

Aspire

Delivering Excellence in Careers, Employability, Enterprise and Leadership.

We use a range of resources, experience and expertise to advise and guide Abbey girls to make informed decisions about their own futures.

Girls receive information, support and advice throughout their time at school. They receive dedicated lessons from UIII onwards to provide them with the means to make informed decisions about GCSE subject choices; whether to choose A Levels or the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma; which university course or the degree apprenticeship route and ultimately which career would best suit their abilities and skills.

In UIII and LIV girls have several lessons in S4L where they are asked to consider their strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes and so on in order for them to begin building a personal profile for themselves.

Preparation for GCSE choices begins in earnest in UIV (Year 9). **Morrisby Online** is used by each girl on their section for **Self Discovery** to help her develop her plans for the future, beginning with GCSE subject choices.

During LV (Year 10) a Way Ahead evening is held for parents and each girl takes a series of psychometric tests which provide her with a **Morrisby Profile** at the start of the UV (Year 11) year. This gives a detailed breakdown of her general abilities, styles of learning, planning and personality, which together provide a tool to help her with A Level or IB Diploma subject choices, university and beyond.



Next Steps Interviews are held with a member of staff, usually a HOD or Sixth Form Tutor and the girl and her parents providing the opportunity for them to gain Morrisby feedback and begin to discuss their plans for the Sixth Form.

All UV girls attend a Sixth Form Taster Day in the Abbey's Sixth Form Centre. The girls experience a typical day in the Sixth Form and choose

taster lessons in subjects that they are considering but are unsure about. Taster lessons are offered in both A Level or IB subject choices. On the same day the LVI girls (Year 12) attend a Taster Day at the University of Surrey so that they can have a similar experience of university life and begin planning ahead.

Subject Seminars are held in Sixth Form subjects to help girls to make informed decisions about their A level or IB choices.

The opportunity to undertake **Work Experience** in UV or LVI is available. This is often arranged through girls' own contacts, however we can offer guidance as to which companies offer work experience and suggestions through prior links that we have built up over many years. In addition, we can offer **Mentoring** via our Alumna network in a wide range of areas such as Business, Law, Medicine and Engineering. We now have our own platform **Abbey Connect** to allow direct Mentoring and Work Experience to take place between Alumna and Sixth Form. **Unbiased Careers Advice** may be provided by **Anne Malone our link Careers Advisor**.

Careers and Higher Education Fair is a biennial event offering a full range of subject areas and career choices – from Architecture to Zoology – where 25 universities and over 60 exhibitors are available for consultation, many of whom are Abbey Alumna. Throughout the evening, a series of mini-lectures run on all major areas.

The Aspire Lecture Series provides inspirational speakers several times a year for girls and parents in a range of subject areas. In addition there are interactive workshop type evenings and smaller seminars and lunch-time talks. **Aspire Networking Dinners** are a very popular event for our Sixth Form girls and alumna.



In LVI each girl uses **Course Finder**, the continuation of the Morrisby system, and receives a profile suggesting possible university courses she can use as a springboard for **UCAS Day**, where each girl is introduced to the UK university application process via UCAS. Each girl is then guided and supported through the process by the Sixth Form Team.



When our girls receive their **examination results**, we ensure Heads of Department are on hand to offer support and advice. Occasionally, a girl will not achieve the results she had hoped for and we ensure that she is supported through the UCAS Clearing process to ensure a happy and successful outcome.

*Career-related activities are **integral** to every pupil's experience at The Abbey.*

See the document Aspire Events for details of large-scale events, workshops, mini Aspire talks and other opportunities available for students.