



ASHTON

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

REALISING ASPIRATIONS

2019/20



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An introduction...

What is Realising Aspirations?

Although you've just started at Ashton Sixth Form College, the next two years will fly by! Realising Aspirations is a way to prepare for life beyond college by 'trying out' university before committing to a subject for 3+ years.

Through workshops and seminars led by academics, practitioners and researchers, you'll expand your subject knowledge and develop high-level study skills: note-taking, analytical reading, critical thinking, presentation skills and more. You will also have the opportunity to discover what university life is really like, from learning how to manage your finances to finding out what clubs & societies you could join!

At the end of last year's programme, 86% said they had learnt more about university study and 70% of participants were more confident that they are able to cope with university study.

What does it involve?

On most programmes, you will take part in three in-college workshops and visit a leading university in your subject area. All Realising

Aspirations students will also attend a launch event and a grand finale, which will combine information about the programme with presentations from universities on topics like researching courses effectively and writing an amazing personal statement. There are also additional general sessions to help you with skills like public speaking and resilience. You are expected to attend all of the events on any programme you sign up to, so make sure you are happy to commit!

Please note that although every effort will be made to arrange your university visit on your study day to cause minimal disruption to your teaching, this may not always be possible. In such cases you will have to catch up on work missed. You will always be notified of trips well in advance so that if you have other commitments on the day, you can make arrangements.

Some of the courses (such as the OxNet programmes, Engineering and History of Art) involve slightly more of your time than most so make sure you read the descriptions inside this brochure fully before you sign up.

Each activity (launch event, university visit, additional IAG sessions and in-college sessions for your subject strand) gives you one point.

4 points – **Bronze Award**

5 points – **Silver Award**

6 Points – **Gold Award**

7+ Points – **Platinum Award**

You can also attend as many in-college sessions for other subjects as you like – this is a great opportunity to find out more about other subjects you may be interested in!

Additional spaces on university visits may be offered out on a first come first serve basis, so keep your eye on your email!

Anyone who has 7 or more points by the time of the Grand Finale event will be awarded a special Platinum Award and will be entered into a prize draw to win one of several Amazon vouchers. For every point above 6 points you have, you will get one entry into a prize draw, so attending more sessions means more chances to win.

When does it take place?

Applications are open from now until the 2nd of October 2019. Realising Aspirations will officially launch in November 2019, and will finish in March 2020. For further details, see the 'Calendar of Events' inside.

How much does it cost?

Nothing! All trip & transport costs are covered, so the only commitment from you is your time.

What subjects are on offer?

There are 15 subject strands on offer covering an enormous range of disciplines, approaches and topics – all are detailed inside this brochure, so read on! Please note, taking any Realising Aspirations subject will help you, e.g. you don't have to want to take 'History of Art' at university to take the 'History of Art' Realising Aspirations strand. Most strands will introduce you to several universities and degree areas, so pick something that sounds interesting to you and take the chance to explore! Please note that the running of strands is subject to having enough students signed up, so get your friends involved!

What if I can't choose a subject or want to take more than one?

If you can't choose a subject, read the details in this brochure carefully, pop and chat with Rebecca in Student Services, or drop in to the college careers service over lunchtime any day. You can only sign up to one programme, but you can attend as many additional in-college sessions for other subject strands as you like! These will also be noted on your certificate.

Who can I contact with questions?

Rebecca Crossfield is located in Student Services. Pop into the office at any time, or email her at rcro@asfc.ac.uk

A large, faint yellow geometric pattern, resembling a stylized arch or a series of overlapping triangles, serves as a background for the top half of the page.

How do I sign up?

Just fill in the online application form (link below)
by **Wednesday 2nd of October!**

<http://bit.ly/aspirationsapp2019>

Watch the video of last year's programme here!

https://youtu.be/dOD2tFiPF_A

Vocational

Healthcare

Healthcare needs so many more people than just doctors! The NHS offers lots of varied career roles including operating department practitioners, paramedics, occupational therapists, dental hygienists, nurses, and more! The Healthcare strand will introduce you to some of the key knowledge and skills required if you want to work in the NHS, while looking at some important current issues facing the health-sector. Along the way, you will be able to work with and talk to allied healthcare professionals and students, and will learn more about how higher education can lead you to a future in healthcare. **Please note: If you are considering Medicine/Dentistry, you may wish to consider the Life Sciences strand. This strand will specifically be focused on allied healthcare pathways.**

Who is it for?

