Sixth Form Subjects

September 2027 Entry

Abbot Beyne School

Everyone a Learner. Everyone Learning.

Making Your Choices

This booklet is designed to give you the relevant subject information for making decisions as to which courses to study at Abbot Beyne Sixth Form. These decisions are very important and many factors should be considered before making a final choice such as subjects that will lead to a fulfilling life in a career that you will enjoy, which degree you may wish to study at university or simply which courses you believe you will be successful in during your time in Sixth Form.

We will enrol Sixth Form students onto two year Advanced Level courses from September 2026 that will be examined at the end of Year 13 in almost all cases. The courses on offer are A Levels and BTEC Level 3 qualifications.

Entry Requirements for all subjects:

- Five Grade 4s or above, including English and Maths, but each case is considered individually;
- Some subjects also have their own extra requirements;
- If students do not gain English and Maths at the required levels then there may still be an A Level / BTEC Level 3 route open to them.

We want to ensure that the courses students embark upon are those which give:

- The best progression towards university, apprenticeships or employment;
- The best chances of success.

Please read the course descriptions carefully, watch the subject videos on the school website and talk with your teachers about your options. Ask questions to ensure that the courses you choose suit your aspirations and talents.

Further details about each course can also be found on the websites for the Examination Boards.

For further information please contact Mrs L Pollitt at l.pollitt@abbotbeyneschool.co.uk who will be happy to help or forward your email to the relevant department

Biology A Level

Exam Board	OCR Biology A
Specific Entry Criteria	Triple Science at Grade 6+ in Biology or Combined Science at Grade 66+.
Why choose this course?	You love Biology and anything that can be linked to it. You want to develop your interest in and enthusiasm for the subject. You enjoy making links between different facts and ideas and communicating detailed information. You would like to understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society.
What will be studied?	Development of practical skills in Biology; Foundations in Biology; Exchange and Transport; Biodiversity, Evolution and Disease; Communications, Homeostasis and Energy; Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems.
How will I be assessed?	Written examination and assessment of practical skills.
What next?	A selection of science-based careers including Biological or Biomedical Science, Environmental Science, Forensic Science, Genetics, Microbiology, Neuroscience, Immunology, Radiotherapy, Physiotherapy, Optometry, Dentistry, Audiology and Nursing.
Further Information	For further information please contact Mrs L Pollitt by email at l.pollitt@abbotbeyneschool.co.uk who will be happy to forward your email to the relevant department.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport

Exam Board	EDEXCEL
Entry Criteria	Five Grade 4s or above, including Maths and English. BTEC Level 2 Pass in Sport (or above) or GCSE PE at Grade 5+. Those with no PE/ Sport qualification at GCSE may be considered.
Why choose this course?	You will participate in a range of practical sessions to extend your knowledge and understanding. You will attend trips and visits to sports teams, sports venues and local universities, where you will meet with industry professionals and experts in a range of sport related fields.
What will be studied?	Anatomy and Physiology, Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being, Professional Development in the Sports Industry and Sports Psychology.
How will I be assessed?	Examination and internally marked assessments.
What next?	You can go on to work at the cutting edge of elite sport, supporting top athletes as sports scientists, sports psychologists, strength and conditioning coaches, sports therapists, coaches and in many other roles. You may also opt to pursue a career in teaching, community coaching or working within the health and leisure sectors.
Further Information	For further information please contact Mrs L Pollitt by email at l.pollitt@abbotbeyneschool.co.uk who will be happy to forward your email to the relevant department.

