ABBOTSHOLME

SIXTH FORM COURSES



WELCOME TO SIXTH FORM

THIS BOOKLET GIVES YOU INVALUABLE INFORMATION ABOUT THE WIDE RANGE OF COURSES AVAILABLE TO YOU HERE AT ABBOTSHOLME SCHOOL SIXTH FORM.

Abbotsholme is a community defined by its warmth, individuality, and sense of purpose. Our ethos - an education for life - underpins everything we do. We believe that every student should be known, valued, and inspired to achieve their best, both academically and personally.

Our aim is to develop young people who are confident yet humble, ambitious yet grounded. We encourage all students to embrace the full range of opportunities available to them, in the classroom, through outdoor education, on the farm, in the arts, or on the sports field, and, above all, to support and care for one another.

Our Sixth Form is large enough to offer a breadth of academic and co-curricular opportunity, yet small enough for every student to feel recognised as an individual. We are proud to offer three distinct academic pathways - A Level, BTEC, and the NCUK International Foundation Year - allowing each student to find the route that best matches their strengths, interests, and aspirations.

Most importantly, our teachers are passionate about helping every student to thrive, preparing them not just for examinations or university, but for life beyond Abbotsholme.

I hope you enjoy exploring this Sixth Form Course Guide and the exciting opportunities that await you in the next stage of your education.

CHARLOTTE MOLLOY
EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER





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THE OPTIONS PROCESS

WHETHER YOU ARE ALREADY PART OF THE ABBOTSHOLME COMMUNITY, JOINING US FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE UK, OR COMING FROM OVERSEAS, YOU'LL FIND A WIDE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES DESIGNED TO HELP YOU MAKE AN INFORMED AND CONFIDENT CHOICE ABOUT YOUR SIXTH FORM STUDIES.

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER
SIXTH FORM INFORMATION EVENT

Start to think about which subjects you'd like to study at Sixth Form.

Questions to ask yourself include:

- What subjects do I enjoy?
- Which subjects am I good at?
- Does the style of learning suit me?
- Does this combination of subjects suit my future university and/or career aspirations?

NOVEMBER ONWARDS
CONSIDERATION & REFLECTIVE CONVERSATIONS

Current Abbotsholme students will have the opportunity to discuss and reflect on their choices with their tutor, subject leads, the Head of Sixth Form, the Careers team, and members of the Academic Senior Leadership Team.

Prospective students will be invited to a one-to-one meeting with the Head of Sixth Form or a member of the Academic Senior Leadership Team to explore which Sixth Form pathway and subject combination will enable them to thrive.

AUTUMN & SPRING TERM
GCSE MOCK EXAMS

These exams are an opportunity to practise for your GCSE assessments and to reflect on your progress. They help you understand your strengths, focus on areas for improvement, and identify which subjects may suit you best in the Sixth Form.

AUGUST
GCSE RESULTS

After celebrating your success, it's important to pause and reflect on your chosen options. Do they still feel right for you?
The academic team is always available to discuss your next steps and support any adjustments to your curriculum.

SEPTEMBER
YOUR SIXTH FORM JOURNEY BEGINS



HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR SUBJECTS

Choosing your A Levels is an important decision, and not always an easy one. At Abbotsholme, we guide each student carefully through this process, ensuring that their choices reflect both their interests and future ambitions.

THREE OR FOUR SUBJECTS?

At Abbotsholme, students have the flexibility to study three or four subjects in the Sixth Form, alongside a rich programme of academic and co-curricular opportunities. We **strongly recommend** that in order to gain the highest grades possible, **students pursue three A levels**.

This **balanced approach** enables them to dedicate their time and energy to achieving the best possible grades, while also engaging fully with the wider opportunities available at Abbotsholme.

Most university and apprenticeship offers are based on three subjects, making this the most effective route for success for nearly all students.

Abbotsholme also offers unique **elective pathways**, which allow students to tailor their studies to their interests and future goals. Options include the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) for well-suited, independent learners, the Veterinary and Animal Science Pathway (launching September 2026), and the IOF Football Academy Pathway.



When deciding which subjects to study, it's helpful to consider three key questions:

1.Which subjects do I most enjoy?

2.Do I have the skills and strengths needed to succeed in these subjects?

3.Which subjects are required or recommended for my chosen Higher Education pathway or career goals?

1.WHICH SUBJECTS DO I MOST ENJOY?

At A Level, each subject is explored in far greater depth than at GCSE. Students have five lessons per week, per subject, in both the Lower and Upper Sixth, alongside significant independent study. Commitment and genuine interest are essential for success, so it's important to choose subjects you truly enjoy!

Your GCSE experience can help guide these choices, but we also encourage you to speak with current Sixth Formers about the subjects you're considering. Looking through their notes, work, and textbooks can give you a realistic sense of what each course involves.

Every A Level has value. If you are passionate about a subject and work hard to achieve a strong grade, you'll not only earn valuable UCAS points but also develop the skills and confidence needed to thrive at university and beyond.

2.DO I HAVE THE SKILLS AND STRENGTHS NEEDED TO SUCCEED IN THESE SUBJECTS?

To succeed at A Level, you will need to be hard-working, ambitious, and well organised. Genuine curiosity and enthusiasm for your subjects are essential - they will motivate you to think independently, explore topics in depth, and extend your learning beyond the classroom.

A Level study is quite different from GCSE. The material is broader and conceptually more challenging, and examinations require more detailed, analytical responses. As a general guide, we recommend that students choose subjects in which they have achieved at least a Grade 6 at GCSE.

At Abbotsholme, we believe in helping each student make informed and realistic choices. Speak openly with your current subject teachers about your suitability for A Level study in your subject. Your Tutor and Head of Year will also support you in this process, drawing on their broader understanding of your strengths, learning style, and overall progress to help ensure you choose a pathway where you can truly thrive.



3.WHICH SUBJECTS ARE REQUIRED OR RECOMMENDED FOR MY CHOSEN HIGHER EDUCATION PATHWAY OR CAREER GOALS?

If you already have a clear idea of your intended Higher Education course or career, you should discuss your A Level choices with your Tutor or the Head of Sixth Form and Careers to ensure your subjects meet the necessary entry requirements.

It's also important to think about how your A Level subjects complement one another - some combinations strengthen your academic profile and develop transferable skills, for example Mathematics and Physics.

If you are still exploring your options, choose subjects you enjoy and are confident in, as enthusiasm and ability are key to success.

While many university courses are flexible, certain degree pathways have specific subject requirements.

For example:

- *Medicine / Veterinary Medicine: Biology and Chemistry (some also require Mathematics or Physics)*
- *Physiotherapy: Biology*
- *Biological Sciences: Biology, ideally with Chemistry*
- *Engineering: Mathematics, ideally with Physics*
- *Physics: Physics and Mathematics*
- *Chemistry: Chemistry and Mathematics*
- *Economics: Mathematics, and often Economics*
- *Architecture: Art or Design, plus Mathematics or Physics*

Careful planning and early conversations with staff at Abbotsholme will ensure you choose the best possible combination of A Levels to support your ambitions and help you thrive beyond school.

The Russell Group of leading UK universities offers Informed Choices, a helpful guide showing which A Level combinations best support different university and career pathways, click/scan the QR code to discover.



THREE ACADEMIC PATHWAYS

AT ABBOTSHOLME, WE AIM TO CHALLENGE, NURTURE, AND INSPIRE EVERY STUDENT, HELPING THEM DISCOVER THEIR STRENGTHS AND FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL BOTH WITHIN SCHOOL AND BEYOND.

With this in mind, our Sixth Form offers three distinct academic pathways, ensuring every student can choose the route that best supports their ambitions and goals.

1

A LEVELS

A focused path of study, our A Level programme allows Sixth Formers to develop their specific academic interests through a broad and varied choice of subjects.

2

BTEC

A vocational and applied pathway where Sixth Formers learn through real-world experiences, preparing them for university and professional life. With a mix of coursework and exams, this pathway suits learners who prefer continuous assessment rather than final linear exams in Year 13.

3

NCUK INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION YEAR

Offering international students academic English and subject study in areas like business, maths, and computer science, providing a pathway to top universities in the UK and around the world.

SUBJECT AREAS:

STEM

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology

SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Business Studies
- Economics
- Psychology
- *Sports*

HUMANITIES

- Classical Civilisation
- English Literature
- Geography
- History
- Philosophy & Ethics

CREATIVE ARTS

- Art (Fine Art)
- Photography
- Music
- *Performing Arts*

LANGUAGES

- French
- Spanish
- Mandarin
- German

**Students can opt to take an A Level in their native language*

AGRICULTURAL & ANIMAL SCIENCES

- *Agriculture*
- *BHS Awards*





A LEVEL CURRICULUM

A LEVELS PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH A FOCUSED ACADEMIC PATHWAY, ALLOWING THEM TO DEEPEN THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND DEVELOP GENUINE INTEREST IN THEIR CHOSEN SUBJECTS.

At Abbotsholme, we expect most pupils in the Sixth Form to study three A Level subjects over the two years. This structure enables students to concentrate fully on the requirements for university entrance and future study.

Students who wish to take four A Level subjects may apply to do so following discussions with the Senior Leadership Team. Approval will be based on demonstrated academic excellence and a clear commitment to managing the demands of four subjects over two years. In some cases, the choice of the fourth subject may be limited.

A Levels at Abbotsholme are more than just university entrance qualifications - they are intellectual disciplines that foster independence, curiosity, and academic growth. Success at this level requires increasing amounts of self-directed learning, as well as strong organisation and time-management skills. Within our small and supportive Sixth Form community, every student is known, valued, and guided as an individual. Our personalised approach ensures that each pupil receives tailored support, helping them to develop effective study habits, confidence, and resilience.

With close mentoring from teachers and tutors, students are encouraged to take ownership of their learning while knowing that guidance is always available. This nurturing environment enables every student to thrive and achieve their full potential, both academically and personally.



All A Level qualifications now follow a linear assessment model, with final examinations taken at the end of the two-year course. Some subjects also include Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) components. As a result, students are not routinely entered for AS Level exams at the end of the Lower Sixth, though this remains possible in a small number of cases, where appropriate.

Academic progress is carefully monitored throughout the Sixth Form through internal assessments and examinations, ensuring that each student is supported and challenged appropriately. Further details about assessment arrangements can be found on the individual subject pages.

Important note: *We will do our utmost to satisfy the desired combination of courses chosen by each individual pupil. However, we are not able to guarantee that every combination can be made available. Moreover, we may not offer a course if the number of pupils opting to take that subject is low.*

ART & DESIGN (FINE ART)

At Abbotsholme, we nurture creative and innovative thinkers who are ready to lead in their fields. With Britain's world-renowned art education system, our students gain skills that open doors to exciting careers in areas such as animation, architecture, design, fashion, film, and photography.

ASSESSMENT

Externally Set Assignment (40%)
Personal Investigation Coursework (60%)

Personal Investigation	*48%*	A portfolio of work and final outcome(s) based on a theme.
Personal Study	*12%*	A written investigation into a theme/area of interest linked to your work.
Externally Set Assignment	*40%*	A portfolio of work and final outcome(s) created during the 15hr exam period. Pupils have a number of weeks to generate preparatory work prior to the exam.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

This course opens doors to an exciting variety of art-related careers - from artist, designer, illustrator, or animator to roles in fashion, film, gaming, advertising, education, curation, conservation, art therapy, and gallery or museum management.

