



Sixth Form

Be the Best You Can Be



From the Headteacher



The Abbey School offers a unique Sixth Form experience with small class sizes, excellent teaching and wonderful opportunities for enrichment.

We have spent many years developing a programme of study that allows students to gain skills in independent learning whilst providing the structure and support necessary for you to achieve your potential.

Our standards are high and achieving a place in our Sixth Form has prestige in itself. We want to work with students who are prepared to work hard, are ambitious, but willing also to understand the importance of their wider personal development. The aim is that by the time you complete year 13 you will have achieved a university place, apprenticeship, or other progression, which ensures that you are the best you can be.

Dr R Speller
Headteacher

Assistant Headteacher & Director of 6th Form

Dear Student,

Whether you are currently studying at The Abbey School or are at another school or college, making the right decision about where you should undertake the next stage will play a key part in determining your future success. Please read this prospectus carefully so that you are fully informed to help you make the right decision.

The Abbey School is a safe, caring, supportive and challenging school in which to work and study. It is also a school which is constantly striving to improve all aspects of its practice and, frequently, we ask students for their opinions to help shape our future plans. We value academic accomplishment and personal achievement in equal measure.

The Abbey Sixth Form is relatively small compared to some, this serves to help ensure students are known, noticed, cared for and supported in their studies by their teachers. Small class sizes make the student experience at The Abbey positive and staff relationships with students are excellent and a real strength. This also helps prepare young people for the world of work and life in general. In addition, our vision and status enable us to play a key part at the cutting edge of exciting developments and projects, from which our students are able to benefit directly.

We value enormously the positive contribution Sixth Formers make to the ethos of our school and the influence they have over our younger students. Sixth Formers actively get involved with other year groups. We have invested in a bespoke study area within the Sixth Form block, which enables students to engage in directed study during their study periods or even when they are 'free'.

Finally, we wish you every success as you complete your Key Stage 4 studies over the next few months – remember, hard work now will be rewarded in the summer! If you feel that you want to be part of our Sixth Form and benefit from what we have to offer, then we would be delighted to help support you through the next exciting phase of your learning.

Mr Phil Stucken
Assistant Headteacher

Mrs Natalie Crouch
Director of 6th Form



Life in the Sixth Form

How many subjects should I take?

Students will be given individual advice on course choices during the meeting with the Director of Sixth Form. They will be encouraged to choose subjects suited to them. This is based on their past achievement at GCSE and future career goals. The expected standard here is 3 subjects.

To undertake Sixth Form at The Abbey, you must have 9-4 grades in at least 5 subjects including Mathematics and English. This will then allow you to choose 3 A level courses, or BTEC, or a mixture of both.

What subjects should I choose?

Your choice of Post-16 A level subjects is an important decision.

You should choose:

- Subjects which you are good at (ask your teachers honest questions)
- Subjects which will be suitable (or necessary) for certain careers
- Subjects which you enjoy
- A mixture of Level 3 courses. This is increasingly popular if you have not yet decided what career you would like to follow (traditional A level, vocational, applied general).

How demanding are A levels?

When you begin year 12 it is likely that you will find the jump from GCSE to A level quite difficult.

This is because:

- You will be expected to spend a far greater amount of time studying your subjects, both in and out of the classroom. We expect at least 20 hours of private study a week (9 a fortnight are timetabled to support you).
- Outside of lesson time, you will be expected to do work that has not been set by your teacher, for example, reading books related to your subject, watching out for information in newspapers etc. If you are not prepared to do this you may find yourself falling behind.
- You are likely to come into contact with language, technical terms and ideas which are completely new to you, even if you studied the subject at GCSE level. Don't be put off by this, everyone in your A level group will be in this situation.
- There will be more emphasis on discussion in classes.
- You will have to plan your work with greater care so that you can complete your set work in the time you have available outside classes.

Why will The Abbey School Sixth Form suit me?

At The Abbey we aim to provide an environment within which you can develop your independent study skills, and at the same time, gain support and guidance from a network of staff – staff that you may already know and trust if you're already here for KS4.

