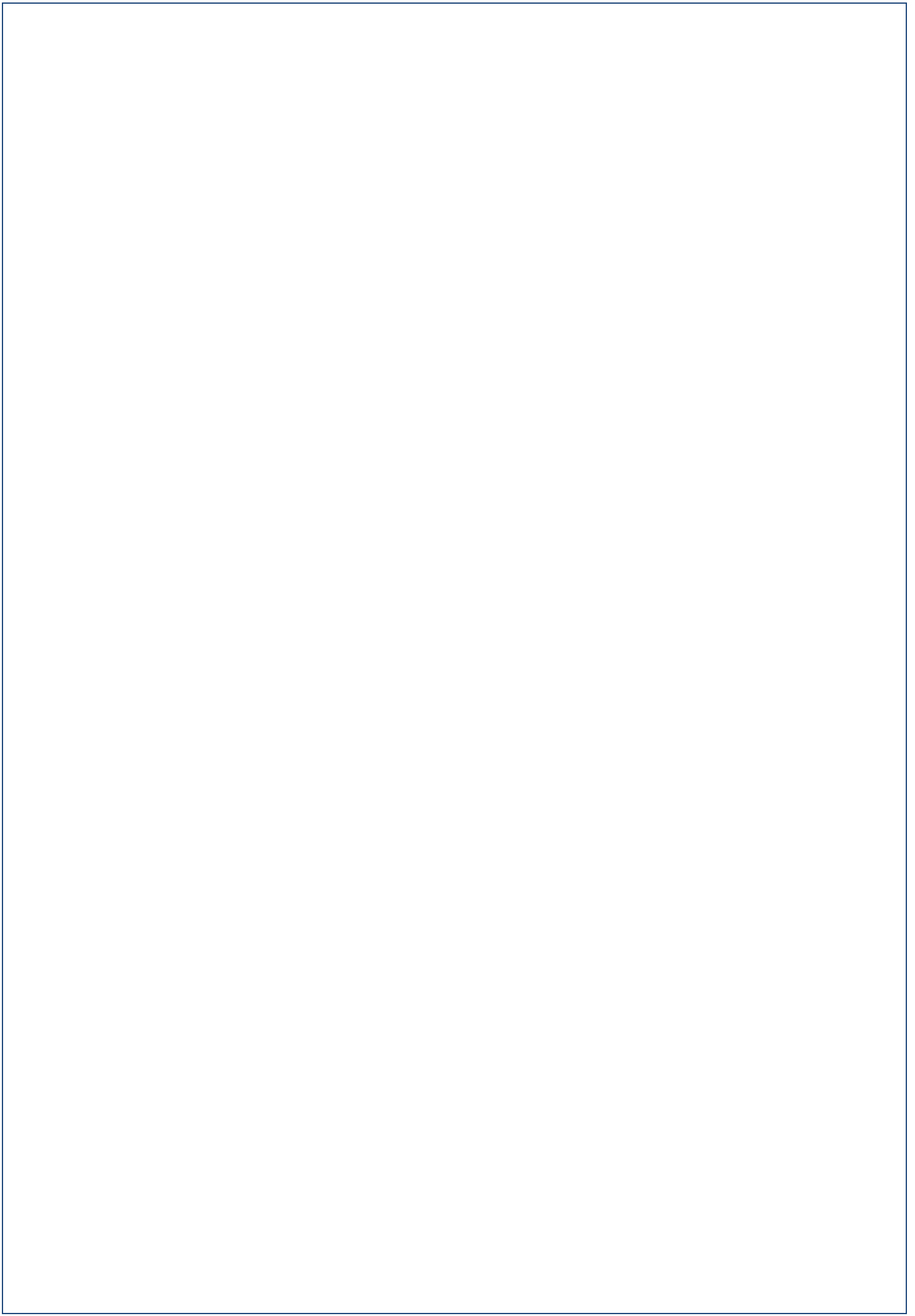


ABBOTSHOLME

AN EDUCATION FOR LIFE

GCSE Options

2020 - 2022



Introduction

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

All pupils must study English, Mathematics and Science (either Combined Science or Triple Science). Also, depending on prior learning, all pupils must study either Spanish, French, Learning Skills or English as an additional language. Pupils will also have lessons in PSHE and Games.