It also provides a strong foundation for emerging fields such as digital media, visual communication, and creative entrepreneurship.

EXAM BOARD

Pearson Edexcel Fine Art

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Through the arts, you will:

- Expand creativity, imagination, and self-expression
- Build confidence, identity, and resilience
- Develop key skills in exploration, analysis, idea development, problem solving, and critical judgement

COURSE OVERVIEW:

During the first year, you will produce a range of work based on a focus area agreed with your teacher, exploring a changing annual theme through painting, drawing, graphic design, and three-dimensional media. You will record your ideas, observations, and progress in a sketchbook, showing the development of your work from start to finish.

In the second year, you may continue with your chosen theme or develop a new one, refining your skills and producing more independent, personal, and mature work for your final A Level submission. From this, a written Personal Study will evolve, taking the form of a 1,000–3,000-word illustrated essay, annotated display, or digital presentation.




ABBOTSHOLME

BIOLOGY

A Level Biology builds on GCSE knowledge to deepen understanding of the living world. Beginning at the cellular and molecular level, you'll explore how tissues and organs function, comparing prokaryotes and eukaryotes, and plants and animals, to develop a broad, connected view of life.

ASSESSMENT

Examination: 100% (Three Written Papers)

The Practical Endorsement is completed over the two years through a series of practicals.

Paper 1 2 Hour Exam	*35%*	Any content from topics 1-4 and relevant practical skills. A mixture of short and long answer questions.
Paper 2 2 Hour Exam	*35%*	Any content from topics 5-8 and relevant practical skills. A mixture of short and long answer questions.
Paper 3 2 Hour Exam	*30%*	Any content from topics 1–8, including relevant practical skills. The exam includes 38 marks for structured questions covering practical techniques, 15 marks for the critical analysis of experimental data, and a 25-mark essay chosen from two given titles.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A Level Biology is essential for many biology-based degrees, including medicine, veterinary science, conservation, biomedical sciences, zoology, agriculture, sports science, and physiotherapy.

It also develops a broad range of transferable skills, helping you keep your future career options open.

EXAM BOARD

AQA A Level Biology (7402)

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Strong technical vocabulary and scientific understanding
- Ability to follow instructions and carry out practical work confidently
- Competence in key mathematical and problem-solving techniques
- Deep understanding of how different areas of Biology connect
- Appreciation of scientific methods and investigative skills

COURSE OVERVIEW:

Over two years, A Level Biology provides a comprehensive exploration of key biological principles alongside extensive practical experience.

In Year 12, you'll study biological molecules, cells, exchange systems, and genetics, building a strong foundation in core biological concepts. A 4-day residential field trip in the summer term offers hands-on experience with ecological sampling techniques and ecology theory.

In Year 13, you'll explore energy transfers, responses to environmental change, genetics, evolution, and gene expression, deepening your scientific understanding.

BUSINESS STUDIES

This course develops a strong understanding of the modern business world, using current case studies and real-life examples. Students are encouraged to engage with topical business news and media, building commercial awareness and insight into how organisations operate.

ASSESSMENT

Examination: 100% (Three Written Papers)

Paper 1 2 Hour Exam	*35%*	This exam covers marketing, people, and global businesses, with questions drawn from Themes 1 and 4 across local, national, and global contexts.
Paper 2 2 Hour Exam	*35%*	This exam covers business finance and operations, business decisions, and strategy, with questions drawn from Themes 2 and 3 across local, national, and global contexts.
Paper 3 2 Hour Exam	*30%*	Paper 3 will assess content across all four themes. Questions will be drawn from local, national and global contexts.

EXAM BOARD

Pearson Edexcel A-level Business (9BS0)

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

This course can lead to a wide range of careers in business, including marketing, management, finance, human resources, operations, and entrepreneurship.

It also provides an excellent foundation for roles in consulting, law, accounting, retail, and international business - any field that values strategic thinking and commercial insight.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Ability to construct well-balanced and convincing arguments
- Skill in selecting and using quantitative and qualitative data effectively
- Confidence in making informed, evidence-based judgments in writing and speech
- Strong understanding of the four key business functions
- Competence in creating and analysing company accounts

COURSE OVERVIEW:

You will study business in a range of contexts—large and small, local and global, manufacturing and service-based. You'll learn how businesses start, grow, and succeed, exploring key functions such as finance, marketing, operations, and human resources.

The course develops your understanding of decision-making, strategy, and the use of quantitative tools like break-even analysis and contribution to make informed business judgments. You'll also examine the role of stakeholders and the impact of ethical, environmental, and technological factors in helping businesses remain competitive and sustainable.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Classical Civilisation offers a fascinating insight into the ancient Greek and Roman worlds, their history, literature, art, and philosophy. You'll explore captivating texts, artworks, and ideas that have shaped modern society, all studied in English translation. The course also develops valuable analytical and critical thinking skills, providing excellent preparation for higher education.

ASSESSMENT

Examination: 100% (Three Written Papers)

Paper 1 - The World of the Hero 2h 30m Exam	*40%*	This paper focuses on The World of the Hero. In this compulsory component, students study either Homer's Iliad or Odyssey and Virgil's Aeneid.
Paper 2 - Component group 2: Culture & The Arts 1hr 45m Exam	*30%*	This exam involves the study of visual and material culture and, except in the case of Greek Art, literature in translation.
Paper 3 - Component group 3: Beliefs & Ideas 1hr 45m Exam	*30%*	This exam focuses on an area of classical thought, together with either literature in translation or visual and material culture.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

This course can lead to a wide range of university pathways, including classics, history, psychology, languages, politics, and international relations.

It also provides an excellent foundation for diverse careers such as law, journalism, heritage management, education, and accounting.

EXAM BOARD

OCR A Level Classical Civilisation (H408)

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Critical thinking and analytical reasoning
- Ability to interpret and evaluate diverse sources, from texts to artefacts
- Strong written communication and argument-building skills
- Research and evidence-based reasoning
- Cultural awareness and understanding of historical contexts
- Appreciation of literature, philosophy, and art across time
- Curiosity, independence, and intellectual flexibility

COURSE OVERVIEW:

Classical Civilisation offers a rich exploration of the art, literature, philosophy, politics, and culture of ancient Greece and Rome. Studying texts in English translation alongside artefacts such as coins, buildings, and pottery, you'll gain insight into how these ancient societies lived, thought, and influenced the modern world.

The course covers three main areas: The World of the Hero, exploring epic tales like The Odyssey and The Aeneid; Roman Imperial Image, analysing how Augustus used art, literature, and architecture to shape his legacy; and Love and Relationships, examining ancient ideas of love, gender, and desire through writers such as Sappho, Ovid, Plato, and Seneca.

Encouraging curiosity and critical thinking, Classical Civilisation complements subjects like English, History, and Philosophy, while offering a fascinating contrast to the Sciences and Maths.

CHEMISTRY

Chemistry is the study of the elements, their compounds, and the reactions that create new substances. This course combines key chemical concepts with hands-on practical work, helping you apply theory to real-world contexts. You'll explore contemporary issues such as how chemistry contributes to tackling global challenges like climate change, while developing valuable analytical and problem-solving skills.

ASSESSMENT

Examination: 100% (Three Written Papers)

The Practical Endorsement is completed over the two years through a series of practicals.

Paper 1 2 Hour Exam	*35%*	The exam covers key areas of physical chemistry (sections 3.1.1–3.1.4, 3.1.6–3.1.8, and 3.1.10–3.1.12) and the inorganic chemistry topic.
Paper 2 2 Hour Exam	*35%*	Exam focuses on key physical chemistry topics (sections 3.1.2–3.1.6 and 3.1.9) and organic chemistry
Paper 3 Synoptic Paper, 2 Hour Exam	*30%*	Covers all content and practical skills, includes 40 marks on practical techniques and data analysis, 20 marks assessing knowledge across all areas of the specification, and 30 marks of multiple-choice questions.

EXAM BOARD

AQA A-level Chemistry (7405)

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

This course can lead to careers in healthcare, veterinary science, engineering, environmental and material sciences, forensics, biochemistry, and the energy, automotive, and pharmaceutical industries.

It also provides a strong foundation for careers in fields such as archaeology, law, and finance.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

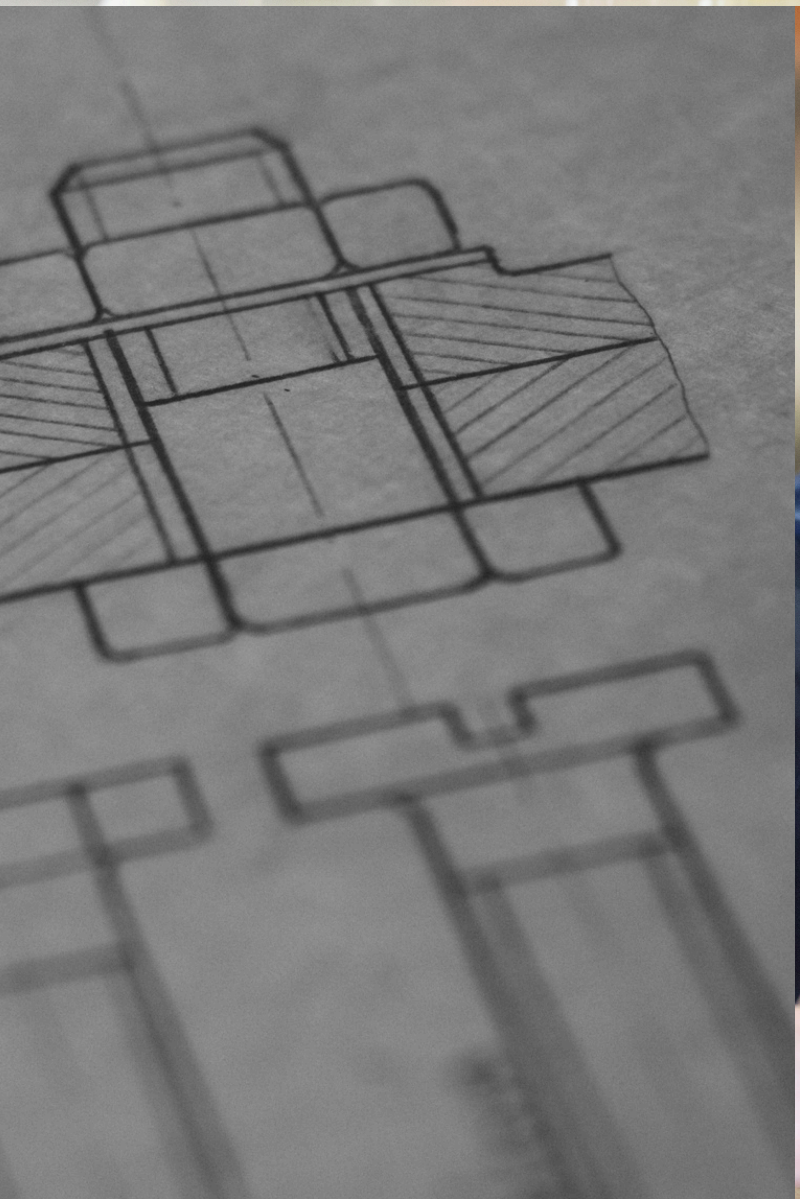
- Build a strong understanding of key areas of Chemistry and how they connect
- Apply chemical knowledge to new and unfamiliar situations
- Develop confidence in practical, mathematical, and problem-solving skills
- Gain appreciation of scientific methods and experimental work
- Work effectively both independently and as part of a team

COURSE OVERVIEW:

A Level Chemistry builds on GCSE knowledge, placing greater emphasis on understanding chemical principles, particle behaviour, and complex molecular structures. The course explores the social, economic, and ethical role of chemistry in developing sustainable solutions for a growing population.