Students are supported in their studies by a team of tutors. Every student is allocated to a tutor group. Your tutor will offer you advice and guidance. He/she will be concerned with supporting you in academic issues and also for your general welfare.

There is a morning briefing Monday – Thursday in the canteen. This is a very effective way of sharing information with students and helps keep students punctual!





Links with the younger students

The Sixth Form plays a valuable role in the wider school community. The involvement of Sixth Formers with younger year groups is an important part of daily school life. Sixth Formers take a lead in Academic mentoring, the School Council buddy scheme, reading and peer mentoring.

Study Period

There are 27 teaching periods per two weeks. Each A level is allocated 9 periods per fortnight. You will receive vocational guidance throughout the year and be called for interviews – either on an individual basis or as a whole year group. In addition, you will get the opportunity to listen to visiting speakers from all fields and walks of life to talk to you, to offer their advice and experience, encouraging you to think beyond the confines of the classroom.

A unique strength of The Abbey Sixth Form are the 'core' learning lessons, usually 8 per fortnight, which aim to be the 'Rolls Royce' of personal development programmes, featuring modules on Careers, Finance, Personal and Health Education, including a driving awareness course.

It is important to be organised in your use of time. Non-contact is not free time. In fact, this is the most important time on your timetable when you can study.

You will be expected to work in the study area in the Sixth Form study centre which is fully equipped with printers and other resources and supervised by teachers.

There is a strong link between those students who use their study time effectively and those who are able to gain the best results.

At The Abbey we hope to make the transition from GCSE as smooth as possible. There is no limit to what an individual student can achieve and we aim to provide an environment within which you can develop your independent study skills, and at the same time, gain all the support and guidance necessary to reach your goals. In this way, The Abbey aims to provide a Sixth Form that combines the best features of a school and college.



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Our 6th Form Facilities

The Abbey School 6th form has undergone refurbishment in the past couple of years. The 6th form centre is independent to the main school building, but within the grounds, and provides an area where students have an opportunity to relax in the common room during free periods or at lunchtime, study in their own dedicated computer suite or enjoy the nice weather in the outside area. The common room has a kitchen attached and students have access to games and other activities at lunchtimes.

As part of the 6th form, there are many opportunities for our students to build upon their life skills whether as part of the leadership team, a subject ambassador, a reading buddy or a mentor to students in the lower school. These opportunities help to set you apart from possible competition for future University applications, Apprenticeships or job applications.

Being a part of the whole community is important to us and our students are a big part of this ethos as well. They are committed to supporting their peers and working with students lower down the school, they welcome visitors to the school and are often involved in touring them around the school. They really are an asset to us, and we are proud of the 6th form community we are building.

Wider School & Extra-Curricular Activities

Sports

There are opportunities for you to join in with special activities dedicated to the Sixth Form or the general activities of the school. The sports facilities can be used for recreation – badminton, tennis and football, along with the gym (where a staff member is present).





Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

We offer students in Year 12 the opportunity to commence their Gold Award, and it doesn't matter if they haven't completed it before. The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award is for young people 16+ who can gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, enhancing CVs for university and job applications.

You'll spend 12 months on your Volunteering section. For Physical and Skills, you must spend 12 months on one and six months on the other – you decide which way round you do it. Your expedition will be for four days and three nights (plus an acclimatisation day) and should take place in 'wild country'.

You'll also do a Residential section – staying away from home for five days and four nights doing a shared activity with people you don't know. It's great fun and a real chance to do something different! If you've jumped straight into your Gold DofE programme, you'll need to do a further six months either volunteering or whichever one of your physical or skills activities you spent the most time on. For Gold, you'll need to do your programme for at least 12 months if you've achieved your Silver Award, or 18 months if you've started at Gold level without doing your Silver – even if you've done Bronze.

We feel that the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award is an excellent opportunity for students to complete alongside their studies and will provide students with wider personal development opportunities which will support them both in their studies and in later life in further education and employment.



Dover Athletic Football Acade



The Sixth Form Dover Athletic Football Academy train several times a week on our 3G artificial turf pitch. The football academy is one of the most successful academies in the country and attracts students from across Kent and even beyond.