The Health strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** health & social care, sociology, psychology or any other sciences (particularly biology/chemistry)
- **Considering studying** an allied healthcare subject at university
- **Aspiring** to a career in the NHS or other healthcare provider



Realising Aspirations Healthcare
Bradford University, 2017

Working with Young People

There are lots of ways you might consider working with young people: teaching, play therapy, social work, day care, youth work, and more. The sessions in the Working with Young People programme will give you the chance to learn from and talk to university lecturers and professionals who teach and work in a number of these areas to get a fuller picture of what they involve, how they are taught, and what you can do to prepare yourself for this challenging and rewarding career path.

Who is it for?

The Working with Young People strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** any subjects at all!
- **Considering studying** childhood studies, primary education, another subject related to education or social work at university or thinking of doing a PGCE after your degree
- **Aspiring** to a career in that involves working with young people



Realising Aspirations Working with Young People
Liverpool Hope University, 2018

STEM

Computer Science & Mathematics

Computer science is a challenging, exciting discipline because new technologies are ever-developing! By taking part in the Computer Science and Mathematics programme, you can work with current academics to learn more about the frontiers of computer technology, exploring the technical skills and knowledge needed, as well as the legal and moral implications of technological developments such as driverless cars and drones. Along the way, you will also begin to explore the multitude of pathways available to a computer science graduate, from computer forensics to ethical hacking.

Who is it for?

The Computer Science strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** computer science, maths, further maths, ICT, games design, physics, law, psychology or philosophy
- **Considering studying** computer science, systems, artificial intelligence, ethical hacking, computer networking, or another computer-related subject at university
- **Aspiring** to a career in academia, ICT, software engineering, ethical hacking, or another computer-related field



Realising Aspirations Computer Science
Coventry University, 2017

Physical Sciences

The physical sciences study non-living systems, looking at the processes and components that comprise our world. On the Physical Sciences programme, you will take part in physics, chemistry and geography seminars that all tackle matters to do with Earth and space, encouraging you to examine your surroundings, near and far, more closely. While some of the topics may be familiar to you through your college work, the skills, knowledge and theoretical concepts you will be grappling with will be pitched at undergraduate-level, stretching you as a student and a scientist!

Who is it for?

The Physical Sciences strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** maths, further maths, geography or any of the sciences
- **Considering studying** chemistry, physics, forensic science, astrophysics, geography, or another physical sciences subject at university
- **Aspiring** to a career in science research, communication, teaching and/or academia, chemical engineering, pharmacology, ecology, or another area relating to chemistry, physics and/or geography



Realising Aspirations Physical Sciences
Durham University, 2018

Life Sciences

What do a botanist, a zoologist and a microbiologist all have in common? They're all life scientists! The life sciences, also known as the bio-sciences, are a broad spectrum of disciplines all concerned with living organisms. On this programme, you'll be introduced to an array of topics and degree courses operating in different but related bio-scientific fields, from veterinary medicine to cell biology. If you want to challenge your understanding of what biology is and where it can take you, and push yourself to think like an undergraduate scientist, this is the programme for you.

Who is it for?

The Life Sciences strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** any of the sciences (particularly biology and/or chemistry)
- **Considering studying** biosciences, medicine, agriculture, zoology, veterinary science, sport & exercise science or a similar subject at university
- **Aspiring** to a career in science research, communication, teaching and/or academia, healthcare, environmental conservation, biotechnology, or another biology-related subject



Realising Aspirations Life Science
Newcastle University, 2017

Engineering

Engineering is an enormous discipline, its reach stretching from the microchips inside your phone to the International Space Station. Throughout the Engineering programme, you will develop your problem-solving skills, applying your maths and physics knowledge to design creative solutions to real-world scenarios. You will be introduced to a number of different Engineering pathways, including Mechanical, Civil and Aerospace, with an opportunity to try your hand at a taster session in each. **Please note: the Engineering programme is more intensive than the majority of Realising Aspirations subject strands; you will be expected to attend three university visits!**

Who is it for?

The Engineering strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** maths, further maths, ICT, design & technology, or the sciences (particularly physics)
- **Considering studying** mechanical, civil, aerospace or general engineering, or physics at university
- **Aspiring** to a career in engineering, teaching, surveying, or technical writing

Realising Aspirations Engineering
University of Manchester, 2019



The Arts

Creative & Digital Industries

There is an ever-increasing demand for people who can combine creativity with the technological knowhow to help the industry expand. The academics and practitioners on the Creative & Digital Industries strand will help you to acquire this knowledge and develop your creativity, preparing you for the step-up to university and a career in the media industry.

Who is it for?

