

Abbeyfield  
School



PROSPECTUS



# Welcome to Abbeyfield School

As the Headteacher it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Abbeyfield School. I hope you find that this prospectus tells you all you need to know and helps you to understand why I am so proud to lead this school.

I firmly believe that all children, regardless of background or circumstance are given the opportunity to achieve their potential and I am committed to creating a school full of opportunities and support to ensure every child achieves the best they can.

At Abbeyfield we recognize the importance of educational outcomes by helping pupils to succeed academically with high quality teaching and a broad curriculum. We build this provision around developing character by recognizing the 3 R's of Resilience, Respect, and Responsibility. These character traits are ones which we place above all others as we know these will ensure that every young person at Abbeyfield will be well equipped for all the challenges of modern life.

By choosing Abbeyfield, you will be choosing a school which places a high priority on pupils' well-being. Having pupils in the right place emotionally gives them the greatest chance of achieving their own academic excellence. By supporting all our young people to be self-assured and confident in who they are will ensure they leave us with exciting futures.

Abbeyfield School is a fantastic building to work and learn in, it has all the facilities you would expect from a modern purpose-built secondary school including all weather pitches, drama studios, modern IT suites and indoor and outdoor open spaces for pupils to socialise and grow in. The school benefits from expansive sports fields and outdoor space giving pupils opportunity to get outdoors and to be active.

Despite the growing popularity of the school, we remain the smaller of the three Chippenham schools, which ensures we can be true to our motto and really get to know each child and what makes them tick.

Pupils perform strongly at Abbeyfield and we have consistently achieved excellent outcomes both at GCSE and Sixth Form where our results continually put us above the national average.

The world we live in is increasingly demanding both in and beyond school. We believe the Abbeyfield School community will help to prepare your child for the challenges ahead. To that end, we sincerely hope you enjoy looking through our prospectus and that it will give you a flavour of the opportunity and education we would offer your child.

Everyone at Abbeyfield looks forward to welcoming you to our amazing school.

**Nick Norgrove**  
Headteacher

**'Big enough to make a difference,  
yet small enough to know each child.'**

# Joining the Abbeyfield Community

Abbeyfield School prides itself on being 'Big enough to make a difference, yet small enough to know each child.'

As a school we aim to support pupils by:

- **Being committed to creating opportunities to ensure every child achieves the best that they can.**
- **Encouraging pupils to develop character, resilience and to be aspirational.**
- **Being committed to pupil welfare.**



## TRANSITION

Our transition team, supported by our highly effective pastoral team, including teaching and non-teaching staff, works hard to ensure a smooth transition between Primary and Secondary school. This is through transition days and open events.

Abbeyfield has a strong SEND provision and supports pupils joining the school who need additional support. Both our School Sports Co-ordinator and Transition Lead work closely with local primary schools, hosting events at Abbeyfield, which give pupils a fantastic opportunity to experience the school and its surroundings during the Primary School years.

A comprehensive information pack is provided for all new starters, ensuring successful transition, from uniform requirements through to transport provision. Members of the transition team visit schools to meet new starters and their teachers. There is also the opportunity to attend Summer School for a week before joining Abbeyfield in September. This provides a fantastic opportunity to become familiar with the school building, meet staff and make new friends.



"All of the teachers are really kind and make the class feel like one big family, there is always someone to talk to, I can trust them."

Year 8 pupil

# The Curriculum

At Abbeyfield, we aim to nurture the intellectual, social, creative, physical, moral and spiritual development of all our pupils. We see each child as a unique person with an individual identity.

With the shared involvement of every individual, we aspire to be a confident outward-looking community in which every member:

- **Enjoys creative, dynamic and reflective learning**
- **Is supported, challenged and equipped for their future**
- **Values and takes responsibility for themselves and others**

Our curriculum is broad so that our pupils can experience a range of opportunities across the curriculum; balanced as it prevents pupils from narrowing down their options too early; relevant to the demands of a rapidly changing world; and personalised to ensure that the level and type of work are suited to the ability and learning style of each individual student.

