

XL Programme

at Ashton Sixth Form College

Experience Excellence





The Ashton XL Programme

At Ashton Sixth Form College, we are committed to making sure all students stretch themselves both academically and personally. We are proud of our record for supporting and coaching talented students to reach their potential. This is achieved through dedicated staff bringing out the best in individuals, mentoring students through challenges and delivering a programme to stretch intellect and take achievements to new levels.

The XL Programme supports our highest achievers and offers specially tailored activities and opportunities, designed to enhance personal development and enable academic students to succeed at the highest level. These opportunities give students the competitive edge they need when applying for the highest quality courses and the most prestigious universities in the country.

Whether studying A-Levels or Vocational courses, this programme provides the opportunity for high achieving students to work alongside each other and benefit from each other's experiences.

Damian Windle
XL Manager

**Officially the
best college
in the area
for A-Level
and Vocational
Performance**

(DfE, 2018)

100%
**A-Level
pass rate**

(2017-18)

9/10
**XL students
achieved high
grades**

(A*-B)

**Almost
1/2
of XL students
attained straight
A*'s or A's**

(2017-18)



Five students received offers for Oxbridge universities for September 2018

Daniel Tilbrook, West Hill School, Natural Sciences at Cambridge University
Niamh Connaghan, St. Damian's RC Science College, Biological Sciences at Oxford University
Christian Maddox, Saddleworth School, Chemistry at Oxford University
Alice Jackson, St. Damian RC Science College, Biological Sciences at Oxford University
Elleanor Marland, Denton Community College, Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford University

What is XL?

Students gain access to the Ashton XL Programme following their GCSE results at the end of August. Those who achieve the entry requirements will be enrolled on to the programme. Being part of the programme enables students to work alongside other high achieving individuals, supporting each other and achieving together. We provide a structured programme of activities, events and support for our high achieving students. The XL Programme offers the best possible preparation for students applying to Oxford, Cambridge, Russell Group and other prestigious institutions, as well as highly competitive degree courses such as Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science.

Our highly qualified and committed team, support, encourage and challenge our high achieving students. Those following the XL Programme will receive support through:

- Talks, workshops and events
- Oxford & Cambridge university study days
- Dedicated and specialist support with university applications
- Admissions test preparation and mock interviews
- Opportunities to experience university life on the Cambridge University Shadowing Scheme
- Enrichment activities and societies to develop skills and support applications
- Specialist work placements
- The Extended Project Qualification



Niamh Connaghan
St. Damian's RC Science College
Biology, French, Chemistry and EPQ

A*A*A*A
Biological Sciences at the
University of Oxford



Mohit Mistry
Great Academy Ashton
Chemistry, Maths, Biology and EPQ

AAAB
Dentistry at
Sheffield University



Hannah Dyball
All Saints Catholic College
History, English Literature and
Language, Further Maths,
Additional Maths, Maths and Physics

A*A*A*AA
History at
Cambridge University



Opportunities

The Ashton XL programme provides students with countless opportunities to achieve, network and expand their skills, through an enviable range of speakers, talks, preparation events, tutorials, trips and conferences.

Oxbridge preparation

Students with Oxford and Cambridge University in their sights do extremely well on the XL programme. Each year a significant number of students progress to the top universities in the UK, outperforming in one of the most competitive selection processes in the world.

Oxbridge applicants have specialist support programmes created for them, which include mock interviews, summer schools and master classes. Through opportunities such as the Cambridge Shadowing Scheme, Oxford Pathways, Oxbridge Road shows, Corpus Christi Master classes at Cambridge University, Application Days and the Oxford Edge Consultancy, students gain an edge to succeed at the highest level.

Mock Interviews

Students are able to take part in mock interviews with university tutors, graduates and professionals to help them prepare for future university and employer interviews.

Specialist Tutorials

The XL Tutorial program is a bespoke system delivered on a weekly basis.

Specialist XL tutorials are led by our XL Manager. Drawing on influences such as Sports Psychology, Character Education and Growth Mindset, students are given the tools and the skills on how to be an effective independent learner.

These sessions guide and stretch our most able learners, promoting an aspirational culture on how to succeed at the highest level. XL students come together weekly to share and learn from one another, as well as benefiting from formal and informal one to one support with their XL mentor.

Pre-Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary

We understand that careers within Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary sectors are competitive.

Students who highlight a passion for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary routes receive master classes, mock interviews, specialist visits, summer schools and more.

Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry opportunities have taken place across the country at Liverpool, Nottingham, Lancaster and Keele University.





