

GCSE Options Booklet

"My purpose is to give life in all its fullness." John 10:10



In Partnership to **Educate, Nurture & Empower**



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Choosing your Key Stage 4 options is an exciting and important moment in your school journey. Over the next two years, you will study subjects that not only lead to your GCSE and vocational qualifications, but also help shape your future pathways – whether that's further study, apprenticeships, or future careers. The decisions you make now should reflect your interests, your strengths, and the subjects that will keep you motivated and challenged.

At KS4 at Abbey Grange Academy, you will continue to study a core curriculum, but you will also have the opportunity to select additional subjects that best suit you. This booklet is designed to guide you through those choices. It explains the courses available, highlights any restrictions, and helps you consider what each subject involves. Take time to read through each section carefully, talk to your teachers and families, and think about what you enjoy and where you see yourself in the future.

Your available option choices include a wide range of GCSEs and vocational qualifications. Each subject has been carefully chosen to offer a broad and balanced curriculum that supports different interests, learning styles, and future aspirations. As you explore the options, remember that this is your chance to start shaping the direction of your education – and to choose subjects that you will enjoy and succeed in. Additionally, all students will participate in Games (Physical Education) and PSHCE, which promote physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being in alignment with statutory guidelines.

At Abbey Grange, we are proud that all departments consistently achieve results above national averages, with every subject taught by dedicated experts. You can be assured that we will support you to thrive and succeed in whichever path you choose. Good luck, and I look forward to seeing you flourish at Abbey Grange Academy!

Mr F Swarbrooke
Key Stage 3
Achievement
Director



Options Journey

- **Monday 2nd February Y9 Report:** You will receive your Year 9 report, providing valuable insight into your current progress in subjects.
- **Friday 13th February Options Assembly:** Students will hear from Mr Swarbrooke and Mr Watson regarding the options process, subjects and pathways.
- **Tuesday 3rd March PSHCE Options Session:** During this session, PSHCE teachers will provide further guidance and support to help you make informed choices about your options.
- **Thursday 12th March Year 9 Options Consultation Evening:** Join us at school with your parents for an evening of talks from school leaders and an opportunity to meet subject teachers who will be teaching Year 10. You will also be able to attend your booked appointments with your core subject teachers from English, Maths, Science and Religious Studies.
- **Wednesday 18th March Options Deadline:** All option choices must be submitted via the provided Microsoft Forms link by the end of the day.

The academy will do its best to ensure that students get their first choice of subjects, but not all combinations can be guaranteed, and sometimes courses may have to be withdrawn if insufficient numbers of students choose them.

There are many difficulties involved in making these important option choices, and if you would like any further help in this process, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Swarbrooke.

You will be sent your Microsoft Forms link via a letter after our Options Evening, you will need to use a fresh browser, or a browser where no other Microsoft account is active. You will only be able to make one submission. If you submit and change your mind please contact Mr Swarbrooke to delete your request so you can re-submit.

CORE SUBJECTS (COMPULSORY)

GCSE English Language
GCSE English Literature
GCSE Mathematics
GCSE Religious Studies
GCSE Combined Science
or Separate Sciences

SLOT 1 CHOOSE ONE SUBJECT

Choose ONE from the following list:

GCSE Computer Science
GCSE French
GCSE Geography
GCSE History
GCSE Spanish

SLOT 2 CHOOSE TWO SUBJECTS

Choose TWO from the subjects below:

GCSE Subjects

Art
Business Studies*
(not with Enterprise)
Computer Science
Drama
Design Technology
DT Food
Geography
History
French
Spanish
Music
Physical Education*
(Not with CNAT Sport)
Sociology

Vocational Subjects

BTEC Digital Information
Technology
BTEC Enterprise*
(not with Business)
CNAT Health & Social Care
CNAT Sport*
(not with PE)



GCSE OPTIONS



Core Courses

English Language

English Literature

Maths

Science

Religious Studies

Optional Courses: GCSE

GCSE History

GCSE Geography

GCSE Spanish

GCSE French

GCSE Art Craft & Design

GCSE Business Studies

with Economics

GCSE Computer Science

GCSE Drama

GCSE Design & Technology

GCSE Food & Nutrition

GCSE Music

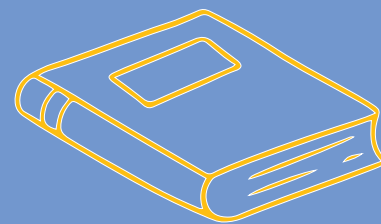
GCSE Physical Education

GCSE Sociology



Core Course

English Language and English Literature



Subject Leader: Miss Jackson

Exam Board: AQA

Course Title: English Language and English Literature GCSE (9 - 1)

What will I learn?

In English Language and Literature, you will read a wide range of texts including a novel, two plays and a collection of poetry all from different periods of the English Literary canon, which build upon your exploration of challenging texts at KS3. The study of these texts will involve analysis of language and structure, comparison skills and an evaluation of concepts and ideas which underpin human nature and society. You will use knowledge gained from wider reading to inform and improve your own writing and learn how to adapt language to suit different purposes and audiences, with a focus on using Standard English appropriately. You will acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology.

How is it assessed?

There are two distinct GCSE qualifications and no coursework to complete. A spoken language assessment is conducted which does not contribute to the qualification. We use the AQA exam board and teach the qualification over two years.

