



# XL Programme

at Ashton Sixth Form College

Experience Excellence







## The Ashton XL Programme

At Ashton Sixth Form College, we are committed to making sure all students achieve both academically and personally. We are proud of our record for supporting and coaching talented students to reach their potential. This is achieved through dedicated staff bringing out the best in individuals, mentoring students through challenges and delivering a programme to stretch intellect and take achievements to new levels.

The XL Programme supports our highest achievers and offers specially tailored activities and opportunities, designed to enhance personal development and enable academic students to succeed at the highest level. These opportunities give students the competitive edge they need when applying for the highest quality courses and the most prestigious universities in the country.

Whether studying A-Levels or Vocational courses, this programme provides the opportunity for high achieving students to work alongside each other and benefit from each other's experiences.

**Damian Windle**  
XL Manager



**Officially the best  
college in the area for  
student progress**

(DfE, 2019)



**8 out of 10 XL students  
achieved high grades**

(2018-2019)



**94% of XL students  
progressed to higher  
education**

(2017-2018)



**Half of all grades  
achieved by XL students  
were A\*/A**

(2018-2019)





**A record number of students received offers for Oxbridge universities for September 2019**

Ronnie Ellison-Walsh from St. Damian's RC Science College studied Chemistry, Geography and Physics. He received an offer to study Geography at the University of Oxford.

Ben Speakman from Great Academy Ashton studied Business, Economics and Geography. He received an offer to study Geography at the University of Cambridge.

Esan Shafiq from Great Academy Ashton studied Biology, Chemistry, History and the EPQ. He received an offer to study Law at the University of Oxford.

Vincent Allott from Alder Community High School studied Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Physics and the EPQ. He received an offer to study Medicine at the University of Oxford.

Ethan Prince from Droylsden Academy studied Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics. He received an offer to study Biochemistry at the University of Oxford.

Maxim Burchill from Mossley Hollins High School studied History, Law, Maths and the EPQ. He received an offer to study Classical Archaeology and Ancient History at the University of Oxford.

## What is XL?

Students gain access to the XL programme at Ashton following their GCSE results at the end of August. XL students are assigned a specific tutor group, led by a specialist Senior Tutor who is dedicated to helping students achieve above and beyond. XL provides a structured programme of activities, events and support for our most able learners which offers the best possible preparation for those applying to Oxford, Cambridge, Russell Group and other prestigious institutions, as well as highly competitive degree courses such as Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science. Being part of the programme enables students to work alongside other high achieving individuals; supporting each other and achieving together.

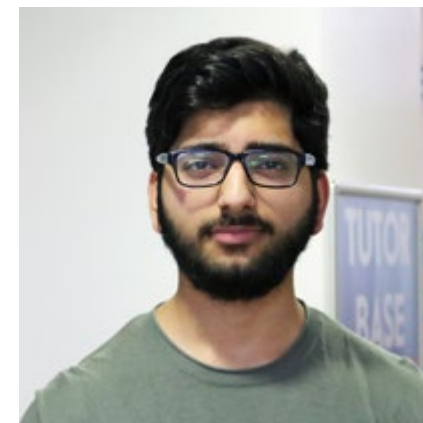
Those following the XL Programme will receive support through:

- Talks, workshops and events
- Dedicated and specialist support with university applications
- Enrichment activities and societies to develop skills and support applications
- Admissions test preparation and mock interviews
- Oxford, Cambridge and other university study days
- Opportunities to experience university life on Realising Aspirations and university shadowing schemes
- Specialist work placements
- The Extended Project Qualification



Niamh Connaghan  
**St. Damian's RC Science College**  
 Biology, French, Chemistry and EPQ

**A\*\*A\***  
 Biological Sciences at the  
**University of Oxford**



Hamaas Hassan  
**West Hill School**  
 Biology, Chemistry, Maths and EPQ

**AAAA\***  
 Medicine at the  
**Imperial College London**



Olivia Papps  
**Glossopdale Community College**  
 English Literature, History, Business  
 and EPQ

**A\*AAB**  
 History and Sociology at  
**Sheffield University**





## Opportunities

The Ashton XL programme provides students with countless opportunities to achieve, network and expand their skills, through an enviable range of speakers, talks, preparation events, tutorials, trips and conferences.

