



ABBOTSHOLME

AN EDUCATION FOR LIFE

# GCSE Options 2023-2025

## Introduction

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 Science (either Combined Science or Triple Science). Pupils 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	Business Studies	Citizenship	Creative Media Production	Dance
Design & Technology	Equestrian	Fine Art	French	Geography
History	Music	Musical Theatre	Photography	Physical Education
Spanish				

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

# 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



### 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.) 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.

### 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



# Art & Design: Fine Art

## GCSE Fine Art Edexcel 1FAO

### 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

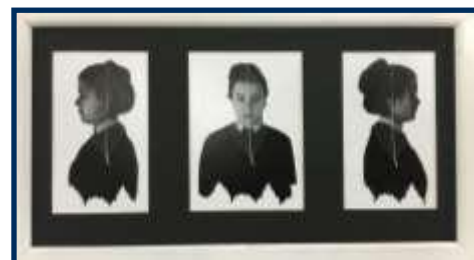
### What will I study?

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.



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

### 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?

- 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.



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

# Citizenship

**Edexcel: GCSE**

## What will I study?

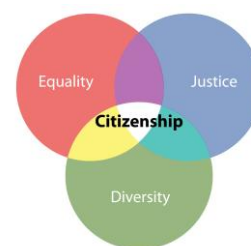
**Theme A: Living together in the UK:** Explores UK Communities, identity and migration and an introduction to democracy at the local level.

**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 project Citizenship Action

## 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?**

The BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production is a practical introduction to life and work in the industry, you will be able to explore the sector while developing technical skills and techniques, producing a digital media product in response to a brief and reviewing and reflecting on the process and outcome.

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, creating and manipulating digital graphics, writing and filming a short film and developing and designing a video game.



#### **What will I explore during the course?**

During Component 1, you will explore:

- Content and purpose of digital media products;
- Style and the use of digital design principles;
- Idea generation and the production process;
- Industry regulations and professional practices.

During Component 2, you will:

- Experiment with a variety of media production skills and techniques;
- Apply the technical skills that you learn;
- Reflect on your progress and use of skills, and how you could improve.

During Component 3, you will:

- Learn how to respond to a media brief;
- Plan your response to a brief;
- Apply skills and techniques to a production;
- Justify the process and outcome that you have developed;
- Reflect on your application of skills, time management and use of resources.

#### **How will I be assessed?**

The course has two internally assessed components (Component 1 – Exploring Media Products and Component 2 – Developing Digital media Production Skills) and one that is externally assessed (Component 3 – Responding to a Brief). These components build on each other to motivate the students by helping them put what they have learnt into practice and grow in confidence. This qualification does not include any exams.



# 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 Two pieces of writing such as article, report, review, speech.	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%**

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 60%**

An essay on a theme or character from a modern play and from a 19<sup>th</sup> 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?

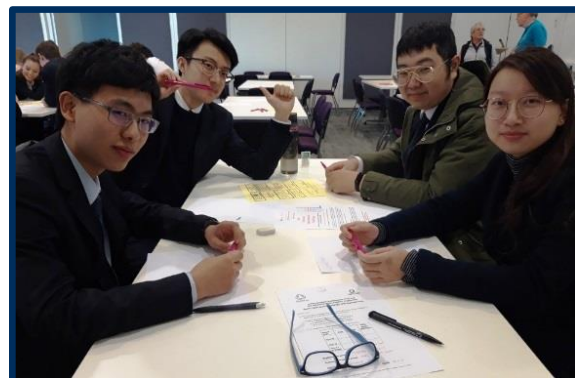
- Regular homework tasks will be designed to encourage you to read widely and critically.
- Detailed feedback is given on written work to help you improve your answers.
- You will be given lots of guidance and practice of exam questions.
- Showbie resources will support your understanding of the different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



# Equine Studies Pathway

	Core Units	Compulsory Addition	Optional Addition
Year 10	BHS Work Based Diploma Level 2 Horse Care with Riding Pathway + Lunging Unit	BHS Ride Safe Silver Award	
Year 11			

**Years 10 & 11** pupils will study the BHS Work Based Diploma Level 2. This course is trained at our equestrian centre and involves ongoing in-house assessments by our BHSQ approved assessor. The course will include; horse care, riding and lunging modules.

