



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

ASHTON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



WELCOME



Welcome to the first ASFC newsletter of academic year 2026/27. I hope that it gives you an insight into the busy life of the college and the great start that has been made to the academic year.

Our A2 students returned to a lovely welcome back breakfast where they were able to catch up with friends and classmates they may not have seen since July. They are now settled into their A2 studies and are super busy with planning their next steps, whether this is a UCAS application or thinking about apprenticeships or employment. Our new A1 students have settled in superbly and are now finding their way around college with confidence. Attendance, punctuality and engagement are excellent across all cohorts which is a great sign of a positive year ahead. I have already held our first Principal's Recognition Lunches where we commended both A1 and A2 students who were nominated for making a particularly positive start to the academic year. I will be holding several similar events during the year, each with a different theme, and look forward to recognising the achievements of many more students.

The year has started with a bang in other ways too. Our term 1 enrichment programme has begun; students have signed in their droves to Writers' Hub, Driving Theory Test training, first aid, British Sign Language and a range of other sports and recreational activities. Our annual EPQ Conference took place in September at which our students benefitted from talks from a great line-up of university professors and college staff who are involved in academic research. Students are now researching their chosen topic areas in depth, and I cannot wait to see what (often niche) topics they have chosen to study this year. Lots of trips and visits have been planned for the next half term, including our whole A1 'trip day' in November and a Physics trip to CERN in Switzerland. Our wonderful new Student Council have started their fundraising drive with a bang through a range of activities to raise money for, and awareness of, childhood cancers. This is a cause close to our heart as a college as we have had a few students in recent years, including some current students, with cancer diagnoses. It is lovely to see our students choose this as their focus and their keenness to make a difference.

Other notable events so far this academic year include our Be Ambitious Awards event where we acknowledged the fantastic achievements of our students in their work experience or employer-set tasks in our Be Ambitious Week in June. Almost 1100 students took part in a range of activities to prepare them for the workplace, and they represented themselves and college superbly well. While they did not all win an award, we are very proud of everyone who took part and hope they found their chosen activity useful. We have also just held our Future Leaders Conference, attended by 80 of our own students as well as 15 pupils from across our Trust. Student delegates heard from a range of speakers including Kathryn Burn, runner up on BBC's The Apprentice; Ric Moylan, an elite performance coach and Cllr Andrew McLaren who spoke about the difference that individuals can make locally. A fabulous day enjoyed by all! We were also honoured to welcome into college Sir Kevin Sinfield for the official opening of our fantastic new Sports Building and Gym.

All-in-all, it has been a busy half term and there is the usual vibrancy that characterises our college. I would like to thank both staff and students for everything they have done to make it such a great start to the year and wish everyone a lovely half-term break. We return to college on Monday 2nd November to what will be another busy half term. I hope as term continues that all our students settled and happy in college. The level and volume of work will continue to pick up but we do balance this with strong academic and pastoral support. However, if any students or parents have concerns about anything at all, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We're all here to help!

With all my best wishes to our students and their families, and a huge and genuine thanks to all those who support our work.

Lisa





STUDENTS TERM DATES 2026-2027

Autumn Term 2026

(Welcome days for new students 1st or 2nd September)

Thursday & Friday	20 & 21 August 2026	Enrolment - New Students
Thursday	03 September 2026	Teaching Begins
Friday	16 October 2026	First Half Term Ends
Half-Term (2weeks)	19 October – 23 October 2026 26 October – 30 October 2026	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday	02 November 2026	Second Half Term Begins
Friday	18 December 2026	Term Ends

Spring Term 2027

Monday	04 January 2027	Term Begins
Friday	12 February 2027	First Half Term Ends
Monday - Friday	15 February – 19 February 2027	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday	22 February 2027	Second Half Term Begins
Thursday	25 March 2027	Term Ends (<i>Bank Holiday 26th</i>)

Summer Term 2027

Monday	12 April 2027	Term Begins
<i>Monday</i>	<i>03 May 2027</i>	<i>MAY BANK HOLIDAY</i>
Friday	28 May 2027	First Half Term Ends
Monday - Friday	31 May – 04 June 2027	HALF TERM HOLIDAY (<i>Bank Holiday 31st</i>)
Monday	07 June 2027	Second Half Term Begins
Tuesday	29 June 2027	Term Ends



FOCUS ON: New Sport Building and Strength and Conditioning Suite

Ashton Sixth Form College has unveiled a major new development on its campus, providing new learning, sporting and wellbeing facilities for students, staff and the wider community.