English Language

Paper 1

Reading (40 marks)

- Question 1: Listing question
- Question 2: Language analysis
- Question 3: Structural analysis
- Question 4: Evaluation and analysis

Writing (40 marks)

- Question 5: Story writing/description

Paper 2

Reading (40 marks)

- Question 1: True/false question
- Question 2: Summary question
- Question 3: Language analysis
- Question 4: Comparison of viewpoints

Writing (40 marks)

- Question 5: Writing to present a viewpoint

English Literature

Paper 1

Shakespeare (34 marks)

- Question on Macbeth extract and the whole play

Victorian Novel (30 marks)

- Question on Jekyll and Hyde extract and then whole novel

Paper 2

Modern Text (30 marks)

- Essay question on An Inspector Calls

Poetry (96 marks)

- Question on the poetry anthology
- Question on an unseen poem
- Comparison with unseen poem

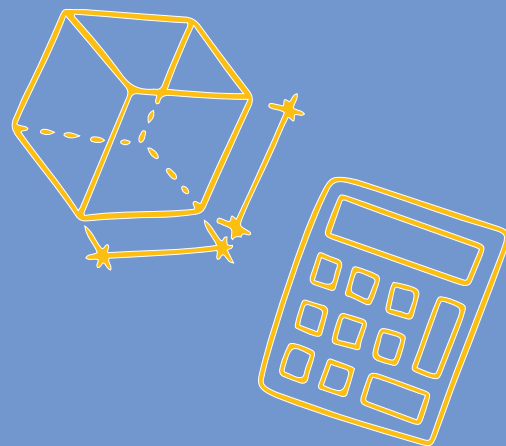
Core Course

Mathematics

Subject Leader: Mr Gibson

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Title: Mathematics GCSE (9 - 1)



What will I learn?

Mathematics is a compulsory subject at KS4 and is compulsory for all students at KS5 who do not achieve at least a grade 4 at GCSE.

All students will take exams in GCSE Mathematics. It is the aim of the Mathematics department to prepare students for life, to improve their problem solving skills, and to extend their Mathematical knowledge. You will study a mixture of units containing mostly Number, Algebra, Geometry, Ratio and Proportion and Probability.

GCSE Mathematics is now assessed with grades 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest) and the course is taught and examined in two tiers, Foundation and Higher. Since the reformed curriculum, there has been a slight increase in the proportion of non-structured questions in the exam which, for most students, has represented an increase in difficulty. There has been a small increase in content too, both at Foundation and Higher tier.

We also offer Additional Maths to our most able students, which is a course that is designed to bridge the gap between GCSE and A Level.

How is it assessed?

- Paper 1: Non-Calculator 1.5 hrs (33.3%)
- Paper 2: Calculator 1.5hrs (33.3%)
- Paper 3: Calculator 1.5hrs (33.3%)

What could I move onto?

Most courses after GCSE require a grade 5 in Maths or above at GCSE.

The GCSE exam will provide a good platform to study AS- or A-level mathematics and the most able students can study Further Mathematics A/AS level.

A good grade in GCSE Mathematics is widely valued by all employers as it tells them you are good at problem solving, have strong analytical skills and can provide logical and coherent arguments.

Core Course

Science

Subject Leader: Mr Cockburn

Exam Board: AQA

Course Title: GCSEs (9 - 1) Combined Science (AGA Trilogy) or Triple Sciences - AQA Biology, Chemistry and Physics



What will I learn?

The Science curriculum offers two pathways which enable all students to excel. Each pathway covers the prescribed programme of study for Science at KS4, as set out by the National Curriculum.

Both the Combined Science (Trilogy) and separate science courses commence in year 9 and are completed in Year 11. There is no coursework element, so assessment is entirely by terminal examinations. Practical scientific skills are developed throughout the course through a series of carefully planned required practical activities and then assessed as part of the written examinations. The Combined Science (Trilogy) specification is subset of the specifications for the separate sciences so much of the material covered is common to both courses. All courses have both Foundation and Higher tiers of entry.

Both of these courses provide a suitable basis for students to progress to A-levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, or Btec Applied Science.

Whilst we try to take student's and parental wishes into account in making decisions about relevant courses, we would ask that you respect our professional judgement in these issues.

How is it assessed?

Every course consists of written examinations, including written assessment of practical work and how science works.

For separate science GCSEs, the assessment plan is as follows:

- Biology paper 1: Topics B1 - B4
- Biology paper 2: Topics B5 - B7
- Chemistry paper 1: Topics C1 - C5
- Chemistry paper 2: Topics C6 - C10
- Physics Paper 1: Topics P1 - P4
- Physics Paper 2: Topics P5 - P8

Each paper is 100 marks and is 1 hour 45 minutes in length

For Combined Science (Trilogy) the assessment plan is as follows:

- Biology paper 1: Topics 1 - 4 (B1 - B4 above)
- Biology paper 2: Topics 5 - 7 (B5 - B7 above)
- Chemistry Paper 1: Topics 1- 5 (C1 - C5 above)
- Chemistry paper 2: Topics 6 - 10 (C6 - C10 above)
- Physics Paper 1: Topics 1 - 4 (P1 - P4 above)
- Physics Paper 2: Topics 5 - 7 (P5 - P7 above)

Each paper is 70 marks and 1 hour 15 minutes in length.

Core Course

Science



What could I move onto?

Studying science will broaden your understanding of the world around you, may allow you to influence and develop accepted scientific knowledge, and will give you the skills needed to approach most matters in a reasoned and analytical manner. As such it is a highly valued subject, helping students develop sought after, transferrable skills applicable to a huge range of areas. Both routes through Key Stage Four Science will provide students with the opportunities required for them to access A Level Science subjects and/or alternative Post-16 courses.

A good grade in GCSE Mathematics is widely valued by all employers as it tells them you are good at problem solving, have strong analytical skills and can provide logical and coherent arguments.



Core Course

Religious Studies

Subject Leader: Mrs Dodds

Exam Board: AQA

Course Title: Religious Studies GCSE (9 - 1)



What will I learn?

Religious Studies is an ever popular and relevant GCSE course, which covers a range of contemporary moral issues as well as addressing the fundamental questions of life. It is a subject that enables you to think for yourself about religious and moral issues in a critical and enquiring way.

Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues, reflect on their own faith and support the Christian ethos of the school. Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.

