

Abbot's Lea School  
Curriculum Overview  
2019 - 20

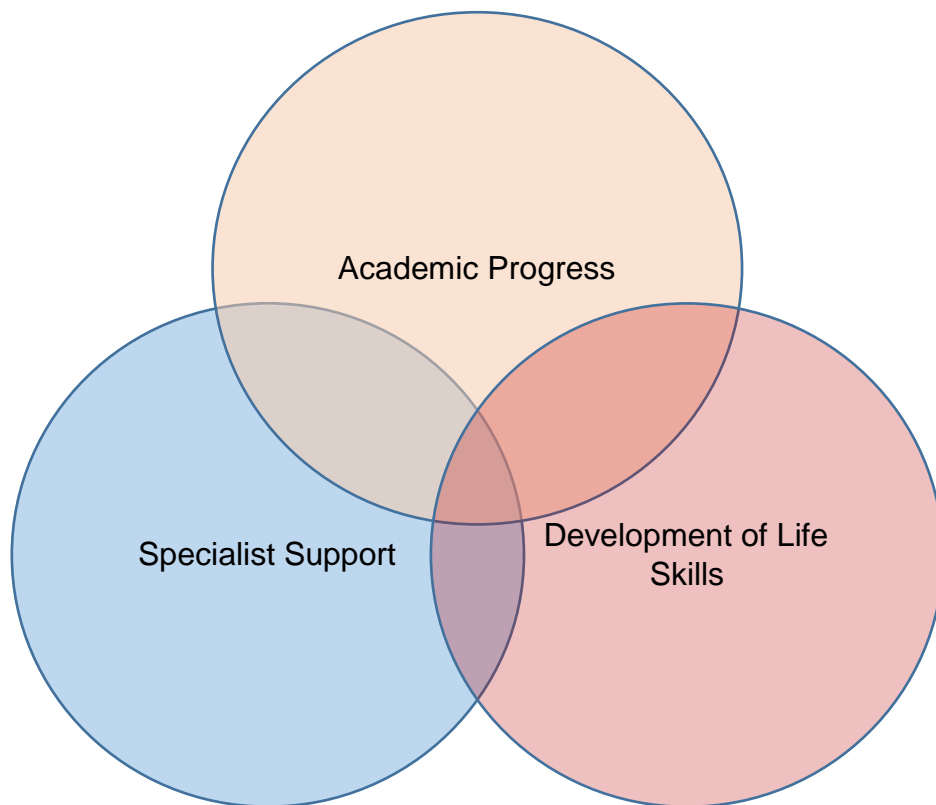


## Philosophy of Education

### The ASD Model ©

- **Academic Progress**
- **Specialist Support**
- **Development of Life Skills**

At Abbot's Lea School we place equal emphasis on the Academic progress that our students make, their Specialist Support Needs and their Development of Life skills. We believe that a student's needs to have all three aspects of their life catered for in order to be supported through life and to have the ability to move onto their next phase of learning.



## **Curriculum Rationale**

The curriculum at Abbot's Lea School is designed to be broad, balanced, challenging and personalised to the needs of the students. The school sets high expectations for our student and promotes independent exploration and a love for learning. We challenge our students and push them to break down barriers themselves, encouraging them to become a part of society they wish to live in. At Abbot's Lea each student has their own personalised pathway through school, which may not be at the same rate as their peers. As a school we believe that students reach their own personal milestone when they are ready, that is why the school has produced the ASD Philosophy of Education. Placing equal emphasis on a student's Academic needs, their Specialist Support needs and the Development of Life skills. As a school we are committed to improving the life chances for all our students and providing them with the skills to be economically able in the future, integrating into society when they leave.

As a school we have adopted a thematic approach to delivering the curriculum, which the model of a class teacher, HLTA and TA within each classroom, delivering the entirety of the curriculum to the students. Through this approach we offer a full complement of subjects which reflects the demands of the national curriculum and ensure that skills and knowledge are transferred across all curricular areas.

Within the daily practice of the classroom, holistic and therapeutic interventions and support are provided to students, this however is extended through the support of the schools designated therapists.

The curriculum prepares students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences which they will encounter after leaving Abbot's Lea School, whilst promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It is designed to promote students' emotional well-being and mental health.

Students can expect high quality teaching and learning. Staff are highly skilled in supporting students to overcome their barriers to learning and social interaction so that they achieve academically, have confidence in themselves as individuals and know that they can go on to make a valuable contribution to society.

Students' progress is assessed regularly by class teachers and HLTAs and students are set challenging but attainable targets. Students are provided with regular feedback by staff to ensure they know how to make progress and improve.

Abbot's Lea School offers a weekly timetable of 25 hours, within this core subjects are at set times with a set length, that increases as students' progress through the school. This decision was taken in order to support students with their cognitive load and retention of core learning. However, at time students learning is below that of their peers and a personalised programme of study will be put into place with a supportive and progressive timetable where possible subjects are taught in a thematic and cross curricular way alongside the delivery of the life skills curriculum and the embedded Employability Curriculum.

There is a morning break and also time for snack. Alongside this there are also opportunities for students to have sensory breaks and also appointments and sessions with therapist within the school.

## **Curriculum Organisation**

Abbot's Lea School is an all phase school split into five Key Stages.

### **Primary**

The Primary Department is currently composed of EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Within the department we have the following breakdown of class groupings:

Class	Number of Classes
EYFS / Key Stage 1	1
Key Stage 1	1
Key Stage 2	7

The students within the Primary Department span EYFS to Key Stage two at Abbot's Lea School have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. EYFS is on a one year cycle, Key Stage 1 is on a two year rolling programme and Key Stage 2 is based on a four rolling programme. The students study all primary national curriculum subjects with topics and are taught in a thematic approach, which builds on the skills and knowledge needed to move forward with their education. Students have daily English and Maths lessons and all other subjects are studied across the week. These include; Science, MFL, History, Geography, Technology, Computing, Art, Music, RE, PE, and PSHE Across the primary department the class teacher is responsible for teaching most subjects with the life skills curriculum being led by the HLTA.