The New Sport Building and Strength and Conditioning Suite brings together a range of new facilities designed to support learning, physical activity and wellbeing across the college.

The development includes new classrooms for the English and Sport & Public Services departments, providing modern teaching spaces for students across both curriculum areas. The building also features brand-new changing rooms and a new Strength and Conditioning Suite, equipped with specialist equipment that can be used by students, staff and members of the wider community.

The new suite provides students with an additional space to develop their sporting abilities and maintain an active lifestyle, while also creating opportunities for staff and members of the community to make use of the facilities.

The development represents a significant addition to the college campus, creating spaces that support students' education alongside their wider health and wellbeing.

Jo Heard-Jones, CEO of Stamford Park Trust, said:

"What an absolute privilege it was to welcome Sir Kevin to open our new facilities at ASFC, especially symbiotic given his commitment to transforming the lives of the MND family by rallying communities in order to change the lives of others. If our facilities take one step in the same direction, by providing new opportunities for our students and community to positively influence their lives and futures, we would be thrilled. By investing in our ASFC environment we continue to invest in our locality."

The new facilities were officially opened on Thursday 17 September, with rugby league legend Sir Kevin Sinfield attending as Guest of Honour. Sir Kevin officially opened the building with a ribbon cutting and unveiling of the commemorative plaque.



Sir Kevin has a special connection to Ashton Sixth Form College, with both of his sons, Jack and Sam Sinfield, having studied at the college.

The opening was also attended by The Worshipful Civic Mayor of Tameside, Councillor Helen Bowden and her Consort, Leslie Bowden, alongside representatives from Buildzone, the contractors behind the development.

As part of the launch, guests had the opportunity to meet students and staff, including members of the English and Sport & Public Services Department and Ashton Elite Athletes, as well as explore the new facilities.

Sheridan Lewis, Vice Principal of Curriculum and Planning, commented:

"It was a real pleasure to officially open our new sport building and strength and conditioning gym alongside Sir Kevin Sinfield. This has been a project we've been working towards for many years, so to finally see the gym open and our

students and staff making use of it is incredibly rewarding.

We're proud to have created a space that can support people at all levels, whether they're training to compete at county or national level or simply looking to improve their fitness and wellbeing. Most importantly, we hope the new facilities will become a valuable part of both college life and the wider community for many years to come."

The college would like to thank Buildzone for their work on the development, with particular thanks to Mark Storrie, Director of SPT Sport, for his support throughout the project.

The New Sport Building and Strength and Conditioning Suite will provide a lasting addition to the college campus, supporting teaching and learning while creating new opportunities for sport, fitness and wellbeing for students, staff and the wider Ashton community.





Black Histories

Dr Ketan Alder, Library

Artwork: 'A London Ting' collage artwork by Melissa Simon-Hartman

BLACK HISTORY MONTH - DIGITAL EXHIBITION

For Black History Month, our library has opened a new digital exhibition. Wander through six rooms of photographs, objects, music and stories. You can visit one room, or all six, skip things and return later.

Along the way, you might encounter photographs somebody decided to keep of Manchester carnival, read migration in the changing streets of Manchester, or think about bodies, inheritance and belonging. Elsewhere, a poster for a 1980s night out opens the door onto Manchester's music venues, while protests and graffiti ask how you make yourself heard when nobody gives you a stage. The final room looks forward: what will we carry with us into the future?

None of these rooms are intended to be the final word. Each invites visitors to respond, contribute and help curate what the exhibition contains.

So if you've got a few minutes, or think one of the rooms might spark your interest, come and have a wander through history.

