



Coleg y
Cymoedd

Caerphilly & Rhondda Cynon Taf

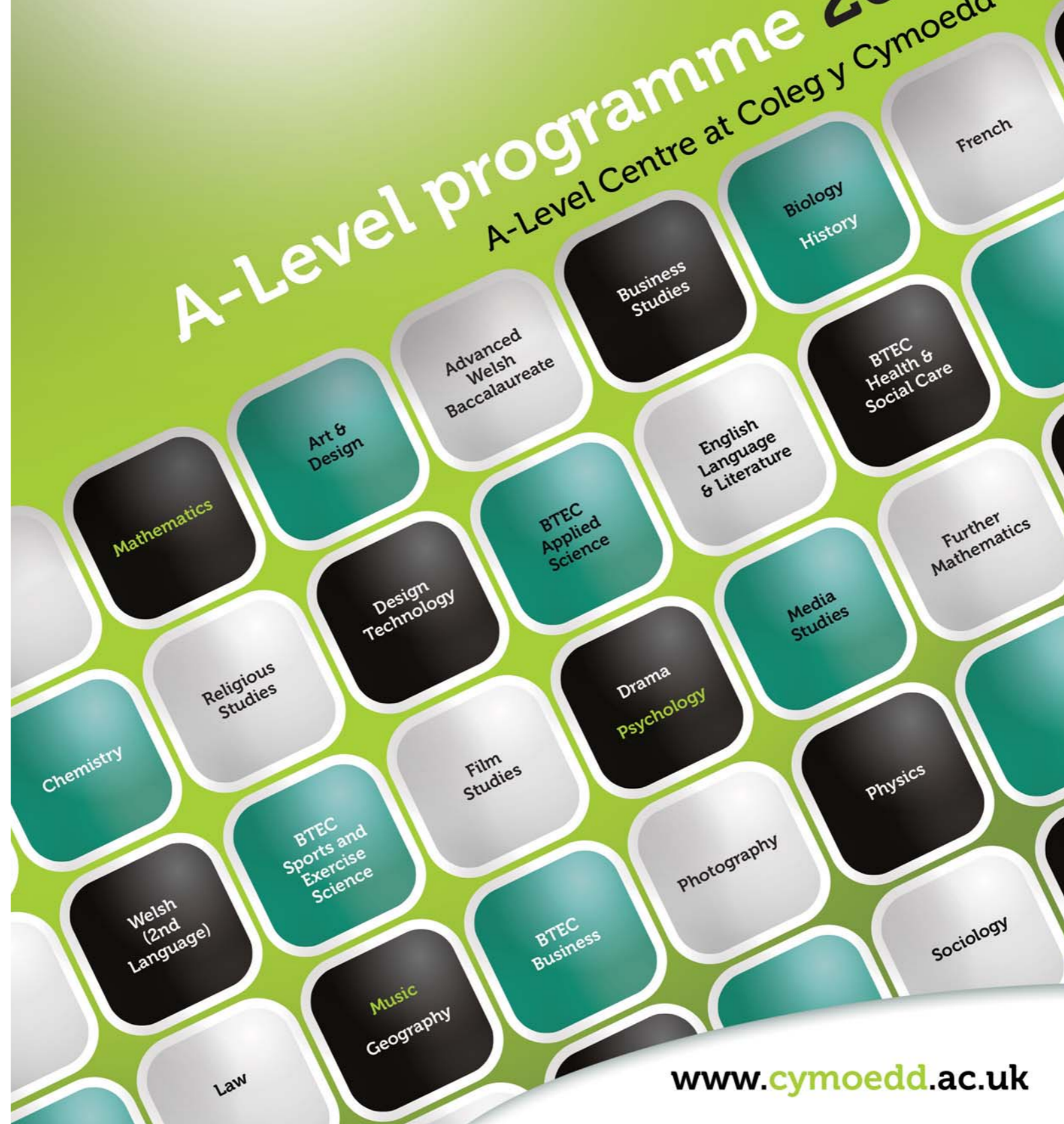


St David's
Catholic Sixth Form College
Coleg Catholig Dewi Sant
Dosbarth Chwech

Your Future is Our Mission

A-Level programme 2017

A-Level Centre at Coleg y Cymoedd



The A-Level Partnership

The programme of A-Levels in Coleg y Cymoedd's A-Level Centre is expertly delivered in partnership with St David's Catholic Sixth Form College.



