



Ark John Keats
Academy

Sixth Form
Prospectus



How to apply

To apply for a place at AJK Sixth Form simply visit our school website and complete an online application form:

arkjohnkeats.org/sixth-form-admissions

*Your future
starts here*



Principal's welcome

I am delighted to introduce you to Ark John Keats Sixth Form.

This is an important milestone in your education and in our school's development because it is the final step before you choose the university or career of your choice. It has always been our aim to provide an education that is as good as any state or private school in the country, so that our students can go on to the best universities worldwide, pursue a wide range of exciting careers and ultimately have the ability to become leaders in their chosen field.

We have already established a very successful school, with a focus on academic excellence, character development and self-discipline. In 2015 we were graded outstanding in all areas by Ofsted. Our success to date has been the result of exceptionally hard work from both students and staff who are committed to making AJK the very best it can be. Whilst the Sixth Form will have the same ethos of high expectations, academic excellence and character development as the rest of our Academy, it will also have a distinct environment, similar to a professional workplace or university. This is the best way to prepare you to be successful within these settings, where you will have a greater degree of autonomy and independence.

We have thought carefully about what you will need to be able to make aspirational post-18 choices that satisfy your individual interests. The curriculum is designed to build a solid academic foundation that will secure access to high quality opportunities at post-18. You will be taught by specialists in the field of

study you choose, with a focus on debate and discussion, deep thinking and the pursuit of academic excellence. Our sixth form tutors will provide expert guidance and advice on post-18 pathways. Alongside this, you will visit professional environments, businesses and industries linked to your areas of interest.

We are also preparing you to be leaders within your community and society more broadly, as well as to lead happy and fulfilling lives. To support this, you will broaden your horizons through a wide range of enrichment activities, volunteering and leadership opportunities, the post-16 Character programme, and work experience.

We work closely with the Ark Network. Through this partnership, our students have access to exceptional programmes of study across a number of subject areas as well as a wide range of industry links and enrichment opportunities. Past Ark students have gone on to secure places at some of the most prestigious institutions in the country such as Oxford and Cambridge universities, with over three times the national average number of students securing places at Russell Group universities.

Our expectations of you and for you are extremely high. We know that you can achieve great things and that we are able to provide the support and challenge you need to reach your full potential.

Jane Withford
Principal

Welcome



As a school we are extremely aspirational for all our students and our sixth form has been designed with this in mind. Academic in nature, our sixth form is committed to ensuring our students achieve outstanding results so that they are able to secure a place at a top university or higher apprenticeship and become leaders in their chosen field.

We will ensure that our students:

- have the knowledge and support they need to make the best choices for their future
- secure the place they deserve at the institution of their choice
- have the developed character and well-rounded education to succeed when they get there

Achieving outstanding results requires a curriculum that has been rigorously planned by subject experts. Our primary and secondary curriculum was graded as outstanding in our most recent Ofsted inspection, and has been used as a case study to share excellent practice amongst schools. Our key stage 5 curriculum builds on this success. It has been designed around the principles of mastery and will prepare our students exceptionally well for further study. As an outstanding school and sixth form, excellent teaching is at the heart of what we do. Our teaching staff all attended excellent universities and are extremely well equipped to prepare our students for higher education.

We understand that developing leaders requires more than academic success. Our sixth form Character programme has been designed to develop the global, cultural and political literacy of our students, and ensures they are prepared to meet the challenges that await them at university and beyond. Enrichment is planned into our school day, and provides additional opportunities for our students to develop their leadership skills. Whether this is through sports, the creative and performing arts, debate or STEM, there are a wealth of activities that our students will have the chance to participate in.

In addition to character development and enrichment, we offer work readiness programmes to prepare our students for the competitive nature of the world of work. We teach our students to write personal statements and CVs, prepare for an interview and interact with professionals from a variety of industries. As a school, we already have excellent links with a number of universities. Our students visit a university every year to speak to staff, students and admissions officers. This gives them a significant advantage over many of their peers as they embark upon the UCAS process.

In order to achieve our goals, we have unashamedly high expectations of our students. This begins with their enthusiasm and engagement in lessons but extends to all aspects of life at sixth form, including attendance, punctuality and personal conduct. We know that these excellent habits, developed in our formal academic setting, support strong examination performance and build the right character to be successful in the world of work.

The young people in our community are ambitious and capable of achieving incredible things. AJK Sixth Form is here to nurture that ambition and ensure that they reach their full potential.

Frances Freeman
Head of Sixth Form





In 2016 38% of Year 13 leavers progressed to a Russell Group university. This is over three times the national average for all schools and colleges (including independent schools and grammar schools).

The right choice for sixth form

Ark's London schools work in partnership to deliver outstanding opportunities for sixth form students. Attending an Ark sixth form means benefiting from the shared expertise of a network of excellent sixth form colleges from across London. Our partnership is based on shared values and a shared ethos. We aim to make sure that all our sixth form students are able to progress to university or directly into a career of their choice.

This means you can expect to receive excellent, dedicated support for your academic progress, alongside advice and guidance about your next steps, tailored to your individual needs. We work hard with universities, employers and the Ark network to ensure your sixth form experience will prepare you for success in your future study and employment.



“Sixth form helped develop my academic profile and my character.

I had loads of support and input including mentoring opportunities, work experience and even being taught how to network. I learned how to study effectively, the importance of being organised and how to balance my studies and hobbies, which has been very helpful for university. The personalised support from staff was incredible and made me feel very confident that I knew my strengths and weaknesses and how to address them. I had an amazing time!”

Ark 2016 Leaver, now studying at a Russell Group university

Key benefits to students

- 1 Wider range of A level courses and Professional Pathways**, including all Russell Group facilitating subjects.
- 2 Experienced and well-qualified** A level teachers from across the partnership.
- 3 Massive range of enrichment opportunities** offered to support your progression to university or directly into a career.
- 4 Opportunity to meet other ambitious students** from Ark's south London schools and beyond.