Scan the QR code to view
the online exhibition



ASHTON APPRECIATES

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Khalid Ansari

Nominated by Joshua Selby

We have had numerous issues with computers in Applied Science but when a ticket is issued to IT, Khalid immediately comes down to fix the problem. While he is doing this, he simultaneously troubleshoots learner log-in issues and informs them how to approach the computer in the first instance if it is not switching on.



Megan Birch

Nominated by Andrew Leech

I would like to nominate Meg for her outstanding support with student work placements over the past two months. Her dedication and hard work in helping to secure placements for all of our students, while also ensuring DBS checks were completed and returned within such a short timeframe, has been exceptional. Meg's professionalism, organisation and commitment have made a significant difference to the Sport and Public Services Department, and her support has been greatly appreciated.



Dave Bridle

Nominated by Kirsty Wallace

I'd like to nominate Dave because I have needed his help a handful of times throughout this half-term, and he just gets stuck in. If something is going to take longer than anticipated, he communicates this and keeps you updated on the process. Dave's eagerness to help others is what makes him such a valuable member of the Estates Team.



Louise Brown

Nominated by Giorgia Kerr

I'd like to nominate Louise Brown for her significant role in making sure the library and study centres have run as smoothly as possible this term. With a lot of change and obstacles at the start of this year, Louise has proved herself to be the absolute back bone of the library, nothing is ever too big of an ask. From sorting the rota (a task no one wants) to making sure the team are doing well themselves; Louise is the glue that has been holding everything together.



Rachel Bunting

Nominated by Joanne Walker

Rachel is incredibly supportive when helping both the students and me during the ESP period. Her assistance, guidance, and willingness to help make a significant difference, and I could not manage this demanding period without her support.



Chris Burke

Nominated by Angela McGibbon

The issues with One Drive were driving me slightly insane (yes, more so than usual!). Chris visited our office and whilst I was teaching he sorted it all out for myself and Sharron and it is now syncing perfectly, (fingers crossed). Also and perhaps more importantly we have had numerous issues with adult students logging on to IT. Chris has been amazing, visiting classes when requested and resolving issues. Students have commented how approachable and helpful Chris is.



Jody Cocking

Nominated by Andrew Leech

I'd like to nominate Jody for her fantastic support with student work placements over the past two months. Her commitment to helping secure placements for all of our students and ensuring DBS processes were completed efficiently has been invaluable. Jody has consistently gone above and beyond to support the Sport and Public Services Department, making a challenging process much easier to manage. We are extremely grateful for her hard work and dedication.



Junior Fuller

Nominated by Sam Shepley

I'd like to nominate Junior for working with the teachers to help the students to settle in at college and also assisting in setting high standards in lessons and practical. It does not go unnoticed.



Andrew Gilday

Nominated by Matthew Perris

I nominate Andrew Gilday for separating my 8 PDF booklets into 650 individual documents so I could begin to deliver daily AI quizzes to my A2 students. What took him a free period would have taken me a month!



Cyanne Holt

Nominated by Joanne Walker

Cyanne provides amazing support throughout the ESP period. She consistently goes above and beyond with the support she gives, helping me manage and organise everything while offering reassurance and guidance during a particularly stressful time.



Sue Moloney

Nominated by Sarah Nolan

Over the last few months, Sue has been an incredible support to the Student Recruitment Team, consistently going above and beyond to help us deliver events for prospective students. Much of what Sue does happens behind the scenes, but her hard work, attention to detail and willingness to help are a huge part of what makes our events run so smoothly and ensures the college always looks its very best. Sue has become an invaluable part of our event team, even rearranging her hours to support us when needed. Thank you, Sue, for everything you do. Your support genuinely makes a difference and is very much appreciated.



Rob Murray-Green

Nominated by Claire Morley

This term, Rob has taken time out of his own busy schedule to meet with me and check-in on my workload. He's been very supportive, has helped me to find solutions, and continues to answer numerous questions from myself and the team. During a particularly busy time of year, these interactions have not gone unnoticed and are very much appreciated. Thank you, Rob!



