



**Welcome to**

**Ashlyns School Sixth Form:**

**Information Booklet**

**2026 - 2028**

# ASHLYNS SCHOOL



October 2025

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Thank you for considering Ashlyns School for the next stage of your education.

Our Sixth Form is a vibrant and thriving community, awarded Outstanding by Ofsted, where students achieve academic excellence and make outstanding personal achievements. Alongside academic rigour, we offer extensive extra-curricular opportunities, providing a good balance of social activities and leadership opportunities. We believe you will find the combination of study and community life in the Sixth Form both enjoyable and rewarding, as well as a strong foundation for further study and future employment.

The Sixth Form team at Ashlyns supports every aspect of your transition to post-16 education, offering an encouraging environment where you are given the right balance of autonomy and support. There is a culture of mutually high expectation within our Sixth Form; we believe in leaving nothing to chance when preparing our students with the skills needed for academic success, adaptability for the future and personal wellbeing.

Ashlyns has a proven track record of success in the Sixth Form. We are delighted with the achievements of our students and the vast majority secure their first choice university place; many progress to some of the most prestigious in the country and a significant number achieve degrees with First Class Honours.

In 2025, 95% of students achieved a place at their first or second choice university, 47% gained places at Russell Group universities, one student gained a place at Oxbridge and five students gained places on Degree Level Apprenticeships.

We hope you will find the information provided helpful; if you require any additional advice or guidance, please do not hesitate to contact us. We understand how important it is to make the right choice of Sixth Form and are more than happy to answer any questions you might have.

We wish you every success in your examinations next summer, and look forward to hearing from you.

Mr J Shapland  
Headteacher

Ms K Gaches  
Head of Sixth Form

## Contents

	<b>Page</b>
Choosing a Sixth Form	1
Curriculum and Learning	2
Enrichment and Leadership Opportunities	2
Pastoral Care, Personalised Mentoring and Feedback	3
Bursary	3
Careers and University Guidance	3
Facilities	4
Key Stage 5 Examination Results : 2025 Summary	5
Post-Sixth Form Destinations 2025	6
Choosing A Levels for Degree Courses	9
Essential and Useful Subjects for Degree Courses	9
Dress Code	14
Admission Requirements	15
Entry Requirements for Each Subject	16
Course Information : contents	17
Subject Information	18
Option Blocks	34
Next Steps	35
How to Apply	35

## Choosing a Sixth Form

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?

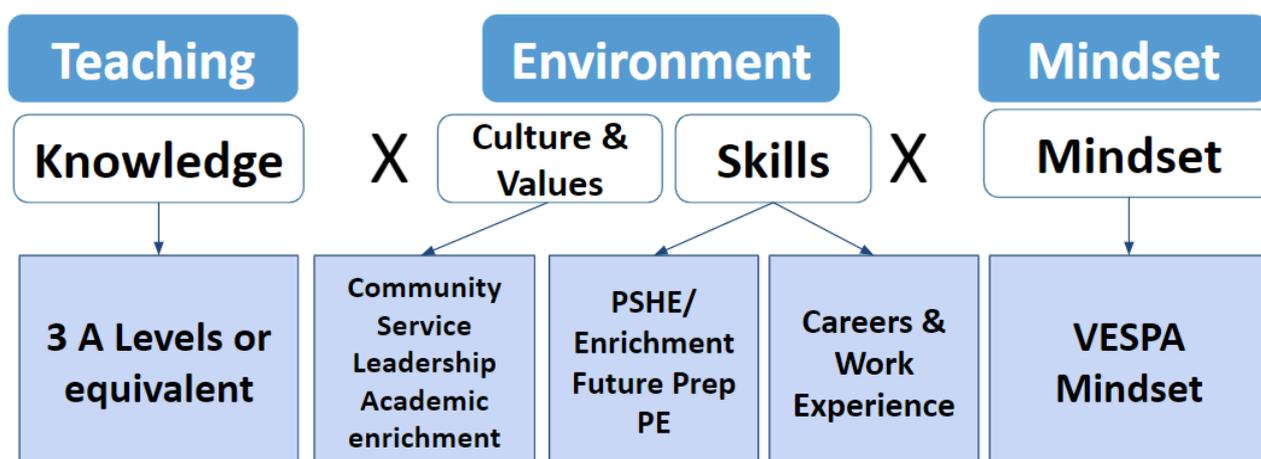
At Ashlyns School, we believe the answer to both of these questions is a resounding 'yes'.

### *Ofsted Report 2024*

*'Sixth-form students approach their studies with an unwavering focus on high-quality learning and achievement, whether in lessons, study periods or at home.'*

*'In the sixth form, students reach extraordinary levels of learning and achievement that enable them to take very impressive next steps in education and employment...'*

Our success is built on three key principles:



- Delivering high-quality learning;
- An environment that provides enrichment and leadership opportunities that instil **integrity, inclusivity and independence**, nurturing talent and preparing students for whatever future pathway they should choose;
- Develop a positive, can-do mindset, whilst providing support and feedback to ensure students are informed, supported and on track across two challenging years of education.

To achieve all of this we ensure 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 Level 3 courses to a growing and high-achieving number of post-16 students. We were delighted to achieve Outstanding following our Ofsted Inspection in September 2024. The subsequent report recognised the success achieved by our Sixth Form students, which is also reflected in the university destination data for last year's school leavers which is listed on page 9.

## Curriculum and Learning

*'Sixth-form students show a passion for scholarship and debate issues with great maturity.'*\*

Academic excellence is at the heart of everything we do; students who continue on to A Levels and Level 3 qualifications 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 sixth form 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.

*'In the sixth form, teachers use their strong subject knowledge to deliver the curriculum expertly so that students learn the curriculum exceptionally well.'*\*

*'Teachers in the sixth form provide precise feedback to help students address areas they need to improve so that they master the curriculum.'*\*

## 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 programmes 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 the former Vice-President of Spotify, Head of Broadcast and Entertainment for Google, the Deputy Head of Foreign News at Channel 4 News, and Amnesty International. PSHE topics are also covered and students benefit from sessions on: misogyny, safe driving, race and identity, social media and body image, sexual health, alcohol and drugs awareness, consent, relationships, cancer awareness and personal finance. Students also benefit from a range of team-building, self-awareness and study skills activities.
- PE: activities on offer include: football, yoga, gym (fitness suite), volleyball, badminton table tennis and basketball in the sports hall, netball on the courts
- Future Prep: British Sign Language, First Aid, mindfulness, cooking and eating nutritional meals on a budget, yoga, self-defence and a TEFL course for those students who are interested in teaching English as a foreign language.
- Leadership roles on the Sixth-Form Executive, or as House Captains, Subject Mentors and Senior Prefects
- Duke of Edinburgh Award and World Challenge (2013: Nicaragua; 2015: India; 2017: Cambodia; 2019: Nepal; 2022: Ecuador and 2024: Vietnam. Planned trip to Borneo in 2026)
- Young Enterprise teams; Sports Leaders Level 3 Award; Debating Society
- The Extended Project Qualification
- Core Maths Qualification
- The Ashlyns Community Service Programme
- The International Music Tour

*'Staff in the sixth form teach students the specific skills needed to be successful during and after life in the sixth form.'*\*

## 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 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.

We utilise the well-researched VESPA Mindset Programme\*\* that enables our students to develop non-cognitive skills that promote educational success.