**Ark University
Bursary Programme
Awards from
£3,000 over
one year to £30,000
over three years**



Best of both worlds

You will benefit from both the individual support provided by AJK, and the wider opportunities offered across the partnership



Your route to university and career success

A level pathway

We focus on offering the core academic subjects at A level that we know are most valued by good universities, and that allow you to keep your progression options as open as possible. If you have met the entry criteria below at GCSE, you can choose from over 20 A level courses (see Course Guide pp. 16–24). You will receive guidance at interview and during enrolment about the best subject combinations for different degree courses and careers. Most students will study three linear A levels; some will take a fourth subject, depending on GCSE results.

Entry criteria

You will need to achieve an average point score at GCSE of at least 5.5, including at least a 4 in English and Mathematics. You will also need to meet the individual entry criteria for specific subjects; these are available on our website.

Professional Pathways

In addition to A level courses, we offer two Professional Pathways (see Course Guide pp. 26–27). These programmes are also aimed at preparing students to apply for selective universities, or for progression directly into employment through school leaver programmes or degree apprenticeships. We receive support from the Ark network for Professional Pathways, including visits to businesses, access to work experience opportunities, a bespoke work readiness curriculum, and career mentoring from both teachers and employers. You will work with corporate partners such as Grant Thornton, Lloyds Banking Group and Bloomberg, and university partners including King's College London and Imperial.

Entry criteria

You will need to achieve an average point score at GCSE of at least 4, including at least 4 in English and Mathematics.

For more information on individual A level courses and Professional Pathways, see the **Course Guide** section of this prospectus.



Our commitment to you



We are committed to providing you with the highest quality sixth form experience. In order to do this we will:

- ...ensure you feel cared for, included and valued as an individual.
- ...do all that we can to help you reach a good university or enter a professional career of your choice.
- ...treat you with honesty, fairness and respect — as a young adult in a professional workplace.



Keeping track of your progress is fundamental — so you will:

- ...meet regularly with your teachers and tutor throughout the year to monitor your progress.
- ...receive progress reports each term comparing your performance against your target grades.
- ...attend progress review meetings with your parent/ carer to review your progress.



Teaching and learning is at the heart of what we do, and we will:

- ...provide a consistently high quality learning experience, with lessons that engage and challenge.
- ...provide personalised support through teachers and your tutor to support your progress.
- ...help you to organise your work effectively so that you meet our expected standards.



Our partnership is made up of a group of like-minded school sixth forms. They are:

- ...committed to a culture of equality, respect and celebrating the diversity of our communities.
- ...actively seeking out the views of students to help us improve what we do.
- ...providing a safe and secure environment for learning.



*Your Academic Tutor will play a crucial part in guiding and supporting you during your time in sixth form. They are responsible for monitoring your academic progress, and working with the sixth form team and your teachers to help you address any issues. Academic Tutors are also responsible for ensuring you progress to an **excellent destination at the end of sixth form** — whether a good university or directly into the career of your choice.*

Your commitment to us



Professional conduct

Our expectations of our students are extremely high. We aim to help you maximise your academic achievement and to be prepared for a professional career, either as a university graduate or direct from sixth form. We therefore expect all students to conduct themselves accordingly — as young adults in a professional workplace. This is crucial to maintaining good working relationships with staff and other students, and to ensuring that we can all be held accountable for behaving with honesty, fairness and respect towards one another.



Professional dress code

We ask you to dress for a formal, professional workplace, consistent with the ethos of all the partnership schools. This helps reinforce our expectations of conduct and work ethic, while underpinning the culture of equality and respect across our schools. If you have any questions about dress code, just ask one of the sixth form team.



Professional work ethic

We encourage our students to adopt a professional attitude to managing their time and workload in sixth form. You will have several lessons a week that are designated study periods, when you are expected to be on site and studying in one of our purpose-built sixth form spaces. We will make sure that you receive enough work and support from your teachers to make good use of your time, and you will also have a planner to help you organise your work. The most important thing is your personal commitment to making the most of this time outside of lessons. This is vital in ensuring you make the strong progress required to achieve well at the end of sixth form.

*A shared
commitment
to success*

Outstanding learning facilities

AJK Sixth Form is housed in a brand new purpose built block. This includes dedicated sixth form facilities to allow students to study, eat and socialise on site. The facilities have been designed to provide a professional environment as a stepping stone between school and university or careers.

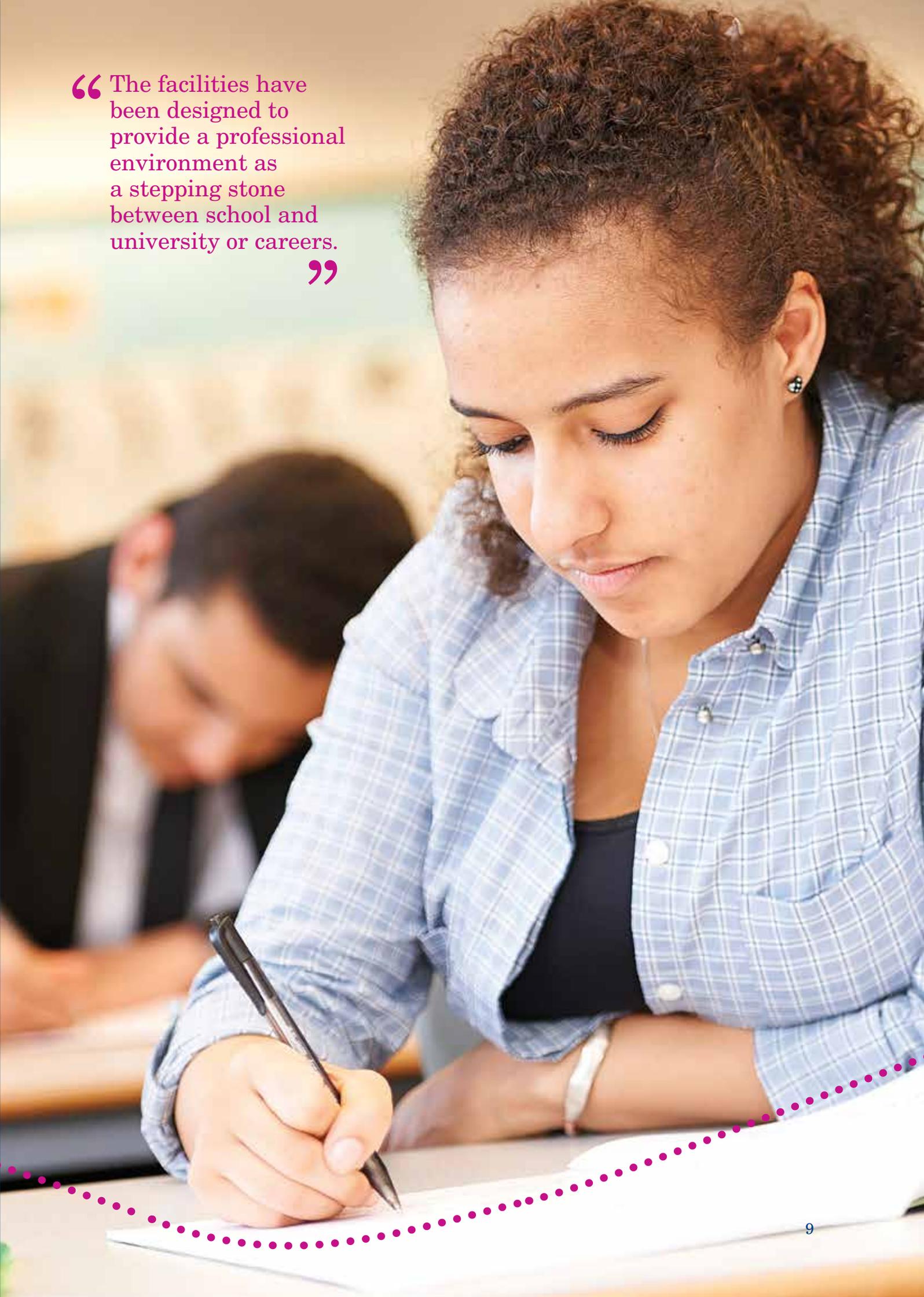
Seminar style teaching spaces, computer suites and communal study areas are provided for students to work independently as well as to collaborate on their studies whilst also focusing on personal organisation, time management and research skills. A member of our teaching staff is always present during study periods to ensure students have access to support when they need it during this time.



