowledge.
- carry out independent research based on authors and contexts surrounding the texts studied.
- be organised and adhere to all deadlines set.
- communicate effectively within lessons and contribute to class discussions.

A Level Geography

The WJEC AS and A level in Geography encourages learners to apply geographical knowledge, theory and skills to the world around them. In turn this will enable learners to develop a critical understanding of the world's people, places and environments in the 21st Century. Learners should be able to develop both knowledge and understanding of contemporary geographical concepts together with transferable skills that will enable them to progress to higher education and a range of employment opportunities.

The focus of the specification is to develop an enthusiasm for and competence in geography by using contemporary real-world contexts, and through engagement with and practical application of fieldwork skills. This specification draws on both physical and human geography, and requires a minimum of 2 days of fieldwork in Y12 and 2 days in Y13.

Entry Requirements

Students need to have achieved at least a grade C in geography GCSE and have at least a grade C in English.

A Level Biology

Biology provides a wide breadth of knowledge which touches on many diverse topics. These include the internal workings of organisms in physiology and the interdependence of living things in ecology, to social issues including human influence on the environment and the ethical considerations of genetics. The study of biology encourages an appreciation of these issues and their implications as well as providing an insight into the living world.

Analytical skills and practical skills are an intrinsic part of biology. There will be numerous opportunities for pupils to develop their competence throughout the course. A minimum of 15% of each theory paper will be allocated for the assessment of these skills; as well as a 'hands on' examination at the end of Year 13.

Entry Requirements

Students need to have achieved at least a grade BB at Double Award GCSE Science (higher tier) and have at least a grade C in Mathematics.

A Level Chemistry

The WJEC A level in Chemistry provides a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. It encourages learners to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, chemistry and to recognise its importance in their own lives and to society. The A-level reinforces GCSE work, provides a firm grounding in the subject and supports the other Sciences and Mathematic subjects. Opportunities are provided to develop practical skills, techniques and procedures.

Entry Requirements

Students need to have achieved at least a grade BB at Double Award GCSE Science (higher tier) and have at least a grade C in Mathematics.

Full course information can be found at www.stmartins.caerphilly.sch.uk



National Extended Certificate in Health & Social Care

The mandatory content of the qualification incorporates topics relevant across the health and social care sector:

- Human Lifespan Development – this will be assessed by an externally set and marked examination.
- Working in Health and Social Care – this will be assessed by an externally set and marked examination.
- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs – this will be assessed by the completion of a vocational based task.

Learners will also study one optional unit that covers the biological and sociological topics relevant to the different parts of the sector. Optional units include:

- Sociological Perspectives.
- Psychological Perspectives.
- Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs.
- Physiological Disorders and their Care.

Entry Requirements

Level 2 qualification in Health & Social is desirable but not essential. It is important to have a grade C or above in English.

A Level History

The WJEC History AS course builds on many of the skills of source evaluation and essay writing at GCSE whilst examining a range of differing aspects of History. The course develops a deeper understanding of History over time and looks at both British, European and World History.

The A2 course takes these skills further by allowing students to study a topic independently, carry out research and write at length on an important aspect of historical study.

Entry Requirements

Students need to have achieved at least a grade C at GCSE History. For those students who have not studied History at GCSE at least a Grade B in English language.



A Level Religious Studies

WJEC GCE Religious Studies is an exciting and engaging course that allows students to explore individual, moral, ethical, social, cultural and contemporary issues. It will also enable learners to develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, a study of religion and its place in the wider world. It consists of five modules over the two year course.

Entry Requirements

Pupils need to have achieved at least a C grade at Religious Studies GCSE.



A Level ICT

The course delivered at Year 12 consists of a multimedia based project and Information Systems examination. The examination also requires students to develop a spreadsheet system in lessons and use in the external examination. At Year 13 the project gives our learners an opportunity to develop a complex database system along the external examination testing learners on the Impact of ICT. This course is subject to change based on WJEC updates.

Entry Requirements

For AS Level a C grade is required and students wishing to study at A Level are required to have passed AS Level course.