\*\* Oaks and Griffin, The VESPA Mindset

				
<p><b>VISION</b> Sixth Form students know what they want to achieve</p>	<p><b>EFFORT</b> Sixth Form students put in many hours of proactive independent study</p>	<p><b>SYSTEMS</b> Sixth Form students organise their learning resources and their time</p>	<p><b>PRACTICE</b> Sixth Form students practise and develop their knowledge and skills</p>	<p><b>ATTITUDE</b> Sixth Form students practise and develop a positive, can-do attitude to their studies</p>

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.

## Bursary

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help students overcome the specific financial barriers to participation they face, so they can remain in education and reach their full potential. Students can apply for the bursary if they are aged 16 to 19 and are studying at school or college in England or on a training course, including unpaid work experience. The bursary can be used to pay for things such as books and other equipment for your course, transport and lunch. Further information is available from [finance@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:finance@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)

## Careers and University Guidance

*'Students receive expert advice to help them shape their career goals.'*\*

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

In **Year 12** students participate in:

- an introduction to UCAS (university applications)
- visits by experts in higher education
- Post 18 Options Days
- a higher education conference
- a school higher education and careers evening
- careers day
- regular careers advice from a dedicated careers advisor
- work experience

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
- have support with apprenticeship applications, CVs, 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. In Year 13, students who are interested in apprenticeships, further training or a job application work with our Careers Advisor every Friday morning.

### **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 and our Learning Resource Centre is available for Sixth Form study, as is our dedicated Sixth Form Café. Our 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 2024

## Key Stage 5 Examination Results : 2025 Summary

### Attainment

Percentage of entries graded A\* to B: 62% (55% nationally)

Percentage of entries graded A\* to C: 85% (78% nationally)

The following subjects achieved an average grade of C or above:

Art, Biology, Business Studies, Economics, English Literature, English Lang Lit, Film Studies, French, Geography, History, Maths, Photography, Philosophy & Ethics, Politics, Spanish, Textiles

### Higher Education Destinations Summer 2025

95% of applicants at first or second choice University

76% of applicants achieved their first choice University

47% at Russell Group Universities

1 student gained a place for Medical or Veterinary Science

5 students onto Degree Apprenticeships

**Post-Sixth Form Destinations : Summer 2025**

<b>University</b>	<b>Course</b>
<b>University of Aberdeen</b>	French & International Relations
<b>Aberystwyth University</b>	Veterinary Nursing
<b>Anglia Ruskin University</b>	Film and Television Production
<b>University of Bath</b>	Psychology
<b>Bath Spa University</b>	Film & Screen Studies & Media Communications Film, Television & Digital Production
<b>Birkbeck, University of London</b>	Psychology
<b>University of Birmingham</b>	Psychology Law Geography Philosophy Business Management with Marketing Classical Literature & Civilisation Digital Media & Communications
<b>University of Brighton</b>	Biomedical Science
<b>University of Bristol</b>	Marketing
<b>Bristol UWE</b>	Psychology Aeronautical Engineering
<b>Buckinghamshire New University</b>	Film Production
<b>University of Cambridge</b>	Anglo Saxon, Norse & Celtic
<b>Cardiff University</b>	Business Management Financial Mathematics
<b>University of East Anglia</b>	Business Management
<b>The University of Edinburgh</b>	Geography
<b>University of Exeter</b>	History Finance with Industrial Experience Business Physics with Astrophysics English & Creative Writing
<b>University of Gloucestershire</b>	Geography
<b>University of Hertfordshire</b>	Nursing
<b>Keele University</b>	Philosophy & Politics
<b>Lancaster University</b>	Politics & International Relations
<b>University of Leeds</b>	Business Management with Marketing Economics & Politics Fine Art Journalism Art & Design Financial Mathematics Biology

<b>University</b>	<b>Course</b>
<b>Leeds Beckett University</b>	Events Management Physiotherapy Criminology International Relations
<b>University of Leicester</b>	Criminology Accounting & Finance Marketing
<b>University of Lincoln</b>	Biology Business
<b>University of Liverpool</b>	Physiotherapy Anatomy & Human Biology Aerospace Engineering International Management Biochemistry Politics Law Communication & Media Business Economics Marketing Business Management
<b>Liverpool John Moores University</b>	Marketing
<b>King's College London</b>	Mathematics
<b>Royal Holloway, London</b>	Law Psychology
<b>SOAS University, London</b>	Social Sciences
<b>University of the Arts, London</b>	Illustration
<b>Loughborough University</b>	Sport Management Management
<b>University of Manchester</b>	English Literature Philosophy Economics & Finance Film Studies & Middle Eastern Studies
<b>Manchester Metropolitan University</b>	Ethics, Religion & Philosophy Film & Media Studies Business Management
<b>Newcastle University</b>	Mathematics & Economics Marketing & Management Film Practices Politics & International Relations Business Management
<b>Northumbria University</b>	Accounting, Finance & Economics
<b>University of Nottingham</b>	Mathematics Chemistry Archaeology & History Liberal Arts

<b>University</b>	<b>Course</b>
<b>Nottingham Trent University</b>	Sport Science & Management Business Management & Human Resources Marketing Business Management & Marketing Architecture
<b>Oxford Brookes University</b>	Communication, Media & Culture
<b>University of Portsmouth</b>	Sport & Exercise Science Criminology
<b>University of Reading</b>	Accounting & Finance Architectural Engineering Mathematics International Development Geography
<b>University of Sheffield</b>	Materials Science & Engineering Journalism Studies
<b>University of Southampton</b>	Film Studies
<b>University of Surrey</b>	Midwifery Business Economics & Data Analytics Law & Criminology Veterinary Medicine & Science
<b>University of Sussex</b>	Psychology Media, Arts, Humanities
<b>University of Warwick</b>	Politics, International Relations & French Psychology History & Global Sustainable Development
<b>University of York</b>	Philosophy / Politics History / Politics Economics

