



Abbey View School – Curriculum

The curriculum at Abbey View School is flexible in its implementation. This allows us to support students from different schools who are at different stages in the education and have differing needs. It also allows us to support students who attend Abbey View School as well as their mainstream school or a work experience placement.

Below is a list of the main subjects we support and a flavor of what those subjects entail.

English

KS3

Our key stage three course of study is designed to help students build confidence in their abilities in English whilst starting to slowly expose them to the assessment objectives for GCSE.

We begin the year with a non-fiction writing module which turns the classroom into a magazine publishing house. Students take part in all stages of production; writing copy, proof reading each other's work, designing the cover and the final desktop-publishing stage. This year, we created a teenage interest magazine which was distributed across the school and proved hugely enjoyable.

We also study a 19th Century novel, explore gothic horror, dive into Shakespeare, amongst other play-wrights, and end the year with an exciting poetry module.

Students use these topics as an opportunity to develop their own areas of learning which may range from spelling and grammar to spoken language skills to reading for meaning, amongst other things.

KS4

In years 10 and 11, students prepare for the AQA English Language GCSE as well as Edexcel Functional Skills. Studying for the GCSE gives students the opportunity to dip in and out of a range of high-quality texts, including literature that spans the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Students are encouraged to analyse the way writers create meaning using the appropriate terminology, whilst honing their own analytical skills. They then have the opportunity to apply these techniques to their writing in order to develop their own individual style.

High expectations and focus are applied to spelling, punctuation and grammar to allow students to access those extra marks that are allocated to this area for GCSE.

Students are always given the chance, and actively encouraged, to learn how to edit and correct their own work in order for them to become independent learners.

Vibrant discussions take place all year round in the English classroom to ensure students can feel comfortable and well prepared for the spoken language elements of their courses of study.

Across both key stages, students are assessed regularly and are always given productive feedback that allows them to understand, and be proactive in making, the next steps for progression. Lessons are differentiated to allow students to make the progress that is right for them on an individual level.

Mathematics

Math's is a compulsory subject at Abbey View that all students study. If it is a short term placement, tasks may be sent from the student's school to be completed so as to ensure that the student continues to follow their particular programme of study. However most of the students will follow our own programme of study which has GCSE Math's as their target.

Throughout Key Stage 3 and 4 we try to build on skills and allow the students to reach their potential at their own pace. Because our class sizes are small we are able to support both student's strengths and weaknesses. There is an opportunity for misunderstandings of key Maths skills or gaps in learning, to be corrected thereby allowing confidence to grow. We aim for our students to be able to succeed in maths classes, ultimately in a mainstream setting, or be able to acquire qualifications in Maths at Abbey View that will lead to a future career of their choice.

Here at Abbey View we run two different Mathematics courses.

- 1. GCSE Mathematics (Edexcel):** This consists of studying **Number, Algebra, Geometry, Measure, Ratio, Proportion, Rates of Change, Statistics and Probability**. These areas make up the full syllabus that is studied throughout Key Stage 3 and 4. At the end of Year 11, 3 x 1.5 hour exams are taken. 2 x calculator papers and 1 x non calculator paper. The scores from the three exams are put together to give an overall grade. Foundation level papers cover levels up to Grade 5 and the Higher level papers from Grade 4 - 9.
- 2. Functional Skills:** These exams are taken separately to the GCSE exams and are studied for within the academic year. They can be taken at different levels to suit the pupil, usually from Entry Level 1 to Level 1 and up to Level 2. Functional Skills is based around using everyday practical maths where the pupil decides on the appropriate method themselves. It also encourages good communication skills.

Our objective is to build confidence and ability in our students through a

variety of methods such as: games (computer/board games), problem solving group work, mental arithmetic competition using stopwatches for a personal challenge, structured tasks learning, practicing and revising key skills as well as going over past examination papers.

Science

At Abbey View School Science is delivered in a specialist teaching room with the usual equipment and resources you would expect in a modern secondary school laboratory. There are opportunities for students to learn outside the classroom too with a green house and raised beds on the school grounds and the Severn Ham, a Sight of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), on the door step.

Key Stage Three:

Yr 7, 8, & 9 learn together and follow a curriculum covering chemistry, physics and biology. The emphasis for these students is re-engagement and leaning is thematic with plenty of opportunities for practical work. Students gain understanding of food production and life processes by growing fruits and vegetable in the school green house and raised beds that then make their way into the school kitchen.

