

ABBHEY
COLLEGE
MANCHESTER

Prospectus

ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER



A WARM WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Abbey College Manchester was founded in 1990 as part of the Alpha Plus Group of schools and colleges. Over the past thirty years the college has become one of the leading providers of independent sixth form education in Greater Manchester with over 200 students.

We aim to:

- guide our students to achieve academic success and fulfil their aspirations
- respect and value each student providing a friendly, safe, supportive environment where students are happy and grow in confidence
- show a sensitive understanding of the challenges facing young people in the 21st Century by empowering students to make informed decisions and have the determination to achieve their goals
- prepare our students for university, their future careers and to make a positive contribution to the community

We are a dynamic, exciting college, situated in the heart of Manchester providing high quality, flexible A-Level and GCSE programmes as well as courses aimed specifically at our international students. A new innovation in our curriculum has allowed us to design our unique Combined Studies Programme, which leads directly to university entrance. We also offer an Academic Studies with Football Training Programme, which is aimed at male and female students who are 14 years of age and over. Students study one of our main academic programmes each morning and have football training in the afternoons.

Our students enjoy the cultural, educational and business opportunities afforded by learning in the city centre. Our modern building provides an environment conducive to study and in our small classes each student can develop their individual aptitudes aided by a strong system of tutorial guidance.

Teaching and learning is rigorous whilst being creative and responsive to individual need.

Our enrichment activities include sport, arts, music and many other opportunities. We encourage students to raise their own expectations and standards to the highest possible level. Staff, students and families get to know each other well and enjoy working together. At Abbey College Manchester we offer a unique alternative to the traditional school whilst maintaining a strong academic ethos. Everyone contributes, everyone is appreciated; our committed teachers love their subjects and seek to inspire their students, in their turn, to love learning and value the acquisition of knowledge.

I believe that being a student at Abbey College Manchester will enable you to achieve your goals as it has so many students in the past. Throughout the time I have worked at the college, students and parents continue to tell me that their decision to enrol at Abbey was one of the best they have made. I extend an invitation to you to come and meet our staff to see if you too would like to be a student at Abbey College Manchester.

Liz Elam
Principal









TEACHING & LEARNING

Small classes

We believe that small classes and high quality teaching are the key to success. This approach is very personal and means that students are focused on their studies and are given lots of attention from teachers to maximise attainment and fulfil potential. Class sizes are small and our normal maximum is twelve. Alongside small class sizes we foster a friendly environment by having a no uniform policy and creating relationships where everyone is on first name terms.

Expert teachers

Our dedicated teachers have an excellent knowledge of their subjects and the specifications and as examiners for the major examination boards they are well positioned to offer guidance and support in developing examination technique. Teachers break down subjects into manageable sections so that students can work more easily towards the grades they need. Students are prepared thoroughly for public examinations and gain important study skills.

Success in the Sixth Form

The new linear A-levels have created additional challenges for learners. Our Success in the Sixth Form Programme focuses on helping students study more effectively and to develop the necessary skills to become successful in their studies.

Studying in the college

All students have timetabled, supervised study built into their programmes. In our study centre students work quietly and this builds a culture of concentration and respect for the learning needs of others.

Assessment and monitoring progress

Small class sizes mean teachers can spend more time assessing each student's work and giving verbal and written feedback on a one to one basis. Teachers assess student effort and attainment regularly. Reports are sent home each half term and include written comments and data covering attendance, academic attainment and student effort both in the classroom and in their own time. Students and teachers reflect on current work and raise standards by agreeing targets in areas such as subject knowledge, time management, revision techniques and progress on coursework. This in turn builds confidence and raises standards.

Attendance

Attendance is monitored through daily registration and at the start of every lesson. Parents are contacted if a student is not present in class and are sent weekly attendance data.



ROSIE WEEKS

ABBAY COLLEGE MANCHESTER

A LEVEL SUBJECTS:

Biology / A
Chemistry / A
Mathematics / B

DESTINATION:

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH – MEDICINAL AND BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY

“It’s been a wonderful experience studying my A-levels at Abbey College Manchester. The small class sizes meant that my teachers were able to individually tailor their lessons towards us and ensure that we received all the support required.”