We believe these curriculum principles will stand our pupils in good stead at each transition point, for a bright and aspirant future where their talents and experience will result in excellent outcomes.

We encourage classroom teachers to take risks in their teaching and plan and deliver lessons that account for all pupils' starting points, whilst also meeting the requirements of the national curriculum and developing a joy of learning and passion for individual subjects.



“It’s a friendly and supportive environment. There is always an opportunity to learn. Everyone is always very positive and happy in lessons and around the school.” - Year 8 pupil

“Pupils benefit from a broad and balanced curriculum built around their needs and interests including art, design and performing arts disciplines. Extra-curricular opportunities are many and varied, including a range of trips and clubs.” - Challenge Partners



# Character Development - The Abbeyfield Learner

At Abbeyfield we believe strongly in supporting our students to become the best version of themselves.

“Good character is not formed in a week or a month. It is created little by little, day by day. Protracted and patient effort is needed to develop good character.” - Heraclitus – Greek philosopher

‘The Three R’s’ are three key characteristics that we encourage all Abbeyfield students to develop and demonstrate on a daily basis: Responsibility, Respect and Resilience



**RESPONSIBILITY** - How pupils approach their life and learning

**RESPECT** - How pupils treat themselves, others and the school environment.

**RESILIENCE** - How pupils cope with what life throws at them.

The Abbeyfield Learner programme ensures pupils have the relevant skills and attributes to be effective learners for their future aspirations. Pupils are rewarded for demonstrating these key characteristics in all aspects of school life. These range from tutor to lessons and include extra curricular beyond the school day.

“Character development is as much a part of our curriculum as the academic subjects.” - Abbeyfield Learner



## Enrichment



At Abbeyfield we strongly believe that pupils grow and develop hugely from experiences gained outside of the classroom and, as such, we highly value the enriching opportunities available to our pupils.

Pupils are actively encouraged to take part in extra-curricular activities and there is a wide range on offer to them including numerous sports and music clubs. Many activities are linked to curriculum areas such as science, art, textiles, drama, coding and programming along with various book and reading clubs, Eco-schools and rocket club. Many of these lead onto further opportunities such as involvement in school productions and concerts and representing Abbeyfield in local and national events. We also have a large number of pupils who complete their Duke of Edinburgh Award whilst at Abbeyfield.

Within the curriculum we fully support the inclusion of enriching activities such as trips, guest speakers, competitions and cross curricular events to help support pupil understanding, develop interest and passions for different subjects and instil a love of learning.

We also provide a range of extra-curricular trips to develop personal skills and provide opportunities for pupils to travel and experience other cultures, including a Year 7 team building day, whole school Enrichment Day in the summer term, Year 9 River Dart residential, overseas cultural experiences, ski trip and Camps International experiences.

# Pastoral Care

## Tutor and Pastoral Support

Pupils are placed in tutor groups which in turn are linked to each of the houses. Pupils have tutor time every morning and follow a programme of activities that covers literacy, numeracy, current affairs and character development. Tutors support the transition into the school day and ensure pupils are ready to learn, forming close links with parents and carers.

Raising Standards Leaders have oversight of each year group in the school, from primary transition through to Sixth Form. The Raising Standards Leaders work closely with the Pastoral Leaders (non-teaching members of staff) to ensure positive behaviour routines, welfare, and pastoral needs are met for all.

With an increasing need and understanding of mental wellbeing for children, Abbeyfield is well established as a mental health wellbeing with members of our Pastoral team being Mental Health First Aid trained. A number of our Sixth Form students are trained as Peer Mentors who support pupils in all aspects of day-to-day school life. Our Hive Room is a space that has been set up for the pupils, by the pupils. Those pupils who need or request additional support can be referred to the Mental Health Support Team, a RISE Mentor or School Counsellor. Pupils are also able to access drop-ins, group work, wellbeing days, and more personalised support.

