SECONDARY SCHOOL

KEY STAGE 3

INFORMATION BOOKLET

The ABC International School

Providing the British National Curriculum For An International Future

WWW.THEABCIS.COM
Key Stage 3
The ABC International School
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Mr Luke Raddon - Head of Key Stage 3

I am delighted to welcome parents and students to Key Stage 3. This is an important and exciting period in a student’s academic career. Students build upon previous learning and develop the essential key skills required for their further studies. Staff encourage pupils to become independent and creative in all aspects of academic life. Not only do we have passionate and innovative staff who help fulfill their potential, we also have a dedicated pastoral team who are here to offer additional support and care to our students. We also encourage students to engage in activities outside the classroom and participate in the wide variety of activities and events that the school has to offer. This helps to shape our pupils into well rounded young adults.
I hope that you enjoy reading the information that is contained within this booklet, and I will be more than happy to provide any further information that you may require.

lukeraddon@theabcis.com

Mr Steve Shaw - Head of Secondary School

The move into Key Stage 3 marks the entry to the Secondary curriculum. For the first time students experience a greater diversity of teaching staff and work with subject specialists and in subject specific classrooms. Students enjoy this change in style of education and environment as it marks the start of a more mature educational experience. The school ensures a smooth transition into this through our ongoing work with our Primary colleagues and a number of transition opportunities. This helps reinforce the fact that we are one whole school.
Students use this stage of their education to learn more about the specifics of each of the subject areas before choosing a smaller number of subjects in Key Stage 4. The culmination of this Key Stage is the IGCSE options process which begins in Year 9. All of the curricula in Key Stage 3 are designed to develop students skills alongside their knowledge and understanding, in preparation for the later years.

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Information Regarding Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

Key Stage 3 consists of Years 7-9, and our teaching is based upon the National Curriculum of England and Wales. In this Key Stage we strive to provide our students with a broad and balanced curriculum that will encourage them to develop their ideas and pursue their interests. The subjects that are taught at this level include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Drama</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Design Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Business Studies</td>
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<td>Geography</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
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<td>French / Chinese</td>
<td>Art</td>
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The National Curriculum Levelling System

At The ABC International School, students are levelled in line with the levelling system used by the National Curriculum of England and Wales. Students are graded using a number and lettering system, this results in the student attaining a specific level and sublevel. The level represents the skills that the student has demonstrated their ability to perform and their ability to apply the knowledge and skills that they have learned.

The progress that a student is making as they move from one year group to another is easily tracked. This allows the teachers to set directed targets for the student in order to assure progression and success.

Typical End of Year Levelling Structure

The National Curriculum Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Above Average</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Below Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>5B+</td>
<td>5C-4B</td>
<td>4C and below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>6C+</td>
<td>5A-4A</td>
<td>4B and below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>6A+</td>
<td>6B-5B</td>
<td>5C and below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Assessment**

The progress that our students make is assessed regularly throughout the year through on-going teacher assessment. There are also two main assessment periods when student performance is more formally monitored. The results of these evaluations are communicated to parents via the school reporting system. Parents are also invited into the school on two occasions during the year, where they are able to discuss the progress of their child directly with the teachers.

**Extra-curricular programme**

A large extra-curricular programme is offered and activities of all descriptions are accessible to the students, some examples of such activities include the International Award, Young Enterprise and Service/Charity clubs. We also offer a vast range of Sports and Music activities. Special events take place regularly which encourage students to look at themselves and the world in a different light. These events include Cultural Appreciation Day, Book Week, Science Week and the Creative Arts Week.

**Rewards and Recognition**

We also have a rewards system where students can collect house points for good behaviour and for making a positive contribution to lessons, these points can be accumulated and certificates are presented to the students when they attain a certain number. We also have an ‘Academic Commendation Award’ which can be awarded by any teacher to a student who has produced work of exceptional quality or is deserving of recognition for an action or service.

We endeavour to provide the highest quality of service to our students and encourage full involvement within and outside of the curriculum.

*Please visit the school’s website to see some of the high quality work samples that have been produced by our students*  
[www.theabcis.com](http://www.theabcis.com)
Introduction

English is vital for communicating with others in school and in the wider world. It is also fundamental to learning. Students develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. They learn to express themselves creatively and imaginatively with confidence and clarity.

