



Astley Community High School Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening



Welcome



John Barnes, Executive Headteacher, Seaton Valley Federation

Graham Scott, Head of School, Astley Community High School, and

Adam Ironside, Head of Sixth Form, Astley Community High School,
welcome you to our Virtual Sixth Form Open Evening.

This year due to Covid-19 restrictions we are unable to hold our usual open evening in school, so instead, we are presenting to you online.

The purpose of this virtual open evening



- To provide information regarding post 16 courses and opportunities.
- To explain why we think ACHS should be your school of choice.
- To answer any questions you may have.

What makes a good sixth form?



- Strong results.
- A wide and varied curriculum.
- Opportunities in and beyond the curriculum.
- Outstanding student care, guidance and support.



Ofsted says...



- “The sixth form is good. Teaching is of a very high standard and achievement is good and improving. The curriculum is planned well to meet the needs of students and both academic and pastoral support is good.”
- “Achievement in the sixth form is good and improving. A-level pass rates are good and a growing number of students are achieving high grades. Achievement on vocational courses is good. Sixth formers receive very effective initial advice and good support throughout their courses; consequently, very few students drop out.”
- “Teaching in the sixth form is of a very high standard.”



Year on year improvement at A Level



- More students than ever achieve 3 x A* grades.
- More students than ever achieving 3 x A*/A grades.
- 100% pass rate at A Level for the past 4 years.
- Results in vocational courses are beyond outstanding.



Why are our results so strong?



- Outstanding systems in place to track progress, coupled with a pastoral system that responds quickly when student performance is a concern.
- Small class size compared with other local institutions.
- Outstanding careers, university and apprenticeship guidance, leading to motivated and determined students.
- Experienced staff who have taught our post 16 curriculum for many years.



How do we compare to local colleges?

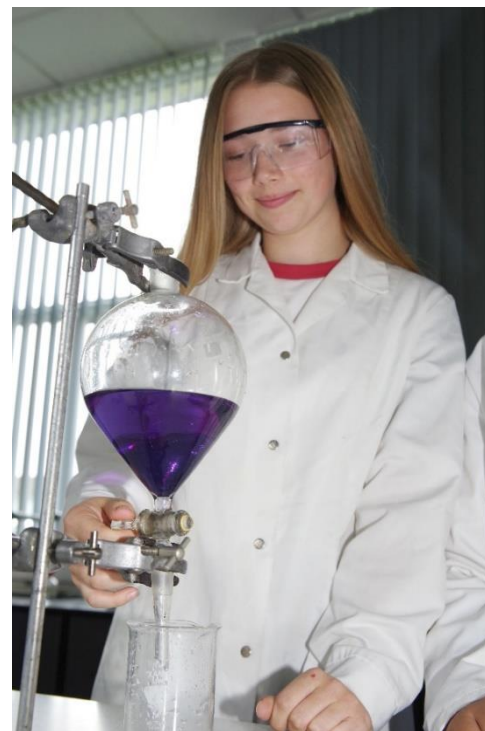


- Some young people feel that another establishment will be better for them than sixth form. We agree, that if a local college offers a course that we do not offer, then the young person should go to the college to study that course.
- However, if the young person is going to a college, for example, to do a course that we offer then we feel that we should point out that in every reporting measure in both progress and attainment ACHS does better in A level and GCSE than all the other colleges around us. This includes any Sports Academies that are run by the colleges as well.
- Whilst college is different, the simple fact is the qualifications you take next set you up for life outside of education. You need to ask yourself, where am I going to get the best grades to go to university or get myself a quality apprenticeship?
- Finally, in terms of student destinations, ACHS has a higher percentage who move into apprenticeships or university study than the local colleges.

The decision making process



- We will as a Senior Leadership Team ensure that we give guidance to your child and if we feel that they are making the wrong decision then we will say so and explain why.
- Sometimes the decision to leave ACHS is the right one and if that's the case we will say so and support your child. What we want more than anything else is to help you and your child make the best decision for them.
- I recommend this sixth form, without reservation, and I would send my family here.



Is sixth form just more of the same?



- In the sixth form, you are given far more responsibility.
- You get to choose ALL your subjects.
- You will have more adult relationships with your teaching staff.
- You can study subjects that are not available in the lower school.
- Significant opportunities outside of the curriculum that prepare you for life beyond our sixth form.
- When you are not in lessons or Independent Study you can leave the school building.



Pathways

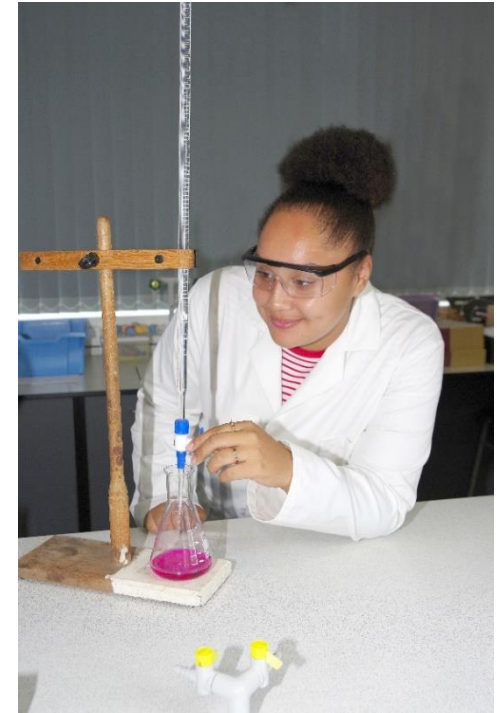


- A Level Pathway – Choose 3 A Level subjects. A small number of students wish to study 4.
- BTEC Pathway – Choose 3 vocational BTEC or Cambridge Technical courses.
- Combined Level 3 pathway – Choose a combination of A Level and BTEC or Cambridge Technical courses.

