



ASHTON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLLEGE

### Background Information

Ashton Sixth Form College was formed in 1980 building on the successes of Ashton Grammar School and has an unbroken record of over 130 years of service to the educational needs of the local community and is determined to carry forward this purpose in the future. The College has an excellent local and regional reputation for excellence. The College is located on an attractive campus in Ashton-Under-Lyne, 7 miles to the east of the city of Manchester and within easy commute from most of the North-West region. The College has been providing the very highest quality of education in the area for over 40 years.

In February 2019, Ashton Sixth Form College became the founder organisation in Stamford Park Trust, a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) with the ambition to improve the life chances of all young people in Tameside. At the time of writing, Ashton Sixth Form College is the only member of the Trust; it is envisaged that other schools and educational organisations will join Stamford Park Trust in the years to come. All members of staff at Ashton Sixth Form College are employed by Stamford Park Trust.

As Ashton Sixth Form College we are very proud of our students' achievements; we have a strong ethos of ambition and aspiration which runs through all aspects of college life. The educational philosophy of the college is based on the central tenet that the student is at the heart of everything we do. A successful and oversubscribed college with around 2100 16-18 year old students following study programmes which include A level and vocational programmes at both levels 2 and 3. The College is in the top 10% for both A level and vocational value added, and is ranked in the top ten Sixth Form Colleges in the North-West. The College was rated as Good by Ofsted in March 2016 and is the highest rated post 16 provider in Tameside. The College also offers Adult and Higher Education programmes for around 600 part time adult students following a variety of courses from level 1 (Entry) to level 7 (Post Graduate). The college also offers teacher training programmes for primary, secondary and post 16 education.

### The College's Vision and Mission

The College is committed to excellence and to the young people of Tameside and the surrounding area. We are committed to strengthening opportunities for young people in the borough and support the promotion of lifelong learning for all. We are committed to raising the aspirations and supporting the ambitions of our students so they can make a positive contribution to their communities. We firmly believe in the benefits of a broad based sixth form education aimed at developing the whole person and not just qualification success.

The College has established a strong tradition of successful provision for both A level and vocational programmes. The curriculum offer has been carefully designed to meet the needs of students of all abilities and is comprehensive, offering over 35 different A level subjects and 10 vocational study areas.

## **Our Vision**

Transforming lives through learning

## **Our Mission**

- To engender a love of learning through an excellent standard of teaching and learning for all
- To lay the foundations for career success
- To promote well-being and inspire students and staff to lead fulfilling lives

## **The College Today**

The College is housed on an attractive and well-designed campus, incorporating the buildings of the former Ashton Grammar School and a number of more recent, purpose-built buildings. The campus is modern and welcoming, and provides excellent facilities for teaching and learning. In the last three years, a new 'Food Market' (social and cafeteria space for students) and the 'Learning Commons' (an area for independent learning) have been built. All students and staff have access to a recently installed wireless network on campus. We plan to add to the estate, with an ambition to build a new Art and Design centre, Higher Education and Skills block and improve the Sports Hall facilities over the next few years. The college is committed to sustainability with solar panels and rain water harvesting schemes employed on the site. The college is stable financially with financial health rated as 'Good' by the ESFA.

## **The Curriculum**

The majority of the College's curriculum comprises full time level 3 provision, almost entirely for 16-18 year olds. In addition to over 35 subjects offered at A level a number of Certificate, Diploma and Extended Diploma programmes are offered across 10 subjects areas. Students follow study programmes comprising of pure A level provision, mixed programmes of A level and vocational qualification or a purely vocational package. Unusually for a Sixth Form College, there is significant and growing adult and Higher Education provision ranging from entry level qualifications to post graduate degrees and teacher training.

The College is committed to maintaining a dynamic and wide ranging curriculum and works closely with partners in the local community and beyond to achieve this. Further information on our curriculum offer can be found on our web site at [www.asfc.ac.uk](http://www.asfc.ac.uk).

