



CHWECHED
SIXTH

Prospectus

2023-2024

Headteacher's Welcome

Croeso'r Prifathrawes

The Sixth Form has traditionally been one of the strengths of the British Education system.

It has produced good academic results and offered opportunities for students to develop their interests and exercise responsibility within the school as a whole.

This enables students to develop personal qualities and experiences which are viewed as very important in work, Further Education and Higher Education.



Gowerton Sixth Form has a reputation for excellence. Estyn Inspection Reports have drawn attention to the consistently high quality of teaching in the Sixth Form, the 'generous' provision of teaching time, and the rigorous monitoring of student progress.

Many students have moved on from Sixth Form into jobs with good career opportunities or interesting, exciting prestigious courses in Higher Education. Other aspects of education continue to be regarded as important in Gowerton. Sport is an important feature of Sixth Form life, as are Drama and Music. There are opportunities to become involved in community work, charity work and opportunities to take responsibility for working with younger pupils. These are very important as they develop and provide an opportunity to demonstrate Key Skills which are so valued by employers and admissions personnel.

We seek to offer opportunities for each student to achieve their full potential in a structured, caring environment. The academic element is quite clearly important whatever a student intends to do. It is also important that students have the opportunity to develop other aspects of their lives. Higher education and employment application forms place great emphasis on wider development of character and personality.

As well as the aspects of things like punctuality and reliability included on these forms, they also ask for comments on leadership quality and the ability to work with others, as well as breadth of interest and commitment displayed by the student. Gowerton Sixth Form offers the opportunity to develop and display these aspects of personality.

A high proportion of our students' progress to Higher or Further Education each year. In 2023, 100% of our students that wished to progress to university achieved a place.

Our pastoral system before, during and after the examinations is second to none. Our team has the experience (and the network of contacts) to ensure your time in the Sixth Form has the best possible outcome.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'K S Lawlor'.

K. S. Lawlor
Headteacher

Head of Sixth

Pennaeth y Chweched

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Gowerton Sixth Form. As Head of KS5 I work closely with colleagues to ensure that we best prepare our 6th Form students for their futures, based on their individual needs. At Gowerton School we pride ourselves on offering a personal and bespoke service to all our pupils in Years 12 and 13. I can guarantee that we put the individual student at the centre of everything we do, and I promise that we will always do our very best for our students.



Aside from the wide range of academic courses on offer, led by an excellent team of experienced teachers and examiners, our students also have access to many more opportunities. Sixth Form students at Gowerton each have a personal mentor, access to a careers officer and the opportunity to be involved in whole school events. We provide thorough examination preparation and constant UCAS support and guidance. Furthermore, our pupils are offered a variety of excursions whilst having the option to take part in sports fixtures, musical events and tours abroad. There is never a dull moment here, hence our students have lots to talk about when it comes to interviews, or plenty to write about when completing application forms.

We operate an 'open door' policy in the sixth form which means that our students and their parents are always most welcome to discuss any concerns or queries, either with myself or with another member of the pastoral team. I look forward to working with many of you soon.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. Preuss', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

H. Preuss
Head of Sixth Form

Sixth Form Team

Tîm Chweched



H. Preuss
Head of Sixth



M. Lewis
Deputy Head of Sixth



D. Devonald
Examinations Manager



S. Tomkins
Sixth Form Support

Education

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Gowerton School offers a wide range of opportunities in the Sixth Form.

The most important thing, of course, is to obtain good qualifications. There is a range of AS and A-Levels to choose from. In addition, however, there are many other opportunities which will enhance your CV and your application forms for Higher Education and future employment. Sport, Music and Drama are all important aspects of school life. There is a thriving Charity Committee which raises considerable sums for good causes. There are opportunities to help younger pupils with their work, socially and in sport. There is a wide range of teams, musical ensembles, trips and visits.

All of these are looked on as very important by institutions such as universities.