Within **Year 10** pupils will complete a 1/2 day course followed by a 1/2 day assessment for the BHS Ride Safe Silver Award. This is internally trained and examined by our Ride Safe Assessor.

This route will prepare pupils to enter the BHS Equine Excellence Pathway to the corresponding units at Stage 3.

Acceptance onto the riding section of each option will be based on an assessment at the start of the course. Additional training can be given at extra cost.



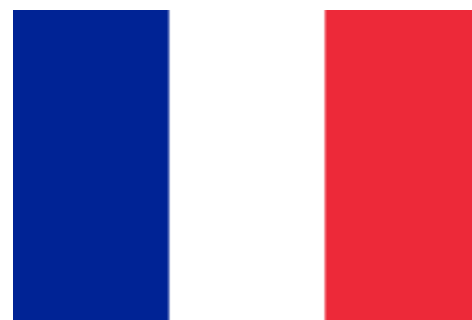


# French

## 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

## AQA GCSE Geography (0835)

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 exams at the end of the course.



### What will I study?

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 worth 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. Also a 90-minute exam and 35% of the GCSE.
3. Geographical applications. This is composed of field work, geographical enquiry and geographical skills. It is tested by a 75-minute exam with a pre-release booklet which is available 12 weeks before the exam. It is worth 30% of the GCSE.

### 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 complete reinforce learning and to conduct field work
- An open door policy where students can seek extra support whenever they require it.

# History

## Edexcel GCSE History 1H10

### 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

**1 hour 15 minutes**

Medicine through Time and  
Medicine on the Western  
Front.

#### Paper 2

**1 hour 45 minutes**

Elizabethan England  
Superpowers and the Cold  
War.

#### Paper 3

**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 (International GCSE) 4MA0**

## 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?

- 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.

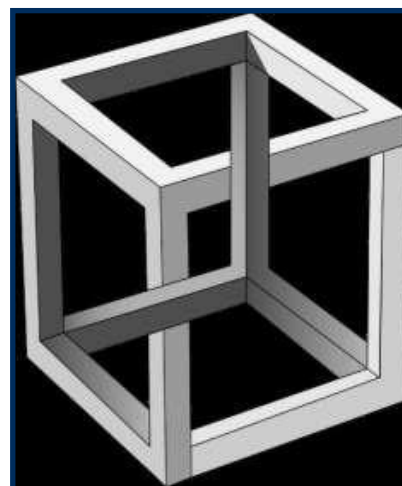
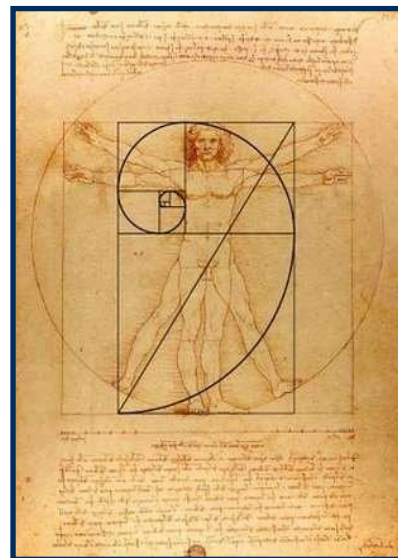
## How will I be assessed?

- 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 course. 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.

## 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 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) challenges every year.



# Music

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## OCR GCSE (9-1) Music J536

### What will I study?

OCR's GCSE (9-1) 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.

### 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.

### Course Structure

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

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

Listening and Appraising: A written paper (40%)

### How will I be assessed?

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.

### 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 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.

### **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.

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.

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 OCR

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.

### What will I study?

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 Level 3 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.

### How will I be assessed?

Component 1 30%	Component 2 30%	Component 3 40%
<b>Exam 60 mins</b>	<b>Exam 60 mins</b>	<b>Performance</b>
Physical Factors affecting Performance	Socio-cultural issues Psychology in Sport	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.
- Use of the climbing wall and sports facilities 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?

- 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

# 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







