



The Abbey School

Curriculum Policy

1. Introduction and Purpose

At The Abbey School we provide a broad, balanced, relevant, differentiated and inclusive curriculum for all students. Although the school is an academy, at Key Stage 3 (Lower School) and Key Stage 4 (Upper School) the curriculum broadly aligns with the National Curriculum programmes of study and other statutory requirements.

Our curriculum is designed to:

- Ensure progression and continuity from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 5.
- Provide students with opportunities to achieve qualifications that meet or exceed national expectations.
- Support personal development alongside academic achievement – this is achieved through a rich tutor led curriculum offer including: reading for pleasure, assemblies, PSHE/RSE etc.
- Offer personalised pathways that reflect students needs, aspirations, and abilities.

2. Curriculum Structure

The school operates a 48-period, two-week timetable alternating between Week A and Week B.

- **Lessons per day:** 5 (generally 3 hours in the morning and 2 hours in the afternoon), except Friday when there are 4 lessons.
- **Split Lunch:** the school proudly operates a family lunch which is an opportunity for students to sit and eat their lunch in the canteen, rather than operating a 'grab and go' service. This means we have a period labelled 3a and 3b – half the school will be on lunch break in 3a (Years 8, 9 and 10) and in 3b the other half of the school (Years 7, 11 and Sixth Form).
- **Tutor time:** 40 minutes daily (Mon–Thu), with a shortened session on Friday. Tutor time follows a structured personal development programme, including reading, assemblies and character education.
- **Targeted tuition:** Year 11 students receive additional afternoon sessions (Mon–Thu) to support progress.

3. Lower School (Years 7–8)

The Lower School provides a two-year curriculum, enabling students to begin GCSE study in Year 9. This structure allows for greater pace and challenge in Years 7 and 8, while maximising time spent on GCSE subjects.

Lessons are 1 hour long and the numbers indicated are for each subject i.e. English have 8 hours a fortnight allocated, along with Mathematics.

Appendix 1a: KS3 Curriculum Diagram

Abbey School Yr 7-8 Curriculum Model for 2025/6

All subjects in this block are delivered in English sets																Creative Arts & Technology Sets							
Year 7		En	Gg	Ht	Fr	Sp	Re	Ma	Sc	Dm	Mu	Ar	Hf	Te	Cs	Pe	Tp	Tot					
t Band (4 forms)	T1, T2, T3	8	3	3	5		2	8	6	2	1	2	2	1	1		4	10	58				
	T4	8	3	3	5		2	8	6	2	1	2	2	1	1	4		10					
j Band (3 forms)	J1.J2.J3	8	3	3		5	2	8	6	2	1	2	2	1	1		4	10	58				
	J4	8	3	3		5	2	8	6	2	1	2	2	1	1		4	10	58				
Total Lessons per Fortnight		56	21	21	20	15	14	56	42	18	9	18	18	9	9	28		70					

All subjects in this block are delivered in English sets																Creative Arts & Technology Sets							
Year 8		En	Gg	Ht	Fr	Sp	Re	Ma	Sc	Pa	Mu	Ar	Hf	Te	Pe	Tp	Tot						
t Band (4 forms)	T1, T2, T3	8	3	3	5		2	8	6	2	1	2	2	2	4		10	58					
	T4	8	3	3		5	2	8	6	2	1	2	2	2	4		10						
j Band (4 forms)	J1.J2.J3	8	3	3		5	2	8	6	2	1	2	2	2	4		10	58					
	J4	8	3	3		5	2	8	6	2	1	2	2	2	4		10	58					
Total Lessons per Fortnight		64	24	24	15	25	16	64	48	18	9	18	18	18	32		80						

Organisation

- Students are allocated to classes based on Key Stage 2 data (SATs). Mid-year entrants are placed using CATs or in-school assessments.
- Two bands (T and J) exist in each year group, with mixed-ability intakes and setting within bands.
- Students study either French or Spanish, where parents/carers have a preference this can be shared in the transition phase between Year 6 and 7. T Band students study French and J Band students study Spanish.
- In the Creative Arts block (Yellow): Year 7 students study computing alongside Drama, Music, Art, Food Technology and Design Technology. Year 8 students study: Drama, Music, Art, Food Technology and Design Technology.

4. Upper School (Years 9–11)

All students study GCSE English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science (Combined or Triple), and Religious Education.

In addition:

- All students are expected to take **History or Geography**.
- Students select up to three additional options from a range of academic and vocational qualifications.

Pathways

Students are guided onto pathways that reflect their attainment and aspirations:

Pathway 1 – Yellow

- Typically higher prior attainment (KS2 SATs 106+ global score)
- Expected to study two of: French, Spanish, History, Geography. Please note students may choose both languages or both humanities if they wish, this will depend on preference of the applicant.
- Plus two additional academic or vocational options.

Pathway 2 – Green

- Typically aiming for Level 5 in two or three subjects.
- Expected to study two of: History, Geography (with MFL optional).
- Plus 2–3 additional guided choices.