What GCSE subjects can be chosen?

Below is a list of subjects currently being offered at GCSE level.

Agriculture	Art	Business Studies	Citizenship	Equestrian
Geography	History	iMedia	Music	Dance
EAL	French	Outdoor Education	PE	Performing Arts
Photography	Spanish	Technology		

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

How should GCSE/BTEC subjects be chosen?

Options subjects should be chosen carefully and should be 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

New 9-1 GCSEs

The government has introduced a number of changes to the GCSE qualifications. All GCSE courses have now changed to a grading system of 9-1. The assessment are mainly by examination, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills. The specification content is more demanding, in line with government recommendations. All subjects are terminally assessed at the end of Year 11. This table gives a comparison of the new 9-1 grading system compared to the old A*-G grading system:

New 9 – 1 grade system	Old A* - G grade system	Equivalent grade (BTEC)
9	A*	D*
8	A*/A	D*
7	A	D
6	B	D
5	B/C	M
4	C	P
3	D/E	L1
2	E/F	L1
1	F/G	U

Agriculture

Cambridge iGCSE Agriculture 0600

What will I study?

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

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



Key stage 4 pupils tagging lambs

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 assessed?

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

How will I be supported in my learning?

- Key Stage 4 pupils 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



Key stage 4 pupils administering routine injections

Art & Design: Fine Art

GCSE Fine Art Edexcel 1FA0

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).

What skills will I develop?

Personal Portfolio (60% of final mark)

You have already developed a lot of skills during Year 7, 8 and 9. At GCSE level you will continue working in a number of specific areas including painting, drawing, graphic design, computer work and sculpture. The focus at GCSE level will be on developing and refining your skills and particular interests. Work for the Personal Portfolio will span across Years 10 and 11.

Your portfolio will consist of a sustained project based on one or two themes which change each year. It is made up of more than one piece of artwork and you must demonstrate your 'working process' (via sketches, notes, studies etc.) as well as the final product or products. In addition, you must evaluate your art and make informed connections with the work of professional artists and designers (from the past or present). During the first term in Year 11 you will create your final outcome, developed independently through discussion with your teacher.

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).

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.



Art & Design: Photography

GCSE Photography Edexcel 1PYO

What will I study?

The department follows the 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 develop?

Personal Portfolio (60% of final mark)

You may already have a lot of skills developed from your interest in 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 product or products. In addition, you must evaluate your art and make informed connections with the work of professional photographers (from the past or present). During the first term in Year 11 you will create your final outcome for your portfolio.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE Fine Art 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 comprise 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.



Business Studies

GCSE Business Studies Edexcel 1BS0

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.

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.

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?

- GCSE pupils get weekly assessed homework which comprise of research, case studies and exam style questions.
- Regular revision quizzes and formal assessments to ensure everyone is progressing well.
- Open door policy where students can seek extra support whenever they require it.
- Outside speakers and trips to business to bring the subject to life.



Year 10 Business Studies students pitching their £10 business ideas to a board of Sixth Form dragons



Business students completing a primary market research project on whether branded goods are worth their price!

Citizenship

Edexcel: GCSE

What will I study?

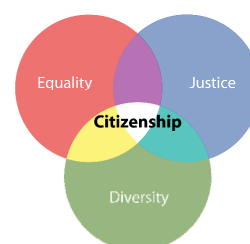
Theme A: Living together in the UK: Explores UK Communities, identity and migration and an introduction to democracy at the local level.

Theme B: Democracy at work in the UK: Moving from democracy in the local context to the national picture, students develop their understanding of how democracy originated, how it works and how it influences our lives.

Theme C: Law and Justice: Looks at how laws are made to why we need laws and how they are put in practice. With a focus on the court system and how crime is dealt within the judicial system.

Theme D: Power and Influence: Explores how citizens can contribute to and influence society. It also discusses the role of groups and organisations in society. We also look at the role of the media and the relations that the UK has with other countries.