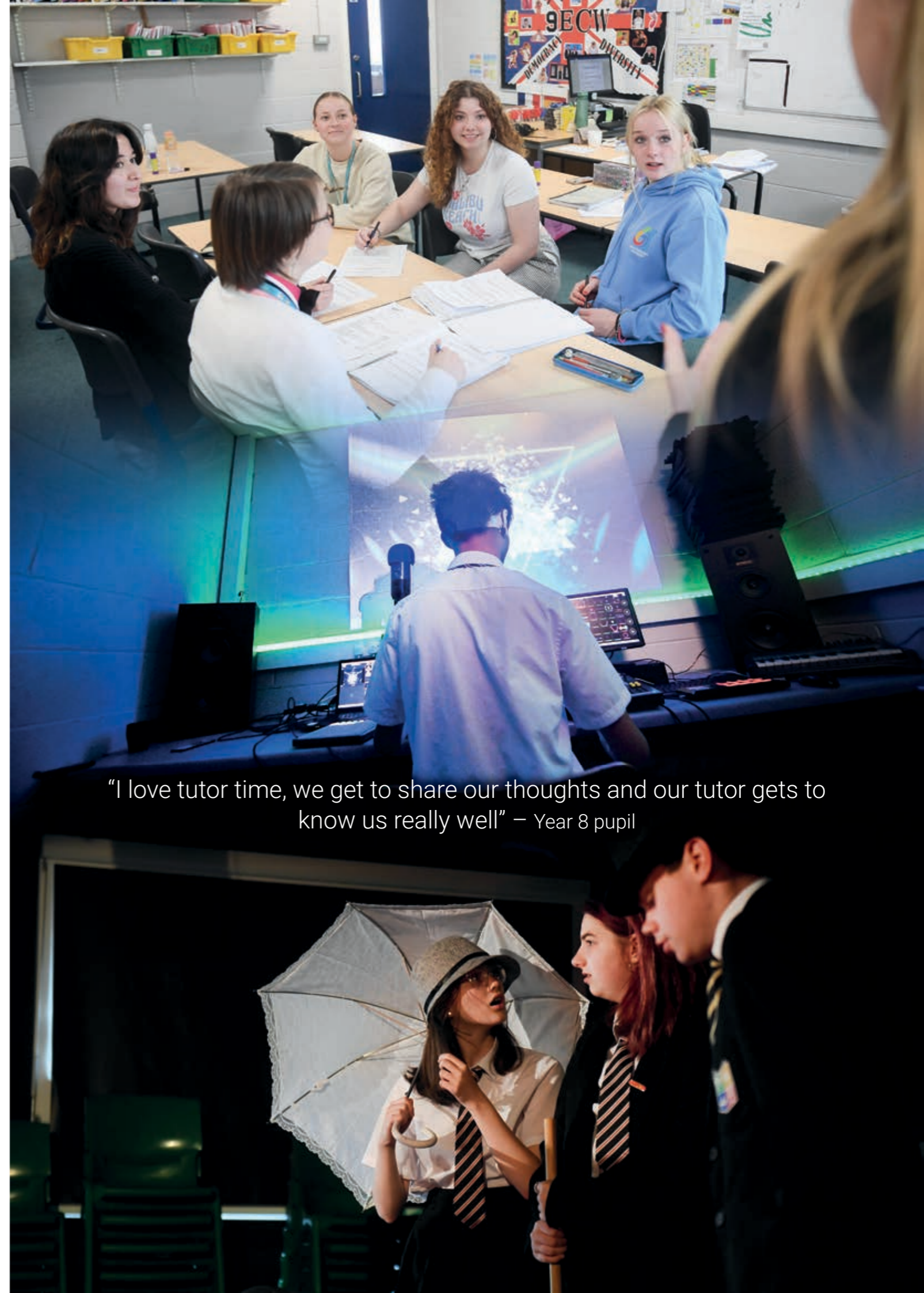
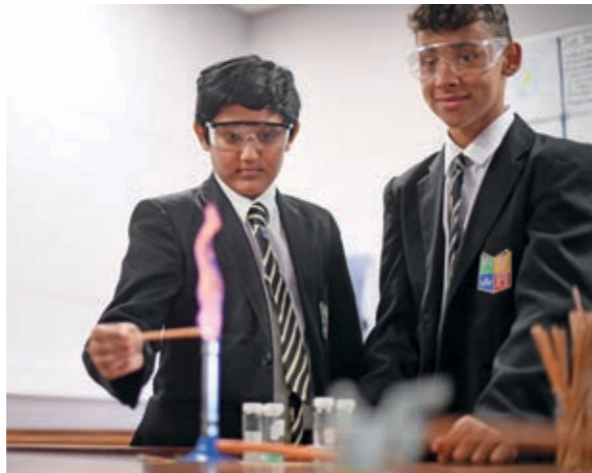
## The House system