Pathway 3 – Blue

- Designed for a small cohort (15–20 students) with additional needs.
- Includes enterprise-based qualifications (ICT, Finance) and tailored support.
- Allocated through SENCo in consultation with families.

Appendix 1b: KS4 Curriculum Diagram

Please note that in the diagram, lesson allocations are outlined for each subject i.e. English has 8 lessons. In the blocks labelled A-D these are option blocks and the number of lessons allocated are next to the block titles i.e. Block A has 5 lessons. In each block there are subjects listed with numbers in brackets, these numbers are the number of students in each class.

Options in blocks A-D are structured to secure an EBacc pathway for Yellow pathway students and the opportunity to support Green pathway students, if they so choose to take both a humanity and a language. We wish to enable curriculum breadth for our students, being the best they can be.

Abbey School Year 9 Curriculum Model for 2025/6

Option Block GCSE
Option Block Voc Course
Non counting Qual

Year 9		English sets		Mathematics Sets		PE	Sc	Block A (5)	Block B (5)	Block C (4)	Block D (4)	Tp	Tot
t Band (4 forms)	T1	8	3	8	3	8	8	Fr (28)	Ht (29)	Bs (31)	Hf (22)	10	58
	T2	8	3	8	3	8	8	Sp (29)	Gg (30)	Me (28)	Pho (26)	10	58
	T3	8	3	8	3	8	8	Ht (29)	Fr (30)	Ar (30)	Bs (29)	10	58
	T4	8	3	8	3	8	8	Ht (29)	Sp (31)	Mu (22)	Hs (30)	10	58
j Band (3 forms)	J1 (Super Set)	7	3	7	3	10	8	Ht (28)	Me (31)	Da (26)	Dm (22)	10	58
	J2	8	3	8	3	8	8	Gg (31)	Ss (26)	Hf (23)	If (29)	10	58
	J3	8	3	8	3	8	8	Gg (33)	If (31)	Pho (29)	Ss (26)	10	58
	J4	8	3	8	3	8	8	Enterprise/finance	Enterprise	Ss (18)	Mt (23)	10	58
Total Lessons per Fortnight		63	24	63	24	66	40	40	32	32	70		

Abbey School Year 10 & 11 Curriculum Model for 2025/6

Year 10		English sets		Mathematics Sets		PE	Sc	Block A (5)	Block B (5)	Block C (4)	Block D (4)	Tp	Tot
t Band (3 forms)	T1	8	3	8	3	8	8	Fr (28)	Ht (28)	Cd (22)	Hf (22)	10	58
	T2	8	3	8	3	8	8	Sp (28)	Ht (17)	Me (27)	Pho (23)	10	58
	T3	8	3	8	3	8	8	Ht (28)	Fr (26)	Ar (31)	Bs (31)	10	58
j Band (4 forms)	J1 (Super Set)	7	3	7	3	10	8	Ht (19)	Me (30)	Da (23)	Dm (18)	10	58
	J2	8	3	8	3	8	8	Gg (24)	Gg (19)	If (27)	If (31)	10	58
	J3	8	3	8	3	8	8	Gg (23)	Ss (25)	Pho (17)	Ss (18)	10	58
	J4	8	3	8	3	8	8	Enterprise/Finance (14)	Enterprise (14)	Hf (16)	Ss (17)	10	58
Total Lessons per Fortnight		55	21	55	21	58	40	40	32	32	70		

Year 11		English sets		Mathematics Sets		PE	Sc	Block A (5)	Block B (5)	Block C (4)	Block D (4)	Tp	Tot
t Band (4 forms)	T1	8	3	8	3	8	8	Fr (27)	Ht (29)	Cd (30) & HS (13)	Hf (28)	10	58
	T2	8	3	8	3	8	8	Sp (31)	Ht (22)	Me (18)	Pho (21)	10	58
	T3	8	3	8	3	8	8	Ht (28)	Fr (27)	Ar (24)	Bs (29)	10	58
	T4	8	3	8	3	8	8	Ht (23)	Sp (28)	Pho (14)	Hs (28)	10	58
j Band (4 forms)	J1 (Super Set)	7	3	7	3	10	8	Ht (29)	Me (25)	Da (25)	Dm (25)	10	58
	J2	8	3	8	3	8	8	Gg (29)	Bs (25)	If X2 (1,2,3,2-13)	If (27)	10	58
	J3	8	3	8	3	8	8	Gg (27)	Bs (30)	Bs (24)	Ss (27)	10	58
	J4	8	3	8	3	8	8	Enterprise/Finance (15)	Enterprise (15)	Ss (15)	Hf (18)	Ss (27)	10
Total Lessons per Fortnight		63	24	63	24	66	40	45	44	36	80		

Super Sets

In Years 9–11, designated “super sets” provide high prior attaining students with a tailored route into the separate sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics). These students have reduced English/Maths curriculum time (7 periods instead of 8) to accommodate 10 periods of science.

