ABBOTSHOLME

PROSPECTUS

2019 - 2021

HOW SHOULD GCSE/BTEC SUBJECTS BE CHOSEN?

This booklet outlines the GCSE and BTEC courses offered at Abbotsholme School.

All pupils must study English (or English as a Second Language), Mathematics and Combined Science (Triple Science is available as an option).
Pupils also have dedicated time for PSHE, Core PE and Games.

WHAT GCSE SUBJECTS CAN BE CHOSEN?

The following subjects are available at GCSE level. Students may choose up to four options.

- Agriculture
- Art
- Business Studies
- Chinese
- Classics
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology
- Equestrian Studies
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Mandarin
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Spanish



HOW SHOULD GCSE/BTEC SUBJECTS BE CHOSEN?

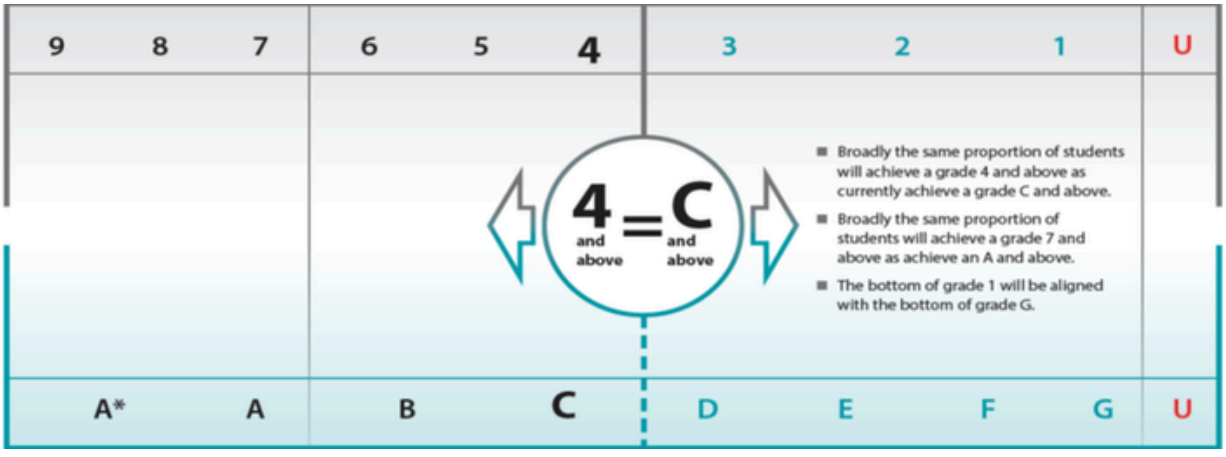
Options subjects should be chosen carefully and determined by four important factors:

- Ability and/or aptitude for all the chosen subjects
- Interest and enthusiasm for all the chosen subjects
- The relation of the chosen subjects to each other
- Any plans for higher education and a career

In the unlikely event that a GCSE course is undersubscribed, Abbotsholme School reserves the right to withdraw the course for that academic year.

THE GCSE GRADING SYSTEM:

- Students will receive a numerical grade for each subject; the highest grade will be 9.
- The chart below shows correlation between the old and new grading systems.
- Grades 7 to 9 will be awarded to candidates who would have received grades A or A* in the past.
- The top 20% of those who get grade 7 or above will get a grade 9 – the very highest performers.
- Grade 4 is related to the old grade C; therefore, a 'pass' grade will be 4 or higher.
- Grade 5 will be positioned in the top third of the marks for a current grade C and bottom third of the marks for a current grade B.
- The new Mathematics GCSE will be tiered, with grades 4 and 5 available through both tiers. The Higher tier is graded 4 – 9 and the Foundation tier is graded 1 – 5.



AGRICULTURE

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will study 10 different modules, including a range of topics surrounding agriculture, including:

- General agriculture Soil
- Principles of plant growth
- Crop production
- Livestock anatomy and physiology
- Livestock production and health
- Pasture management
- Farm structures and tools

EXAMINATION BOARD:

BTEC Level 2 - Animal Care



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

30% coursework and **70% end of year exam** (which is normally in the November of Year 11.)

Your written exam has two sections. Section A is a variety of shorter answer questions.

For Section B you are expected to choose 2, 15 mark questions from a selection provided.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Pupils will spend approximately half of their time in the classroom and the other half carrying out practical projects on the farm and estate. In class pupils will be required to record, analyse and report on work related projects and issues, learning the theory 'why are we doing what we do on the farm?' Many of these issues will be current and pupils will be expected to stay abreast of current affairs and developments affecting the agricultural and countryside industries.

Students will work with the schools breeding sheep flock and pedigree British White cattle herd, taking a full part in all the activities required as part of the year round farming calendar. This will involve lambing, preparing livestock for market and ensuring that housing and welfare management is maintained at a high level.

HOW WILL I BE SUPPORTED IN MY LEARNING?

Key Stage 4 pupils will get weekly homework set, which will be notes or preparation for assessed assignments.

We offer support sessions on theory topics.

Pupils are required to help with routine animal husbandry duties which may involve coming into school earlier than usual on some occasions and using some of their study periods to build their practical experiences.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The department follows the Edexcel Art & Design syllabus. You will study a broad based Fine Art course, which breaks down into two distinct phases: a coursework element (Personal Portfolio) and an end of course examination (Externally Set Assignment).

EXAMINATION BOARD:
GCSE Fine Art Edexcel 1FAO



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

GCSE Fine Art is 40% exam based and 60% coursework.

Personal Portfolio 60%
Set Assignment 40%

One project consisting of a variety of work. A range of artist studies, a 'journal' showing your working process and final outcome(s).

The exam topic is a broad based theme set by the examining board. Candidates will have a number of weeks prior to the exam to create preliminary studies, which form the starting point for the 10 hour exam.

Externally:

The exam topic is a broad based theme set by the examining board. Candidates will have a number of weeks prior to the exam to create preliminary studies, which form the starting point for the 10 hour exam.



HOW WILL I BE SUPPORTED IN MY LEARNING?

You will get weekly homework, assessed as appropriate, which may comprise of documenting your work so far, creating or developing ideas through drawings or creating written artists studies.

Extra sessions in the form of 'Art Evenings/ Weekends'will be put on regularly throughout the year.

In lessons, you will receive one-to-one guidance throughout the Personal Portfolio and Externally Set Assignment phase of the course.



BUSINESS STUDIES

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Year 10 Business Studies concentrates on the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business. It provides a framework for you to explore core concepts through the lens of an entrepreneur setting up a business.

Year 11 Business Studies examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. Year 11 also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows.





HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Two exams with a mixture of multiple choice, short and longer written answers.

HOW WILL I BE SUPPORTED IN MY LEARNING?

Revision quizzes and formal assessments to ensure everyone is progressing well.

Open door policy where students can seek extra support wherever they require it.

Guest speakers and trips to businesses to bring the subject to life.

BUSINESS STUDIES

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

By the end of the course business, you will leave with many skills based around the analysis and evaluation of different options. These skills allow you to create strong and well thought out arguments, which is a skill transferable to all aspects of life. It will also allow you to develop enterprise skills with students, not only developing your own small business in Year 10 but developing an enquiring mind, so you can think of solutions from different points of view to come up with the best course of action for a business.

You will be commercially aware and have the ability to criticise and make informed judgements about the actions of different businesses and their stakeholders. All students will develop quantitative skills relevant to business, including using and interpreting data.



