

The background features a faint, light grey crest of a lion's head wearing a crown. On the left side, there is a vertical column of grey hexagons. Interspersed among these hexagons are several 3D cubes in various colors: green, yellow, blue, orange, pink, and purple. The text 'Year 10' is written in a large, purple, cursive font across the middle of the page.

# Year 10

Options booklet

Your choices for starting  
GCSEs in 2025

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Key Date:

**24th January**

Options form to be completed online.



Dear Student,

Welcome to your options process that will help you to transition successfully from Year 9 and Key Stage 3 to the exciting world of Key Stage 4 study in Years 10 & 11.

Choosing your options represents the start of your exam journey and begins with making some important decisions. This booklet contains lots of information to help you make good choices. You can also find information on our school website.

When you are choosing your options, it is important that you make decisions for the right reasons. You should pick subjects that interest you, subjects that you think link to areas you might want to work in and subjects that balance exams and practical learning in a way that is right for you. Choosing subjects because your friends are choosing them or because you have heard they are easy isn't a good idea, firstly because you won't necessarily be in the same groups as your friends and secondly because all KS4 courses are challenging; there are no easy options! Talking to your family, your teachers and doing some research will all help ensure you make good choices and ensure you are ultimately successful in KS4.

You also have opportunities to study GCSEs in subjects you haven't studied before. Your teachers will show you these options in your lessons so you understand what they involve and how they are assessed.

We want all our students to do well and enjoy their GCSEs at Ashby School; being happy with your options is the first part of this journey. Our staff have lots of experience in supporting students to achieve great results. However, it will be up to you to embrace being 'Empowered to Learn' through hard work and commitment and to firmly believe 'Anything is Possible'. If you can do that, the world is your oyster!

Dr Mellor  
Headteacher

# The Curriculum

At Ashby School, we offer a curriculum that best meets students' individual needs, while meeting national recommendations and guidelines. We are in a fortunate position to be able to offer students 4 option choices from a wide range of subjects which means students can keep a breadth of study in their KS4 curriculum.

## Our Ashby Core Curriculum

All students study the following compulsory subjects in Key Stage 4

- English (language and literature to complete 2 GCSEs)
- Maths
- Triple Science (Where it is in the student's best interest, we may move them to Double Science later in Key Stage 4)
- A Humanities subject—Geography, History or Religious Education
- Core PE (Not examined)
- Personal and Social Development (Not examined)

## Our Option Curricula

To best support our students beyond our core curriculum, we have a range of routes through Key Stage 4 and students and parents/carers will receive communication about the route they are placed upon as part of the options process.

## Our 'Anything is Possible' Curriculum

Students who have entered our school with above expected attainment from Key Stage 2 and have continued to demonstrate good progress in Key Stage 3 will follow our Anything is Possible curriculum. This follows an 'English Baccalaureate' or EBacc route which is advantageous for students who are wanting to maintain the option of progressing to Higher Education, particularly to the top universities.

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right. It is a combination of English, maths, science, a language, and a humanities subject to create a broad and balanced curriculum. Students will therefore be required to select two further options to study alongside a language & a humanity. This means there is still plenty of opportunity to explore creative and practical options within our Anything is Possible curriculum as well as the opportunity to do two humanities or languages courses if students wish.



# The Curriculum

## Our Empowered Curriculum

Students who have KS2 outcomes broadly in line with national expectations follow our Empowered Curriculum. Students will be able to follow the options as per the 'Anything is Possible' curriculum where this is recommended but where a language option may not be suitable, students will be able to choose from a selection of other subjects as well as humanities subject and two further options.

## Our Thrive Curriculum

Where students require a more bespoke curriculum, we are able to support this through conversations with our Deputy Head for Inclusion and our SENDCo.

