

ALTRINCHAM COLLEGE **SIXTH FORM**



PROSPECTUS

FOR 2024 ENTRY

ASPIRE, ACHIEVE, AMAZE

HEADTEACHER



Ms K. Earle

Headteacher and CEO of the South
Manchester Learning Trust

Welcome to Altrincham College's Sixth Form. I am sure you will find our Open Evening both informative and insightful, experiencing for yourselves all that we offer to students Post-16.

I am very proud to say that our Sixth Form is a vibrant place to learn, where all students work hard to achieve the very best outcomes for themselves. You too can be part of our successful environment if you are committed to making the best use of your time here with us. The A Levels and vocational qualifications you will gain here are what sets you up for the rest of your lives so it's important to start as you mean to go on!

Whilst qualifications are very important, we offer so much more at AC. We want you to embrace Sixth Form life! We enhance our broad curricular offer with the highest quality careers advice and guidance, personalised just for you. Our Sixth Form also offers the Extended Project Qualification, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, trips and visits from guest speakers, a Student Council and access to counselling services to ensure we meet your wellbeing needs at all times.

We care about you and are ambitious for your future; we want you to grow your wings during your time with us so that you can leave AC armed with a full suite of qualifications and extra-curricular experience which makes you stand out from the crowd! I believe we are the springboard to your exciting future!

Our vision is to nurture well-rounded citizens of the future who are knowledgeable, happy and resilient enough to make a valuable contribution to the world in which they live, and empowered to make informed and positive life choices.



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HEAD OF SIXTH FORM WELCOME

Since we first opened in 2011, the Sixth Form has gone from strength to strength and we are incredibly proud of all our students' achievements over the years. Students at Altrincham College Sixth Form have progressed onto top Russell Group Universities such as Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Warwick and York to study degrees in Biomedical Sciences, Law, Maths, Nursing, Politics, Spanish and Sports Science, to name a few. We have also had a number of students take up higher and degree level apprenticeships with top companies such as Balfour Beatty, Barclays and Tesco.

Altrincham College Sixth Form prides itself on offering a range of courses, both academic and vocational, all delivered with 100% commitment and high expectations from our dedicated specialist staff. Students can benefit from our unique opportunity to combine both academic and vocational subjects when selecting their programme of study.

As well as a full academic curriculum, a wide variety of enrichment activities and opportunities outside of the classroom are also available to students throughout their time in the Sixth Form.

Successful applicants will be well-motivated, hard-working and have excellent attendance. Students must be willing, independent learners and must adhere to coursework deadlines.

All students will have examinations at the end of Year 12 to benchmark progress. The results from these examinations will be used as an indicator that a student has the capability to progress into Year 13.

I very much hope you find the information in this booklet useful; if you have any queries or questions, either about our programmes of study or student life in general, please feel free to ask any member of staff or our Sixth Form students.

I look forward to welcoming you to Altrincham College Sixth Form in September.

Mr A Mahmood
Head of Sixth Form

LIFE AT ALTRINCHAM COLLEGE

We are a small, friendly sixth form with space for just 200 students across years 12 and 13. Our size enables us to nurture each and every student and cater to their individual needs. Furthermore, our smaller student population means that staff get to know their students very quickly and students form close friendships for life.

Students are supported here every single day, from the day they walk through the door in Year 12, to the day they leave us in Year 13, fully ready to transition to university or employment. We pride ourselves on aiming to keep classes small because we truly believe that student success is determined by receiving quality teaching and 1:1 support.

We offer a multi million pound state-of-the-art learning environment and we consistently see excellent examination results year on year, with almost all students who apply to UCAS securing a place at their first choice university.

We guarantee that students will receive the highest level of personal support and guidance throughout their studies, following either an academic A Level pathway or an Advanced Level 3 vocational pathway, enhanced by an exciting and varied enrichment programme.