Where appropriate learning is accessed through a sensory and hands on approach with lots of play and investigative learning.

The curriculum is further enriched with external partners who support the school with holistic and experiential opportunities that put knowledge into practice. Students have access to a broad and diverse PE offer, which includes Judo, Dance and Golf. All students have a two week block of swimming per year.

Students also study a life skills curriculum that is delivered by the HLTA in the class, also embedded in the lessons is the Employability curriculum. To supplement this student also have the opportunity to engage in work experience and engage in community visits that support all learning.

Where appropriate year 6 students will be entered for SATS.

## Secondary

The Secondary Department is made up of Key Stage 3, 4 and 5. Within the department are the following groupings of classes:

Class	Number of Classes
Key Stage 3	8
Key Stage 4	4
Key Stage 5	3

### Key Stage 3

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 study a wide range of core subjects. These include: Science, MFL, History, Geography, Technology, Computing, Art, Music, RE, PE, Citizenship, Sex and Relationships and PSHE. English, Maths are taught daily with the rest of the subjects being taught across the week. Key Stage 3 is based on a three year rolling programme as often classes are of mixed year groups due to the personalised needs of the students. This programme ensures that no students visit the same learning throughout their time in the Key Stage, but are exposed to many learning activities and themes throughout their time in the Key Stage.

Students also study a life skills curriculum that is delivered by the HLTA in the class, also embedded in the lessons is the Employability curriculum. To supplement this student also have the opportunity to engage in work experience. There is also the opportunity for all students to have a two week block of swimming each year.

Students also have exposure to activities that supplement and support their learning experiences. These activities provide students with the platform to succeed in different environments while being provided with an opportunity to learn new skills and transfer and apply these skills in a variety of settings. Students also have the opportunity to develop their personal, social and communication skills through these activities, some of which are in partnership with other educational establishments.

### Key Stage 4

In Key Stage 4 students are offered a broad and balanced curriculum and are taught English, Mathematics, Science, ICT, PSHE, RE, PE. Students also work towards external accreditation, which is offered at a level appropriate to the individual student needs and ranges from Entry Level 1 to Functional Skills Level 2. This offer is in English, Mathematics and ICT, with students also study a QCF Level 1 in Science. The structure of the qualifications ensures that students attain relevant grades so that they can progress to the next stage of their education, whether this be in Abbot's Lea School or an external provider.

Students also study a Life Skills qualification, which is delivered by HLTA's and an Employability qualification. These qualifications allow students a further opportunity to improve their functionality in a wider range of areas and offer cross curricular learning and exposure to society and key skills and knowledge that allow for integration.

Students also have exposure to activities that supplement and support their learning experiences. These activities provide students with the platform to succeed in different environments while being provided with an opportunity to learn new skills, transfer, and apply these skills in a variety of settings. Students also have the opportunity to develop their personal, social and communication skills through these activities, some of which are in partnership with other educational establishments. There is also the opportunity for all students to have a two-week block of swimming each year.

The school does offer GCSE qualifications in English and Mathematics on a needs basis

### Key Stage 5

Students who stay in Key Stage 5 continue to gain academic qualifications through the Functional Skills route in English, Mathematics and ICT. However, the focus is the continued development of life, personal and social skills in readiness for leaving school.

As part of this, students complete ASDAN Employability. These courses provide the opportunity for students to work on tasks, which promote independence, confidence and self-reliance and provide opportunities to prepare for being economically able citizens within society.