EXAMINATION BOARD:
GCSE Business Studies Edexcel 1BS0

CHINESE

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

GCSE Chinese develops students' ability to understand and communicate in Mandarin Chinese. You will study everyday topics such as family and friends, school, free time, culture, travel, and future plans. The course builds skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, while also introducing key aspects of Chinese culture and traditions. Students will learn practical language for real-life situations and gain valuable insight into one of the world's most important global languages.



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course is 100% exam-based. All four skills are assessed at the end of the course and are equally weighted at 25% each.

Listening – understanding spoken Chinese

Speaking – taking part in conversations and role-play

Reading – understanding written texts

Writing – producing short pieces in Chinese

EXAMINATION BOARD:
Chinese GCSE, 4CN1M
(Pearson Edexcel)

WHAT SKILLS WILL I LEARN?

Students will develop the ability to communicate confidently in spoken Mandarin Chinese, understand spoken and written Chinese in everyday contexts, and read and respond to a range of short texts.

They will learn to write clearly and accurately using Chinese characters and pinyin, while strengthening key skills such as memory, pronunciation, and listening. Throughout the course, students will also gain cultural awareness of life and traditions in Chinese-speaking communities.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Learners of Classical Civilisation develop the skills to critically analyse ancient texts, recognise the aspects of the classical world that remain with us today, and appreciate how the standards of antiquity have evolved through the ages. Students do not require any prior knowledge of Classical Civilisation to take this GCSE.

Myth and Religion

Students will study myths regarding the role of the gods and heroes in the founding of Athens and Rome and the importance of Heracles/Hercules to both the Greek and Roman world. Myth as a symbol of power will also be explored, as will ever popular myths about the underworld. Students will also look at the role of religion in the everyday lives of ancient Greeks and Romans.

The study of temples, sacrifice, festivals, death and beliefs in the afterlife will give a broad overview of religion in the ancient world, and provides opportunity for the study of a wide variety of material remains, including remarkable temples and works of art. Students will compare Greek and Roman ideas, including the characteristics of the different societies, and the impact of the different cultural contexts on the theme studied. They will also use literature and visual/material culture in conjunction with one another in order to inform their judgements, including discussion of why or how the sources may present things differently from each other.

Roman City Life

Students explore everyday life in Roman cities, with a particular focus on the Imperial period and popular sites and artefacts from Rome, Ostia, Pompeii and Herculaneum.

The Culture section of this component comprises a study of a variety of aspects of Roman society. The Roman social system was notorious for its intrigues and
politics and this, coupled with the study of the spectacle provided by Roman entertainment, provides an exciting and enjoyable course.

The Literature topics examine poetry and prose, fiction and non-fiction texts to provide students with an introduction to a variety of literature. The Satires of Horace and Juvenal, fiction of Petronius and letters of Pliny give students an insight into different literary styles and techniques, as well as into interesting areas of Roman life and society.



WHAT SKILLS WILL I LEARN?

Throughout the course, you will develop the essential academic and life skills of communication (being prepared to argue your case orally and on paper, understanding the importance of supporting your argument with relevant evidence), analysis (learning to clarify issues, to appreciate the wider perspective and conduct systematic and critical analysis of the problem before you) and research (finding and using information from a variety of locations in the Greco-Roman world, including architectural sites, archaeological remains such as tombs or lamps and stunning pieces of art which still astound us today).

EXAMINATION BOARD:

GCSE Business Studies Edexcel 1BS0



COMPUTER SCIENCE

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The aims of the course are to enable students to develop:

- An understanding of the basic components, use and application of different ICT systems and networks
- The skills to analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate ICT systems
- The skills to understand the impact of current and new technologies on methods of working in the outside world
- The ability to recognise potential risks when using ICT, and use safe, secure and responsible practice



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1

- 1 hour 30 minutes
- Theory - 40% of GCSE
- All questions are compulsory
- Externally assessed

Paper 2

- 2 hours 15 minutes
- Practical - 30% of GCSE
- Document Production, Databases and Presentations
- All tasks are compulsory
- Externally assessed

Paper 3

- 2 hours 15 minutes
- Practical - 30% of GCSE
- Spreadsheets and Website Authoring
- All tasks are compulsory
- Externally assessed

EXAMINATION BOARD:

OCR - Computer Science

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The AQA GCSE Design and Technology syllabus enables learners to identify, consider and solve problems through creative thinking, planning and design, and by working with different media, materials and tools.

As a result, learners develop greater technical and design awareness, while developing skills such as initiative, resourcefulness, enquiry and ingenuity.

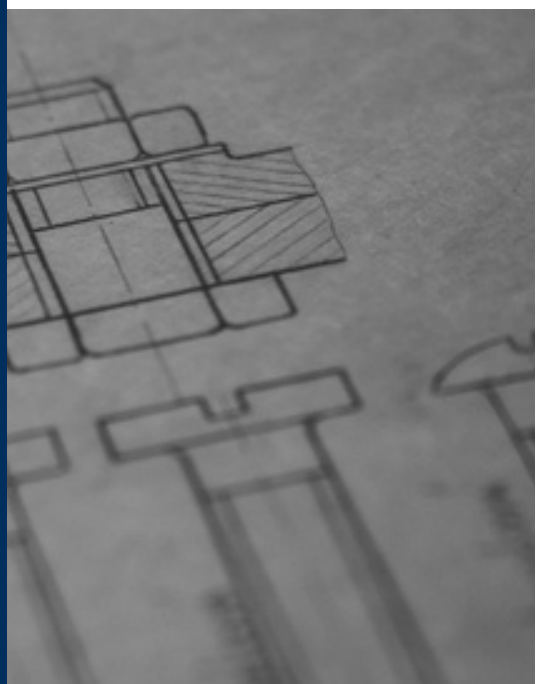
You will also develop the communication skills central to design.



WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

The aims of the course are to enable students to develop:

- Develop creative thinking in areas relevant to design and technology Apply problem solving skills to practical and technological problems.
- Develop the ability to make aesthetic, economic, moral and technical value judgements.
- Apply knowledge and understanding to the design and making of products, taking into consideration sustainability and the wider impact on society.
- Develop the communication skills central to design, making and evaluation.



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component 1 - Written Exam 50%

This paper is a compulsory 2-hour written paper.

What's assessed
- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

In addition:
- At least 15% of the exam will assess maths
- At least 10% of the exam will assess science.

Students will prepare for this exam in a series of theory based lessons during Year 10 and 11.

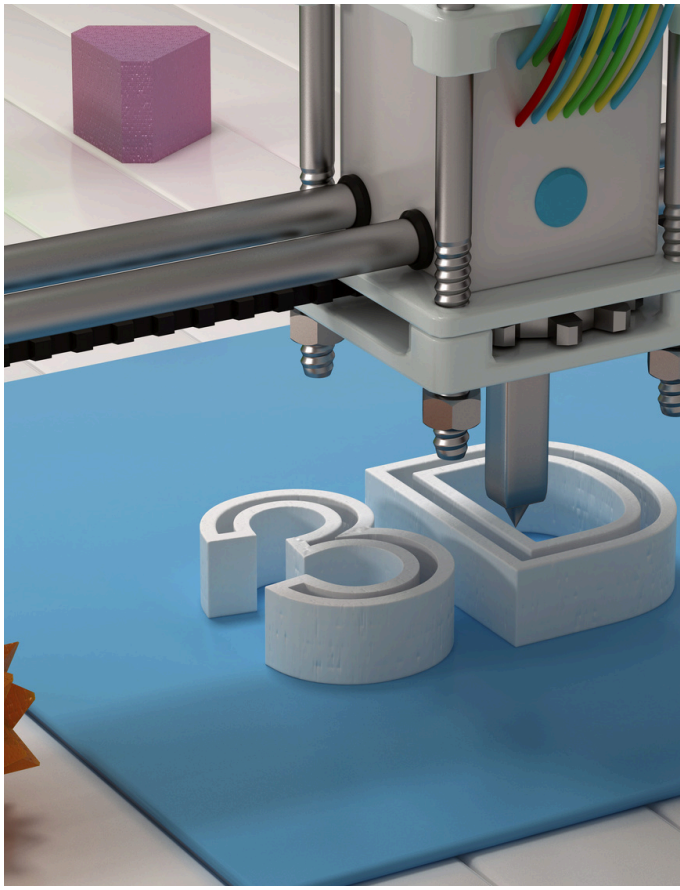
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Component 2 - Non-Examined Assessment 50%

Substantial design and make task where students will be assessed on the identification and investigation of design possibilities, the development of a design brief and specification, the generation and development of design ideas, the production of prototypes and their analysis and evaluation of a final design.