In Year 12, you'll study key topics in physical, inorganic, and organic chemistry, including atomic structure, bonding, energetics, kinetics, periodicity, and introductory organic compounds. In Year 13, you'll advance to thermodynamics, electrochemistry, transition metals, and complex organic chemistry such as aromatic compounds, polymers, and biochemical molecules.


lenovo





DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY (PRODUCT DESIGN)

A Level Design and Technology equips students with essential skills for the future - developing creativity, problem solving, and project management. They gain an understanding of how global issues and emerging technologies influence design, while working with a range of modern materials, tools, and equipment to produce models and prototypes. The course encourages innovation, independence, and a professional approach to design, preparing students for careers in architecture, engineering, and creative industries.

ASSESSMENT

Examination: 50% (Two Written Papers)
Non-exam assessment (NEA): 50%

Paper 1 2h 30m Exam	*30%*	The exam covers Technical Principles with a mixture of short answer and extended response.
Paper 2 1h 30m Exam	*20%*	Covers Designing and Making Principles, exam is split into two sections: Section A – Product Analysis (30 marks), which includes up to six short questions based on visual product stimuli, and Section B – Commercial Manufacture (50 marks), featuring a mix of short and extended-response questions.
NEA	*50%*	The practical assessment focuses on the application of technical, designing, and making principles. It involves a substantial design and make project worth 100 marks and accounting for 50% of the A Level, with evidence presented through a written or digital design portfolio and photographic documentation of the final prototype.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

This course can lead to a wide range of careers in design (product, industrial, graphic, jewellery, furniture, automotive, packaging, or fashion), as well as engineering (civil, mechanical, electrical, structural, or automotive), architecture, marketing, advertising, project management, entrepreneurship, and research and development.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Apply key design skills relevant to the modern world
- Build confidence to take creative risks and innovate
- Understand and apply new and emerging technologies
- Develop strong communication skills for design, making, and evaluation

EXAM BOARD

AQA A-level Design & Technology (7552)

COURSE OVERVIEW:

In Year 1, students are encouraged to take creative risks and explore innovative ideas in a supportive environment where they can safely test and refine their designs. This builds the confidence needed in Year 2 to apply their skills independently through a self-directed design brief with a real client or end user.

Throughout the course, students follow an iterative design process, applying theory to practice in real-world design, make, and evaluate projects. In Year 12, they complete a product analysis and improvement project to strengthen their technical knowledge and practical ability.

This prepares them for the major design-and-make coursework project in Year 13, where they independently pursue design problems that reflect their personal interests and ambitions.

A Level Design and Technology offers a deep understanding of design and manufacturing principles while developing highly transferable skills valued by universities and industry alike. The course naturally supports careers in design, engineering, and innovation, but also builds skills that are equally valuable in business, law, and medicine.

ECONOMICS

Throughout the course, you'll explore how the economy shapes the world around us - from national policies to global markets. You'll take part in discussions that bring current issues to life and gain real insight into how key macroeconomic forces like inflation, growth, and trade are all connected. This course helps you understand the world's big financial questions, and prepares you with the analytical skills valued by universities and employers alike.

ASSESSMENT

Examination: 100% (Three Written Papers)

Paper 1 - Markets & Business Behaviour 2 Hour Exam	*33%*	Questions draw on topics from Themes 1 and 3. The paper has three sections: • A: Multiple-choice and short answers • B: One data response question • C: One extended essay (choice of two) Students answer all of A and B, and one essay in C
Paper 2 - The National & Global Economy 2 Hour Exam	*33%*	Questions draw on topics from Themes 2 and 4. The paper has three sections: • A: Multiple-choice and short answers • B: One data response question • C: One extended essay (choice of two) Students answer all of A and B, and one essay in C.
Paper 3 - Microeconomics & Macroeconomics 2 Hour Exam	*33%*	Each question is set in context and draws on content from Themes 1–4. The paper has two sections, each containing a data response question with several parts, including a choice of one extended essay from two options.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

Studying Economics can lead to a wide range of careers, including accountancy, banking, business consultancy, data and investment analysis, economic research, financial risk assessment, government policy advising, law, statistics, and stockbroking.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Think critically and analyse real-world issues
- Interpret and use data with confidence.
- Solve problems and make informed decisions
- Communicate ideas clearly in writing and discussion
- Understand how businesses, governments, and markets work
- Build strong research and independent learning skills

EXAM BOARD

Pearson Edexcel A Level Economics (9EC0)

COURSE OVERVIEW:

Students begin by exploring key economic models and concepts in Themes 1 and 2, before applying this knowledge to more complex ideas in Themes 3 and 4. Throughout the course, you'll develop an understanding of both classical and modern economic thought, gaining valuable skills in data interpretation, quantitative analysis, and essay writing.

You'll be encouraged to engage with current economic issues and apply your learning to real-world situations, both in the UK and globally, with current news and economic developments are also discussed regularly in class.

Themes include:

- **Theme 1:** Markets and Market Failure
- **Theme 2:** The UK Economy – Performance and Policies
- **Theme 3:** Business Economics and Income Distribution
- **Theme 4:** A Global Perspective

To bring the subject to life, students take part in trips to organisations such as Warburtons, the Bank of England, and Manchester United FC, and enjoy guest speakers who share real-world insights.







ENGLISH LITERATURE

An A Level in English Literature offers an engaging exploration of poetry, drama, and prose spanning the past four centuries. The course introduces students to advanced literary study, encouraging critical reading, analysis, and appreciation of major works across all key literary genres.

ASSESSMENT

Examination: 80% (Two Written Papers)
Non-exam assessment (NEA): 20%

Paper 1 - Love Through the Ages 3 Hour Exam	*40%*	Study of three texts: one poetry and one prose text, of which one must be written pre-1900, and one Shakespeare play. Examination will include two unseen poems.
Paper 2: Texts in shared contexts 2h 30m Exam	*40%*	Choice of two options: Option 2A: WW1 and its aftermath Option 2B: Modern times: literature from 1945 to the present day Study of three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama, of which one must be written post-2000 Examination will include an unseen prose extract.
Non-exam assessment: Independent critical study: texts across time	*20%*	Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900 One extended essay (2500 words) and a bibliography.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A-Level Literature offers an excellent foundation for studying a wide range of humanities-related degree subjects, including English. Beyond university, English Literature equips students with versatile skills that can lead to careers in journalism, advertising, teaching, publishing, and law.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Advanced analysis of the writer's craft
- Critical and independent thinking
- Confident discussion and idea sharing
- Active listening and collaboration
- Informed personal responses to texts
- Strong written expression and essay writing
- Engagement with and understanding of critical essays

EXAM BOARD

AQA: A Level English Literature (7712(A))

COURSE OVERVIEW:

An A Level in English Literature invites you on a captivating journey through four centuries of storytelling, exploring the power of words across poetry, drama, and prose. You'll dive into the brilliance of Shakespeare and modern playwrights, uncover the beauty of pre-1900 and contemporary poetry, and lose yourself in the worlds of at least two novels. Your studies will be guided by two compelling themes: Love Through the Ages and The Modern World.

You'll also take creative control in your Non-Examined Assessment (NEA), crafting an extended essay on two literary works of your choice - one written before 1900 - allowing you to follow your own passions and ideas.

To succeed in this course, you should be an enthusiastic reader and a confident writer. A variety of theatre visits and enrichment trips will further deepen your understanding and appreciation of English Literature.

FRENCH

Studying A Level French offers an exciting opportunity to deepen your understanding of both the French language and the diverse cultures of the Francophone world. You'll develop advanced communication skills, gain confidence in expressing opinions and ideas, and explore a rich variety of social, political, artistic, and cultural themes. The course also includes the study of French literature and cinema, giving you the chance to engage more deeply with the language through its stories, art, and cultural heritage.

ASSESSMENT

Examination: 100% (Written, Spoken and Listening Elements)

Paper 1: Listening, reading & translation 2 Hour Exam	*40%*	The paper draws on all of the four themes studied and includes a translation from French to English.
Paper 2: Written response to works & translation 2h 40m Exam	*30%*	Two essays, one on the film study and one on the book study. Includes a translation from English to French.
Paper 3: Speaking 25 Minutes	*30%*	Task 1: A discussion on a theme from a card prepared 15 minutes before the exam. Task 2: Presentation and discussion on your own independent research project.

EXAM BOARD

Pearson Edexcel A Level French (9FR0)

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A Level French opens doors to a wide range of careers, including translation and interpreting, journalism, teaching, travel and tourism, and marketing - as well as any profession that values strong communication and self-expression.

It pairs especially well with subjects such as Business, Economics, Science, and Maths, and demonstrates to universities and employers that you possess key soft skills like effective communication and active listening.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Advanced communication and language skills
- Confident self-expression and presentation
- Critical and logical thinking
- Strong listening and comprehension skills
- Cultural awareness and adaptability

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This French A Level is organised around four key themes:

1. The evolution of French society
2. Political and artistic culture
3. Immigration
4. France during the Occupation and Resistance

These are explored through familiar areas such as family, work, and festivals, as well as new topics like the media and multiculturalism.

You'll also study the film Intouchables (Nakache & Toledano) and the novel Un Sac de Billes by Joseph Joffo, giving you a deeper insight into French culture and history.





GERMAN

The course focuses on authentic, contemporary language drawn from real sources such as television, radio, the internet, and the press. You'll explore a wide range of personal, social, and cultural issues, developing your own ideas and opinions and learning to express them confidently in German.

You will also study a film and a literary text in the target language, gaining deeper insight into the rich culture and history of the German-speaking world. In today's global context, the ability to communicate effectively in another language has never been more valuable - making this course both challenging and highly rewarding.

ASSESSMENT

Examination: 100% (Written, Spoken and Listening Elements)

Paper 1: Listening, reading & translation 2 Hour Exam	*40%*	The paper draws on all of the four themes studied and includes a translation from German to English.
Paper 2: Written response to works & translation 2h 40m Exam	*30%*	Two essays, one on the film study and one on the book study. Includes a translation from English to German.
Paper 3: Speaking 25 Minutes	*30%*	Task 1: A discussion on a theme from a card prepared 15 minutes before the exam. Task 2: Presentation and discussion on your own independent research project.