WILL WICKS

ABBAY COLLEGE MANCHESTER

A LEVEL SUBJECTS:

Biology / A*
Chemistry / A*
Maths / A*

DESTINATION:

**QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON – MEDICINE**

“It’s been a wonderful experience studying my A-levels at Abbey College Manchester. The small class sizes meant that my teachers were able to individually tailor their lessons towards us and ensure that we received all the support required. Outside of lessons, the staffs were still very supportive. Applying for medicine as I did, or any competitive courses or university, is a rigorous process. Yet, by practicing for Multiple Mini Interviews and taking part in the medical ethics club at Abbey College, I was given an invaluable tool when preparing for various medical school interviews. I will always be grateful for this preparation now I leave Abbey College and go on to study at university to become a doctor.”



THE 4RS AND SUCCESS IN THE SIXTH FORM

We use a framework called the **4Rs** to help students manage their learning and develop academic excellence:



Routine:

We guide students to manage their time effectively and have good study habits.

Rigour:

We develop students' academic skills and knowledge and challenge them as learners.

Responsibility:

We develop students so they can take control of their learning and respond to advice.

Resilience:

We build confidence and mental toughness so students can tackle exams with confidence

Our **Success in the Sixth Form Programme** supports students in developing the 4Rs and equips students in being able to make the transition to university.



THE COURSES WE OFFER

Making informed choices

Making the right decision about the study programme has a huge impact on successfully working towards the next stage in life and at Abbey College Manchester we value individual aspirations and ambition. Choosing the most appropriate programme is a very important part of the enrolment process and we offer expert guidance during the interview and throughout the student's time with us.

Two year A Level programme

We offer a range of A-level subjects covering the sciences, mathematics, business, economics, the arts and humanities. Entry is dependent on satisfactory GCSE grades, usually a 6 in the subjects or related subjects to be chosen, together with a good reference from the previous school.

Retake A Level programme

This is suitable for students who have studied A-levels before but wish to retake to improve their grades to get onto more competitive degree courses.

Students mostly focus on retaking Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics but other subjects can be considered as well.

Academic Studies with Football Training

GCSE, A-level or Combined Studies students may opt to combine their studies with football training delivered on three to five afternoons each week.

Combined Studies Programme

This is an alternative programme to A-levels and offers a wide range of pathways with direct access to degree courses at selected universities.

One year GCSE programme

The college offers a unique and highly successful one year GCSE programme for students who wish to transfer mid GCSE into year 11 or for students wishing to re-sit their GCSEs. The subjects offered form a core curriculum and the course is delivered in its entirety in a year.



EIMAN SASI

ABBAY COLLEGE MANCHESTER

A LEVEL SUBJECTS:

Arabic / A*
Biology / A
Chemistry / A
Maths / A

DESTINATION:

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS – MEDICINE

“Abbey College Manchester were massively helpful in preparing me for my application to university. It was daunting writing my personal statement but my tutors gave me great advice which made the whole process less scary. They even arranged practice university interviews so I wouldn’t be really nervous on the actual day!

The college has a strong reputation for getting students into their first choice courses at university, and I think it is because all the staff are determined to help their students realise their best. I am very thankful to everyone as I leave to study at my firm choice university.”



CHIN KEI MA

ABBAY COLLEGE MANCHESTER

A LEVEL SUBJECTS:

Biology / A*
Chemistry / A*
Mathematics / A*

DESTINATION:

**QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON –
LAW AND POLITICS**

“The teachers at Abbey College Manchester have been very supportive. It’s a great place to study which has enabled me to achieve the grades that I needed to secure a place at university.”



A FRIENDLY & SUPPORTIVE ATMOSPHERE

House system

Each student belongs to one of our three houses and within this will have a personal tutor. Students will see their personal tutors everyday and for a longer session once a week, and is the person they approach if they have anything they wish to discuss. The Head of House is the first line of communication for parents and they run assemblies and inter-house competitions for the students.

Students, parents and teachers working together

We believe that the team approach is highly successful in ensuring that students achieve their potential. Communication between Heads of House and parents are integral to supporting the student's progress through the course and onto the next stage of their education.

Individual needs

Our lessons are lively and encourage students to discuss ideas, ask questions and to be involved in active learning. Additional support is provided where required; those with specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia and dyspraxia are supported by our SENDCO and by our general approach to learning in the classroom.