A brand new purpose built block



“ The facilities have been designed to provide a professional environment as a stepping stone between school and university or careers. ”





*Challenge
your thinking
with industry
speakers*

*Expand your
knowledge by
visiting top
universities*



Enrichment — super-curricular and extra-curricular

There is a fantastic range of activities, events and programmes to enrich your sixth form experience across our partnership. Our aim is to provide you with outstanding opportunities beyond your core programme of study which will allow you to grow and develop as a person. At the same time, we will support you to achieve success in your next steps towards a good university or the career of your choice.



Network with experienced business people

Develop high quality study skills



The opportunities we offer fall into three main categories:

Academic enrichment

Super-curricular activities designed to broaden and deepen your understanding of the subjects you study, while also giving you the opportunity to engage with subjects outside of your own programme of study. All teaching departments contribute to this programme, which provides a range of academic visits and speakers. There are also opportunities to explore topics in more detail through our weekly enrichment programme and targeted academic tutoring from highly-qualified professionals through The Access Project.

Access and opportunities

Additional visits, speakers and activities organised by the sixth form teams are designed to stimulate your intellectual curiosity and promote learning outside of the formal curriculum. This allows you to develop further your understanding and appreciation of culture, politics and society, while also expanding your knowledge of university and professional careers. Examples include networking events with corporate partners like Bloomberg, visits to top universities and regular external speakers.

Habits, skills and mindset

We are committed to helping you develop the habits, skills and mindset that will help you succeed in Higher Education and your career of choice. You will do this through tutorials, workshops and visits specifically aimed at preparing you for university and the world of work. We will also develop these attributes through the post-16 Character programme.



Up to £10,000 per year to reduce the cost of university

Destinations: pathways and guidance

Our aim is to help all our students progress to a good university or directly into their career of choice. In addition to supporting you to make strong academic progress, and providing wider opportunities for your academic and personal development, we ensure you receive all the advice and guidance you need about your next step. Your choice of destination is obviously crucial, and it is our responsibility to make sure you are as well-informed as possible. If you plan to continue to Higher Education, the choice of university and course is rarely straightforward but absolutely vital — you need to find the right fit in terms of your career ambitions, your qualifications and your personal/family circumstances.

You may decide you want to start work straight away after school — there are many excellent options with large employers to do this, and through our Professional Pathways programme we have built up strong relationships to support student applications with firms such as Lloyds Banking Group, the Civil Service and CapGemini. We would usually support students to apply to either degree apprenticeships or higher apprenticeships (Level 4).



*Skills
workshops*

*Work
experience*

*Financial
support*

“I am extremely thankful for the bursary I have received and the continued support from the Ark network. From speaking to other students from around the country, *I have not met anyone more supported by their college, sixth form or secondary school than we are by Ark.*”

*Charlie, Ark 2016 Leaver
now studying at the University of Birmingham*

Ark University Bursary Programme

Students progressing to university who have demonstrated an excellent attitude to learning in sixth form are eligible to apply for Ark university bursaries. These range from £3,000 for the first year only to £30,000 over a three-year degree programme — in all cases,

bursaries help reduce the cost of university for successful applicants. We continue to support our students during university by providing bursaries, work experience, skills workshops and other unique opportunities as part of the Ark alumni network.



“The teacher support was always there, all the extra activities actually helped me. I went from Gs in English to getting first place in a writing competition.”

*My
sixth form
journey*

My experience

Naomi Mankrado attended Ark Walworth Academy from Year 8 through to sixth form, and left having achieved ABB at A level in Maths, Biology and Chemistry.

“I knew that if I wanted to go to university, I needed a scholarship and Maths was the subject I was always excelling in, so I focused on that. But I noticed that universities look for you to be all rounded, so I needed to get my head down.

English was something I was never good at but the teacher support was always there, all the extra activities actually helped me. I went from Gs in English to getting first place in a writing competition.

In Maths they always challenged me, they accounted for my style and ability. They would find extra work for me to complete and that way my time was never wasted.”

Alongside her studies, Naomi flourished in extra-curricular activities. She plays the flute, was part of the school orchestra and hosted the annual Ark Music Gala at the Barbican Centre in London.