All students follow a compulsory GCSE course in Religious Studies, elements of which are begun in Year 10. The course involves the study of 2 units:

Paper 1: The study of religions

Beliefs, teachings and practices is taught from Year 10 where students will explore the beliefs, teachings and practices from a Christian and an Islamic perspective. Students will learn about the nature of God, the problem of evil and suffering, beliefs about the afterlife and their importance to religious believers today, as well as exploring different forms of worship, religious festivals and the role of the Church/Mosque in the local and worldwide community.

Paper 2: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Issues

Taught in Year 11, students will study Christian and Muslim responses to matters such as the nature and purpose of the family including the place of marriage, divorce and homosexuality in our society, the need for punishment and attitudes to criminal activity, differing views on animal experimentation, medical issues (abortion and euthanasia) in the contemporary world. They will also investigate arguments for the existence of God, the validity of a belief in miracles and religious experience and the nature of revelation.

How will I be assessed?

There is no coursework, students will sit two exams in year 11 lasting 1 hour 45 minutes each.

What could I move onto?

Religious Studies is a popular academic subject at all the major universities. At A Level Religious Studies is of interest to both Arts, Humanities and Science students. It is a strong A Level option due to its versatility and high regard by universities. Introducing students to a range of ethical and philosophical issues and helping develop an enquiring, critical and reflective approach. Students find the skills and knowledge gained in Religious Studies useful in careers such as law, journalism, social care, the army, childcare, the police, probation work, counselling, teaching, nursing and leisure and tourism. Many students have found success through the further study of RS at A Level leading to degrees in Philosophy and PPE at Oxbridge, Loughborough, Manchester and Liverpool.

Optional Course



History

Subject Leader: Miss Anderson

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Title: History GCSE (9 - 1)

What will I Learn?

History is an exciting course that allows you to explore major historical events and how they have shaped the world we are living in today. The course covers a broad range of topics and allows you to develop your source analysis skills, extended writing and ability to evaluate evidence.

The topics that we study at GCSE History are as follows:

Paper 1

Medicine in Britain c1250-present day with a case study on the British sector of the Western front, 1914-1918.

Paper 2

Henry VIII and his ministers 1509-1540 and Superpower relations during the Cold War, 1941-91

Paper 3

Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39

How is it assessed?

Paper 1: Medicine in Britain c1250-present day

Written exam: 1 hour and 20 minutes (30% of the qualification)

Paper 2: Henry VIII and his ministers 1509-1540 and Superpower relations during the Cold War, 1941-1991

Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes (40% of the qualification)

Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39

Written exam: 1 hour and 20 minutes (30% of the qualification)

What could I move onto?

History is a subject that helps to develop many transferable skills such as critical thinking, weighing up evidence, making informed decisions and developing judgements. This therefore makes it an excellent choice for anyone considering a career in law, education, business or marketing. The subject content and skills can help you study History at A Level and many other subjects in the Humanities or Politics.

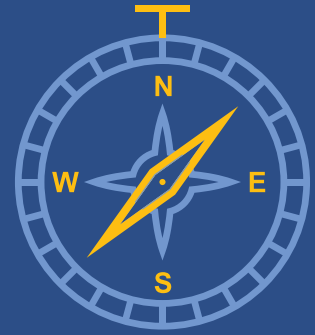
Optional Course

Geography

Subject Leader: Mr Bonhill-Smith

Exam Board: AQA

Course Title: Geography GCSE (9 - 1)



What will I learn?

This exciting course is based on a balanced framework of physical and human geography. It allows students to investigate the link between the two themes, and examine the battles between the man-made and natural worlds. Students will cover a variety of the key social, economic and environmental issues facing our world and then look at how these could be solved in the future.

The course covers 3 units:

Unit 1: Living with the Physical Environment

Section A: The challenge of natural hazards

Tectonic hazards, Tropical storms, Extreme weather in the UK and Climate change.

Section B: The Living World

Ecosystems, tropical rainforest and hot deserts.

Section C: Physical Landscapes in the UK

Coastal landscapes and River Landscapes

Unit 2: Challenges in the Human Environment

Section A: Urban Issues and Challenges

World population growth, Challenges and opportunities of Urban growth and change.

Section B: The Changing Economic World

Global variations in economic development, Strategies for reducing the development gap.

Section C: The Challenge of Resource Management

Resource management of food, water and energy. Detailed study of water management.

Unit 3: Geographical Application

Section A: Issue Evaluation

Critical thinking and problem solving of particular issues derived from secondary sources.

Optional Course

Geography



How will I be assessed?

In all papers the question types include; multiple choice, short answer, and extended writing. Geographical skills will be assessed in all papers.

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment

Written exam : 1 hour 30 minutes 35% of GCSE

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 35% of GCSE

Paper 3: Geographical applications

Written exam: 1 hour 30% of GCSE

Pre-release resources available from March in the year of the exam.

What could I move onto?

Geography is a fantastic subject for developing a breadth of skills including literacy, numeracy, teamwork, independent learning, problem solving, presentation, analysis, evaluation, graphical and cartographical skills. This combined with the fact it cultivates a world view and a certain cultural sensitivity makes it especially sought after by employers.

The subject content and skills can help you study Geography at A level and also many other subjects in the Humanities and/or Science. As a result, geographers go on to study a wide range of subjects.

Geography can be used as a stepping stone to a variety of courses in Higher Education and has one of the largest ranges of careers from any subject. These include but are not limited to environmental management, planning, law, surveying, education, accountancy, business social services, meteorology, engineering and GIS. The truly fantastic thing about geography is that some of the future jobs that it can lead on to haven't even been invented yet!



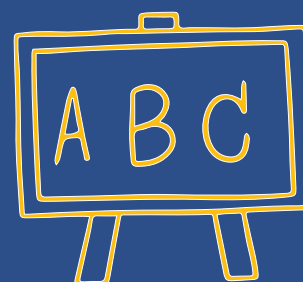
Optional Course

Modern Foreign Languages: French/Spanish

Subject Leader: Mrs Matevski

Exam Board: AQA

Course Title: French/Spanish GCSE (9 - 1)



What will I learn?