## Choosing A Levels for Degree Courses

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

	<b>Essential advanced level qualifications</b>	<b>Useful advanced level qualifications</b>
<b>Accountancy (also Banking/Finance/Insurance)</b>	Usually none, although some universities require Mathematics	Mathematics, Business Studies, and Economics
<b>Actuarial Science/Studies</b>	Mathematics	Further Mathematics, Economics, Business Studies
<b>Aeronautical Engineering</b>	Mathematics and Physics.	Further Mathematics, Design Technology, Computing/Computer Science.
<b>American Studies</b>	Requirements vary but English and/or History are often asked for	Politics
<b>Anthropology</b>		A small number of courses like a science A Level such as Biology. Sociology is also very relevant.
<b>Archaeology</b>		Geography, History or Science subjects can all be useful
<b>Architecture</b>	Art / Maths / Science mix	Art, Mathematics, Design Technology and Physics. Do note that a portfolio of drawings and ideas may be asked for.
<b>Art and Design</b>	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.
<b>Biochemistry</b>	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.
<b>Biology</b>	Biology, usually Chemistry and sometimes Maths. A few universities specify two sciences.	Mathematics or Physics, Computing/Computer Science.
<b>Biomedical Sciences (including Medical Science)</b>	Normally two from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics. Chemistry is essential for some courses.	Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics.

	<b>Essential advanced level qualifications</b>	<b>Useful advanced level qualifications</b>
<b>Business Studies</b>		Mathematics, Business Studies (AGCE, National and Diploma) and Economics.
<b>Chemical Engineering</b>	Chemistry and Mathematics and sometimes Physics as well.	Physics, Biology, Further Mathematics, Computing/Computer Science.
<b>Chemistry</b>	Chemistry and sometimes 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.
<b>Childhood Studies</b>		CACHE, Psychology, Sociology, AGCE/National/Diploma Health and Social Care.
<b>Civil Engineering</b>	Mathematics, in many cases Physics. Sometimes one of Physics or Chemistry.	Further Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Computing/Computer Science, Design Technology, Geography.
<b>Classical Studies</b>	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.
<b>Computer Science</b>	For some courses, Mathematics. For some courses Computing/Computer Science and/or Physics.	Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Computing/Computer Science, Physics, Philosophy, ICT.
<b>Dentistry</b>	Chemistry and Biology for most courses, but some require Mathematics or Physics as well.	Mathematics, Physics, Further Mathematics.
<b>Dietetics</b>	Chemistry, Biology.	Mathematics
<b>Drama</b>	Some courses require English Literature and for a few courses English and/or Theatre Studies.	English Literature, English Literature and Language, Theatre Studies.
<b>Economics</b>	Usually Mathematics.	Economics, Computing/Computer Science, History, Business Studies.
<b>Electrical/Electronic Engineering</b>	Mathematics, usually Physics.	Further Mathematics, ICT, Design Technology, Computing/Computer Science.
<b>Engineering (General)</b>	Mathematics and Physics.	Further Mathematics, Design Technology, Computing/Computer Science.
<b>English</b>	English Literature or combined English Language & Literature (some courses will accept English Language).	History, Religious Studies, a foreign language.

	<b>Essential advanced level qualifications</b>	<b>Useful advanced level qualifications</b>
<b>Environmental Science/Studies</b>	Many courses will ask for two from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Geography.	Another facilitating subject, particularly a science.
<b>European Studies</b>	A Modern Foreign Language.	Another Modern Foreign Language, English Literature, History, Politics.
<b>French</b>	French	Another Modern Foreign Language, English Literature, History, Politics.
<b>Geography</b>	Most degrees require Geography.	Some Geography BSc (science) degrees prefer one from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics.
<b>Geology/Earth Sciences</b>	Usually two from Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.	Geography, Geology, Computing/Computer Science.
<b>German</b>	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
<b>History</b>	Most degrees require History.	Economics, English Literature, Philosophy, Politics, Sociology, Theology/Religious Studies, a modern or classical language.
<b>History of Art</b>		Art, English Literature, History, Theology/Religious Studies, History of Art, French, German, Spanish, Italian.
<b>Italian</b>	Italian or another language such as French, German or Spanish.	Another Modern Foreign Language, English Literature, History, Politics.
<b>Law</b>	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.
<b>Management Studies</b>	Sometimes Mathematics.	Mathematics, Economics, Business Studies (AGCE, National and Diploma).
<b>Materials Science (including Biomedical Materials Science)</b>	Normally two from Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Biology (also Design Technology for some universities).	Chemistry, Design and Technology, Further Mathematics, Computing/Computer Science.
<b>Mathematics</b>	Mathematics and sometimes Further Mathematics.	Further Mathematics, Physics, Computing/Computer Science.
<b>Mechanical Engineering</b>	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.

	<b>Essential advanced level qualifications</b>	<b>Useful advanced level qualifications</b>
<b>Media Studies (including Communication Studies)</b>	A few courses ask for English or Media Studies.	English, Media Studies, Sociology, Psychology.
<b>Medicine</b>	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.
<b>Music</b>	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.
<b>Nursing and Midwifery</b>	Usually Biology or another science.	Biology, CACHE, Sociology, Psychology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics.
<b>Occupational Therapy</b>	Some courses ask for Biology.	Psychology, Physical Education, Sociology or another science.
<b>Optometry (Ophthalmic Optics)</b>	Two from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics (some courses prefer Biology as one of the choices).	Further Mathematics, Computing/Computer Science.
<b>Orthoptics</b>	Biology	Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Computing / Computer Science.
<b>Pharmacy</b>	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.
<b>Philosophy</b>		Mathematics, Classical Civilisations, Philosophy and Religious Studies/Theology.
<b>Physics</b>	Mathematics, Physics.	Further Mathematics, Chemistry, Computing/Computer Science.
<b>Physiotherapy</b>	Most courses will consider you with just Biology. However, some also require a second science from Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics.	Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology.
<b>Planning</b>	Sometimes Geography.	Geography, Mathematics, Economics.
<b>Politics</b>		Politics, History, Philosophy, Law, Sociology, Economics, English Literature, Religious Studies, Business Studies.