This work is assessed internally and moderated by AQA. The brief will be released in June of the year prior to their exam.

Students will prepare for this component in year 10 through a series of design and make projects which have been designed to develop their skills with a range of different materials and machinery.



EXAMINATION BOARD:
AQA GCSE Design and Technology (8552)



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will study both fiction and non-fiction texts, often in extract form, which were written at different points in history. You will study how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage the interest of readers; how writers have particular viewpoints and perspectives on issues or themes that are important to the way we think and live our lives.

You will produce two different kinds of creative writing.

You will also prepare a Spoken Language presentation on a subject of your choice, which will be endorsed separately and included on your GCSE certificate.



WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You have already been reading a range of quality literature and non-fiction texts at Key Stage 3, and you have started looking at the kinds of questions the GCSE exam will demand of you.

You will be encouraged to discuss your ideas about what effect a text has on you and about how the writer has caused that effect.

You will be able to show that you have understood what a text is saying and how it has been written, and to express that understanding in writing.

You will learn to compare two texts written at different points in history.

Your Spoken Language presentation will enable you to structure a talk successfully and use a range of rhetorical features to appeal to your audience.

EXAMINATION BOARD:
EDUQAS GCSE English Language (C700QS)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

GCSE English Language is 100% exam based.



Paper 1 - Written Exam - 40%

- Reading of one piece of fiction writing.
- Answer FIVE questions based on the text.
- One piece of narrative or recount writing.

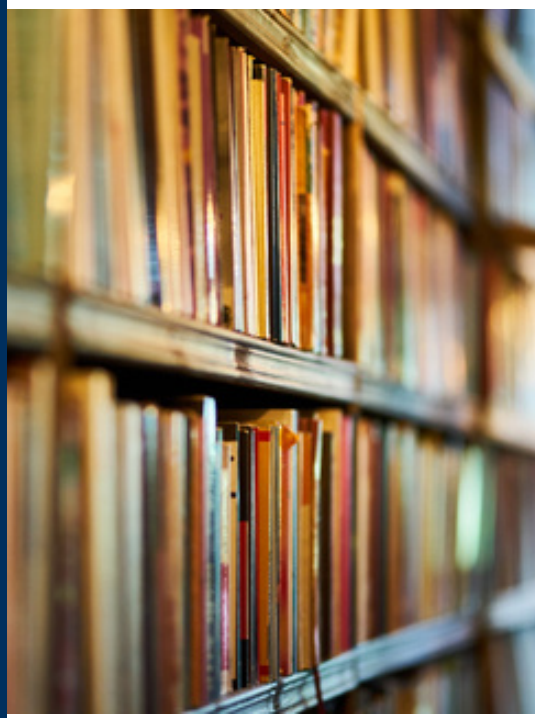
Paper 2 - Written Exam - 60%

- Reading two pieces of related non-fiction writing.
- Answer four questions based on texts and two which compare them.
- One piece of writing to persuade or discuss .
- Two pieces of writing such as article, report, review, speech.

Spoken Language
Separate Endorsement

A formal presentation on a topic of your choice, designed to engage your audience and show your ability to handle complex ideas.

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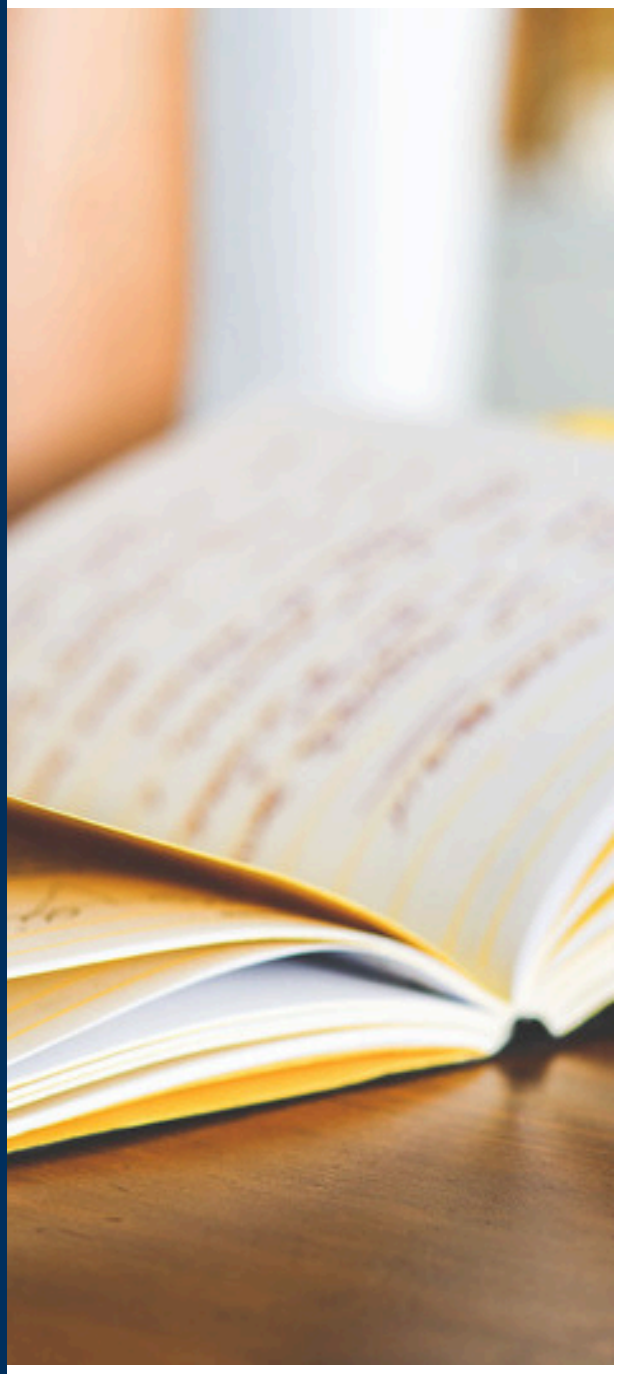
HOW WILL I BE SUPPORTED IN MY LEARNING?

- KS4 pupils have weekly homework tasks designed to give extended practise of independent reading and writing.
- Detailed feedback is given on written work to help you improve your answers.
- You will be given lots of guidance and practice of exam questions.
- Resources in Microsoft Teams will support your understanding of the different types of question and of technical accuracy.
- You will be guided and supported to read widely independently, so that you are exposed to lots of types of text and different topics.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will study a range of texts from across different genres and different times. You will study how writers use a range of techniques to engage the interest of readers in a Shakespeare play, a collection of poetry from the 18th-20th Centuries, a modern play and a 19th Century novel. You will also answer a question on unseen poetry.



WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You have already been reading a range of quality literature texts at Key Stage 3, and you have started to develop your analytical skills. You will be encouraged to discuss your ideas about what effect a text has on you and about how the writer has caused that effect.

You will be able to show that you have understood what a text is saying and how it has been written, and to express that understanding in writing. You will develop a style of critical writing.

You will be able to write an essay about a theme or character within a text, and to use an extract as a starting point for your discussion, answering two different kinds of question in the exam.

The exams are closed book, meaning that students cannot take books into the exam, so they will need to be able to remember key parts of text and some key questions.

EXAMINATION BOARD:

EDUQAS GCSE English Literature (C720QS)

ENGLISH LITERATURE

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

GCSE English Literature is 100% exam based.

Paper 1 - Written Exam - 40%

- One extract based question and one broader essay question on the Shakespeare text.
- One essay on a printed essay from an anthology and one question asking you to compare it with one other poem of your choice from the anthology.

Paper 2 - Written Exam - 60%

- An essay on a theme or character from a modern play and from a 19th Century novel, for both of which an extract will be printed on the exam paper.
- Two questions on unseen poems, one of which requires a comparison of two poems.





HOW WILL I BE SUPPORTED IN MY LEARNING?

- Regular homework tasks will be designed to encourage you to read widely and critically.
- Detailed feedback is given on written work to help you improve your answers.
- You will be given lots of guidance and practise of exam questions.
- Microsoft Form resources will support your understanding of the different types of question.
- You will be guided and supported to read widely independently so that you are exposed to lots of types of text.
- Wherever possible, you will be given the opportunity to see theatre and film productions of your set texts.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

On this course, you will study a broad mixture of English, including grammar, vocabulary and academic skills such as listening and writing. You will learn how to apply language structures to broaden your range of lexis for a variety of situations both formal and informal, as well as an awareness of cultural influences on different types of reading, writing and listening texts.



WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You will already have developed your reading, writing and listening skills across the curriculum, and this examination brings them all together. You will have a broad range of texts to study, and in your writing, you will be able to communicate effectively in emails, reports, articles and essays.

You will be able to read both for gist and specific information and present summaries of longer texts that are often on unfamiliar subjects.

This course is ideal for our international students who may be thinking of further study or higher education in the UK as it outlines some of the key skills found in the IELTS examination and acts as a foundation to more autonomous learning.

EXAMINATION BOARD:
Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (4XES2)



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The IGCSE English as a Second Language is in 2 parts; Paper 1 is reading and Writing set over 2 hours.

Students are required to answer 45 questions based on three types of text, and attempt 3 different types of written task, usually an email, a summary and a report.

The tasks are clearly outlined in the question paper and creativity is not a requirement.

The second paper is a listening paper of 40 marks set over 50 minutes. Students hear a variety of conversations and monologues and must answer questions on what they hear.

They may be asked to complete a text, match phrases or answer multiple choice questions. The papers are entirely in English.



HOW WILL I BE SUPPORTED IN MY LEARNING?

The EAL department at Abbotsholme is small, and students receive 5 hours of tuition per week in English as a second language. Lessons will be grammar or skills based, and students are given detailed feedback to help improve their language, particularly in accuracy and appropriate register. Students are guided and supported individually, and have plenty of practise papers and access to a variety of past papers, to maximise their understanding of different texts and question types.

EQUESTRIAN STUDIES - BHS AWARDS

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Year 10 and 11 pupils may opt for Equine Studies Pathway as one of their GCSE subjects, studying the British Horse Society Bronze and Silver Challenge Awards (Year 10) and BHS Stage 2 in Year 11 (progression to Stage 2 is ability based). These courses are trained on school grounds at our equestrian centre and involve ongoing in-house assessments by our BHS accredited coaches.

These courses include horse care, riding and lunging modules, with Stage 2 requiring an external exam.



WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Practical horse care skills – grooming, handling, feeding, and stable management.
- Riding skills – balanced position, control, school figures, and basic jumping or polework.
- Health & safety awareness – safe practices around horses and in the yard.
- Communication & teamwork – working with peers and instructors effectively.
- Responsibility & independence – managing daily horse care routines.
- Problem-solving – responding to common horse care and riding challenges.



FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition specification sets out the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.
Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance



WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

This course develops students' knowledge, understanding, and practical skills in planning, preparing, and evaluating meals and recipes that meet a range of nutritional, lifestyle, and consumer needs. Students will learn to make informed decisions about ingredients, cooking methods, processes, and portion sizes while managing time and cost effectively. Through practical work, testing, and sensory evaluation, they will refine recipes to improve quality, safety, and appeal, and confidently explain and justify their cooking choices based on nutritional principles, food science, and culinary knowledge.

The course also builds a strong understanding of the relationship between diet, nutrition, and health, including the effects of poor dietary choices. Students will explore the functional, chemical, nutritional, and microbiological properties of food, alongside the economic, environmental, ethical, and socio-cultural factors influencing food production and consumption.

Drawing inspiration from traditional British and international cuisines, learners will safely apply a wide range of cooking techniques and ingredients to create balanced, appealing, and well-informed food outcomes.

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Written exam:
1 hour 45 minutes
100 marks
50% of GCSE

Non-exam Assessment (NEA):

Task 1: *Food investigation (30 marks)*
Students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.
Practical investigations are a compulsory element of this NEA task.

Task 2: *Food preparation assessment (70 marks)*
Students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task.
Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.



EXAMINATION BOARD:
AQA GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

Task 1: Written or electronic report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.

Task 2: Written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included.



FRENCH

WHY STUDY GCSE FRENCH?

Choosing GCSE French opens the door to a world of opportunities. You'll build confidence in speaking, listening, reading and writing, while learning about French culture and life in other countries. French is a highly valued subject that supports future study, travel and careers in areas such as business, tourism, international relations and the arts. Lessons are interactive and practical, helping you develop communication skills that employers and universities really value. Whether you enjoy languages or want a subject that keeps your options open, GCSE French is a great choice.

Please note that there is an expectation for you to have a secure foundational base of knowledge of the language for you to be able to access the course at GCSE level.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

During the 2-year course, you will cover three main themes, each consisting of three units:

1.People and identity – *Identity and relationships with others; Healthy living and lifestyle; Education and work*

2.Popular culture – *Free time activities; Customs, festivals and celebrations; Celebrity culture*

3.Communication and the world around us – *Travel and tourism; Media and technology; The environment and where people live*

EXAMINATION BOARD:
AQA GCSE French (8652)

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Listening

In the listening exam, you need to understand spoken French. This means listening carefully to pick out the main idea and important details. You should recognise common words, phrases, and different time frames (past, present, future). It also helps to listen for opinions and reasons. There is a section on dictation, which requires you to accurately write down a number of short, slowly-spoken sentences in French.

Reading

The reading exam checks how well you can understand written French. You need to find key information and understand the overall meaning. Knowing vocabulary and basic grammar helps, and you should use clues in the text to guess the meaning of new words. There is also a translation section, where you will have to translate some short sentences from French to English.

Speaking

In the speaking exam, you need to talk in French clearly and confidently in a range of scenarios. You should be able to answer questions, give opinions, and explain why. Good pronunciation, a range of vocabulary, and using more than one tense will help you get higher marks.

Writing

The writing exam is about expressing ideas in written French across a variety of tasks, ranging in length and difficulty. You should write clear sentences, give opinions, and include reasons. Using different tenses, accurate spelling, and good grammar is important.



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

GCSE French is 100% exam based.

There will be an exam in all four skills, each worth 25% of the final grade.

The GCSE exam is tiered at Foundation (grades 1-5) and Higher (grades 3-9). All exams will be completed at the same tier.