BTEC National Extended Certificate in Business

Exam Board	EDEXCEL
Entry Criteria	Five Grade 4s or above, including Maths and English. It is not a requirement to have studied Business Studies previously.
Why choose this course?	You will have a keen interest in how businesses start, grow, sustain success and adapt to the changing business environment. You may wish to start your own business in the future or simply to gain a clear insight into the way all successful businesses operate. Whatever job you do in the future, you will work within a business of some kind and a knowledge of how businesses function will provide you with invaluable insight.
What will be studied?	Exploring Business; Developing a Marketing Campaign; Personal and Business Finance; Market Research.
How will I be assessed?	Two units are assessed internally via coursework and a further two units are examined externally.
What next?	You may wish to study Business Studies or a related subject at university or to use Business Studies to complement other A Level subjects for many degree programmes. Alternatively, you may wish to use the principles you have learnt in order to have a career in Business. Business courses at university are as diverse as: Business Studies; Management Studies; Finance; Accounting; Marketing or Human Resource Management.
Further Information	For further information please contact Mrs L Pollitt by email at l.pollitt@abbotbeyneschool.co.uk who will be happy to forward your email to the relevant department.

Chemistry A Level

Exam Board	AQA
Specific Entry Criteria	Triple Science at Grade 6+, Chemistry at 6+ or Combined Science at Grade 66+. Grade 6+ in Maths
Why choose this course?	If you enjoy problem solving, are a good mathematician, like practical work and are interested in how things are made on an atomic level, then Chemistry is the subject for you. If you are interested in any of the medical degrees then Chemistry is a must.
What will be studied?	Physical Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry and Organic Chemistry.
How will I be assessed?	Written examination and assessment of practical skills.
What next?	Chemistry, often in conjunction with other science-based subjects, can lead to the following types of degree course: Biomedical Sciences, Biochemistry, Chemical Engineering, Dentistry, Dietetics, Earth Sciences, Environmental Science, Geology, Medical Science, Medicine, Optometry, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Sports Science, Veterinary Science. A Level Chemistry is a prerequisite to any Medical Degree.
Further Information	For further information please contact Mrs L Pollitt by email at l.pollitt@abbotbeyneschool.co.uk who will be happy to forward your email to the relevant department.

Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology

Exam Board	WJEC
Entry Criteria	Five Grade 4s or above, including Maths and English, and Grade 5+ in English Language.
Why choose this course?	Criminology introduces you to the study of crime, criminals and the Criminal Justice system. Students are given a fascinating insight into why crime is committed, how it can be managed, controlled and prevented. It is suitable for students who have an interest in Sociology, Psychology and Law.
What will be studied?	**Changing awareness of crime** – You will look at the links between unreported crimes and the media. You will develop the skills to plan a campaign for change in relations to crime. **Criminology theories** – You will gain understanding of why people commit crimes, what makes behaviour 'criminal'. You will learn how to evaluate opinions of expert theorists applied to crimes and criminals. **Crime scene to courtroom** – You will look at the operation of the justice system, from the moment a crime is committed through to the verdict. You will learn to review cases and decisions made. **Crime and punishment** – You will question why we punish people and if those punishments are influencing social control. You will evaluate the how effective the current justice system is in England and Wales.
How will I be assessed?	50% internal and 50% external examination.
What next?	This scientific study is relevant for students seeking to progress on to University in subjects such as Criminology, Law, Psychology, Forensics and Sociology. Students can also progress into employment within the Criminal Justice sector, health and social care, probation work and Policing.
Further Information	For further information please contact Mrs L Pollitt by email at l.pollitt@abbotbeyneschool.co.uk who will be happy to forward your email to the relevant department.

Economics A Level

Exam Board	AQA
Entry Criteria	Five Grade 4s or above, including Maths and English, and Grade 5+ in English and Maths.
Why choose this course?	You will be interested in the way the UK and world economy functions as well as having an analytical and enquiring mind.
What will be studied?	Introduction to markets and market failure. The UK economy – performance and policies. Business behaviour and the labour market. A global perspective.
How will I be assessed?	Written examination.
What next?	Economics opens up a whole array of degree programmes in the broad areas of Business, Commerce and Economics and jobs that specifically desire Economics qualifications include: Economist, Financial Risk Analyst, Accountant, Actuary or Public Servant.
Further Information	For further information please contact Mrs L Pollitt by email at l.pollitt@abbotbeyneschool.co.uk who will be happy to forward your email to the relevant department.