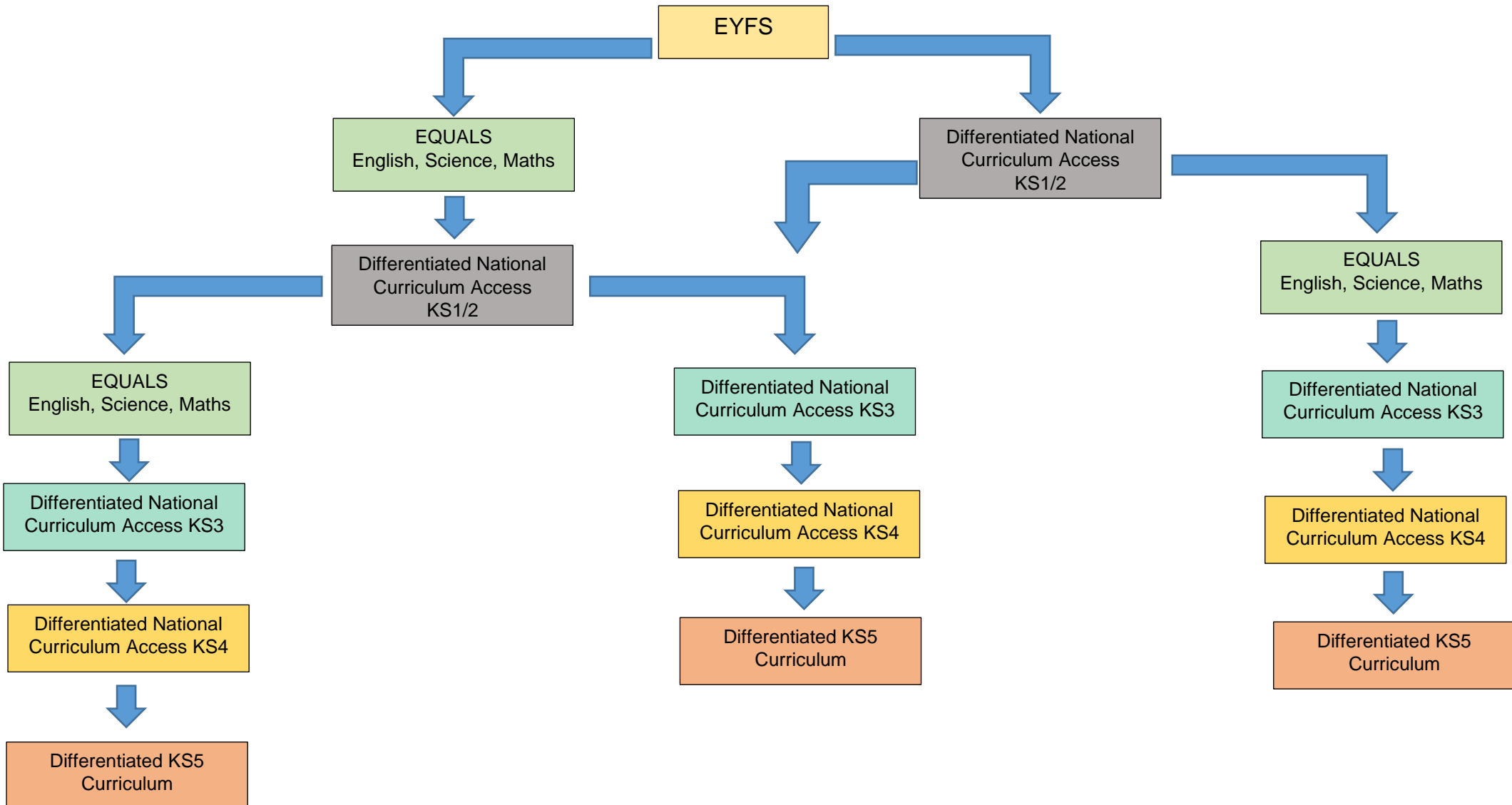
Students also have the opportunity to undertake a Supported Internship within Key Stage 5. This allows the students to embed themselves within an employer for a minimum of six months, gaining the skills needed to undertake a range of different roles. Alongside their working pattern, students also engage in accredited learning through a work skills qualification and Functional Skills English, Mathematics and ICT.

Students are also able to access Independent Travel Training through Liverpool City Council, which is delivered onsite at Abbot's Lea School.

Students also engage in a community day once a week, supporting external partners and engaging in life skills activities such as going to the gym and community visits.