The topics covered in GCSE French/Spanish are as follows:

Theme 1: People and lifestyle

Theme 1 covers the following topics:

- Identity and relationships with others
- Healthy living and lifestyle
- Education and work

Theme 2: Popular culture

Theme 2 covers the following topics:

- Free-time activities
- Customs, festivals and celebrations
- Celebrity culture

Theme 3: Current and future studies and employment

Theme 3 covers the following topics:

- Travel and tourism, including places of interest
- Media and technology
- The environment and where people live

How is it assessed?

GCSE French/Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9). All exams will take place at the end of Year 11 and the exams will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives.

Paper 1: Listening exam - questions to be answered in English, dictation task

- 25% of the marks.
- Foundation Tier; 35 minutes (including 5 minutes' reading time)
- Higher Tier; 45 minutes (including 5 minutes' reading time)

Paper 2: Speaking exam - a role play task, a read aloud task and a photo card task.

- 25% of the mark
- Foundation Tier: students will attend one session of 7-9 minutes (supervised preparation time 15 minutes)
- Higher Tier: students will attend one session of 10-12 minutes (supervised preparation time 15 minutes)

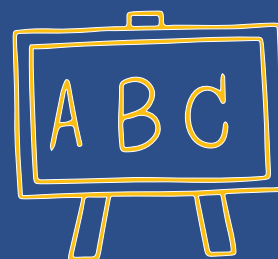
Paper 3: Reading exam - questions to be answered in English, translation from French into English.

- 25% of the mark
- Foundation Tier; 45 minutes
- Higher Tier; 1 hour

Paper 4: Writing - picture task (Foundation only), two writing responses, translation from English into French.

- 25% of the marks
- Foundation 1 hour 10 minutes
- Higher 1 hour 15 minutes

Optional Course



Modern Foreign Languages: French/Spanish

What could I move onto?

With languages the world is your oyster and Britain is desperately short of linguists. GCSE can lead to A Level study after which you can go to university and study the language(s) you have studied at A level or start a new one like Russian/ Chinese or Arabic from scratch.

Alternatively, you can combine a non-language subject with a language (e.g. Chemistry and French) thus enabling you to spend a year abroad studying Chemistry at a French university and broadening your skill set. Languages are also an incredible asset in Business, Law and Tourism.

They will give you excellent career options in today's international market. Knowledge of another language makes you more employable and stands out on a job application.



Optional Course

Art, Craft & Design

Subject Leader: Mr McGinty

Exam Board: AQA

Course Title: Art, Craft & Design GCSE (9 - 1)



What will I Learn?

Due to the changing interests of our students, we have made the decision to change from AQA Fine Art to AQA Art, Craft and Design. This decision has been made to add greater breadth and opportunity within the field of Art as we recognise many students have interests outside the traditional sphere of Fine Art practice. On the GCSE students can expect to undertake tasks including digital design, animation, textiles and batik, printmaking, sculpture, photography, drawing and painting etc.

Over the two years students will complete two projects for Component 1 (Portfolio worth 60%) and then a further project in the spring term of Year 11 (Component 2) given to them by the exam board. This is called the Externally Set Task and is worth the remaining 40% of students' final grade.

Each project will begin with a developmental period where students will explore a range of different materials, techniques and processes within the field of Art, Craft and Design as well as looking at the work of past and present artists, designers and craftspeople. As the project progresses students are expected to take greater ownership over the development of ideas towards their final outcome(s).

Examples of previous projects have included:

- Portraits and The Figure
- Architecture
- Man-made and Natural World
- Mechanical Structures
- Social Issues
- Living in Modern Britain

How is it assessed?

Students are assessed against four equally weighted (25%) assessment objectives:

- **Assessment Objective 1: DEVELOP** – Develop your ideas relating your work to the work of other artists, designers or crafts people.
- **Assessment Objective 2: REFINE** – Refine your ideas through the experimentation and selection of appropriate materials and resources.
- **Assessment Objective 3: RECORD** – Record your ideas in form that are appropriate to your artistic intentions including drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture etc.
- **Assessment Objective 4: PRESENT** – Present your ideas in the form of a final piece(s). This can be in any art material or combination of art materials.

Optional Course

Art, Craft & Design



Course Structure

The GCSE AQA Art, Craft & Design specification is split into two parts. Part 1 (Coursework) and Part 2 (Externally Set Task).

Coursework (60% of final grade)

Students must complete more than one project of work covering all four assessment objectives and present a selection of this work for internal and external moderation (AQA). The coursework unit is on-going from September in year 10.

Externally Set Task (40% of final grade)

Students are presented with a range of starting points to use as inspiration for their own art project. Students must ensure that they cover all four assessment objectives in the development of their project ideas. Students complete their final piece (PRESENT) over a two-day period where they are off timetable working in the Art department. The Externally Set Task Exam Paper can be given out to students from January 1st.

What could I move onto?

The skills that students gain from studying Art lead naturally to career paths including: Architecture, Interior Designers, Games Designers, Animators, Illustrators, Media and Advertising, Photographer, Web designers, Artist, Art Teacher, Fashion Designers, Jewellery Designers, Arts Therapist, Arts worker, or working in the film and television industry,

A national survey carried out in June 2022 reported that over 1 in 10 UK jobs were in the creative industries. The UK video games industry alone is worth a staggering £7.1billion.

Whether you chose to pursue a career in art or not, the subject offers much in terms of skills that you acquire and develop which are highly sought after by colleges and employers alike. In a world where even the most complex factual information is merely a click away, the ability to conceive and develop an idea with originality is highly prized.

The traditional pathway for students wishing to pursue their interest in Art and Design is to enrol in an A-Level course and then onto an Art Foundation course post-18 before starting and undergraduate degree. At Abbey Grange we offer both A-level Art and Design and A-level Photography.