Theme E: Taking citizenship action: Students plan and carry out an investigation that raises attention to a local or national issue, focusing on a topic from Theme A-D.



What skills will I develop?

The GCSE Citizenship course builds on skills that have already been developing throughout our studies in PHSE. There are **3 main assessment objectives** that are covered throughout the course.

AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of citizenship concepts, terms and issues. (30%)

AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of citizenship concepts, terms and issues to contexts and actions. (30%)

AO3: Analyse and evaluate a range of evidence relating to citizenship issues, debates and actions, including different viewpoints, to develop reasoned, coherent arguments and make substantiated judgements. (40%)

How will I be assessed?

The assessments are designed for students of all abilities with a mixture of multi-choice, short and medium response questions and questions based on what was undertaken as part of the Citizenship in Action project.

Paper 1	Paper 2	Non-assessed Coursework
1 hour 45 minutes	1 hour 45 minutes	N/A
Living Together Democracy at work in the UK Law and Justice	Taking Citizenship Action Power and Influence	Taking Citizenship Action project

How will I be supported in my learning?

- Digitalised lessons and resources
- Study support sessions
- Detailed and specific written feedback.
- Course specific textbooks



Creative Media Production

BTEC Technical Award in Creative Media Production

Level 1/Level 2

What will I study?

Digital Media plays an important part in many areas of our everyday lives and is also an important part of the UK economy. There is a demand from employers for an increasingly skilled and technically literate workforce as more and more media products are produced digitally. You will learn about producing pre-production materials (including mood boards, visualisation diagrams, and storyboards), creating and manipulating digital graphics using professional software and hardware, writing and filming a short film using professional recording equipment, and developing and designing a video game.



What skills will I develop?

You have already been using digital technology to create and manipulate digital images over the last three years at secondary school and this is developed on the iMedia course - including the use of Adobe Creative Cloud suite of software. You will develop your planning and pre-production skills, through studying and speaking to professional creatives and analysing case studies. Theoretical knowledge of the modern digital creative industries will be developed, and although it isn't essential, it would be beneficial if you have a keen interest in film, photography, and video games.

How will I be assessed?

The Creative Media Production course is broken down into components and controlled assessment. There is no exam.

How will I be supported in my learning?

- KS4 pupils get weekly assessed homework which may include exam questions and revision exercises for the first module, and extended project tasks for the practical modules.
- We offer after-school study sessions for iMedia students.
- iMedia offers extra-curricular activities and iMedia pupils are encouraged to work on school media projects. This further develops their technical skills and helps build confidence in this area.

Design & Technology

AQA GCSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (8552)

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.



The AQA Design and Technology syllabus aims to:

- 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 written paper. During a 2 hour exam students will be assessed in

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.

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 & 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.

How will I be supported in my learning?

- Small class sizes will enable greater concentration from trained, expert staff
- Up to date facilities and traditional processes will be taught throughout the course with students given mentoring on their design ideas



English Language

EDUQAS GCSE English Language C700QS

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.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE English Language is **100% exam** based.

Paper 1 40%	Paper 2 60% Assessment	Spoken Language Separate endorsement
Reading of one piece of fiction writing. Answer FIVE questions based on the text. One piece of narrative or recount writing.	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	A formal presentation on a topic of your choice, designed to engage your audience and show your ability to handle complex ideas

How will I be supported in my learning?

- KS4 pupils have weekly homework tasks designed to give extended practice 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 Showbie 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 to different topics.

English Literature

EDUQAS GCSE English Literature C720QS

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.



Key stage 4 pupils discussing wider reading of classic English literature texts.

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.

Students studying for the GCSE English Literature will do so within the same lesson allocation as English Language. 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. Not all students will be encouraged to take both GCSEs.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE English Literature is **100% exam** based.

Paper 1 40%

Two extract based questions, one on a Shakespeare play and one on a poetry anthology.

Paper 2 60%

An essay on a theme or character from a modern play and from a 19th Century novel. A comparison of two unseen poems.

How will I be supported in my learning?

