



Ashlyns School Sixth Form
Information Booklet
2019 - 2021

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There are two fundamental questions you should ask when considering a school:

1. Will this school provide me with the academic success, skills and confidence needed to maximise my opportunities in an ever-changing world?
2. Will I be happy at this school?

At Ashlyns School, we believe the answer to both of these questions is a resounding 'yes'.

*'...a very welcoming school where students collaborate well ...'**

Our success is built on four key principles:

- delivering high-quality learning;
- providing the enrichment and leadership opportunities that instil confidence and pride, and nurture talent;
- providing the personalised mentoring, support and feedback needed to ensure students are informed, supported and on track across two challenging years of education;
- ensuring our Sixth Form students have the dedicated facilities you would expect in a school that cares for their wellbeing.

We offer a wide range of A Level courses to a growing and high-achieving number of post-16 students. We are delighted that Ofsted's reports from September 2014 and May 2018 recognised our Sixth Form success and this is also reflected in the university destination data for last year's school leavers (included in your pack).

Curriculum and Learning

Academic excellence is at the heart of everything we do; students who continue on to A Levels enter our vibrant Sixth Form with high expectations. The step from GCSE to A Level is considerable and we ensure students benefit from expert advice and guidance on the range, relevance and choice of subjects they wish to study. The A Level curriculum offers a wide choice of subjects to ensure students have access to a broad curriculum offer that serves their needs and aspirations.

Students will only succeed academically if their teaching is inspiring, rigorous and supportive, and these elements are central to our ethos.

'Teachers have strong subject knowledge and great enthusiasm for their subjects. This positivity is transferred to students, who display a genuine love of learning.'*

'Teaching in the sixth form promotes genuine debate, dialogue and reflection through skilful questioning that deepens students' knowledge and gives opportunities for students to discuss and evaluate their ideas and those of others.'*

* Ofsted Report September 2014

Enrichment and Leadership Opportunities

Along with developing our young adults' academic prowess, we also provide a wealth of opportunities through our enrichment and extra-curricular programme to develop the leadership and social skills that are essential for employment and university. You can be sure that our students develop into well-rounded, independent, confident, politically-inquisitive and astute young adults through opportunities such as:

- The Enrichment Programme: over the last few years this has included a range of high-profile visiting speakers such as the US Ambassador, the CEO of Easyjet, Baroness Tyler, John Bercow (Speaker of the House of Commons), Michael Portillo and Douglas Carswell MP, as well as a range of team-building, self-awareness and study skills activities. Workshops on Yoga, Zumba, British Sign Language, Karate, First Aid and cooking on a budget are also offered
- Leadership roles on the Sixth-Form Executive, or as House Captains, Learning Ambassadors, Mentors and Prefects
- Duke of Edinburgh Award and World Challenge (2013: Nicaragua; 2015: India; 2017: Cambodia and Laos)
- Young Enterprise teams; Sports Leaders Level 3 Award; Debating Society
- The Extended Project Qualification
- The Ashlyns' Community Service Programme
- The International Music Tour

'The enrichment programme prepares students well for life in modern Britain. Students are highly articulate and have good personal, social and employability skills.'*

Pastoral Care, Personalised Mentoring and Feedback

Success at Ashlyns School does not happen by chance: extensive support and guidance is provided to each student, who will benefit from an experienced and dedicated team of tutors, a Learning Mentor, a Head of Year and a committed Sixth Form team, combined with a personalised mentoring programme.

Alongside this support, parents receive regular information regarding the monitoring and assessment of students in the Sixth Form. Our subject leaders and Sixth Form team work together to identify and target individual students using tracking data to help ensure they achieve the best possible outcome. This helps to keep students well-motivated, focused and thriving on the academic rigours of Sixth Form life.

‘The Sixth Form receive high-quality careers guidance which results in them being able to make good decisions about their future career choices. As a result, a large percentage of students continue on to higher education, including to the country’s most highly regarded universities.’*

We pride ourselves in the quality of preparation of students for higher education and future careers.