Tony Payne

Nominated by Graham Saffery

I would like to nominate Tony Payne for an Ashton Appreciates award in recognition of the outstanding support he has provided to the Sport and Public Services Department, particularly through the creation of high-quality apprenticeship resources that have enhanced our open events and improved understanding of progression pathways. His professionalism, expertise and willingness to go above and beyond have made a significant contribution to our recruitment activities, helping students and parents make more informed decisions about future career opportunities.

ASHTON APPRECIATES



Ollie Strauss

Nominated by Sam Shepley

I'd like to nominate Ollie for working with the teachers to help the students to settle in at college and also assisting in setting high standards in lessons and practical. It does not go unnoticed.



Helen Wilcox

Nominated by Misba Mehmood-Henthorn

I would like to nominate Helen Wilcox for her outstanding kindness, support and dedication. She consistently goes above and beyond for both students and colleagues, always showing compassion, fairness and a genuine commitment to helping others, making a positive difference every day.



Donna Wright

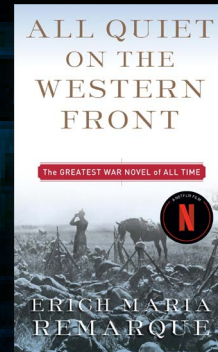
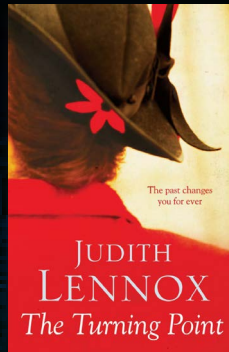
Nominated by Peter Lawrence

I'd like to nominate Donna in MIS for all her hard work and extra ad hoc jobs she did supporting in creating timetables and finding random troves of data that helped write the SAR. And also for being a ray of sunshine who never turns down a request for help.

ASHTON APPRECIATES



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



The Turning Point – by Judith Lennox

Judith Lennox is a historian, whose books have a lovely way of taking the reader back in time. *The Turning Point* is set in the 1950's. It's main character Ellen Kingsley is beginning her promising career as a scientist at Gildersleve Hall in Cambridgeshire, which is owned by Marcus Pharoah a famous scientist. Marcus brings Ellen's time at Gildersleve Hall to an abrupt halt after Ellen finds the dead body of one of their colleagues in mysterious circumstances. Ellen then moves back to London where she bumps in to an old school friend India Mayhew. India then becomes romantically involved with Pharoah. The events of Gildersleve Hall changes the path of Ellen's life and controlling Pharoah sows the seeds of destruction in India's life. The story has many twists and turns, and the reader is really drawn into the lives of the characters as the story unfolds. - **Louise Brown**

The New Age of Sexism: How AI and Emerging Technologies Are Reinventing Misogyny – Laura Bates

The New Age of Sexism is a thought-provoking piece that acts as a warning about how emerging technology can and is being used to harm women and promote misogyny. With themes regarding biases embedded in artificial intelligence and the toxic dynamics of the metaverse, Bates takes you on a journey using extensive research and real-life cases that truly do shock you as a reader. A captivating choice for readers that appreciate a book that will make you question how you see the world. - **Giorgia Kerr**

All Quiet on the Western Front - by Erich Maria Remarque

I couldn't put it down, I found this book to be very moving account of the First World War. Although emotional, the story has elements of laughter as well as brutality that really allow you to get to know the characters and give you such insight to their relationships with one another and the harrowing situations that they found themselves in. I cannot recommend it enough, a perfect read for Remembrance Day. - **Sophie Stone**



ASHTON NEWS

1,860 TOP GRADES OPEN DOORS FOR ASHTON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE STUDENTS

A place at Cambridge, a move to London to study at Imperial College London and apprenticeships launching careers in education and HR are among the exciting next steps for Ashton Sixth Form College's Class of 2026.

They are just some of the pathways opened up by another excellent set of results across A Levels, T Levels and vocational courses. Together, Ashton students collected an impressive 1,860 top grades at A*-B or equivalent.

For Lucas Calvert, achieving three A*s and two As, means he will soon swap Greater Manchester for the capital to study Civil Engineering at Imperial College London.