HOW WILL I BE SUPPORTED IN MY LEARNING:

· Regular homework will be set to support you with the topics covered and the grammar that you need to know – this could include online revision, tasks set from the textbook, or worksheets.

· You will get your own accounts for various online websites to help you practise vocabulary and grammar.

· You will be assessed regularly in Listening and Reading using past AQA exam questions from Exampro.

· You will also get the opportunity to regularly practise a range of speaking and writing exam-style questions to allow you to get used to the structure and to understand what you need to do in order to obtain a good grade.

· Learning is supported by interactive materials, worksheets and grammar practice on the Kerboodle website.



GEOGRAPHY

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Students will travel the world from their classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), higher income countries(HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs).

Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

This course is linear, which means students will sit their exam at the end of the course.



There are three main areas of study:

1.) Living with the physical environment - This includes natural hazards, physical landscapes and geographical skills. This is tested by a 90 minute exam and is 35% of the GCSE.

2.) Challenges in the human environment - This includes urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world, the challenge of resource management and geographical skills. This is also a 90 minute exam and 35% of the GCSE.

3.) Geographical applications - This is composed of fieldwork, geographical enquiries and geographical skills. It is tested with a 75 minute exam and pre released booklet, which is available 12 weeks before the exam, and is worth 30% of the GCSE.

EXAMINATION BOARD:
AQA GCSE Geography (0835)

GEOGRAPHY

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Successful GCSE Geography candidates develop lifelong skills, including:

- An understanding of the processes which affect physical and human environments.
- The ability to use and understand geographical data and information.
- An understanding of how communities around the world are affected and constrained by different environments.



HOW WILL I BE SUPPORTED IN MY LEARNING?

In lessons you will receive one-to-one guidance and feedback at different points during the course.

Field trips to reinforce complete learning and to conduct field work.

An open door policy where students can seek extra support whenever they require it, alongside weekly lunchtime 'drop in' revision sessions.



HISTORY

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Our topic of Medicine through Time gives students the opportunity to study fascinating individuals and events, such as Vesalius and the Black Death from medieval to modern times. Students also delve deeper into the theme by learning about a particular Historic Environment; we focus on Medicine on the Western Front 1914- 1918.

Furthermore, our early modern depth study on Elizabethan England offers an insight into key moments in our history, students have the opportunity to study, events such as the Spanish Armada and Elizabethan Exploration that have helped shape Britain today.

Students have the chance to study ideologies and civilisations that have shaped the world we live in today through the topic of the Superpowers and the Cold War students are able to reflect on the wide diversity of human experience with an opportunity to study post WW2 societies of different countries during one of the most intense events of the C20th. Throughout Modern Depth study students will learn about German history in depth, exploring the complexity of Weimar Germany and the historical significant of the establishment of Nazi Germany.



EXAMINATION BOARD:
Edexcel GCSE History (1HIO)

HISTORY

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

The GCSE history course builds on skills that have already been developing throughout our studies at key stage 3.

There are 4 main assessment objectives that are covered throughout the course:

AO1: Knowledge and understanding of different historical periods
AO2: Explain historical events and periods using causation, consequence, continuity, similarity, difference and significance
AO3: Use sources to create a judgment
AO4: To evaluate different interpretations



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The assessments are designed for students of all abilities with a mixture of short and long answer questions.

Questions will focus on a variety of historical areas, such as what happened, why things happened, the impact of key events, how far you agree with a view. Students also analyse historical sources and come up with ideas for tackling an historical investigation.

Paper 1:
1 hour 20 minutes Medicine through Time and Medicine on the Western Front.

Paper 2:
1 hour 50 minutes Elizabethan England Superpowers and the Cold War.

Paper 3:
1 hour 30 minutes
Weimar and Nazi Germany.

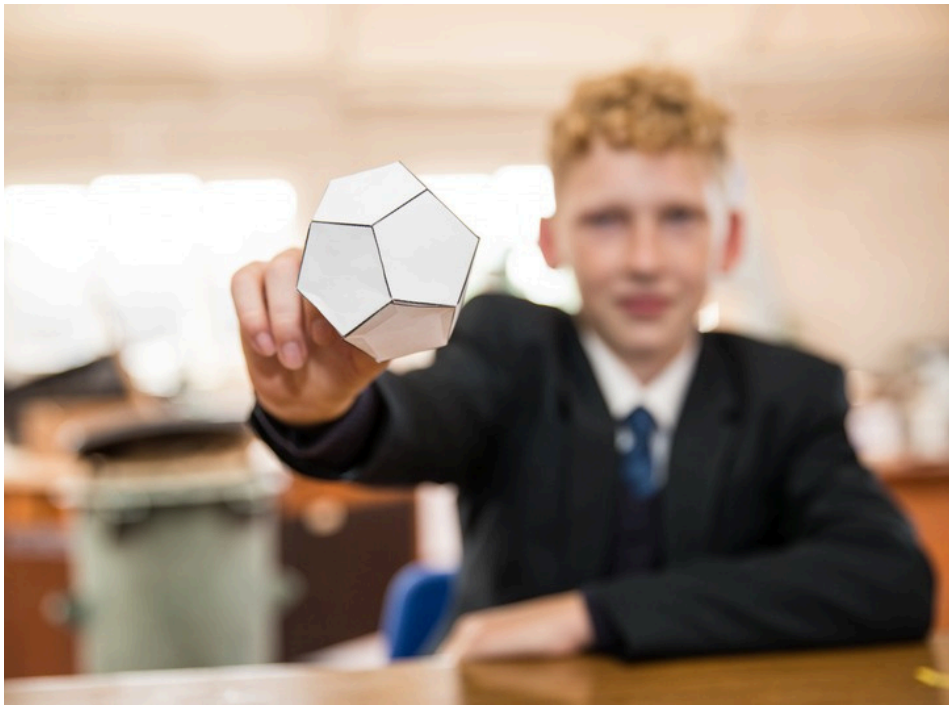
HOW WILL I BE SUPPORTED IN MY LEARNING?

- Extensive revision booklets for each topic, complete with exam questions each sub-topic
- Study support sessions are offered weekly and during the holidays
- Detailed and specific written feedback
- Course specific textbooks provided

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Maths is studied by everyone in Years 7 to 11 and our departmental aim is to encourage a fondness for maths, along with ability.

We follow the iGCSE maths specification, which is highly regarded, particularly in the independent sector. Historically, because it included more topics, iGCSE was considered to be a little more challenging than GCSE and so it has an excellent reputation.



WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

A student with a mathematics qualification is in demand because employers realise that they have a number of abilities besides specific mathematical knowledge and understanding. Such students can be readily trained in a host of professional disciplines.