Free School Meal Pupils

Students in receipt of free school meals are entitled to a pack of free art equipment, including an A3 sketchbook.

Optional Course

Business Studies with Economics



Subject Leader: Miss Rigby

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Title: Business GCSE (9 - 1)

What will I learn?

GCSE Business is a popular GCSE subject at Abbey Grange. It is also a new subject to choose if you want a change from some of the subjects that you are used to.

Business Studies is an examination of the business world. If you choose to study this, you will look at real businesses and see how they operate. You will learn what it takes to be an entrepreneur, how to set up a business and make it a success.

Economics is an examination of how we allocate scarce resources, asking many different questions such as: should we encourage the development of offshore wind farms; why do we have rising levels of child poverty in an economy as rich as the UK and why do some people like professional footballers get paid a great sum of money, whilst refuse collectors are paid much less? The economics course also covers how the national economy works; what causes inflation; how to cure unemployment; and, how to stimulate growth and move from recession to recovery.

During this course you will study the following topics:

- How to be an entrepreneur
- How to put a business idea into practice
- How businesses meet customer needs
- How to manage business finance
- How to manage people in business
- How the global economy affects UK businesses
- What we import and export, why we import and export and what happens when exchange rates change

How will I be assessed?

Examination: You will sit two written papers at the end of Year 11.

- Paper 1 – Investigating Small Business - 50% Weighting - 1 hour and 45 minutes
- Paper 2 – Building a Business - 50% Weighting - 1 hour and 45 minutes

Optional Course

Business Studies with Economics



What could I move onto?

If you are contemplating a career in Accountancy; Banking; Local or Central government; Law; Journalism or something similar, then you will find the economics element of this course useful. Or if you can see yourself setting up your own business one day, then having knowledge of how businesses work coupled with a basic knowledge of how the economy works is invaluable.

Also, because any organisation you will work in can be classed as a business, any knowledge you have of how businesses are run, how the different departments in a business are organised, the people who work in a business and what they do are all valued by employers. So you could use your business skills to get straight into work; onto an apprenticeship scheme or simply to get a part time job when you are old enough.

Optional Course

Computer Science

Subject Leader: Mrs Shergill

Exam Board: OCR

Course Title: Computer Science GCSE (9 - 1)



What will I learn?

The UK is experiencing a lack of well qualified computing professionals; businesses today require an ever-increasing number of technologically-aware individuals. This is even more so in the gaming, mobile and web related industries and this specification has been designed with this in mind.

The GCSE Computer course will encourage students to:

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation
- Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- Understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems
- Understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society
- Apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science

Unit 1: Computer Systems

This component will introduce you to the Central Processing Unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software.

Unit 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

You will be introduced to algorithms and programming, learning about programming techniques, how to produce robust programs, computational logic, translators and facilities of computing languages and data representation.

How will I be assessed?

Examination: You will sit 2 papers at the end of Year 11. They will count towards 100% of your final mark.

What could I move onto?

This course will provide excellent progression to A Level Computer Science and into Vocational ICT courses. These provide progression to degree level courses in the areas of computing, engineering and science. Whilst this specification is not specifically mapped to any particular industry standard IT qualifications it will provide a sound preparatory basis of study for them. In addition the course provides the knowledge, skills and understanding that a growing number of employers are demanding.

Optional Course

Drama

Subject Leader: Ms Greaves

Exam Board: Eduqas

Course Title: Drama GCSE (9 - 1)



What will I learn?

GCSE Drama is an extremely creative and practical course. Over the two years students will learn about and develop skills in creating both original performances and scripted performances.

You will explore not only the role of an actor, but also directors and designers looking at staging, lighting, set and costume. Students will be pushed and challenged in new ways to look at the work of established theatre practitioners and how they approach creating and performing theatre.

Not only will students hone their theatre knowledge, but also wider skills such as critical-thinking, problem solving, presentation skills and collaboration. Skills essential to most, if not all, careers.

Alongside their course of study, students will be taken on trips to see live theatre productions once a term to support and develop their understanding of professional standard productions.

The course comprises three components which will fully prepare students to not only be successful performers, but to also critique theatre and confidently create their own productions.

How will I be Assessed?

Component 1: Devising Theatre Performance 40% of GCSE

- Creating a piece of original drama based on a stimulus. You will develop your material in the style of a practitioner. This unit you also are marked on a creation of a portfolio which records your ideas and the development of the piece. After your performance you will evaluate your acting skill, contribution and how your ideas were used in the piece.

Component 2: Text Performance 20% of GCSE

- Practical Unit to bring to life a script from a play. You will showcase how you have Developed performance skills- aiming for a professional production. This performance is marked by a visiting examiner. You will perform for them and be marked on performing ability alone.

Component 3: Written Exam 1 hr 30 minutes.

- The set text: One from a choice determined by the exam board. This is the text that you will study for your examination in the Summer of Year 11. You will be asked to write about a section of the text commenting on the acting, motivation of characters and the design of the piece.
- Live Theatre Review. You will attend a live theatre performance. You will study the design and performance skill used in what you have seen- a professional production. In your GCSE you will answer a question on what you saw as an audience member.

Optional Course

Drama



What could I move onto?

For students wishing to continue their studies in Drama the next step is A Level Drama and Theatre Studies, which we offer at Abbey Grange. In terms of pairing with other GCSE subjects, Drama goes well with Languages, History, Religious Studies, English and Music.

Also, due to many of the skills mentioned above, Drama has many transferable skills to aid progression with various education/career choices as it also develops skills for work requiring a high level of confidence, presentation, and group sensitivity. Previous students have found careers in Advertising, Design, Law, Health Promotion, Medicine, the Police Force, Radio, TV, Teaching and, of course, Theatre.



Free School Meal Pupils

Students who receive Free School Meals will receive funded theatre visits.