The Creative & Digital Industries strand is best suited to students:

- **Studying** CDA, English, media, IT or games development
- **Considering studying** television, film or radio production, or media studies at university
- **Aspiring** to a career in the entertainment, information or communication industries, particularly film, television, videogames and radio or marketing



Realising Aspirations Photography & Media
Leeds Arts University, 2019

History of Art

A picture is worth much more than a thousand words with an art historical approach. Art History is interdisciplinary, drawing together social history, politics, literature, economics and theology to gain a deeper appreciation of artistic works. The History of Art programme will provide a chronological introduction to some key movements, approaches and art historical methodologies, guided by academics from the University of Leeds and the Courtauld Institute of Art, London. **Please note: students on the History of Art strand will be expected to attend two university visits rather than one**

Who is it for?

The History of Art strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** art, history, religious studies, English literature, or Spanish
- **Considering studying** history of art, fine art, museology, or history at university
- **Aspiring** to a career in gallery or museum curation, auctioneering, teaching, art practice, or academia



Realising Aspirations History of Art
Courtauld Institute, 2017

Humanities

History & Politics

The subject matter of History consists of the attempts of human beings to organise life materially and conceptually, individually and collectively, while the object of studying these things is to widen students' experience and develop qualities of perception and judgement. History's ability to promote understanding between cultures and between national traditions remains as important as ever.

The world of politics does not stand still, and so neither does the study and teaching of the subject. Universities constantly update their courses to meet the shifting political landscape, which means that with politics you will learn, literally, something new every day.

Through both of these subjects, you will gain many analytical and practical skills including the ability to conduct research, oral and written communication, all of which are invaluable in today's employment market.

Who is it for?

The History & Politics strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** History, politics, sociology and other arts/humanities/social science subjects
- **Considering studying** History, politics, international relations, social policy or an humanities/social science subject at university
- **Aspiring** to a career in education, academia, diplomacy, international development, journalism, the civil service or law

The Written Word

Words are all around us – they are how we communicate and make sense of the world. Language is at the core of what makes us human and distinguishes us from other species. 'The Written Word' will encompass English & Global Literatures, Creative Writing, English Language and Language Acquisition, aiming to provide a taster of what it is like to study these fascinating subjects at university.

Who is it for?

The Written Word strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** English language or literature, film studies, history, sociology and/or other arts/humanities subjects
- **Considering studying** language, linguistics, literature, creative writing, speech & language therapy or an arts/humanities subject at university
- **Aspiring** to a career in education, journalism, speech & language therapy, writing & editing, media or academia



Realising Aspirations Liberal Arts and Language & Linguistics
University of Durham, 2017

Social Sciences

Criminology & Psychology

This course takes a closer look at the exciting fields of Criminology and Psychology.

Criminology is an interdisciplinary subject that draws on social policy, psychology and law to understand more about crime. Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind, thoughts and behaviour. In other words, it is the science of people. Psychology is researched and practised by academics in a broad range of settings including universities, hospitals (and other clinical settings), schools and businesses, to name a few.

In these seminars, you will explore the psychological reasons for crime and see how academic research influences the criminal justice systems we see around us. Academics will also guide you through fascinating topics, such as forensic psychology and psychiatry.

Who is it for?

The Criminology & Psychology strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** criminology, sociology, psychology, public services, law, philosophy, politics, maths or any other sciences (particularly biology and chemistry)
- **Considering studying** criminology, social policy, politics, law or psychology or a related discipline at university
- **Aspiring** to a career in social policy, public services, applied psychological practice, psychiatry, counselling or teaching



Realising Aspirations Criminology
Keele University, 2017

Sociology

Sociology is the study of human social relationships and institutions. It is an interdisciplinary subject that deals with diverse topics, ranging from crime to religion, from the family to the state, from the divisions of race and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture, and from social stability to radical change in whole societies.

Sociology is a perfect match for students who want to critically analyse and understand complex social systems and the trends and issues within modern society. Through this programme strand, you will develop your analytical and interpretive skills, approaching new and challenging areas and examining the world around you.

Who is it for?

The Sociology strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** sociology, law, politics
- **Considering studying** psychology, psychiatry, or a related discipline at university (e.g. neuroscience).
- **Aspiring** to a career in social research, social work, community development or teaching.



Realising Aspirations Sociology
Bolton University, 2018

The Professions

Law

The law governs every aspect of the lives we live. On this strand, you can expect to encounter key legal topics such as advocacy skills, human rights and crime & punishment, taught at undergraduate-level to stretch your legal knowledge. In tandem, you'll develop the skills that any aspiring legal professional needs: critical reading and engagement, research, clarity of thought and speech, and presentation skills. You will work with academics and legal professionals, learning about many of the pathways you can take.

