

Battle Abbey School
Founded 1912



Battle Abbey Senior School

Extra Curricular and Societies programme



Extra curricular programme

We encourage pupils to participate fully and to achieve their best, not only in the classroom but in all areas of school life. This booklet outlines some of the options available in our rich and varied Extra Curricular programme.

In addition to the Extra Curricular programme Battle Abbey School also runs a Supra Curriculum, designed to extend and stretch pupil learning in standard curriculum subjects. These are ordinarily run as part of the Societies programme - which is allied to particular academic faculties - but in some cases Extra Curricular provision may support or contribute to the Supra Curricular so some of these clubs may fall under Supra rather than Extra Curricular. More on Societies and how they fit in with the school and what role they serve is available at the back of this booklet.

Our Extra Curricular programme helps to develop confidence and self-assurance, essential soft skills highly valued in today's job market and indeed more broadly in society.

Both Music and Drama exist as curriculum subjects and in the Extra Curricular schedule. There are productions and concerts on a regular basis and most pupils will have the chance to be in a play and all will be given the opportunity to learn a musical instrument. The school also regularly trains teams for public speaking and debating competitions. Performing before an audience and the preparation that lies behind it are life skills we consider to be very important.

We offer high level and committed coaching in many sports too. We have a first class indoor swimming pool, which we use extensively for both competitive and recreational swimming. Pupils in the Senior School are coached by qualified specialists in their chosen sport each term, so that all pupils, not just the talented, receive the benefit of top quality instruction.

A wide variety of other options are available too ranging from textiles to word games, from current affairs discussion groups to Chinese and Greek.

Please Note: The Extra Curricular Activity schedule will be subject to change from term to term particularly with regard to seasonal sports. This booklet is intended to give a flavour of what is on offer at Battle Abbey School but the Extra Curricular schedule will depend on demand and current staff skill sets and not all clubs listed here will run every term.

Sing your own song

Chamber Choir

The Chamber Choir is a specialist group consisting of twenty members that performs regularly outside the School, including trips abroad. The Chamber Choir has sung in Salzburg Cathedral, Wells Cathedral and Bath Abbey and gave a Centenary Recital in Canterbury Cathedral. It also performs more locally at churches, hospitals and charity events.

School Choir/ Junior Choir

The School Choir currently has more than sixty members, including students from Year 7 through to Year 13, as well as some staff. A senior section of the School Choir combines with Battle Choral Society for performances of major works - most recently the Verdi Requiem and Beethoven's Choral Symphony.

School Orchestra

The Orchestra has around twenty members and meets weekly. The Orchestra includes stringed instruments, brass instruments and, at one point or other, has included a wide range of other diverse instruments. The Orchestra performs in the end of term and Scholars' concerts.



Peripatetic music lessons (paid extra)

150 individual instrument lessons are taught each week at the Abbey including: Piano, Voice, Violin, Cello, Flute, Recorder, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, Keyboard, Organ, Guitar and Drums (others available on request).



String Ensemble

The string ensemble plays more challenging music than the orchestra and is open to any string players of Grade 3 and above.

Brass Group

A wonderful and fun group that meets once a week to play a wide and diverse range of music from Christmas Carols and fanfares to Jazz numbers.

Fast Track Theory

Over the course of the year we have many levels of theory society to cater for what is required from grades 1 - 8. Beginner and intermediate theory take place all year round with Mr Charlesworth.

Getting Creative

Book Club

Key Stage 3 bookclub meets once a term to discuss a topical book that the students have chosen. The idea is to inspire and nurture a love of reading and centres on understanding the characters, themes and plot. This love of literature is one that will support their core English for years to come.

Creative Writing Club

Everyone welcome! The club discusses writers and books and thinks about what in particular they like about them. The club

is not weighted heavily towards writing but attendees do look at what makes good writing and then experiment with different styles through a range of imaginative activities. Once the club are feeling confident enough, they share pieces of writing with each other and discuss what worked well and what aspects could be developed. There is an emphasis on a relaxed atmosphere, with each student working at their own pace and developing their own style.

Knitting and Crafts

Back for a second year by popular demand, pupils come together to explore the fantastic world of crafts! The creative crew knitted phone cases last year, this year they are constructing Teddy Bears. Who knows what next year might bring?



Broadening Horizons

Latin (Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced)

Latin at GCSE or beyond is a great differentiator on university applications for any subject; all enthusiastic pupils should seriously consider giving Latin a try!

Latin up to Year 11 is taught after school, but it is a lesson, not a club!

A new beginners' course (Novi) starts every 2 years and is open to pupils in Years 7 and 8. We are now using a new course covering Latin Language and Roman Civilisation written by Miss Bishop herself.