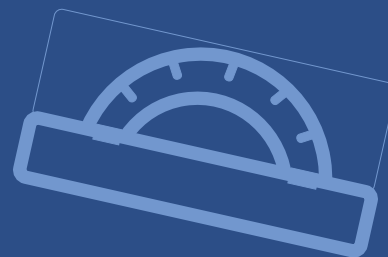
Optional Course

Design & Technology

Subject Leader: Mr McGinty

Exam Board: AQA

Course Title: Design & Technology GCSE (9 - 1)



Aims of Course

You'll have the opportunity to build upon the work of KS3 and rapidly develop your knowledge and practical skills through designing and making exciting quality products in a range of materials and disciplines. In the first part of year 10, you will work on a wide variety of design and make projects which will develop your knowledge of working with graphics, textiles, electronics, mechanisms, structures, wood, plastic and metal using a wide range of equipment. At the end of year 10 and into year 11 you will be able to choose to focus on an area of interest to you and complete a substantial design and make project for your coursework unit in Year 11.

The course will enable you to:

- Develop knowledge and designing and making skills through a range of enjoyable, fast-paced and challenging mini-projects using a wide range of materials and components safely.
- Develop a creative approach to your design development and take calculated risks whilst using technical and practical expertise to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world.
- Develop important skills in investigation, problem solving, decision making, planning, time management, resource organisation and manufacturing.
- Use new technology - computer aided designing and manufacturing techniques (including laser cutting and 3D printing) along with traditional hand tools and workshop machinery to design and make your ideas.
- Develop skills to clearly communicate your ideas through annotation, sketching and 3D modelling.
- Develop the ability to take into account design considerations and industrial practices.
- Develop the skills to critically analyse, evaluate, test and refine your own ideas and final products.

Midway through Year 10 you will start your GCSE coursework project (50%), completing a concise design folder containing: analysed research; development of ideas; planning; and on-going evaluations. You will then manufacture, test and evaluate your final product in Year 11.

The final examination (50%) enables you to demonstrate the application of your skills and knowledge within a design context set by the examination board.

Optional Course

Food & Nutrition

Subject Leader: Mr McGinty

Exam Board: AQA

Course Title: Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE (9 - 1)



What will I learn?

This is an exciting opportunity for students to build upon KS3 and continue to regularly make delicious dishes and food products. The main focus of this GCSE course is to equip students with the knowledge, understanding, and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. Students will be able to make informed decisions about a wide range of further learning opportunities and career pathways as well as develop vital life skills that enable them to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

Students will be able to:

- Frequently demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking using a wide variety of food commodities, cooking techniques and equipment develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and nutritional content of food and drinks.
- Understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the effects of poor diet and health.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food.
- Understand and explore in practice, a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international), to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes.

Students must be organised to bring ingredients at least once a week and be prepared to take part in group practical activities and tasting sessions. For their GCSE, students will complete coursework involving practical investigations, demonstration of a wide variety of food preparation skills and research into food and society.



Optional Course



Food & Nutrition

How will the work be assessed?

Unit 1: a one hour 45-minute written examination paper will be sat in June of Year 11 and equates to 50% of the overall GCSE

Unit 2: Food Preparation and Nutrition in Practice – Two Coursework Tasks worth 50% in total and completed in Year 11. Topics from AQA at the start of Year 11.

The Food Investigation (15%) involves experimenting with different ingredients and carrying out sensory analysis. Students also need to write a 2000-word report.

The Food Preparation coursework (35%) involves carrying out research and show casing technical practical skills. This also includes a 3-hour practical exam where students will plan cook and serve 3 dishes related to the AQA theme.

What could I move onto?

Students can study Diploma Level 3 in Food Science and Nutrition at KS5 and then go onto degrees and careers in one of a wide range of different Catering, Food Science or Nutrition disciplines.

Possible careers include:

- Food Scientist
- Dietician
- Home Economist
- Hospitality and Catering Industry



Optional Course

Music

Subject Leader: Mr Birch

Exam Board: Eduqas

Course Title: Music GCSE (9 - 1)



What will I Learn?

GCSE Music is a varied course that encourages students to explore and develop their musical skills in listening, composing and performing. Lessons will cover the areas of study for the qualification, which are Musical forms and Devices, Music for ensemble, Film music, and Popular music. Students will develop listening skills to recognise key musical features and complete composition exercises to give them a range of ideas about how to create an effective piece of music. Performance is a key part of the qualification and students will be required to play as part of a group and perform as a soloist at points during the course. Involvement in extra-curricular music activities to enhance performance skills and develop musical experience is highly recommended.

How is it assessed?

Component 1: Performing – 30% of GCSE

Students will record two or more pieces, one of which must be performed in a group. The total duration of the performance must be between 4 and 6 minutes in length, with at least 1 minute being the group performance. Any style of performance is acceptable.

Component 2: Composing – 30% of GCSE

Students will compose two pieces of music, one of which is in response to a brief set by the exam board. The second composition is a free composition, so students can create their own brief and then compose in a style of their choice. The duration of the two compositions must be between 3 and 6 minutes in total.

Component 3: Appraising – 40% of GCSE

Students will be assessed for this component with a written examination. Questions will relate to the areas of study taught throughout the course, with candidates asked to recognise and discuss musical features that they can hear in audio excerpts that will be played during the exam.

What could I move onto?

GCSE Music is really useful if you aspire to a career as a performer, producer, composer or teacher. It is also valuable for Music journalism, Musical theatre, Arts administration and to access A Levels and Higher Education courses in Music, Music Technology, Theatre Studies and/or Performing Arts. Former Abbey Grange students have gone on to study at Music Conservatoires and specialist Music & Arts Colleges, or move into careers as professional musicians, DJs, composers and actors. Universities are very interested in candidates who commit to participation in extra-curricular activities and have proved they can express themselves creatively, as well as verbally and in writing. The varied skills such as problem solving, teamwork, presentation, effective planning and analysis that are covered in the course will prove invaluable in all potential career paths.