Every pupil entering the school becomes a member of one of our four Houses. These are named after historically prominent local people, **ALFRED**, **BRUNEL**, **NEELD** and **TALBOT**.

Each House has a House Captain (an elected senior student) and a senior member of staff. Pupils quickly form loyalties to their House and achieve a true sense of belonging.

The House system acts as a link between the different age groups in the school, providing them with opportunities for working and playing together. The House Captains encourage and support House activities, through subject and sport competitions and arts events.

Another focus of the Houses are the individual House charities. Each House has a term to focus on fundraising and promoting their House charity.





# School and parent partnership

At Abbeyfield, we are proud of the pastoral support that we provide as a fully inclusive school and our systems are extremely strong and recognised by both pupils and parents. Our pupils have an excellent reputation in the community for being smart, polite and ambitious and this is something that we value dearly.

We recognise that to develop aspirant and well-rounded young people the relationship with parents, carers and home is absolutely key. Choosing Abbeyfield School means selecting a school that values the shared ethos and goals that need to exist between home and school.

We have high expectations of pupils in their attendance, punctuality, behaviour and commitment and we ask parents to support us in challenging their children to be the very best versions of themselves that they can. We work hard to communicate with all parents and carers what we are doing and, importantly, why we are doing it to create a supportive culture.

Shaping generations is a massive responsibility and one that all staff take very seriously; we understand that we cannot do it alone. Your role and support in your child's educational journey are absolutely key.



“Pupils make many positive contributions to the life of the school.... There are meaningful opportunities for pupils to be leaders. Some pupils, for instance, are mental health and well-being champions”

- Ofsted 2022



**At Abbeyfield** we are extremely proud of our Sixth Form offer. We pride ourselves on being an inclusive Sixth Form which is aspirational for all students who are with us. Our Summer 2023 outcomes were excellent, and our students were delighted to be able to progress to their chosen Post-18 destinations.

We offer a variety of pathways for students, with a wide range of A-Level and Level 3 BTEC subjects on offer. Students can also choose to supplement their studies with an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), Core Maths AS and Further Maths which can help support Post-18 university or apprenticeship applications. Our most able students are also able to study 4 A-Levels. All KS5 teaching is provided by experienced subject specialist teachers and our smaller than average class sizes allow for additional support through personalised teaching. As recognised recently by Ofsted, "the curriculum is well planned and sequenced. Leaders have considered carefully the knowledge and skills that pupils need to learn."

Our Sixth Form students also lead and take an active part in school life from running the Student Council and the House System, to volunteering within lessons and providing mentoring and support for pupils in the lower school. Leadership opportunities include Senior Student roles and Sports Enrichment Co-ordinators, and many of our students also complete their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

All Sixth Form students are given excellent careers advice, including links to many top universities and apprenticeship providers to support them in planning for their Post-18 pathways. A number of our students progress to Oxford and other Russell Group universities.

"I have enjoyed studying at Abbeyfield Sixth Form as it is great to study subjects I am interested in, in more detail. There have been a wider range of trips and events available, and all the teachers have been very supportive, particularly as I was a student who was new to Abbeyfield". - Sixth Form student

"Since starting Sixth Form I have felt very comfortable as I know the teachers, and all my friends. Everyone has been so supportive of me, and I wouldn't want to be anywhere else" - Sixth Form student



"I have enjoyed every moment of studying at Abbeyfield Sixth Form. Abbeyfield offers a plentiful amount of leadership opportunities, as well as encouraging us to volunteer within the school. The lessons are very interactive, enjoyable and beneficial. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here" - Sixth Form student





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