In Year 12 students participate in:

- the ‘Morrisby’ programme – a questionnaire assessing individual students’ higher education/career possibilities
- an introduction to UCAS (university applications)
- visits by experts in higher education
- UCAS/Next Steps Day
- a higher education conference at a university
- a school higher education evening
- Careers Day
- regular careers advice from a dedicated careers advisor

In Year 13 students:

- receive advice from Form Tutors, Head of Year and Head of Sixth Form on university courses, Personal Statements and completing UCAS forms
- benefit from an extended learning day on UCAS/higher education applications and Personal Statement writing and careers advice.
- visit universities/colleges on Open Days
- attend interviews at universities/colleges
- have support with interview preparation and practice and ongoing careers advice

Careers advice is always available and can be booked through the Sixth Form Office or Learning Resource Centre. The higher education careers library is in the main school Learning Resource Centre annexe.

Facilities

Providing the freedom for students to explore learning independently, outside of the classroom, forms an important part of Sixth Form study, as we develop the skills needed for real-world success. Our students enjoy their own dedicated Sixth Form area, including ICT suites, quiet study areas and common room. Our Learning Resource Centre is available at all times for Sixth Form study, as is our dedicated Sixth Form Café and dining room. Our new Sports Hall provides opportunities for our students to release their energy, allowing them access to high-quality gym membership for free during the school day.

We set professional standards for everybody in Ashlyns’ Sixth Form and encourage all students to continue to develop a strong, positive work ethic and a responsible, self-reliant attitude. Our students leave Ashlyns equipped with the best possible education and the pastoral guidance they require to help them meet the demands of a fast changing world.

*Ofsted Report September 2014

Next Steps

18 October 2018	11 Parent Consultation Evening.
24 October 2018	Sixth Form Information Evening Read the prospectus thoroughly; ask questions of students and staff. Make realistic plans for next year based on trial examination results/predicted GCSE grades, Form Tutor and careers guidance.
12 November 2018	Initial Sixth Form/Post 16 options form to be completed
January 2019	Individual interviews with senior staff
End of January 2019	Confirmation of Sixth Form offer, conditional on GCSE results.
May 2019	GCSE exams take place through May and June.
2 July 2019	Post-16 Induction Day
22 August 2019	GCSE results published – you will receive your grades and a letter from Ms Gaches confirming your offer to study A Level courses based on your achievements.
23 August 2019	Senior staff available by appointment for post-results advice and guidance as required.
September 2019	Year 12 courses begin.

Subject	Minimum entry requirement
Art	Grade 5 in GCSE Art
Biology	2 Grade 6s in Science and a Grade 6 in Mathematics
Business	Grade 5 in English and Mathematics GCSEs (and Grade 5 in Business Studies if studied)
Chemistry	2 Grade 6s in Science and a Grade 6 in Mathematics
Computer Science	Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science; and 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics and English Language
Drama	GCSE average points score of at least 4 across the best 8 subjects taken at GCSE, including grade 4 in English and Mathematics. Drama at GCSE is desirable but not essential
Economics	Grade 5 in English Language and Grade 6 in Mathematics GCSEs
English Language/Literature	Grade 5 in English Language & Literature GCSEs
English Literature	Grade 6 in English Language and Grade 6 in English Literature GCSEs
Film Studies	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language; and either a Grade 5 in Film Studies if studied, or a Grade 5 in English Literature.
French	Grade 6 in GCSE French
Further Mathematics	Grade 7 in Mathematics GCSE. You must also be studying A Level Mathematics
Geography	Grade 6 in GCSE Geography and Grade 5 in English Language
Government and Politics	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and a Grade 5 in a Humanities subject
Health and Social Care - BTEC	GCSE average points score of at least 4 across the best 8 subjects taken at GCSE, including grade 4 in English and Mathematics
History	Grade 6 in GCSE History and Grade 5 in English Language
Mathematics	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics
Music	Grade 6 in GCSE Music. It is recommended that students are grade five standard in performance and in music theory
Philosophy of Religion & Ethics	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and a Grade 5 in a Humanities subject
Photography	GCSE average points score of at least 4 across the best 8 subjects taken at GCSE, including grade 4 in English and Mathematics. Art and Design at GCSE is desirable but not essential
Physical Education A-Level	Grade 5 in GCSE PE and PE theory and 2 Grade 5s in Science. Students should also have a high level of competency in at least one practical sport and participate regularly in competitive activities associated with that sport outside of school
Physical Education - BTEC	GCSE average points score of at least 4 across the best 8 subjects taken at GCSE, including grade 4 in English and Mathematics
Physics	Minimum of 2 Grade 6s in GCSE Science and a Grade 6 in Mathematics
Product Design	Grade 5 in GCSE Product Design
Psychology	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language, Mathematics and one Grade 6 in Science
Sociology	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
Spanish	Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish
Textiles	Grade 5 in GCSE Textiles or Product Design