Dover Athletic Football Academy are a licensed Football Academy and play in the National Youth League, the highest league outside professional status. The Academy players train every day like professionals, improving their knowledge of the game in order to take them to the next level. The Academy players also study a range of A Level and BTEC courses at The Abbey School sixth form, continuing with their education to gain the necessary qualifications to take them further in their chosen career.

- Academy players study 3 A level/BTEC Qualifications across a range of courses alongside their football commitments
- The Football Academy represents Dover Athletic FC in the National Youth League, the highest league outside of professional status
- Games programme on Wednesday afternoons in The National Youth League, National Youth Alliance and The Kent Schools Academies League
- Coaching from UEFA 'A' licensed coaches with professional experience
- Training daily, including full gym access and programmes
- Excellent academic results
- Excellent progression routes

Dance & Drama

Every year impressive shows are put on which demonstrate the professionalism and high standard of performance of our Sixth Form Dance and Drama students.

Extra-Curricular Dance

Here at The Abbey School a wide range of enrichment activities are offered to students who take A Level Dance. Creating a community within Dance is something we are hugely passionate about establishing both in school and in the wider community; ensuring students have as many opportunities as possible to both enrich their learning but also their personal development.

Students will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of enrichment activities at The Abbey School:

Live Theatre Performances

Students can attend live theatre performances both in the West End, London and at The Marlowe Theatre, in Canterbury. Shows in previous years have included Wicked, Matilda, Cinderella and The Nutcracker, and we attend at least two professional, live performances each year.

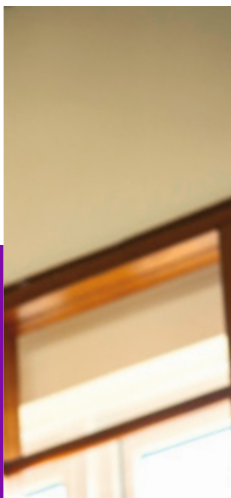
Workshops

We are fortunate to have external professional companies from the dance industry, such as Vardimon Dance, Lila Dance, Mel Simpson, and the CAT scheme, visit us in school to deliver workshops to A Level Dance students, and is also a vital part of students' practical development. This is something we are keen to continue as networking and working with professionals play a key part in preparing pupils for the industry.

Events

Students will have the chance to perform, teach and be a part of a variety of events if attending The Abbey School Sixth Form. Events include: delivering workshops to primary school pupils; performing at Open Evenings; Dance-a-thon fundraisers; and being part of the school's promotional footage and community/international projects. An annual Dance Showcase is held every year at CCCU to enable students to perform their work to a live audience.





Dance Leaders

In addition to this, "Dance Leaders" is run as a leadership initiative for students. All sixth form Dance students participate in this initiative, however, they are joined by students from lower years in the school. The Dance Ambassador heads up the group and runs both the meetings and events organised. Dance Leaders meet at least twice a term to discuss and organise events and suchlike for the academic year ahead. This group acts as a student voice but also as a support to the department. Activities include organising and running fundraisers, administrative tasks and assisting younger pupils in their lessons. Sixth form students will also be expected to support in delivering Taster sessions to students choosing their options for GCSE and A Level Dance. This initiative has been an excellent opportunity for sixth form students to integrate with pupils lower down the school and create a culture and community of togetherness through Dance.



Trips

Students taking A Level Dance will have the opportunity to go on a residential when at The Abbey School. A trip to Disneyland Paris runs every two years, so students will have the opportunity to attend. Discussions are also in place for an international trip further afield, so watch this space!

Extra curricular activities in Drama

- Get involved with the school production - acting, directing, designing or even helping to stage manage
- Help organise events for KS3 students, such as House Drama and Drama Club
- Use your expertise to lead drama workshops in KS3/KS4 lessons
- Watch live theatre with trips to London's West End!



THE ABBEY SCHOOL

A BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE ACADEMY



Contact us

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Find us

From London

Approach on the M2 to junction 6. Turn left to Faversham and left again at the T-junction. The Abbey School is the next turning on the left-hand side.

From Canterbury

The school is 2 miles from junction 7, or take the M2 to junction 6 and proceed as above.

By Train

The school is a 10-minute walk from the train station.