After two years in Novi, pupils move on to the 2-year Progressi course, preparing for GCSE Latin in Year 10 or Year 11. GCSE Latin covers Latin Language and Latin Literature (currently a mix of poetry and prose on the theme of Magic & Superstition plus the story of Boudicca's rebellion).

Trips to Roman sites in Britain (and possibly Pompeii) are planned.

Ecology Club

Our Ecology Club take on a number of exciting challenges and topics that are agreed annually by the members. This year the focus has been on Global Citizenship and Biodiversity. This has seen them take on Litter with their 'Loud on Litter' campaign, secure funding for a Bio-Diverse habitat at the school and raise funds for other Ecology projects through candy cane sales at the Abbey. We have an Eco-School Award, a Fair Aware Award and have also been involved in various COP26 initiatives. A recent project saw the Clubs flag designs feature at an actual research station in Antarctica!

Real World Economics

Glance at the news and the vigilant observer will notice not a single day passes without a stark reminder of how the real world of economics is relentlessly impacting our lives, either directly or indirectly. Whether we are aware of it or not, economics influences our day-to-day choices and our behaviour. Every decision we make has an inherent opportunity cost, from turning on the central heating, and selecting the temperature, to choosing which petrol station to visit to replenish the fuel tank, to pondering over which mobile phone provider to pick. As the household toolbox is essential for identifying and fixing problems in the home, in the same way the economics tool-kit of models, concepts, theories and formulae is invaluable for identifying the root cause of real-world economic issues and proposing possible solutions. Attendees will learn all about this and more at these informal free-ranging discussion sessions.

Classical Civilisation & Classical Mythology

A mix of ancient history (poisonings, Hannibal, Caligula); ancient lifestyles (slavery, communal latrines, chariot racing and stuffed dormice!); and stories about gods, heroes and monsters.

KS4 and KS5 Modern Novels Book Club

Members of this relaxed book group read one modern novel per half-term. The novels selected for each half-term have a common theme or character, e.g. The Trojan War, Klytemnestra's revenge on Agamemnon, Medusa, the image of the Hero. We then discuss the different portrayals and perspectives in the novels we have read.

Financial Trading Simulations

Open to years 7-13, the software used delivers both sides of the investing process - research and trading – in a dual-screen simulation. Students work together on two linked screens in the roles of Investment Analyst and Media Analyst in a simulated dealing room, testing and developing their skills in a time-pressured environment. Teams compete to increase the value of their fund by trading in company shares and commodities, navigating the fluctuations of global equity and commodity markets.

Historical Modelling

All pupils are invited to recreate a historical vehicle in Airfix kit form. Kits provided! This term we will be building a model of the famous Supermarine Spitfire Mk.1a! Next term something equally exciting! Places strictly limited.



A chance to **perform**



Dance Club

Dance Club is open to all students in year 7-13 and all levels of dance ability. Classes are lively, fun and high energy. Each term, pupils are given the opportunity to develop a range of skills including technique, performance skills and choreographic skills. Dance club is heavily focused on contemporary dance with chances to learn different styles throughout the year.

Production Rehearsals

There are usually three productions a year - two senior and one junior. Commitment and reliability are the most important qualities required. Rehearsals are after school and pupils may also need to commit to some weekend rehearsals. We work hard, have fun and always produce exciting performances!



Tech Club

A chance to learn about how the school's stage lighting and sound equipment work and gain experience on how to operate it for productions and events. The club meet weekly and all year groups are welcome. Rise to the top and you will be the next Head of Tech!

Independent Drama Rehearsals

Drama enthusiasts meet to extend their drama skills through drama games, physical theatre and improvisation. Drama club gives us an opportunity to be a little more adventurous and challenging: One session was devoted entirely to bubbles! Later in the year we look at scripts and how to bring them to life through improvisation, different performance styles and theatrical conventions. Anyone is welcome to join.



Music Pods

Four, purpose built, sound proof music pods have been added to the music department to allow our students to practice before and after school as well as any free periods. They are equipped with two acoustic upright pianos, a keyboard and full drum kit. Music pods need to be booked in advance via the Head of Music to avoid disappointment!



It all adds up

KS3 and KS4 Maths Clinic

For a variety of reasons a student can either miss the introduction of a new topic, need extra help with a difficult question set for homework, or just need reassurance that he/she is tackling a problem in the correct manner. The Maths Drop-in Sessions are here to help! Available at the end of the school day in the main Maths room, the club offers a non-threatening, supportive environment where staff will assist any pupil to overcome whatever Maths related issue is of concern to them. If the problem requires more than one session to resolve then that's OK.