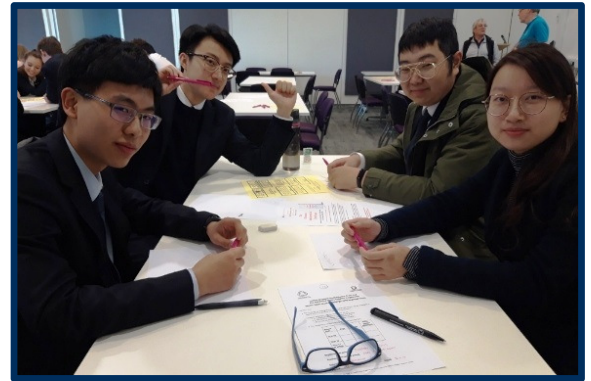
- Regular homework tasks will be designed to encourage you to read widely and critically.
- Detailed feedback is given on written work to help you improve your answers.
- You will be given lots of guidance and practice of exam questions.
- Showbie resources will support your understanding of the different 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

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE 4ES1

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.

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 tuition per week in English as a Second Language. Lessons may be grammar or skills based, and all students are given details feedback to help improve their language, particularly in accuracy and appropriate register. Students are guided and supported individually, and have plenty of practice papers and access to a variety of past papers to maximise their understanding of different text and questions types.

Equestrian

Pearson BTEC First Level 2 Certificate and Extended Certificate

What will I study?

At the equestrian centre we can provide numerous opportunities for our students and can tailor their study to suit their previous experience.

The BTEC level 2 certificate will provide students with a basic all round knowledge of horse management and care. It includes units on feeding and watering, horse handling, horse behaviour, fitting and maintaining horse tack and clothing amongst other aspects. It is broadly the equivalent to 1 GCSE.

The BTEC level 2 extended certificate extends the specialist skills learnt in the BTEC certificate and can also include an introduction to flat riding, jumping and lunging. It is broadly the equivalent to 2 GCSEs.

For students staying for 1 or 2 terms we can offer a series of up to **4 British Horse Society progressive riding and care tests**. These are certificated at school on completion of each test 1-4. For those students with previous equine experience we can offer **BHS level 1** alongside the BTEC extended certificate. This offers an alternative path way for those wanting to explore jobs within the equestrian industry.

What skills will I develop?

Alongside a robust basic knowledge of horse management and care students will also develop the following skills

- Teamwork
- Putting the needs of the animals in their care first
- Recognise the Importance of routine, being adaptable to change and good timekeeping skills.

How will I be Assessed?

Both BTEC first level 2 certificates are internally assessed. They are broken down into units and each unit has specified assessment and grading criteria. A unit grade can be awarded at a Pass, Merit or Distinction.

The training for the BHS level 1 exam would be completed at the Equestrian centre and the level 1 exam would be taken at an external examination centre. The level 1 exam and any external training would be at extra cost. This would be discussed directly with students and parents prior to undertaking.

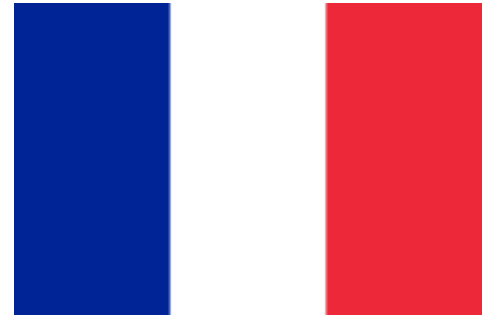


French

AQA GCSE French 8658

What will I study?

You will study three main themes during the two-year course: Identity and Culture, Local, national, international and global areas of interest and Current and future study and employment. Some of the topics will have been studied at KS3 and these will be enhanced through further study at KS4. Please note that if you have not studied French in Y9 it is not possible to study the GCSE.



What skills will I develop?

Throughout the course you will learn to use French to communicate in speaking and writing for a variety of purposes, using role-plays and spontaneous conversation. You will increase your knowledge of French grammar, to enable you to use a variety of tenses effectively and from memory. You will increase your vocabulary substantially using your Vocab Express account. You will learn more about the culture and civilisation of French-speaking countries and communities. The skills you will learn form a sound base of the skills, language and attitude required for further study, work and leisure.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE French is **100% exam** based.