	<b>Essential advanced level qualifications</b>	<b>Useful advanced level qualifications</b>
<b>Psychology</b>	A few courses ask for one from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics.	Biology, Mathematics, Psychology, Sociology, Computing/Computer Science.
<b>Religious Studies/Theology</b>		Religious Studies/Theology, Philosophy, English Literature, History.
<b>Sociology</b>		Sociology, Psychology, Geography, Computing/Computer Science.
<b>Spanish</b>	Spanish (some degrees will also consider French, German or Italian).	Another Modern Foreign Language, English Literature, History, Politics.
<b>Speech Therapy</b>	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
<b>Sports Science/Physical Education</b>	Many courses want to see one from Biology/Chemistry /Mathematics/Physics (some courses will treat Physical Education as a science equivalent).	Physical Education, Psychology.
<b>Surveying</b>		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.
<b>Teacher Training (Primary and/or Secondary)</b>	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.
<b>Veterinary Science</b>	You should do Chemistry and Biology and one from Mathematics/Physics so that you have all universities open to you.	Further Mathematics

## Dress Code

Students who elect to come to our outstanding Sixth Form are committing to adhering to our dress code. We want our Sixth Form students to take pride in their appearance and wear clothing that is suitable for a formal, professional environment.

Our dress code does allow students the independence to make choices about the clothing that they wear, but it must be in line with the compulsory elements of our dress code.

The leadership of our sixth formers is a real source of pride and looking smart and professional is one way that you ensure that you are a role model to our younger students.

### Suit:

Comprising a tailored jacket with either tailored trousers or a tailored skirt. If a tailored skirt is worn, it must be no more than 7cm above the knee in length.

### Worn with:

- Shirt and tie, or a collared blouse
- Smart **black or brown** shoes or smart **ankle** boots with a sensible heel. **No other form of footwear may be worn**
- Jumpers must have a 'v' neck as a collared blouse, or shirt and tie must be visible at all times. Hooded tops and sweatshirts must never be worn
- A Sixth Form lanyard must be worn and visible at all times.

### Additional Information:

- Skirts must be worn no more than 7cm above the knee and must be tailored.
- Only ear piercing is permitted; no other facial piercings are allowed.
- Hair should be neat, a natural colour and not outrageous in style.
- No garments made of stretch fabric, no t-shirts, vest tops, jeans, jeggings, leggings, shorts/culottes or chinos.
- Denim and leather jackets/trousers/skirts must not be worn.
- Mobile phones must not be used or visible around the school.
- Earbuds/headphones must not be used or visible around the school.
- Coats must not be worn around the school.

A tailored jacket must be worn at all times and is a compulsory part of the Sixth Form dress code.

## **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 must also meet the minimum entry requirements specified for the subjects they wish to study.

Students falling just below this target will be given best advice on their futures in terms of courses/careers advice.

Students who achieve 7+ APS and grade 7 in English and Maths may be considered for a fourth subject, if appropriate. This subject will usually be Further Maths alongside Maths. Please note that Core Maths and Extended Project Qualification, although part of the option blocks, must be studied with three other A levels, and these A levels must be prioritised in terms of choices fitting within option blocks. Students may not choose both Extended Project Qualification and Core Maths.

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

NB: Individual subjects require a specific grade for entry – please refer to the following page.

### Entry Requirements for Each Subject

Subject	Minimum GCSE entry requirements
Art	Grade 5 in Art
Biology	Two Grade 6s in Science and a Grade 6 in Mathematics
Business	Grade 5s in English Language and Mathematics Business Studies at GCSE is desirable but not essential. If Business Studies is studied at GCSE, students must achieve a minimum of a Grade 5.
Chemistry	Two Grade 6s in Science and a Grade 6 in Mathematics
Computer Science	Grade 6 in Computer Science and 5 or above in Mathematics and English Language
Drama	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
English Language & Literature	Grade 5 in English Language & Grade 5 in English Literature
English Literature	Grade 6 in English Language and Grade 6 in English Literature
Film Studies	Grade 5 in English Language and either a Grade 5 in Film Studies, if studied, or a Grade 5 in English Literature
French	Grade 6 in French
Further Mathematics	Grade 7 in Mathematics. You must also be studying A Level Mathematics. If you achieve a Grade 7 you will need to attend an advice and guidance meeting with the Head of Maths.
Geography	Grade 6 in Geography and Grade 5 in English Language
Health & Social Care - BTEC	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 History and Grade 5 in English Language
Mathematics	Grade 7 in Mathematics
Music	Grade 6 in Music; it is recommended that students are Grade Five standard in performance and in music theory
Religious Studies	Grade 5 in English Language and a Grade 5 in a Humanities subject
Photography	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 PE and PE theory (or a Level 2 Distinction in Cambridge Nationals Sport Studies) and two 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
Physics	Minimum of two Grade 6s in Science and a Grade 6 in Mathematics
Government & Politics	Grade 5 in English Language and a Grade 5 in a Humanities subject
Psychology	Grade 5 in English Language, Mathematics and one Grade 6 in Science
Sociology	Grade 5 in English Language
Spanish	Grade 6 in Spanish
Textiles	Grade 5 in Textiles or Product Design

## Course Information: Contents

This section of the booklet provides a brief overview of subjects offered in the Sixth Form; more detailed individual subject information is available at the Into the Sixth evening.

<b>Faculty</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Business and Economics</b>	Business	18
	Economics	18
<b>Creative and Physical Arts</b>	Art	19
	Drama	19
	Health & Social Care	20
	Music	21
	Photography	22
	Physical Education	22
<b>English, Film and Sociology</b>	English Language & Literature	23
	English Literature	23
	Film Studies	24
	Sociology	24
<b>Design and Technology</b>	Computer Science	25
	Textiles	25
<b>Humanities</b>	Geography	26
	History	27
	Religious Studies	27
	Government & Politics	28
<b>Mathematics</b>	Mathematics	29
	Further Mathematics	30
	Core Maths	30
<b>Modern Languages</b>	French	31
	Spanish	31
<b>Science</b>	Biology	32
	Chemistry	32
	Physics	33
	Psychology	33

## **Business**

**Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 5 in English Language and Maths. Business Studies at GCSE is desirable, but not essential. If Business Studies is studied at GCSE, students must achieve a minimum of a Grade 5.**

This is a course that is aimed at students who are confident with manipulating data and are genuinely interested in business and current affairs; it explores the theory and practice behind the real world of business both in the UK and internationally, considering real-life business case studies and applying practical business concepts to students' own ideas.

Areas of study include Marketing and People, Managing Business Activities, Business Decisions and Strategy and Global Business. The course explores the strategic and operational decisions that are needed to ensure a business is successful.

The course also enables students to gain crucial management skills, as well as explore the opportunities presented by globalisation.

**Contact: Mr M Nicholson - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

---

## **Economics**

**Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 5 in English Language and Grade 6 in Mathematics.** You will need to be comfortable working with data and developing written responses to questions.

There are many reasons to study A Level Economics, including its relevance to everyday life and the range of skills that you develop.

