

# ASHTON COMMUNITY SCIENCE COLLEGE

A **SCHOOL** TO BE PROUD OF



## PROSPECTUS



MAKING THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE







A TRUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL



REALISING YOUR INCREDIBLE POTENTIAL



# WELCOME



Welcome to our prospectus, which I hope captures something of the ethos and atmosphere within our school community. We are passionate in our belief that every single student should have the very best opportunities available to them as they undertake their learning journey. We work relentlessly to raise standards, inspire the students and create a positive learning experience from the moment they join us in Year 7 to the time they leave in Year 11.

We aim to help students prepare for adult lives in a rapidly changing world. To achieve this we provide a broad and stimulating curriculum, set the highest standards of work and behaviour and encourage students to reach out for these standards with confidence. School is not just about the five years your son or daughter is with us, it is about enabling them to confidently step forward and make the best of the talents, skills and knowledge they have, to continue developing who they are and have the ability to create a successful and happy life.

Our school is a family, whose members take pride in having respect for each other. We share responsibility for creating a safe and pleasant place to learn, where enjoying and achieving are at the centre of what we do. Ashton provides effective and stimulating learning in a caring and disciplined environment. As an inclusive school we are very proud of our efforts to educate, challenge and care for all our students, whatever their abilities.

Our reputation in the local community is strong, yet we do not rest on our laurels. We are determined to build upon this solid foundation and ensure we remain "a school to be proud of".

S. Asquith  
Headteacher



# A SCHOOL TO BE PROUD OF

Specialist Colleges use their unique status to create a challenging environment which raises standards across all subject areas whilst focussing on their specialist nature. Here at Ashton we have built our ethos around our school motto of "PROUD". You will find a school community aiming high, pursuing excellence in all that we do, with staff working relentlessly to inspire learners.

We believe that our reach should always exceed our grasp. Our aim is to create a supportive and challenging environment in which every individual can aspire, enjoy and achieve. We want to raise standards by inspiring our learners and give encouragement as they meet the challenges that this philosophy brings.

Through the use of our excellent facilities we have developed close ties with our family of partner primary schools who regularly use our facilities with their Year 5 and 6 students. We deliver specialist lessons in a range of subjects to enrich the primary students in their learning as well as helping each student feel at ease in a high school environment.



AIMING HIGH, PURSUING EXCELLENCE



A woman with blonde hair and safety glasses is smiling while lighting a sparkler. The sparkler is mounted on a stand and is producing a large burst of bright sparks. She is holding a lighter to the base of the sparkler. The background is a workshop or laboratory setting with various equipment and a blue wall.

# MEETING THE CHALLENGE

AN INCREDIBLE PIECE OF POTENTIAL

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# LEARNING..... .....INSPIRING MINDS

If lessons are stimulating and engaging, then students will love learning; not an easy challenge but certainly one we believe we are up to. We invest time planning and reviewing schemes of work to ensure they are well differentiated and meet the needs of all. Lessons are structured to enable all students to access the curriculum and to develop as independent learners.

We set all students challenging targets and report on their progress each term. In addition, each year group has an annual parents' evening. During these, parents and students meet their tutors, discuss their progress and set targets for the year ahead. All this, combined with regular home learning, helps us to support our students in adding value to the progress they have already made.

We strive to develop young people who leave us as successful, well balanced individuals, ready to face the challenges of the 21st Century.



# INCLUSION & DIVERSITY

We are a fully inclusive school and believe everyone can make a positive contribution to the school community. Our community is rich in its diversity and we celebrate the variety, challenge, acceptance, culture and ideas this brings to each student.

Our School Council is the channel for the student voice in school and meets regularly, influencing many aspects of day to day life in school from facilities refurbishment through to staff appointments and everything in between.

Central to our school ethos is community and our community is inclusive in its diversity. We welcome international students from around the world and have in school support to make the transition and settling in process as smooth as possible.

We have students who are deaf or hearing impaired, students with speech and language delay and students with a variety of other physical, emotional and learning needs. There is one common factor which unites them all: they are all Ashton Community Science College students and we want the very best for each and every one of them. Here everyone is valued equally.

One unique feature of our school is the onsite SERF (Special Education Resource Facility) which supports our deaf students. Deaf students are placed in main school tutor groups alongside their hearing peers. Although they are taught by the school's subject teachers, working in mainstream classes, for the majority of the time specialist staff provide support to ensure their specific needs are taken into account.

Our Learning Support team offer additional support to students with learning needs across the widest spectrum, working hard to build relationships that help each child achieve their full potential.

Our Gifted, Able and Talented programme continues to go from strength to strength, with all subject areas offering extension activities in addition to the established enrichment programme.