Listening 25%	Speaking 25%	Reading 25%	Writing 25%
Understanding and responding to different types of the spoken language.	Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes.	Understanding and responding to different types of language	Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.

How will I be supported in my learning?

- Key Stage 4 pupils get weekly assessed homework which will include short translation tasks, grammar exercises and short writing tasks.
- Each pupil will get their own Vocab Express account to assist with vocabulary learning.
- Pupils will be assessed regularly in Listening and Reading using past AQA exam questions from Exampro.
- Learning is supported by interactive materials, worksheets and grammar practice on the Kerboodle website.



Geography

Cambridge iGCSE 0976

Cambridge International Examinations is part of the University of Cambridge. The courses aim to prepare school students for life, helping them develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning. Their qualifications are recognised by the world's best universities and employers, giving students a wide range of options in their education and career.



What will I study?

There are three main themes:

Theme 1: Population and settlement (includes migration).

Theme 2: The natural environment (earthquakes and volcanoes, rivers and coasts, weather and ecosystems).

Theme 3: Economic development (includes globalisation, food, manufacturing industry, tourism, energy, water and environmental issues)

What skills will I develop?

- Successful Cambridge IGCSE Geography candidates develop lifelong skills, including:
- An understanding of the processes which affect physical and human environments
- An understanding of location on a local, regional and global scale
- 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 assessed?

Paper 1 Geographical Themes 45%

Candidates answer three questions, each worth 25 marks. The paper has three sections as per the three themes above.

Paper 2 Geographical Skills 27.5%

The questions test your skills in interpreting and understanding geographical information maps.

Paper 4 Alternative to Coursework 27.5%

The questions involve an appreciation of a range of techniques used in fieldwork studies.

How will I be supported in my learning?

- We offer academic support sessions after school for both boarding and day students
- Students have access to a range of resources within the department as well as online
- The department implements interventions when necessary to help ensure that students make good progress

History

Edexcel GCSE History 1HIO

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. Through our 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.

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	Paper 2	Paper 3
1 hour 15 minutes Medicine through Time and Medicine on the Western Front.	1 hour 45 minutes Elizabethan England Superpowers and the Cold War.	1 hour 20 minutes Weimar and Nazi Germany

How will I be supported in my learning?

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



Key stage 4 pupils singing at the Summer Soire

Mathematics

Edexcel iGCSE 4MA1

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. Recently there have been major changes to GCSE specifications offered by the various exam boards; 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?

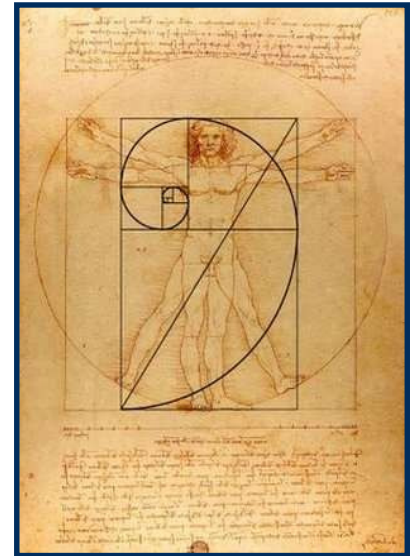
- Mind training. Maths teaches you to think, to filter out irrelevant information and to concentrate on the key components of the problem in hand, tackling it in the most efficient way possible. There is often more than one way to approach a maths question and we aim to provide a 'toolkit' methods and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

A student with a maths 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.

How will I be assessed?

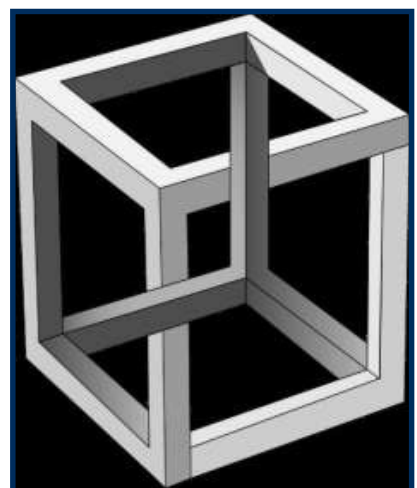
- iGCSE Maths is assessed by two 2 hour exam papers at the end of Year 11.