A Level Media Studies

The A Level Media Studies course is an exciting course that offers challenge and development of a range of skills, from Literacy and ICT to Creative and Artistic skills. There is a balance of theoretical and analytical study of media texts, and creating your own media products, both print and audio visual. The AS course covers a very broad range of Media texts and industries while exploring the key areas of Textual Analysis, Representation and Audience. The A2 course investigates 3 of the Media Industries in more detail; for example we study Film, Music and Advertising through case studies,

Entry Requirements

Ideally you will have studied Media Studies at GCSE level, achieving at least a C grade. However, it proves to be a popular and successful choice for those new to the subject. You will need at least a C grade in GCSE English Language to study the course.



A Level Business

This specification introduces learners to the dynamic business environment and the importance of entrepreneurial activity in creating business opportunities and sustaining business growth. Learners will have the opportunity to develop a wide range of essential skills required for higher education and employment.

Entry Requirements

Students would benefit from having a prerequisite in GCSE Business, although this is not essential. Students also require to have attained a grade C in both Mathematic and English Language.

A Level Music

The WJEC A level in Music is an exciting and inspiring course which prepares learners for further study in Higher Education. This specification is divided into a total of 6 units, 3 AS units and 3 A2 units. Weightings noted below are expressed in terms of the full A level qualification.

Entry Requirements

Students need to have achieved at least a grade C in GCSE Music or BTEC Music.

Spanish

The new Spanish AS and A level spec allows pupils to become fluent and independent linguists. The course gives an in depth knowledge of the culture and traditions of Hispanic speaking countries. Pupils will study a wide variety of themes and sub topics whilst making links to Wales. Also, pupils are given the opportunity to study a 21st century film at AS and a 20th century play at A level.

Entry Requirements

In order for pupils to study Spanish at AS they will need to have achieved at least a C grade at GCSE.

A Level Physics

The WJEC A level in Physics provides a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. It encourages learners to recognise the importance of physics in their own lives and to society. A wide range of topics are covered from motion, electricity and light to oscillations, nuclear physics, fields and medical physics.

Learners should be prepared to apply the knowledge, understanding and skills in a range of theoretical, practical, industrial and environmental contexts.

Practical work is an intrinsic part of physics, and is highly valued by higher education. There will be numerous opportunities for learners to develop their practical skills throughout this course. A minimum of 15% of each theory paper will be allocated for the assessment of these skills; as well as a 'hands on' examination at the end of Year 13.

Entry Requirements

Students need to have achieved at least a grade BB at Double Award GCSE Science (higher tier) and have at least a grade B in Mathematics.

A Level Drama and Theatre Studies

The WJEC A level in Drama and Theatre is an exciting and inspiring course which prepares learners for further study in Higher Education. This highly practical specification provides learners with the opportunity to work as either performers and/or designers on three different performances.

Entry Requirements

Students need to have achieved at least a grade C in GCSE Drama and a C grade in GCSE English.



A Level Art and Design - Photography

This option covers a broad and changing area of study with light-based imagery spanning almost two centuries. Pupils will engage with early light based images and rudimentary technology, such as a pinhole camera, as well as the most contemporary, which may include the use of digital cameras, video camcorders, photocopiers, scanners and mobile phones. They may also work exclusively with film based or digital technology or with both. Outcomes can be screen or print based, comprise still or moving images and might be discrete to the subject area or combined with other art forms.

Entry Requirements

Students need to have achieved at least a grade C in GCSE Art and a C grade in GCSE English.



Full course information can be found at www.stmartins.caerphilly.sch.uk



A Level Art and Design

The WJEC A level in Art and Design is an inspiring course which prepares learners for further study in Higher Education. This highly practical specification provides learners with the opportunity to work in a range of media from traditional to using lct. The new Art & Design AS/A Level qualification is designed to:

- provide engaging, challenging, coherent and meaningful learning experiences through a flexible structure that supports the sequential and incremental development of creative practice.
- encourage adventurous and open programmes of study that promote purposeful exploration, experimentation and opportunities for productive personal expression.
- enable students to build skills and become confident in taking risks and learn from experience when exploring and experimenting with ideas, processes, media, materials and techniques.
- broaden experience, foster creativity, develop imagination and technical skills.
- develop critical, practical and theoretical skills that enable students to gain a holistic understanding of a range of practices and contexts in visual arts, crafts and design fields.

Entry Requirements

Students need to have achieved at least a grade C in GCSE Art and a C grade in GCSE English.

A Level Dance

A-level Dance provides students with the opportunity to gain experience of performance and choreography and to develop critical thinking about Dance.