## **Student Services**

Every full-time student is allocated a Senior Tutor who oversees their progress and wellbeing throughout the time they are in college. Our team of Senior Tutors are specialists in Academic and Pastoral guidance and have a clear remit with regards to student welfare and outcomes, achievement, retention, attendance and progression. A tutorial programme runs throughout the year, incorporating a variety of topics of use and relevance to students. In addition, students will see their Senior Tutor at weekly group tutorials and have a Progress Hour for one-to-one's. The work of the Senior Tutors is supported by a Senior Tutor Assistant who monitors attendance and progress rigorously to ensure

that all students make good progress. The work of the Senior Tutors and Senior Tutor Assistants is overseen by three Senior Tutor Managers who are responsible to the Assistant Principal, Student Services.

Inclusive Learning Support is available to all students to help their academic progress and to address specific learning differences. Careers Education and Guidance is also provided by the College, through its own staff and through close working with the Positive Steps service. The College has its own Counsellor and Chaplain and also uses external services as required. The College places high emphasis upon aspiration and ambition with the Realising Aspirations Officer leading this initiative. Exciting links have been formed with several universities, including Pembroke College, Oxford.

Increasingly, students need to produce individual course work and assignments of high quality for their courses. The College provides a number of Learning Centres where students can work on their own or in supervised study.

### **Adult Students**

The College's post 18 offer is targeted at increasing the number of adults with Maths and English qualifications and supporting adults yet to achieve at levels 2 or 3 to study for qualifications that will support them in their career aspirations or to re-enter the job market. The College works closely with a range of community partners on this agenda such as the Job Centre and Neighbourhood Partnerships. The College's Higher Education offer is directly in response to the low numbers of Tameside residents with level 4 qualifications. The College works in partnership with Staffordshire University and Salford University to offer both full time and part time Foundation degrees, BA top up programmes and the College also offers Post Graduate Certificates in Education for primary, secondary and post 16 education phases.

There is a core team of teaching and training staff, Marketing and Admissions staff and a number of sessional teaching staff who deliver the adult programmes and support the students. Adult students have access to all college facilities and support such as the LRC, Inclusive Learning Support and Careers whilst they are on programme.

### **Governance and Management**

As part of Stamford Park Trust, the statutory governance of the college falls to the Trustees of the Trust. The Board of Trustees comprises seven Trustees, including the CEO and Principal, each of whom has a longstanding interest in the college. The task of board of Trustees is to determine the strategic directions of the Trust and ensure by their oversight that the Trust remains financially sound and is fulfilling its chosen purpose and objectives. The Board of Trustees meets regularly to discharge these duties.

As part of this structure, Ashton Sixth Form College has a Local Governing Body (LGB) comprising ten members drawn from a wide range of skills and interests including students, both 16-18 and adult and Higher Education, and parents. The LGB, meets regularly and ensures that the college is functioning well and meeting the strategic aims of the Trust and the College.

The College is led by the Principal and a Senior Leadership Team. The Deputy Principal leads on Curriculum, Quality and Planning and an Assistant Principal is responsible for Student Services. Two Assistant Principals lead sections of the 16-18 provision and have cross college responsibilities in the areas of Learning and Achievement and Aspirations and Achievement. The Assistant Principal of HE and Skills and the Director of Finance, Estates and MIS are also members of the Senior Leadership Team. Heads of Subject and other middle managers report to members of the Senior Leadership Team and meet regularly through a planned schedule of meetings.

### **Accountability**

The Trust and the College are funded by the Government through the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and through tuition fees for adult courses. Funding is dependent on student numbers and the types of course taken. The Trust and College work to a Financial Memorandum from ESFA and has an annual funding agreement with the body, laying down the type and amount of work to be carried out, the terms of which must be met.

### **Staff Well-being**

The College is a vibrant and welcoming community with over 200 members of staff. We understand the importance of supporting the well-being of all staff employed at the college and have an established Well-Being group to develop initiatives aimed at maintaining a healthy work / life balance. Staff sports events, well-being days and our staff enrichment day all contribute to this.

On behalf of the Trust and the College, I would like to thank you for your interest in the advertised post. We look forward to hearing from you. Good luck with your application.

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anton McGrath', written on a light-colored background.

Anton McGrath

CEO, Stamford Park Trust  
Principal, Ashton Sixth Form College