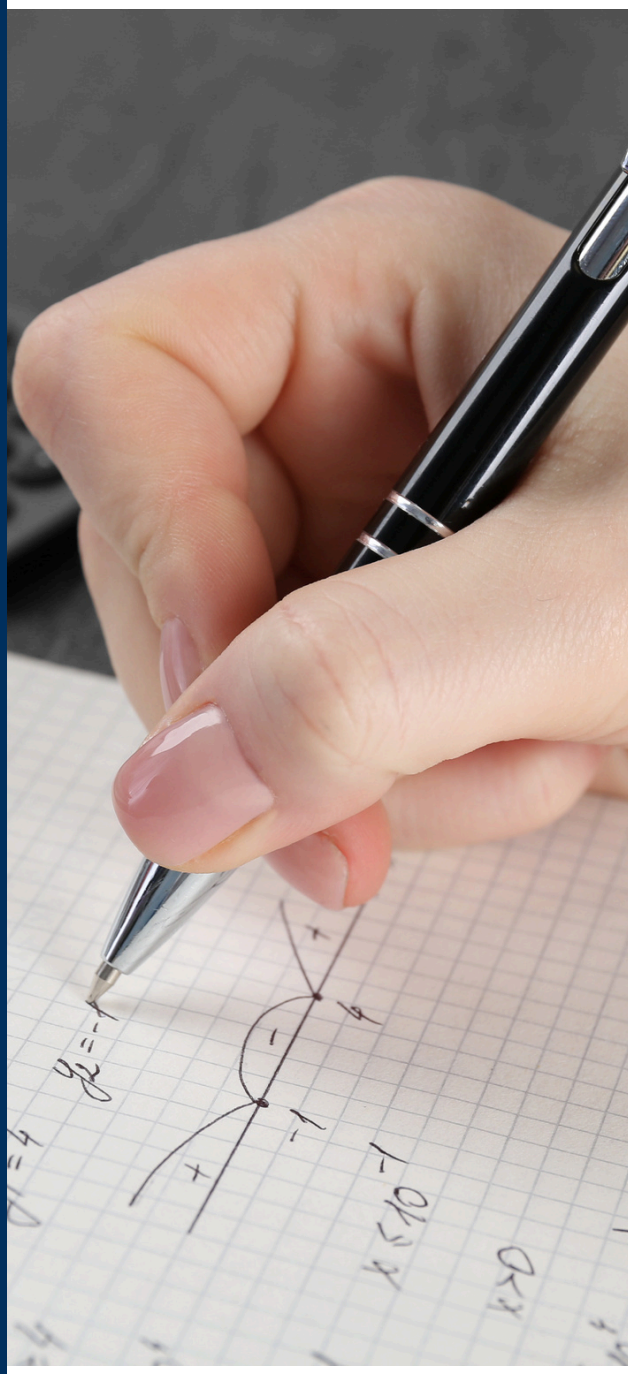
Communication skills:
Maths has great importance in the analysis and communication of ideas in all walks of life, whether in basic numeracy or in more advanced maths. Indeed, it could be said that it is the only global language. Our modern world has been, and continues to be, shaped by the application of mathematics in all forms of engineering.

Mind training:
Maths teaches you to think, to filter out irrelevant information and to concentrate on the key components of the problem in hand, tackling it in the most efficient way possible.
There is often more than one way to approach a maths question and we aim to provide a 'toolkit' of methods and ideas, which a student can choose from to solve each problem.

MATHEMATICS AND FURTHER MATHEMATICS

HOW WILL I BE SUPPORTED IN MY LEARNING?

- All pupils are given weekly assessed homework tasks which consolidate and support work being studied in the classroom
- We offer 'Boost Sessions' to promote confidence and success in maths
- Students are put into sets (grouped by ability) on the basis of various assessments and setting is regularly reviewed throughout the academic year to ensure pupils are learning in the most appropriate environment
- We enter the UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) challenges every year



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

iGCSE Maths is assessed by two 2-hour exam papers at the end of Year 11

High-achievers in the top set in Year 11 are given the opportunity to attempt additional qualification.

This is AQA GCSE Further Mathematics Level 2, providing a stepping stone to A level. It is assessed by two papers at the end of Year 11.

EXAMINATION BOARD:

Edexcel: IGCSE (International GCSE) (4MA1)
AQA Level 2 Further Maths GCSE (8365)

MUSIC

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

OCR's GCSE in Music will provide a contemporary, accessible, and creative education in Music with an integrated approach to the three main elements– performing, composing, and appraising.

Learners are encouraged to be creative and to broaden their musical horizons and understanding with Areas of Study that inspire and challenge.



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Integrated Portfolio: One Solo Performance & One Composition (30%)

Practical Component: Ensemble Performance & Composition to Brief (30%)

Listening and Appraising: A written paper (40%)

The Integrated Portfolio and Practical Component are non-examined assessment (NEA) and will be prepared as coursework completed in the final year of the course.

The Listening and Appraising element is assessment by a final examination at the end of Year 11. This involves responding in writing to excerpts of music played to candidates.

EXAMINATION BOARD:
OCR GCSE Music (J536)



MUSIC

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Music has an importance in the culture and heritage of Abbotsholme and is a valuable tool for developing confidence, creativity, and key skills. It is a large industry full of challenge, high demands and change but it is highly rewarding.

This course will provide an opportunity for students to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities, and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life.



HOW WILL I BE SUPPORTED IN MY LEARNING?

There is a lively extra-curricular programme in the Performing Arts Department with usually three or four performance opportunities per term.

Students also get the opportunity to perform at the Abbotsholme Theatre in a range of performances and concerts, whilst also working with a professional stage crew.

Students should be encouraged to work at skills outside the classroom through extra lessons, societies, concert and theatre visits, independent rehearsals and work experience.

PERFORMING ARTS

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This course will suit students who wish to study the Performing Arts and have an interest in Dance, Drama and Singing. This chosen pathway will prepare students for careers in the Performing Arts industry providing a broad educational base for further training, further education or for employment within the Performing Arts sector.

Due to the flexibility of the Musical Theatre pathway, students can be encouraged to excel in any, or all of the disciplines mentioned above. The course is taught through hands on experience of the Performing Arts and includes exciting workshops with various industry professionals.



WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Performing Arts has an importance in the culture and heritage of Abbotsholme and is a valuable tool for developing confidence, creativity and key skills.

It is a large industry full of challenge, high demands and change but it is highly rewarding. This course will provide an opportunity for students to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life.

EXAMINATION BOARD:
Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

This course will be assessed in a variety of different ways including case studies, assignments and work-based assessments, along with projects, performance observation and time-constrained assessments.

Workshops in all disciplines of the arts will be provided by specialised industry professionals. Each component will be graded as unclassified, Level 1, pass, merit or distinction. You will need to get a minimum of three pass grades to obtain a BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts Level 2. Consistently high achievement across units will lead to the Distinction*.

Students will complete two internally assessed components and one externally set specialist unit in consultation with the teaching staff.

These will include:
1.) Exploring the Performing Arts - Internal Assessment

2.) Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts - Internal Assessment

3.) Responding to a Brief – Synoptic External Assessment

Details of all assessments and deadlines will be issued to students at the start of the course.

HOW WILL I BE SUPPORTED IN MY LEARNING?

There is a lively and extensive extra-curricular programme in the Performing Arts Department with many opportunities for performance per term. Students also get the opportunity to perform at the Abbotsholme Theatre in a range of performances and concerts, whilst also working with a full stage crew.

Students should be encouraged to work at skills outside the classroom through extra lessons, societies, concert and theatre visits, independent rehearsals and work experience. Regular departmental extra-curricular trips and experiences are offered to facilitate learning.

PHOTOGRAPHY

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The department followsthe Edexcel Art & Design syllabus. You will study the Photography course which breaks down into two distinct phases: a coursework element (Personal Portfolio) and an end of course examination (Externally Set Assignment).



WHAT SKILLS WILL I LEARN?

You may already have a lot of skills developed from your interesting photography outside the classroom. At GCSE level, you will gain more focused skills in a number of specific areas including film-based photography, pinhole photography, digital and Photoshop work. Work for the Personal Portfolio will span across Years 10 and 11.

Your portfolio will consist of a sustained project based on a range of themes including 'Visual Elements'; 'Positive/Negative', a series of mini projects and a final, focused project. It is made up of more than one piece of photographic work and you must demonstrate your 'working process' (via sketches, notes, studies etc.) as well as the final productor products. In addition, you must evaluate your art and make informed connections with the work of professional photographers (from the pastor present).