Students in the top set in Year 11 are given the opportunity to follow a pre A level. This is AQA Further Maths (Level 2), offering a stepping stone to A level. It is also assessed by 2 papers at the end of Year 11.



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 lunchtime sessions and after school workshops to promote confidence and success in Maths.
- Students are setted (grouped by ability) on the basis of various assessments and setting is regularly reviewed throughout the academic year to ensure students are learning in the most appropriate environment.
- We attend the UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) team challenge for teams of Year 8 and Year 9 students every year.
- The annual Junior and Intermediate Maths Challenges are entered by students from Year 7 to Year 11.



Music

OCR GCSE Music J536

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Music

What will I study?

This course will suit students who wish to study Music and have an interest in Performing and composing.

The BTEC prepares students for careers in the Music industry providing a broad educational base for further training, further education or for employment within the Music sector. The course is taught through hands on experience of the Range of opportunities available in the industry.

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 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.

Each unit 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 level 2 in Music. Consistently high achievement across units will lead to the Distinction*. Details of all assessment and deadlines will be issued to students at the start of the course.

Students will complete two core and two mandatory units and three specialist units in consultation with the teaching staff. These might include:

Core Units:

- The Music Industry
- Managing a Music Product

Optional Specialist units:

- Introducing Music Composition
- Introducing Music Performance
- Introducing Music Recording
- Introducing Music Sequencing

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: Musical Theatre Pathway

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in 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 Musical Theatre. Within this BTEC it is possible to specialise in either our Acting course or our Musical Theatre course (combined of Dance, Drama and Music units). The 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. The course is taught through hands on experience of the Performing Arts.

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.

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

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

These will include:

Components:

- 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

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.

Performing Arts: Dance Pathway

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts

What will I study?

This course will suit students who wish to study the Performing Arts and have a specific interest in Dance. This pathway will prepare students for careers in the industry; providing a broad educational base for further training, further education or for employment within the performing arts sector. The course is taught through hands on experience of the performing arts sector.

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.

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

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How will I be supported in my learning?

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A diverse selection of peripatetic lessons can also be chosen by the students in order to enhance their Dance technique. These are offered in RAD Ballet, Jazz, Modern Jazz (Lyrical), Tap, Contemporary, Freestyle (Commercial) and Musical Theatre.

Physical Education

GCSE PE Edexcel 1PEO

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

What will I study?

You will study four components within this course.

- Fitness and Body System
- Health and Performance
- Practical Performance (will be assessed during games lessons)
- Personal Exercise Programme

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 to understand how psychological and physiological state effects performance, develop the ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance and understand the key socio-cultural influences that can affect people's involvement in physical activity and sport.

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

The course leads on to the BTEC Level 3 course and A Level PE. 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, diet and fitness instructor/personal trainer.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 36%	Component 2 24%	Component 3 30%	Component 4 10%
Written examination 1 hour 45 minutes	Written examination 1 hour 45 minutes	Assessment in 3 physical activities from a set list	Personal exercise programme
Fitness & Body Systems	Health & Performance	One individual activity One team activity One activity is free	Produce an exercise programme. Analyse and evaluate performance within this

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.
- Use of the climbing wall and OED for individual activities and regular feedback on practical grades.
- 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 the rules in this area.

Science

Double Science – OCR Gateway Science Combined Science A J250

Triple Science –

Gateway Science Biology A J247

Gateway Science Chemistry A J248

Gateway Science Physics A J249

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, there will be 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.

Topics studied:

Biology

Cell level systems

Scaling up

Organism level systems

Community level systems

Interaction between systems

Global challenges

Chemistry

Particles

Elements, compounds and mixtures

Chemical reactions

Predicting and identifying reactions and products

Monitoring and controlling chemical reactions

Global challenges

Physics

Matter

Forces

Electricity and magnetism

Waves and radioactivity

Energy

Global challenges

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?

GCSE Combined Science and GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics are assessed by exam only. You will take two papers per Science (six altogether) at the end of Year 11.