"Welcome to Coleg y Cymoedd's A-Level brochure. We have a wide range of subjects to help you with your chosen career path. Many of our learners have benefitted from our first class environment, learning and support, many progressing to a wide variety of universities or employment. The A-Level provision is run in conjunction with St David's Catholic College where we share good practice and provide a highly positive learning experience for our learners."

Judith Evans, Principal of Coleg y Cymoedd

"St David's College is proud to be a key partner in the delivery of AS-Level and A-Level programmes at Coleg y Cymoedd. It has been a pleasure to share and develop expertise in partnership with the College. They have shown tremendous commitment to placing the interests of all learners first throughout this exciting partnership development. The partnership is founded upon the principle of delivering excellence to learners through a strong and broad curriculum offer. St David's is delighted at the success of the partnership so far and is confident that the future will lead to further, and even greater, success for all learners."

**Mark Leighfield,
Head of St. David's Catholic Sixth Form College**



Whatever your ambition, take the first step to a bright future and join the A-Level Centre at Coleg y Cymoedd and LEARN, ACHIEVE, SUCCEED!

Coleg y Cymoedd takes every effort to ensure the information in this publication is accurate at the time of printing. Coleg y Cymoedd reserves the right to make changes or withdraw without notice any of the courses, course facilities or support described. The website www.cymoedd.ac.uk will always contain the most up to date information.

Our 2016 success story:

The programme of A-Levels in Coleg y Cymoedd A-Level Centre, delivered in partnership with St David's Catholic Sixth Form College School, achieved exceptional results across the 2016 cohort, including learner Kristian Hallett, who gained 4 A Grades and secured a place at the University of Oxford to undertake a degree in Ancient and Modern History, and Calum Haggett, who achieved 1 A* and 3 A Grades to secure a place at Imperial College London to read Biomedical Science.



One of the outstanding achievements this year includes Kristian Hallett, from Ystrad Mynach, who achieved the grades he needed to secure a place at Oxford University. With his AAAA grades in Psychology, History, English Language & Literature and Welsh Baccalaureate, Kristian is now set to study Ancient and Modern History at the University of Oxford's Regent's Park College.

Speaking on results day, Kristian said: "Opening the results was great, it feels like the reward for all the hard work ahead of the exams and then waiting for the results. Now I know that I have a place secured at Oxford I think I might take a gap year. I may even study another A-Level at Coleg y Cymoedd." Kristian Hallett

Kristian has since returned to the A-Level Centre to study additional A-Levels in Art and Drama before commencing his Oxford studies next year.

"I decided to return to college because the atmosphere is extremely conducive to my learning – the staff are very helpful and the friendliness of the students enhances every lesson. I have developed so many important skills during my time at Coleg y Cymoedd, and I'm now pleased to be developing my creative skills through my studies in Art and Drama."

Callum Haggett, one of Wales' leading young athletes, achieved his A Level goals, gaining one A* and three A Grades in Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology to secure a place at Imperial College London to study Biomedical Science. Callum's time at Coleg y Cymoedd has also seen him captain the College's league winning rugby squad and represent his country internationally as captain of the Wales U18's Rugby Union squad. For the last year Callum has put his rugby career on hold in order to concentrate on his studies. He has signed for a rugby club in London and is looking forward to continuing his rugby and re-igniting his playing career.



"My results were such a relief and are a real testament to the work I've put in over the last couple of years. I really can't thank Coleg y Cymoedd enough for their support. They've really gone the extra mile to make sure I got the results I needed, from organising additional tutoring to allowing me extra time to fit in my rugby career." Callum Haggett



Identical twins Rory and Ryan Doolan received identical A-Level results. When they opened their results together at the College, they discovered that they had both achieved A*AAB Grades in Maths, Geography, Physics and the Welsh Baccalaureate. The brothers have both gone to their first choice university, Bath, to study Civil Engineering.