During the first term in Year 11 you will create your final outcome for your portfolio.

PHOTOGRAPHY

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Photography is 40% exam based and 60% coursework.

Personal Portfolio 60% -

- One project consisting of a variety of work.
- A range of artist studies, a 'journal' showing your working process and final outcome(s).

Externally Set Assignment 40% -

- The exam topic is a broad based theme set by the examining board. Candidates will have a number of weeks prior to the exam to create preliminary studies which form the starting point for the 10 hour exam.

HOW WILL I BE SUPPORTED IN MY LEARNING?

You will get weekly homework, assessed as appropriate, which may compromise of documenting your work so far, creating or developing ideas through creating written artists studies.

In lessons, you will receive one-to-one guidance throughout the Personal Portfolio and Externally Set Assignment phase of the course.

EXAMINATION BOARD:

Photography Edexcel (1PYO)



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

If you love sport and science and enjoy learning about movement and how your body works, then studying PE could be a good move for you.

You will study three components within this course:

- Physical Factors affecting performance 30%
- Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology 30%
- Performance in physical education 40%

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Many of you already compete for the school in numerous sporting activities. This course will enable you to gain marks for your team and individual sports as well as learn about how your body works during physical activity, we have a key link with biology.

The course will help you gain theoretical knowledge and understanding with regards to applied anatomy and physiology, physical training, socio-cultural influences, sports psychology, health, fitness and well-being.

Playing regular sport and already having gained some success in sport either at school or club level will help you to achieve a good grade practically on this course.

The course leads on to the BTEC Level3 course. Gaining a good grade can lead to job opportunities in the sport(science) and leisure industry. Career opportunities include sports science, PE teacher, physiotherapist, sports coach, nutrition and fitness instructor or personal trainer.

It is strongly recommended that pupils are playing at least one, preferably two sports outside of school in a competitive environment. 30% of the course is assessed practically. All pupils and parents must discuss suitability for the course with the Head of PE before opting to take it.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component 1 - 30%

- Exam
- 60 minutes
- Physical Factors affecting Performance

Component 2 - 30%

- Exam
- 60 minutes
- Socio-cultural issues Psychology in Sport

Component 3 - 40%

- Performance
- Completed during games lessons and practical sessions

HOW WILL I BE SUPPORTED IN MY LEARNING?

Key Stage 4 pupils get weekly assessed homework and regular assessments to ensure each unit covered has been understood.

Sport offers many extra-curricular activities and GCSE pupils are encouraged to join as many as possible. This further develops performance skills and helps build confidence and knowledge of rules in this area,

EXAMINATION BOARD:
AQA GCSE PE

PSYCHOLOGY

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

GCSE Psychology helps you understand why people think, feel, and behave the way they do. You'll explore engaging topics such as memory, social influence, relationships, brain and behaviour, development, and mental health, using real-life examples and research studies.

The skills you develop are highly valued in many careers, including psychology, medicine, nursing, teaching, sports, counselling, criminology, social work, marketing, human resources, law, and business. Whether you're interested in helping people, understanding behaviour, or building strong analytical skills for the future, Psychology is an exciting and versatile subject choice.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

- Understanding and explaining why people think, feel, and behave the way they do
- Scientific evaluation skills, including judging the reliability and validity of psychological research
- Research skills, such as planning investigations, collecting data, and analysing results
- Conducting your own studies and observations to explore human behaviour
- Developing critical thinking by questioning evidence and conclusions
- Building clear written communication and extended-answer exam skills
- Applying psychological knowledge to real-life situations and future careers
- Improving self-understanding and reflection, helping you better understand your own behaviour and relationships



EXAMINATION BOARD:
AQA GCSE Psychology

PSYCHOLOGY

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course is assessed through two written exam papers.

Paper 1: Cognition and Behaviour - *1 hour 45 minutes*

- Topics include memory, perception, development, and research methods

Paper 2: Social Context and Behaviour - *1 hour 45 minutes*

- Topics include social influence, relationships, mental health, and research methods

Each paper is worth 50% of the final GCSE grade. Exams include a mix of multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended writing questions

HOW WILL I BE SUPPORTED IN MY LEARNING?

You will be supported throughout the course with a wide range of high-quality learning resources, including extensive materials shared through Google Classroom and Google Drive and structured homework booklets to reinforce learning.

Lesson time is also dedicated to developing revision strategies and exam skills, helping you feel confident and well prepared for assessments.

In addition, you will be given a variety of extra-curricular recommendations - from books and films to podcasts - designed to spark curiosity, deepen understanding, and encourage further exploration of psychological topics beyond the classroom.



SCIENCE

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

For GCSE Science most students will study Combined Science. The course is divided into the three Sciences; Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each of the Sciences is divided further into topics, each covering different key concepts. Students will do examination papers in the individual Sciences at the end of Year 11, but will be awarded two GCSE grades for 'Combined Science'.

For students of suitable ability who choose it as an option, there is the opportunity to study the three Sciences as separate GCSEs. They will be awarded as three, independent GCSE grades for Chemistry, Biology and Physics. This will require a larger volume of more challenging work.

EXAMINATION BOARD:

AQA GCSE Science (8464)

The specification consists of two pathways, each covering the three individual subjects in science.

These are:

- Separate Award: Biology, Chemistry and Physics for the top sets (three individual GCSEs)

or

- Combined Science: Trilogy for the other sets (the equivalent of 2 GCSEs)



SCIENCE

TOPICS STUDIED:

BIOLOGY:

- Cell Biology
- Organisation
- Infection and Response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and Response
- Inheritance, Variation and Evolution
- Ecology

PHYSICS:

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Forces
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Space (triple science topic only)



CHEMISTRY:

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

The aim of the course is to:

- Develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding.
- Develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of Science.
- Develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills Develop the ability to evaluate claims based on Science through critical analysis.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exams are offered at Foundation and Higher level and all examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.

The GCSEs no longer have a coursework element but there are a number of required laboratory practicals that will be performed during the course. Questions can be set on any aspect of these practicals in one of the examination papers.

Each separate award GCSE consists of two papers of 1 hour 45 minutes and the Trilogy paper has two Biology, two Physics and two Chemistry papers of 1 hour and 15 minutes each.

HOW WILL I BE SUPPORTED IN MY LEARNING?

- Resources are published on Google Classroom, allowing you to review the content of the lessons
- Regular homework, with specific individual feedback designed to help students understand how to improve and progress
- You will be given exam style questions on a regular basis to prepare you for the final exams
- Weekly lunchtime 'drop-in' support sessions