SHIMEKA YI

ABBAY COLLEGE MANCHESTER

A LEVEL SUBJECTS:

Maths / A*

Further Maths / A

Physics / A

DESTINATION:

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD – CIVIL ENGINEERING

“I came to Abbey College Manchester because of its reputation for high quality teaching. There were only a handful of students in each of my lessons and the teachers were so knowledgeable, helpful and made the lessons interactive and enjoyable.

The college has students from lots of countries all across the world and also had a large number from the local area. This gave me the chance to meet new people I would have never met if I didn't study at Abbey College. As a result the place is a diverse community. I loved my time here and will always be grateful for what it allowed me to do.”

HONGZHOU JIANG

ABBAY COLLEGE MANCHESTER

A LEVEL SUBJECTS:

Maths / A*

Further Maths / A

Physics / A

DESTINATION:

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON – ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

“It definitely was the right choice for me to study at Abbey College Manchester.

All my teachers at the college were so dedicated and they truly wanted me to succeed to my maximum potential. Their lessons pushed me to work very hard and learn as much as possible, and if I was ever unsure on a topic they were always very willing to help me, both inside and outside of lessons. The small class sizes helped with my confidence to ask questions too, and I knew that my teachers would always have time to answer in depth.

Although all of my teachers always expected a good academic performance, they were also very friendly. When I was applying to university, I got a lot of useful advice and tips from them, which means that with my amazing results I am now studying my dream course at university.”



OUR FACILITIES

Well equipped classrooms

All our classrooms benefit from access to modern technologies including interactive touchscreen boards and laptops. All departments are equipped with specialist rooms and textbooks and notes are provided for all courses. Students have their own personal computer login and access to the student shared drive where the virtual learning environment and teaching resources are stored.

Science laboratories

Practical work and investigation is central to the teaching of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, and so each subject is taught in five modern laboratories. Each room has been fitted to the highest standards and is well equipped to allow the delivery of a wide range of experiments and demonstrations to stimulate student learning.

Art and Photography suites

Creativity flourishes within the college with Art & Design and Photography taught in dedicated rooms. Students are encouraged to express themselves using techniques ranging from 3D modelling, textiles, sculpture and photography as well as conventional painting and drawing.



UNIVERSITY PREPARATION

Students receive support from our specialist University Support Team who guide them through the UCAS process and help build a competitive application.

Our comprehensive programme is designed to guide students through each stage of the UCAS process:

- An introduction to UK universities and the UCAS process
- Guidance in researching suitable universities and courses
- Specialist programmes and support for Oxbridge and competitive courses/universities
- Specialist Medical and Dental preparation programme
- Help with the UCAS application procedure
- Advice on writing an effective Personal Statement
- Support with finding relevant work experience
- Guidance on interview techniques through practice sessions
- Advice on reviewing offers and the best options



BOARDING

Sometimes students who join us live some distance from Manchester. Riverside House Student Accommodation offers high-quality, safe accommodation within a 15 minute walk of Abbey College Manchester, and Manchester City Centre. Students are able to stay in the accommodation for either seven days a week or if they prefer, five days each week returning home at weekends. The college has reserved an area, split over the top two floors of Riverside, with access restricted to our own students and staff. Riverside House has 24 hour Security on site, along with secure door entry system, and CCTV cameras. There is also secure cycle storage, laundry facilities, onsite maintenance team, and cleaning of kitchens completed weekly.



Please note: This option is only open to students who are aged 16 before the 1st September of the academic year in which they enrol. The accommodation at Riverside House is offered on a Full-Board basis, with ingredients being provided for the students to prepare their own breakfast and lunch. A home cooked evening meal is prepared everyday by our own on-site chef or students can opt to cook their own food.





Each bedroom comprises

- ¾ Size Bed
- Desk
- Chair
- Wardrobe
- Drawers
- Shelves/Storage Space
- En-Suite Bathroom (Toilet, Shower & Hand Basin)
- Curtains/Blinds
- Contents Insurance

Each flat has a shared kitchen & living area, comprising of:

- Dining table & Chairs
- Cooker (Oven & Hob)
- Microwave
- Fridge/Freezer
- Dishwasher
- Pots/Pans
- Kettle
- Toaster
- Rubbish Bin
- Sofa
- Coffee Table
- Fitted Units
- Curtains/Blinds
- Widescreen TV



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Our diverse Enrichment Programme supports our academic curriculum and forms an integral part of the wider education and college experience offered to our students.