Our advice and guidance for Post 18, university applications and apprenticeships is outstanding. You have 1:1 support from a personal tutor, as well as opportunities to meet with university

admissions staff who will visit you in school and provide feedback on your personal statement – the most challenging part of your application.

Our Aspire 6 programme is designed to support students that are considering applying to Oxbridge or Russell Group Universities as well as those applying to courses such as medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine.

Students enjoy an adult learning environment within the purpose built Sixth Form which operates separately from the rest of the school. Café style catering is available throughout the day, along with access to the fully resourced Learning Resource Centre where students can benefit from 1:1 discussions about their futures.

Studying in an environment with staff who both know and care about their students, and available to give them support whenever they need it, is an important advantage that should not be overlooked when making a decision about which sixth form to apply to.



“ The community atmosphere here simply cannot be replicated in a college environment with over 2,000 students. Having everyone know you on a personal level allows you to focus on your course.” - Year 12 student. ”



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CURRICULUM

At Altrincham College we offer a broad range of A Level and Vocational courses to choose from. Each student will study 3 A Levels or equivalent. Students can benefit from our unique opportunity to combine both academic and vocational subjects when selecting their programme of study.

Pathway options: Students should choose a pathway consisting of 3 subjects. Certain pathways have been prepopulated with two subjects recommended for that industry and will require a 3rd subject to be chosen. The 'Open Pathway' is open to students who choose a combination of different subjects

A LEVEL COURSES:

Art and Design
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Computer Science
English Language
English Literature
Geography
History

Law
Mathematics
Media Studies
Physics
Psychology
Sociology
Spanish

Core Maths (1 Year)



VOCATIONAL COURSES:

Extended Certificate subjects
(equivalent to 1 A Level)

BTEC Art & Design
OCR Business
BTEC Creative Digital Media
BTEC Music Performance
OCR Sport & Physical Activity

Diploma subjects
(equivalent to 2 A Levels)

BTEC Art & Design (Fashion & Clothing)



For detailed information about the courses we offer, please refer to the course guide on our website: www.altrinchamcollege.com/sixthform

ENRICHMENT

Our Enrichment programme is designed to complement your academic achievement, help you stand out from the crowd when applying for university or apprenticeships, and demonstrate your desire for personal enhancement. Enrichment activities provide a well-rounded sixth form experience and enable students to develop skills, attributes and experiences beyond academic capabilities.

In addition to the timetabled enrichment session, which is one hour per fortnight, students have opportunities to get involved in student leadership, school council, student wellbeing and many extra curricular activities.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

The EPQ is an independent research task and involves either writing an extended essay of about 5,000 words or developing and creating a product. An EPQ is worth up to 28 UCAS points (half an A Level).

This qualification helps students develop and demonstrate their project management skills and provides opportunities for extended writing, research and communication, which are highly valued for progression to higher education and employment.

CORE MATHS

Core Maths is designed for students to retain, deepen and extend their knowledge and skills from GCSE (grade 5 and above) and the qualification is worth up to 28 UCAS points (half an A Level).

The primary focus is on using and applying mathematics and statistics to address authentic problems and real-life scenarios, drawn from study, work and life, with a strong emphasis on problem-solving.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is the world's leading youth achievement award, giving millions of 14 to 24-year-olds the opportunity to be the very best they can be.

The programme is a life-changing experience and provides an opportunity to discover new interests and nurture new talents. There are three progressive levels for students to work to; the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.



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ENRICHMENT

MOOC COURSES

MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) are free, academic courses which are available via Unifrog, our school's careers platform. There are nearly 3,000 different MOOC courses available and students can work through the course at a time that suits them. Most universities hold MOOC courses in high esteem, as they are a fantastic way to further a student's knowledge of a particular subject area. Some universities even make reduced UCAS offers for students who have completed a relevant MOOC course.



YOUNG ENTERPRISE

The Young Enterprise programme allows students to develop essential skills and experiences that they can use in the world of work. Students work as part of a team to create their own company and develop a product idea, which they have to produce, market and sell to customers, competing against students from other sixth forms and colleges!