English Language A Level

Exam Board	OCR
Entry Criteria	Five Grade 4s or above, including Maths and English, and Grade 6+ in English Language.
Why choose this course?	A Level English Language with OCR is a great choice for students who are interested in how language works in real life, from everyday conversations and social media to speeches, articles and debates. It helps you understand how people use language to create identity, power, relationships and meaning, while also developing strong analytical and writing skills.
What will be studied?	The course gives you the chance to explore topics such as language change, child language development and how language is used in different contexts as well as how language is used to construct and reinforce gender roles, to create power and how it is influenced by the development of technology.
How will I be assessed?	80% examination and 20% coursework.
What next?	English Language can lead to a variety of different career paths such as: teaching, including teaching English as a foreign language; journalism, editing and other jobs in the media; marketing and public relations; speech therapy; writing; politics and law.
Further Information	For further information please contact Mrs L Pollitt by email at l.pollitt@abbotbeyneschool.co.uk who will be happy to forward your email to the relevant department.

English Literature A Level

Exam Board	AQA specification A
Entry Criteria	Five Grade 4s or above, including Maths and English, a Grade 5+ in English Language and a Grade 6+ in English Literature.
Why choose this course?	Studying English Literature opens up a world of inspiration and nurtures creativity, whilst also developing a range of transferable skills that are essential for the world of work today. It is a chance to discover how literature explores and makes sense of the world through stories, poems, novels and plays as well as opening up your eyes to different perspectives and life experiences.
What will be studied?	A range of texts focused on the theme of love, including Shakespeare, prose texts and poetry throughout the ages (medieval to present day) as well as texts linked to issues of the modern day.
How will I be assessed?	80% examination and 20% coursework.
What next?	English Literature can lead to a variety of different career paths such as: teaching; author or poet; librarian; journalist and publisher; talent agent; web content manager; marketing executives and social media management.
Further Information	For further information please contact Mrs L Pollitt by email at l.pollitt@abbotbeyneschool.co.uk who will be happy to forward your email to the relevant department.

Fine Art A Level

Exam Board	OCR
Entry Criteria	GCSE Art and Design Grade 5+
Why choose this course?	Fine Art is a great way to continue developing your skills in painting and drawing. If you enjoy Art and expressing yourself, whilst developing your understanding of the visual world, learning practical skills and responding to ideas and issues in ways that are personal to you, then Fine Art is the perfect course choice.
What will be studied?	You will learn skills in critical thinking, practical research and personal development through the progression of projects based around classic art themes evolving into themes chosen by yourself. You will experiment with media, techniques and themes to find what you enjoy and what you are good at and then develop a portfolio of work based around a theme of your own choice, choosing a media that you are most confident in, culminating in a series of final pieces.
How will I be assessed?	60% Coursework and 40% Practical Exam.
What next?	Fine Art gives you all sorts of exciting career opportunities, including: Games Designer, Architect, Jewellery Designer, Art Technician, Set Designer, Art Valuer, Artist in Residence, Arts Administrator, Community Arts Worker, Art Therapist, Illustrator, Lecturer, Multimedia Artist, Mural Artist, Museum/gallery Curator, Painter, Printmaker, Sculptor and teacher.
Further Information	For further information please contact Mrs L Pollitt by email at l.pollitt@abbotbeyneschool.co.uk who will be happy to forward your email to the relevant department.

Geography A Level

Exam Board	EDEXCEL
Entry Criteria	Five Grade 4s or above, including Maths and English, and Grade 5+ in Geography.
Why choose this course?	As a subject which covers so many of the vital issues that affect the world of today, such as climate change, migration and natural hazards, there has arguably never been a better time to study Geography. With the mix of technical and social skills, Geography students are highly sought after and have some of the highest rates of employment. Studying Geography at Abbot Beyne Sixth Form is more than just theoretical studies from a classroom. We offer an extensive super-curricular enrichment programme to sit alongside your academic studies. We attend Staffordshire University undergraduate lectures delivered by leading academics in the field of geography and environmental sciences. Some highlights from the 25/26 lecture programme were Danny Dorling 'Nowhere to run, nowhere to hide?' and Take a breath – air pollution past, present and future by Dr Gary Fuller. We also take our geographers to visit the UK's most famous case study locations such as Liverpool Albert Docks, The Holderness Coast and The National Forest. Exciting developments currently see us in the planning phase to offer an international residential visit.
What will be studied?	Dynamic Landscapes and Physical Systems; Dynamic Places and Human Systems; Synoptic Decision Making; Non Examination Assessment (NEA) – an individual fieldwork investigation which must include data collected in the field.
How will I be assessed?	Written examination (80%) and NEA Fieldwork (20%).
What next?	Many Geographers go on to pursue careers in education, cartography, surveying, urban planning, environmental consultant, sustainability consultancy, politics, tourism, the armed forces and many more professions.
Further Information	For further information please contact Mrs L Pollitt by email at l.pollitt@abbotbeyneschool.co.uk who will be happy to forward your email to the relevant department.