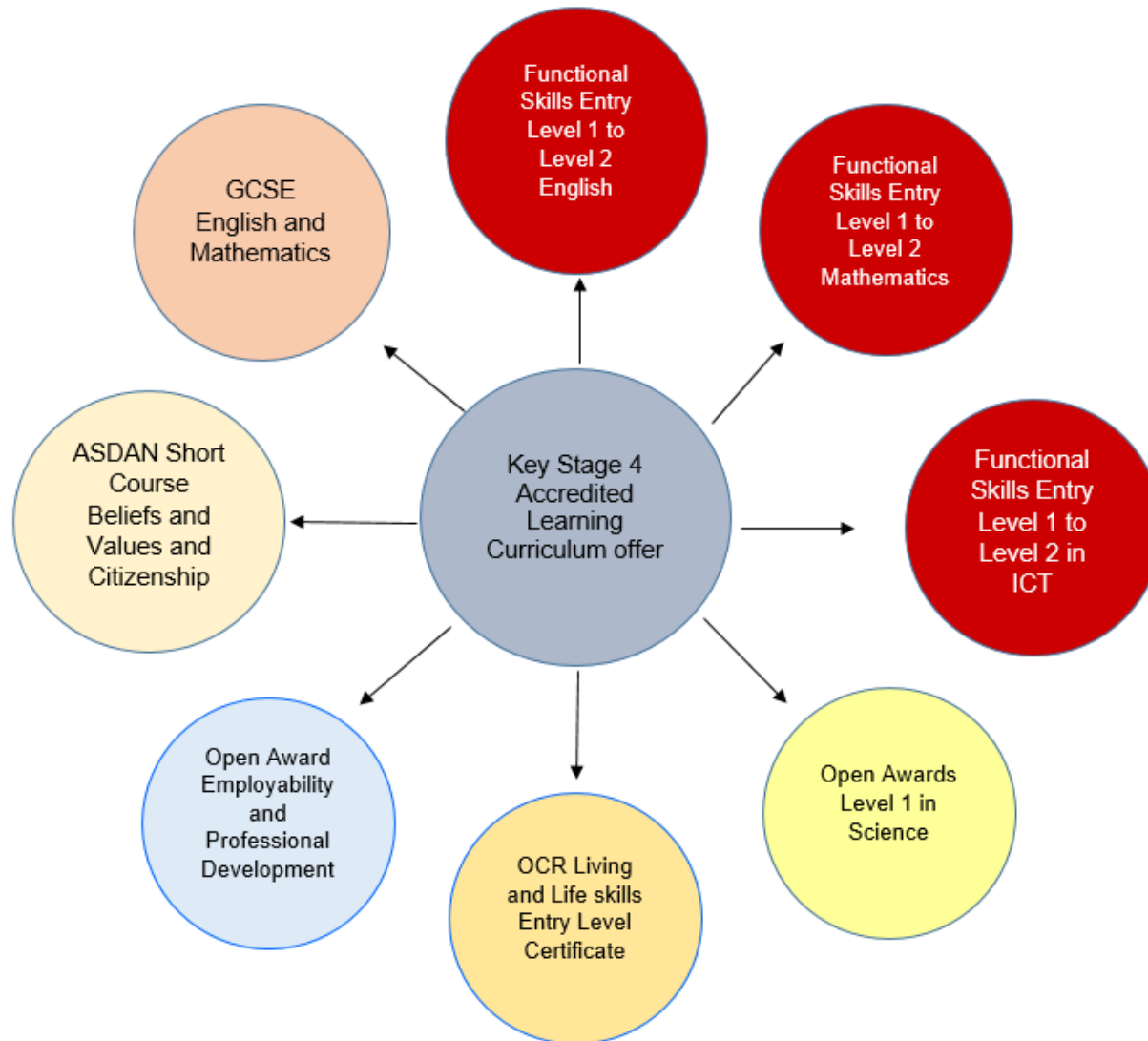


## Academic Pathways





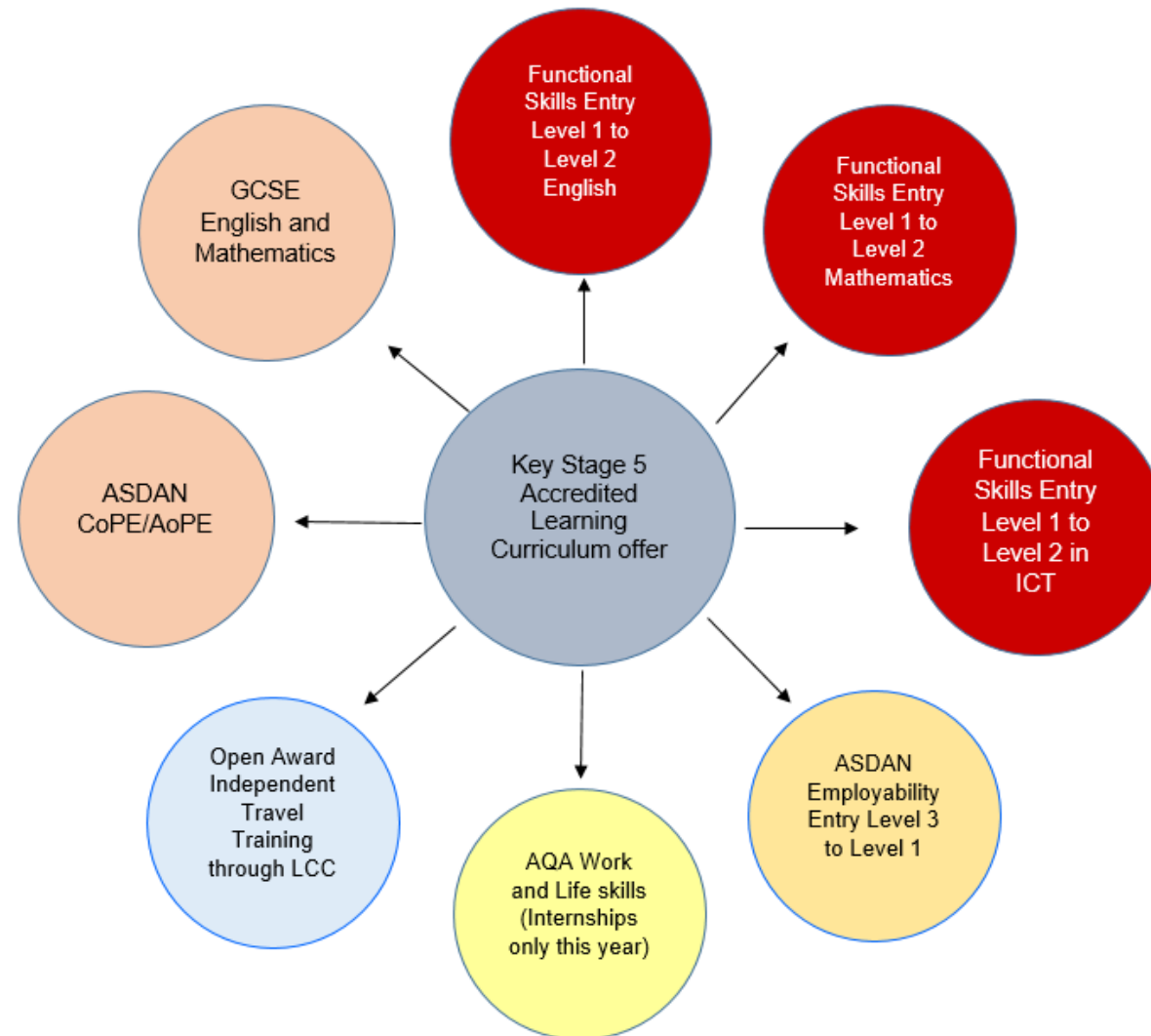
Abbot's Lea School Key Stage 4 Accredited Learning offer