Optional Course

Physical Education



Subject Leader: Miss Conroy

Exam Board: AQA

Course Title: Physical Education GCSE (9 - 1)

What will I learn?

GCSE Physical Education is an ideal course for students who enjoy physical education and have a strong interest in the world of sport and exercise.

We use AQA syllabus for GCSE PE. It is made up of two main areas: practical and theory. The theoretical element is comprised of a variety of different sections including topics.

Some examples of the topics we cover are:

- Physical Training – Components of fitness, Training methods, fitness testing
- Sport psychology – Classification of skill, information processing
- Health and wellbeing – Physical and mental well being
- Cultural and social factors – Engagement patterns, media, drugs
- Use of data – methods for collecting data
- Movement analysis – levers, planes and axis
- Anatomy and physiology – Body systems, energy systems, structure of body

Due to the nature of the course, students are expected to have a sound level of understanding and knowledge of rules and tactics of games / activities. Students must also participate in at least one sport outside of school and be willing to attend school extra curricular activities.

How is it assessed?

Candidates will sit two exams at the end of the course that are 1 hour 15 minutes long and worth a combined 60% of their total mark. The exam is made up of multiple-choice questions, short answer questions and a scenario-based question.

Paper 1: 30% - The human body and movement

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical Training
- Use of Data

Paper 2: 30% - Socio-cultural influences and well being

- Sport Psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well being
- Use of data

Optional Course

Physical Education



How is it assessed? Continued

None Examination Assessment: 40%

- Practical performance in physical activity in three sports; at least one team and one individual.

The course has a clear transition route from GCSE PE to A-Level PE or OCR technical Level 3 (Sport) at Sixth Form. This is a fantastic course for students who are thinking about a career in sport or other sports-related careers such as physiotherapy, dieticians and nutritionists, sports psychologists etc.

Medical degrees value A' level Physical Education due to its high content of anatomy and physiology. Therefore if students are thinking of a career in the medical professions, the GCSE in PE is a good stepping stone.



Optional Course



Sociology

Subject Leader: Mrs Winterburn

Exam Board: AQA

Course Title: Sociology GCSE (9 - 1)

What will I learn?

Sociology is a high performing department at Abbey Grange and has been taught at here since 1982 at both GCSE and A level. It is unusual for secondary schools to offer GCSE Sociology, but it is very popular here.

Sociology is the study of society and behaviour. You will study fascinating topics such as:

- Family – asking questions such as, how does family affect a child's life? Why are some families more common than others?
- Education - why do some students underachieve in school? How does your school affect your chances of doing well?
- Crime and deviance- what type of people commit crime? Why did the London riots happen? Why do some ethnicities get stopped and searched more?
- Social stratification – why does poverty exist and what is the government doing about it?

As part of the course you will be doing a number of investigations into society which will comprise of interviews, questionnaires, etc.

Typically, the successful Sociology student likes serious discussion at home and in class. You must be willing to work hard to gain lots of subject specific terminology that will support your understanding and ability to think in a sociological way.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit two exams at the end of year 11. Each exam will last for one hour forty-five minutes. The questions range from short mark answers (1 – 4 marks) to longer essays (12 marks).

- Paper 1 will include the following topics: The Family and Education with Research Methods.
- Paper 2 will include the following topics: The Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification with Research Methods.

What could I move onto?

Sociology is an excellent subject to develop skills to help you in the future. These skills include: teamwork, independent learning, research, organisation, analysis, evaluation and problem solving skills.

These skills can help you if you decide to study A levels in Sociology, History, Psychology, Geography, Politics and many more subjects.

Some jobs in which Sociology can be very helpful are: teaching, health care, law, police, social work, counselling, local government and politics, journalism, charity, as well as many other areas.

With around 80 – 90% gaining grades 9-4, Sociology produces young people with the skills and knowledge to help them move into a variety of areas in the future. As a department, we consistently achieve higher results compared to similar schools in the country.

Vocational Courses

Vocational Qualifications

**BTEC Digital Information
Technology**

BTEC Enterprise

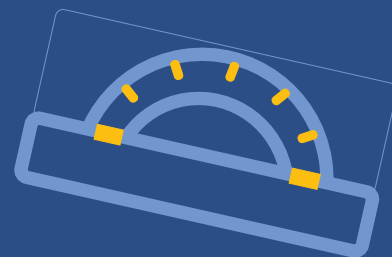
CNAT Sport

CNAT Health and Social Care



Optional Course

Digital Information Technology



Subject Leader: Mrs Shergill

Exam Board: EDEXCEL

Course Title: Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology

What will I learn?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology is for learners who wish to acquire knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying the skills related to data management, data interpretation, data presentation and data protection. The qualification will broaden learners' experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them.

The course comprises the following components:

Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles & Project Planning Techniques

- Explore user interface design and development principles.
- Discover how to develop and review a digital user interface.
- Investigate how to use project planning techniques to manage a digital project.

Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data

- Explore how data impacts on individuals and organisations.
- Develop a dashboard using data manipulation tools.
- Draw conclusions and make recommendations on data intelligence.

Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices

- Explore how modern information technology is evolving.
- Understand what cyber security is and how to safeguard against it.
- Consider legal and ethical issues in data and information sharing.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Internal Assignment Based - 30%

Component 2: Internal Assignment Based - 30%

Component 3: External Exam - 40%

What could I move onto?

Study of the qualification as part of Key Stage 4 learning will help learners to make more informed choices for further learning either generally or in this sector. The choices that learners can make post-16 will depend on their overall level of attainment and their performance in the qualification.

Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to A Levels or study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in IT, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships.

Learners who generally achieve at Level 1 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to study at Level 2 post-16 in a range of technical routes designed to lead to work, progression to employment, apprenticeships or to further study at Level 3.

Optional Course



BTEC L2 Technical Award in Enterprise

Subject Leader: Miss Rigby

Exam Board: EDEXCEL

Course Title: Pearsons BTEC L2 Technical Award in Enterprise

What will I learn?

