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Welcome

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St Teilo’s Church in Wales High School
Ysgol Uwchradd Teilo Sant yr Eglwys yng Nghymru

We are delighted that you are considering the Sixth Form at St Teilo’s Church in Wales High School as the next step in your academic career. This guide is designed to give both students and parents/carers a flavour of the post-16 provision offered by St Teilo’s, and the support, guidance and opportunities you can expect within a focused, academic sixth form that is underpinned by Christian beliefs and values.

We are fortunate to not only have first-rate learning facilities, but also a specialist A Level and Post-16 teaching staff, who, combined with the skills and talent of our excellent administration and support staff, provide students in the sixth form with the best possible opportunity to reach their full potential.
Why St Teilo’s Sixth Form?

The education landscape in Wales and across the UK is changing. As standards at A Level continue to increase, and the demands on A-Level students grows ever greater, it is crucial that sixth forms and further education colleges respond, or face being left behind.

The sixth form at St Teilo’s Church in Wales High School has made significant progress, as is highlighted by our “Red 3” rating on the ALPS Quality Indicator, which puts St Teilo’s in the top 25% of Sixth Forms in the UK.

But the journey doesn’t stop here. We are dynamic in our approach to post-16 education, building on our extensive experience to provide a high quality post-16 education to our students. We are an inclusive sixth form in every sense, underpinned by a Christian ethos, beliefs and values. It is only when we deliver “education with care” that we can ensure the best possible outcomes for our learners, where all students achieve their potential. Our Sixth Form students join us from both the city of Cardiff and beyond, from a wide range of schools with differing abilities, faiths and backgrounds.
Year on year, we continue to see a significant number of students achieve success, securing places at prestigious universities, including both the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge, as a direct result of their educational experience in the Sixth Form at St Teilo’s Church in Wales High School. We provide extensive support for students, and stretch and challenge our most able learners through our own Platinum Programme, and our participation in the SEREN Network and the Brilliant Club.

We are confident that the high quality of the enrichment opportunities our students are offered, combined with the first-class facilities, teaching and pastoral guidance provided by the Sixth Form are a platform from which our students can achieve excellence. We continue to build on these successes to ensure that the Sixth Form at St Teilo’s Church in Wales High School offers one of the best post-16 pathways in South Wales.
Courses and Study Options

In the Sixth Form, students sharpen their academic focus by studying three or four subjects. Therefore, it is important that students are studying the subjects and following the courses that most suit them, and provide a firm foundation for higher education and their chosen career.

There is an extensive combination of both Level 2 and Level 3 courses available in the Sixth Form at St Teilo’s. A wide range of traditional A Level subjects are complemented by additional Level 3 vocational qualifications.
Level 2 Programme of Study
For students that require a foundation year in the Sixth Form before continuing with A Level study, a balanced Level 2 programme of study that includes English and Maths tuition as well as Level 2 BTEC courses may be suited.

The Welsh Baccalaureate
All students at St Teilo’s study the Welsh Baccalaureate alongside their own subject choices. At Level 3, this qualification is the equivalent of an A Level, and is recognised by many universities across the UK. The seven skills that are embedded within the programme (Literacy, Numeracy, Digital Competency, Critical Thinking, Creativity, Planning and Organisation and Personal Effectiveness) are highly regarded by higher education institutions.

The qualification consists of four ‘challenge certificates’ – Community, Enterprise and Employability, Global Development and the Individual Project, a research project which is excellent preparation for the demands of extended writing at university. As all assessment for this qualification is via controlled assessment and not examinations, this is an excellent qualification to support students in developing a holistic skill base.

Our Partners
As a part of the Faith Based Learning Network, St Teilo’s partnership with St David’s Catholic College provides our students with a much broader range of subjects than is possible in most other learning centres.
Subject Choices

The key to success in the Sixth Form is making sure that students are on the right courses, and studying the subjects that are most suitable for them, from the very start of Year 12.

How to choose?
The 30 most prestigious Universities in the UK form the ‘Russell Group.’ These institutions have produced some guidelines for student on how to choose the right subjects and qualifications in Year 12, which are outlined below:

Three reasons you may want to continue taking a subject at A level are:
• You’ve enjoyed and been good at the subject in the past, and think you will achieve a high grade in it.
• You need the subject to enter a particular career or course
• You’ve studied the subject before but you have looked into it and think it will suit your strengths

Three further considerations should be:
• Some subjects are distinctly more difficult at A level
• Check you are choosing the correct subject for a future career
• Research subjects before you choose them!

