



ASHTON
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Be Ambitious

Rachel Smirke: Director of Curriculum and Progression

Tony Payne: Careers Lead And Employability Manager

Careers and Progression





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The 3 pillars of education

1. **'Character'** – individual traits and strengths that enable someone to flourish at all stages of their lives. E.g. self-awareness, resilience
2. **'Knowledge'** – a rigorous, rich, and stretching curriculum, with each subject or domain studied given high status and an equal emphasis. E.g. GCSE, A-levels, Degree
3. **'Skills'** – the application of knowledge and character in real world scenarios through team work, leadership, problem-solving and communication.



Personal development: Outstanding Ofsted 2025

“Curriculum teams weave employer talks, alumni visits and workplace visits through the curriculum. Students benefit from work experience placements and work-related learning where they work on real-life tasks set by employers. Learners visit universities to explore life in a higher education setting and hear academics and employers speak about future routes and job roles. Staff make sure that students and adult learners access one to-one careers appointments with careers advisers, where they discuss their aspirations, skills, qualities and interests.



Our Career Programme

- Externally assessed to provide excellent support – Gatsby Benchmarks
- Structured and targeted careers programme delivered to all cohorts through tutorials, events and one to one guidance
- UCAS and Employability A2 tutor groups to allow bespoke and regular input from external providers such as universities, apprenticeship providers and employers
- Regular careers events such as Widening Participation Fair, UCAS Convention National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week
- Two full time, fully qualified Careers Advisers plus an Employment Engagement Officer

Careers and Employability Team

Megan Birch



Lindsey Dhokia



Deborah
Hill- Williams



Alex Noble



Jody Cocking



Janet Valentine



Tony Payne



Links with Industry and HE


- Regular employer talks in tutor groups, curriculum and high profile 'Speaker of the Month' slots
- Regularly host Apprenticeship Ambassadors and providers to support students with CVs and mock interviews to help support routes into some of the most highly competitive Apprenticeships.
- Flagship Be Ambitious Employability Programme
- Regular work-place safari's and work experience
- Workshops to support students entering freelance roles or who wish to start their own business
- Careers fairs, WP fairs & employer network events
- Flagship Realising Aspirations programme

Links with over 30 universities from around the country

Collaborate with local employers on identifying skills gaps and ensure students are aware of local LMI

Experiencing Workplaces

- Work related learning is a key part of all vocational study programmes through placements, employer led talks and industry related EPQs
- Links with over 300 employers who provide work placements for our students
- Placements are relevant for the student's study programme and career aims

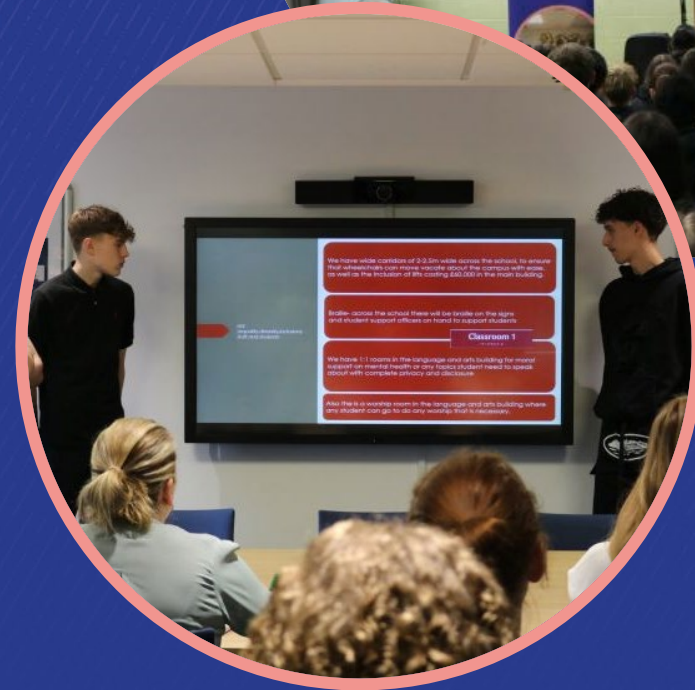


Amazing
feedback from
students and
employers

47,000+ Hours of
work placements
offered to
students

Be Ambitious

- Be Ambitious week is ASFC's flagship **employability** programme
- Developed to ensure that every student has the opportunity to gain a **meaningful** experience with an employer
- Develop **essential employability skills** to build confidence in preparation of the demands for UCAS/Apprenticeship/Job opportunities at A2
- **Stand out** – it takes more than great grades to compete



Be Ambitious

Build a profile – Students can start to demonstrate at application stage they are the best candidate

Articulate – Enables students to talk confidentially in interview scenarios by giving solid examples of experiences that demonstrate essential skills

Develop connections – Some students have secured an apprenticeship/mentor through work placement

Gain a referee – Someone from the industry writing a glowing reference – stand out!







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Year 12 Realising Aspirations Programme

Our flagship programme **aims to prepare students for life after college.** Through seminars and lectures given by leading university professors, students will experience university life on **one of fourteen subject strands** that they are most interested in. Students also get to visit universities across the country too.



Year 12 Realising Aspirations Programme

In 2023/24 we worked with:

9 x Russell Group universities:

University of Oxford, University of Manchester, University of Leeds, Newcastle University, Durham University, University of Sheffield, University of Liverpool, University of Nottingham, University of York

4 x specialist universities:

Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts, Futureworks and University of Law, UFCB

10 x other universities:

Manchester Metropolitan University, Lancaster University, Huddersfield University, Bradford University, Salford University, Chester University, Loughborough University, UCLAN, Edge Hill University, Sheffield Hallam University

2023/2024 - 288 students enrolled

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How can we help your son/daughter now?

- Careers staff will be present at all pre-entry events such as taster days and enrolment
- Able to advise students on the best pathway for them
- Can liaise with careers staff in your school to get extra support for you



Thank You