# PARTICIPATION TALENT & LEADERSHIP

From the moment students walk through our doors want them to become lifelong learners and successful members of the wider community.

Our careers education, information and guidance programme is comprehensive, giving students an opportunity to reflect on their own career aspirations and the steps they need to take to achieve them. We offer students opportunities which help them become thoughtful, helpful and proactive members of the school and wider community so that by the time they leave Ashton Community Science College, we know we have prepared them for all the challenges they will face as citizens of the future.

At Ashton Community Science College we aim to build on our strengths; we have tried hard to devise a curriculum that suits the needs of all students across the two key stages and that meets the challenges of the 21st Century. We strive to ensure that all students are offered appropriate courses at the appropriate level for them.

We aim to make our students more involved in their own development and strive for independence in their learning. We want them to be questioning, challenging and confident individuals; we want them to be happy, safe, contented people eager to experience life in the wider world. We encourage students to adopt leadership roles within school through "Student Leader" status. The Student Council plays an active role in Behaviour Panel reviews and developing the direction of the school.

At the end of Year 10 students can apply for the role of Head Boy and Head Girl. These incredible positions in Year 11 are highly respected well after school and are a position of great responsibility within the school.



PREPARE NOW FOR YOUR FUTURE





# OVERCOME THE CHALLENGE

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WHEN THE IMPOSSIBLE BECOMES POSSIBLE





MARINE BIOLOGIST

We are fortunate to have an ever expanding group of former students who are involved in raising aspirations within our school community. Through the work these former students have undertaken, many of our current students have had their eyes opened to the possibilities that are on offer if you work hard, make and take opportunities and grow your self-confidence.

SCHOOL PASTORAL LEADER

# ASHTON

FREELANCE FILM MAKER


GRAPHIC DESIGNER

RESEARCH ANALYST & STATISTICIAN

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MAKING POSITIVE CHOICES NOW





Our former students move on into a wide range of careers and lifestyles and this is evident in the Ashton Alumni. One thing that ties them all together is a determination to make a life that is successful and happy.

The voices of those that have sat in the seats and walked the halls of our school community have a huge impact and strength. Many current students have been inspired by what they see, hear and learn from members of Ashton Alumni and have become more determined or found a direction to take their life after school.

# ALUMNI

LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT

HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY MOUNTED REGIMENT

TATTOO ARTIST

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

CHARITY PASTORAL CO-ORDINATOR

FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

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# HOUSE SYSTEM

The House System at Ashton gives students the opportunity to work together with their peers and members of staff under their own House banner throughout the year. Following our school motto, our school houses are named after PROUD PRESTONIANS past and present. Every student and member of staff is assigned to one of these houses:

FLINTOFF HOUSE    PARK HOUSE    CLITHEROE HOUSE

RIGBY HOUSE    BOOTH HOUSE    FINNEY HOUSE

Our house competitions run throughout the year with regular house challenges throwing down the gauntlet to staff and students alike to compete against opposing houses in an effort to earn valuable points for the ongoing House Championship. Other challenges all count towards the points for the House Championship scoreboard. In addition, rewards for good behaviour, work and effort all earn additional points to tally up. Each academic year culminates in our annual Challenge Week, which epitomises the ethos of our House system in encouraging students to work with other members of the school community for a common goal.

At Ashton, we believe our House system leads to the development of many valuable life-skills for our students. From team work and cooperation to resilience and endeavour, we guarantee the year's activities will provide a challenge for everyone.

The house system crosses all year groups so students will interact, make friends and work with students older and younger than themselves. They will also learn something of responsibility to others through the group work ethic this system engenders.



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BEING PART OF TEAM ASHTON



# REWARDS

At Ashton, we firmly believe that our students' successes and achievements should be rewarded and celebrated. We recognise and praise hard work, effort, commitment and excellent outcomes. This is key to encouraging students to go further and achieve things they may not even have thought possible.

Our rewards system at Ashton has a number of strands. Our A\*shton Learner awards are central to our rewards system. Each student can collect rewards in school for showing qualities in each of the following areas:

**Attitude to Learning** – do you have a positive mindset towards your learning?

**Subject Specific Skills** – do you use your talents in particular subjects?

**Helpful in School** – are you someone who is always willing to lend a hand?

**Targets** – are you achieving your academic targets in your lessons?

**Organised and Ready to Learn** – do you always have your equipment and are you on time?

**Next Challenge** – how are you moving yourself forwards with something to aim for?

Students are awarded with an A\*shton Learner award at bronze, silver or gold level once they have collected the required number of rewards in each category.

During the year, rewards are given at half-termly intervals for punctuality and attendance. Rewards trips are offered at the end of every term for students with outstanding records. At Ashton, we are determined that great performances get their deserved reward and that students learn that hard work is the key to success.