Post-sixteen is a vital time. It is important that you are preparing yourself for employment or university in a familiar atmosphere where you feel comfortable and where you can be guided and supported for success.

Nothing prepares you completely for the changes post-eighteen. There is no transitional stage, but the school Sixth Form provides a launch pad, which, if opportunities are taken, can give you everything you need for a successful take-off.

Qualifications

Studying in the Sixth Form is very different from what has gone before. You will be studying fewer subjects and working in smaller groups, and you will have some independent study time when you have to organise your own learning. Teaching is always in small groups and in specialist rooms where required. There are ample facilities for research and private study in the Sixth Form Block, as well as a common room to relax and socialise.

In the Sixth Form you will start off studying either 2, 3 or 4 AS-levels plus the Welsh Baccalaureate. This course of study will lead to a qualification at the end of the first year of study. This is why it is important that you start purposefully. The qualifications that you achieve here will be important themselves, in the marks you will carry forward to the second phase of the A-level (A2), and for your applications for Higher Education or for a job.

Most students in their second year of study will carry on with two or three subjects through to the A-Level examinations known as A2. These are the exams which will be most significant in determining your success in getting to the University or training of your choice at 18. Advanced study is hard work, but it is also rewarding and enjoyable if approached in the right way. You have the opportunity to work at a much smaller number of subjects which you can enjoy.

Look at the courses available at our open evening or at any time on our school website. Feel free to talk to teachers about the courses and remember that no final decisions are necessary until September.

Don't forget; the priority now is success at GCSE.

Sixth Life

Bywyd Chweched

Every effort is made at Gowerton to create a distinctive environment for Sixth Form life. Students are encouraged to take an active part in a wide variety of different activities. A selection of these are shown below:

- University and college open days & University summer schools, as well as taster days / weeks
- Sports (there are senior rugby, soccer, hockey and cricket squads as well as many other sports available)
- Departmental fieldwork courses
- Specialised courses at universities and colleges
- Outside speakers
- Theatre trips
- Music lessons as well as senior choir, orchestra and bands
- Fund raising for charity
- The Senior Prefect Team
- Careers advice
- 'Oxbridge' preparation and the Seren network
- Curry nights
- To be positive role models to younger pupils



Guidance and Counselling

Cyfarwyddyd a Cyngori

Gowerton Sixth Form places great emphasis on providing a comprehensive system of guidance and advice for students. We pride ourselves on our pastoral care of all students.

Group and individual needs will be catered for through:

A Personal Mentor System

Each student is allocated a personal mentor who has responsibility for monitoring academic work as well as personal and social welfare. Students meet with their mentor once per fortnight. This personal contact remains the same throughout the Sixth Form.

Health

Gofal, our health and wellbeing centre offers Sixth Form pupils support and guidance. We emphasise the responsibility young adults have for their health and welfare. Support could include a discussion on any health-related issue. Health issues are also raised through the PSE programme.

Monitoring and Reporting

There is a system of regular monitoring and reporting to let students and their parents know of their progress in subjects. In addition, a more detailed report is issued once a year. If the monitoring process reveals a cause for concern for any student, then steps are taken to help. Initially, the Personal Mentor will discuss the problem with the student and then further action is agreed. Students are encouraged to seek help and advice at any time when they feel they need it.

Careers Advice

All Sixth Formers receive careers advice from a specialist Careers Advisor. Students receive careers interviews and are encouraged to form personal action plans.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

An EMA is an allowance worth up to £40 a week (paid fortnightly) for students who are aged 16 or 17 and continuing in further education from September each year. Payments will be made direct to your bank account.

In order to receive your fortnightly payment, you must first sign a Learning Agreement with your school or college which will set out what is expected of you in terms of attendance, coursework and progress. You must also then attend all of your course sessions.