Then, use the ‘five point plan.’
1. If you know what you want to study at university:
Check the subject entry requirements (www.ucas.com)

2. If you are not sure yet about what course to study:
Keep your options open by choosing at least one facilitating subject (Maths, English Literature, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, History, Languages.) These subjects will keep a wide range of university courses open to you!

3. GCSEs Matter!
Are you on track to achieve the highest grades you can at GCSE? A Level courses can have specific entry requirements so it is important to do your best in Year 11!

4. Think balance:
Do you have a balance of subject choices that reflect your abilities, strengths and interests?

5. Considering a new subject? Do you know WHY?
Can you talk for a minute on what this subject is about? Why do you want to study it? It’s not enough to say “it’s interesting” or “it will be fun.”
Education with Care

As the academic demand upon sixth form students increases, this, combined with social and emotional pressures, can prove challenging for students. Our extensive pastoral system is designed to promote both academic success and student well-being.

**LEARNING**

**Learner Coach**
All students are allocated a ‘Learner Coach’ who they will meet with one per half term, to discuss academic progress and student well-being.

**Academic Tracking**
Regular academic tracking provides opportunities for parents to meet with the Sixth Form staff whilst students are in both Year 12 and 13, and helps parents to support their children during this important stage of their education.

**Academic Mentoring and Intervention**
Through the rigorous academic tracking programme, students who are struggling are quickly identified for the sixth form team, who will provide these students with a supportive intervention programme and bespoke academic mentoring, to support them in achieving their goals.
CARE

Sixth Form Achievement Leader
The Achievement Leader in the Sixth Form is responsible for the day-to-day running and pastoral care of the sixth form and the students that study there, supported by the Deputy Achievement Leader. They are the first point of contact for students with questions or concerns.

Sixth Form Administrative Officer
The Sixth Form Administrative Officer, is the first telephone point of contact for all attendance issues and EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance) applications, and will often be the first point of contact for parents contacting the Sixth Form.

Counselling Services
Students will have access to the school chaplain and our dedicated Sixth Form Counsellor, and may discuss any personal concerns with either individual. This service is free and available to all students, and appointments can be made via the Achievement Leader.
Faith in the Sixth Form

All students attend a daily worship session, which provides students with the opportunity to reflect on current affairs from a faith perspective and explore both their own faith and beliefs, and those of other cultures.

Prayer and Collective Worship
Weekly faith assemblies are delivered by the Sixth Form Tutor Team, Pastoral Team, members of the school’s senior leadership team and visiting clergy and outside speakers. This time is an opportunity for reflection, contemplation and prayer. There is an annual Christian Eucharist for all Sixth Form students. The Leavers’ Service is traditionally held in St Margaret’s Church, Roath.

Christian Union and the ‘Faith Blog’
The development of the ‘faith blog’ has proved to be a successful medium for students to explore their own beliefs and share those with their peers. Sixth Form students are encouraged to play a leading role in the Christian Union.

Faith Days and Question Times
The annual Faith Day complements the extended curriculum that Sixth Form students are exposed to at St Teilo’s, and is an important part of the worship programme. The days do not shy away from challenging themes – recent topics have included food poverty, the refugee crisis and international
conflict. These popular events provide students with the opportunity to extend and develop their understanding of current affairs and world events from a Christian perspective.

Our annual Question Time event, takes the form of a panel discussion and debate. In an ever-changing world, students are afforded the opportunity to ask the difficult questions that arise through the exploration of their faith, and with the support of local clergy and faith figures, this important event continues to grow.

**Charity Committee**
Lead by the Sixth Form, the charity committee provides students with the opportunity to design a fundraising template and events for local and national charities.

**Global Outreach**
A small number of students will have the opportunity to visit our partner school in Kable – a truly exceptional experience, where they will support the community through teaching in local schools and delivering worship sessions.
Sixth Form Learning Zone

Learning Resource Centre
A fully stocked library and study space that is available to all Sixth Form students throughout the day for silent, independent study. Students will also find the extensive careers library in the LRC, filled with the very latest prospectuses and information from a wide range of Universities and other Higher Education Institutions.

Sixth Form Study Centre
A dedicated space for all Sixth Form students to undertake independent study during study sessions and during breaks. This is a large space where students can work in a focused learning environment. This work space is available to students throughout the day.