Economics is about the world around us. We study issues such as the power of Tesco over customers and suppliers, sugar tax which targets the obesity crisis, and why and how the banking sector is controlled. We consider how consumers, firms and governments behave.

Economics teaches you how to analyse situations and make choices, and develops an awareness of financial issues.

A Level Economics can lead to careers in Business or General Management, Accountancy, Investment Banking and many other paths.

**Contact: Mr M Nicholson - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

## Art

### **Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 5 in Art.**

This is the course for anyone who has a keen interest in creative processes, and in developing further knowledge and understanding of the technical skills required to record objects. You will engage in research, evaluation and analysis of historical and contemporary art in relation to your own practical work; consider the importance of different materials in the development of your ideas; and focus on your practical ability to solve problems, employ critical analysis and document your work.

The A Level Art course can lead to study at university and colleges of higher education. In the past, students have gone on to study fine art, graphics, photography, animation, architecture, civic design, fashion design, textile design, graphic design, ceramics, interior design, illustration, furniture design and jewellery design, at degree level.

You will be expected to travel independently to galleries and museums to study work from first-hand observation.

**Contact: Ms K Gaches** - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)

---

## Drama

**Entry requirements: 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.**

The course demands practical, creative and communication skills in almost equal measure. You will extend your ability to create drama and theatre. You will also be required to write about drama and to develop your powers of analysis to become an informed critic. It is important that you are interested in gaining a greater understanding of how theatre and plays work and that you are keen to be involved with performances.

You will be required to be involved in drama productions, as well as studying plays and playwrights. You need to be curious about issues and ideas and have a creative instinct for communicating your ideas through drama. You may be keen on acting, writing or on the visual and technical side of theatre and wish to develop your skills in some or all of these areas. Equally, you should be interested in going to the theatre to see plays performed by different theatre companies.

The course comprises components which are both theoretical and practical and involve research, independent learning and teamwork. You will be expected to rehearse outside of guided learning hours and make independent visits to the theatre.

This A Level can lead to further study in Drama, Theatre Studies and Performing Arts in Higher Education at degree or HND level. It can be used as part of your course to broaden your studies and may lead to a career in the performing arts industries. Drama complements a range of subjects and is useful in building confidence and improving presentation skills for a range of careers.

**Contact: Mrs O Mansfield** - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)

## **Health and Social Care - BTEC**

**Entry Requirements: GCSE average points score of at least 4 across the best 8 subjects taken at GCSE, including Grade 4 in English and Mathematics.**

BTEC Nationals offer the right blend of technical and academic skills to support students on the first steps to their chosen career. The course allows students to develop the skills and confidence they will need for a prosperous future. Students will apply their learning through practical assessments in the form of internally assessed assignments, externally assessed tasks and written examinations.

Students should have a love and passion for the Health and Social Care sector, including looking after the elderly, less advantaged, less able, infants and young children. You should have an avid interest in human lifespan development and individual care and support needs. Topics will include working in health and social care, meeting individual care and support needs, and the theoretical underpinnings of human development. Students should be able to learn independently and research actively and methodically, and be able to give presentations. You should have effective writing skills and an ability to read technical texts, whilst being analytical.

**Contact: Mr J Preston - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

## Music

**Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade 6 in Music. It is recommended that students are Grade Five standard in performance and in music theory.**

This is an academic course suitable for students who have an interest in the advanced study of music through the key areas of performing, composing, listening and analysing. For this course we follow the Eduqas (WJEC) syllabus.

Students will take their performing skills to a more sophisticated level. Performances can be on any instrument (including voice) and in any style. Students will learn to perform with increased maturity and sensitivity to the composers' intentions. Performances will be assessed through a recital given to a visiting examiner in the Spring term of Year 13.

Students will also compose original pieces using a combination of traditional and technological approaches. Each student will produce a portfolio of compositions, one of which will be in response to a brief set by the exam board.

The music of established composers is studied through three areas of study. These are:

- The development of the symphony 1750 - 1900
- Into the Twentieth Century
- Music theatre

There are four set works that are studied in greater detail. These are:

- Symphony No. 104 in D major 'London': Haydn
- Symphony No. 4 in A major 'Italian': Mendelssohn
- Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano, Movement II: Poulenc
- Three Nocturnes, Number 1, Nuages: Debussy

Analysis of structure, melody and harmony, as well as the historical context of the music will inform the students' understanding of the composers' artistic intentions.

An A Level in Music can lead to further study in Music or Performing Arts in Higher Education and at degree level. Students have in the past progressed to Music or Performing Arts College, and others have studied music for music degrees, or have studied music as a subsidiary to their main degree at university.

There will be opportunities to attend seminars and various events. Every student studying music at A Level is entitled to one thirty-minute instrumental or vocal lesson per week, free of charge.

**Contact: Mr Q Hutchinson - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

## Photography

**Entry requirements: 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.**

This course is perfect for creative people and those who are interested in using Photography to convey ideas. The course equips students with photographic techniques and skills, encourages experimentation and creative thinking and aims to give students a sense of the world and what is happening around them. You will develop skills in both digital and traditional film and chemical processes, and gain a full understanding of the development of photography and moving image. Students learn what makes an excellent and powerful photograph and how to achieve that.

Students will benefit from owning/having access to a DSLR or mirrorless camera and it is recommended to have a photographic editing programme (preferably Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom) on a laptop or home computer; further details can be obtained from staff.

The A Level allows students to gain entry to a Foundation or degree course, and to pursue careers in Fine Art; Wildlife, Travel and Photojournalism; Social Photography, such as weddings and portraits; and commercial photography.

Students are expected to travel independently to galleries and museums to study work from first-hand observation.

**Contact: Mr A Grant - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

---

## Physical Education

**Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 5 in PE and PE theory, or Level 2 Distinction in Cambridge Nationals Sport Studies, and two 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.**

The PE course is ideal for students who display an interest in the history of Physical Education, the science behind how the body responds to exercise, the anatomy of sports performers and the role of the elite performer. Study combines written analytical assessment, alongside areas such as independent research into analysing performances, making comparisons to elite level athletes and creating a development plan to improve your own performance. Students should be able to write longer prose answers to analytical questions.

Students can progress from A Level to any university-based course that relates to the world of sport. Students can enter the world of work in many guises: personal trainers, sport management, recreational assistants and teachers.

**Opportunities:** To represent the school in numerous disciplines at a high level. A commitment to your own physical education and playing in regular competitions is essential, as there are no structured practical lessons during the school day.