# PASTORAL, COMMUNITY & FUNDRAISING

At Ashton Community Science College, we believe in promoting the highest standards of pastoral care. To complement the challenge of our academic and extra-curricular activities, our pastoral offer delivers support for students and parents alike helping them to thrive throughout their journey with us.

We believe that there is no more important role for us to play than that of preparing young people successfully for the next stages in their lives. At Ashton, we help our students to achieve the qualifications they desire as well as developing their skills and personalities. As we accomplish this, they become the confident and competent young adults they need to be as they move on from Ashton.

To achieve this end, our pastoral offer is built around five core elements which we nurture in our students during their time with us:

We help them to build their sense of **HOPE** and their dreams for the future, a sense that tomorrow is an endless list of possibilities.

We help them to develop their **CONFIDENCE**, so they have the self-belief and resilience to seek out new challenges.

We help them to appreciate that **HAPPINESS** can be achieved through being comfortable in their own skin and finding fulfilment in their day-to-day lives and actions.

We help them to realise the importance of **RELATIONSHIPS** of all types in developing themselves and their lives with others.

We help them to grow their **EMPLOYABILITY** and acquire the transferable skills and knowledge that are necessary in today's challenging workplaces.



PARTICIPATE IN ADVENTURE





Ashton Community Science College have an outstanding Duke of Edinburgh Team encouraging young people to take on challenges and live life as an adventure. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is the world's leading achievement award for young people and is widely recognised as an award of personal excellence.

Its balanced programme of activities develops the mind, body and soul in an environment of social interaction and team working. It's more important than ever that young people are able to learn and demonstrate key employability skills after they leave school.

Key employability skills young people gain on the Award:

- Communication
- Team work
- Self-discipline
- Initiative
- Leadership
- Decision making
- Time Keeping
- Confidence



School is not just about qualifications. Other experiences, skills and commitments contribute to the whole person.

*"The best educational experiences are characterised by activities that develop resilience, opportunities to contribute to the wider community and to develop personal commitment. Students should be given the opportunity to try things that are hard, to fail sometimes and to try again afterwards. This level of personal development is a vital pillar of a young person's schooling."*

Will Hutton – Former Editor of the Observer and Principal of Hartford College, Oxford



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# SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS

STEM enrichment at Ashton aims to enthuse, inspire, develop and nourish all students' STEM skills in order to prepare them for the workplace in an ever changing economy, where Science and innovation take a central role. Students are therefore fully prepared and skilled up giving them that extra edge when it comes to application and interview processes when they finally leave us to continue their study or join the workforce.

Our curriculum includes hands on STEM activity days, guest speakers, residential trips including indoor sky diving as well as after school clubs.

STEM partnership links with colleges, UCLan and local industries are strong and as a result provide opportunities for our students to get a glimpse of what further studies of STEM Post 16 will encompass as well as possible career paths. Some of our students get to complete a week's work experience in Engineering.



ENTHUSE, INSPIRE, DEVELOP AND NOURISH



# STUDY SUPPORT

Study Support encourages our students to have raised aspirations in all aspects of their life. Opportunities are provided both within and outside the curriculum to extend learning and to offer new experiences. An extensive range of clubs, activities and interests are offered before school, at lunch time and after school through our SCAMPs program. SCAMPs aims to enrich a student's life as well as offer additional support time to develop what is being learnt in lessons.



SPORT, COMMUNICATION, ACADEMIC, MUSIC, PLEASURE



We also organise frequent trips that support both learning and gaining new life experiences. In recent years these have included visits to Poland, tours of French battlefields, water sports trips to Spain and even ski holidays in the Alps. The impact these trips have on students is always profound and deeply rewarding.



RAISED ASPIRATIONS IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE



# A TRUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

We are proud to be the only community school in the area and take the responsibility that comes with this status very seriously. We work hard to ensure Ashton lies at the heart of the local community and is the first place that people think of when they think of learning. Learning is not a destination, it is a journey.

We offer a wide range of activities, programmes and out of hours activities. These help to ensure that there are opportunities to acquire knowledge, skills and understanding in preparation for adult life and to develop confidence, motivation and a thirst for lifelong learning.

In collaboration with local providers, a wide range of community education courses are on offer, from examination classes to more general interest classes.

Our sporting facilities are available throughout the year. Further details available via our website.

We work closely with local schools, in particular our family of partner primary schools, through to local employers, colleges of Further Education and have strong links with the University of Central Lancashire. This enables us to provide a smooth transition for students from Year 7 through to employment and the aspirations of the very highest educational choices.



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CONFIDENCE, MOTIVATION AND A THIRST FOR LIFELONG LEARNING









**Ofsted**

**Good  
Provider**

**HEADTEACHER:** MISS S ASQUITH MA, NPQH

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