EXAM BOARD

Pearson Edexcel A Level German

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A Level German opens up a wide range of global career opportunities. It is highly valued in fields such as translation, international business, journalism, law, marketing, tourism, education, and diplomacy. As one of the most widely spoken languages in Europe, German gives you a strong advantage for studying, working, or living abroad.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Advanced communication and language skills
- Confident self-expression and presentation
- Critical and logical thinking
- Strong listening and comprehension skills
- Cultural awareness and adaptability

COURSE OVERVIEW:

Following the Edexcel specification, you will learn to speak, read and listen to the language through looking at:

- The family and relationships, rights and responsibilities, leisure, healthy living, education, jobs and careers
- Mass media, pollution, conservation and the environment, immigration and multiculturalism, Germany in a modern Europe and its future
- The State and the individual, distribution of wealth, health issues, transport issues, science and technology, racism, crime and punishment
- Political and artistic culture in German-speaking countries
- The German reunification
- The study of life in the German Democratic Republic before the reunification
- The study of book and film, linking to topics to give further insight into German culture







GEOGRAPHY

This engaging and relevant A Level Geography course enables you to explore real-world issues and places, applying your geographical knowledge and skills to make sense of the world around you. You will study both physical and human geography on local, national, and global scales, developing practical fieldwork skills and thinking critically about the interactions between people and their environment.

ASSESSMENT

Examination: 80% (Three Written Papers)
Non-exam assessment (NEA): 20%

Paper 1 2h 15m Exam	*30%*	This exam assesses the following topics, your understanding of Tectonic Processes and Hazards, Landscape Systems and Change, the Water and Carbon Cycles, Energy and Water Security, and Climate Change Futures.
Paper 2 2h 15m Exam	*30%*	This paper covers Globalisation, Shaping Places, Superpowers and Global Development.
Paper 3 2h 15m Exam	*20%*	Task 1: A discussion on a theme from a card prepared 15 minutes before the exam. Task 2: Presentation and discussion on your own independent research project.
Non-exam assessment: Independent critical study: texts across time	*20%*	Students will define a geographical question or issue for investigation related to any topic within the specification. Their investigation will include fieldwork data, along with independent research and/or secondary data.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A Level Geography opens doors to a wide range of exciting and meaningful careers. Graduates go on to work in areas such as environmental management, urban planning, sustainability, international development, and disaster response. It also provides an excellent foundation for careers in law, politics, journalism, business, and data analysis.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Critical analysis of real-world issues and places
- Application of geographical knowledge and understanding
- Quantitative and qualitative research skills
- Evaluation of different methods and techniques
- Data interpretation, mathematical and statistical skills

EXAM BOARD

Pearson Edexcel A Level Geography (9GE0)

COURSE OVERVIEW:

A Level Geography is an engaging and contemporary course that encourages students to think critically about real-world issues and places. You'll apply your geographical knowledge and skills to understand the complex systems shaping our world and prepare for a wide range of future pathways.

Over two years, you will explore topics such as tectonic processes and hazards, coastal landscapes and change, globalisation, diverse places, the water and carbon cycles, energy and water security, superpowers, and migration. This is a linear course, with all A Level exams taken at the end of the two years.

HISTORY

History is a highly respected subject that develops intelligent, literate problem solvers and critical thinkers. Historians learn to process complex information efficiently and effectively, gaining transferable skills in research, analysis, and evaluation that are highly valued by universities and employers alike.

ASSESSMENT

Examination: 80% (Three Written Papers)
Non-exam assessment (NEA): 20%

Paper 1 2h 15m Exam	*30%*	Breadth study with interpretations - the exam consists of three questions: one from Section A, one from Section B, and one compulsory question from Section C. Sections A and B assess students' understanding of the period in breadth through essay questions, while Section C tests their ability to analyse and evaluate historical interpretations.
Paper 2 1h 30m Exam	*20%*	Depth study - The exam includes two questions: a compulsory source analysis question from Section A and one essay question from Section B.
Paper 3 1h 20m Exam	*30%*	Themes in breadth with aspects in depth - The exam includes three questions: a compulsory source analysis in Section A, and essay choices in Sections B and C assessing in-depth and broader historical understanding.
Non-exam assessment: Independent critical study: Coursework	*20%*	The assignment will assess the ability to carry out a historical enquiry, analysing and evaluating historical interpretations, and organising and communicating the findings.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A Level History opens doors to a wide range of respected careers. The analytical, research, and communication skills you gain are valued in fields such as law, journalism, media, the arts, advertising, civil service, politics, finance, travel, and teaching. These skills make historians adaptable, articulate, and highly employable in many professions.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Critical thinking and independent analysis
- Research and evidence-based reasoning
- Clear and persuasive written communication
- Evaluation of different perspectives and interpretations
- Organisation and synthesis of complex information
- Logical argumentation and problem-solving
- Informed understanding of change, cause, and consequence

EXAM BOARD

Pearson Edexcel A Level History (9HI0)

COURSE OVERVIEW:

A Level History offers a fascinating exploration of key events and transformations that have shaped modern society. You'll study Britain, 1625–1701: Conflict, Revolution and Settlement, examining the English Civil War, Cromwell's rule, and the evolving relationship between the Crown and Parliament. The France in Revolution, 1774–1799 depth study delves into the dramatic events that reshaped Europe, from the storming of the Bastille to the rise of Napoleon.

You'll also explore Industrialisation and Social Change in Britain, 1759–1928: Forging a New Society, analysing the inventions, innovations, and social shifts that transformed everyday life. Finally, through the Historical Enquiry, you'll have the freedom to investigate a historical period of your choice - from ancient civilisations like Greece and Rome to more modern eras - developing independent research and analytical skills.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

A-Level Computer Science prepares students for university study and careers in the digital and technology sectors. It develops creative, analytical, and logical thinking through practical programming and problem-solving tasks. Learners build strong computational thinking and coding skills, while also exploring the ethical and societal impacts of emerging technologies in today's digital world.

ASSESSMENT

Examination: 100% (Four Written Papers)
Two papers involve practical tasks.

Paper 1 1h 45m Exam	*25%*	Questions will be based on sections 1–11 of the subject content.
Paper 2 1h 45m Exam	*25%*	Questions will be based on sections 12–21 of the subject content.
Paper 3 1h 45m Exam	*25%*	Tasks will be based on sections 8–11 of the subject content. Candidates apply knowledge and understanding from sections 1–7 of the subject content.
Paper 4 1h 45m Exam	*25%*	Tasks will be based on sections 17–21 of the subject content. Candidates apply knowledge and understanding of all subject content. The exam may also include practical tasks from sections 8–10 within a problem-solving context.

EXAM BOARD

Cambridge International A Level Information Technology (9626)

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A-Level Computer Science opens pathways to a wide range of exciting careers, including computer hardware and software engineering, UX and web design, mobile app development, AI and machine learning engineering, cybersecurity and information analysis, and IT project management. It provides the ideal foundation for further study and future innovation in the ever-evolving world of technology.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Programming – writing, testing, and debugging code
- Computational thinking – solving problems logically and efficiently
- Algorithm design – developing and analysing effective solutions
- Data handling – understanding data structures and logic
- Analytical thinking – evaluating systems and making informed decisions
- Creative problem-solving – applying innovation to technical challenges

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This course examines how information technology shapes modern life and provides the knowledge and skills needed to understand, apply, and evaluate IT in different contexts.

1. Impact of IT - Explore how IT influences industry, commerce, transport, medicine, leisure, and daily life, and how global communication technologies connect people worldwide.

2. Hardware and Software - Understand how hardware and software function and interact to form effective IT systems that support users in various environments.

3. Networks - Learn how computer systems connect to share data and resources, and study the importance of networks in powering the internet, mobile communication, and cloud computing.

4. The Internet - Examine the internet as a global communications network, its impact on society, and the challenges it presents, including data security and privacy.

5. System Life Cycle - Study the stages of developing and maintaining information systems, from initial design to updating and redevelopment.

6. New Technologies - Investigate emerging technologies and assess how rapid innovation continues to influence individuals, organizations, and society.

MATHEMATICS

A Level Mathematics is a highly respected qualification that develops logical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills valued by universities and employers. Following the Edexcel linear course, you'll study pure and applied maths with a focus on statistics and mechanics.

ASSESSMENT

Examination: 100% (Three Written Papers)

Paper 1 2 Hour Exam	*33%*	Pure Mathematics cover content from topics 1 - 10. Calculators can be used in the assessment.
Paper 2 2 Hour Exam	*33%*	Pure Mathematics cover content from topics 1 - 10. Calculators can be used in the assessment.
Paper 3 2 Hour Exam	*33%*	Statistics and Mechanics - Paper 3 will contain questions on topics from the Statistics content in Section A and Mechanics content in Section B. Calculators can be used in the assessment.

EXAM BOARD

Pearson Edexcel A Level Mathematics (9MA0)

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A Level Mathematics opens doors to a wide range of exciting and well-respected careers. It is an essential foundation for fields such as medicine, engineering, architecture, accounting, and computer science, and is highly valued in many other areas that require logical thinking, analytical ability, and problem-solving skills.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Logical and analytical thinking
- Problem-solving using a range of mathematical methods
- Ability to filter information and focus on key details
- Efficient and strategic decision-making
- Clear communication of complex ideas
- Strong numeracy and data interpretation skills
- Adaptability and trainability across professional disciplines

COURSE OVERVIEW:

The Pure topics cover the areas of:

Topic 1 – Proof
Topic 2 – Algebra and functions
Topic 3 – Coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane
Topic 4 – Sequences and series
Topic 5 – Trigonometry
Topic 6 – Exponentials and logarithms
Topic 7 – Differentiation
Topic 8 – Integration
Topic 9 – Numerical methods
Topic 10 – Vectors

Statistics:

Topic 1 – Statistical sampling
Topic 2 – Data presentation and interpretation
Topic 3 – Probability
Topic 4 – Statistical distributions
Topic 5 – Statistical hypothesis testing Section B:

Mechanics:

Topic 6 – Quantities and units in mechanics
Topic 7 – Kinematics
Topic 8 – Forces and Newton's laws
Topic 9 – Moments


Pink
Ladies



FURTHER MATHEMATICS

This course is designed for the most able mathematicians and must be taken alongside A Level Mathematics. Further Mathematics provides an additional challenge, extending your understanding of mathematical concepts and techniques beyond the standard A Level course, to support those who will need to use mathematics in their university course, especially students wishing to study mathematics, physics, economics, computing or engineering to degree level. Careers for men and women with good mathematics skills and qualifications are not only well paid, but they are also often interesting and rewarding.