This Business Qualification is designed for students who might prefer a more “real world” approach to studying. The course is assessed over two years through two pieces of coursework plus one tested unit. It would suit those students who prefer and do better in project work rather than exams. The course is also designed for those students who would rather “go out” and find out how a business is run in the real world and present what they have found in different ways. This qualification is awarded with Level 1 or Level 2 Pass, Merit and Distinction (*) grading equal to one 5 - 9 GCSE grade.

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Business & Enterprise route provides you with a more practical introduction to business. You will have an opportunity to experience a wide range of business skills, including running a business enterprise in school; performing business presentations and role plays and developing advertising and promotion materials – all of which are assessed as part of the course.

You will complete the following units:

1. Exploring Enterprises
2. Planning for and Pitching an Enterprise Activity
3. Promotion and Finance for Enterprise

Units 1 and 2 are assessed internally through the submission of portfolios of evidence. Unit 3 is assessed through an external examination.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed mostly through assignments and activities based on realistic work situations throughout the two years (60% coursework which teachers will help you with, plus 40% tested unit). The coursework is completed in lessons in the Business ICT suite.

What could I move onto?

If you would like a career in advertising, banking, retail, management, ICT, Law or even setting up your own business one day then this is a good choice for you now.

You could choose to continue your study of Business at A Level and Applied A Level in the sixth form. You could use your knowledge of how businesses work to support your studies in other subjects at GCSE and Post 16.

Also, because any organisation you will work in can be classed as a business, any knowledge you have of how businesses are run, how the different departments in a business are organised, the people who work in a business and what they do are all valued by employers. So you could use your business skills to get straight into work; onto an apprenticeship scheme or simply to get a part time job when you are old enough. Business produces a lot of young people with skills and knowledge which can help them to move in to a variety of areas in the future.

Optional Course

CNAT Sport Studies



Subject Leader: Mrs R Harrison

Exam Board: OCR

Course Title: Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Sports Studies

What will I Learn?

You will study a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, including:

- Issues which affect participation in sport
- The role of sport in promoting values
- The implications of hosting a major sporting event for a city or country
- The role National Governing Bodies (NGBs) play in the development of their sport
- The use of technology in sport

R185: Performance and leadership in sports activities

This is assessed by a set assignment

In this unit you will have an opportunity to develop your skills both as a performer in two different sporting activities, and as a leader, developing a range of transferable skills.

You will cover the following:

- Key components of performance
- Applying practice methods to support improvement in a sporting activity
- Organising and planning a sports activity session
- Leading a sports activity session
- Reviewing your own performance in planning and leading a sports activity session.

R187 Outdoor Adventurous activities.

This is assessed by a set assignment.

In this unit you will understand the different Outdoor Adventurous activities and complete a high ropes course.

You will cover the following:

- The different OAA and the provision in the UK
- Explore the clothing, technology and equipment required for OAA
- Plan and take part in an Outdoor activity
- Evaluate your OAA trip and explore the benefits of outdoor adventurous activities.

How is it assessed?

Three units will be covered over the two years. Two coursework units and one external exam.

Coursework

Two units of coursework

R185 Performance and leadership in sports activities

R187 Outdoor Adventurous activities

Exam

One 1 hour exam

R184: Contemporary issues in sport

Optional Course



CNAT Health and Social Care

Subject Leader: Mrs Camm

Exam Board: OCR

Course Title: Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate Health & Social Care

What will I learn?

This course is designed for students who have an interest in health and social care and wish to develop skills and learn the theory that can prepare them for further study and employment. It will particularly appeal to students who are looking for a practical course.

Unit R032: Principles of care in health and social care settings

This mandatory unit focuses on the rights of individuals and will instil the values of care to be used when working in a health, social care or early years' environment. The unit also provides an overview of legislation and its impact on the care settings and covers the hygiene, safety and security matters that relate to promoting a healthy and safe environment.

Unit R033: Supporting individuals through life events

This unit will allow learners to investigate the main life processes that will occur with each life stage: develop an awareness and understanding of the key events that may happen and the effects of these during the lifespan of an individual, helping to identify the need for additional support. A sensitive approach as to why progress through a life stage(s) may be different will allow thoughtful debate. On completion of this unit learners will be able to produce suitable support plans for individuals in different stages of life.

Unit R034: Creative and therapeutic activities

This unit gives learners an overview of the importance of diet throughout the life stages, giving them the knowledge and skills to enable them to make choices which will affect their body throughout their lives. Food is essential to our health and social well-being, throughout our daily lives from birth to old age. What we eat is often determined by a considerable number of factors, such as work-life balance, finance, where we live, food preparation skills, our health and religion.

How will I be assessed?

40% Examination at the end of year 11 - R032 Principles of care in health and social care.

30% Coursework unit Year 10/11 - Unit R033: Supporting individuals through life events

30% Coursework unit Year 10 - Unit R034: Creative and therapeutic activities

What could I move onto?

Health and Social Care is a subject that enables students to gain the knowledge and understanding that will open a range of career opportunities including childcare, teaching, midwifery, nursing, occupational health, dietician, paramedic, social work, mental health services, and counselling. You could also choose to continue your study of Health & Social care in the sixth form.

Core Courses

Additional Core Subjects (non-examination)

Physical Education

All students follow a compulsory core programme of Physical Education in years 10 and 11, covering a wide range of games and sporting activities. Students will have three lessons a fortnight and will be able to choose from a variety of options which include more traditional sports such as Football and Netball, as well as alternative sports such as Trampolining, Handball and Rock-it Ball.

Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education

Students will continue with PSHCE in years 10 and 11. Students cover areas such as careers education, personal finance, discrimination, emergency life support (Heartstart), radicalisation and online abuse. The academy also provide a diverse range of aspects within the PSHCE curriculum to develop our students confidence and educate them about all aspects and issues which they may encounter and face in daily their lives





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**In Partnership to
Educate, Nurture & Empower**