**Contact: Mr J Preston - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

## English Language & Literature

**Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 5 in English Language and English Literature.**

The English Language and Literature course is for students who enjoy reading a very wide range of literary material: novels, poetry and drama across periods and genres. You should be prepared to take on a reasonable weight of reading during the course, and develop the ability to think clearly, discuss confidently, read perceptively, and write coherently, both in your own writing and in your response to texts.

Students should be prepared to read widely and independently to inform their responses to text and their own writing. Students will study three units for the A Level course, including both reading and writing about society, reading a range of literary heritage and modern texts, and choosing a particular literary theme or technique of personal interest to study.

English A Level is highly regarded by many university courses and employers ranging across fields as varied as Accountancy, Business, Advertising, Journalism, Languages, Management and Law.

**Contact: Mrs S Crawford - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

---

## English Literature

**Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 6 in English Language and Grade 6 in English Literature.**

The English Literature course is for students who have a keen interest in quality literature and are prepared to take on a reasonable weight of reading during the course. The course will develop your ability to think clearly, discuss confidently, read perceptively and write coherently.

The A Level course provides an extremely broad range of literature. Students should be prepared to read widely and independently, and support their study with their own reading.

Students will study four components for the A Level course: poetry, drama, unseen texts and prose.

English Literature A Level is highly regarded by many university courses and employers ranging across fields as varied as Accountancy, Business, Advertising, Journalism, Languages, Management and Law.

**Contact: Mrs S Harvey - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

## Film Studies

**Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 5 in English Language; and either a GCSE Grade 5 in Film Studies, if studied, or a GCSE Grade 5 in English Literature** (There is no requirement in terms of having studied GCSE Film Studies, however as students are required to work independently on projects, organisation and motivation are key requirements).

Film Studies is an exciting course which is most suitable for students who already have an interest in cinema. You will also need to be prepared to watch and analyse a variety of films, including foreign films. The course will provide opportunities to broaden your cinematic horizons, work on independent creative projects, explore the conventions of different film genres and explore the contextual factors that may influence film production such as companies, budgets and individual star performances. Students with the creative ability to plan storyboards, make their own films and carry out research tend to be the most successful.

Successful students often progress to studying theoretical film and music degrees; others pursue technical courses related to the film or music industry, or theatrical studies.

**Contact: Miss C Grant** - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)

---

## Sociology

**Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 5 in English Language.**

Why do more people live on their own? Is the family in decline? What is happening to the divorce rate and why? Are men and women more equal than they used to be? The study of Sociology is the study of people in society – their lives, opportunities, beliefs and so on. It looks especially at how people's lives are often influenced by such factors as their age, gender, ethnicity and/or class background. You should have an interest in the world around you: observing people, keeping up with the news (or some of it) and watching relevant documentaries on TV all help.

Units studied include: Families and Households (exploring the changes in the way people live); Education (how class, gender and ethnicity influence educational achievement rates); Crime and Deviance (debates about the changing rate of crime, why the typical offender is young and male, how the mass media report crime); and Beliefs in Society (exploring the role of religion and other belief systems in society, including the way religion can exert a positive influence as well as causing social conflict).

Sociology is well-regarded by universities and recommended for those wishing to study science in some medical or environmental context. It links well with issues in Politics, History, Geography and Philosophy. Students often progress to careers in Law, Management, Market Research, Journalism, Public Relations, Medicine, Education and Public Policy research.

**Contact: Mrs S Harvey** - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)

## Computer Science

**Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 6 in Computer Science; GCSE Grade 5 or above in Maths and English Language.**

The qualification is delivered over two years.

Computer Science A Level is a challenging and rewarding course designed for students who wish to gain an understanding of how technology is constructed and designed. The skills required for computing underpin other courses such as Mathematics and Science.

The course is designed to give students a secure grounding in the subject and develop critical thinking skills which assist in higher levels of scientific study. The course comprises three modules, which are compulsory and assessed at the end of the two-year course: Computer Systems (40%), Algorithms and Programming (40%) and a Programming Project (20%).

**Contact: Mr B Marks – [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

---

## Textiles

**Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 5 in Textiles or Product Design.**

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially those in the creative industries.

They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning into practice by investigating, designing and making textile products.

Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

**Contact: Mr M Nicholson - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

## **Geography**

**Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 5 English Language and GCSE Grade 6 in Geography.**

Do you have a passionate interest in the wider world, be it curiosity about how a landscape has formed, or an interest in how a community might be affected by transnational corporations? Geography (human and physical) is at the core of understanding how and why the modern world is so complex and ever-changing. We explore how to interpret our changing world in a wide range of circumstances; the complex connections between societies, economies, cultures and environments, both locally and on a wider scale, and why sustainable development is so important in a broader context.

A Level Geography can open doors to both BA and BSc degree courses; students have progressed on to degrees in Geography, Economics, Geology, Sociology, Ecology, Marine Biology, Law, Oceanography, Business, Media and many more; you can also pursue more vocational routes such as Land Management Diplomas, Advanced GNVQs in Health and Social Care and Travel and Tourism.

**Contact: Miss A Hirst - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

## History

**Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 5 in English Language and GCSE Grade 6 in History.**

In Year 12 you will have the opportunity to study some of the most colourful characters in our history, from the Tudor period. There is no shortage of events: wars; rebellions, martyrdoms and burning desires are commonplace features on this course. The second unit on The Cold War in Asia will encourage learners to develop and ask significant questions about important issues arising from US policy up to the present day.

In Year 13, students will be required to consider developments in Russia over at least a hundred years. There is an in-depth interpretation element where students evaluate ways in which the past has been interpreted by historians, using their knowledge of specific individuals, events or developments prominent during the period. Unit four requires students to use a wide range of sources and interpretations, both primary and secondary, in order to carry out their own independent historical enquiry. This will develop both students' understanding of how historians work and the skills required at degree level.

The course provides an excellent foundation for a number of popular careers including International Relations, Journalism, Law, Civil Service and Business and has an important contribution to make to lifelong learning.

**Contact: Mr D Church - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

---

## Religious Studies

**Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 5 in English Language and GCSE Grade 5 in any Humanities subject.**

This course provides a coherent and thought-provoking programme of study, developing transferable skills of research, in-depth discussion and analysis which are of great value and are highly regarded by universities and employers in a wide variety of diverse sectors.

Assessed by 100% examination, it is an academic, essay-based course which will help you develop the ability to understand and analyse logical, abstract and ethical arguments, equipping you to express and justify your opinions of complex and engaging concepts and ideas.

Students will develop knowledge and understanding of some of the fundamental questions of human existence, gaining valuable insight into historical attempts to answer them and how they shape our view of society and ourselves.

In doing so, they will nurture an appreciation of spiritual, cultural and social conventions and teachings, debate complex and fascinating issues concerning theoretical and practical ethics, and examine the fundamental nature of what it means to be a human being.