Literature in English is rich and influential. It reflects the experiences of people from many countries and times and contributes to our sense of cultural identity. Students learn to become enthusiastic and critical readers of stories, poetry and drama as well as non-fiction and media texts. Students gain access to the pleasure and world of knowledge that reading offers.

Year 7
Term 1: Completion of Transition Unit from Year 6
Term 2: Autobiography
Term 3: Mid-year Exams and Shakespeare
Term 4: Poetry
Term 5: End of year Exams, Media (Film Narratives) and Debating skills

Year 8
Term 1: Narrative and Descriptive Writing
Term 2: Shakespeare’s ‘Twelfth Night’
Term 3: Mid-year Exams and a novel
Term 4: Poetry
Term 5: End of year Exams and Media (Newspapers)

Year 9
Term 1: Writing to Argue, Persuade and Advise
Term 2: Shakespeare’s ‘Romeo and Juliet’
Term 3: Mid-year Exams and a novel
Term 4: Poetry
Term 5: End of year Exams and Introduction to the IGCSE Extended Reading Paper
Introduction

The study of Mathematics develops the ability to calculate, reason logically, solve problems and handle data. In Key Stage 3, topics are divided into four main categories, which are number, algebra, shape and space and data handling. The skills learnt by studying these areas of Mathematics can be transferred into many other subject areas. They also have important uses in everyday living, in many areas of employment, in modelling situations and in decision making analysis. Students will be introduced to many new topics while extending the work already covered in Primary.

Topics covered in Year 7
In Year 7 the topics studied include fractions and decimals, area and perimeter, averages, geometrical reasoning, data collection, types of number, formula, ratio, proportion, transformations, statistical charts, polygons, simplifying algebraic expressions, solving equations, calculator methods, probability, functions and construction.

Topics covered in Year 8
In Year 8 the topics studied include powers and roots, sequences and functions, geometrical reasoning, probability, equations and formulae, identities, measure and mensuration, graphs, data handling, problem solving with negative numbers, construction and loci, coordinates, calculator methods and simplifying algebraic expressions.

Topics covered in Year 9
In Year 9 all of the topics studied in Years 7 and 8 will be revisited and extended. In addition several new topics will be introduced including limits of accuracy, compound measures, standard form, index laws, quadratic and cubic graphs, relative frequency, inverse functions, reciprocals, simultaneous equations, Pythagoras’ Theorem and trigonometry.
Introduction

Much of modern society is based on scientific innovation and thus a broad knowledge and understanding of science is essential for our citizens of the future. At Key Stage 3 our students follow a science course covering concepts encompassing the more formal subject disciplines of Physics, Chemistry and Biology. The course is topic based, each topic having a focus on one of the areas of Science but also building on previous knowledge highlighting the interrelated nature of each subject. There is also a strong focus on skills development encouraging students to develop debating, analytical, practical and presentation skills, as well as developing their critical thinking when explaining the more abstract ideas needed to relate scientific knowledge to everyday life and the world around them.

Topics covered in Year 7
Cells and reproduction
Acids, alkalis and chemical reactions
Energy, electricity and electrical circuits
Environmental science including classification of living organisms
Particles and solutions and separation techniques
Forces including gravity and the solar system

Topics covered in Year 8
Food and respiration
Atoms, mixtures and compounds
Thermal energy
Magnetism and electromagnetism
Diseases
Rocks and rock formation
Waves including light and sound

Topics covered in Year 9
Genetics and inheritance
Metals and the reactivity series
Electricity
Gravity and Space
Plants and photosynthesis
Environmental Chemistry
Movement, force and pressure
Introduction

ICT is an essential skill that students will need throughout education and work life. At the ABCIS we will teach all the skills needed to be a confident ICT user. Students will study a variety of projects that they will find extremely interesting and relate to real life uses of ICT.

**Topics covered in Year 7**
Term 1– “E-Safety” using Publisher and Moviemaker
Term 2– “Con Dao Hotel” using Presentation software
Term 3– “Marwell Zoo” using Spreadsheet software
Term 4– Programming In Scratch
Term 5– “Superhero’s” Introduction to Database software

**Topics covered in Year 8**
Term 1– Digital Art using Photoshop
Term 2– Web Authoring using Dreamweaver
Term 3– Isle of Wight Festival using Spreadsheet software and relational databases using Access
Term 4– Programming
Term 5– Interactive Products using Flash

**Topics covered in Year 9**
Term 1-4 “The restaurant project”
With their fantastic ICT skills, students will help to launch and organise the running of a new restaurant, this includes creating products in software such as Adobe Photoshop and Dreamweaver, Microsoft Excel, Access, Word and PowerPoint.