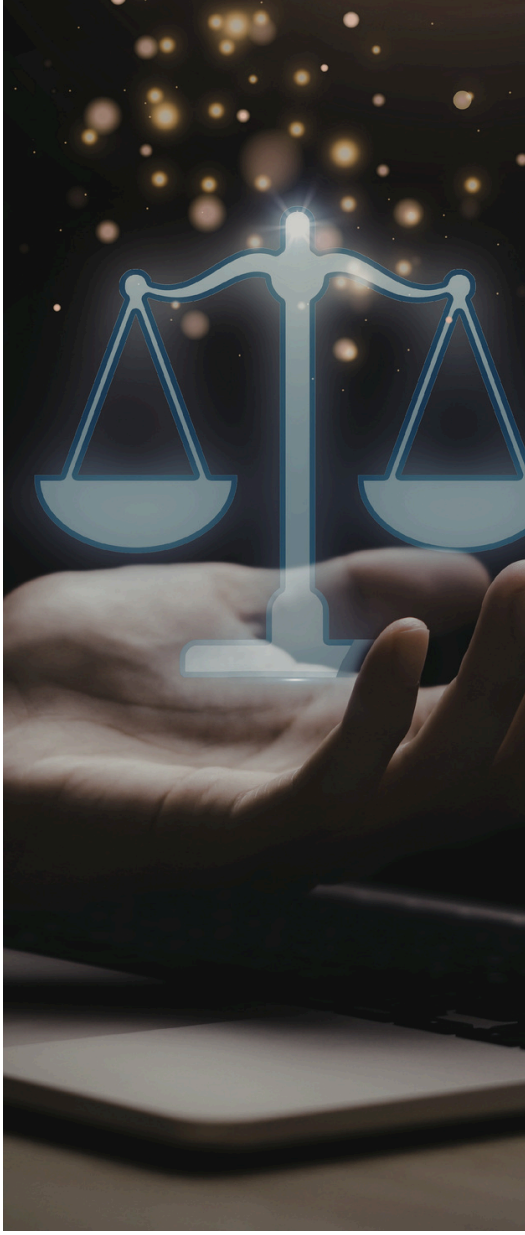
RELIGIOUS STUDIES

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The Religious Studies GCSE combines exploring the answers to the big questions of life ("Does God exist?", "Is there life after death?", "Why does the universe exist?") with the teachings of world religions, including Christianity, Buddhism and Islam. Learners at GCSE will learn the key values and teachings of cultures around the world, and how to interpret these to answer major questions.

They will develop the skills to analyse texts, argue points and criticise arguments to a high level.

Students do not need to have studied Religious Studies before studying this GCSE.



TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Christian beliefs and practices, including the life of Jesus, salvation and worship.
- Buddhist beliefs and practices, including the life of the Buddha, the Four Noble Truths and other key concepts
- Religious views on the origin and value of life, including creation, the use of the environment and life and death issues.
- Religious views on war and conflict, including pacifism and just war theories.
- Religious views on love and relationships, including the role of marriage, children and homosexuality.
- Religious views about the existence or non-existence of God, including the problem of evil.
- Wider religious views applied to the above topics.

EXAMINATION BOARD:

AQA GCSE Religious Studies

WHAT SKILLS WILL I LEARN?

GCSE Religious Studies provides learners with a fantastic opportunity to develop their essay writing and argumentative skills, as well as to enhance their global citizenship by learning the values of a wide range of cultures. As a purely examination based subject, there is no coursework element and knowledge is assessed in two papers at the end of Year 11.

Essay writing skills are fundamental to success, and learners will practise how to structure an essay efficiently, and how to develop their arguments through the use of counter-arguments and the comparison of different belief systems.

SPANISH

WHY CHOOSE SPANISH?

Studying GCSE Spanish gives you the chance to communicate in one of the world's most widely spoken languages. You'll develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing, while exploring Spanish and Latin American culture. Spanish is a popular and useful qualification that can support future study, travel and careers in areas such as business, tourism, sport, media and international work. Lessons are engaging and practical, helping you grow in confidence and build valuable communication skills. GCSE Spanish is an excellent choice for keeping your future options open.

Please note that there is an expectation for you to have a secure foundational base of knowledge of the language for you to be able to access the course at GCSE level.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

During the 2-year course, you will cover three main themes, each consisting of three units:

1.People and identity – Identity and relationships with others; Healthy living and lifestyle; Education and work

2. Popular culture – Free time activities; Customs, festivals and celebrations; Celebrity culture
3.Communication and the world around us – Travel and tourism; Media and technology; The environment and where people live



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

GCSE Spanish is 100% exam-based. There will be an exam in all four skills, each worth 25% of the final grade.

The GCSE exam is tiered at Foundation (grades 1-5) and Higher (grades 3-9). All exams will be completed at the same tier.

EXAMINATION BOARD:
AQA GCSE Spanish (8692)

SPANISH

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Listening

In the listening exam, you need to understand spoken Spanish. This means listening carefully to pick out the main idea and important details. You should recognise common words, phrases, and different time frames (past, present, future). It also helps to listen for opinions and reasons. There is a section on dictation, which requires you to accurately write down a number of short, slowly-spoken sentences in Spanish.

Reading

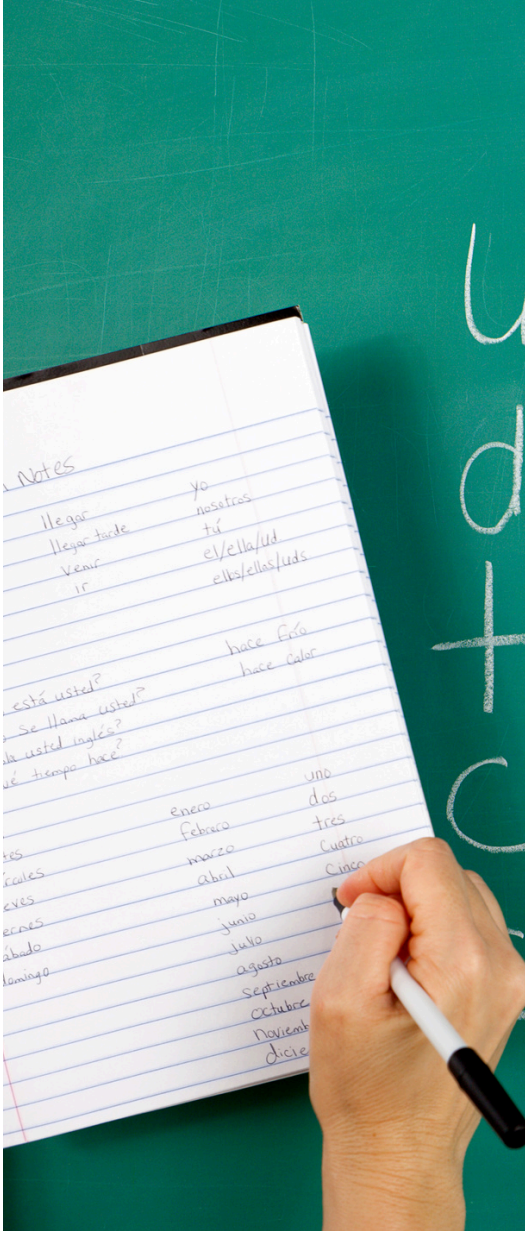
The reading exam checks how well you can understand written French. You need to find key information and understand the overall meaning. Knowing vocabulary and basic grammar helps, and you should use clues in the text to guess the meaning of new words. There is also a translation section, where you will have to translate some short sentences from Spanish to English.

Speaking

In the speaking exam, you need to talk in Spanish clearly and confidently in a range of scenarios. You should be able to answer questions, give opinions, and explain why. Good pronunciation, a range of vocabulary, and using more than one tense will help you get higher marks.

Writing

The writing exam is about expressing ideas in written Spanish across a variety of tasks, ranging in length and difficulty. You should write clear sentences, give opinions, and include reasons. Using different tenses, accurate spelling, and good grammar is important.



HOW WILL I BE SUPPORTED IN MY LEARNING?

- ·Regular homework will be set to support you with the topics covered and the grammar that you need to know – this could include online revision, tasks set from the textbook, or worksheets.
- ·You will get your own accounts for various online websites to help you practise vocabulary and grammar.
- ·You will be assessed regularly in Listening and Reading using past AQA exam questions from Exampro.
- ·You will also get the opportunity to regularly practise a range of speaking and writing exam-style questions to allow you to get used to the structure and to understand what you need to do in order to obtain a good grade.
- ·Learning is supported by interactive materials, worksheets and grammar practice on the Kerboodle website.