**Contact: Mr P Walker - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

## Government & Politics

**Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 5 in English Language and GCSE Grade 5 in any Humanities subject.**

We study Politics to understand the relationship between the state and the individual; essentially, why we came to establish governments, how we believe it is best to govern, and why the theories we use to explore those two questions so rarely coincide with the answers we use in practice.

“The penalty for failure to engage in Politics is that you will be ruled by your inferiors.” Plato, *The Republic*.

Few academic subjects are as central to our everyday lives as Politics. Politics dominates domestic and foreign news whilst political decisions help to determine how we are educated, housed, cared for in hospital and kept secure from crime and violence.

The study of Politics is concerned primarily with analysing how and why Governments interact with society. We explore why people vote the way they do; why Governments and regimes rise and fall; how political decisions are made, centrally and locally; how people can pursue their own political aims; and why international questions are central to us all.

Students will study how our political institutions actually work, how and why the political agenda emerges and how laws are made. We also develop an understanding of different political systems and different levels of government. Global politics gives students an opportunity to develop an understanding of the local, national, international and global dimensions of political activity. It also gives them the opportunity to explore the political issues that affect all of us. Students will gain understanding of abstract political concepts through grounding them in contemporary real-world examples and case studies that will develop an international awareness and knowledge of multiple perspectives. Global politics encourages discussion and debate and requires students to study and present different global perspectives, as well as interpreting competing and contestable claims. The key mainstream perspectives on global politics are liberalism and realism, and students will be expected to understand how these perspectives are applied throughout all elements of the global politics content. Candidates will have the opportunity to study different political ideologies and theories; for example, conservatism, liberalism, socialism and feminism.

**Contact: Miss R Murray - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

## **Mathematics**

### **Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 7 in Mathematics.**

If you enjoyed the challenge of problem-solving at GCSE, you will love this course! We extend your knowledge of algebra and trigonometry as well as learning some brand new concepts such as calculus. When you study mechanics, you will learn to describe mathematically the motion of objects and how they respond to forces acting upon them. You will learn the technique of mathematical modelling, turning a complicated physical problem into a simpler one that can be analysed and solved using mathematical methods. Statistics involves learning techniques to summarise and analyse numerical data in order to arrive at conclusions about it.

Many of the ideas you will meet in the course form an almost essential introduction to such important modern fields of study as cybernetics, robotics, biomechanics and sports science, as well as the more traditional areas of engineering and physics. You will understand the relevance of mathematics, from understanding the principles behind Formula 1 cars, to how likely the earth is going to be hit by a comet in the next few years.

The course is challenging and interesting. It builds on work you will have met at GCSE, but also involves new ideas that some of the greatest minds of the millennium have produced. It serves as very useful support for many other qualifications as well as being a sought-after qualification for the workplace and courses in higher education.

A Level Mathematics is a highly respected qualification for entry to a wide variety of full-time courses in higher education, and employment: it develops clarity and logical thinking. Higher education courses or careers that either require Advanced GCE Mathematics or are strongly related include Economics, Medicine, Architecture, Engineering, Accountancy, Teaching, Psychology, Environmental Studies, Computing and Information/Communication Technology.

**Contact: Mrs H Burton - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

## Further Mathematics

**Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 7 in Mathematics. You must also be studying A Level Mathematics. If you achieve a Grade 7 you will need to attend an advice and guidance meeting with the Head of Maths.**

Students with a high aptitude and a genuine interest in Mathematics would benefit from the challenges and diversity of the course. It is strongly recommended for students considering studying Mathematics in higher education. We study topics such as decision maths (using mathematical modelling to solve real world problems). You will study the structure, use and efficiency of algorithms, the use of networks to represent real situations together with critical path analysis, linear programming and simulation. These are all areas of maths that are used in managing commercial and industrial concerns.

You will extend your algebra skills and curve sketching beyond those acquired at Advanced Level GCE, together with new areas of mathematics such as matrices, complex numbers and mathematical proof by induction.

We also develop further your understanding of Mechanics. You will see how your mathematical knowledge applies to the real world. The areas you will study include Momentum and Impulse, Work, Power and Energy and Elastic Collisions in both one and two dimensions.

Further Mathematics A Level can be useful when following degree courses as wide ranging as Economics, Medicine, Architecture, Engineering, Accountancy, Teaching Psychology, Environmental Studies, Computing and Information and Communication Technology.

**Contact: Mrs H Burton - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

---

## Core Maths

**Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 5 in Mathematics.**

AQA's Level 3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies sets itself apart by staying clear of complex algebra and theory. Instead, it prioritises practicality, including competent and efficient use of a calculator.

Core Maths is all about giving students the skills they need for study, for work and for everyday life. These skills come to life when you think about something as simple as drinking coffee. Students can dissect the cost to consumers, the profits for coffee companies, the environmental impact and the waste produced.

Whether it's analysing graphs in a Science class or critically examining mathematical claims in Geography, Core Maths prepares students to navigate our data-driven world.

It is an excellent option for students studying subjects that are maths related or require maths skills, such as Economics, Business, and Geography, amongst others. It is studied alongside three A levels and is not an A level option choice on its own.

**Contact: Mrs S Thurley - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

## French

### **Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 6 in French.**

This course is ideal for students with a genuine passion and aptitude for languages, who actively seek opportunities to deepen their knowledge of French. It offers a rich experience through the study of authentic written and multimedia materials, while further developing the skills acquired at GCSE: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will explore a variety of topics, with a strong focus on the culture of French-speaking countries. Key units include family structures and societal changes, the political and artistic culture of French-speaking regions, immigration and multiculturalism, as well as occupation and resistance.

We encourage students to immerse themselves fully in the language and culture of French-speaking countries. Beyond the classroom, they are urged to read widely in the target language, listen to foreign radio broadcasts, and watch French TV shows and films. Each student will also spend a minimum of thirty minutes per week with a French assistant to enhance their listening and speaking skills.

The ability to communicate in a foreign language is a highly valuable skill, sought after by many employers. Recent surveys show that nine out of ten employers prefer candidates with foreign language proficiency, with career opportunities spanning fields such as banking, civil service, commerce, communications, ICT, interpreting/translation, journalism, law, librarianship, manufacturing, politics, broadcasting, teaching, and tourism.