Admission Requirements

Advanced Level (2 year Level 3 courses)

Sixth Form courses require a high level of intellectual ability and commitment to work, which is why advanced courses will necessitate students achieving at least a Grade 4 in English and Mathematics and an average of Grade 4 in six other GCSEs.

Students falling just below this target will be given best advice on their futures in terms of courses/careers advice; criteria such as work ethic and potential attitude may also be used to make decisions on suitability for courses.

Students who achieve 7+ APS and grade 7 in English and Maths may be considered for a 4th subject if appropriate.

Any students close to a points boundary must see Ms Gaches or Mrs Martin, who will give 'best advice' on future study.

NB : Individual subjects require a specific grade for entry – please refer to our subject booklet and the previous page.

YEAR 13 LIST OF UNIVERSITY / COLLEGE DESTINATIONS: SUMMER 2018

University / Destination	Subject
Aston University	Biomedical Science
University of Bath	Maths
University of Birmingham	Politics Ancient History
Bangor University	History & Archaeology Psychology
Bournemouth University	Film
University of Brighton	Criminology
University of Bristol	Veterinary Science Geography
University of Worcester	Politics & Sociology
Buckinghamshire New University	Commercial Pilot Training
University of Chester	History & Spanish
De Montford University	Media
Duchy College	Tournament Golf
University of Exeter	Maths
Edgehill University	Creative Writing
University of Essex	International Relations
University of Leeds	Law Maths Electronic Engineering
University of Gloucestershire	Computing Film Production
University of Hertfordshire	Philosophy Architecture Criminology & Criminal Justice Media
King's College London	Music
University of Kent	Economics Film
Lancaster University	Maths
Leeds Trinity University	Psychology
University of Liverpool	Media/Film Criminology
University of Loughborough	Maths
University of Manchester	Medicine Music
University of Lincoln	Sports Management Event Management
Manchester Met University	Law Multimedia Journalism Sports Management
University of Northumbria	Mechanical Engineering
Oxford Brookes University	Paramedic Science Anthropology

University / Destination	Subject
University of Nottingham	Civil Engineering Psychology English Literature & German Psychology
Nottingham Trent University	Finance & Accounting Business Management & Economics Psychology Zoology Marketing Graphic Design
University of Plymouth	Geology
University of Portsmouth	Criminology & Sociology Business Management
University of Reading	Quantity Surveying Politics
University of Southampton	Music
University of Sheffield	Chemical Engineering Aerospace Engineering
Sheffield Hallam University	Real Estate
University of Sussex	Law Psychology Social Science
University Campus of Football Business	Football Management & Coaching
University of the West of England	Biomedical Science
University of Warwick	History
University of Winchester	Physiotherapy

When choosing A Levels, it is always worth thinking about possible degree courses that you may wish to take. Entry onto many degree courses is dependent upon achievement in specified subjects at A Level. Some examples of required subject combinations for some degree courses are shown below.

Please note that the list does not cover all degree courses. Full details of all courses and course requirements can be found on the UCAS website or on University websites.