History A Level

Exam Board	AQA
Entry Criteria	Five Grade 4s or above, including Maths and English, and Grade 5+ in History or English.
Why choose this course?	History is one of the most successful A Levels at Abbot Beyne. Through studying History, students learn to analyse complex information, evaluate evidence, construct persuasive arguments, and communicate clearly. These skills are essential in today's fast-changing world, where employers increasingly seek individuals who can think critically, solve problems, and make informed decisions.
What will be studied?	Tsarist and Communist Russia 1855-1964; the English Revolution 1625-1660; an independent historical investigation into the causes of the persecution of witches during the 16th and 17th Century across Europe.
How will I be assessed?	Written examination (80%) and NEA investigation (20%).
What next?	History develops highly transferable skills that employers value across a wide range of industries, making it an excellent choice for students who want to keep their options open. Students progress into a wide variety of careers, including law, journalism, politics, teaching, business, marketing, public relations, finance, management, the civil service, and international relations. In an age of artificial intelligence and instant information, the ability to assess sources, question assumptions, and reach balanced conclusions is more important than ever. A Level History equips students with these skills while providing an engaging and intellectually challenging course of study.
Further Information	For further information please contact Mrs L Pollitt by email at l.pollitt@abbotbeyneschool.co.uk who will be happy to forward your email to the relevant department.

Maths A Level

Exam Board	EDEXCEL
Entry Criteria	Five Grade 4s or above, including Maths and English, and Grade 6+ in Maths.
Why choose this course?	The main reason to choose this course is because you enjoy doing Maths. An A Level in Maths will give you the opportunity to learn and practise your skills. Whatever your individual reasons for choosing to study A Level Maths, it will always be an asset to your future and this course will be both challenging and rewarding.
What will be studied?	Pure Maths, including Algebra; Statistics and Mechanics.
How will I be assessed?	Written examination.
What next?	Studying Maths at A Level will widen the career opportunities available to you. It is a highly regarded A Level when applying for university courses and can lead to careers in the fields of accountancy, insurance, medicine, engineering and the sciences.
Further Information	For further information please contact Mrs L Pollitt by email at l.pollitt@abbotbeyneschool.co.uk who will be happy to forward your email to the relevant department.

BTEC National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care (AAQ)

Exam Board	EDEXCEL
Entry Criteria	Five Grade 4s or above, including Maths and English.
Why choose this course?	If you want to make a real difference in this world, Health and Social Care is a great start towards this aspiration and will help you to make a real change to service users and their families in difficult situations. By working in health care you help others improve their physical health, and by working in social care you help improve the sociological wellbeing of those in your community.
What will be studied?	The qualification has three mandatory units covering the following topics: • Human Lifespan and Development – PIES and factors • Human Biology and Health – Human body structure and systems, normal physiological functioning and the impact of common disorders • Health and Social Care Practice Students have a choice from four optional units covering the following topics: • Health, Social Policy and Wellbeing • Promoting Health Education • Safe Environments in Health and Social Care • Health Science
How will I be assessed?	Examination and internally marked assessments.
What next?	Further study at university, an apprenticeship or stepping into employment are all open to you. Students go on to study a wide range of higher education degree courses including Nursing, Midwifery, Teaching, Social work, Psychology, Counselling and Sociology.
Further Information	For further information please contact Mrs L Pollitt by email at l.pollitt@abbotbeyneschool.co.uk who will be happy to forward your email to the relevant department.