Our vision is to create all-rounded students, who excel academically and develop their emotional, interpersonal and social skills.

CREATIVITY

We encourage students to find inspiration and enjoyment in honing their creative skills.

University Skills Programme

The University skills programme gives students the opportunity carry out a university research project which can gain them extra university credits. The programme gives students a practical introduction to how to study effectively at university:

- Reading and make notes for research
- Using lectures effectively
- Making the most of seminars/tutorials and make effective oral presentations
- Developing effective university writing
- Developing critical and analytical thinking skills

Maths Challenge

Taking part in the Maths Challenge individual and team competitions is a popular enrichment activity for Maths and Further Maths students.

It helps students to demonstrate strong motivation and aptitude for a wide range of course in which mathematical and problem-solving skills are essential.

Engineering project



- Greenpower electric car challenge requires students, guided by their teachers and industry mentors, to design, build and then race an electric car.

- Many of the students taking part in the project have applied to top universities to study STEM subjects.

Enrichment

- Universities are looking for well-rounded applicants with broad interests and a range of "soft skills".

- We offer a range of academic and non-academic enrichment activities to help students develop general life skills and broader interests and experience.

- The Enrichment programme includes:

- Sports and physical education: Football, badminton, table tennis, Basketball, swimming, Yoga.
- Creative Arts: Music, Art, Film, Photography, Crafting.
- Medical preparation
- Engineering project
- Critical thinking





EVENTS

College life extends beyond the classroom and there are a wide range of events to enjoy.

Art and Photography Exhibition

This annual event takes place at the end of each academic year and features a selection of current GCSE, GCE and Foundation Art, Graphics and Photography students' work.

Awards Ceremony

This is an annual event which celebrates students for their achievements and success.

Charity Events

The college is committed to giving back to the community. Every year, events are organised to support different charities.

Festive Evening

This takes place every year and allows everyone to enjoy the talents of the students and staff in music, dance, drama and poetry.



LEARNING IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

At Abbey College Manchester our students are focused on academic achievement. Success in life, however, comes from more than just exams and we encourage our students to take advantage of the resources Manchester, as a city, offers to help with learning and personal development.

Just a few minutes from our door students can take advantage of numerous galleries, museums, libraries, theatres, sports facilities and conference centres. These add breadth to our teaching programmes and form an integral part of the Abbey College Manchester experience.







- Abbey College Manchester
Cheapside, off King Street
- Riverside House
- Metrolink
- i Manchester Visitor Information Centre
- Traffic restricted areas
- Buildings of interest

Manchester Arndale & Market Street
High Street & independent shopping

Deansgate, King St & St Ann's Square
Prestigious designer stores

Petersfield
Concert halls & conference centre

Chinatown
Oriental businesses & restaurants

Exchange Square & New Cathedral St
Selfridges, Harvey Nichols & more

Northern Quarter
Independent fashion, music & cafés

Piccadilly
The main bus & train stations

Castlefield
Canalside bars & restaurants

The Gay Village
Vibrant, unique bars & restaurants

Spinningfields
New retail, leisure & business space

The Corridor
Universities & museums

Being in the heart of the city centre, means the easiest, most convenient way of reaching us is by public transport.

We are about 10 minutes walk from Piccadilly, Victoria, Oxford Road and Deansgate railway stations. The free Metrolink shuttle bus number 1 that runs between each of these stations every 10 minutes or so does drop off and pick up on King Street opposite the college.

Piccadilly Gardens and Shudehill bus stations are within 5 minutes walk from the college with the tram stops of Market Street and St Peter's Square even closer.

Driving in is straightforward but please note that there are no on-site car parking facilities at the college. However, there is street parking available and there are several car parks within a few minutes walk of our front door.

CONTACT US

Office hours for the college during term time are 8.00am to 5.00pm from Monday to Friday.

During college holidays the office is generally open from 9.00am to 4.00pm each day.

Our Administration team will be delighted to help you arrange a visit to the college and will send you any further information you require.

Abbey College Manchester

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Abbey DLD Group of Colleges is part of the Alpha Plus Group Ltd.