Essential and Useful Subjects for Degree Courses

	<i>Essential advanced level qualifications</i>	<i>Useful advanced level qualifications</i>
Accountancy (also Banking/Finance/Insurance)	Usually none, although one or two universities require Mathematics	Mathematics, Business Studies, and Economics.
Actuarial Science/Studies	Mathematics	Further Mathematics, Economics, Business Studies
Aeronautical Engineering	Mathematics and Physics.	Further Mathematics, Design Technology, Computing/Computer Science.
American Studies	Requirements vary but English and/or History are often asked for.	Politics
Anthropology		A small number of courses like a science A Level such as Biology. Sociology is also very relevant.
Archaeology		Geography, History or Science subjects can all be useful.
Architecture	Some courses say they want an arts/science mix. Some may require Art.	Art, Mathematics, Design Technology and Physics. Do note that a portfolio of drawings and ideas may be asked for.
Art and Design	Art or Design, Technology including AGCE/National (to give you the portfolio to get onto an Art Foundation Course, though sometimes AGCE/National Art and Design applicants go straight onto a degree).	Design Technology, Art & Design. Most entrants onto Art and Design degrees will have taken a one-year Art Foundation Course after completing Year 13.
Biochemistry	Always Chemistry and some universities will say you must have Biology as well, while some will say Chemistry plus one from Mathematics/Physics/ Biology. Doing Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics or Physics will keep all Biochemistry courses open to you.	Biology, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Computing/Computer Science.
Biology	Biology, usually Chemistry. A few universities specify two sciences.	Mathematics or Physics, Computing/Computer Science.

	<i>Essential advanced level qualifications</i>	<i>Useful advanced level qualifications</i>
Biomedical Sciences (including Medical Science)	Normally two from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics. Chemistry is essential for some courses.	Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics.
Business Studies		Mathematics, Business Studies (AGCE, National and Diploma) and Economics.
Chemical Engineering	Chemistry and Mathematics and sometimes Physics as well.	Physics, Biology, Further Mathematics, Computing/Computer Science.
Chemistry	Chemistry and occasionally Mathematics. Most courses require Chemistry and would like Mathematics and one other science subject (for example, Physics or Biology).	Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Computing/Computer Science.
Childhood Studies		CACHE, Psychology, Sociology, AGCE/National/Diploma Health and Social Care.
Civil Engineering	Mathematics, in many cases Physics. Sometimes one of Physics or Chemistry.	Further Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Computing/Computer Science, Design Technology, Geography.
Classical Studies	For Classics courses Latin or Ancient Greek are required. For Classical Studies and Classical Civilisation courses most subjects will be considered.	Modern Foreign Language, English Literature, History, Classical Civilisation. Do note that there are some Classics courses which will allow you to start Latin and/or Classical Greek from scratch.
Computer Science	For some courses, Mathematics. For some courses Computing/Computer Science.	Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Computing/Computer Science, Physics, Philosophy, ICT.
Dentistry	Chemistry and Biology for most courses, but some require Mathematics or Physics as well.	Mathematics, Physics, Further Mathematics.
Dietetics	Chemistry, Biology.	Mathematics
Drama	Some courses require English Literature and for a few courses English and/or Theatre Studies.	English Literature, English Literature and Language, Theatre Studies.
Economics	Usually Mathematics.	Economics, Computing/Computer Science, History, Business Studies.
Electrical/Electronic Engineering	Mathematics, usually Physics.	Further Mathematics, ICT, Design Technology, Computing/Computer Science.
Engineering (General)	Mathematics and Physics.	Further Mathematics, Design Technology, Computing/Computer Science.
English	English Literature or combined English Language & Literature (some courses will accept English Language).	History, Religious Studies, a foreign language.
Environmental Science/Studies	Many courses will ask for two from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Geography.	Another facilitating subject, particularly a science.
European Studies	A Modern Foreign Language.	Another Modern Foreign Language, English Literature, History, Politics.
French	French	Another Modern Foreign Language, English Literature, History, Politics.
Geography	Most degrees require Geography.	Some Geography BSc (science) degrees prefer one from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics.