Applications should be made from July to September each year. You may qualify for EMA if:

- Your 16th or 17th birthday falls on or between 1 September and 31st August in the next academic year

Your household income is £20,817 (conditions apply). If you think you are eligible, please refer to www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/EMA

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- Your academic or vocational course involves at least 12 hours of guided learning a week (e.g. lectures and supervised study). For instance it might be for AS or A2s, GCSE, or other qualifications

Before the end of the summer term “The Little Book of EMA” should be available in school to answer any queries you may have regarding EMA.

Higher Education

Students who intend to enter Higher Education are given comprehensive advice on choosing courses and institutions, the application process, interview techniques (including a mock interview) etc.

Post Sixth Form

We offer a comprehensive and proven personal service on results day and in the pre-university period. The Head of Year, Personal Mentors and Heads of Department have an extensive network of contacts within Admissions Departments and, together with the Careers Advisor, are able to help during this crucial time.



Welsh Baccalaureate

Bagloriaeth Cymru

The revised and more rigorous Welsh Baccalaureate is based on a Skills Challenge Certificate, which will be graded and Supporting Qualifications. The primary aim is to enable learners to develop and demonstrate an understanding of and proficiency in essential and employability skills:

Communication, Numeracy, Digital Literacy, Planning and Organisation, Creativity and Innovation, Critical Thinking & Problem Solving and Personal Effectiveness. The emphasis is on applied and purposeful learning and to provide opportunities for assessment in a range of real life context through three Challenge Briefs and an Individual Project.

Key Elements

1. Skills Challenge Certificate (one individual project and three challenges)
2. GCSE English Language or Welsh Language
3. Supporting qualifications, e.g. other GCSEs, A Levels / AS qualifications, vocational qualifications

It is the same size as an A Level and graded in the same way (A* to E).

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.



Courses

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Programmes available

2 A-levels and the Wbac

Minimum requirement: 'best 9' GCSE score 360 or better (Roughly 9 C-grades)

3 A-levels and the Wbac

Minimum requirement: 'best 9' GCSE score 400 or better (9 grades, mostly at B)

4 A-levels and the Wbac

Minimum requirement: 'best 9' GCSE score 435 or better (9 grades, mostly As)

You would also need good grades in the subjects you are choosing, including at least grade C in English Language and either, Maths GCSE at C or better.

Your choices must have been approved by a member of the Induction Team in September before you can be accepted in the Sixth Form.

Option Lines for 2023-2024

Line 1	Line 2	Line 3	Line 4	Line 5
Computer Science	Biology	English	French	Art
Psychology	D&T	History	Maths	Chemistry
Welsh	Electronics	Film Studies	Sociology	Geography
	Music	PE		Government & Politics
	RE	Physics		Photography

Entry Requirements

Gofynion Mynediad

Course	Entry Requirement
Art	C grade in GCSE Art or Design
Biology	B grade in GCSE Biology or Double Science
Chemistry	B grade in GCSE Biology or Double Science and Maths
Computer Science	B grade in GCSE Computer Science and Maths
Design & Technology	B grade in a GCSE Art and Design based subject is desirable
Electronics	No specific requirements – B grade in GCSE Maths is desirable
English Literature	B grade in English Literature or Language is desirable. C grade at GCSE would be considered.
Film Studies	C grade in GCSE English Language and Literature
French	B grade in GCSE French
Geography	C grade in a literacy-based subject
Government & Politics	B grade in a literacy-based subject
History	B grade in GCSE History is desirable
Maths	B grade in GCSE Higher Tier Maths
Music	B grade in GCSE Music or Grade 5 or above on Instrument/voice
Physical Education	B grade in GCSE PE or B grade in Science
Photography	C grade in a GCSE Art and Design based subject is desirable
Physics	B grade in GCSE Physics or Double Science and Maths
Psychology	B grade in GCSE Maths and English Language
Religious Education	B grade in GCSE English Language, desirable B grade in GCSE RE
Sociology	B Grade in GCSE English Language
Welsh (Second Language)	B grade in GCSE Welsh