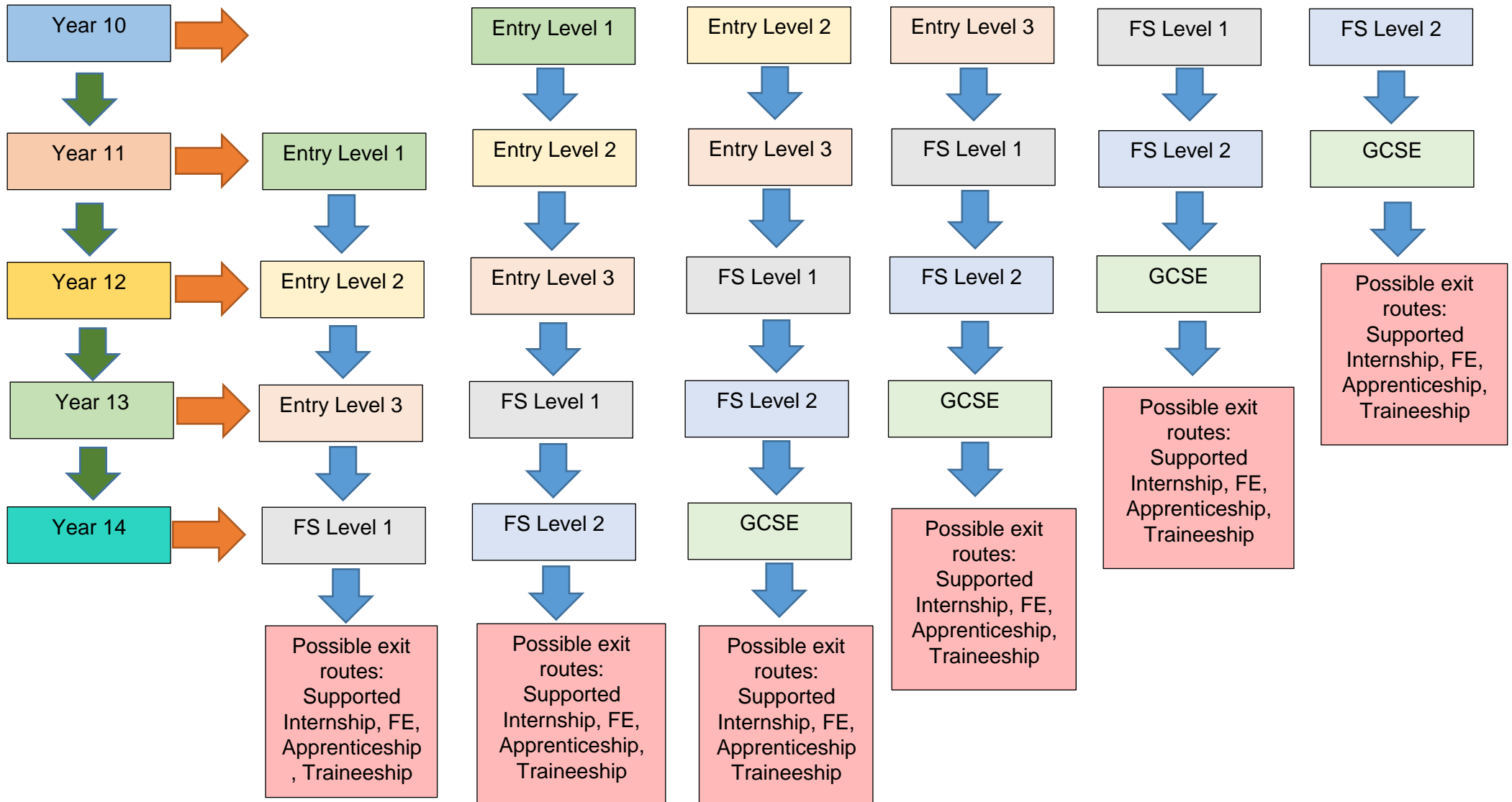
Abbot's Lea School Key Stage 5 Accredited Learning offer 2019 - 20