“My teacher just asked me to host the gala, and then I was stood in front of 2,000 people. It was hard, but if I managed to do that, now I think I can manage anything.”

Naomi not only developed her musical talent at Ark Walworth, but competed in athletics, won awards for debating and fostered her passion for cooking by studying Food Technology.

Her triumphs have amounted to her being offered a place at Bristol University to study Neuroscience: “The brain is something absolutely amazing, I always think about how I am able to understand, perceive and interpret. I just want to find out more about it.”

Naomi’s passion for chemistry and school visits to numerous university lectures have sparked her dream of one day pursuing a career in chemical engineering or as a patent lawyer.

Course Guide



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Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Art and Design



What is Art and Design?

Art and Design A level provides opportunities every day for you to develop ideas imaginatively, and to apply your creativity. You will need to be industrious, and responsive to suggestions and feedback for improvement.

Why study this course?

You will develop your creative skills across a range of styles and forms, and also strengthen your skills of analysis and critical evaluation, both of your own and others' work. You will also be offered the opportunity to learn about and visit diverse world-class art venues across London. The end of course exhibition will give you the chance to showcase your talent and hard work.

How is the course assessed?

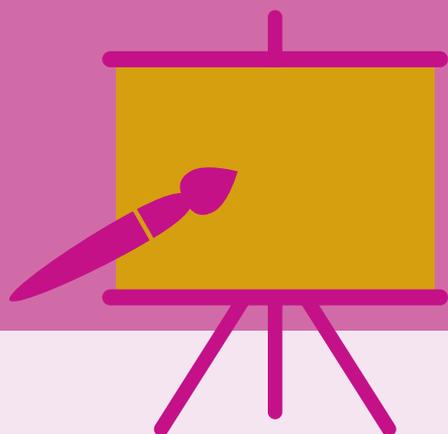
Combination of coursework and controlled assessments.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who are creative and imaginative, enjoy developing ideas in a practical way and experimenting with a variety of materials and techniques.

Progression options

Art and Design A level and further related study can lead to careers in the creative industries in the fields of fashion, gallery/museum management, architecture, interior design, graphic design, film and TV design, jewellery design, theatre and set design.



Biology



What is Biology?

Biology is the study of living organisms. Biologists study every aspect of life, from the intricate workings of individual cells to the effects of humans and other organisms on the Earth's atmosphere.

Why study this course?

Biology is a subject where you will constantly learn interesting things about the workings of the human body and about the wider world around you. As well as being a fascinating subject, Biology is brilliant if you want to develop your skills and make yourself an attractive candidate for universities and employers. Studying Biology will develop your mathematical, problem-solving and literacy skills, with a significant element of laboratory and practical work throughout the two-year course.

How is the course assessed?

Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who have curious minds, a genuine interest in studying living things and who want to get a hands-on experience of science.

Progression options

A level Biology students are in a position to progress to science-related degrees, including competitive fields such as Medicine, Bio-medical Science or Dentistry. The analytical skills that are required for Biology (and any science A level) are highly valued by most employers and universities, and can lead to a wide range of study and career options.



Chemistry



What is Chemistry?

Chemistry is the study of matter, its properties, and how and why substances combine or separate to form other substances. It also involves the study of how these substances interact with energy.

Why study this course?

A level Chemistry is challenging but hugely rewarding, requiring you to extend and deepen the knowledge and understanding you gained at GCSE. You will develop your skills in problem-solving, analysis and data-handling, while having the opportunity to develop your practical skills through regular laboratory work. These transferable skills make science graduates highly employable in a range of professions.

How is the course assessed?

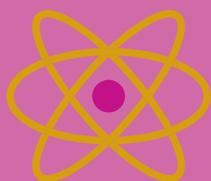
Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students with strong numeracy skills, a real interest in science and who desire to develop greater understanding of how physical sciences shape the world around us.

Progression options

Chemistry is either required or strongly recommended for many related degree courses such as Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Biomedical Science and Veterinary Medicine. In more general terms, Chemistry is a widely respected subject that will support progression to most professional careers.



Computer Science



What is Computer Science?

Computer Science is an exciting subject for technically-minded students that provides the opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of how computer systems and software are developed. You will have opportunities to analyse real world problems and devise logical technological solutions to them.

Why study this course?

A level Computer Science allows you to develop an in-depth understanding of computer science theory, and build your practical skills in the use of both software and programming languages. The course will help prepare you for related university study in the fields of Computing, ICT or Business Management/Information Systems. Graduates in these fields are highly sought after by employers in all sectors due to their transferable technical skills.

How is the course assessed?

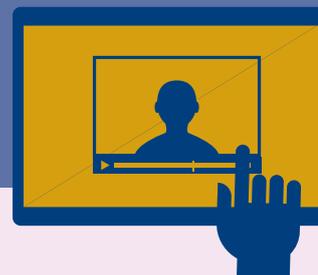
Coursework (20%) and examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who enjoy problem-solving and using coding to complete complex challenges — anyone who is considering becoming a programmer or a software developer as a career.

Progression options

This course can lead to a wide range of course options in Higher Education. Good universities typically have several courses within Computing/ICT/Information Systems including more specific courses such as Artificial Intelligence, Web Design, Software Development and Networking. All of these courses are excellent preparation for graduate employment or further academic research.



Drama and Theatre Studies



What is Drama and Theatre Studies?

Drama and Theatre Studies involves a significant element of practical performance work based on your imagination, creativity and team work. To support that, you will also explore social, historical and cultural influences on drama and performance. There is a strong focus on developing your own skills of acting, directing, character development (voice and movement) and working with scripts.

Why study this course?

As well as being an exciting and fulfilling subject to study, Drama and Theatre Studies will allow you to develop excellent core communication skills, both spoken and written. You will have the opportunity to experience regular live theatre to enrich your learning, and be supported to apply your knowledge to your own and others' performances.

How is the course assessed?

Ongoing assessment of performances and coursework, and an examination at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who are committed performers with a love of theatre. The course is excellent preparation for those wishing to pursue Drama or a related field in Higher Education, or as an additional subject for students keen to focus on developing strong communication and team-working skills.