Further Maths

For those Mathematicians in search of an extra challenge, the Further Maths GCSE offered by AQA provides a wonderful opportunity to prepare gifted students for A-Level Maths while adding an impressive examination result to their list of qualifications.

Chess Club

Pupils meet on the chequered board for high octane, and often very competitive, games of this most intellectual of pastimes. Speed chess enthusiasts also welcome!



Outward Bound

Duke of Edinburgh (paid extra)

A Duke of Edinburgh programme is a real adventure from beginning to end. It doesn't matter who you are or where you're from, you just need to be aged between 14 and 24 and realise there's more to life than sitting on a sofa watching life pass you by! Pupils achieve their Awards by completing a personal programme of activities in four sections (five if going for Gold) – Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition and for Gold, a Residential.

Candidates will find themselves helping people or the community, getting fitter and developing new skills. The programme can be flexible enough to cover a variety of interests and ability levels and along the way pupils will pick up experiences, friends and talents that will stay with them for the rest of their life.

Mr Beach is on hand at the club sessions to facilitate 'e-D of E' online prep, including correct submission of documents, data entry and support for all sections of the D of E Award.



Express yourself

KS3, KS4 and KS5 Art Club

The Art Club aims to create a vibrant community of pupil artists who are engaged in, and appreciate, the visual arts. The Art Club hopes to enrich pupil lives, enhance their school experience and compliment school-based art education. Students will be encouraged to be experimental, to be challenged and to take risks with their work. They will be able to try out new projects and extend classroom activities. Above all they will enjoy the activities and have fun! The club is also designed to support those who require extra help.



KS4 and KS5 Textiles

A chance for pupils in Year 10 to 13 to work on their in-class projects, ask advice on Textiles work, or just put a bit of extra time into a private project. Here to meet all your Textiles needs!

Manga and Comic Club

Comic Club provides a place for your imagination to run free. Learn how to sketch and write stories in your own style; make your fantasies and dreams come to life. This is the perfect opportunity for you to express and share the stories you've always wanted to tell but never had the chance to.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)



KS3 and KS4 BAS Engineering

Our new crop of young engineers have started the year with gusto! Previously the club had operated only as an extra-curricular activity, but this year we have been able to launch the Science Society, and Engineering has formed an integral part of its establishment. With the School's F1 in Schools project already well established, the pupils have also been working on Drones, Remote Control Cars and Go Karts. Small groups have set up the projects and planned them, including materials and costs, and their completion dates vary from six weeks to a couple of years.



F1 In Schools

A small group of Key Stage 4 students have taken on the F1 in Schools project, designing and building their car to rigorous specifications. They are also carrying out many of the tasks of the proper F1 teams - designing logos, collecting sponsorship, and even producing their own clothing! Here they are with their F1 in Schools awards for Marketing and Sponsorship and Fastest Car in Class!

Gamers welcome



Wargames

Students research Historic tactics, weapons and armies from the past and use this information to re-create turn based games. These games are then play-tested by their peers.

Minecraft Club

All pupils are welcome to come and join the school's own server based Minecraft World! The IT suite is turned into an atmospheric underworld, bathed in green for the sessions, which are incredibly popular with pupils of all ages.



Warhammer Club

In Warhammer Club students have the opportunity to paint models from the various Warhammer settings. The first few models are provided by the school but eventually students should bring their own models in and battle each other's armies across the table from one another in a friendly environment.

Dungeons and Dragons Club

Spurred on by the rejuvenating effect on the popularity of Dungeons and Dragons by hit TV show Stranger Things, the newly minted Battle Abbey School Dungeons and Dragons Club sees pupils of all ages gather to progress through a variety of hazardous scenarios, staged by our very own Sixth Form Dungeon master Samuel H and Erik LC. Expect the unexpected!



Enrich and Extend

KS5 Oxbridge Club

In order to fully prepare Oxbridge candidates for the rigorous Oxbridge admissions process, pupils listen to a range of talks by guest speakers, engage in Supra Curricular activity, undergo mock interviews and practice entrance tests and participate in a range of Oxbridge preparation workshops.

Public Speaking

Public Speaking is a soft skill much valued at the Abbey. Our English department, ably assisted by Sixth Form pupils, hold a weekly club where pupils can prepare, practice and fine tune their speech-making skills in a friendly environment. In addition, the School's formal Public Speaking teams enter competitions such as the Rotary Club Public Speaking competition (Youth Speaks), in which they pit their skills against teams from other local schools.