Your success story with us:

- You will be taught in the comfort of our £40 million, award-winning and fully-equipped Nantgarw Campus
- The A-Level programme at Coleg y Cymoedd offers the choice of 22 AS/A-Level subjects and 7 BTEC Level 3 options
- Our expert subject tutors are from across the partnership and pride themselves on providing the highest level of education and learning opportunities.

The Personal Support Package:

The transition from school to college can be daunting, but our expert team of pastoral tutors will help you at every stage of your college journey. You will receive a complete support package coordinated by your personal tutor, who will help you with everything from EMA queries to time management and revision skills. Progress meetings, to which your parents or guardians are invited, take place each year. You will be fully supported during your time at the A-Level Centre and guided through a comprehensive personal tutorial system, which encompasses specific support with university applications. Last year, learners applied to 15 of the Sutton 30 universities and offers were received from all 15, including Durham, London School of Economics, Reading and Bristol.

Why study with us?

Learners – Reasons to Choose Us:

- A wide range of A-Levels (22) and BTEC Level 3 (7) options
- The freedom to become an independent learner
- Offers an ideal bridge between school and Higher Education
- Broaden your horizons and meet new people
- A modern and contemporary building with superb facilities
- A comprehensive tutorial/support system
- Extra-curricular activities via the BOOST enrichment programme.

Parents – Reasons to Choose Us:

- Excellent A-Level results
- Develop and foster important life skills, transferable to university and employment
- Proven Oxbridge, 'Sutton 13' and 'Sutton 30' university application success
- Comprehensive tutorial/support system
- Personal contact with all tutors and lecturers
- Adult learning environment and culture.



Georgia Evans was shocked at her results, gaining A*A*A in History, Drama and the Welsh Baccalaureate. She has taken up a place at King's College London to study History.

"I was totally shocked with my results but very pleased. I've had great support from my teachers and the college. I'm now looking forward to studying at King's College London."

"My subject tutors really pushed and supported me to achieve the best grades possible. It was also thanks to my subject tutor's encouragement that I even considered applying to such a prestigious university. Studying at Coleg y Cymoedd has opened the door to incredible opportunities, and has given me the confidence to believe in my abilities; it was due to my subject tutors being always readily available to help with any queries or extra feedback that ensured I felt confident and prepared for my exams."



What parents say:

"We would describe Coleg y Cymoedd as a college that takes pride in its students and is therefore dedicated and passionately committed to helping develop their potential to perform to the best of their ability.

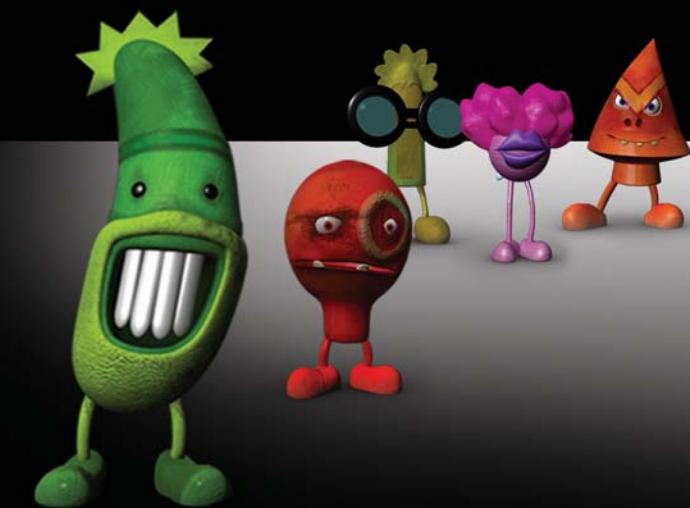
The College has well-qualified, experienced, dedicated staff members, who were always there for our son, encouraging both his academic and sporting career. They made it possible for him to achieve the highest possible grades, which has enabled him to pursue his career in Medicine, whilst also being Captain of the U18s Welsh squad, achieving four Welsh Rugby International caps

We commend Coleg y Cymoedd for its excellence and invaluable support."

Adam & Linda Haggett, Parents.

BOOST your success with us...

