



The wider college experience

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What is Ashton Explore?

Ashton Explore is a central hub for all opportunities you can access while here at college; all separated under different umbrellas.

explore
Courses

- **Explore courses:** Sign up to an Ashton Explore course. These take place over a number of weeks where you are required to attend each session. An example of an Ashton Explore course is 6 week Sign Language course.

explore
Opportunities

- **Explore Opportunities:** These are our one-off opportunities. You will find talks from externals here or full day courses/ qualification such as First Aid.

explore
External Opportunities

- **Explore External Opportunities:** Here you can find opportunities that may be organised through college or they come from externals. For example, volunteering or schemes that take place out of college will be found here such as The Academic Mentoring Scheme or the Digital Champions Project.

explore
Employability

- **Explore Employability:** Our 4-6 week courses will provide you with an insight into different industries providing you with an opportunity to enhance your understanding and skills to make informed decisions about your future career aspirations.

explore
Health & Fitness

- **Explore Health&Fitness:** Get involved in the college sport teams or drop in to our daily health and fitness sessions in the sports hall.

explore
Societies & Clubs

- **Explore Societies & Clubs:** Join a new society and meet new people who have a shared interest! There are lots of activities and clubs that run weekly for students to get involved in.



Diya Mistry

Biology Chemistry Mathematics

GP Volunteering Digital Champions project, 6 week BSL course, Barclays STEM programme at Knutsford Technology Centre, Realising Aspirations - Life Sciences, University Visits, Advanced Maths support programme.

University of Oxford
Biology



Kate Hallas

Chemistry, Physics, Biology, EPQ

What Enrichment have I got involved in?

First Aid Qualification, GP Volunteering Digital Champions project, 6 week BSL course, DNA & PCR workshop at Salford University mega lab, Realising Aspirations - Life Sciences, Guest speakers in Medicine, Chemistry Olympiad.

Medicine at The University of Oxford



Sadia Kamagate Gomes

Applied Science, Spanish, Sociology

What Enrichment have I got involved in?

First Aid Qualification, GP Volunteering Digital Champions project, Realising Aspirations - Health Care, Student Ambassador, Neonatal Nursing talk, University visits.

University of Salford - Children's Nursing



Frank Duffy

Politics History English Literature

Speaker of the Month, 6 week BSL course, Realising Aspirations - History & Politics, University visits, Cambridge History summer school, work experience - Dean's Court Chambers, Debate club.

University of Oxford
History & Politics



Harriott Roe Evans Knott

Extended Diploma in Business

What Enrichment have I got involved in?

First Aid Qualification, Findel Education talk, Public speaking at college events, Winners Corporation Ltd talk, Gold Duke of Edinburgh award.

Apprenticeship in Chartered Institute Procurement & Supply



Tom Gibbs

Accounting Physics Mathematics

6 week BSL course, Realising Aspirations - Business & Accounting, Speaker of the Month, CERN trip-Switzerland, Advanced Maths support programme, Employer presentation by MAP Accounting, University visits.

University of Manchester
Accounting



Encouraging you to Be Ambitious

Our Careers and Employability offer

Be Ambitious 

Careers

Our experienced Careers Advisors will provide them with a wealth of knowledge and guidance to help them make informed decisions on their next pathway:

- University
- Apprenticeships
- Employment
- Gap year

Work Placement

Providing students with the opportunity to gain valuable experience, while enhancing employability skills and equipping them with industry insight needed for their future aspirations.

- Childcare & Early Years
- Health & Social Care
 - Sports Coaching
 - Football Coaching
 - Business Studies

Realising Aspirations

Our flagship programme prepares learners for university life and develop their subject knowledge further.

We aim to help level the playing field for those who may face barriers progressing into Higher Education.

Explore Employability

Highlighting the variety of job roles within different industries – Brining the subject to life!

Our courses will provide the opportunity to hear from experts, take part in industry related activities and enhance employability skills.

Employer Partnerships

Students will have the opportunity to engage with employers through a variety of encounters:

- Competitions
- Live auditions
- Mock interviews
- Hidden jobs
- Live briefs
- Mentoring

How our learners progress as part of a structured careers journey.

Be Ambitious

- Our flagship BE Ambitious programme ensures students have access to meaningful employer encounters, helping them develop key employability skills.

% of students who agreed they enhanced or gained employability skills

94% Employer-led project
98% Self-placement
78% workshops/online courses

% of students who agreed activities during Be Ambitious, positively impacted their future career

92% Employer-led project
94% Self-placement
78% workshops/online courses



Engaging with industry experts to highlight the skills needed for the future

Health & Social Care

What is the Health and Social Care Sector?

A Healthcare role usually involves treating a disease, illness or injury such as a Nurse, Doctor or Dentist. A Social Care role helps with daily living and includes Care Worker and Social Worker.



Average annual salary
£29,500



Percentage of GM workforce working in this sector

13.4%

(177,000 employed)

Approximate number of GM employers

6,850



Shortage and in demand roles

- Medical Practitioners
- Nurses
- Psychologists
- Social Workers
- Pharmacists
- Paramedics
- Medical Radiographers
- Occupational Therapists



Workplace trends

- GM has an ageing population - the sector will continue to grow as people live longer.
- Female dominated for many positions. Some companies run special programmes to support male employees into their job.
- Values-based recruitment - attracting people with the right character - is most important.



Roles that GM employers are currently recruiting for

- Nurses
- Nursing Associate
- Nurse Support/ Auxiliary roles
- Care Worker/ Assistant
- Medical Professional/ Doctor
- Mental Health Worker
- Care Managers
- Social Workers

What do I need to start my career?

No experience required for entry roles.

There are multiple routes for all levels and roles. Professional qualifications needed for more senior positions, like doctors or dentists.



Types of qualifications

- NVQs, BTECs, Diplomas, Degrees.
- Many colleges and providers offer entry level (L1-2) courses.
- L2-7 apprenticeships in Care Services, Health and Science
- Degrees offered by many universities in a range of health and social care subjects.
- T Levels.

Who might you work for?

- [NHS Jobs](#)
- [Care UK Homecare Limited](#)
- [Greater jobs](#)
- [Federation of Jewish services](#)
- [RUPA care homes limited](#)



Soft skills

- Communication
- Flexibility
- Cultural Awareness
- Resilience
- Teamwork
- Empathy

What does the future hold for this sector?

- Ageing population with people living longer with multiple health conditions.
- New viruses e.g. Covid-19 requiring new ways of working.
- Remote appointments and digital healthcare solutions.