Term 5—Introduction to IGCSE ICT
Students will be ready to plan for the start of their IGCSE ICT course and complete a introductory project to give them a head start.
Introduction

History presents students with the unique opportunity to explore and investigate the lives and events of people from the past. History will stimulate students’ curiosity and imagination through interactive and engaging lessons focused on developing historical skills. History at Key Stage 3 provides a strong foundation for students, giving them a wide range of knowledge about British History and the wider world. As they develop their historical understanding, students will evaluate evidence, identify and analyse different interpretations of the past, and learn to substantiate their own arguments and judgements. History will also encourage students to explore the past by producing their own role plays, creative writing and project based work.

Topics covered in Year 7
An introduction to the study of History
The Ancient World - Egypt, Greece and Rome
The Norman Conquest
Medieval Realms

Topics covered in Year 8
The Slave Trade
The Tudors
The Stuarts and the English Civil War
The Native Americans

Topics covered in Year 9
Society in the early Twentieth Century
The Suffragettes
World War One
The Rise of Hitler and World War Two
Vietnamese History
Introduction

Students will enter a new world of Geography at Key Stage 3, which will challenge their existing knowledge as well as introducing new topics. The course covers a broad range of human, physical and environmental elements that will help our students make sense of a complex and dynamically changing world. Students will learn where places are, how places and landscapes are formed, how people and their environment interact, and how a diverse range of economies, societies and environments are interconnected. They will also gain key skills such as map reading, decision making and debating.

Topics covered in Year 7
Map and Atlas Skills
Settlement
Country study - Brazil
Weather and Climate
Rivers and Flooding

Topics covered in Year 8
Coasts and Management
Rocks and Weathering
Globalisation and Fashion
Development

Topics covered in Year 9
Industry
Tourism
Country Study – Kenya
Plate tectonics
Population
Environmental Concerns and Resource Depletion
Introduction

Drama is a subject that is essential to all students’ personal and academic development. Moreover, students will develop their ability to empathise through devising texts, performances and evaluation. Drama nurtures creativity, imagination and ingenuity in children as it involves them in a process that helps enhance self-esteem, self-discipline, cooperation, and self-motivation.

**Topics covered in Year 7**
Term 1: Introduction to Drama  
Term 2: Greek Theatre  
Term 3: Mid-year Exams and Ballads  
Term 4: Commedia d’ell Arte and Physical Theatre  
Term 5: Dramatisation of a playscript

**Topics covered in Year 8**
Term 1: Introduction to Shakespeare  
Term 2: Pantomime  
Term 3: Mid-year Exams and Seven Deadly Sins  
Term 4: Trestle Masks and Mime  
Term 5: Melodrama

**Topics covered in Year 9**
Term 1: Titanic  
Term 2: Television Advertisements  
Term 3: Mid-year Exams and Romeo and Juliet Stage Combat  
Term 4: Urban Myths  
Term 5: Dramatisation of a playscript
Introduction

Music at Key Stage 3 aims to engage and inspire students through a range of topics and activities. Students will learn about standard notation and theory, as well as be given the chance to compose their own music. They will listen to and learn about new types of music from around the world and perform both groups and as a soloist. They will all learn basic keyboard, guitar and percussion skills and those who already learn instruments will be given the chance to play them in class. There are many opportunities to perform at various concerts, showcases and assemblies throughout the year.

Topics covered in Year 7
Introduction to ‘The Elements of Music’
Rhythm and Pulse
Form and Structure
Instruments of the Orchestra
Arranging an ensemble

Topics covered in Year 8
Music from the Caribbean
Variations
Jazz Improvisation
Music and Space
Recycled Rhythm

Topics covered in Year 9
Musicals
Minimalism
Soundtracks
Rock ‘n’ Roll
Popular Song
Introduction
Business Studies at Key Stage 3 is unique. Few schools offer this exciting and informative course until Year 10. Business Studies teaches some of the fundamental concepts and makes students think about and reflect on the world around them. There is a focus on relevant global issues and developing an entrepreneurial mindset. This is enhanced by the fact that students will simulate setting up and running actual businesses within their lessons. Students learn to understand simple financial concepts and how to add value. Along the way, students will gain an insight into what makes a business successful, the different styles of management, how to successfully market a business and the main types of ownership.

