



Welcome to
Ashton Sixth Form College

PARENT GUIDE



WELCOME

Dear parent/carer

I am delighted that your child is planning to join us in September. They will be knee-deep in the final stages of their GCSEs at the moment, and I hope that everything is going smoothly. I have a daughter currently in Year 11 and as such, I completely empathise with how intense things feel at the moment. Not long to go now and all the hard work (theirs and yours) will be worth it on results day.

Although we largely leave students alone at this stage, we do have a couple of events between now and enrolment to continue helping with the decision-making process. Our event this evening for parents/carers will hopefully provide a glimpse into different aspects of life at ASFC and we will be holding an induction/taster day in the summer (after GCSEs) for students to experience what college feels like. If you need any further support or advice, please don't hesitate to get in touch; it's in everyone's interests to make the best choices so that our young people have the best chance of being happy and successful.

With my very best for the GCSE season and beyond.

Lisa Richards
Centre Principal



COURSE CHOICES

By now your child should be pretty set on what they want to study following their guidance meeting discussion with us. Below is a reminder of our different study programmes. The most up to date entry requirements for each individual course can be found on our website.

If your child wants to change any of their courses before GCSE results day, they should contact Admissions to discuss this so that a change can be made to their application. Please note the deadline for changing courses is Friday 10th July. After this date any changes will need to be discussed at their enrolment appointment.

A LEVELS

A-levels are advanced level qualifications, meaning they build upon the knowledge and skills gained in GCSEs. They are subject-specific, with students typically studying three different subjects which are predominately assessed through a series of exams.

MIXED STUDY

A "mixed study" or "blended pathway" allows students to choose a mix of A-Levels and single Vocational courses (Extended Certificates), offering a broader range of qualifications and skills. This option is attractive to students who would like a mix of assessment rather than studying all exam based courses.

VOCATIONAL

Full time Vocational qualifications are more practical qualifications designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed for a particular occupation or industry. These qualifications offer a blend of theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience, often focusing on the specific requirements of a chosen career path.

We offer two types vocational qualification:

- Extended Diplomas—these are career-based qualifications, equivalent to three A Levels and designed to give students the skills they need to move on to higher education or go straight into employment.
- T Levels – these qualifications focus on developing technical and practical skills for the workplace. T Levels involve a combination of classroom learning and an industry placement with an employer, where students can apply their skills in a real-world setting.

YOUR CHILD'S NEXT STEPS

● **Conditional offer**

Following a successful guidance meeting, your child has been offered a conditional place for September 2026. They will need to meet our minimum entry requirements for the courses they wish to study.

● **Course changes**

If your child wants to make any changes to their application, please contact our Admissions team. The deadline for guaranteed course changes is Friday 10th July 2026. After this, changes must be discussed during their enrolment appointment and will be subject to availability.

● **Summer Induction Day**

Students with a conditional offer will attend our Summer Induction Day for new students on Monday 6th July 2026. On this day they will meet their teachers and fellow students on their chosen course/s.

● **Enrolment**

Students will be sent their enrolment appointments following the Induction Day. Enrolment takes place from GCSE results day and is the process where we check their GCSE results and confirm their study programme for 2026-28.

● **Welcome Days**

Following a successful enrolment appointment, students will attend a welcome day, either on Tuesday 1st or Wednesday 2nd September. At their welcome day, they will receive their IT logins and timetable for the year ahead.

● **Lessons begin**

Teaching starts on Thursday 3rd September 2026.

ENROLMENT

Enrolment is the process of students confirming their conditional place and courses at college following receiving their GCSE results. Our enrolment takes place over two days: Thursday 20th August or Friday 21st August. Students will be given an appointment to enrol at the college on one of these days. Appointments and further information about enrolment will be sent to students in the next few months.

If your child is unable to attend enrolment on the 20th or 21st of August, they must inform Admissions, who will make alternative arrangements for them to enrol.

At enrolment, your child will meet with an adviser who will check their details and results, and enrol them onto the appropriate course(s). Our friendly advisers are here to provide guidance and support with their next steps. Our Inclusive Learning and Careers teams will also be available to support any student who may need extra help.