### Oxbridge preparation

Students with Oxford and Cambridge University in their sights do extremely well on the XL programme. Each year a significant number of students progress to the top universities in the UK, outperforming in one of the most competitive selection processes in the world.

Oxbridge applicants have specialist support programmes created for them, which include mock interviews, summer schools and master classes. Through opportunities such as the Cambridge Shadowing Scheme, Oxford Pathways, Oxbridge road shows, Corpus Christi master classes at Cambridge, Application Days, residential and the Oxford Edge Consultancy, students gain an edge to succeed at the highest level.

### Mock Interviews

Students take part in mock interviews with university tutors, graduates and professionals to help them prepare for future university and employer interviews.

### Specialist Tutorials

Specialist XL tutorials are led by our XL Manager. Drawing on influences such as Sports Psychology, Character Education and Growth Mindset, students are given the tools and the skills on how to be an effective independent learner.

These sessions guide and stretch our most able learners, promoting an aspirational culture on how to succeed at the highest level. XL students come together weekly to share and learn from one another, as well as benefiting from formal and informal one to one support with their XL mentor.

### Pre-Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary

We understand that careers within Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary sectors are competitive.

Students on Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary routes receive master classes, mock interviews, specialist visits, summer schools and more. In the past, students have had access to hospital placements, STEM research projects and Medlink conferences.

These opportunities have taken place across the country at Liverpool, Nottingham, Lancaster and Keele University.







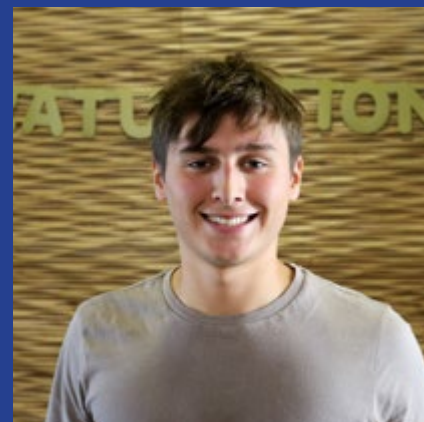
Akhil Sebastian  
**St. Damian's RC Science College**  
Biology, Geography, Chemistry, EPQ

**A\*A\*A\***  
Medicine at the  
**University of Sheffield**



Samad Chowdhury  
**Great Academy Ashton**  
English Language, English Literature,  
and History

**A\*AA**  
English Literature at  
**Durham University**



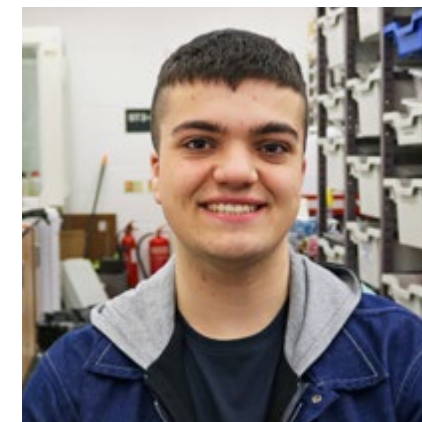
Thomas Andrew  
**Oldham Hulme Grammar School**  
Business, Accounting and Economics

**A\*AA**  
Economics at the  
**University of Liverpool**



Lauren Eccles  
**All Saints Catholic College**  
Law, Psychology and Photography

**A\*A\*A\***  
Law at the  
**University of Manchester**



Joseph Jones  
**St. Damian's RC Science College**  
Physics, Maths, Chemistry and EPQ

**A\*A\*AA**  
Physics at the  
**University of Birmingham**



Mohit Mistry  
**Great Academy Ashton**  
Chemistry, Maths, Biology and EPQ

**AAAB**  
Dentistry at  
**Sheffield University**



Lucy Atkinson  
**Denton Community College**  
Accounting, Maths, Further Maths

**AAA**  
Higher Apprenticeship at  
**Rolls Royce**



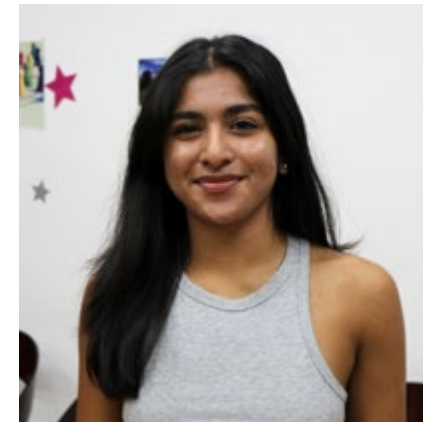
Furhan Altaf  
**West Hill School**  
Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Geography