Progression options

Drama and Theatre Studies is excellent preparation for a number of degree courses including Acting, Directing, Drama and Theatre Studies, Performing Arts and Technical Theatre. As a creative and academic subject it can also support applications to a range of Arts, Humanities and Social Science degrees. Communication and team-working are skills that are valued highly by all employers.



Economics



What is Economics?

Economics is the study of human choices and how society uses its resources. In a world where there is scarcity of land, labour, raw materials, capital and enterprise, Economics helps people make the right choices by showing them the most efficient way to use these scarce resources in achieving their goals.

Why study this course?

Economics is highly respected by universities and provides you with knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a variety of professional careers. These include quantitative and qualitative data analysis, formal written communication and understanding of a wide range of real world issues affecting society, government and business.

How is the course assessed?

Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students with a strong interest in current affairs (especially politics, government and business) and who enjoy applying their knowledge and understanding to real world scenarios.

Progression options

A level Economics can lead to a variety of degree courses at university, typically in fields such as Business/Management/Accountancy/ Finance and Social Sciences. Economics is often paired with another related subject such as Politics or Management to make up a university degree. Some Economics degrees also require Maths A level. It is widely respected by universities and employers, and can lead to careers in banking and finance, business consulting, accountancy, law, journalism, civil service, business and management, or education. Economics graduates are highly sought after in the labour market.



English Literature



What is English Literature?

English Literature is the study of the work of a variety of great writers. The study of literature should bring you both knowledge and pleasure: you will study a wide range of novels, plays, poems and other literary forms in order to explore the concerns of the people who wrote them, the methods that they use to shape the responses of their readers and the conclusions that we can draw from our reading of them.

Why study this course?

Studying a range of literature will broaden your ideas, develop the skills involved in debate and discussion, and encourage the discipline of detailed textual analysis. It is a highly regarded, useful foundation for a range of university subjects.

How is the course assessed?

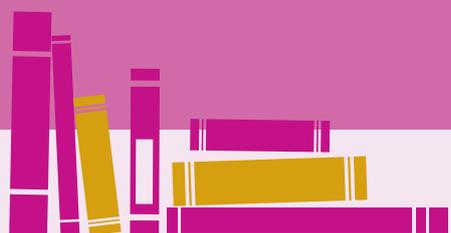
Coursework (20%) and examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the subject suitable for?

Students who love to read and to talk about books, and are willing to offer their opinions in lessons and to engage with those of others. In addition, students who are able to write clearly using appropriate literary terms, arguing fluently and analysing cogently.

Progression options

English Literature is highly regarded by both universities and employers and will support your progression to a range of courses and careers. The skills of textual analysis and written communication are vital in most professional careers, and highly relevant in law, journalism, public relations and marketing.



Geography



What is Geography?

A level Geography involves the study of topical and important aspects of human society and our physical environment. You will develop an in-depth understanding of human topics like globalisation, migration and regeneration of urban areas, while physical topics include coasts, glaciation and tectonics. You will also have the opportunity to conduct independent research and data collection on a topic of your choice through the coursework element of the qualification.

Why study this course?

Geography is an incredibly diverse and interesting subject that complements a range of different A levels, including History, Economics, Sociology and Science subjects. You will develop an excellent range of transferable skills, and be well prepared for Higher Education and career pathways, supported by your strong understanding of the world around us.

How is the course assessed?

Coursework (20%) and examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students with a strong interest in world events and current affairs (particularly related to human and physical geography) and who enjoy discussion, reading, research and essay writing.

Progression options

Specific careers related to Geography include environmental management and consultancy, town planning, chartered surveying and project management. Geography graduates have an above average employment success rate due to the range of skills they develop including oral communication, delivering presentations, report writing, problem-solving, analysis, data interpretation and critical thinking.



Government and Politics



What is Government and Politics?

The Government and Politics course requires students to explore numerous aspects of UK and global politics. Students will debate ideologies, systems of government and the political history of both the UK and the international order. Students will be required to grasp complex political ideas and will start to embrace and understand their own political viewpoints. Students will also develop critical thinking skills and cultivate their ability to write effectively.

Why study this course?

We are currently experiencing the most tumultuous political climate that we have faced in decades. There are huge challenges being faced in countries around the globe that will take years to resolve. Having an understanding of politics is becoming necessary in order to make sense of the world.

How is the course assessed?

Examinations at the end of a two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

A level Government and Politics is a good choice for students considering a career in related professions, or those who simply want to understand how the world works. Politics goes well with Economics, History, Sociology and English. Politics does not just appeal to Social Science students; increasingly Art and Drama students have enrolled to study Government and Politics, giving them a broader perspective on the world.

Progression options

Students who study Government and Politics A level find that it acts as an excellent accompanying subject to a variety of degree courses and can lead to a wide range of possible career paths. Students can expect to gain many transferable skills, which will help them to access a wide range of different university courses. Many students can carry on their studies in complementary subjects such as International Relations, Law, History, Journalism and Politics at degree level. This course opens up many career opportunities in a wide range of disciplines.



History



What is History?

A level History is the study of a range of periods of British and International History. Debate and discussion of historical issues are central to the study of this course — you will have the chance to apply your knowledge and understanding by arguing the causes, consequences and significance of the key events studied.

Why study this course?

History is a traditional academic subject that is highly regarded by top universities, both as a means to access a wide variety of more specialist courses and also as a subject in its own right. Studying History at A level will give you a broad understanding of current world affairs, while also helping you build key skills such as literacy, communication, analysis and critical thinking.

How is the course assessed?

Coursework (20%) and examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who are interested in analysing the causes and impact of historical events, and who are open-minded to help them understand alternative viewpoints and the cultural norms that governed the thinking of people in the past.

Progression options

History is a subject that provides excellent preparation for Higher Education, and also complements any other essay subject at A level. As a traditional academic subject, History is well regarded by universities and supports an application for many subjects, notably English, History, Law, Modern Languages and Politics.



Mathematics



What is Mathematics?

Mathematics A level builds on the topics studied on the Higher Specification GCSE course. Within Pure Mathematics you will be introduced to calculus techniques as well as extending your algebra skills. You will also study a variety of topics within Statistics, Mechanics and Decision Mathematics.

Why study this course?