Extended School Day (Year 11)

Students in Year 11 will remain in school for ‘Period 6’ which runs from 3:30-4:30 Monday to Wednesday. These sessions are compulsory for all Year 11 students and are dedicated to core subject delivery: Monday Science, Tuesday English Language and Wednesday Maths. These sessions are extended learning sessions and are run as lessons to further support success for our students in the Year 11 GCSE exam season.

Thursdays have an extended ‘Period 6’ offer which is based on the option blocks and students are able to attend sessions in a wide variety of subjects that they may be studying from Art to Spanish. There is something for everyone and again these provide valuable extended learning time in the students final lead up to exams.

There is no ‘Period 6’ on a Friday.

5. Sixth Form (Years 12–13)

Post-16 provision focuses on Level 3 courses (A Levels and BTECs). Students typically study 3–4 subjects in Year 12 depending on prior attainment.

Entry Requirements

Entry to the Sixth Form is based on a range of entry criterion, some of which are subject specific. Please refer to Kent Choices/Sixth Form prospectus for further information on specific courses.

Generally we are looking for students to achieve:

- Minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 9–4 (A*–C), or equivalent.
- Subject-specific entry requirements (e.g., Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics for A Level Mathematics).
- BTEC Level 3 courses require at least a Merit at Level 2.
- Positive reference confirming suitability.

Appendix 1c: Sixth Form Curriculum Diagram

Students generally take 3 subjects across the 5 blocks and complement this with Core Learning (which is a personal development programme) and directed study. Students in the Football/Golf Academy will take 3 subjects and take Core Learning. Each subject is allocated on average, 9 hours a fortnight in teacher lead learning. Students are expected to undertake additional independent study to further extend their learning. Numbers in brackets in the diagram, indicate class sizes.

Abbey School Sixth Form Curriculum Model for 2025/6

Year 12		Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D	Conjoined Block E		TP
One Band (3 forms)	Class 1	Ht (21)	9 Ss (19)	9 Ss (25)	9 Ms (9)	7 Fb (35)	12	10
	Class 2	Gg (11)	9 Fitness (4)	9 Bs (13)	9 Ss (26)	9 Go (12)	8	10
	Class 3	Ss (19)	9 Cr (16)	9 Bs (10)	9 Po (6)	7 Hs 12/13 (4+5)	9	10
	Class 4	En (Retake)	6 It (8)	7 Bio (12)	9 Cr (14)	9 Re 12/13 (3+3)	9	
	Class 5		Ma (7)	7	Psy (16)	9		
	Class 6				Maths (Retake)	6		
	Class 7	Cl	8 Cl	4 Cl	4 Cl	4 Cl	4 Cl	4
	Class 8	Ds	8 Ds	8 Ds	8 Ds	8 Ds	8 Ds	8
Total Lessons per Fortnight*		49	53	48	59	50		30

Year 13		Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D	Conjoined Block E		TP
One Band (2 forms)	Class 1	Ht (8)	9 Ss (14)	9 Bs/Btec (10)	9 Psy (12)	9 Fb	NA	10
	Class 2	Gg (12)	9 Cr (7)	9 Ss (17)	9 Ss (12)	9 Hs 12/13 (8)	NA	10
	Class 3	Cd (4)	7 El (8)	9 Bs A Level (7)	9 Pol (7)	9 Re 12/13 (4)	NA	
	Class 4		Ss (10)	9	Cr (15)	9		
	Class 5	EPQ	2 EPQ	2 EPQ	2 EPQ	2 EPQ	2 EPQ	2
Total Lessons per Fortnight*		27	38	29	38	2		20

Key (6th Form subject blocking)

	A Level courses
	Level 3 vocational
	Level 2 courses
	Football Academy Training
	Private Study
	PSE/ Career related learning

Football Academy

The Abbey School partners with Dover Athletic FC to offer an elite Football Academy. Students train full-time with professional coaches while studying for Level 3 qualifications from the blocks shown in the diagram, balancing academic rigour and sporting excellence.

Please contact: Mr M Sandmann by emailing msandmann@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk for further information.

Golf Academy

The Abbey School partners with Faversham Golf Club to offer a Golf Academy. Students train with resident golf pros and have access to Faversham Golf Club for practice, while studying for Level 3 qualifications from the blocks shown in the diagram, balancing academic rigour and sporting excellence.

Please contact: Mr J Long by emailing jlong@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk for further information.

6. Monitoring and Review

- Implementation of the curriculum is monitored through whole-school and departmental self-review.
- Outcomes inform school improvement planning and staff appraisal.
- The policy is reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team and Governors.

7. Complaints

Complaints regarding the curriculum should be addressed in writing to the Headteacher.

- Acknowledgement will be sent within three working days.
- A full response will be made within ten working days where practical.
- If unresolved, complaints can be escalated to the Chair of Governors, in line with the school's Complaints Policy.