Boost your skills and experiences at Coleg y Cymoedd with a wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer through the BOOST programme. Whether you want to learn Mandarin, make a film, improve your mindfulness, perform on stage or just have fun; BOOST has something to make you stand out from the crowd.



BOOST member, Chloe Donovan (learner) says:

"Being a part of Boost Theatre has not only allowed me to build upon my skills, but has also allowed me to make long lasting friendships. The extra skills I've developed will definitely strengthen my university application."

More Able and Talented Programme

Supporting our learners and helping them fulfil their potential is at the heart of what we do at the A-Level Centre at Coleg y Cymoedd.

Whilst this is reflected across our curriculum and in our approach to all learners, we are also proud of our success supporting More Able and Talented learners through their applications to Oxbridge and the top 'Sutton 13' and 'Sutton 30' universities, with our past learners moving on to study at Cambridge, Oxford, King's College London and a host of top UK universities.

Our More Able and Talented (MAT) programme works in collaboration with the Rhondda Cynon Taf MAT scheme, and:

- Prepares learners for the application process, admissions test and interview
- Provides strong links to the Oxford UNIQ and the Sutton Trust Summer School Programmes

The success of our MAT programme has been recognised by the Welsh Government which has invited us to host one of only three government-funded MAT Hubs across Wales. The Seren Hub works closely with the Welsh Government and staff from Oxbridge and Cambridge Universities to provide a specific programme of scholarly activities aimed at enhancing our learners' academic experiences.

"It takes a lot of confidence applying to Oxbridge and it can sometimes be difficult to find things to write about in your personal statement. However, the MAT programme gives you some personal statement gold. Not only can you discuss what you've learned in the masterclasses, but having that extra field - specific knowledge and intellectual challenge - really boosts your confidence in your application process." Ellis Kenealy, MAT learner.



Welsh Baccalaureate - Advanced

What is it? Why is it studied?

The Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate is a qualification unique to Welsh education. It is based on developing the skills of young people in Wales in order to help them compete in an international market, focusing on:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Digital Literacy
- Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
- Planning & Organisation
- Creativity & Innovation
- Personal Effectiveness

The central focus of the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate is to enable you to develop essential and employability skills, which will better prepare you for your future destination, whether that is university, further training or employment. You will also develop your knowledge and understanding of society, the community in which you live and wider awareness of global issues, events and perspectives.

What is it worth?

- The Welsh Baccalaureate will be graded as an A-Level (A*- E)
- It carries UCAS points that help learners meet their UCAS offers
- It is widely accepted by universities, including members of the prestigious 'Sutton 13' and 'Sutton 30' universities, such as Durham, Imperial College, London, King's College, London, London School of Economics, Reading and Bristol.

We have had significant success in the Welsh Baccalaureate, with 93% of learners achieving the Advanced Diploma, putting us above the national average by 7%. For a large number of learners, the Welsh Baccalaureate has been the deciding factor in meeting their university offers.

"The Welsh Baccalaureate is a good course, it helped me to improve my skills. My communication skills have especially improved a great deal and I learn new computer skills every day." Leah Evans, Learner.

Support with your next step:

Supporting our learners and preparing them for their futures is a key focus at the A-Level Centre at Coleg y Cymoedd. We offer a range of additional support strategies, tailored to finding the right path for your next step.

We will:

- Guide you through the UCAS process and support you every step of the way, from submission to selecting your firm choice
- Offer expert support with personal statements and CVs
- Give tailored careers advice
- Provide guidance through apprenticeship & job applications and opportunities
- Support you with relevant work experience placements
- Provide extensive interview practice, as required
- Nurture and develop your confidence and skills-base

Last year, learners applied to 15 of the 'Sutton 30' universities and offers were received from all 15, including top universities such as:

Oxford | London School of Economics | Cambridge
King's College, London | Imperial College, London
Exeter | Cardiff | Liverpool | Manchester | Durham

Missed the grades? Want another attempt?

The A-Level programme has taken learners who have not achieved the grades they envisaged or those revisiting existing A Levels to improve their grades/UCAS points for university or potential employment. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you fall into this category to discuss the available options.