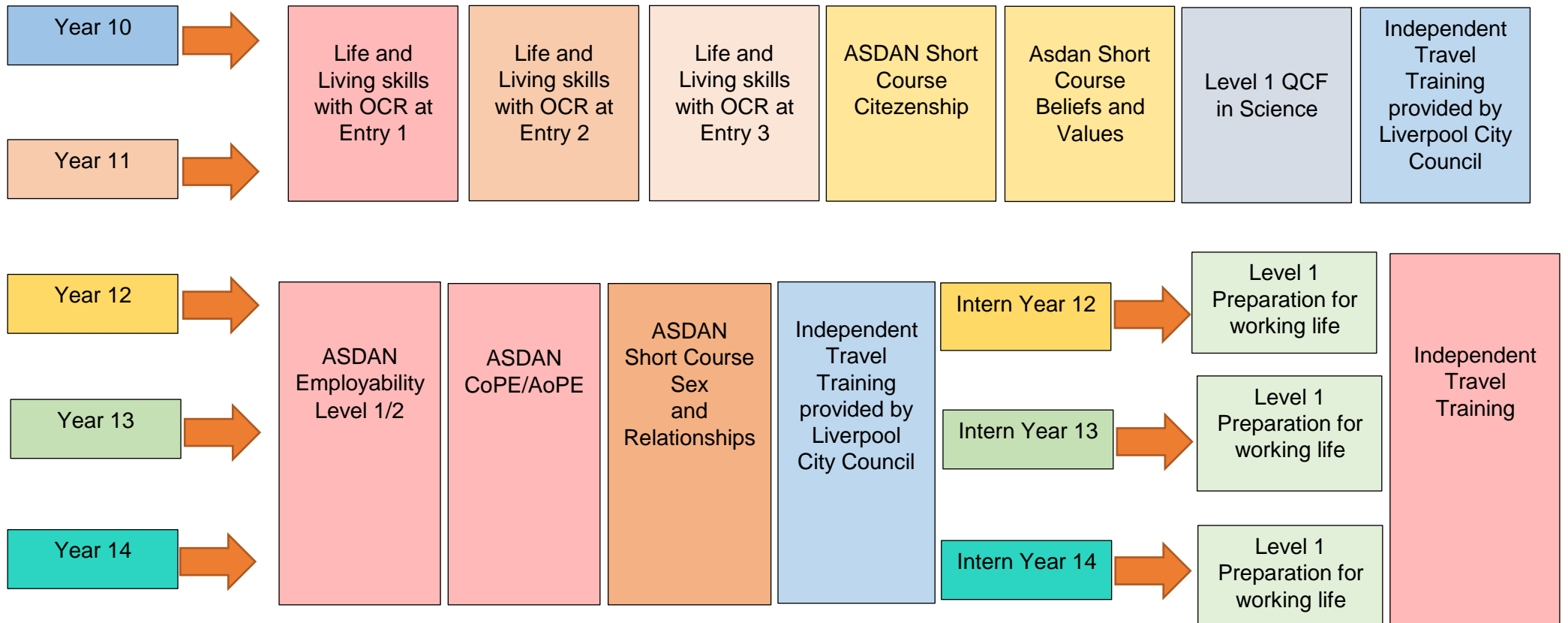


**Accredited Learning Pathways English/Maths/ICT**





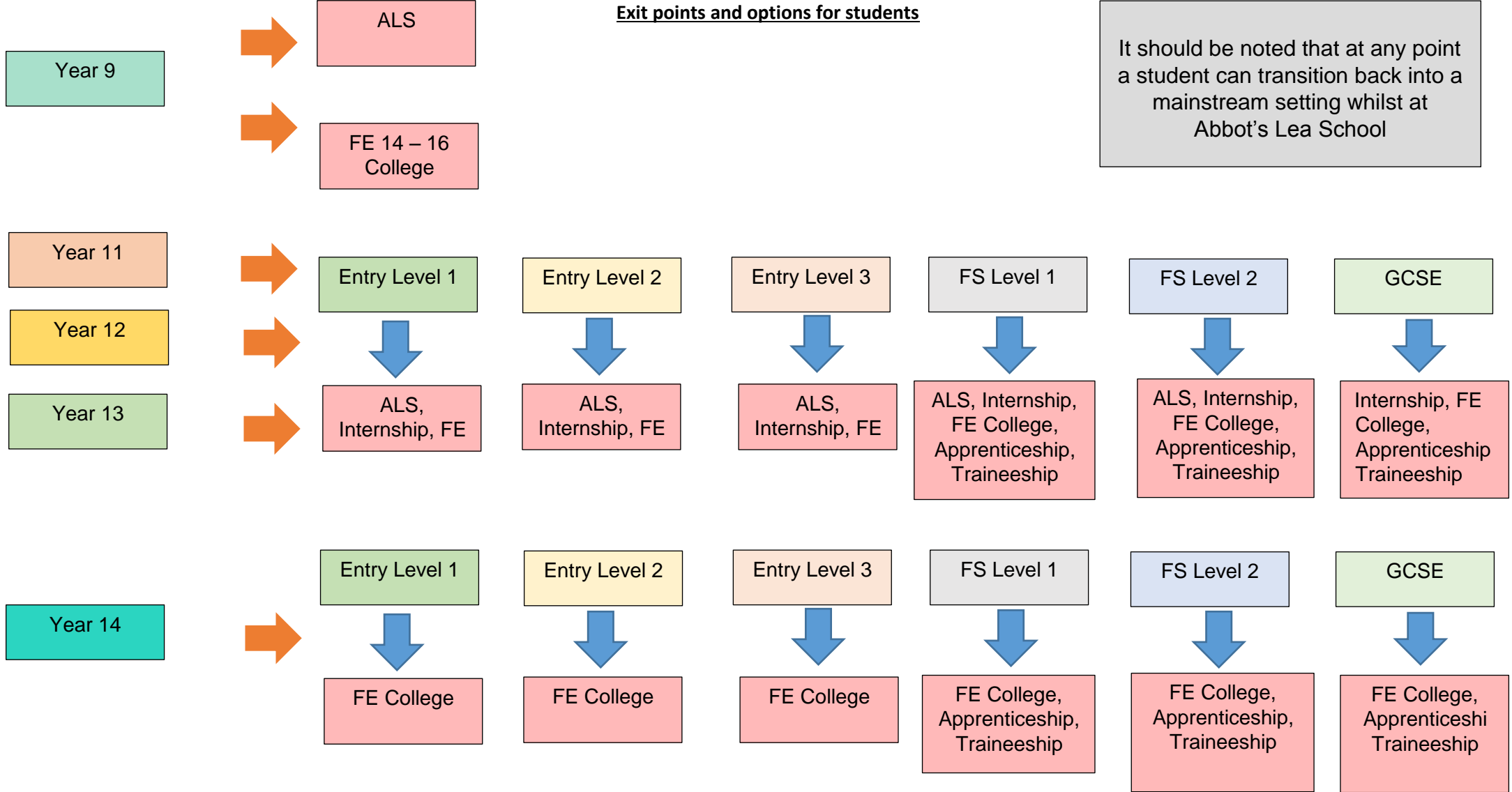
**Accredited Learning Pathways Life skills and Employability**