"Getting into Imperial is a big achievement and being able to study at one of the best universities means everything to me," Lucas said. "Going all the way from a small town in Manchester to London will be scary but it's such an amazing opportunity. I can't wait for a world-class education."

Cambridge is the next stop for Verity Woodward, who achieved four A*s and will study Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic. Her place is the culmination of an ambition which Ashton's staff

supported and encouraged throughout her time at the college.

Verity said: "I'm so pleased with my grades. Ashton has been so supportive of my ambitions, even when my GCSE grades wouldn't have suggested an Oxbridge applicant. My teachers invested so much time in helping me improve and make sure I met my offer."

Their achievements are part of a strong year across the whole A Level cohort, with almost half of all grades awarded at A*-B and more than three quarters at A*-C.

That sense of possibility was not limited to university applicants. Technical and vocational students also excelled, opening up routes into higher education, specialist training and employment.

An impressive 96% of T Level students achieved at least a Merit and half secured a Distinction. Across BTEC and NCFE qualifications, more than three quarters of students achieved at least one Distinction grade and over 100 students gained a clean sweep of triple Distinction grades.

Those achievements are already turning into career opportunities. Finlay Holt achieved D*, D* and C and will begin a Level 3 SEND Teaching Assistant Apprenticeship with Dixons Silver Springs Academy.

"I am ecstatic with my final grades. I achieved higher than my predicted grades and the support

I received at Ashton can be seen in my results,” Finlay said.

He also credited the college’s dedicated Careers Advisers, Lindsey and Deborah, with helping him secure his apprenticeship, adding: “My advice to current and prospective students is to work hard, seek any support you think you need and you will thrive.”

Jack Robinson will also move straight into the workplace after achieving BCC and securing a Level 3 HR apprenticeship with Stamford Park Trust.

He said: “I really enjoyed my time at Ashton Sixth Form College and appreciated the support I received from my tutors and teachers. I’m proud to have secured an apprenticeship and I’m excited to take this next step and gain valuable experience.”

Whether they are heading to university, beginning an apprenticeship or entering

employment, this year’s students leave Ashton with the qualifications, confidence and support to make their ambitions a reality.

Principal Lisa Richards said: “I couldn’t be prouder of the Class of 2026. They have made an outstanding contribution to our college community over the last two years and leave with a fantastic set of grades which are wholly deserved.

“These results represent hours of hard work and dedication as well as a great deal of persistence and resilience. I am very confident that our young people are leaving with the knowledge and skills to thrive at university or in the world of work.”

“Whatever their next steps, I wish them all the very best and can’t wait to see what they achieve in the future. Well done to every one of them and thank you to our wonderful staff for everything they have done to create this success.”



SUCCESS FOR 6 ASHTON STUDENTS DURING OXNET'S ACCESS WEEK 2026!

6 Ashton Sixth Form College students completed OxNet's 2026 programme over the summer at Pembroke College, Oxford. 'Pembroke College adheres to the fundamental belief that all those with necessary academic talent should have the opportunity to benefit from the unique mixture of tradition and innovation to be found at the University of Oxford, and that a richly diverse community benefits and inspires all members' (OxNet).

Over the past academic year, students have participated in a variety of activities including an Academic Study Skills Event, subject Seminar Series, Essay Competition, Twilight Talks, leading to the final event, Access Week (OxNet's summer residential). Access Week is an opportunity for students to experience life as an Oxford undergraduate. Students work with academics from across the university, undergraduate mentors and their peers in a week-long academic programme to help prepare their next steps after college.

Students from the North West, North East and London have completed one of six OxNet programmes including:

- Philosophy & World Religions
- Humanities
- Social Sciences
- Languages
- English
- Science

The theme of this year's Access Week was 'AI and The Mechanical Human'. Upon arrival at Pembroke College, they were welcomed by the Access Fellow and Director of OxNet, Dr Peter Claus and Access & Outreach Manager, Morgan Lewis. Dr Claus supported students throughout the week, delivering an Oxbridge admissions talk as well as facilitating lectures, mock tutorials and mock interviews.