A typical student timetable



- There are 50 possible teaching hours per fortnight.
- Each subject typically receives 9 hours per fortnight of taught lessons.
- There are also 9 hours per fortnight allocated to independent study.
- Therefore, a student who studies 3 subjects will receive 36 hours of directed study and will therefore have 14 'free periods'.
- Students are free to sign out of school during free periods.



What is Independent Study?



More responsibility outside of lessons



Opportunities beyond the curriculum



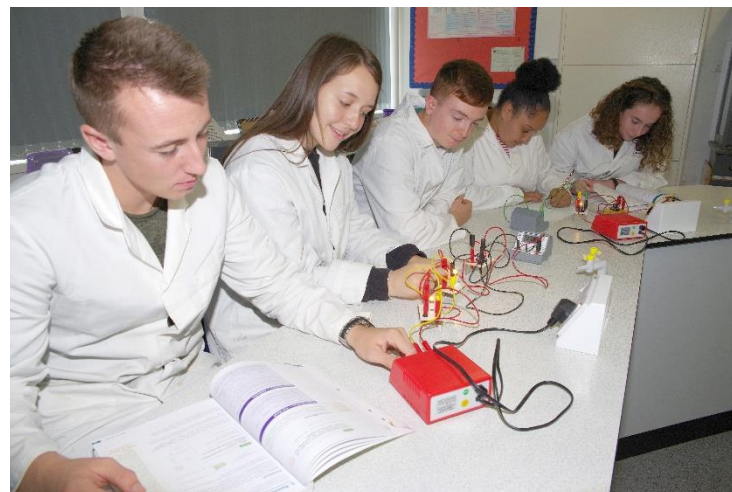
- Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award.
- Whytrig Middle School Mentoring Scheme.
- Work experience placement for all students at the end of year 12.
- Story time with Spinning Tops Nursery.
- The opportunity to become a Senior Student.
- Exceptional Rugby Academy.
- Become a qualified Pool Life Guard.
- Charity fund raising events every year, led by sixth form students.



Exceptional information, advice and guidance



- Close relationships with RGS to support university applications.
- Access to supported entry schemes at Northumbria, Newcastle and Durham Universities.
- UCAS club every Thursday to support university applications.
- Regular visits from apprenticeship providers.
- Visits from working professionals – industrial chemists, financial advisors, accountants, doctors etc...
- Interviews with our Senior Leadership Team to make sure you are on the right course for you.



Other considerations.....



We are in the best position to support you in year 12 because:

- We have taught you for at least the last three years and we know your strengths and weaknesses.
- We already have strong relationships with you.
- Staff at ACHS are known for going the extra mile and will support you.
- A level classes are small compared with other schools.
- A generous sixth form bursary scheme.
- A **FREE** bus pass worth over £500 for students that live out of our catchment area.



Messages from our Senior Students



"I am very happy that I chose to go to Astley Sixth Form and now that I'm in year 13 I've just realised how quickly the time has flown by. I have been given so many opportunities by attending here throughout the years including the opportunity of being a Senior Student which I have thoroughly enjoyed. The support I have been given by my teachers and the Sixth Form team has been inspiring to me, especially with UCAS applications which would have seemed daunting without their guidance. My teachers have known me for many years now, so they know how to push me in the right direction to help me improve myself."

Lara Sykes

"After a full year in the Sixth Form and now in Year 13, I can honestly say it has definitely been an excellent decision to study at Astley. Being able to continue my role as senior student in year 13 is a real honour, as it was something I enjoyed last year. I'm currently studying a mix of A Level and BTEC courses and have really enjoyed the independence Sixth Form brings to studying; it allows you to take more time and fully understand topics, and if you are struggling with a particular topic the teachers' doors are always open to help. Another fantastic thing about the Sixth Form, especially after you've finished your first year is that you find you have developed your professional relationship with the staff which is essential for maximising your overall experience and potential in Sixth Form. A vital task when in Sixth Form is finding out what you want to do when you leave after Year 13, whether it be applying to UCAS for university or researching apprenticeships, the support that staff give to all students is outstanding."

Jack Inchmore

What happens next?



30th November – 11th December:

First round of 1:1 interviews with a member of the leadership team.

18th January – 29th January:

Second round of interviews take place.

12th February:

Lesson Sampling day takes place. (Apprenticeship programme for some)

15th–26th March:

Third round of 1:1 interviews follows on from this.

Thank you for viewing our presentation



We hope you have found the presentation helpful.
If you have any further questions please contact us.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form.