How will I be supported in my learning?

- You will be issued with revision guides and workbooks to support the work in lessons
- Resources are published using Showbie, allowing you to review the content of the lessons
- You will be given exam style questions on a regular basis to prepare you for the final exams
- We offer help sessions after school to provide additional support when you require it

Spanish

AQA GCSE Spanish 8698

What will I study?

You will study three main themes during the two-year course: Identity and Culture, Local, national, international and global areas of interest and Current and future study and employment. Some of the topics will have been studied at KS3 and these will be enhanced through further study at KS4.



What skills will I develop?

Through the course you will learn to use Spanish to communicate in speaking and writing for a variety of purposes, using role-plays and spontaneous conversation. You will increase your knowledge of Spanish grammar, to enable you to use a variety of tenses effectively and from memory. You will increase your Spanish vocabulary substantially using your Vocab Express account. You will learn more about the culture and civilisation of Spanish-speaking countries and communities. The skills you will learn form a sound base of the skills, language and attitude required for further study, work and leisure.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE Spanish is 100% exam based.

Listening 25%	Speaking 25%	Reading 25%	Writing 25%
Understanding and responding to different types of the spoken language	Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes	Understanding and responding to different types of language	Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes

How will I be supported in my learning?

- KS4 pupils get weekly assessed homework which will include short translation tasks, grammar exercises and short writing tasks
- Each pupil will get their own Vocab Express account to assist with vocabulary learning
- Pupils will be assessed regularly in Listening and Reading using past AQA exam questions from Exampro
- Every two years at Easter, pupils will have the opportunity to attend an intensive Spanish course at the Gredos Centre in Avila, Spain
- Learning is supported by interactive materials, worksheets and grammar practice on the Kerboodle website



Sport: Outdoor Education Pathway

Pearson BTEC Level 1/2 First Award in Sport

If you enjoy outdoor sports and pursuits and would like to learn about how they can lead into a career in either Sport or the Outdoor Active Leisure Industry then this is the course for you.

Each Unit is specifically aimed at Outdoor Sports with theory and practical lessons focussed on Climbing, Canoeing, Kayaking, Mountain Biking, Orienteering and many others.

What will I study?

This course is broken down into the following 4 Units:

- Fitness for Sport and Exercise
- Practical Sports Performance
- Applying the Principles of Personal Training
- Leading Sports Activities

What skills will I develop?

Throughout your Outdoor Education Carousel lessons in KS3, annual trips and extracurricular opportunities; such as Hikes, DofE, Camps, International and Weekend Trips, you will have already begun to develop many of the skills and interests required to be a successful candidate on this course. Communication, Leadership, Organisation and Resilience are central to your development in this course, consolidated with a range of practical and theory lessons focussed on outdoor sport performance and leadership.

This course leads onto the Level 3 BTEC in Sport & Outdoor Activities at KS5 and further into Apprenticeships and Higher Education courses.

How will I be assessed?

A benefit of the BTEC course is that you will primarily be assessed on coursework based assignments and practical observations which build on vital skills that promote independent learning, paramount in a further and higher education setting. Units will be both externally and internally assessed.

You will be graded as: Unclassified, Level 1, Pass, Merit or Distinction at Level 2. This is equivalent to GCSE as highlighted in the table on Page 3 of this booklet.

- Fitness for Sport and Exercise: Externally Assessed
- Practical Sports Performance: Internally Assessed
- Applying the Principles of Personal Training: Internally Assessed
- Leading Sports Activities: Internally Assessed

How will I be supported in my learning?

You will have support from staff in organising your coursework and portfolios. You will be given regular homework and assessments to check your progress and be given feedback to get the best possible grade. You will have access to all facilities in the Sport and Outdoor Education Departments here at Abbotsholme. With access to the following on site: Extensive grounds from the Sports Field to the Top Woods, Climbing Wall, Swimming Pool, Sports Hall, Fitness Suite, Bushcraft Area, and River Dove. As well as this, you also have access to many local venues and facilities in Staffordshire, Derbyshire and The Peak District. We will be offering a range of extracurricular opportunities which will compliment your learning in this subject and build on your personal and professional skills.