At the start of the week, students experienced their first Oxbridge-style tutorial, working closely with academics on a variety of essay questions and problem sheets. They also participated in



lectures, essay-writing and library workshops and mock interviews, helping to further develop their subject knowledge and strengthen their academic skills.

Science students presented their academic posters to the wider cohort, showcasing research undertaken during February's Seminar Series and responding to questions about their findings. Ashton students, Abdia and Niamh, confidently presented their findings to the whole cohort, exploring areas of Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Computer Science. In the evening, all students attended a keynote lecture delivered by Dr Saurabh Khanna following the theme of the week, entitled: 'Pencils Before Bots: Knowledge in an Age of Humans and Agents', followed by the annual Joseph Owen Formal Dinner. Alongside their academic sessions and essay submissions, students enjoyed a variety of social and enrichment activities. These included quiz nights hosted by undergraduate mentors and trips and visits across Oxford.

"I am incredibly proud of the students who participated in OxNet this year. Their commitment to challenging themselves beyond the curriculum demonstrates excellent ambition, resilience and a genuine passion for learning. By engaging with undergraduate level learning at Oxford, they are developing academic skills such as critical thinking and building their

confidence along the way. Their willingness to get involved in such an academically intense programme and all aspects of Access Week is a testament to their hard work and dedication; they should be extremely proud of what they have accomplished." Alex Noble, Realising Aspirations Coordinator.

A huge congratulations to all Ashton students who participated in the programme including: Ciara (Philosophy & World Religions), Sadie (Humanities), George (Languages), Ariana (Social

Sciences), Ameera (Social Sciences), Niamh (Science), and Abdia (Science). All students throughout the week received exceptional feedback from visiting academics and OxNet Coordinators for their commitment and attitude to the programme.

Ashton Sixth Form College is proud to partner with Pembroke College, Oxford and be the host hub school for the Goldsmiths' and Sutherland Centre for Philosophy and World Religions.

BECOMING AN EFFECTIVE RESEARCHER - EPQ CONFERENCE 2026

At Ashton Sixth Form College, A2 students have the opportunity to take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) as an addition alongside their studies. The Qualification allows students to explore a topic or area that particularly interests them, developing independent research and project management skills along the way.

For the fourth year running, students were invited to the Being An Effective Researcher EPQ Learner Conference. The event offered a fantastic opportunity for students to engage with a wide range of research-related topics.

Throughout the day, students heard from a range of guest speakers: Professor Kevin Orr from the University of Huddersfield, Lily Bissell from the University of Southampton, Emily Sharp from the University of Leeds as well as ASFC staff - Lisa Richards (College Principal) and Dr Rachel Allen (EPQ Co-ordinator).

Students explored various topics, including the use of Artificial Intelligence, the importance of research and how to refine their EPQ topics.

EPQ Co-ordinator, Dr Rachel Allen commented:

"The day would not happen if we did not have such wonderful inputs from our specialist guest speakers covering great themes from the Importance of Research, Defining the Research Question, EPQ journaling, Academic Integrity and using AI, and Numeracy within Storytelling. Huge thanks go to our guest speakers, their input will appear in the reflections of the EPQ students' journey taken with their own research which will be lovely to see!

As we progress through the academic year we will have further research opportunities with the EPQ Widening Participation teams from the University of Southampton and the University of Leeds - workshops on Research Methodology, Academic Writing, Presentation Skills, as well as adventures to University campuses for research time in their libraries to develop projects and get a real feel for what it is like to be a university student!"





Be Ambitious

Be Ambitious Awards 2026

Towards the end of the 2025-26 academic year, A1 students took part in our flagship employability programme, Be Ambitious Week. For the third year running, the programme enabled over 1,000 students to develop their employability and transferable skills by completing either a work placement in a range of sectors, an employer-led project where organisations set real-world briefs for students to complete and present at the end of the week, or an employability workshop.

All students worked extremely hard throughout the term, with the standard of work they delivered being highly commended by employers. To celebrate their hard work and participation, our Careers and Employability Team hosted the annual awards event this week.

