



ASHTON
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Be Ambitious

Rachel Smirke: Assistant Principal - Curriculum and Progression

Tony Payne: Careers Lead And Employability Manager

Careers and Progression



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STAMFORD
PARK TRUST

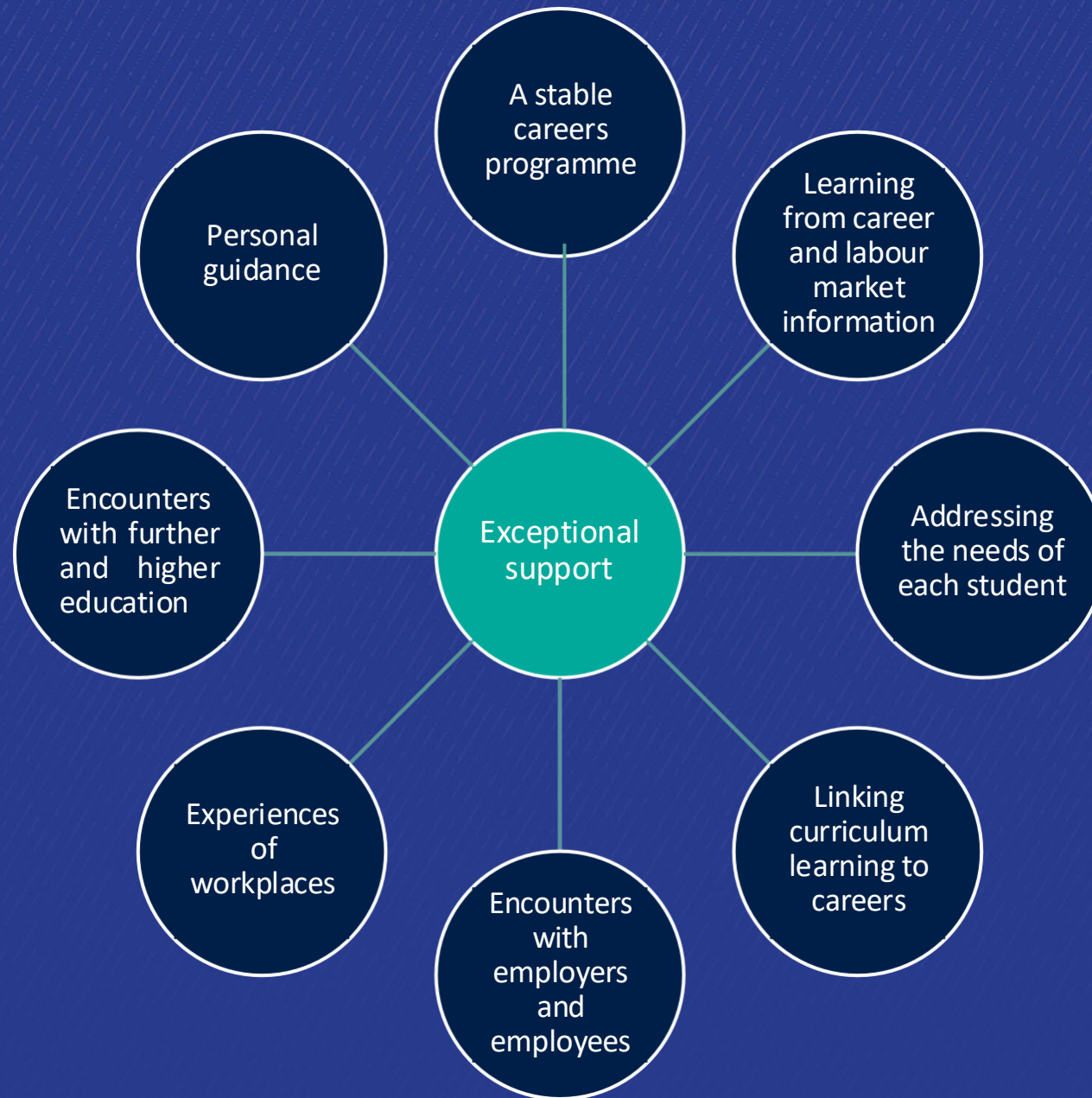


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The 3 pillars of education

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.





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
- Received Quality in Careers Award in September 2025
- Personal Development – OFSTED Outstanding 2025

Careers and Employability Team

Megan Birch



Tony Payne



Deborah
Hill-Williams



Jody Cocking



Lindsey Dhokia



Alex Noble



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 safaris 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

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

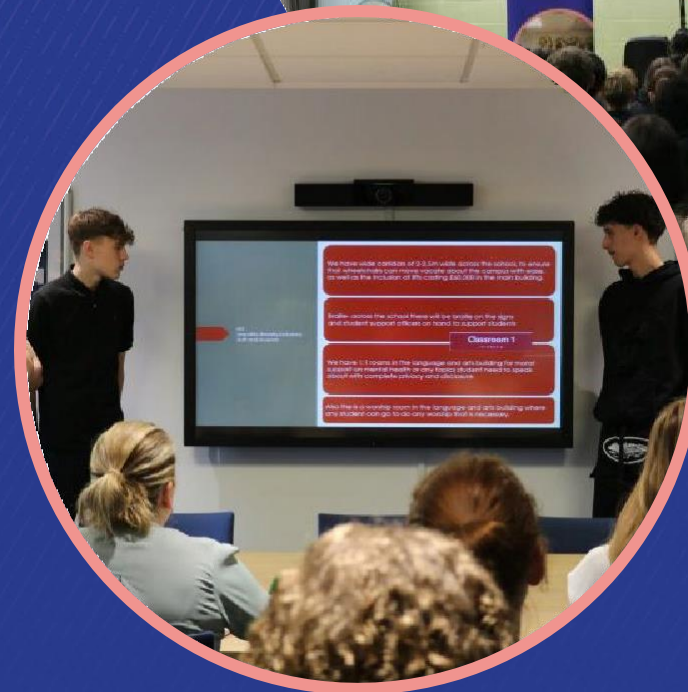


Amazing feedback from students and employers

47,000+ Hours of work placements offered to students

Be Ambitious

- Be Ambitious week is ASFC's **flagship employability programme – Unique in the North West**
- 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!



Be Ambitious

Examples:







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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.



How can we help your son/daughter now?

- Careers staff will be present at all prospective 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