Any course changes can be discussed during their enrolment appointment with our team of curriculum advisers. Changes are subject to availability and meeting the required entry criteria. If a student does not meet the entry requirements for their chosen course(s), we may be able to offer an alternative course, subject to availability and eligibility.

Once enrolled, your child will be invited to attend the Welcome Day for new students on either Tuesday 1st September or Wednesday 2nd September, where they will learn how to access their college timetable. Lessons will then begin on Thursday 3rd September.

To change your enrolment appointment, or for any general queries, contact Admissions on admissions@asfc.ac.uk

YOUR TIMETABLE

Following attending their Welcome Day, students will receive their timetable. The Welcome Days take place on Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd September (students will be allocated to attend on one of these days) following enrolment.

Here are example timetables for both an A Level/Mixed Study student to get an idea of what your child's timetable might look like. Each period lasts 1 hour and 10 minutes. Unlike school, your child will have study periods without scheduled lessons, allowing time for revision, library use, or independent study.

Once a week, students will have a study day. The day varies depending on their study programme. This day should be used to complete or catch up on any work set that week. Students may occasionally be required to attend college on their study day for revision or support sessions.

A Level / Mixed Study

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
PE-A2-1-Z/CL24 (Mon 09:00) Block: A Room: C2.2 Teacher: PYATT, Claire Module: BTEC National Ext...	C	PE-A2-1-Z/CL24 (Wed 09:00) Block: D Room: Portacabin 4 Teacher: SANDERS, Will Module: BTEC National Ext...	PE-A2-1-Z/CL24 (Thu 09:00) Block: B Room: C2.8 Teacher: LEECH, Andrew Module: BTEC National Ext...	PE-A2-1-Z/CL24 (Fri 09:00) Block: E Room: C2.8 Teacher: SANDERS, Will Module: BTEC National Ext...
TU-038-A2-1/TU24 (Mon 10:30) Block: B Room: IT1.2d Teacher: ALLANSON, Richard Module: TU A2 Tutor Group L...	D	PE-A2-1-Z/CL24 (Wed 10:30) Block: E Room: C2.8 Teacher: LEECH, Andrew Module: BTEC National Ext...	EP-A2-7-A/CL24 (Thu 10:30) Block: C Room: CL1.c Teacher: GILLESPIE, Rachael Module: Extended Project Q...	PE-A2-1-Z/CL24 (Fri 10:30) Block: A Room: Portacabin 4 Teacher: LEECH, Andrew Module: BTEC National Ext...
C	E	PE-A2-1-Z/CL24 (Wed 12:30) Block: A Room: C2.8 Teacher: PYATT, Claire Module: BTEC National Ext...	PE-A2-1-Z/CL24 (Thu 11:40) Block: D Room: Portacabin 4 Teacher: SANDERS, Will Module: BTEC National Ext...	TU-038-A2-1/TU24 (Fri 11:40) Block: B Room: IT1.2b (1:1) Teacher: ALLANSON, Rich Module: TU A2 Tutor Group
PE-A2-1-Z/CL24 (Mon 13:40) Block: D Room: C2.7 Teacher: LEECH, Andrew Module: BTEC National Ext...	B	PE-A2-1-Z/CL24 (Wed 13:40) Block: B Room: C2.8 Teacher: PYATT, Claire Module: BTEC National Ext...	PE-A2-1-Z/CL24 (Thu 13:40) Block: E Room: C2.8 Teacher: SANDERS, Will Module: BTEC National Ext...	C
PE-A2-1-Z/CL24 (Mon 14:50) Block: E Room: C2.2 Teacher: PYATT, Claire Module: BTEC National Ext...	B	C	D	D