Akhil Sebastian
St. Damian's RC Science College
Biology, Geography, Chemistry, EPQ

A*A*A*
Medicine at the
University of Sheffield



Kirsty Bishop
Fairfield High School
English Language/Literature,
Sociology and Philosophy

A*A*A
English Lang/Lit at
Edinburgh University



Thomas Andrew
Oldham Hulme Grammar School
Business, Accounting and Economics

A*AA
Economics at the
University of Liverpool



Lucy Atkinson
Denton Community College
Accounting, Maths, Further Maths

AAA
Higher Apprenticeship at
Rolls Royce



Furhan Altaf
West Hill School
Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Geography

A*A*A*
Natural Sciences at
University of Cambridge

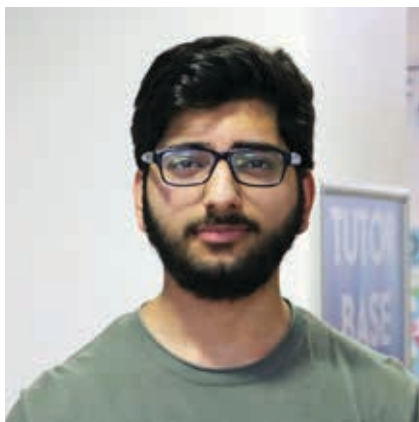


Ciara Blackhurst
St. Damian's RC Science College
Biology, Geography, Chemistry, EPQ

A*AA
Medicine at the
University of Liverpool



Abhay Sharma
West Hill School
 Maths, Further Maths, and Chemistry
A*A*AA
 Chemical and Nuclear
 Engineering at
University of Leeds



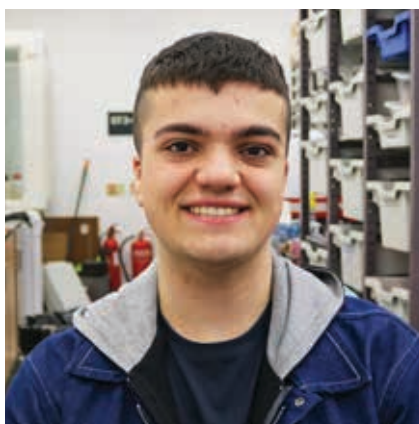
Hamaas Hassan
West Hill School
 Biology, Chemistry, Maths and EPQ
AAAA*
 Medicine at the
Imperial College London



Lauren Eccles
All Saints Catholic College
 Law, Psychology and Photography
A*A*A*
 Law at the
University of Manchester



Charlotte Laycock
Mossley Hollins High School
 Biology, Chemistry and Maths
A*A*A*
 Medicine at
Oxford University



Joseph Jones
St. Damian's RC Science College
 Physics, Maths, Chemistry and EPQ
A*A*AA
 Physics at the
University of Birmingham



Sadia Iqbal
Fairfield High School
 Law, Chemistry and Biology
A*AB
 Optometry at the
University of Manchester

Opportunities

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is an additional qualification that students can choose to take alongside their studies.

EPQ is ideal for those students who have a genuine passion for a subject area and would enjoy the opportunity of researching it at undergraduate level, as well as experiencing university style supervision.

A completed EPQ can help students secure offers from prestigious universities whilst allowing them to indulge in research in their chosen subject.

Trips, visits, workshops

Throughout the year, students attend a range of conferences and seminars including the Villiers Park pre-university residential, Law conferences at Queens College London, Physics Insight Days, the Realising Aspirations programme, Russell Group Open days and the XL conference.

Nuffield Foundation Placements

Students have the opportunity to take part in extremely competitive placements with the Nuffield Foundation, where they gain invaluable skills in some of the most exciting industries.



Jack Perrin achieved A*A*A* in Physics, Maths, Further Maths and EPQ

“My Nuffield placement was at the Henry Moseley X-ray Imaging Facility in the University of Manchester. I spent a lot of time researching how X-ray CT works and became familiar with the software they use to analyse 3D images. My work was part of the University’s Micrographia Revisited project with the Manchester Museum. This involved using 21st century imaging technology (X-ray CT) to revisit some of the specimens/objects that Robert Hooke viewed in the 1600s. I learnt a lot about the nature of research from my own project and from observing and talking to academics about their own.”

Jack is progressing on to a degree in Mathematics.

Tanha Ahmed studies Biology, Maths and Sociology

“On my Nuffield placement, I used GIS software to map West Bengal with its arsenic severities in order to be able to spot patterns and arsenic hotspots. Researching around the topic and meeting new people is something I really enjoyed as part of the placement. I learnt valuable skills in how to write a good report, how to present your findings well, and the placement improved my statistical maths and IT skills.”

Tanha plans to go to university to study Biomedical Sciences.





Experience Excellence

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