Whatever your ambition, take the first step to a bright future and join the A-Level Centre at Coleg y Cymoedd and **LEARN, ACHIEVE, SUCCEED!**



A Level Subject Title	Entry Requirements
Art & Design	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including Art or evidence of an artistic ability in the form of a comprehensive portfolio verified by Art teachers.
Business Studies	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including Maths and GCSE English Language.
Biology	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including English Language plus a grade B in Maths and grade BB in Double Award Science, or B in GCSE Biology.
Chemistry	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including grade C in Maths and grade BB in Double Award Science, or grade C in GCSE Chemistry (Higher Tier).
Design Technology	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including a Design and Technology subject. For the A Level Systems and Control course it is essential that you have grade A* - C in Systems and Control or Electronics at GCSE.
Drama	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including GCSE Drama or a Merit in Level 2 BTEC Diploma in Performing Arts. Or where Drama was not sat a grade C in English Language or Literature.
English Language and Literature	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including English Language.
Film Studies	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including English Language.
French	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including English Language and grade B in French.
Geography	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including Geography at Higher Level and English Language. Grade C in Maths is preferable.
History	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including English Language and History.
Law	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including English Language. You do not need to have studied Law at GCSE.
Mathematics	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including a grade B in Maths.
Further Mathematics	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including a grade A in Maths.
Media Studies	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including English Language. You do not need to have studied Media at GCSE.
Music	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including English Language and Music GCSE at grade B or BTEC equivalent plus performing ability equal to grade 5 on any instrument/voice.

A Level Subject Title	Entry Requirements
Photography	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including English Language. It is beneficial to own a Digital SLR although not essential.
Physics	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including Maths at grade B plus Double Award Science at BB, or GCSE Physics (Higher Tier) at grade B.
Psychology	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including Maths, English Language and a B in Science. You do not need to have studied Psychology at GCSE.
Religious Studies	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including English Language and grade C in Religious Studies (full or short course).
Sociology	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including English Language. You do not need to have studied Sociology at GCSE.
Welsh (2nd Language)	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including a grade B in Welsh higher tier or substantial oral fluency. This is AS Welsh Second Language. Learners who have GCSE Welsh (First Language) cannot take this course.
Criminology - WJEC Level 3 Certificate leading to Diploma	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including English Language.
Applied Science – BTEC Certificate leading to Subsidiary Diploma	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including Maths, English Language and a Science equivalent.
Business - BTEC Certificate leading to Subsidiary Diploma	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including Maths and English Language or equivalent.
Health & Social Care - BTEC Certificate leading to Subsidiary Diploma	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C.
Sports and Exercise Science - BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including PE, English and preferably Science, or equivalent.
Law - BTEC Certificate leading to Subsidiary Diploma	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C.
IT – BTEC Certificate leading to Subsidiary Diploma	5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including ICT, preferably at Grade B, or equivalent.
Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate (WBQ)	All full-time Level 3 learners are required to study the Welsh Baccalaureate (Advanced Diploma)



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What Can You Study With Us?

The A-Level programme enables you to study three or four AS-Levels plus the Welsh Baccaulaureate (Advanced) in your AS year. Following successful AS results, you will then progress to study at A2-Level, including the Welsh Baccaulaureate. You can widen your choices with a combined course by choosing 1 or 2 AS subjects alongside BTEC choices. Options can be discussed during your application process.



How do I apply?

First steps... If unsure of what courses you wish to study, visit our website www.cymoedd.ac.uk, attend an advice day or phone the college. Complete an on-line application form or download the paper-based version and return.