Topics covered in Year 7
Introduction to business, brands and logos
Nature and purpose
Types of organisation
Recruitment training and selection
Production methods
Business Sectors and how they interlink
Introduction to finance
Channels of distribution and location
Environmental costs of industry and commerce

Topics covered in Year 8
Taking calculated risks
Sources of finance
Shares and savings
Being enterprising: Enterprise project
Stages of production
Efficiency, productivity and competition
Market research
Marketing
Marketing project: creating a Luxury chocolate brand

Topics covered in Year 9
Entrepreneurial qualities
Business Legal Structures
Business Communication
External influence
Ethical Considerations
Go Green: Social enterprise project
Globalisation and international business
E commerce and managing growth
Introduction

The Art and Design programme at Key Stage 3 is designed to give students a wide and varied appreciation of Art within their three years of study. During which time students will experience a range of aspects of Art by studying various methods of creating art, with particular emphasis on painting and drawing. We believe that everyone can draw; you just need to be shown the techniques and skills required. Learning to observe correctly and implementing it through media is essential with Art. This is a skill which takes time and practice. Taking creative risks and be ambitious about their ideas, whilst also developing their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of art from different cultures and historic periods is key to the Art and Design curriculum.

Year 7
Throughout year 7 Art lessons have a general introduction to basic materials, techniques and some Art movements. The main concepts of art and design are introduced with an equal emphasis on designing, making and evaluation.

Topics covered in Year 7: The Formal Elements of Art, Portrait, Landscape and Still Life, Objects, Shapes in Still Life, Colour and Light Art, Techniques and Trade Tools

Year 8
Throughout year 8 the students continue to develop and enhance the skills and techniques. New media and techniques are introduced along with critical and Historical studies are covered throughout the year. Students also have increased opportunities for individual choice of materials and outcome.

Topics covered in Year 8: The Principles of Design, Art from Different Cultures and Art movements, Art Themes, Painting and Art Appreciation, Designing

Year 9
The aim of the year is that students develop skills in different artistic disciplines and that they become more aware of how Art & Design is used both locally and internationally within the design industry. Students have a ‘taste’ of studying and developing individual ideas and skills in more depth, studying and working in a similar manner to that of the IGCSE Art and Design.

Topics covered in Year 9: Modern Art, Drawing Nature/Man Made, Materials and Surfaces, Reasons to Produce Art, Graphic Illustrational Art, Extended Art Boundaries
Introduction

Design and Technology at Secondary school is the first chance for the students to experience a workshop with hand tools and machine tools. Students will be given the chance to design on computers, use machines in woodworking, plastic textiles and metalwork as well as use their creative skills to design new products. Design and Technology is all about using different materials creatively to design and build products.

Topics covered in Year 7
Product Design - Cereal packets
Metal work - Jewelry Design
CAM/CAD - Laser cutting Acrylic Ruler
Woodwork - Tidy Desk Project
Textiles - Pencil case design
Pop up books

Topics covered in Year 8
Technical Drawing
CAD –Google Sketchup Architectural Model
CAD – Photoshop CD cover
Resistant Materials – Flexi Toy
Graphic Products – Board Game
Resistant Materials – Bird Box

Topics covered in Year 9
Product Design - Fridge magnets design
CAM - Laser cutter - Egg cup holders
Woodwork - clocks
CAD - Google sketch up - House design
Technical drawing
Textiles - Gliders
Product Design - Chocolate boxes
Introduction
This is a subject designed for students learning Mandarin Chinese as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for purposes of practical communication. The course is based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, and these are built on as students progress through their studies. The syllabus also aims to offer insights into the culture and civilisation of countries where the language is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of foreign languages.

Topics covered in Year 7
Greetings and introducing yourself
My home
Family and friends
Leisure activities
School life

Topics covered in Year 8
Food and drinks
Weather
Countries, languages and nationalities
Means of transport
Holidays
Clothes and fashion
My town
Future plans

Topics covered in Year 9
Shopping
Travel plans and tourism
Daily routines
Describing people
Jobs
Introduction
Learning a foreign language is an effective way to extend linguistic and cultural knowledge, and to allow students to have a better understanding of the world around them.
French is taught at the start of Year 7 as a foreign language. To ensure a smooth transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4, students are introduced to all four language skills: Reading, Listening, Speaking, and Writing.
In French lessons, a range of resources are regularly used: a main textbook for each year group (Encore Tricolore), the interactive white board, and authentic material.