It is a great opportunity to develop employability and entrepreneurial skills and experience running your own business—a must for our A Level and OCR Business students!



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The Student Leadership (SLT) undertake a range of responsibilities, such as helping at sixth form community and promotional events and supporting with the provision of advice and guidance to prospective students. This gives an opportunity for students to develop their interpersonal and leadership skills. The SLT also represent the views of fellow students and organising social activities within the sixth form.

Our Sixth Form Student Leadership Team meet every Monday under the guidance of Mr Keegan (Deputy Head). Students apply to be part of the Leadership Team and are interviewed and appointed by the Head of Sixth Form and Mr Keegan.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Work experience takes place in the spring term of Year 12. Students are encouraged to find their own meaningful work experience placement in a relevant field, ideally one linked to their chosen university course or career aspiration. We also encourage students to enhance their CVs or personal statements by signing up to virtual work experience opportunities, such as those offered via organisations such as Springpod and Speakers for Schools.



“Employers increasingly expect job applicants to have relevant experience as well as good qualifications ”

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PROVIDING SUPPORT

Students meet with their personal tutor and the rest of their tutor group each day. This enables students to get to know each other quickly and to develop strong positive relationships. Your personal tutor will provide academic and pastoral help, guiding you as you make important decisions about your future.

Students receive supervision and guidance from Mrs Court (LRC Manager) and our Careers Team, who lead on student destinations, alongside their tutors, and assist with all applications, for university places, apprenticeships and training, or the workplace.

Additional insight into matters of finance, relationships and the skills required for post-16 studies is provided as part of the tutorial programme, as well as external visits.



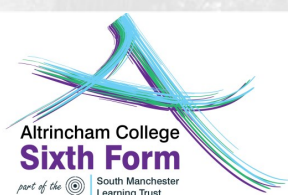
BURSARY

A Bursary is available for some students aged 16-19 who may need help with the costs incurred in continuing in full time education.

There are 2 categories: Vulnerable groups (previously nominated) and Discretionary.

Bursary money awarded is linked to attendance, punctuality, work ethic and behaviour.

Students must hold an account in their name (not parents/carers). The amount of funding to the school is yet to be confirmed; therefore, the allocation to each student will depend on the funding and numbers who apply. The money is intended to assist with lunches, bus fares, equipment and clothing relating to their Sixth Form studies.



BEYOND SIXTH FORM

Altrincham College Sixth Form has an excellent progression record. Each year, our Year 13 students take up places at some of the top universities in the UK, including Russell Group Universities such as Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Warwick and York, and other top ten universities such as Lancaster and Loughborough.

The variety of courses that our students study at undergraduate level reflects the wide variety of courses offered at Altrincham College Sixth Form. At present, popular subjects include: Law, Computer Science, Psychology, English Literature, Modern Foreign Languages, Fashion, Sports Science, Business Studies and many more. Our students are encouraged to 'aim high' and apply for the top universities for their chosen course and they are fully supported in doing so.

Students receive 1:1 support with all aspects of their UCAS application, from personal statement writing to mock interviews.

We have long-established links with local universities who regularly visit the sixth form to speak to our students and parents about university. Regular trips to universities take place throughout the year, including university support for EPQ students and we welcome the

guidance to students that these universities offer.

Students who aspire to apply to Cambridge or Oxford University can sit their entrance exam at school, as we are a registered Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing Centre.

Work experience in the field that a student is interested in pursuing as a career is very important and we provide an opportunity for all students to experience a work experience placement in Year 12.

A number of university courses, such as Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, have specific work experience requirements, and students are encouraged to pursue these and seek advice where necessary.



“The help that we received whilst applying for university places and apprenticeships has been outstanding.” - Sixth Form Parent.



