



THE DEAN TRUST

Ashton on Mersey School Sixth Form



Believe Achieve Succeed

Welcome

We believe that every student deserves an opportunity to reach his or her full potential. Our Sixth Form will build on the excellent foundations developed in Key Stages 3 and 4 by providing relevant, interesting and varied learning opportunities in preparation for higher education, apprenticeships and the world of work.

Ashton on Mersey School Sixth Form is highly successful. We offer a curriculum, which provides a blend of experiences to suit individual needs and aspirations.

Our facilities are the envy of many, there is a virtual learning environment which allows students to continue their studies at home to compliment the most advanced in-house ICT facilities. The Learning Resource Centre, seminar rooms and social areas are fully equipped and have been designed with the independent student in mind.

Employers and higher education institutes demand a wide range of skills including teamwork, communication and leadership. Our Sixth Form provides the necessary foundations to prepare students for the challenges associated with post 18 career pathways.

Ashton on Mersey School Sixth Form is an exciting, innovative and vibrant institute for any learner.

Don't just take our word for it - join us and see for yourself.



Chief Executive
& Academy Principal
Mr T Kapur CBE



Executive Headteacher
Mr A Shakos



Head of Sixth Form
Mr B Kelly



Sixth Form Manager
Mrs G Fox

Admission

Admission to the Sixth Form is open to students within The Dean Trust, with a number of places available to other schools. We welcome students of varying abilities but do expect them to reach the minimum entry requirement of 5 Full Course GCSEs at grade 9-4 including English Language and Mathematics at grade 4. However, please see individual subject course cards for additional information. All prospective students should send their completed application form to Student Services. Previous schools will be contacted for a reference and students' expected GCSE results.

A Typical Day

The Sixth Form is open from 8am until 5pm, students are welcome to use the building to study during this time. Form time is compulsory for all students and begins at 8.30am. Each day has six teaching sessions, the length of each teaching session is 50 minutes.

Study periods will appear on all student timetables. Students are expected to use this time effectively either, in the Learning Resource Centre which is a quiet study area, or the Common Room to catch up on reading and take advantage of our Wi-Fi connection. In Year 12 students are not permitted to leave the Sixth Form during study periods. In Year 13 students who are on course to attain predicted grades are permitted to leave during these periods to study at home.

There is a coffee bar where students can purchase fresh coffee, snacks, sandwiches, salads and paninis. Students are also welcome to use the main school restaurant facilities or are free to leave the building and use the surrounding amenities during lunch.

Attendance

High standards of attendance and punctuality are expected at Ashton on Mersey School Sixth Form and are essential if students are to achieve their target outcomes on their chosen programme. This is closely monitored by our electronic attendance system.



Tutor Groups

Upon entry into the Sixth Form students are placed into tutor groups. Tutors assist in the mentoring of each student, tracking their progress bi-weekly and conducting personal one-to-one guidance sessions. At the beginning of Year 12 minimum target grades are set based on GCSE results. These are then reviewed in November to challenge students further. Tutors are responsible for writing references for UCAS, apprenticeships and employment applications.

Dress Code

In keeping with accepted professional and commercial standards a Sixth Form student dress code is in place. This establishes a business and professional ethos in the Sixth Form. For programmes of study where there is a large proportion of practical activities, appropriate practical clothing is required. In the Common Room, social and learning areas, business dress is expected of all students.

Student Support

The Student Services team are based in the Common Room and are the focal point for all advice, guidance and additional support. Our Student Services team are available to all students for confidential advice and support on any matter. They are available from 8:00am until 4:30pm every day. Support and guidance is always available. This begins from an expression of interest, throughout the application process, through to the completion of their chosen curriculum. Personalised support is available if a student has any additional needs.

Induction

Students are welcomed into the Sixth Form and then participate in a 'carousel' of activities led by the Sixth Form Management Team. This is then followed by an afternoon of workshops supporting students through the challenging transition between Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. The intention of the induction process is to set our expectations from day one and to enable the students to get to know their surroundings, one another and staff.



Reporting to parents

Ashton on Mersey School Sixth Form promotes independence; however it is important that we have a partnership with parents/carers to provide mutual support for the student. Parents/carers are welcome to visit or call the Sixth Form at any time to discuss any concerns. Parents/carers who wish to speak to the Head of Sixth Form can contact Student Services, who will arrange a convenient appointment. The Sixth Form will notify parents of academic performance, achievements and social development through progress reports and a progress evening.