Topics covered in Year 7
Greetings and introducing yourself
Classroom instructions and classroom objects
Numbers and alphabet/ Days/Months/Birthdays
Family and pets / House and home
Clothes
Weather
My town
Telling the time
School subjects

Topics covered in Year 8
Food and drinks
Shopping
Countries
Traveling / Means of transport
Describing a town or region
School life
Describing people (looks/ personality/ clothes)

Topics covered in Year 9
Relationships with family and friends
Tourism and holiday plans
Describing past events
Education and jobs
Health and fitness
Introduction

Health is one the most important aspects of life. At the ABCIS we not only teach students how to stay fit, but we do so through exploring a wide variety of sports and skills. Through this exploration we hope that students will find an activity that they really enjoy and will continue to participate throughout their school life and beyond.

Topics covered Across KS3

Basketball, Football, Volleyball, Dance, Rounders, Gymnastics, Competitive Swimming, Personal Survival, Life Saving and Water Polo.

Secondary Sports Day also takes place in December

There are a variety of sports teams across the school, competing in both regular fixtures and a City Championships. These include; Basketball, Football and Volleyball seasons with Athletics and Swimming events running throughout the academic year.

“Healthy body, Healthy mind”
Students in Years 7 to 9 have an increasing number of opportunities to take on leadership roles. They may wish to run for the position of form representative on the student council, or they may wish to put themselves forward for election as a House Captain or Vice Captain.

**The Student Council**

All sections of the Senior School are represented on the Student Council by a Form Representative. Various positions are available to the representatives, they are:

- President of the Student Council
- Vice President
- Secretary

Within these positions students get to help develop their ideas in consultation with the other members of the council. They are also able to improve on their organisation skills through putting on various events.

**The House System**

The school has four houses, the Hanoi Hornets, Mekong Monsters, Dalat Dragons and the Saigon Serpents. Each of the houses have an elected Captain and Vice Captain. Any member of the student body can stand for election. Although it is often students in Key Stages 4 and 5 who secure these positions, there have been successful candidates from Key stage 3.

As a House Captain or Vice Captain students develop both their leadership and team building skills. The main focus of their work is on fostering a team spirit and organising the House for competitive and team building events.

Involvement in both the Student Council and the House system presents students with the opportunity to develop their personal and communication skills. It provides a chance for students to make a difference within their own community.
Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

Personal, Social and Health Education allows all students at the ABC International School to explore different issues, as well as becoming more aware of the needs of others. In Key Stage 3 students study a variety of issues such as bullying, economic well being and study skills. The time that students spend with their tutor and their tutor group is very important because it allows them to work as a team whilst grappling with challenging concepts. The time that is spent once a week on PSHE is therefore an intrinsic part of the pastoral programme at the school and is complimented by the assembly schedule. The PSHE programme is led by the Heads of Year who work with their team of tutors to make sure that all students get the opportunity to discuss issues which are important to them.

Beyond Key Stage 3

The National Curriculum of England and Wales provides excellent foundations for students as they move into Key Stage 4 and beyond. Many of the skills that they learn are those that are needed for the development of lifelong learners. It is not just the skills that students learn that will provide a high level of proficiency, but also students in Key Stage 3 encounter new ideas and subjects which will determine their IGCSE choices. Through each of the subjects students are encouraged to develop their problem solving skills as well as the ability to work both collaboratively and independently. These are extremely important interpersonal and intrapersonal skills which allow students to reach their full potential in later years.

Key Stage 3 at the ABC International School offers students the best in international education, which then leads them into Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 study. The qualifications which students achieve at the end of Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 are internationally recognised, with endorsement from Cambridge Examinations and AQA, the largest examination board in Britain. IGCSEs and A Levels are qualifications which open doors for students, allowing them to pursue their dreams, be it in America, Britain, Australia, South Korea, Vietnam or elsewhere.
Follow the path of learning at

the ABC International School

Saigon South Campus 1
Primary & Secondary (Year 3 – Year 13)

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