ASSESSMENT

Examination: 100% (Three Written Papers)

Paper 1 1h 30m Exam	*25%*	Core Pure Mathematics 1
Paper 2 1h 30m Exam	*25%*	Core Pure Mathematics 2
Paper 3 1h 30m Exam	*25%*	Further Mathematics Option 1 Students take one of the following: A: Further Pure Mathematics 1 B: Further Statistics 1 C: Further Mechanics 1 D: Decision Mathematics 1
Paper 4 1h 30m Exam	*25%*	Further Mathematics Option 2 Students take one of the following: A: Further Pure Mathematics 2 B: Further Statistics 1 C: Further Mechanics 1 D: Decision Mathematics 1 E: Further Statistics 2 F: Further Mechanics 2 G: Decision Mathematics 2

EXAM BOARD

Pearson Edexcel A Level Further Mathematics (9FM0)

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A Level Further Mathematics opens pathways to careers such as computer game design, software development, engineering, finance, research science, mathematics, and data analysis - fields that value strong problem-solving, logical reasoning, and analytical skills.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Logical and analytical thinking
- Problem-solving using a range of mathematical methods
- Ability to filter information and focus on key details
- Efficient and strategic decision-making
- Clear communication of complex ideas
- Strong numeracy and data interpretation skills
- Adaptability and trainability across professional disciplines

COURSE OVERVIEW:

The Pure topics cover the areas of:

- Proof
- Complex numbers
- Matrices
- Further algebra and functions
- Further calculus
- Further vectors
- Polar coordinates
- Hyperbolic functions
- Differential equations
- Two further modules looking at mechanics and decision mathematics

The Applied course looks at both Statistics and Mechanics:

- Statistical sampling
- Data presentation and interpretation
- Probability
- Statistical distributions
- Statistical hypothesis testing
- Quantities and units in mechanics
- Kinematics
- Forces and Newton's Laws
- Moments

MANDARIN

A Level Mandarin offers an exciting opportunity to master one of the world's most widely spoken and influential languages. Open to both native and non-native speakers, the course combines language learning with deep cultural exploration, helping you understand modern China and the wider Chinese-speaking world.

ASSESSMENT

Examination: 100% (Written, Spoken and Listening Elements)

Paper 1: Listening, reading & translation 2 Hour Exam	*40%*	The paper draws on all of the four themes studied and includes a translation from Mandarin to English.
Paper 2: Written response to works & translation 2h 40m Exam	*30%*	Two essays, one on the film study and one on the book study. Includes a translation from English to Mandarin.
Paper 3: Speaking 25 Minutes	*30%*	Task 1: A discussion on a theme from a card prepared 15 minutes before the exam. Task 2: Presentation and discussion on your own independent research project.

EXAM BOARD

Pearson Edexcel A Level Mandarin

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A Level Mandarin opens doors to a wide range of international careers in business, diplomacy, law, media, education, and tourism. As China's global influence continues to grow, fluency in Mandarin is a highly sought-after skill that gives you a strong advantage in the global job market.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Advanced communication in spoken and written Mandarin
- Critical and analytical thinking
- Cultural awareness and cross-cultural understanding
- Independent research and learning strategies
- Translation and interpretation skills
- Confidence in expressing complex ideas
- Creativity and problem-solving
- Adaptability and global perspective

COURSE OVERVIEW:

A Level Mandarin offers an in-depth exploration of the language, culture, and society of China and other Mandarin-speaking regions. Open to both native and non-native speakers, the course develops confident communication in speaking, listening, reading, and writing, while expanding your vocabulary and linguistic control for both practical and intellectual purposes.

You'll engage critically with authentic texts, films, and media, gaining insight into the cultural, historical, and social contexts of the Chinese-speaking world.

The course also encourages intercultural understanding and reflection, helping you mediate between Mandarin and English speakers. Alongside linguistic mastery, you'll develop independence, creativity, and critical thinking - skills that prepare you for further study, research, or a global career.

MUSIC

This stimulating and enriching course develops your performance, composition, and analytical skills while deepening your understanding of music. You'll engage with all three core disciplines - performing, composing, and listening - gaining both practical and theoretical expertise. A Level Music provides excellent preparation for further study in music and is equally valuable as a complementary subject, enhancing creativity, discipline, and critical thinking

ASSESSMENT

Assessment will be made through:

A performance recital: 6-8 minutes duration (25% coursework pathway); or 10-12 minutes duration (35% coursework pathway).

A composition portfolio: two pieces totalling 4-6 minutes duration (25% coursework pathway); or three pieces totalling 8-10 minutes duration (35% coursework pathway).

·A written paper covering the Areas of Study outlined above (worth 40% of final grade), comprising:

- Set work analysis with a score
- Extended responses on wider context
- Unprepared extracts of music (with and without a score)
- Comparison questions

The chosen coursework pathways for performance and composition must total 60%.

EXAM BOARD

Eduqas A Level Music

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A Level Music can lead to a wide range of exciting creative careers, including music production, performance, composition, teaching, sound design, sound engineering, music therapy, radio production, and choreography. It also provides valuable transferable skills for many other artistic and collaborative professions.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Advanced performance and instrumental/vocal technique
- Creativity and originality in composition
- Analytical listening and musical interpretation
- Understanding of musical theory and context
- Confidence in presenting and performing
- Collaboration and ensemble skills
- Critical thinking and attention to detail
- Time management and self-discipline

COURSE OVERVIEW:

The A Level Music course is taught in a fully equipped Music School with outstanding facilities for performing, composing, and listening.

Students benefit from access to a dedicated Music Technology Suite and, from Summer 2025, the school will proudly become an All-Steinway School, reflecting a major investment in providing music students with world-class instruments and an exceptional environment for musical excellence.

You will learn about:

- Musical performance (either as a soloist, or as part of an ensemble, or both)
- Musical composition (in the Western Classical Tradition, as well as composing to a brief)
- Musical understanding, analysis, listening and aural dictation skills related to:

- The development of the symphony (1750-1900)
- One area from a choice of rock and pop, jazz or musical theatre
- Either 20th century music or 21st century Western Art Music



PHOTOGRAPHY

A Level Photography is an inspiring and creative course that encourages imagination, innovation, and self-expression. Studying photography not only develops your artistic and technical skills but also enhances your ability to think creatively - a quality highly valued by universities and employers alike.

The course offers a dynamic balance of exploration and skill-building, helping you see the world differently and express your ideas through powerful visual storytelling.

ASSESSMENT

Examination: 40% (Externally Set Assessment)
Coursework: 60%

Personal Investigation Coursework	*48%*	A portfolio of work and final outcome(s) based on the theme.
Personal Study Coursework	*12%*	A written investigation into a theme/area of interest linked to your work.
Externally Set Assessment	*40%*	A portfolio of work and final outcome(s) created during the 15 hour exam period. Candidates will have a number of weeks to generate preparatory work prior to the exam.

EXAM BOARD

Pearson Edexcel A Level Photography

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A Level Photography opens the door to a wide range of creative and visual careers. Graduates may go on to work as fine art or commercial photographers, photojournalists, advertising art directors, visual content producers, cinematographers, film editors, camera operators, lighting technicians, educators, or even AI and digital imaging specialists.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Creative thinking and visual storytelling
- Technical photography skills (camera control, lighting, composition)
- Image editing and digital manipulation
- Research and idea development through sketchbooks and journals
- Independent project planning and time management
- Critical analysis and reflective evaluation
- Understanding of artistic styles, contexts, and influences
- Confidence in presenting and curating visual work

COURSE OVERVIEW:

The A Level Art & Design: Photography course, following the Edexcel specification, is a two-year programme structured around two components: a Personal Investigation (coursework) and an Externally Set Assignment (exam).

In the first year, you'll explore a range of creative themes such as The Life of..., Identity, and Ordinary/Extraordinary, developing your ideas and documenting your creative journey in a journal or sketchbook. In the second year, you'll produce an independent project based on a self-chosen theme, selecting your strongest work for final submission.

Your studies will also include a Personal Study - a written and visual exploration (1,000–3,000 words) that supports your practical work, allowing you to critically analyse and reflect on photographers, concepts, and influences that shape your own creative direction.

PHYSICS

A Level Physics offers an exciting opportunity to explore the fundamental principles that govern the natural world in greater depth. The course develops strong problem-solving, analytical, and research skills, encouraging the logical and creative thinking essential for careers in engineering, science, and technology. It also provides an excellent foundation for students who wish to pursue Physics for further academic challenge and intellectual curiosity.

ASSESSMENT

Examination: 100% (Three Written Papers)

The Practical Endorsement is completed over the two years through a series of practicals.

Paper 1 2 Hour Exam	*35%*	What's assessed? Sections 1 - 5 and 6.1 (Periodic motion) via 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content..
Paper 2 2 Hour Exam	*35%*	What's assessed? Sections 6.2 (Thermal Physics), 7 and 8. 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content.
Paper 2 2 Hour Exam	*30%*	Section A: Compulsory section: Practical skills and data analysis Section B: Students enter for one of sections 9, 10, 11, 12 or 13. Exam includes 45 marks of short and long answer questions focused on practical experiments and data analysis, and 35 marks of short and long answer questions based on your chosen optional topic.

EXAM BOARD

AQA A Level Physics (7408)

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A Level Physics is highly valued across a wide range of STEM careers, offering pathways into fields such as astronomy, engineering, transport, games design, robotics, the armed forces, aviation, sports technology, renewable energy, and medical research. It equips you with the analytical and technical skills needed for success in some of the world's most innovative and dynamic industries.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Advanced problem-solving and logical reasoning
- Analytical and critical thinking
- Experimental design and practical laboratory skills
- Data collection, analysis, and interpretation
- Application of mathematical principles to real-world problems
- Research and investigative skills
- Precision, accuracy, and attention to detail
- Effective communication of complex ideas

COURSE OVERVIEW:

A Level Physics builds on your GCSE knowledge, deepening your understanding of the laws of physics and how they apply to real-world problems. Designed for students who wish to continue their study of science, the course develops both theoretical understanding and practical skills, preparing you for further study in Physics, Engineering, or related fields, as well as careers where scientific thinking is valued.

You'll explore topics such as the Development of Practical Skills, Foundations of Physics, Forces and Motion, Electrons, Waves and Photons, The Newtonian World and Astrophysics, and Particles and Medical Physics, gaining a comprehensive understanding of the principles that govern our universe.

PSYCHOLOGY

A Level Psychology is the scientific study of the mind, brain, and behaviour. You'll explore how biology and the environment shape who we are, examining topics such as memory, conformity, and mental health. The course encourages critical thinking and curiosity, asking complex questions about why people behave the way they do. You'll learn to analyse case studies, evaluate experiments, and apply both qualitative and quantitative research methods to understand human behaviour in real-world contexts.

ASSESSMENT

Examination: 100% (Three Written Papers)

Paper 1: Listening, reading & translation 2 Hour Exam	*33%*	The paper draws on all of the four themes studied and includes a translation from Mandarin to English.
Paper 2: Written response to works & translation 2h 40m Exam	*33%*	Two essays, one on the film study and one on the book study. Includes a translation from English to Mandarin.
Paper 3: Speaking 25 Minutes	*33%*	Task 1: A discussion on a theme from a card prepared 15 minutes before the exam. Task 2: Presentation and discussion on your own independent research project.

EXAM BOARD

AQA A Level Psychology

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A Level Psychology leads to a wide range of careers focused on understanding people and behaviour, including clinical, counselling, educational, sports, and occupational psychology. It also provides valuable skills for fields such as marketing, business, social work, and healthcare.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Critical thinking and analytical reasoning
- Research and experimental design
- Data interpretation and statistical analysis
- Understanding of human behaviour and mental processes
- Problem-solving and decision-making
- Communication and argumentation skills
- Empathy and awareness of social and ethical issue

COURSE OVERVIEW:

Throughout the course you will develop an understanding of the role of biology and the environment in determining our behaviour and mental health. The reasons why humans conform to social pressure, perform poorly when asked to recall important events and suffer mental illnesses will be explored, along with many other issues surrounding human behaviour.