Photography A Level

Exam Board	OCR
Entry Criteria	Five Grade 4s or above, including Maths and English.
Why choose this course?	Photography is a great course if you have an artistic flair and want to expand your creative horizons through taking and editing photographs. It is a limitless course that allows you to develop professional working practices and techniques while exploring your own individuality through lens-based media.
What will be studied?	Depth of field, rule of thirds, shutter speeds, macro and ISO levels; how to use image manipulation programs to make the most of photographs and how to take images to a new level.
How will I be assessed?	60% Coursework and 40% Practical Exam.
What next?	Future careers include: Advertising, Commercial work, Editing, Fashion, Film, Food, Forensic, Industrial, Architectural, Portraiture and Wedding photography, Sports and Travel.
Further Information	For further information please contact Mrs L Pollitt by email at l.pollitt@abbotbeyneschool.co.uk who will be happy to forward your email to the relevant department.

Physics A Level

Exam Board	AQA
Specific Entry Criteria	Triple Science at Grade 6+ in Physics or Combined Science at Grade 66+ and a Grade 6+ or above in Maths.
Why choose this course?	Physics is an exciting and challenging subject that delves deeply into the understanding of the fundamental structure of the universe. Ideas in classical and quantum physics are developed in detail such as the investigation of subatomic particles, waves, mechanics, electricity, fields and nuclear physics.
What will be studied?	Particles and radiation; Waves and optics; Mechanics and materials; Electricity; Further mechanics and thermal physics; Fields; Nuclear physics; Astrophysics.
How will I be assessed?	Written examination and assessment of practical skills.
What next?	Previous students have used their Physics A Level to study in the fields of research, education, engineering, medicine and nuclear focused degrees.
Further Information	For further information please contact Mrs L Pollitt by email at l.pollitt@abbotbeyneschool.co.uk who will be happy to forward your email to the relevant department.

Psychology A Level

Exam Board	AQA
Entry Criteria	Maths 5+ and Grade 5+ in English Language. Two sciences at grade 5
Why choose this course?	Psychology is the scientific study of behaviour and the mind. You will have an exciting opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of why people think and behave as they do, learn how to study people using scientific methods, plan research, collect data and analyse it using appropriate statistical methods.
What will be studied?	Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Clinical Psychology and Mental Health, Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Schizophrenia, Forensic Psychology, Cognition and Development, Research Methods, Issues and Debates.
How will I be assessed?	Written examinations.
What next?	Psychology can be studied alongside any other subject and is useful in a variety of professions such as healthcare, social work, business, tourism, police work, the media and teaching.
Further Information	For further information please contact Mrs L Pollitt by email at l.pollitt@abbotbeyneschool.co.uk who will be happy to forward your email to the relevant department.

Sociology A Level

Exam Board	AQA
Entry Criteria	Five Grade 4s or above, including Maths and English, and Grade 5+ in at least one of History, English or RE.
Why choose this course?	Sociology explores how society influences the way we live, think, and interact with others. You do not need to have studied it before. The course investigates fascinating topics such as families, education, crime, social inequality, identity, and the media, helping you understand the world around you. Sociology is highly relevant to modern life, encouraging you to question assumptions, analyse evidence, and debate important social issues. You will develop valuable skills in critical thinking, research, communication, and evaluation that are highly valued by universities and employers. If you're curious about people and society, Sociology is for you.
What will be studied?	Education and Research Methods; Families and Households and the Mass Media; Crime and Deviance in Society.
How will I be assessed?	Written examination.
What next?	Employers value the research, analytical skills, teamwork and communication skills developed through studying Sociology. Many of our students continue their study of Sociology, following courses such as Sociology, Criminology, Social Work, Health and Social Care, Law, Politics, Journalism, and Business-related courses.
Further Information	For further information please contact Mrs L Pollitt by email at l.pollitt@abbotbeyneschool.co.uk who will be happy to forward your email to the relevant department.