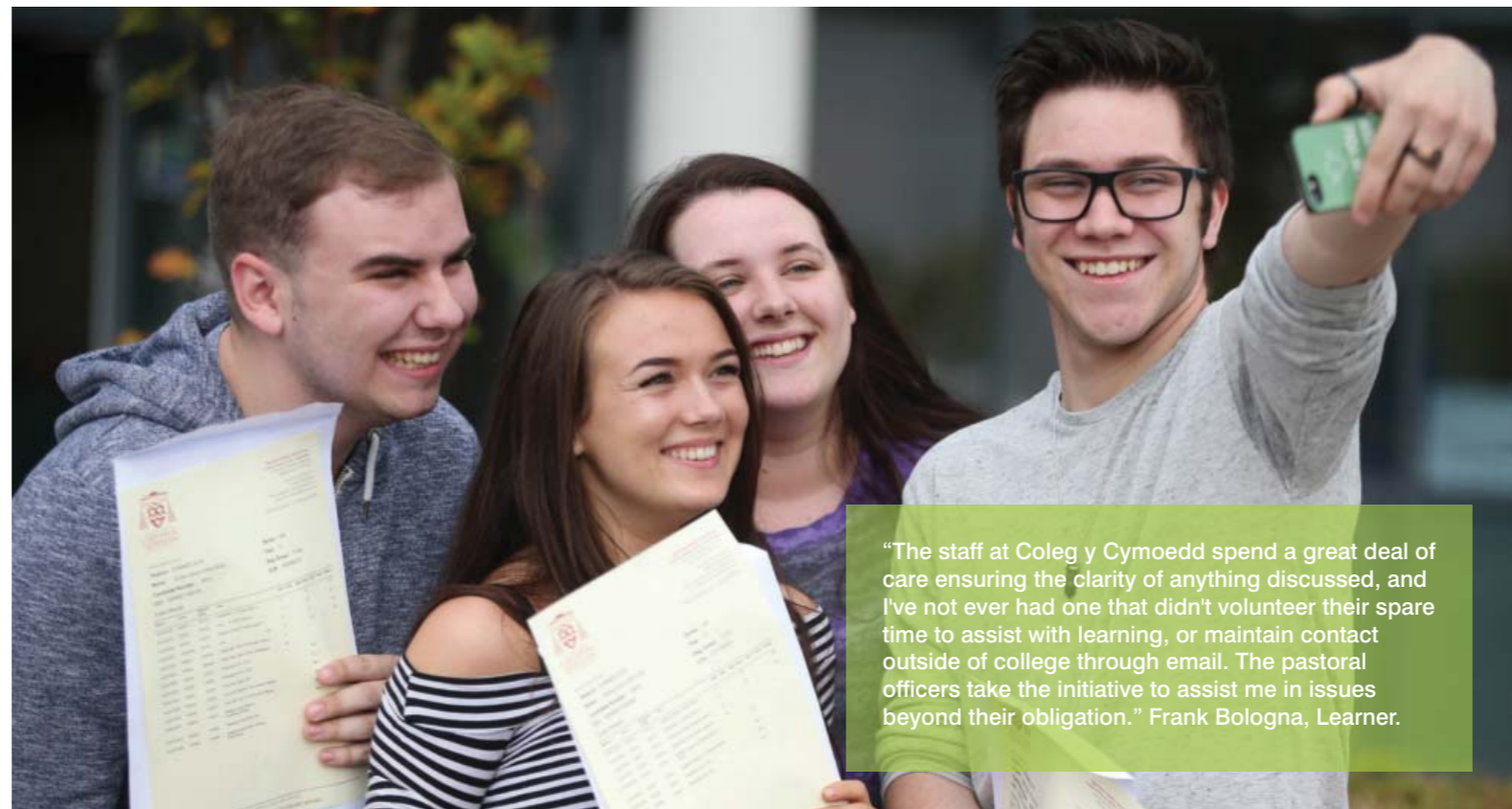
What's next?

Step 1: We will invite you into the college for an interview about your chosen options. As part of this wider application and enrolment process, we will offer you advice and guidance with your subject selection, helping you to achieve the right balance in your AS, and later, A2 subjects alongside any vocational options that you may be considering.

Step 2: Depending on your interview, you will receive an offer conditional on your GCSE results. This letter will inform you of when to come to enrol after your GCSE results.

Step 3: Attend an enrolment day at the time specified in your 'offer' letter.

For more detailed information www.cymoedd.ac.uk



"The staff at Coleg y Cymoedd spend a great deal of care ensuring the clarity of anything discussed, and I've not ever had one that didn't volunteer their spare time to assist with learning, or maintain contact outside of college through email. The pastoral officers take the initiative to assist me in issues beyond their obligation." Frank Bologna, Learner.