**Contact: Mrs S Manns/Mr I Jabbie - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

---

## Spanish

### **Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 6 in Spanish.**

This course is ideal for students with a genuine passion and aptitude for languages, who actively seek opportunities to enhance their knowledge of Spanish. It offers an engaging experience through the study of authentic written and multimedia materials, while further developing the core skills acquired at GCSE: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will explore a diverse range of topics, with a strong emphasis on the culture of Spanish-speaking countries. Key units include the evolution of Spanish society, the political and artistic culture of Hispanic nations, immigration and multiculturalism, and Franco's dictatorship along with the transition to democracy.

We encourage students to fully immerse themselves in the language and culture of Spanish-speaking countries. Beyond the classroom, they are urged to read extensively in Spanish, listen to foreign language radio broadcasts, and watch Spanish TV shows and films. Each student will also spend at least thirty minutes per week with a Spanish assistant to strengthen their listening and speaking abilities.

The ability to communicate in a foreign language is a highly valuable skill sought by many employers. Recent surveys reveal that nine out of ten employers prefer candidates with foreign language proficiency, with career opportunities spanning fields such as banking, civil service, commerce, communications, ICT, interpreting/translation, journalism, law, librarianship, manufacturing, politics, broadcasting, teaching, and tourism.

**Contact: Mrs S Yoxall/Mrs S Manns - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

## Biology

**Entry requirements: Minimum of two GCSE Grade 6s in Science and a GCSE Grade 6 in Mathematics.**

Students will learn about the fundamental ways in which living things are organised. The course covers topics such as lifestyle factors affecting heart, circulation and cardiovascular disease; genes, genetic diseases, DNA, protein synthesis, and ethical issues relating to genetic screening; the genome, cell division and cell structure. We explore the implications of scientific discovery in stem cells, embryo research and cloning. If you are excited by discussing forensic pathology, the working of the brain and the nervous system, viruses, immunology and the effects of climate change and biodiversity, this is the course for you!

This course can lead to a degree course in Biology, Environmental Sciences, Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Psychology or Pharmacy, and employment in areas such as Pharmacy, Catering, Biotechnology and Land Management.

**Contact: Mrs N Gunton - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

---

## Chemistry

**Entry requirements: Minimum of two GCSE Grade 6s in Science and a GCSE Grade 6 in Mathematics.**

Understanding Chemistry is essential to the understanding of many other scientific disciplines, from Agrosience to Zoology. Chemistry plays a vital role in everyday life. The course provides excellent preparation for further study at university and is required for most medical and veterinary science courses; it also opens doors to a wide range of non-scientific courses and career paths. Chemistry is a challenging and well-respected qualification, and many of our students have used their A Level Chemistry as a platform to obtain excellent degrees from the country's top universities.

The Chemistry course involves exploration of physical, organic and inorganic chemistry. Students will develop further their skills of investigation through practical experiments, problem-solving, calculations and discussion.

**Contact: Mrs N Gunton - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

## Physics

**Entry requirements: Minimum of two GCSE Grade 6s in Science and a GCSE Grade 6 in Mathematics.**

Physicists aim to gain a deeper understanding of the natural world, ranging from identifying the smallest fundamental particles right up to explaining how the universe has evolved. Over the course, you will study how to work scientifically and apply Physics principles to applications and practicals; we study topics such as materials, gravitational and magnetic fields, mechanics, electrical circuits, waves and the particle nature of light, nuclear radiation, nuclear and particle physics and space.

Physicists are systematic, clear thinkers who can solve complex problems; these skills are highly valued, and students might typically pursue degrees in courses ranging from Physics, Natural Sciences, Material Sciences, Medicine, Engineering and Radiography and/or go straight into employment in the Scientific or Financial Sectors.

**Contact: Mrs N Gunton** - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)

---

## Psychology

**Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 5 in English Language and Mathematics and one Grade 6 in a GCSE Science.**

Why is it that some people suffer from stress and mental illness? Why do we remember things? Why do some people fear snakes yet a few think they are cuddly?

Psychology is the science of behaviour and experience. It aims to objectively study the mind and behaviours by conducting scientific research. It also has real world applications to issues in everyday life, ranging from things like developing artificial intelligence to promoting social change and supporting those with mental health issues. We explore key psychological approaches, concepts and theories to develop your skills of analysis and evaluation. We also explore the ethical issues involved in conducting Psychology investigations and the complex issues related to designing and interpreting scientific research methods including statistics.

Students who take Psychology need a combination of curiosity and scepticism, and need to enjoy research. Students often take their studies further at degree level, pursuing Psychology, Sociology, Health and Social Care, Law, Biology, English and Sports Studies. Students who wish to pursue a career in any of the caring services, or in marketing or business, will find an understanding of Psychology useful.

**Contact: Mr G Monks** - [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)

## Option Blocks 2026-2028

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Biology	Computer Science	Business Studies	Art
Business Studies	Drama	Chemistry	Biology
Exam PE	English Language & Literature	Government & Politics	Economics
Film Studies	French	History	English Literature
Music	Geography	Maths	Further Maths
Physics	History	Photography	Health & Social Care
Psychology	Maths	Sociology	Psychology
Religious Studies	Sociology	Textiles	
Sociology		<i>Core Maths (1 year course)</i>	
Spanish			
<i>EPQ (1 year course)</i>			

### Notes for Guidance

You should choose 3 subjects to study, no more than one from the same block.

Students who expect to achieve equivalent to a grade 7 APS may indicate a fourth option on the form if they wish to be considered for a fourth A Level subject. This subject would usually be Further Maths, in addition to Maths. Please indicate up to two 'reserve' selections.

Please note that Core Maths (Option Block C) and EPQ (Option Block A) are optional fourth subjects, in addition to students' three A level choices; any student choosing Core Maths or EPQ should select this in addition to their first three subject choices.

Priority should be given to your first three A Level subject choices, as Core Maths and EPQ are optional additions to the main courses. There is an application process for EPQ.

## Next Steps

22 October 2025	Sixth Form Information Evening
16 October 2025	Year 11 Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening for internal applicants
<b>15 December 2025</b>	<b>Sixth Form Application Form deadline</b>
January/February 2026	Second stage of application process for all students
March 2026	Written confirmation of Sixth Form offer, subject to GCSE results
May/June 2026	GCSE exams take place
30 June 2026	Year 12 Induction Day
20 August 2026	GCSE results published Internal applicants will receive their grades and a letter from Ms Gaches confirming the next steps External applicants to present their results and discuss next steps
21 August 2026	Senior staff available by appointment for post-results advice and guidance, as required
September 2026	Year 12 courses begin

## How to Apply

To apply for a place in our Sixth Form, please complete our online application form (via link or QR code below) by **15 December**. If you need help completing the form, or have any questions, please contact the Sixth Form Office. Email: [sixthform@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk). Phone: 01442 863605.

### [Sixth Form Application Form 2026-2028](#)