Career Guidance

Advice on career opportunities is readily available in the Sixth Form. Our dedicated Careers Advisor conducts presentations to the students on general post 18 opportunities, as well as providing personal guidance meetings with individual students supporting them with their chosen career pathway.

Events are held throughout the year ensuring students and parents/carers are fully informed of opportunities available post Sixth Form. Professionals from universities, apprenticeships and employers work with the students offering further advice and guidance. We provide a comprehensive UCAS application programme which we expect all students to follow.

Student Leadership Team

Our student body is represented by a chosen group of ambassadors recruited to provide guidance and support, not only to the Sixth Form but also to the lower school pupils. These ambassadors are key to the continued development of all aspects of student education. The four areas prioritised for the team are: the promotion of leadership opportunities for all students, the development of literacy across the school, the leadership of the Student Council and fundraising.

Enrichment

Enrichment is a significant and important part of the overall curriculum in the Sixth Form, it enhances the important skills and personal qualities that employers and universities are looking for. Providing an opportunity for students to gain career specialised experience is also a key factor within their enrichment time. All students are given the opportunity to source an enrichment placement independently in their chosen career path to gain and develop employability skills throughout Years 12 and 13. If this is not the student's preferred option, students partake in a 'carousel' of activities provided within the Sixth Form.

Curriculum

Ashton on Mersey School has a reputation for delivering an innovative and effective curriculum to suit the needs of all learners. Our Sixth Form builds on this to provide a seamless transition through our 16-19 curriculum.

How to choose the right course

Students are advised to focus on subjects they enjoy and are good at. However, if a student has a specific career path in mind it is important to select the required courses to enable this to happen. Information, advice and guidance meetings which, are personalised to each student, take place before enrolment is confirmed.

Level 3 qualifications on offer are BTEC Extended Diploma, BTEC Diploma, BTEC Subsidiary Diploma and A Level. All pathways offer access to higher education qualifications. Universities either use grades or point scores to allow access to degree courses and all qualifications can combine to give suitable scores for entry. A BTEC Extended Diploma is equivalent to three A Levels, a BTEC Diploma is equivalent to two A Levels and the BTEC Subsidiary Diploma is equivalent to one A Level.

Progressing to Year 13

Progression from Year 12 to 13 is not automatic and will depend on the academic achievement, attendance and attitude to learning of the student.

The student's position will be reviewed at the end of Year 12. The Sixth Form reserves the right to provide advice about their prospects in the curriculum and to decide if the student is suitable to progress into Year 13.



Post 16 Level 3 Pathways

The Sixth Form offers a choice of four pathways to ensure that students achieve their full potential. All of our pathways at Level 3 provide a platform for access to university, apprenticeship or employment. If students already have a career in mind, they can select a pathway to match their career choice.

BTEC Extended Diploma, BTEC Diploma and BTEC Subsidiary Diploma qualifications

Business | Construction | Digital Technologies | Sport | Applied Psychology (Extended Certificate)

A Level qualifications

Accountancy | Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Pathway 1	Extended Diploma	Students focus on a core subject, extending and deepening their knowledge in a subject they have a passion for, or a career they are aiming for.
Pathway 2	Extended Diploma plus Subsidiary Diploma /A Level <i>or</i> Diploma plus Subsidiary Diploma /A Level	This option enables students to focus on a main subject and widen their opportunities by linking it with an additional subject.
Pathway 3	Three Subsidiary Diplomas	If students are unsure of which career pathway they may wish to follow, this pathway gives students the opportunity to study three different subjects.
Pathway 4	Diploma & Diploma	Students combine two subjects which they have a passion for, developing a wider understanding and knowledge towards their chosen career.

MINIMUM SIXTH FORM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

5 Full Course GCSEs at grade 9-4 including English Language and Mathematics at grade 4 or above.

Some individual subjects require a GCSE grade 6 or above please see individual course card.



Cecil Avenue Sale Cheshire M33 5BP
t: 0161 973 1179
e: sixthform@aom.trafford.sch.uk
w: www.thedeantrust.co.uk

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National College for
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