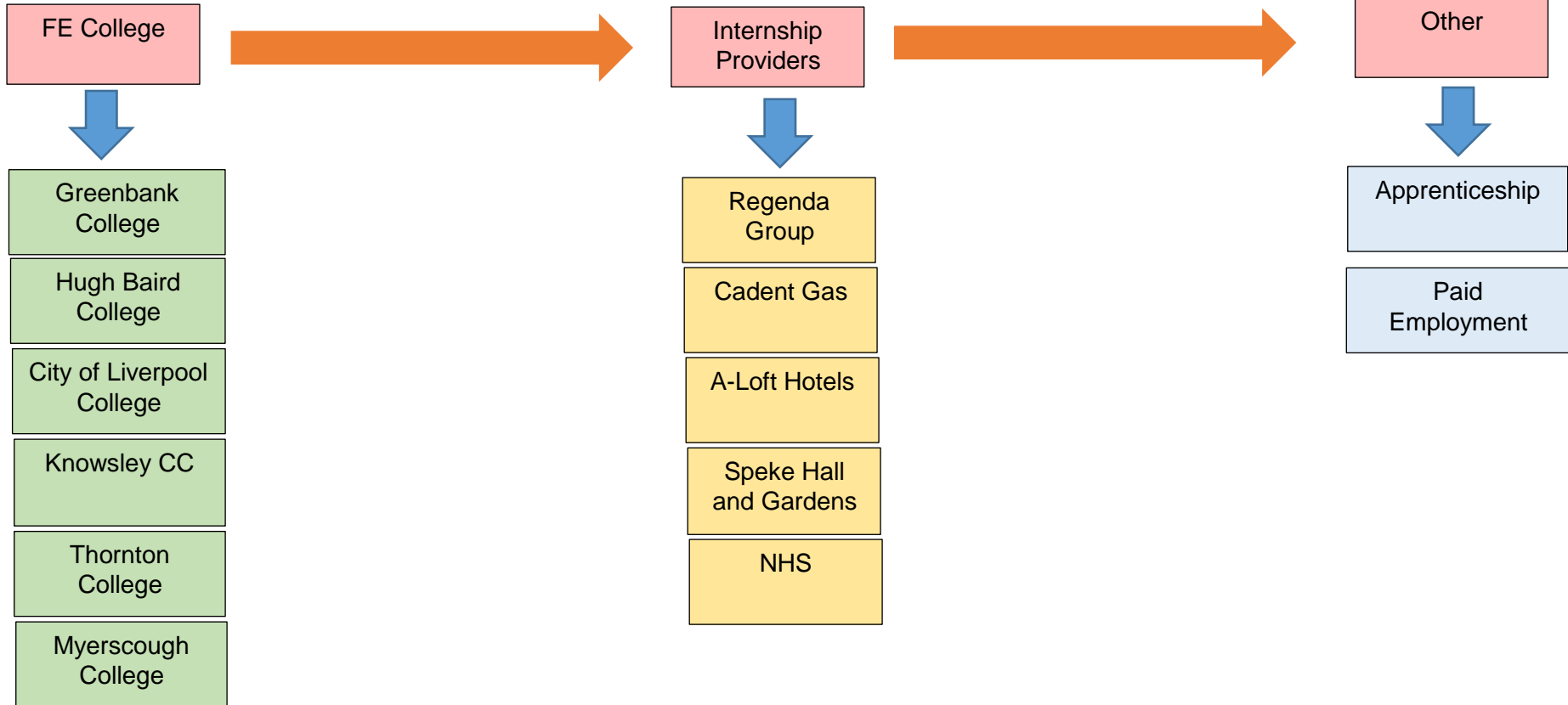
**Exit points and options for students**

It should be noted that at any point a student can transition back into a mainstream setting whilst at Abbot's Lea School