Vocational

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AC-A1-A-A/CL24 (Mon 09:00) Block: A Room: 2.2 Teacher: LAWRENCE, Peter Module: Accounting A1-A-A...	M-A1-C2-A/CL24 (Tue 09:00) Block: C Room: 3.16 Teacher: HEALE, Rachel Module: Mathematics A1-C...	D	TU-066-A1-1/TU24 (Thu 09:00) Block: B Room: IT1.2c Teacher: ALLANSON, Richar Module: TU A1 Tutor Group ...	E
B	BS-A1-D-A/CL24 (Tue 10:30) Block: D Room: HE1.2 Teacher: RAJA, Zara Module: Business A1-D-A(Y...	E	M-A1-C2-A/CL24 (Thu 10:30) Block: C Room: 3.16 Teacher: HEALE, Rachel Module: Mathematics A1-C...	AC-A1-A-A/CL24 (Fri 10:30) Block: A Room: 2.2 Teacher: LAWRENCE, Pe Module: Accounting A1-A...
M-A1-C2-A/CL24 (Mon 11:40) Block: C Room: 3.16 Teacher: HEALE, Rachel Module: Mathematics A1-C...	E	B	BS-A1-D-A/CL24 (Thu 11:40) Block: D Room: HE1.2 Teacher: LOCKWOOD, PatrL Module: Business A1-D-A(Y...	B
BS-A1-D-A/CL24 (Mon 13:40) Block: D Room: HE1.2 Teacher: RAJA, Zara Module: Business A1-D-A(Y...	AC-A1-A-A/CL24 (Tue 13:40) Block: A Room: 2.2 Teacher: LAWRENCE, Peter Module: Accounting A1-A-A...	B	E	M-A1-C2-A/CL24 (Fri 13:40) Block: C Room: 3.16 Teacher: HEALE, Rachel Module: Mathematics A1...
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SUPPORT AT COLLEGE

Guidance tutorials

Dedicated tutors deliver the weekly tutorial programme which ensures that students leave Ashton Sixth Form College fully prepared for their next step. Tutorials focus on helping them to develop study skills, post 18 progression, university application preparations, student finance and revision skills, as well as employability programmes for those interested in apprenticeships and work. Each of these help students to develop their knowledge of the wider world.

Careers support

We understand your child will be making some of the most important decisions about their future career, that's why our experienced Careers Advisors will provide them with a wealth of knowledge and guidance to help them make these informed decisions. They also provide regular opportunities to highlight the various pathways they may wish to explore such as: university, apprenticeships, employment, gap year opportunities and many more. Students will take part in the Be Ambitious programme, which includes employer-led projects, work placements, or career-focused workshops. This programme helps develop key employability and soft skills, giving students valuable experiences to support their future careers.

Senior Tutors

Each student is assigned a Senior Tutor who is solely dedicated to your pastoral care and wellbeing whilst at college. Their tutor will guide them through each stage of college life, ensuring they meet deadlines and make the most out of college opportunities. Students meet with their tutor regularly to ask questions, get advice and tackle any problems that may create a barrier to their success. They work very closely with all teaching staff to help provide effective and swift intervention and to get students who need such support back on track.



Counselling service

Our highly qualified on-site counsellors provide a free and friendly confidential service for those who may need that extra support.

Inclusive Learning support

For those students who may need additional support, our team of specialist staff will work with them to develop a tailored package of support. Inclusive Learning help students across a range of areas including those with learning difficulties, accessibility issues, disabilities, mental health and other.

Financial support

We recognise that supporting students financially through post-16 education can be difficult for a number of families. We therefore can offer financial support through the Bursary scheme to support students with their educational needs. Entitlement to the bursary is linked to household income, benefits received, or any form of financial hardship. You can find more information about applying for a bursary on our website:

www.asfc.ac.uk/home/support/bursary/



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Students appreciate the diverse and inclusive culture of the college. They feel able to express themselves in a rich and diverse community. They enjoy learning more about the cultures, beliefs and backgrounds of others.

Ofsted, 2025

Ashton Elite

Ashton Elite is our specialist programme designed to support high-level athletes during their time at college. We're committed to helping students excel both academically and in sport. Ashton Elite provides tailored support for those competing at a high level, including help with training schedules, competition entry, psychological support, and financial assistance. From timetable flexibility to academic guidance, Ashton Elite ensures students can thrive without compromise.

COLLEGE ATTENDANCE

We expect all our students to attend all lessons they are timetabled for, including support sessions they are asked to attend - this is important to help them achieve their ambitions and get the best possible grade.