The course also offers flexibility in its optional units, allowing you to explore areas of personal interest such as relationships, addiction, child development, forensics, and schizophrenia.

Expect complicated questions rather than easy answers. Unlike traditional sciences, psychology doesn't claim to know everything. Instead, it explores often difficult and sometimes socially sensitive questions, always taking into account alternative perspectives. You will learn about both qualitative and quantitative research techniques and how to conduct and evaluate experiments.

Be prepared to do some critical thinking and pick apart case studies, experiments and surveys to discover biases, problems and inconsistencies.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES, PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

A-level Religious Studies is focused on the study of philosophy applied to the biggest questions in Western philosophy - what can we say about God? What is the right thing to do? Who was Jesus really? In a highly varied and deeply rewarding course, you will learn key philosophical concepts, both secular and religious, and create original arguments to make judgments on these topics.

ASSESSMENT

Examination: 100% (Three Written Papers)

Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion 2 Hours Exam	*33%*	Two extended-response questions based on excerpts from: **Barclay** – Situation Ethics **Kant** – Duty and Categorical Imperative Aristotle – Virtue Ethics **Wilcockson** – Euthanasia and Medical Ethics Texts apply across all ethical topics.
Paper 2: Religion and Ethics 2 Hours Exam	*33%*	Two extended-response questions based on excerpts from: **Mackie** – Evil and Omnipotence **Flew & Hare** – Theology and Falsification **Flew & Mitchell** – Theology and Falsification **Russell & Copleston** – The Existence of God Texts apply across all philosophy topics.
Paper 3: New Testament Studies 2 Hours Exam	*33%*	Two extended-response questions based on excerpts from: Matthew 1–2 – Birth of Jesus John 1, 2, 4–11, 15 – Signs and "I am" sayings Luke 6, 8, 10–19, 23–24 – Parables, teachings, death, and resurrection Morison – Who Moved the Stone? (Resurrection) Wilson – Jesus: The Evidence (Resurrection) Texts apply across all New Testament topics.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A Level Philosophy and Ethics opens up a diverse range of careers where critical thinking, empathy, and ethical reasoning are valued. Graduates often go on to roles such as social worker, human rights advocate, lawyer, diplomat, journalist, politician, teacher, ethics consultant, counsellor, psychiatrist, or non-profit programme manager. It's an ideal foundation for anyone interested in understanding people, ideas, and the moral questions that shape our world.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Critical and analytical thinking
- Logical reasoning and argumentation
- Ethical decision-making
- Clear written and verbal communication
- Independent thought and open-mindedness
- Empathy and understanding of diverse perspectives

EXAM BOARD

Pearson Edexcel A Level Religious Studies (9RS0)

COURSE OVERVIEW:

The course involves the study of:

• The Philosophy of Religion, including:

· How can we prove God exists?
· How can we talk meaningfully about a God who exists outside the universe?
· Is it possible to believe in God when science is so advanced?

• Religion and Ethics, including:

· Current ethical foci, such as the environment and discrimination
· Major ethical ideas, such as Natural Moral Law and Utilitarianism
· Whether we can actually talk about the "good"
· Medical ethics

•New Testament Studies, including:

· The social context of the New Testament, as well as its purpose
· Claims made by Jesus about his identity as the Son of God, Son of Man and the Messiah
· Christianity as a doomsday cult, including the coming of the Kingdom of God
· How the Gospels were composed, including their oral sources



SPANISH

A Level Spanish builds on the skills developed at GCSE, with a strong focus on spontaneous speaking, translation, and discussion. Lessons are taught primarily in Spanish, giving you the confidence to express yourself naturally and fluently. You'll study a film and a literary text, learning to write analytical essays and debate their themes in class.

ASSESSMENT

Examination: 100% (Written, Spoken and Listening Elements)

Paper 1: Listening, reading & translation 2 Hour Exam	*40%*	The paper draws on all of the four themes studied and includes a translation from German to English.
Paper 2: Written response to works & translation 2h 40m Exam	*30%*	Two essays, one on the film study and one on the book study. Includes a translation from English to German.
Paper 3: Speaking 25 Minutes	*30%*	Task 1: A discussion on a theme from a card prepared 15 minutes before the exam. Task 2: Presentation and discussion on your own independent research project.

EXAM BOARD

Pearson Edexcel A Level Spanish

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A Level Spanish opens doors to a broad range of international career opportunities. It is highly valued in fields such as translation, international business, law, journalism, tourism, marketing, education, and diplomacy. As one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, Spanish provides a global advantage, connecting you to exciting opportunities across Europe, Latin America, and beyond.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Advanced communication and language fluency
- Confident speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills
- Strong grammatical understanding and translation ability
- Critical thinking and analytical essay writing
- Cultural awareness and global perspective
- Confidence in discussion and debate

COURSE OVERVIEW:

The Edexcel A Level Spanish course offers an engaging exploration of the language, culture, and history of Spain and the wider Spanish-speaking world.

It is structured around four main themes: the evolution of Spanish society, the political and artistic culture of Spanish-speaking countries, immigration and Spanish society, and Spain under General Franco and the transition to democracy.

You'll study familiar topics such as family, work, tourism, and festivals, alongside new and thought-provoking themes like the media, multiculturalism, and dictatorship.

The course also includes the study of the film Volver by Pedro Almodóvar and the novel Como Agua para Chocolate (Like Water for Chocolate) by Laura Esquivel, allowing you to explore Spanish culture through its rich literature and cinema.

BTEC COURSES

BTEC COURSES

BTEC COURSES PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT BALANCE BETWEEN PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINED ASSESSMENTS, GIVING STUDENTS THE CHANCE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE THROUGHOUT THE TWO-YEAR COURSE RATHER THAN RELYING SOLELY ON FINAL EXAMS.

This continuous assessment approach recognises effort, commitment, and steady progress, ensuring that your final grade truly reflects your achievement over time. BTEC courses are ideal for practical, motivated learners who enjoy applying their knowledge to real-world situations. They suit students who thrive with a hands-on, vocational style of learning and who can manage their time effectively, working consistently and independently throughout the two-year course.

One of the highlights of BTEC study is the variety in assessment - from written assignments and presentations to practical tasks and discussions - offering different ways to achieve top marks. The mix of in-class discussions and applied learning helps you explore topics in depth and immediately put ideas into practice.

BTEC qualifications carry the same UCAS points as A Levels and are widely respected by both universities and employers for their academic depth and practical focus. Studying a BTEC at Abbotsholme provides an excellent balance of theory and real-world application, helping pupils develop the skills, confidence, and experience needed to thrive in higher education and beyond. Whether progressing to university, an apprenticeship, or straight into employment, BTEC students leave well-prepared for success in a wide range of professional and academic pathways.

Q&A WITH BTEC PUPILS

ARE YOU PLEASED YOU CHOSE TO STUDY BTEC AGRICULTURE? IF SO, WHY?

"Yes, absolutely. Studying BTEC Agriculture has given me a really strong foundation in both the practical and business sides of farming. Working hands-on with livestock and learning about farm management has been invaluable.

It's also been great fun - there's a real sense of community among students who all share the same passion for agriculture. The course has confirmed my career goals and prepared me perfectly to study Farm Business Management at Harper Adams University."





ARE YOU PLEASED YOU CHOSE TO STUDY BTEC SPORT? IF SO, WHY?

"I'm really happy I chose BTEC Sport because it has given me a clear direction for my future. The course covers everything from anatomy and physiology to psychology and training programmes, which has helped me discover what areas of sport I'm most passionate about. I can't wait to build on that at university next year."



HOW DID STUDYING BTEC SPORT HELP YOUR PERFORMANCE?

"BTEC Sport has really improved my performance as a cricketer on the England Pathway. It's helped me understand how training, nutrition, and recovery all work together to perform at my best. The sports psychology units have also taught me how to manage pressure and stay mentally strong during matches, making me a more focused and confident player."



AGRICULTURE

If you love the outdoors, working with animals, and learning through hands-on experience, BTEC Agriculture is the perfect choice. This course offers the unique opportunity to combine practical farm work with classroom learning, giving you real-world skills that are highly valued in the growing land-based and environmental industries.

You'll work with livestock, use modern machinery, and gain a deep understanding of sustainable farming - all while building the confidence and expertise to take your next step toward a rewarding future in agriculture or beyond.

ASSESSMENT

Mandatory content (83%)
External assessment (33%)

Mandatory Content: Coursework	*67%*	For this course, you'll need to complete a mix of mandatory and optional units. There are three mandatory units in total - two internal and one external. In addition, you must complete at least one optional unit from Groups B or C.
External Assessment 3 Hour Exam	*33%*	This is based on Unit 1: Professional Working Responsibilities. It involves a task set and marked by Pearson, completed under supervised conditions. The supervised assessment lasts 3 hours and takes place during a specified session timetabled by Pearson.

EXAM BOARD

Pearson: BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Agriculture

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

BTEC Agriculture opens the door to a wide range of rewarding careers in the land-based and environmental sectors. Possible career paths include farm management, agricultural consultancy, animal husbandry, livestock breeding, agricultural engineering, crop production, estate management, and environmental conservation.

It also provides a strong foundation for further study in agriculture, agribusiness, veterinary science, and other related fields.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Hands-on farming and animal husbandry experience, including lambing and livestock care
- Technical skills in using agricultural machinery and equipment
- Understanding of the farming calendar and estate management
- Data recording, research, and report writing
- Problem-solving through real-world agricultural tasks and case studies
- Independent project planning and decision-making
- Teamwork, communication, and time management skills



COURSE OVERVIEW:

The BTEC Level 3 in Agriculture is equivalent to one A Level and carries full UCAS points. This two-year modular course consists of four units, with one externally assessed exam worth 33% of the overall grade, available in January and May/June.

Units of Study:

- Professional Working Responsibilities*
- Work Experience in the Land-based Sectors
- Applied Agricultural Farming Practice
- Estate Skills (*Optional*)
- Land-based Machinery Operations (*Optional*)

*This unit is assessed externally and contributes 33% to your overall grade.

Students spend roughly half their time in the classroom and half gaining hands-on experience on the school's working farm and estate. You'll work with the breeding sheep flock and pedigree British White cattle herd, taking part in lambing, livestock preparation for market, and year-round farm operations, ensuring high standards of welfare and management.

In class, you'll complete research projects, analyse and report on agricultural practices, and carry out realistic work-based assignments. The course develops both technical and practical expertise, preparing you for careers or further study in agriculture and other land-based industries.

BHS AWARDS

At Abbotsholme, we are proud to offer students the opportunity to gain **British Horse Society (BHS) qualifications** - a globally recognised route into the equestrian industry. The BHS programme helps you develop a diverse range of practical and theoretical skills, making you a strong candidate for future study or employment within the equine sector.

The BHS qualifications, known as 'Stages', provide a clear and structured progression pathway. Most students begin at Stage 1, which focuses on essential horse care and riding skills, before advancing through the higher stages as their knowledge, confidence, and experience grow. Each Stage builds on the last, supporting your professional development and opening doors to a wide range of equestrian careers.

If you already have previous experience or existing equine qualifications, you may be able to enter directly at Stage 2 or above. Each qualification is made up of multiple assessments, which can be combined to suit your individual interests and career goals.