The event opened with a warm welcome from our Principal, Lisa Richards, who spoke about the significance of the Be Ambitious Programme and its role in helping students achieve their goals. Lisa was followed by guest speaker, Tim Lowther, who returned to speak to students after opening Be Ambitious Week back in July. Tim spoke about the importance of taking advantage of opportunities and gaining meaningful work experience. Tim also gave tips and advice to students on using the transferable skills they've gained through Be Ambitious throughout their post college plans.

Numerous students received nominations by employers and members of staff that supported Be Ambitious Week. A huge congratulations to all nominees and award winners!



PRINCIPAL'S RECOGNITION LUNCH OCTOBER 2026

This week, our Centre Principal Lisa Richards held the first recognition lunch of this academic year. Curriculum areas nominated both A1 and A2 students who have made a promising start to the year!

Well done to all awarded students:

A1

- | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| ▪ Leo H | ▪ Yahya M | ▪ Iona M | ▪ Leila M | ▪ Oliver W |
| ▪ Afsa K | ▪ Joanna G | ▪ Rachael M | ▪ Sidney O | ▪ Hunter M |
| ▪ Eve H | ▪ Lucy B | ▪ Izzy M | ▪ Frankie D | ▪ Heidi S |
| ▪ Maya S | ▪ Leyton W | ▪ Iqbal I | ▪ Seth P | ▪ Lana S |
| ▪ Lucienne T | ▪ Charlotte H | ▪ Mia M | ▪ Mya W | |
| ▪ Samin K | ▪ Jack D | ▪ Raameen Q | ▪ Isabelle M | |
| ▪ Shaun G | ▪ Ewan W | ▪ Max S | ▪ Anaiah A | |



A2

- | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| ▪ Christos L | ▪ Alfie W | ▪ Faatimah A | ▪ Megan H | ▪ Anton S |
| ▪ Stacey L | ▪ Calista S | ▪ Tanjila T | ▪ Ayaan A | ▪ Aadam S |
| ▪ George M | ▪ Harry C | ▪ Zak M | ▪ Christie M | ▪ Cori E |
| ▪ Ibraheem R | ▪ Gabriella V | ▪ Jamie R | ▪ Corey M | ▪ Ella-Jade H |
| ▪ Eleanor D | ▪ Louie G | ▪ Ruby B | ▪ Jayden R | |
| ▪ Eryk Z | ▪ Ben B | ▪ Olivia W | ▪ Matilda F | |
| ▪ Matthew C | ▪ Charlotte R | ▪ Harrison L | ▪ Louie W | |



FUTURE LEADERS CONFERENCE 2026

This term, our Careers and Employability Team proudly hosted the third Future Leaders Conference 2026, bringing together a group of nominated students who consistently demonstrate leadership qualities across college. The event is designed to help students collaborate with like-minded students and further develop their leadership skills through engaging talks and workshops.

The day started with a warm welcome from our Principal, Lisa Richards, who explored her own journey from teacher to Principal. Lisa set an inspiring tone for the day, emphasising the significance of strong leadership and the value of transferable skills.

Lisa commented:

"Our college is full of bright, ambitious and creative young people, many of whom will be our future leaders across a variety of fields. It is important that we nurture their leadership qualities now, as well as instilling in them the belief that they can and should aspire to the very top of whatever field they choose. It was lovely that pupils from across our Stamford Park Trust family joined us for the day - it was great to see them interacting with each other and ASFC students, developing new skills and sharing their ideas. I think all our student delegates got a lot from the day, and our visiting speakers commended them very highly. I am very proud of how all our young people represented themselves and am excited to see their ongoing career and leadership journey."

This year's line-up of speakers featured Councillor Andrew McLaren, Ed Darling, founder of Project Charisma and public speaking specialist, Ric Moylan, high performance coach and mentor and Kathryn Burn, entrepreneur and finalist on BBC's The Apprentice. Each shared powerful insights from their personal and professional journeys, showing the many different paths that leadership can take them.