ICT
There are two fully equipped ICT suites that are available for both Sixth Form Welsh Baccalaureate Lessons, and independent study outside of these times. ICT facilities are also available in the LRC and in departments, where tablet computers are readily available for loan by students. For students that wish to use their own equipment for independent study, the Sixth Form Learning Zone is readily equipped with WIFI internet access.
Sixth Form Café
The Sixth Form Café is open for breakfast, lunch and snacks throughout the day, and is the perfect place to catch up with friends and enjoy the wide range of food and beverages on offer.

Specialist teaching spaces
State of the art laboratories, well-resourced art studios, modern technology rooms, dedicated performance spaces and spacious class rooms with full ICT integration are just some of the facilities St Teilo’s offers sixth form students.

Sports Facilities
Sixth form students have dedicated access to our extensive sport and fitness facilities through discrete timetabled sessions where there is exclusive sixth form access.

School Chapel
A dedicated space for prayer and private worship, the chapel is a tranquil and serene space that is available to sixth form students on request.
Preparing for the Future

University, employment or apprenticeships – whatever a student’s next steps may be, they will be fully prepared for their next step during their time in the Sixth Form at St Teilo’s.

Guidance and Support
Students will receive focused and student-centred support throughout their time at St Teilo’s, in the form of:

- Learning Coach
- UCAS Mentor
- University Workshops
- Careers’ Guidance
- Interview Practice
- Study Skills Workshops
- Work Experience
- Personal Statement Workshops

Students are actively encouraged to attend University Open Days in advance of making their UCAS Applications.

Interview Day
All students experience Interview Day when local employers, relevant to student’s future goals, provide interviews and individual feedback regarding interview technique. In partnership with Howells School all prospective Oxbridge candidates receive bespoke interview experience.

Higher Education Information Evening
Hosted at the end of Year 12, this crucial event provides parents and students alike with all they need to know about the UCAS application process, from Personal Statements to Work Experience.
Platinum Programme

A student-centred approach to enrichment, the Platinum Programme hosts lectures and workshops from subject specialists in a host of unique subject areas.

The Platinum Programme is designed to challenge and extend the thinking of students, and broaden their educational experiences. Recent sessions have included Critical Thinking, An Introduction to Latin, “The Big Bang”, Dissection of a Heart Laboratory Practical, Mathematics in Nature and The Politics of Performance. The programme also promotes and supports application to prestigious university summer schools.

How to apply to the Platinum Programme
The Platinum Programme requires well motivated students so students apply for a place, as a measure of their commitment. All level 3 learners are eligible to apply to the programme.
Extracurricular Opportunities

St Teilo’s sixth form students are able to access a wide range of extracurricular opportunities, including:

- Sixth Form Sports Teams, including football and netball
- Musical instrument tuition
- Sixth Form Drama Productions
- Theatre Trips
- Subject specific residential visits
- Education visits abroad, such as Krakow, Poland to visit Auschwitz as part of the Nazi Germany module
- Nomination for the role of Head Boy / Head Girl
- Political Debates
- Faith Day and Question Time Events
- Christian Union
- Organising charity events
- Participation in the sixth form council
- ‘Access to Oxbridge’ events and workshops

Extracurricular events that arise during the academic year are promoted through assemblies and the Sixth Form Bulletin
How to Apply

Applying to St Teilo’s Sixth Form could not be easier:

APPLY Fill in the on line application available on our website or request a paper application form by phoning 02920547180

INTERVIEW All applicants will be invited to interview. These take place from January to March. At interview, we will discuss your application and your subject choices. Be prepared to discuss career ambitions.

OFFER A written offer will be received providing a conditional offer for EITHER Level 2 courses or Level 3 courses. Attainment of 5 full course GCSEs is the requirement for acceptance to A level courses. We will ask you to confirm your acceptance of the offer in writing. 

St Teilo’s reserves the opportunity to offer some unconditional places on the strength of individual interviews and performance indicators.

TASTER DAY Our July Taster Day will allow you to sample courses before you commit to them. This is particularly useful for students who will be studying subjects that are new to them.

ENROLMENT Enrolment will take place the day after GCSE results are released. Further information will be supplied at the July Taster Day.

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER 2017 ENTRY IS 9AM ON WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2017.
Follow the Sixth Form on Twitter:
www.twitter.com/stteilo_6thform