ASSESSMENT

Assessments take place on-site at Abbotsholme, a BHS Approved Riding Centre, using our own facilities and horses. You'll complete a range of practical activities and discussions under the guidance of an assessor, demonstrating your skills, knowledge, and understanding of safe working practices. The safety and welfare of both horse and rider are central to every stage of the assessment and must be maintained throughout.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Practical horse care and stable management skills
- Confident and balanced riding technique
- Understanding of equine behaviour, health, and welfare
- Safe and effective horse handling and management practices
- Strong communication and teamwork in an equestrian environment
- Problem-solving and decision-making in real-world scenarios
- Leadership and organisational skills for managing horses and facilities
- Increased confidence, responsibility, and professionalism in working with animals

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

BHS qualifications are highly respected across the equestrian industry, providing a strong foundation for a wide range of careers.

They can lead to roles such as riding instructor, groom, yard manager, competition rider, or equine therapist, as well as opportunities in equine management, breeding, and welfare.

With recognised professional status and practical experience, BHS awards also open pathways to higher-level training or university study in equine and animal-related fields.

EXAM BOARD

British Horse Society (BHS)

COURSE OVERVIEW:

	Coaching Pathway					
	Groom with Riding Pathway					
	Ride Leader Pathway					
	Groom Pathway					
BHS STAGE 1	Care			Ride		
BHS STAGE 2 (FOUNDATION)	Care	Lunge	Riding Out	Ride		Coaching
BHS STAGE 3	Care	Lunge	Riding Out	Ride Dressage	Ride Jump	Coaching

Scan or click here to discover more about BHS Awards.



PERFORMING ARTS (MUSICAL THEATRE)

Performing Arts is an exciting, dynamic, and rewarding subject that allows you to express yourself creatively while building confidence, teamwork, and communication skills. Whether you dream of a career on stage, behind the scenes, or simply want to develop valuable life skills, this course offers the perfect balance of passion and professionalism.

You'll perform, create, and collaborate in a supportive environment - gaining unforgettable experiences and preparing for a wide range of future opportunities.

ASSESSMENT

Practically:
Learners are continually assessed by their class teacher and these marks are then internally verified by other members of the Performing Arts staff. Assessment is principally performance based and all public performances are assessed, mostly focusing on learner's interpretation, technical ability, characterisation and performance skills.

Students are also assessed on their professionalism in rehearsals and workshops as well as their attendance and personal management skills. Students are also assessed on rehearsal discipline.

Written:

- A performer's journal of the rehearsal and development process.
- Evaluations of performances where necessary.
- Responses to set tasks and assignments, theory work include; essays, presentations, research tasks and evaluations.

EXAM BOARD

BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Performing Arts (Performance)

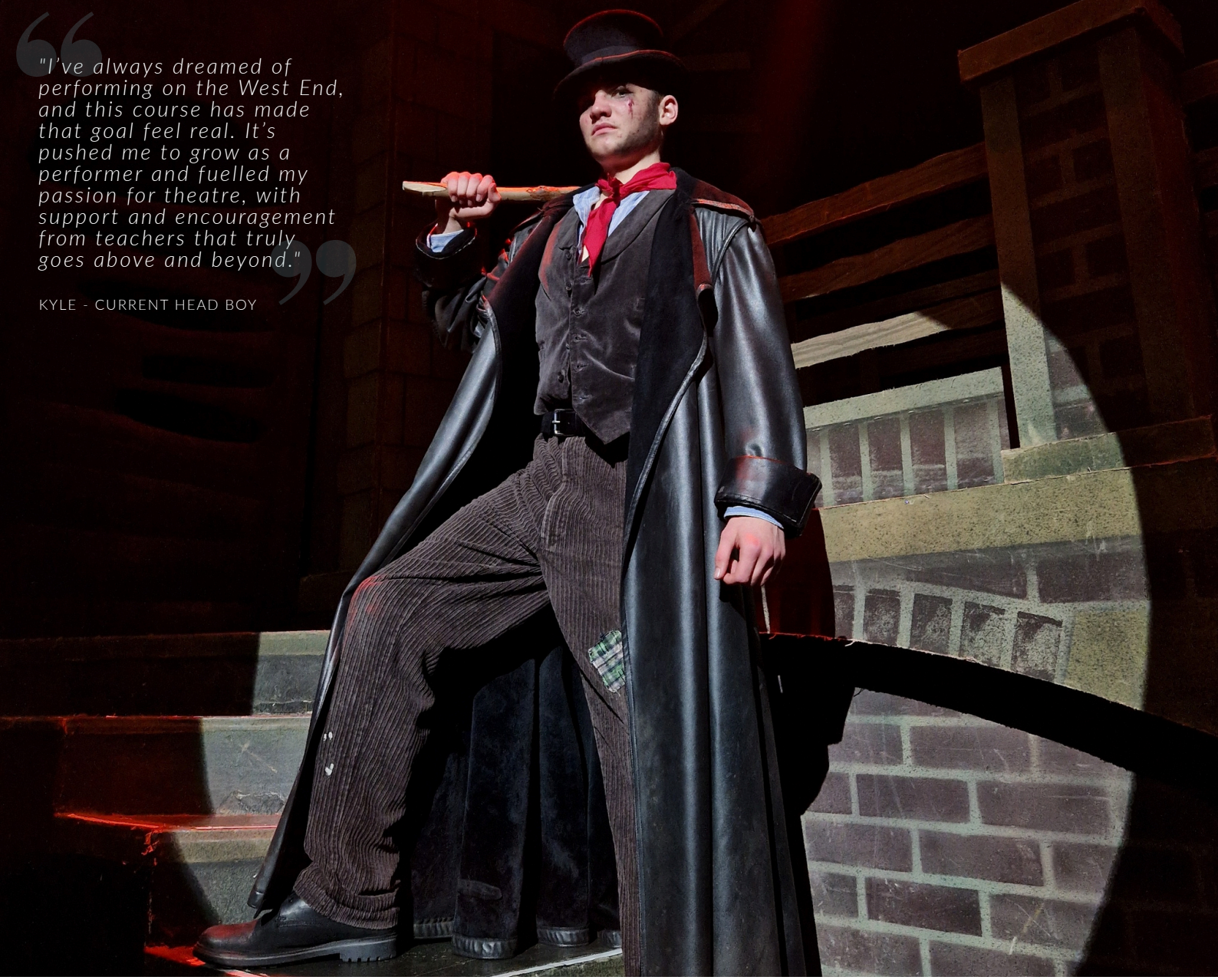
WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A qualification in Performing Arts can lead to a wide range of exciting and creative careers both on and off stage. Students may go on to become actors, singers, dancers, directors, choreographers, or stage managers, as well as pursue roles in teaching, arts management, media, and event production.

The skills gained also transfer well to careers requiring confidence, communication, and creativity in any industry.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Confidence and self-expression through performance
- Creativity and imagination in interpreting roles and styles
- Teamwork and collaboration in ensemble work
- Communication and presentation skills
- Discipline, organisation, and professionalism
- Adaptability and resilience in a dynamic industry
- Technical and practical performance techniques
- Critical reflection and evaluation of your own and others' work



COURSE OVERVIEW:

The BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Performing Arts (Musical Theatre) offers a highly practical, vocational route into the performing arts industry. Designed for motivated, confident, and self-disciplined students, the course develops performance skills across a range of styles and prepares learners for further training, higher education, or professional work in theatre and performance.

Taught through hands-on experience, students take on the role of professional performers, working collaboratively to stage productions and showcases. There is a vibrant extra-curricular programme with numerous performance opportunities each term, including productions at The Abbotsholme Theatre supported by a full stage crew. Regular trips, workshops, and industry experiences further enrich learning and inspire creativity.

Units Can Include:	Optional Units Can Include:
1. Investigating practitioners work. 2. Developing skills for live performance. 3. Group Performance.	Choreography for live performance Acting styles Movement in performance, Musical theatre techniques, Variety performance Developing skills and techniques for performance

SPORT

How does the body perform at its peak during competition? What gives top athletes the mental strength to deliver under pressure? How do sport scientists uncover doping cheats and keep the game fair? The BTEC Sport course dives into these questions and more, offering an exciting, hands-on exploration of the science, psychology, and performance behind elite sport.

You'll learn how the body works, how to train it effectively, and how to apply theory to real-world sporting situations - preparing you for further study or a dynamic career in the sports industry.

ASSESSMENT

Unit 1 – Anatomy and Physiology
Written Examination - 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Unit 2 - Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being
Written Exam – 2 hours 30 minutes

Unit 3 - Professional Development in the Sports Industry
Internally Assessed Assignment

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- In-depth knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and sports science
- Coaching, leadership, and teamwork skills
- Sports performance analysis and evaluation
- Practical fitness testing and training programme design
- Understanding of psychology in sport and performance
- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Organisation, time management, and problem-solving
- Application of theory to real-world sporting contexts

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

BTEC Sport is the perfect next step for those aiming for a career in the fast-growing world of sports science and physical education. It opens pathways into exciting roles such as sports psychologist, exercise physiologist, physiotherapist, strength and conditioning coach, PE teacher, sports nutritionist, dietitian, sports manager, coach, or performance analyst, all part of an ever-evolving global industry driven by elite performance and innovation.

EXAM BOARD

Pearson Edexcel: BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

COURSE OVERVIEW:

The BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport (equivalent to one A Level) offers an engaging and practical route into the world of sports science, performance, and physical education.

Across 360 guided learning hours, students complete four units - three mandatory and one optional - combining academic study with real-world application.

The mandatory units include:

- **Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology** – explored through a 1 hour 30 minute written exam
- **Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being** – assessed by a 2 hour 30 minute written exam
- **Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry** – internally assessed through coursework

Students then select one optional unit from a diverse range of topics such as Sports Psychology, Coaching for Performance, Practical Sports Performance, Sports Injury Management, or Performance Analysis, allowing them to tailor the course to their interests and career goals.

Students are supported through access to the fitness suite and sports facilities, regular feedback, and guidance on advanced research using professional journals. Learning is enhanced by a structured programme of varied assessments, dedicated study support, and enrichment opportunities such as guest speakers and visits to sports venues.



FOUNDATION YEAR

NCUK FOUNDATION YEAR

THE NCUK INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION YEAR AT ABBOTSHOLME SCHOOL IS DESIGNED TO PREPARE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDY IN BUSINESS-RELATED DISCIPLINES, OFFERING AN ALTERNATIVE AND ACCELERATED PATHWAY TO UNIVERSITY COMPARED WITH TRADITIONAL A LEVEL OR IB ROUTES.

Created by universities specifically for international learners, the programme combines academic study in Business Studies, Economics and Mathematics with essential study skills and English language development, ensuring students are fully equipped for success at university.

Taught on campus at Abbotsholme, the International Foundation Year can be completed in just one academic year, providing a fast-track route to a wide range of business-related degree programmes at leading universities in the UK and around the world. Alongside excellent academic preparation, students learn to think critically, communicate effectively in English, and develop the independence and confidence needed to thrive in higher education and beyond.



WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

Upon successful completion of the IFY, students are **guaranteed entry** to one of **over 40 partner universities** in the UK and overseas, giving them access to hundreds of undergraduate degree options across a wide range of disciplines.