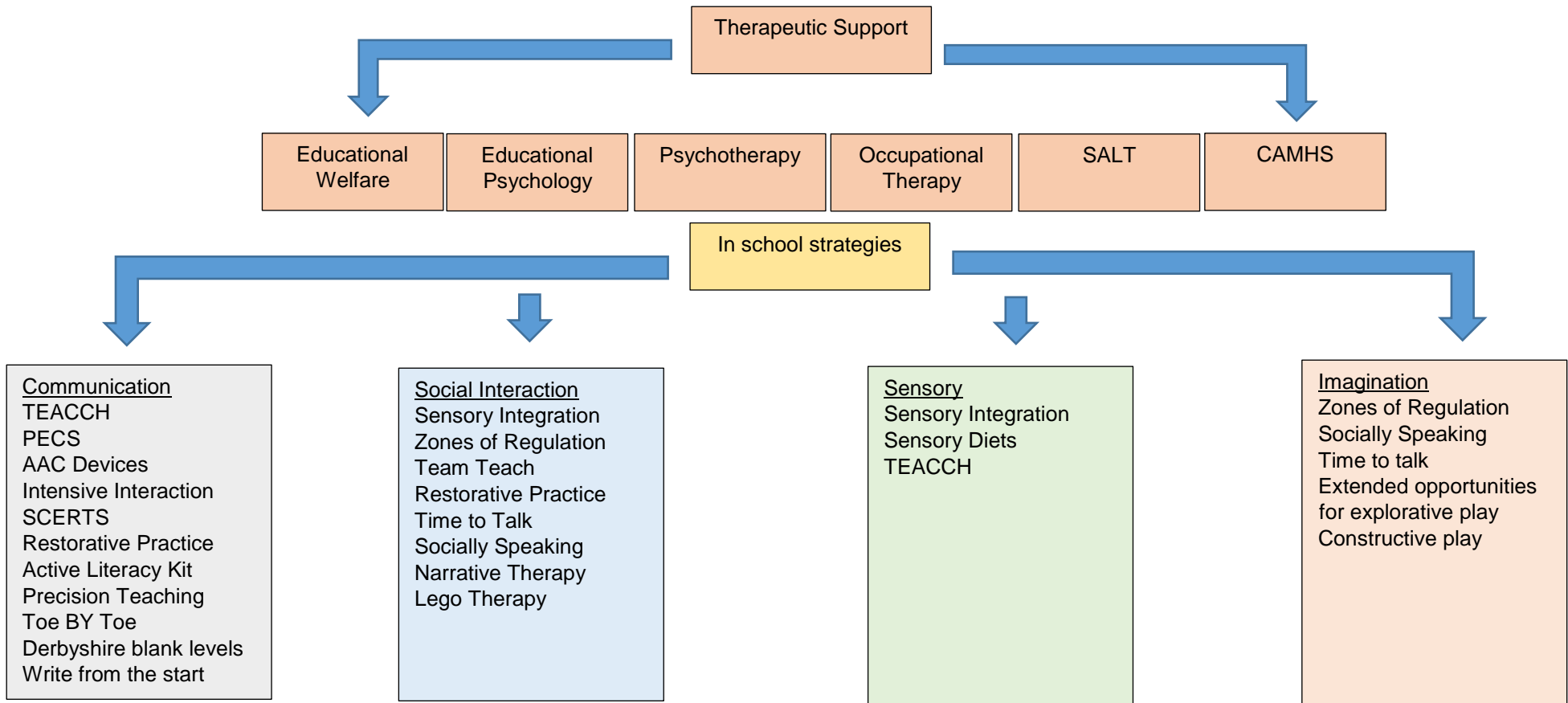


**Known destinations**



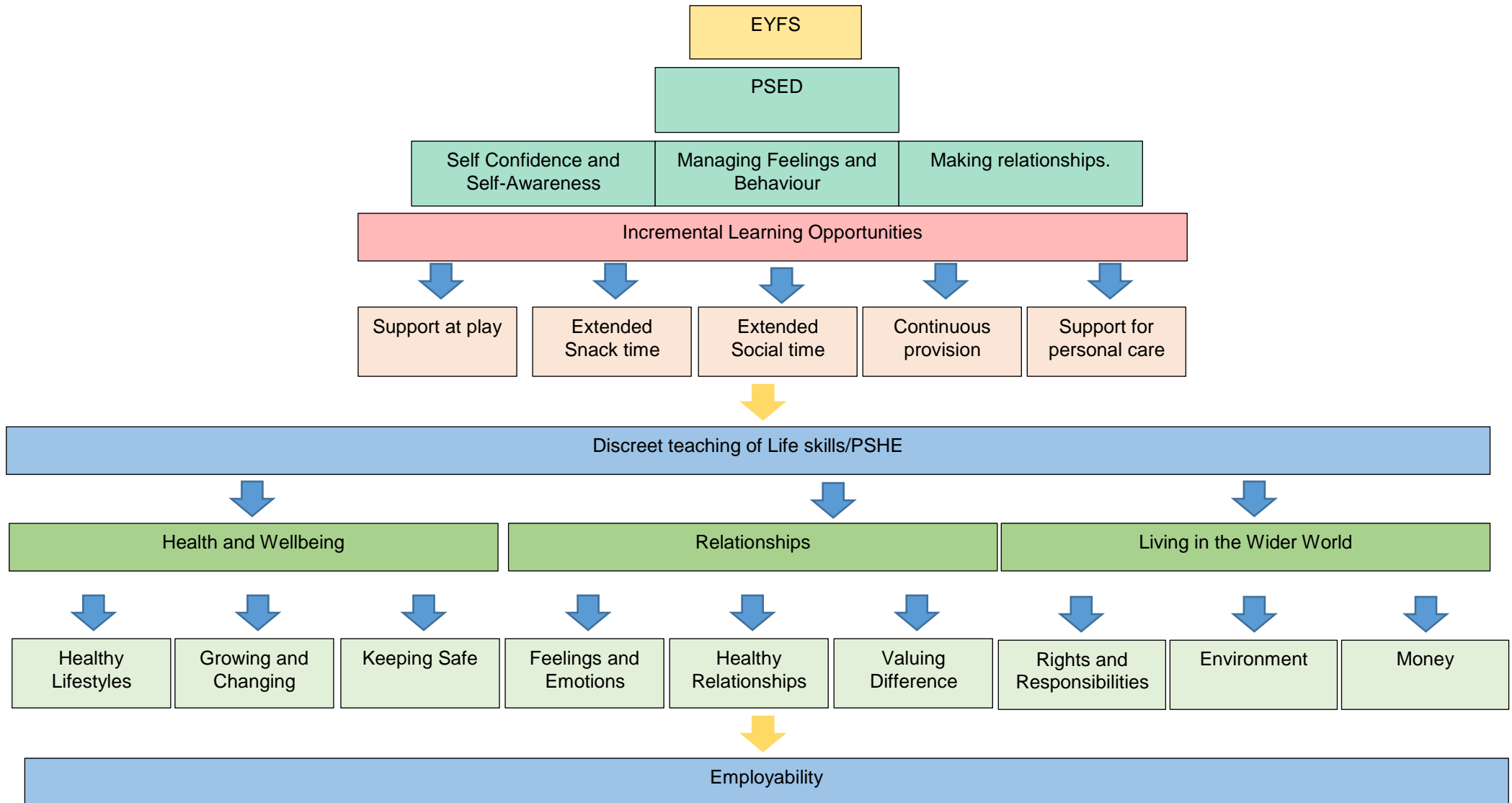


## Specialist Support





## Development of Life skills mapping





## **Individual Support**

The school operates a thematic and primary model across the school, with all class staff (teacher, HLTA, TA/s) present in the classroom for the entirety of learning. Each student has a My Plan and the class teacher is responsible for setting Academic, Specialist Support and Life skills targets linked to the students EHCP.

The school has also adopted a Restorative Practice model that is used with staff, students and families to ensure that positive relationships are built and that the model of Restorative Practice is used to underpin personal and social development.

The school also uses the SCERTS model and this is embedded within the curriculum to support students with the development of their communication and self-regulation. Alongside this the Zones of Regulation enable students to undertake self-checks and make informed decisions about their own emotional regulations, again this is embedded in everyday practice.

## **Careers**

At Abbot's Lea, in line with the Government's careers strategy, we aim to make sure that all students, from the age of 3 to 19 access and embedded and bespoke education through our development of an Employability Curriculum. At Abbot's Lea School, we use the Gatsby Benchmarks to measure the quality of our provision in order to develop it further. We believe high quality careers advice and practical support in terms of access e.g. students are supported with arranging and attending college interviews and visits. is absolutely essential if students are going to achieve their potential.

Students from across the school have the opportunity to engage in work experience and this is a really important part of our curriculum. This opportunity to go and work in the wider community is invaluable and allows students the opportunities to achieve the following aims:

The main aims are:

- to enable students to apply the transferable skills learned in the classroom in a real-life context.
- to further improve skills by making learning more relevant and practical
- to offer further opportunity to develop personal and social skills
- to develop an understanding of work and its related responsibilities
- to broaden awareness of the world of work
- to introduce students to the knowledge and skills of particular occupational area/s
- to help students to make the transition from school