An A level in Mathematics shows logic, reasoning and a high level of numeracy, and serves to support many other A level courses. Furthermore, employers in all sectors highly value a candidate who can offer mathematical ability — research has shown those with a Mathematics A level earn more, on average, than those without. Studying A level Mathematics therefore offers you the opportunity to develop your knowledge, skills and employability.

How is the course assessed?

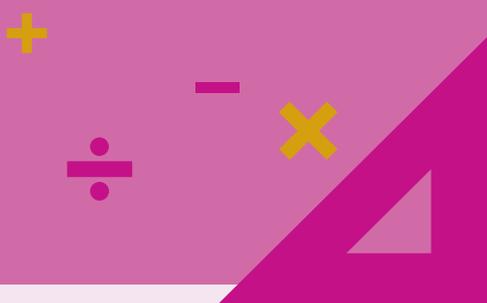
Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who have loved studying Mathematics during primary and secondary school, enjoy working hard and are motivated by the challenge of solving complex problems using exact methods.

Progression options

Mathematics A level supports applications for most degree courses and almost all career pathways — from Medicine to Engineering, and Computer Programming to Finance and Accounting. It is well regarded by universities, and can therefore support most subject combinations at A level.



Further Mathematics



What is Further Mathematics?

Further Mathematics extends the areas of Pure Mathematics, Decision Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics taught in the A level Mathematics course. Further Mathematics will challenge you beyond your A level Mathematics course, while further developing your mathematical knowledge, understanding and problem-solving skills. Students with a very strong interest in Mathematics, and high GCSE grades (8–9 at GCSE) may opt to take Further Mathematics as an additional A level.

Why study this course?

Further Mathematics will give you an excellent starting point for further study in fields such as Mathematics, Engineering and Physics at university.

How is the course assessed?

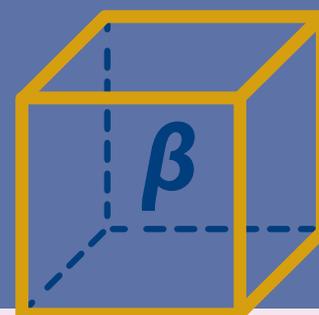
Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who have a strong desire to extend their mathematical expertise, and are aiming to study Mathematics, Engineering or Physics at good universities.

Progression options

Like Mathematics A level, Further Mathematics supports many career pathways — particularly those that require high levels of mathematical skill such as engineering, computer programming and actuarial science. It is highly regarded by employers and universities, as it shows a very high level of mathematical ability.



Modern Foreign Languages



What are Modern Foreign Languages?

We are offering Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) at A level. For the language you select, you will study the grammatical systems, communication, culture and politics of countries that speak this language. Moving on from GCSE, you will learn how to confidently communicate in written and spoken form with a high level of grammatical accuracy.

Why study this course?

An A level in MFL will give you a huge advantage in the globalised job market, allowing you to compete for roles with an even wider range of employers. You will develop the linguistic skills that you acquired at GCSE to allow you to manipulate the language more effectively and move towards fluency. You will also study the use of language in political and social contexts, using news reports and articles to acquire vocabulary and grammatical knowledge.

How is the course assessed?

Examinations (written and speaking) at the end of the two-year course.

Who are these courses suitable for?

Students who are keen to develop fluency of a modern foreign language, and would like to learn more about foreign culture, politics and society.

Progression options

Vital for students who want to go on to study languages or linguistics at university, an A level in MFL will also give any CV a huge boost when applying for jobs in literally any sector with large, international employers. MFL are also well regarded as complementary subjects for any combination, whether Science, Arts or Humanities.

6699

Music



What is Music?

Studying Music helps you to extend your knowledge and understanding of a variety of musical styles, genres and forms, whilst also giving you the opportunity to create and develop your own musical ideas and demonstrating and developing your pre-existing skills in performance, interpretation and communication.

Why study this course?

Music is a rewarding subject that allows you to further develop and showcase your creative talents. A level Music is ideal preparation for study at music college or an academic music degree. During the course you will build on your skills in musical performance and composition, working with a range of pieces from different styles and eras. You will acquire a wide range of skills, improving your confidence through performance, working on theoretical skills through musical analysis and expressing your own creativity and musical ideas through composition.

How is the course assessed?

Practical assessment and examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who have a passion either for performance, for writing music or for analysing pieces or songs. A significant proportion of students choose Music as something they enjoy, furthering both their hobby and academic study in lesson time.

Progression options

Music is highly regarded by many universities. It is especially useful for students considering a career or undergraduate studies in Performing Arts, Composition, Performance, Musical analysis or Music Education.



Physical Education



What is PE?

A level Physical Education builds on students' experience from Key Stage 4 and GCSE to enhance their knowledge and increase their understanding of the factors that affect performance and participation in Physical Education. The qualification aims to equip students with skills and knowledge required for higher education or the world of work.

Why study this course?

Studying PE will develop your understanding of the scientific component of physical education. It will develop your independent thinking, team working skills and problem solving. You will also have the opportunity to lead and present in both theory and practical.

How is the course assessed?

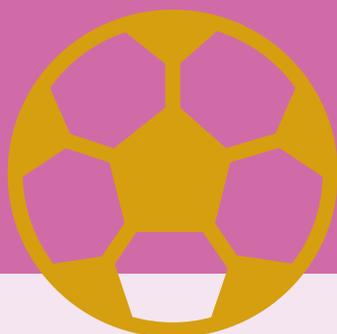
Examinations at the end of a 2 year course (70%), practical performance (20%) and coursework (10%).

Who is the course suitable for?

This course will be of interest to students who have a keen interest in the theoretical aspects of PE and in particular enjoy biology and psychology. The course is designed for individuals who are participating in one sport outside school to minimum of club level.

Progression options

This could lead to various further study options, such as BA Hons in Physical Education, Sports Coaching, Sports Science, Physiotherapy, BSc Hons Strength and Conditioning Science, Sports Medicine or Sports Studies.



Physics



What is Physics?

Physics is defined as the study of matter, energy and the interaction between them. It is the science of how things move and why things behave in certain ways, and provides a fascinating insight into why our world is what it is. Physics is highly mathematical and uses formulae and logic to solve everyday problems, and also predict future events. Furthermore, it holds the answers to some fundamental questions about the history of the Earth, our solar system and the universe. Physics at A level involves practical work as well as plenty of theory — you will discover many new terms, formulae and mathematical methods to help you answer questions.