Anything is Possible	A language from French or German*	A Humanities subject from:	An option from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art</li> <li>• Drama</li> <li>• Engineering</li> <li>• Food Technology</li> <li>• Textiles</li> <li>• Resistant Materials</li> <li>• PE GCSE</li> <li>• PE Cambridge National</li> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Media Studies</li> </ul>	An option from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art</li> <li>• Business Studies</li> <li>• Computer Science</li> <li>• Engineering</li> <li>• Food Technology</li> <li>• French</li> <li>• Geography</li> <li>• PE GCSE</li> <li>• Psychology</li> </ul>
Empowered	One Option subject from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• French / *German</li> <li>• PE Cambridge National</li> <li>• GCSE Business</li> <li>• Art</li> <li>• Textiles</li> </ul>			
Thrive	Bespoke option including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy</li> <li>• Numeracy</li> <li>• Appropriate Provision</li> <li>• Support for Post-16</li> </ul>			

Please note, students cannot study:

- Two PE qualifications
- Textiles & Art GCSE
- Student can only study German GCSE if they have studied German in KS3

We also reserve the right to withdraw any options for which there is insufficient interest or where staffing issues arise.

On the next few pages, you will find information about our GCSE options choices alongside some Frequently Asked Questions which may help you. At the end of the booklet, you will also find information about courses in Ashby Sixth Form and their outline entry criteria as this may help you to make choices at GCSE.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q. What is a Cambridge National qualification?

A. These are broad and engaging level 1 and level 2 qualifications that equip students with applied knowledge and associated practical skills. Similar to a BTEC qualification, they will have a coursework element to them.

### Q. Are Cambridge Nationals worth the same as GCSE subjects?

A. All subjects are worth the same: one GCSE equivalent

### Q. If I do a Cambridge National qualification, can I still get into Ashby Sixth Form?

A. Yes, as long as you have a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4/ CNAT qualifications, in four separate subjects. These must include English and mathematics.

### Q. Can I do a mixture of Cambridge National and GCSE subjects?

A. Yes, that is absolutely fine.

### Q. Can I do more than one Design and Technology subject?

A. Yes, it is possible to choose Engineering or Food Technology in option 2 and any other design subject in option 3

### Q. Will I get all of my first choices?

A. While the vast majority of students do get their first choices, we do sometimes have to allocate a number of back-up choices, so it is important you select back-up choices that you are willing and able to do. If you have a specific career direction or outside interest in mind, you should write this on the options form so that we can take this into account when we allocate subjects.

### Q. Do I have to take a language?

A. We strongly recommend all students take a language and our Anything is Possible curriculum route expects students to study a language. Students on our Empowered route can choose to study a language but again, we strongly recommend this as it will open more doors to post-16 study and employment..

### Q. What science option will I take?

A. All students start to study Triple Science (separate qualifications in Biology, Chemistry & Physics) in Year 9 and many will complete this at the end of Year 11. Where students are finding the breadth of content challenging, students may be moved onto double science instead. This award covers all three sciences and is equivalent to two GCSEs. Students following this route and achieving good grades (grade 5 or above) are eligible to study science A levels at Ashby Sixth Form.

### Q. When do I find out which subjects I have been given from my choices?

A. You will find out which subjects you have been allocated later in the summer term.

### Q. If I start a subject and later realise that I have made a mistake, what can I do?

This happens to some students every year. There are only **two weeks** at the start of term when we look at requests for changes and make them if we can. Sometimes subject groups are full and students are unable to move but we do our best to help. By the end of the first **two weeks** of the autumn term, we have to stop making any changes as you will have missed too much work to begin a new subject.

If your question isn't answered here, please contact the school, initially by email [KS4options@ashbyschool.org.uk](mailto:KS4options@ashbyschool.org.uk)

# Core Subjects



English  
(GCSE)



Maths  
(GCSE)



Sciences  
(GCSE)

## Modern Language Choices



French & German  
(GCSE)



# Humanities Choices



History  
(GCSE)



Geography  
(GCSE)



Psychology  
(GCSE)



Business Studies  
(GCSE)



Religious Studies  
(GCSE)



# Other Choices



Art  
(GCSE)



Drama  
(GCSE)



Media  
(GCSE)



Music  
(GCSE)



PE  
(GCSE & CNAT)



Computer Science  
(GCSE)



Design Subjects  
(GCSE)





### Opting Out

Students may be withdrawn by their parents/ carers from assemblies and/ or religious education and sex education sessions, if there are valid reasons.