Senior Tutors will track students' attendance and punctuality carefully. All absences from College must be explained by a parent/carer.

Attendance over a college year

98% attendance = almost 4 days missed across the year

95% attendance = almost 10 days missed across the year

90% attendance = 19 days missed across the year

85% attendance = almost 29 days missed across the year

80% attendance = 38 days missed across the year



TRAVELLING TO COLLEGE

Our college is easily accessible by foot, car, bus, train, and Metrolink. If you require any cost cover for travel or wish to find out more about certain travel routes to college, please see our Bursary officer on Enrolment Day for more information.

Our Pass

Our Pass is a membership scheme for young people who live in Greater Manchester, and supports both school leavers and care leavers. The travel pass can be used for up to two years, starting from 1 September after your 16th birthday, until 31 August after your 18th birthday (or until your 18th birthday, if this is 31 August). You can continue to use your igo card until you become eligible for Our Pass (igo cards expire on 31 August after your 16th birthday). To find out more, visit www.ourpass.co.uk



EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Ashton Explore

We offer an extensive enrichment programme called Ashton Explore, where students can take part in a wide range of activities, clubs, courses, and programmes designed to help your child develop new skills, meet new people, and enhance your CV. Our enrichment offer may include lunchtime clubs, after-college and weekend activities, as well as a variety of trips and visits.

Our current Explore offer includes: Politics Debate Club, Dungeons & Dragons, Charity & Fundraising, Book Club, Arts & Crafts, First Aid, Sign Language and more.

Sport, Health & Fitness

With our sport activities students can either play competitively and represent the College in regional tournaments, or just join for fun and wellbeing. Activities are shaped by student demand and updated yearly, catering to all ability levels. This year, we have offered Men's and Women's Football, Basketball, Netball, and Rugby. As members of the Association of Colleges, students can also compete in regional events with the chance to reach the National Championships.

Realising Aspirations

Our flagship programme aims to prepare students for life after college. Through seminars and lectures given by leading university professors, they will experience university life on a subject strand that they are most interested in. Students will also get to visit universities across the country too! In previous years, the Realising Aspirations programme has partnered with a wide range of universities, including top Russell Group institutions like Oxford and Manchester, specialist universities such as Leeds Arts University and the Courtauld Institute of Art, as well as a number of other respected universities across the UK.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

My child is still really unsure about what they want to study

If your child is still unsure about what they want to study, please don't worry as nothing is confirmed until they receive their GCSE results and discuss these at their enrolment appointment. If your child wishes to change their current course selection please note the deadline to change these is Friday 10th July. After this date any further changes will need to be discussed at enrolment and will be subject to availability.

My child might need support when at college. Is there anyone I can contact about this?

If you need to talk to us about your child needing support at college then you can contact our Inclusive Learning team to discuss this further:
inclusivelearning@asfc.ac.uk

When will my child get their college timetable?

Students will receive their own college timetable at their Welcome Day on either 1st or 2nd September.

What if my child doesn't get the GCSE grades needed for their chosen course?

We offer a wide variety of subjects and courses. If your child doesn't receive the GCSE grades they were expecting, please don't worry. There will be plenty of advisers available at enrolment to give further support and guidance. If you meet the entry requirements for an alternative course or study programme we offer then we may be able to offer you this. It is important that they consider a back up option as part of the college application process.

Is there any financial support we can access?

Ashton Sixth Form College's 16-19 Bursary fund can help 16-19 year olds where they may struggle financially. In order to be entitled to the 16-19 Bursary, students must meet a range of criteria. Find out more on our website.

When will my child start college?

Lessons for all new students start on Thursday 3rd September.

What happens if my child is unable to attend the Summer Induction Day on Monday 6th July?

This is the only date for the Summer Induction Day, where your child will attend lessons for your chosen courses and meet other new students starting in September. If they can't attend, their college place won't be affected, and they'll have another chance to meet staff and students at the Welcome Days.

Ashton Sixth Form College

Darnton Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 9RL

T: 0161 330 2330 | E: contact@asfc.ac.uk | www.asfc.ac.uk

 Ashton Sixth Form College |  @ashtonsixthform