Key Stage Four:

GCSE Science is offered to all Yr 10 and 11 students. The current Yr 11 are all following OCR 21 Century Core Science Syllabus, some are also completing the Additional Science syllabus too. The demise of single award GCSE has meant our current Yr10 students are being offered a double award GCSE 1-9 for assessment in June 2018.

ICT

KS3

In KS3 we work on word processing, researching and video editing to take part in the BBC News Report Project. This results in a news bulletin being produced that is available on the school website and accessible from the BBC News website.

We also learn about coding through the website CodeMonkey.com. Along with learning about safe internet use and how to keep themselves safe and secure when using social media.

Presentation software is also used to allow the children to display information they have researched.

KS4

In KS4 we work towards obtaining the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL). The ECDL is an internationally recognised qualification that is the equivalent UCAS points as 1 GCSE. The ECDL involves four different areas of study; Word Processing software, Spreadsheet Software, Presentation Software and Improving productivity using IT. It is a highly-valued qualification as it teaches competency the IT used in many work places.

Life Skills

Lifeskills lessons aim to cover the ASDAN curriculum and Gloucestershire's PSHE & Safeguarding curriculum.

ASDAN is a curriculum development organisation and awarding body, offering programmes and qualifications that explicitly grow skills for learning, skills for employment and skills for life.

Here at Abbey View we follow the Bronze award in KS3 the COPE (Certificate of Personal Effectiveness) in KS4 and Expressive Arts across both KS3 & KS4.

The qualification recognises personal achievements, helps pupils to manage their own learning, broaden their experiences, develop employability skills, help to build a record of achievement and add to pupils qualifications.

Topics covered are: Personal safety including Internet safety. The effects of alcohol and drug use. Understanding the dynamics of healthy relationships including physical relationships covering safe sex - consent, contraception and sexually transmitted infections. Mental and emotional health including exploring ways to manage emotions and stress. Independent living, exploring the costs of moving out, bills to pay etc, and money management - debit v credit, understanding bank statements etc.

We work with the Gloucestershire Road Safety team to raise awareness of road safety for both passengers and young drivers. The pupils take part in various workshops with the team. We also aim to ensure that all year 11 pupils have their post 16 plans in place by researching different college courses and apprenticeships, visiting colleges, writing C.Vs and preparing for and taking part in mock interviews

Art

During Key Stage3 and 4 all students follow a mixed media course experimenting with drawing/paint techniques, spraying through stencils, collage /texture experiments, 2 Dimensional construction work using a hot glue gun and mod –roc, lino cutting and pastel work.

Starting points used are pop art, portraits abstract art, cubism. natural and manmade objects. Within these areas, we will investigate the use of lines, tone, texture, colour, shape and form.

Photography/Expressive Arts

KS4 Photography

GCSE AQA Photography

The students will work towards gaining their photography GCSE. They are encouraged to experiment with different digital and physical processes of image making, giving them the opportunity to work from their own ideas and build on their strengths and skills.

We will work mainly with digital SLR cameras but will experiment with film, pin hole and Polaroid images. The students should gain knowledge in different techniques such as how to use shutter speed, when to use a flash, varying the viewpoint and composition of an image.

They will look at artists such as Bill Brandt, Olivia Parker and Andreas Gursky.

KS4 Expressive Arts

The aims of the expressive arts short course are to help develop and demonstrate a range of skills through arts activities and studies.

The expressive arts short course can also recognise and reward your personal achievements, help you manage your own learning and broaden your experiences.

For every 10 hours of work completed you will gain one credit.

To achieve the short course you will need to complete 60 hours of working.

We use a wide range of art media including Photography, Graphics, Sculpture and Book Binding.

KS3 Expressive Arts/Photography

The KS3 students work on small assignments looking at basic photography skills, gaining knowledge and confidence to go towards the photography GCSE. They are given the opportunity to express their individual ideas and personal skills.

Humanities

In Humanities we seek to broaden students' knowledge of the world and how it works, particularly with regards to the study of human culture. Students are encouraged to question the preconceptions of others and themselves, to think critically about things they see on television and in the news and to be aware of prejudice in its many forms. Discussion skills are very important in this subject and every student is given the opportunity to give an informed personal opinion, whilst remaining open-minded when listening to the views of others.

Drama

Through the medium of drama we hope to develop students' confidence, creativity and communication skills. All students take part in drama games and speaking activities. They are encouraged to work together co-operatively, take turns and express themselves clearly. For those students with a flair for and interest in the subject, there is the option to develop script writing, improvisation and acting skills, as well as creative design options such as set and costume design.

If you require any further information about the curriculum at Abbey View School, please contact the principal Daniel Hartley on 01664 292829