Why study this course?

Are you curious about the mysterious sub-atomic particles that are the fundamental building blocks of life as we know it? Would you like to understand the work engineers do to create the biggest man-made structures? Are you motivated by the idea of applying your Mathematics skills to real world contexts? If so, Physics could be an excellent choice of subject for you at A level.

How is the course assessed?

Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who enjoy Mathematics and Physics at GCSE, enjoy seeing a real-world application of Mathematics, and who are motivated to study hard to come to grips with lots of new terminology and formulae.

Progression options

A level Physics can lead to university degrees in Physics, Mathematics, Engineering and Medical Science, depending on the other subjects you have chosen. It shows a high level of numeracy, logic and reasoning skills, and a Physics-related degree can lead to many excellent career options in fields such as engineering, technology, manufacturing and financial markets.



Psychology



What is Psychology?

Fundamentally, Psychology is the study of human behaviour. By studying Psychology you will gain a fascinating scientific insight into how the human mind works to affect how we behave, and you will grapple with great questions about the interpretation of dreams, the use of offender profiling in criminal investigation and the causes of mental illnesses. You will develop understanding of classic psychological theories by applying them to real life contexts, as well as carrying out psychological investigations and writing reports based upon your findings. Lessons are designed to be engaging and interactive, with frequent opportunities for debate.

Why study this course?

Psychology is a fascinating subject to study if you are interested in the world around you and want to find out more about the behaviour and decisions of individuals and groups. You will also develop a host of transferable life skills and a high level of self-awareness. As a result of the understanding you will develop of how people think, feel and behave, you will find that Psychology A level will help you progress in many professional careers.

How is the course assessed?

Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who want to find out about the human mind and understand how it governs human behaviour. It is also important to have an interest in society and social issues, and a motivation to read widely to broaden your knowledge and understanding.

Progression options

Psychology can help your career either directly or indirectly. If you wish to become a psychologist, therapist or mental health worker, this A level is of direct value. Psychology graduates can also build careers in related sectors such as education, the police and social work, or in a range of commercial contexts. Psychology provides you with life skills that are transferable to any career.



Religious Studies



What is Religious Studies?

Religious Studies A level allows you to explore classical arguments for and against theism, atheism and agnosticism. It comprises abstract thinking as well as logical arguments for and against the existence of God. You will also explore religious and secular arguments about morality, all of which are applied to medical ethics.

Why study this course?

Religious Studies A level is a traditional subject that is highly regarded by universities. More fundamentally, it will give you a chance to debate controversial and topical issues like medical ethics and the environment. You will develop a deeper understanding of good ethical practices, social and cultural diversity and the role of religion in promoting, and challenging, social cohesion.

How is the course assessed?

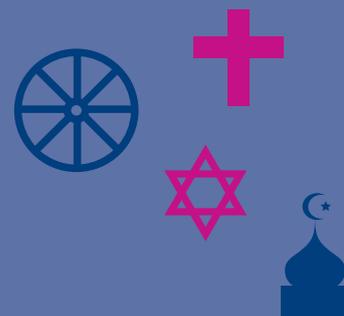
Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students with an interest in religion, philosophy, ethics and social history, and who have an open mind ready to explore topics and concepts that may conflict with, and contradict, their own beliefs.

Progression options

The course is highly regarded by both universities and employers and will therefore support your progression to a variety of professional careers in virtually any sector. You will develop a wide range of transferable skills, including written and oral communication, textual analysis and critical thinking.



Sociology



What is Sociology?

Sociology is the study of human society — how society has developed, how it is structured and how it works. You will look at culture and identity, social problems such as crime and poverty and the opportunities and challenges presented by globalisation. You can expect Sociology to shock and surprise you, as you begin to see the world around you in a new way, and to challenge many of your own assumptions and beliefs.

Why study this course?

Sociology allows you to gain an understanding of the way society works, and therefore to gain a different and much fuller perspective on the world around you. For example, you will have the opportunity to tackle contentious debates like why the prison population contains more people from ethnic minority backgrounds, why some sections of society have become obsessed with celebrity, the social and economic reasons behind health inequality by region and social class in the UK, and the impact of new media on global popular culture.

How is the course assessed?

Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who have a strong interest in current affairs and the world around them, who enjoy asking and debating big questions about society, and who are ready to challenge their own thinking.

Progression options

Many students go on to study related Social Science courses at university, and a background in Sociology is helpful in careers such as law, civil service, education, criminal justice system and social work. You will develop a strong skillset including written and oral communication, and the ability to analyse and evaluate data from a range of sources — useful in a wide range of professional contexts.



Meet other ambitious students

Massive range of enrichment opportunities

Support your progression and your future



Professional Pathways

What is Professional Pathways?

For students who wish to access higher level study or employment through a route other than A level, Professional Pathways could be the route for you.

Professional Pathways is an innovative programme of study offered at sixth forms across the Ark network. It has been designed in close collaboration with partners from the commercial and public sector. Those on this pathway will study towards the BTEC Extended Diploma, worth three A levels, in a programme that integrates academic study with extensive work experience opportunities, work readiness and career mentoring programmes.



Ambitious choices

Why study this programme?

- You will study a Level 3 qualification in Business that is equivalent to three A Levels, and holds the same number of UCAS points.
- You will work with employers to develop key skills: visiting their offices, meeting their employees, and accessing work experience opportunities.
- You will receive career mentoring to help you make a real and informed choice about what to do when you leave school. Your qualification will allow you to apply to top universities, competitive school leaver programmes, and apprenticeships with respected companies.
- You will attend termly conferences with students from across Ark, providing opportunities to build new networks with both peers and employers.

How is the course assessed?

The majority of the course is assessed through coursework assessments that are completed throughout the course. In addition, you will complete one controlled assessment and one exam at the end of each year. These will make up approximately 20% of your final grade.

Who is this programme suitable for?

Students who prefer practical learning and coursework over theoretical content and exams, as well as those who are keen to develop their employability skills and employer networks.

Work experience



Business

What will I study?