The Gateway

Representatives of the school from all walks of life, whether student, staff, or parent have come together to produce an intriguing and insightful academic journal, which aims to give readers a broad range of articles to peruse to further extend their knowledge. Having been given free rein to write about whatever topic they choose according to their passions, the articles are then collectively published in a diverse paper journal detailing issues spanning from the arts, sports, and humanities to politics, economics, and global affairs.



Compete, achieve, **succeed**



Equestrian club / Horse Riding Society (paid extra)

The Equestrian Team represent Battle Abbey at NSEA Inter-school competitions in disciplines including: Show Jumping, Dressage, and Arena Eventing. Pupils compete on their own horses at a variety of different levels and pupils from both the Prep and Senior school are welcome.

Competitions for teams and individuals start at grass roots level and build up to National Schools qualifiers and championships. Several famous riders, including Olympic Event rider Pippa Funnell competed at NSEA events whilst they were at school. Most of the competitions BAS riders attend are at venues in Sussex and Kent, but all members are eligible to attend NSEA events around the country.

Battle Abbey students have the opportunity to attend horse riding lessons at Beauport Park Riding School. The lessons either take place in the fantastic indoor riding school facilities, or in the 340 acres of beautiful woodland at Beauport Park. The students are transported to/from the riding school, via our school minibus, for the lessons which take place on Mondays after school.

There are two groups, catering for different levels of ability, from beginner to intermediate. It is great to see the progress that the students make - many have started as complete beginners and are now confidently cantering round a course of jumps in the higher group. Taster sessions are available before committing to a whole term of lessons, so this is an excellent opportunity to learn a new skill and experience this fun and unique sport.



Hockey (various)

Hockey clubs cater for all age ranges and abilities and give pupils the opportunity to further develop their skills and drill practices among other hockey enthusiasts. The sessions consist of around thirty minutes working on skills and set plays, before selecting and applying them to conditioned game scenarios and situations.

Junior, Intermediate and Senior Football club

Open to Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 pupils this club aims to nurture the future of the game within Battle Abbey. The club reinforces and develops the skills and drills that are taught in the lessons that week and aims to develop our young performers.

Gym Sessions

The school's new fitness suite is available for use after school for Key Stage 4 and 5 pupils (once an induction is completed). We currently have a range of cardio machines and some free weights, with more equipment to be added over the coming months.

Croquet

Croquet club meet on the Six Penny Lawn (weather permitting) and the club is open to all year groups. The team who get their ball through all the hoops first and then hits the final marker win. The game requires more skill than you might first think... You can also target your opponent's ball to disrupt their game, which adds an interesting element of strategic skulduggery to proceedings!



Whole School Netball (Junior / Senior) (Spring / Summer)

Whole school Junior and Senior Netball clubs are opportunities to develop skills and confidence on the court. Each week there is a focus on a specific area of the game and attendees have plenty of game play time to put these into practice. Netball club also gives those students who are interested in umpiring and coaching an opportunity to build their confidence and lead aspects of the session. Key Stage 4 Sports Leaders often use the Netball club as evidence towards their junior umpiring awards. Elite Key Stage 3 players benefit from the opportunity to play with more experienced players. The current team are very successful against local schools. The team also embark on an annual Netball tour.



Rounders (Spring/Summer)

Rounders club is for both girls and boys of any age or ability interested in improving their skills and understanding of the game. It is also a chance to enjoy this sport in the sunshine! Separate dedicated team practice takes place in games afternoons and at lunchtime. The club gives players from different teams and age groups the chance to play together weekly.



Swimming

There are a number of early morning and after school swim sessions available. Competitive swimmers may bring their own club training schedule, or be coached by our experienced staff. However, there is always a provision for recreational swimmers who just want to swim lengths. The Senior Swim Squad represent the school in friendly and championship galas, we also occasionally combine with the Prep Swim Squad for events.

Tennis (Spring/Summer)

Social tennis is one of the most popular clubs at Battle Abbey. Students really enjoy the opportunity to play against their friends in the sun after a day's school. Formal tennis coaching is also available to those who wish to improve their competitive game.

Coaching Clinics (various throughout the year)

Coaching clinics are offered in a variety of sports and are an opportunity to work on specific skills and techniques in smaller groups.

Sports Scholars

The Sports Scholars Programme runs annually and offers many opportunities to our students. The programme encompasses elements of fitness, an essential part of our Sports Scholars journey, fitness testing to measure their progress including personal bests and the top performer overall.

We also offer opportunities for scholars to take part and learn sports not available on the PE curriculum. This has covered areas such as Rugby, Lacrosse & Dodgeball.