Scan or click to discover abbotsholme's NCUK foundation programme

ELECTIVES

At Abbotsholme, education is more than what you know - it's about who you become.

ELECTIVE PATHWAYS

AT ABBOTSHOLME, LEARNING GOES FAR BEYOND THE CLASSROOM. A MYRIAD OF OPPORTUNITIES ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO EXPLORE THEIR INTERESTS, DEVELOP NEW SKILLS, AND DISCOVER THEIR STRENGTHS.

At Abbotsholme, our Electives Programme offers students the opportunity to go beyond their core A-Level or BTEC studies, developing valuable skills and experiences that enhance their academic journey and future prospects. These optional pathways are designed for motivated and ambitious students who wish to extend their learning, gain recognised qualifications, and explore areas aligned with their university aspirations or career goals.

Nationally recognised qualifications such as the **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)** and **IELTS** are on offer, helping students strengthen their academic profile and prepare for higher education.

Unique to Abbotsholme, and unlike any other school offering of its kind, students can also choose from two specialist pathways:

- **The Veterinary and Animal Science Pathway** (launching September 2026) - designed for those aspiring to careers in veterinary medicine, animal care, or related sciences.
- **The IOF Football Academy Pathway -** offering both player and non-player routes, with opportunities to earn FA coaching and refereeing qualifications and explore careers in sports physiotherapy, talent management, media, and more — including guidance for those seeking football scholarships to U.S. colleges.

Each elective is designed to broaden horizons, deepen expertise, and provide real-world experiences that help Abbotsholme students stand out - whether applying to top universities or beginning their professional journey.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

Welcoming international students in to the Abbotsholme Sixth Form community is exciting and rewarding for all. We recognise that some of those students will need help and support with their English language acquisition, and this support comes from our in-house experienced EAL department.

ASSESSMENT

You will be assessed through the IELTS examination, which tests your skills in Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking. Students usually take the exam in March of Year 13, and the average IELTS score achieved is Band 7.

In Year 12, you may also take Cambridge English examinations, such as First Certificate, Advanced English, or Proficiency.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Improved accuracy and fluency in spoken and written English
- Expanded academic and subject-specific vocabulary
- Strong reading comprehension and analytical skills
- Effective writing techniques for essays and reports
- Confident listening and speaking for academic and everyday contexts
- Enhanced exam strategies for IELTS and Cambridge assessments
- Improved interview and communication techniques for university applications

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

This course provides the language skills and academic confidence needed to progress to university study or higher education in the UK and abroad.

Achieving a strong IELTS score opens doors to a wide range of degree programmes and institutions. The communication, critical thinking, and study skills you develop will also support success in future academic, professional, and international settings.

EXAM BOARD

IELTS Examination

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This course is designed to strengthen your English language skills alongside your academic studies. Lessons are carefully timetabled around your school subjects and are often taught in small groups or one-to-one sessions. This personalised approach helps you improve key areas such as accuracy, fluency, and confidence in communication, while also building vocabulary and language relevant to your chosen A-Level subjects.

In Year 13, special focus is given to IELTS preparation and English for Academic Purposes, helping you develop the skills needed for university-level study. You'll also have opportunities to work on interview techniques and receive support with university applications to ensure you're fully prepared for the next step in your education.

Students in Year 12 may also work towards Cambridge English qualifications, such as First Certificate, Advanced English, or Proficiency. Lessons may include grammar development, study skills, and academic vocabulary building, delivered in close collaboration with subject teachers across the school to help you achieve your full potential.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) offers an exciting opportunity for motivated students to take charge of their own learning and explore a topic they are passionate about. It's a chance to develop the independent study, research, and critical thinking skills that universities value most - skills that set you apart from other applicants and help you prepare for the demands of higher education.

Th EPQ is best suited to self-motivated, organised students who are ready to work independently and manage a long-term project alongside their other studies. For those who thrive on curiosity and creativity, it's a truly rewarding experience.

ASSESSMENT

There is no examination for the EPQ. Instead, you will complete an extended, independent project that is assessed through your work and the process you follow.

You can choose to produce either a 5,000-word essay or an artefact (such as a product, performance, or creative piece) with a written report to accompany it.

Your project will be assessed in four key areas:

- *Managing the project*
- *Research and use of resources*
- *Developing and completing your project*
- *Reviewing and evaluating your work*

A supervisor will support you throughout the process and will assess your performance based on the evidence you provide. Because the EPQ focuses strongly on how you plan, research, and manage your work, supervisors guide you on process and skills, rather than judging the specialist content of your topic.

EXAM BOARD

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Extended Project

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

The EPQ is an excellent preparation for university and higher education, helping you develop strong independent study, research, and writing skills. Research by Cambridge Assessment and the University of Southampton shows that EPQ students are more likely to achieve a 2:1 or above at university and perform better in their A-Level subjects.

Achieving a high grade, such as an A, can also lead to a reduced university offer, giving you a real advantage when applying for competitive courses.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Independent research and study skills
- Project planning and time management
- Critical thinking and analysis
- Academic writing and referencing
- Creative problem-solving
- Presentation and communication skills
-

COURSE OVERVIEW:

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is an exciting opportunity for students to **explore a topic of personal interest** while developing the independence and academic skills needed for university and beyond. Worth up to **28 UCAS points (slightly more than an AS Level)**, the EPQ gives you the freedom to design and complete a project based on an area linked to your studies or a passion outside the classroom.

The course begins in the Spring Term of Year 12, when students are invited to attend the Year 13 EPQ presentations. After this, students can apply to the EPQ Co-ordinator to begin their own project. Taught skills sessions start in the Summer Term of Year 12, and each student is assigned a supervisor to guide them through the process.

Students can choose to complete either a 5,000-word essay or an artefact (such as a creative or practical piece) accompanied by a written report. The final submission takes place at the start of the Spring Term in Year 13, followed by presentations in February. The course concludes with the submission of the Production Log at the end of February.

Throughout the EPQ, students will:

- *Choose and refine a topic of personal interest*
- *Plan, research, and manage their project independently*
- *Record evidence of their process and progress*
- *Present their findings to a non-specialist audience*



VETERINARY & ANIMAL SCIENCE PATHWAY

An inclusive pathway for students aspiring to study or work in veterinary medicine, animal science, conservation, or animal-related careers. It provides a clear progression of hands-on experience, practical veterinary skills, expert guidance, and field learning, all rooted in Abbotsholme's long-standing heritage of agriculture and animal husbandry.

With access to Abbotsholme's exceptional facilities - including a BHS-accredited equestrian centre and a fully operational working farm (a resource available at less than 1% of UK schools) - students gain unparalleled real-world experience that brings animal science and veterinary practice to life.



THE PROGRAMME IS DESIGNED TO:

- Develop essential practical and scientific skills valued by universities and employers - from animal health monitoring and clinical techniques to research and data analysis.
- Provide direct experience and insight from veterinary surgeons, animal scientists, equine specialists, and conservation professionals, helping students understand the range of roles within the sector.
- Build a strong foundation for UCAS applications, interviews, and career readiness, offering meaningful evidence of commitment and practical experience.
- Prepare students for a wide range of animal-related university courses and careers,
- Equip students with the knowledge, confidence, and experience to progress into professional, academic, or applied animal careers, from veterinary practice and research to conservation, policy, and welfare work.



PATHWAY OVERVIEW:

The Veterinary & Animal Science Pathway runs weekly, with students rotating between **practical**, **scientific**, and **careers-focused sessions**. Activities are scheduled during enrichment time where possible, ensuring they complement academic study without affecting curriculum lessons.

Through immersive, experience-based learning, pupils develop advanced knowledge and skills in areas such as **clinical diagnostics**, **animal health management**, **equine rehabilitation**, and **conservation medicine**.

They learn to:

- *Conduct animal examinations and basic diagnostic procedures*
- *Observe and apply equine physiotherapy and rehabilitation techniques*
- *Perform surgical simulations and laboratory-based investigations*
- *Study nutrition, anatomy, and disease prevention across multiple species*

Guest Speakers & Workshops:
The pathway is enhanced by guest speakers and clinics, featuring professionals such as vets, physiotherapists, conservationists, and veterinary nurses, who share real-world insights into animal-related careers.

Educational Visits:
Students also take part in educational visits to veterinary practices, university animal science departments, zoos, and wildlife reserves to deepen their understanding of the sector *(trip costs are additional)*.

Guaranteed Work Experience:
Each participant completes up to two weeks of guaranteed work experience in a veterinary, equine, conservation, or animal-related setting - building vital industry connections and strengthening university and career applications.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Practical animal handling and welfare management
- Clinical and diagnostic techniques (vital signs, parasite ID, first aid)
- Research and data analysis skills
- Understanding of anatomy, physiology, and disease
- Communication and teamwork in professional settings
- Problem-solving and critical thinking in real-world contexts
- Leadership and responsibility through animal care duties
- Record keeping, biosecurity, and health monitoring
- Interview and application readiness for animal-related university courses

WHERE COULD THIS PATHWAY LEAD?

This pathway prepares students for degrees and careers in veterinary medicine, animal science, zoology, equine or animal physiotherapy, wildlife conservation, and animal behaviour.

It also opens routes into research, veterinary nursing, agriculture, and environmental management. Through practical experience and professional insight, students gain the skills and confidence to turn their passion for animals into a rewarding future.



IOF FOOTBALL
ACADEMY PATHWAY

Whether aspiring to play professionally or to build a career within the wider football industry, the IOF Football Academy Pathway supports every player's individual journey to reach their full potential.

Designed to mirror the standards of a Category 2 or 3 professional academy, the programme integrates full-time coaching within the school curriculum, offering over 12 hours of academy contact time each week alongside academic lessons.

This unique approach goes far beyond traditional after-school football, combining elite coaching, performance analysis, and athlete development with tailored academic support to ensure every pupil thrives both on and off the pitch.

Led exclusively by industry professionals - including UEFA-qualified coaches, analysts, and conditioning specialists - the pathway provides a professional, high-performance environment

Scan or click to discover more about the IOF Academy



WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- **Technical mastery** – advanced control, passing, finishing, and tactical understanding
- **Physical performance** – strength, conditioning, agility, and injury prevention
- **Game intelligence** – decision-making, spatial awareness, and match analysis
- **Professional mindset** – discipline, leadership, teamwork, and resilience under pressure
- **Communication and collaboration** – effective interaction with teammates, coaches, and staff
- **Performance analysis** – using video and data to evaluate and improve gameplay
- **Career awareness** – understanding pathways in football such as coaching, analysis, sports science, management, and media
- **Time management and balance** – maintaining academic achievement alongside high-level training
- **FA Qualifications** – opportunities to gain recognised FA coaching and refereeing certifications, supporting future careers within the football industry

WHERE COULD THIS PATHWAY LEAD?

The IOF Football Academy Pathway opens doors to a range of careers within the football and sports industry. Students may progress into professional or semi-professional football, university sport scholarships, or careers in coaching, refereeing, sports analysis, physiotherapy, fitness training, management, and sports media.

The combination of elite-level coaching, academic study, and FA qualifications provides a strong foundation for success both on and off the pitch.



AN EDUCATION *For Life*

ABBOTSHOLME

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