Requests and reasons for opting out must be sent in writing to Mr Newman, Assistant Headteacher, at the time of choosing subject options.

### Charging

The school makes no charge for essential materials, equipment or tuition for any course, but some courses cost more than others. The school does charge for design products which the students take home.

### Music Tuition

Although the law states that, in general, all education provided during school hours must be free, instrumental and vocal music tuition is an exception to that rule and charges will be made where parents have requested this tuition from the school. Students taking GCSE Music may apply for up to a 10% subsidy of the tuition costs.

Subsidies are only payable for lessons organised and overseen by the school.

### Reminder

Option forms should be completed by Friday 24th January 2025 through the options website in the letter you received regarding the options process.

If you have any difficulties with this process, please contact [KS4options@ashbyschool.org.uk](mailto:KS4options@ashbyschool.org.uk)




# Sixth Form Subject Requirements

FOR ALL SIXTH FORM COURSES 5 x 9-4 at GCSE or Equivalent – Including Mathematics AND English Language OR English Literature at Grade 4 or above	PLUS MINIMUM EXTRA GCSE REQUIREMENTS...
Applied Science - NEW COURSE	To be confirmed
Art and Design (Art, Craft and Design)	4 in Art (if taken)
Art and Design (Textiles)	4 in either Textiles OR Art
Biology *	EITHER a 6-6 in Trilogy OR 6, 6, 5 in separate sciences (with a 6 in Biology) AND a 5 in Mathematics
Business	4 in Business (if taken)
Business, Level 3	4 in Business GCSE (if taken) or P2 in Level 2 Business (if taken)
Chemistry *	EITHER a 6-6 in Trilogy OR 6, 6, 5 in separate sciences (with a 6 in Chemistry) AND a 5 in Mathematics
Computer Science	4 in Computing (if taken)
Design & Technology (Product Design)	4 in a Design subject
Drama & Theatre Studies	4 in Drama (if taken)
Engineering	4 in a Design subject and a 5 in GCSE Mathematics is desirable
English – Language	5 in English Language & 5 in English Literature
English – Literature	5 in English Language & 5 in English Literature
Film	4 in Film (if taken)
Food Science and Nutrition - Level 3 Diploma	4 in Food (if taken)
French	5 in French
Further Mathematics* (this is a 2 option subject)	8 in Mathematics
Geography	4 in Geography (if taken)
Health & Social Care - NEW COURSE	To be confirmed
History	4 in History (if taken)
Mathematics *	6 in Mathematics
Media Studies	4 in Media (if taken)
Music	4 in Music and/or achieved Grade 5 standard
Philosophy & Ethics	4 in Philosophy & Ethics (if taken)
Photography (Art & Design)	4 in Art is desirable but not essential (if taken)
Physical Education	4 in Physical Education (if taken) and 4 in Science is desirable
Physics *	EITHER a 6-6 in Trilogy OR 6, 6, 6 in separate sciences (with a 6 in Physics) AND a 6 in Mathematics
Psychology	4 in Psychology if taken or if not taken a 5 in English Language
Sport - Cambridge Technical Level 3: Extended Certificate	4 in Physical Education (if taken) or P2 in Level 2 Qualification (if taken)
<b>Additional Enrichment Subjects:</b>	
Core Mathematics	4 in Mathematics
Extended Project Qualification	A GCSE APS of 6 is desirable

Please note that the above information is correct at the time of going to press, but may change due to staffing and budgetary considerations

## School Contact Details



School address:	Ashby School Nottingham Road Ashby-de-la-Zouch Leicestershire LE65 1DT
Telephone number:	01530 413748
Email:	<a href="mailto:KS4options@ashbyschool.org.uk">KS4options@ashbyschool.org.uk</a>
Website:	<a href="http://www.ashbyschool.org.uk">www.ashbyschool.org.uk</a>
School hours:	8.40 am – 3.10 pm