STUDENT LIFE

In Sixth Form, students are expected to take responsibility for themselves and their learning; this can be different from their prior experiences of education. The Sixth Form centre is open before and after the teaching day so that students can arrive early or stay late. As well as timetabled lessons and tutorial

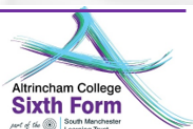
sessions, students also have study periods. Students divide their time between working in the LRC, in designated work areas or spending time in Café Connect. Over time, those students who are working well and making good progress will be permitted to study at home when they have a study period.

DRESS CODE

We operate a 'Look Smart, Feel Smart' dress code at Altrincham College. We insist on the highest standards of business dress as we recognise that we are preparing students for the world of work.

Students are invited to dress more casually on Fridays, as a reward for meeting our Dress Code expectations.

Dress code at 'Look smart, feel smart'



A dress-code that is smart and appropriate
A dress-code that encourages high-standards
A dress-code that reflects 'business dress' and professionalism

What to wear:

| MALE | FEMALE |
|---|--|
| COMPULSORY | COMPULSORY |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - blazer/suit jacket - Tailored trousers - Shirt (tucked in) - Smart shoes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - blazer/suit jacket - Tailored trousers and smart top or blouse OR - Smart skirt (no shorter than half way between top of leg and knee) and smart top or blouse OR - Smart dress (no shorter than half way between top of leg and knee) - Smart shoes |
| OPTIONAL | OPTIONAL |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tie - Smart, plain jumper - Appropriate religious attire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate religious attire |

What NOT to wear:

- Low cut neckline
- Crop tops
- Backless/low back
- Trainers/Pumps
- Hoodies
- Leggings
- Joggers
- Skorts
- Shorts
- Neon
- Denim or corduroy
- Leather/PVC-look
- Sportswear
- Unnatural hair colours
- Vests
- Flips flops
- Ugg style boots, Doc Martin style, Biker boots etc
- Large/obvious logos
- Slogans
- Excessive jewellery

TO REMOVE ONCE YOU ARRIVE AT SCHOOL:

- Scarves
- Coats/jackets
- Gloves

There will be a 'Dress-down Friday' every week, as a reward for students that meet Dress Code expectations
Sports students need to bring sports kit into school to get changed into if they have a practical lesson



ICT AND LAPTOPS

ICT can be a very effective way to support learning. Students have access to computers in a number of ICT suites, including the Learning Resource Centre.

Students are welcome to use their own device, at their own risk, providing parents give permission in advance.

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SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

ENTRY CRITERIA

Our entry criteria is fair, in line with other sixth form providers, and is set to ensure students begin their Post 16 studies in the strongest position to be successful.

Entry into the Sixth Form requires **5 GCSEs at Grades 9-5** including English Language and Maths, and usually a grade 6 or 7 in the subjects you wish to follow in the Sixth Form.

Not all courses, however, require you to have studied them at GCSE. It is important that **you read each subjects entry criteria as this may differ slightly from the general entry criteria**. Please see the course guide for more information.

THE APPLICATION

You can now apply electronically. Scan the QR code to access the online application form. Alternatively, you can download an application form from the school website.



Open Pathway
Choose three subjects from the list of options available

Pathway Subjects

| A LEVELS | Vocational |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Chemistry | Business |
| Biology | Art and Design |
| Maths | Creative Media |
| Physics | Sport |
| Computer Science | Music |
| English Language | Fashion & Clothing (Double) |
| Art | Sociology |
| Media Studies | Spanish |

Entry Requirements
Minimum of 5 GCSEs 9-5 (inc English & Maths)
*Entry requirement for additional subject chosen

Vocational Pathway
Pathway Subjects

- Business
- Art and Design
- Sport
- Fashion & Clothing (Double)
- Music
- Media

Entry Requirements
Minimum of 5 GCSEs 9-4 (inc English & Maths)
If the subjects chosen have not been studied at GCSE a grade 6+ is needed

Career Pathways
Vocational qualifications are widely accepted by universities and employers alike. Vocational courses are graded using Pass (P), Merit (M), Distinction (D) and Distinction* (D*), which are equivalent to A Level grades. For example, achieving a Distinction grade in one of their vocational courses equates to the same number of UCAS points as an A grade of A Level (48 points). University courses will specify the minimum number of UCAS points required as part of their entry requirements.