To compliment the programme a variety of learning takes place to gain certification and qualification. Recent content covered by our Scholars include the England Hockey 'In2Hockey' Leadership Award (which enables qualified students to plan, lead and deliver sessions to young children) and the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Certificate. A programme is produced termly and scholars are given an e-gradebook summary which highlights performance termly and half termly. As a reward for the Scholars that excel during the programme, they are awarded 'Sports Scholar of the Term' and at the end of the year the student who has contributed and progressed the most will receive the 'Sports Scholar of the Year Award'.

Table Tennis

What better backdrop could there be to a few rounds of competitive Table Tennis than the magnificent Abbot's Hall. Ever popular as a break and lunchtime activity the Extra Curricular club is similarly popular and takes place on Mondays and Fridays (and unofficially whenever pupils get a spare moment!)

Touch Rugby

Touch rugby has a number of differences from the traditional game, including its simplicity (it requires very little equipment or goalposts), its ease of learning, and the decreased likelihood of injury! As a result, it is a popular game at the Abbey. Open to pupils of any gender from Year 9 - 13 and hosted by our Director of Studies Mr Woodward, it's a great way to blow off some steam at the end of a hard week of studies.

Societies and Supra Curricular

We have introduced a range of Societies based around our Academic Faculties. These are led by our student Bronzes in the Sixth Form who work with teachers to provide Supra Curricular opportunities that offer students the chance to go beyond what they learnt in their lessons. During Societies period students can take classes in a range of activities including Forensics; World Literature; Maths Olympiads; Broadcasting; Dance and more. All the activities allow students to take control of their learning and stretch themselves to go beyond the curriculum.

James Joyce (English) Society

The James Joyce society provides a range of activities in Societies period. These include activities designed to extend pupils beyond the curriculum such as a unit on Albert Camus. They also offer activities to develop pupils' skills such as the Battle Broadcasting Society and Creative writing. A range of supra curricular competitions are also offered to give students opportunities to be successful outside of the curriculum.

Ophelia (Arts) Society

The Ophelia Society covers all of the arts and will expose pupils to a diverse range of activities based on one consistent theme. For instance, the Drama section will see pupils take part in an improvisation exercise based around the theme, while the Art section will see pupils take the same theme but this time apply it to the creation of a piece of Art eg: a collage. The Music section will follow the same concept.

Walter De Luci (Politics, Philosophy and Economics) Society

The Walter De Luci Society aims to educate students about the world around them and help students have an impact on society. Activities like Campaign Management teach students how to run a successful campaign strategy and seek to give students the skills they need to take up leadership positions and enact positive change both inside and outside the Abbey walls. Scheduled public speaking sessions enable Sixth Form groups to practice positive debate



in a safe and meaningful way, whilst competitions such as the Cranmer Award and Philosothon give students the opportunity to show off their critical thinking and public speaking skills. Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form Students also have the opportunity to contribute to the School's annual academic publication, 'The Gateway'. The Gateway gives pupils the opportunity to explore themes of interest, that go well beyond the school curriculum, encompassing the arts, politics, global issues and current events. The annual launch event at the Abbey, also organised by the pupils, sees parents, staff and governors come together in the summer term to celebrate this wonderful achievement.

Science Society

The Science Society provides an extensive range of supra curricular activities. Forensics, Engineering and Rocketry are always popular choices for students. Competitions like F1 for schools help students to extend their learning and apply it outside of the classroom. Opportunities for independent exploration and public speaking are provided by the annual Science Christmas lectures. Computing is also catered for through activities such as Electronics.

Rosetta (Languages) Society

The Rosetta Society exists to provide students with cultural opportunities and the skills to immerse themselves in a range of different languages. Students have been exploring languages through film as well as making use of modern apps to teach themselves a language of their choice. The Society also coordinates trips to European destinations so pupils can apply their love of language outside a classroom setting.

Phrontisteron (Maths) Society

Students will create a maths scrapbook on a broad topic, e.g. Maths and Art, Maths and Music, Fractals or Pythagoras. Students will be allowed to include diagrams, models, proofs and can incorporate elements of pupils' own research. Prizes and house points to be awarded to the best work at the end of the half-term. There will also be competitions and challenges with Chess being regular fixture.

Sports Society

Students will have the opportunity to explore the World of Sport, learning games from around the globe that go well beyond the standard curriculum. There will also be an exploration of the theory of exercise.

Humanities

The History element of this society will see a thorough analysis of the theories and practices of Warfare, both modern and medieval. This will include physical demonstrations of siege machines and games that concern the basic strategies of warfare. For those of a less historical bent budding Key Stage 4 Naturalists will also have the opportunity to go for their Blue Peter ECO Badge!





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