Geology/Earth Sciences	Usually two from Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.	Geography, Geology, Computing/Computer Science.
German	German (a handful of universities offer the opportunity to study German from scratch, without German A Level).	Another Modern Foreign Language, English Literature, History, Politics
History	Most degrees require History.	Economics, English Literature, Philosophy, Politics, Sociology, Theology/Religious Studies, a modern or classical language.
History of Art		Art, English Literature, History, Theology/Religious Studies, History of Art, French, German, Spanish, Italian.
Italian	Italian or another language such as French, German or Spanish.	Another Modern Foreign Language, English Literature, History, Politics.
Law	Usually none, although a few universities require English.	History; other facilitating subjects. There really are no essential subjects for Law. Maybe one choice should involve essay or report writing. History gives you good relevant skills for Law but is not essential.
Management Studies	Sometimes Mathematics.	Mathematics, Economics, Business Studies (AGCE, National and Diploma).
Materials Science (including Biomedical Materials Science)	Normally two from Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Biology (also Design Technology for some universities).	Chemistry, Design and Technology, Further Mathematics, Computing/Computer Science.
Mathematics	Mathematics and sometimes Further Mathematics.	Further Mathematics, Physics, Computing/Computer Science.
Mechanical Engineering	Mathematics, usually Physics.	Further Mathematics, Design Technology, Computing/Computer Science. Mechanical Engineering departments may have a preference for Mathematics A Levels with a strong mechanics component.
Media Studies (including Communication Studies)	A few courses ask for English or Media Studies.	English, Media Studies, Sociology, Psychology.
Medicine	If you do Chemistry, Biology and one from Mathematics or Physics you will keep all the medical schools open to you. If you do Chemistry and Biology you will keep open the vast majority. If you do Chemistry and one from Mathematics and Physics you will limit your range of choices much more.	Further Mathematics or a contrasting (non-science) subject, Computing/Computer Science.
Music	For most traditional courses, Music and Grade VII/VIII, although some universities will consider candidates without A Level Music.	Some universities have a preference for at least one essay-based subject.
Nursing and Midwifery	Usually Biology or another science.	Biology, CACHE, Sociology, Psychology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics.
Occupational Therapy	Some courses ask for Biology.	Psychology, Physical Education, Sociology or another science.

	<i>Essential advanced level qualifications</i>	<i>Useful advanced level qualifications</i>
Optometry (Ophthalmic Optics)	Two from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics (some courses prefer Biology as one of the choices).	Further Mathematics, Computing/Computer Science.
Orthoptics	Biology	Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Computing / Computer Science.
Pharmacy	Chemistry and one from Biology, Mathematics and Physics keeps the vast majority of courses open to you. Some courses like to see Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics. Doing Chemistry and Biology keeps most courses open.	Mathematics, Physics, Computing/Computer Science.
Philosophy		Mathematics, Classical Civilisations, Philosophy and Religious Studies/Theology.
Physics	Mathematics, Physics.	Further Mathematics, Chemistry, Computing/Computer Science.
Physiotherapy	Most courses will consider you with just Biology. However, some also require a second science from Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics.	Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology.
Planning	Sometimes Geography.	Geography, Mathematics, Economics.
Politics		Politics, History, Philosophy, Law, Sociology, Economics, English Literature, Religious Studies, Business Studies.
Psychology	A few courses ask for one from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics.	Biology, Mathematics, Psychology, Sociology, Computing/Computer Science.
Religious Studies/Theology		Religious Studies/Theology, Philosophy, English Literature, History.
Sociology		Sociology, Psychology, Geography, Computing/Computer Science.
Spanish	Spanish (some degrees will also consider French, German or Italian).	Another Modern Foreign Language, English Literature, History, Politics.
Speech Therapy	Some universities want a Science such as Biology, Chemistry or Physics. Some specify Biology, but some degrees will consider candidates with none of these.	A modern foreign language (e.g. French, German, Spanish, Italian), English Language (and Literature), Psychology
Sports Science/Physical Education	Many courses want to see one from Biology/Chemistry/Mathematics/Physics (some courses will treat Physical Education as a science equivalent).	Physical Education, Psychology.
Surveying		For some types of Surveying e.g. Building Surveying, Mathematics and Physics could be helpful. For Estate Management (General Practice Surveying) most A-level combinations will be considered.
Teacher Training (Primary and/or Secondary)	At least one from Art, Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Design and Technology, Drama, English, French, Geography, History, ICT, Italian, Mathematics, Music, Physics, Physical Education, Religious Studies (Theology), Spanish.	Another of the subjects listed.
Veterinary Science	You should do Chemistry and Biology and one from Mathematics/Physics so that you have all universities open to you.	Further Mathematics

Reminder of Key Dates

18 October 2018	11 Parent Consultation Evening
24 October 2018	Sixth Form Information Evening
12 November 2018	Initial Sixth Form/Post 16 options form to be completed
January 2019	Individual interviews with senior staff.
End of January 2019	Confirmation of Sixth Form offer, conditional on GCSE results
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