**A\*A\*AA**  
Natural Sciences at the  
**University of Cambridge**



Ciara Blackhurst  
**St. Damian's RC Science College**  
Biology, Geography, Chemistry, EPQ

**A\*A\*AA**  
Medicine at the  
**University of Liverpool**



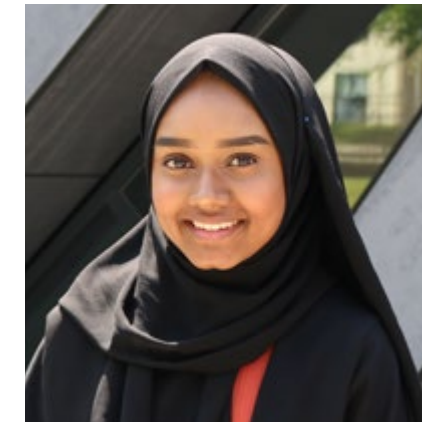
Shania Chauhan  
**Longendale High School**  
Chemistry, Maths, Physics and EPQ

**A\*A\*AA**  
Chemical Engineering at  
the **University of Leeds**



Oscar Lewis  
**Great Academy Ashton**  
Maths, Further Maths, Geography,  
Physics and the EPQ

**A\*A\*A\*AA\***  
Mathematics at the  
**University of Durham**



Sadia Iqbal  
**Fairfield High School**  
Law, Chemistry and Biology

**A\*AB**  
Optometry at the  
**University of Manchester**



# Opportunities

## Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is an additional qualification that students can choose to take alongside their studies.

The EPQ is ideal for students who have a genuine passion for a subject area and would enjoy the opportunity of researching it at undergraduate level, as well as experiencing university-style learning and supervision.

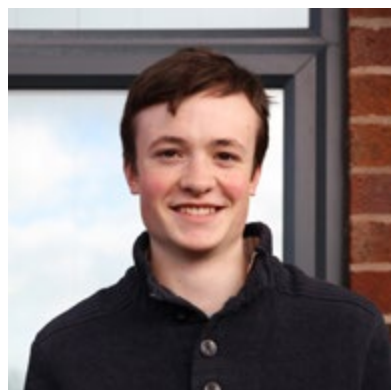
A completed EPQ can help students secure offers from prestigious universities whilst allowing them to indulge in research in their chosen subject.

## Trips, visits, workshops

Throughout the year students attend a range of conferences and seminars including the Villiers Park pre-university residential, Law conferences at Queens College London, Physics Insight Days, the Realising Aspirations programme, Russell Group open days and the XL conference.

## Nuffield Foundation Placements

Students have the opportunity to take part in extremely competitive placements with the Nuffield Foundation, where they gain invaluable skills in some of the most exciting industries.



### Jack Perrin achieved A\*A\*A\*A\* in Physics, Maths, Further Maths and EPQ

“My Nuffield placement was at the Henry Moseley X-ray Imaging Facility in the University of Manchester. I spent a lot of time researching how X-ray CT works and became familiar with the software they use to analyse 3D images. My work was part of the University’s Micrographia Revisited project with the Manchester Museum. This involved using 21<sup>st</sup> century imaging technology (X-ray CT) to revisit some of the specimens/objects that Robert Hooke viewed in the 1600s. I learnt a lot about the nature of research from my own project and from observing and talking to academics about their own.”

Jack from Marple Hall School now studies Maths at Durham University.

### Tanha Ahmed studied Biology, Maths and Sociology (A\*BB)

“On my Nuffield placement, I used GIS software to map West Bengal with its arsenic severities in order to be able to spot patterns and arsenic hotspots. Researching around the topic and meeting new people is something I really enjoyed as part of the placement. I learnt valuable skills in how to write a good report, how to present your findings well, and the placement improved my statistical maths and IT skills.”


Tanha from Hyde Community College is now studying Biomedical Sciences at Manchester University.



# Experience Excellence

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