This four-unit specification requires students to:

- develop understanding and knowledge as well as critical skills for the analysis of choreography and performance within their own work and in professional repertoire.
- gain experience of choreography and performance through practice.
- gain in-depth knowledge of specific study areas and professional works.

The practical elements of the course amount to 55% of the full qualification.

Entry Requirements

GCSE PE and/or experience in Dance.

BTEC National Extended Sport Diploma

The National Extended Diploma is a two-year, full-time course that meets Entry Requirements in its own right for learners who want progress to higher education courses in sport before entering employment. UCAS has agreed that this course will continue to meet higher education requirements. It is the equivalent to 3 A levels, and suitable for pupils who have a keen interest in pursuing a career in sport and physical education.

Entry Requirements

GCSE PE with a passion for sport and exercise. BB grade Science and C Grade English.

Welsh Baccalaureate

The central focus of the Welsh Baccalaureate at Advanced level is to provide a vehicle for level 3 learners to consolidate and progress the development of essential and employability skills. Building on their achievements at level 2, the qualification will help learners develop more complex skills, attributes and behaviours. It will provide experiences which will enable learners to be better prepared for their future destination, whether university, further training or employment.

The emphasis in the Welsh Baccalaureate is on applied learning i.e. acquiring and applying a range of transferable skills. Learners will develop skills through engagement in purposeful tasks; applying knowledge and understanding in contexts appropriate for level 3 learners. The Welsh Baccalaureate will encourage the learner to value skills development as a key aspect of education and life-long learning. Offering a learning experience relevant to the needs and demands of the workplace will develop learners' confidence, drive and initiative, preparing them to enter, succeed and progress in the world of work.

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A Level Electronics

The course provides a firm foundation in Electronics knowledge and understanding, together with mathematical competence for those wishing proceed to further studies in Electronics, Engineering or the Natural Sciences.

AS Level (year 1)

ET1: Introduction to Analogue and Digital Systems. This unit covers: Logic Gates, Logic System Design, Sequential Logic Systems and Amplifiers.

ET2: Electronic Circuits and Components. This unit covers: Current, Voltage, Resistance and Power, Timing Circuits, Semiconductor Diodes, Simple Power Supplies and Switching Circuits.

ET3: Programmable Control Systems Project. This unit focuses first on programming in a high level language using ladder logic programming, since this is prevalent in industrial control. However, many control systems, particularly in domestic systems such as television remote control, car remote keys and heating controllers make use of microcontrollers such as the PIC-chip. Programming these controllers in assembly language will open the door to many powerful applications and exciting project work.

A Level (year 2)

ET4: Electronic Communications Systems. This unit covers: Filters, Modulation Techniques, AM Radio Receiver, Digital Communications Systems.

ET5: Electronic Systems Applications. This unit covers: Counting Systems, Microcontroller Systems, Power Supply Systems, Instrumentation Systems and High Power Switching Systems.

ET6: Electronic Design Project. A Design and Build project.

Entry Requirements

No previous knowledge of Electronics required.

A Level Business

This specification introduces learners to the dynamic business environment and the importance of entrepreneurial activity in creating business opportunities and sustaining business growth. Learners will have the opportunity to develop a wide range of essential skills required for higher education and employment.

Entry Requirements

Students would benefit from having a prerequisite in GCSE Business, although this is not essential. Students also require to have attained a grade C in both Mathematic and English Language.



A Level Law

This specification aims to encourage students to: Develop and sustain their enjoyment of, and interest in, law; develop knowledge and understanding of selected areas of law and the legal system in England and Wales; develop an understanding of legal method and reasoning; develop the techniques of logical thinking, and the skills necessary to analyse and solve problems by applying legal rules; develop the ability to communicate legal arguments and conclusions with reference to appropriate legal authority; develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of law in society; gain a sound basis for further study; and develop knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of individuals within society.

Entry Requirements

Students would benefit from having a prerequisite in GCSE Law, although this is not essential. Students also require to have attained a grade C in both Mathematic and English Language.

Full course information can be found at www.stmartins.caerphilly.sch.uk





Key Dates

GCSE Results Day & Sixth Form Enrolment

Thursday 24th August 2017 9am - 12pm

Sixth Form Help Desk

Friday 25th August 2017 9:30am - 12:30pm

Term starts

Monday 4th September 2017