Chosen Pathway

Based on your chosen pathway, choose three subjects from the list below.

| A Level Options | Option A | Option B | Option C | Option D |
|---|---------------------------|---------------|------------|----------|
| Biology | Chemistry | Maths | Physics | |
| Computer Science | English Language | History | Psychology | |
| English Literature | Geography | Media Studies | Business | |
| Sociology | Law | Art | Spanish | |
| Creative Digital Media | Sport & Physical Activity | Art & Design | Music | |
| Fashion & Clothing (Worth the equivalent of two A Levels) | | | Business | |

PLEASE RETURN YOUR APPLICATION FORM TO: SIXTH FORM, ALTRINCHAM COLLEGE, GREEN LANE, TIMPERLEY, WA15 8QW or EMAIL: fpn1@altrinchamcollege.com

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Sixth Form on 0161 980 7173 ext.3

Applicant's signature: _____
Parent/Carer name: _____
Parent/Carer signature: _____
Date: _____

Internal applicants: Please return this completed form to your Form Tutor or Sixth Form Reception
All external applications must be accompanied with a current school reference
Deadline for all applications is Wednesday 13th December 2023

APPLICATION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2023

Internal applicants: Apply online **OR** return your paper application to your Form Tutor or Sixth Form Reception.

External applicants: Apply online **OR** post your paper application to school. Applications must be accompanied with a current school reference.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When and how do I apply? Applications for our Sixth Form can be submitted from Thursday 19th October. Students can apply by downloading and completing the application form on-line or by scanning the QR code on page 10. Downloaded forms need to be handed to your form tutor (internal students) or posted to: Mrs Pearson, Altrincham College Sixth Form, Green Lane, Timperley, WA15 8QW. The application deadline is Wednesday 13th December 2023.

What happens once I have applied? A confirmation letter will be sent within two weeks of receipt of your application form. Once the deadline passes, subject blocks will be finalised. From February 2024, external students will be invited to attend a short interview with Mr Mahmood, Head of Sixth Form, to discuss their subject choices. Internal students will be notified if their chosen subjects create a clash and will be invited to discuss this with Mr Mahmood. Students will receive a conditional offer letter in the spring term. Prior to enrolling with us, students will be invited to our Taster Day at school, planned for June/July 2024.

How do I enrol? Enrolment is expected to happen on GCSE Results Day for internal students and the following day for external students.

What courses do you offer? We pride ourselves on offering a wide range of both A Level and vocational courses. Please refer to our course booklet for the full list of courses.

What does the school day look like? Our school day is split into five teaching periods. Registration starts at 8:45am, followed by period one at 9.05am. Each period lasts an hour and the school day ends at 3.05pm. Students in both years have built in study periods. Our Learning Resource Centre (LRC) is a quiet place for students to work, read or use a computer during this free time.

What is enrichment? We encourage students to fully embrace sixth form life by getting involved in clubs or using their free time for volunteering or mentoring younger students. In Year 12, students can opt to study for an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or Core Maths, in addition to their study programme, worth the equivalent to 0.5 A Levels in UCAS points. Find out more about the wide range of opportunities available on page 5.

What is the dress code? During Monday – Thursday we operate a strict 'Look Smart, Feel Smart' business dress code. Students who adhere to this are allowed to 'dress down' on a Friday!

How do I get to school? There are 7 school buses which are dedicated to serving Altrincham College. Please visit our school website for full details.

Can I purchase food and drink in the Sixth Form? Yes, you can purchase a variety of hot and cold drinks, snacks and delicious meals from the sixth form's Café Connect.

To learn more about our Sixth Form, please visit:

www.altrinchamcollege.com/sixthform

You can also follow us on Instagram **@acsixthform** and Twitter **@ACSixthForm**



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