Students also took part in a series of workshops, including a Leadership Qualities session led by our Vice Principal, Sheridan Lewis that encourage reflection, collaboration and goal setting.

Careers and Employability Lead, Tony Payne said:

"Our Future Leaders Conference was an incredibly inspiring day and I was so proud to see our students really embrace everything the event had to offer. We were very fortunate to welcome such an amazing group of speakers, who shared their experiences, advice and honest insights into leadership, ambition and making the most of opportunities. Our students came away with a much stronger understanding that leadership isn't simply about having a title, it's about confidence, communication, resilience, taking responsibility and having the courage to make a positive difference. From standing up on stage and talking without using filler words to being physically moulded into the shape of a confident or shy speaker. I hope the day has encouraged our students to recognise their own potential as the future leaders of our college, our communities and beyond."

The Future Leaders Conference 2026 once again provided students with a valuable opportunity to develop their leadership skills, broaden their perspectives and learn more about what it means to be an effective leader. The event encouraged students to build their confidence, recognise their potential and consider how they can make a positive impact in their future studies, careers and communities.

One student fed back:

"It has boosted my confidence in many ways and it was a lot of fun!"

We're proud that the conference has become a regular highlight of the college calendar, providing an opportunity for students to learn, grow and develop the skills they need to become the leaders of tomorrow.



RESOURCES

MENTAL HEALTH USEFUL CONTACTS:

- **College Counsellors**
counsellors@asfc.ac.uk
- **42nd Street Counselling Service**
Manchester. Phone lines: Monday/Wednesday & Friday 1-5pm
0161 228 7321. Can refer online and email any time:
theteam@42ndstreet.org.uk
- **NHS ToG Talking Therapies (Previously Healthy Minds)**
CBT based therapy sessions. Self refer.
<https://www.penninecare.nhs.uk/tamesidetalk>
- **Contact your GP**
Either by telephone or in person
- **CALM**
Free, anonymous & confidential. For males experiencing mental health issues.
www.thecalzone.net 0800 585 858 (everyday 5pm - 12am)
- **Branching Out**
Ashton. Drugs & Alcohol support:
0161 672 9420 - branchingout@cgl.org.uk
Online referrals - <https://www.change.growlive.org/service/tameside-branching-out/contact>
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm. Tues 9am-8pm
- **Kooth**
Free, confidential, online counselling.
www.kooth.com Mon - Fri 12pm - 10pm/Sat & Sun 6pm - 10pm
- **Hub of Hope: online mental health directory -**
hubofhope.co.uk

IF YOU ARE IN A CRISIS:

- **Accident and Emergency**
Attend in person (24 hours a day, everyday)
- **Emergency Social Services**
Call in the event of an unexpected major problem within the home or family. 0161 342 2222 (7 days a week. 6:30pm - 9am)
- **The Samaritans**
Talk to them any time you like about whatever is getting to you. Freephone 116 123 (24/7 service)
Email: jo@samaritans.org
- **Crisis Point**
Freephone 0161 238 5249 (Everyday 4pm - 11pm) [aged 18+]
- **Papyrus**
Suicidal thinking help & support.
www.papyrus-uk.org
- **HOPEline 247**
0800 068 41 41. Open everyday 24/7.
Text 88247.
- **Themix.org.uk**
1-1 chat, text THEMIX to 85258.
Freephone 0808 808 4994

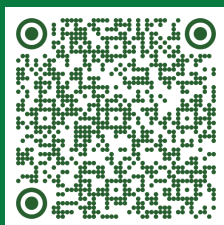
NHS 111: call 111 and select the mental health option 2

If you're worried about being lonely this term there are tips, advice and support available



YOUR GUIDE TO CEDAR

Cedar for parents is an online portal allowing you to become more involved in your child's performance in a way that suits you. It allows you to be engaged in their learning and performance at all times, and helps you to provide the support and motivation that may be needed.



BURSARY & FREE COLLEGE MEALS

The college bursary could provide you with financial support during your time at Ashton Sixth Form College. To check if you are eligible and to download the bursary information pack, please visit www.asfc.ac.uk/bursary