You will develop practical skills and a theoretical understanding of the world of business. You will look in depth at finance, marketing, human resource management and e-business and will have opportunities to devise your own business plans and run your own business activities and events.

Progression options

You can choose to progress to either Higher Education to study Business, Accounting and Finance, Business Management or to combine work and study through a higher/degree apprenticeship in Business or Finance.

Applied Science

What will I study?

The topics explored on the Applied Science course include expanding your work in biology, chemistry and physics as well as exploring science investigative skills, laboratory techniques and contemporary issues in science including science ethics and reporting. Additional units in biology, chemistry and physics provide an opportunity for students to see how science is used on a practical level. Students will also have the opportunity to pursue their own scientific interests through an investigative project.

Progression options

You can choose to progress to either Higher Education to study Science, Healthcare, Engineering or Applied Science, or to combine work and study through a higher/degree apprenticeship in Science or Technology. Students who choose not to continue on a Science pathway can also access university and apprenticeships in Business, Finance and other areas.



“My teachers have set the bar higher and put their faith in me. *Their influence has changed my life.*”

Ester, Ark Globe Academy, 2017 Leaver

University



Career



A bright future



What is the EPQ?

As an additional option at many Ark sixth forms, you have the opportunity to complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This is a qualification that is worth half the points value of an A level. It involves planning, managing and researching a project of your choice, normally on a subject related to your KS5 courses. Students who take the EPQ either submit a written report on a title of their own choice or create a practical project; this could be artwork, film, a website or physical artefacts.



Develop yourself as an independent learner

Why study this programme?

It is an opportunity to deepen your knowledge about a subject area that you are passionate about and is an excellent process to develop you as an independent learner. The EPQ can form part of your university offer and will give you the chance to develop your skills around planning, organisation, research and absorption.

How is the course assessed?

Coursework (100%).

Who is the course suitable for?

This course is suitable for students with high levels of personal motivation as the process involves only minimal input from a supervisor.

Progression options

The EPQ is a highly versatile qualification that allows you to explore a subject that you are interested in to a greater depth. It is an excellent opportunity to experience university-style study and gives you the chance to significantly develop your independent research skills.

Plan

Manage

Research





“ We’ve always been reminded of the positives that come out of a good education, and because of the school I am able to say there has been nothing standing in the way of me progressing.”

*My
sixth form
journey*

My experience

Charlie Berry is on the path of success to Birmingham University thanks to an unconditional offer to read Geography after achieving ABB in Economics, Biology and Geography. He credits Ark Globe for instilling a sense of preparation for Higher Education throughout his time there.

“The school’s motto goes to show that even when you’re in Year 7, the teachers are already looking to what you’re going to go on to do and they’re dedicated to getting the best from you. We have teachers here until eight in the evening willing to answer your questions and offer all the help they can.

My motivation stems from Ark Globe as I’ve been given the opportunities to now be able to walk into an exam with confidence. We’ve always been reminded of the positives that come out of a good education, and because of the school I am able to say there has been nothing standing in the way of me progressing.”

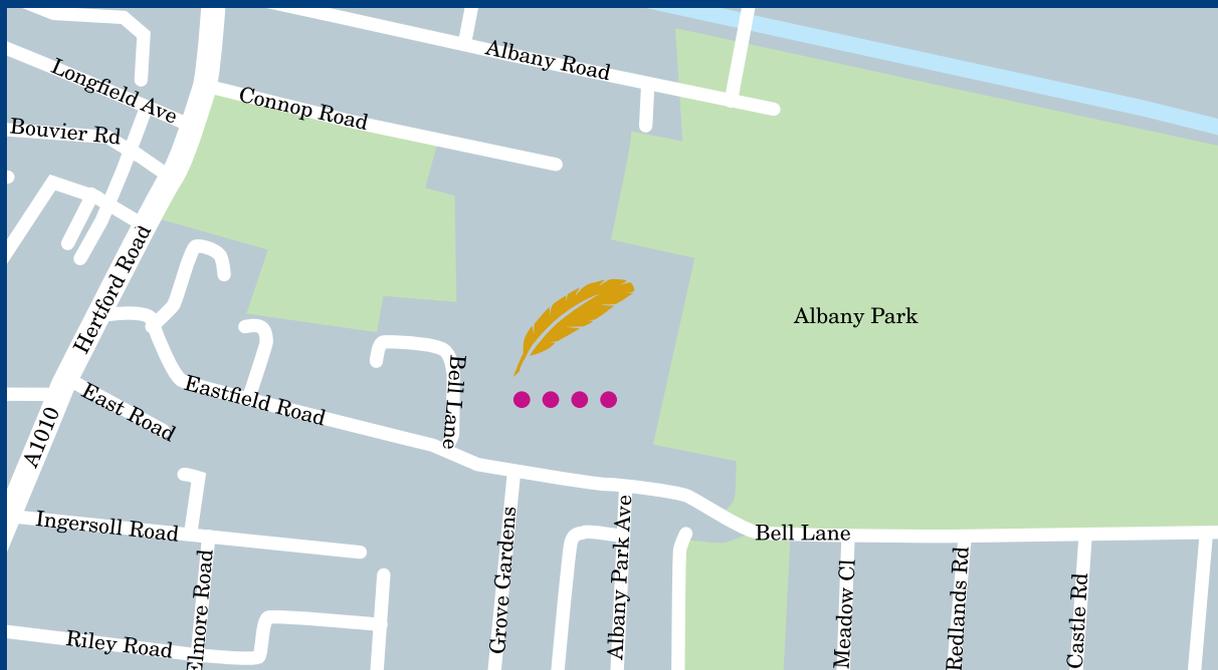
Charlie has demonstrated his determination and work ethic by taking on two jobs alongside his A level studies, in order to build his independence. As a result of this he was awarded an Ark University Bursary, which will provide vital financial support during Charlie’s time at university.

“I think the biggest difference it is going to make is with my living costs. It will allow me to focus more on my studying, without the worry of a part-time job to cover me.”

How to apply

To apply for a place at AJK Sixth Form simply visit our school website and complete an online application form: arkjohnkeats.org/sixth-form-admissions

The courses we run are subject to interest and may vary. Please see our website for more details.



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Ark John Keats
Academy