Who is it for?

The Law strand is best suited to students who are:

- **Studying** law, history, English literature or any other essay based subject
- **Considering studying** any humanities or social sciences subject at university, particularly law
- **Aspiring** to a career in law, the police, the prison service, legal research, academia or teaching



Realising Aspirations Law
Newcastle University, 2017

OxNet Intensive Programmes

What are the OxNet programmes?

OxNet is an initiative led by the University of Oxford and in partnership with other highly-regarded universities across the country. It works to make university research open and accessible for students in schools and colleges across the country, and to encourage students to be curious and passionate about the study of traditional academic subjects at a high level.

In support of this aim, there are two OxNet subject centres in the North West: the Stewart Sutherland Centre for Philosophy and World Religions Centre (based right here in Ashton Sixth Form College!) and the North West Science Network. Each subject centre puts on activities including study days, lectures and conferences open to all sixth form students throughout the year; keep an eye on the student bulletin for details about how to take part as events are announced!

In addition, OxNet also offer two intensive programmes, The Pembroke North Humanities Programme and the OxNet Philosophy & World Religions Programme, which are both an excellent introduction to academic study in competitive institutions. Both programmes are a substantial academic commitment, requiring participants to undertake a study day, 6 seminars, an Easter conference and a summer school between

January and August, but provide an unparalleled sample of undergraduate study.

Pembroke North Humanities Programme

Pembroke North is an interdisciplinary Humanities programme, which aims to broaden students' intellectual and social horizons by exploring the Enlightenment through a range of lenses: History, Philosophy, Politics, and Literature. Students will attend a study day at Pembroke College, Oxford in January to introduce them to the course. Following this, students will attend six seminars in Central Manchester, which they will prepare for each week with reading from the course reader, 'Enlightenment and Romanticism: the Making of the Modern World'. The seminars are a forum for discussion and encourage critical thinking and engagement between students and university lecturers on a given topic each week. The 3-day Easter Conference challenges students to work on a group research project, guided by a current Oxford undergraduate, stretching students' research, collaboration and presentation skills. Finally, the 5-day residential at Pembroke College, Oxford allows students to live the life of an Oxford undergraduate: living in halls, studying in the libraries, attending lectures, and working on an original piece of scholarship and defending it in a tutorial. The Humanities course is challenging and intensive, but a worthwhile endeavour for anyone who would consider themselves curious, hard-working, and aspiring to a competitive Humanities degree.

OxNet Philosophy & World Religions

The study of religion is an opportunity to explore the values and history that underpin the societies, cultures and people that comprise our world. Over 8 months, students on the Philosophy & World Religions programme will undertake academic tasks that revolve around the central theme of 'Religion and Knowledge'. It is suitable for those from a Humanities background, but is primarily aimed at students intending to study Religious Studies, Theology, Philosophy or Ethics at university. This programme follows a very similar format to the Humanities programme described above, with the same level of academic commitment required from participating students. This programme is supported by our partner universities: the University of Manchester, Liverpool Hope University, the University of Sheffield, Lancaster University and Durham University.

Please note: the enrolment process for these programmes opens later in the academic year, but you can signal your interest in the programme by ticking the box on your Realising Aspirations application. If you are successful in your application to an OxNet programme, you will no longer be expected to attend the in-college sessions for your Realising Aspirations strand, however you are still welcome to attend them if you like!



Pembroke Summer School
Pembroke College, University of Oxford, 2017

Calendar of Events

WHEN?	WHAT?	WHERE?
Mon 9th Sept	Online applications open for all programmes	Apply online at:
Weds 2nd Oct	Online applications close for all programmes	Apply online at:
Fri 4th Oct	You will be emailed your registration slot	Your college email address
8th – 10th Oct	1:1 enrolment interview	ASFC
Fri 25th Oct	You will be emailed confirmation of your subject	Your college email address
Mon 11th Nov 4pm	Launch Event	ASFC sports hall
Mon 18th Nov – Fri 20th Dec	University visits	Various universities
Mon 6th Jan – Wed 11th March	Seminars & workshops	ASFC
Wed 18th March 4pm	Grand Finale	ASFC Lecture Theatre

These events are compulsory for anyone taking part in Realising Aspirations. You will be notified of any visits, seminars or workshops you are expected to attend well in advance of each session via your college email. Failure to attend/take part in more than 1 of these events without notifying rcro@asfc.ac.uk of your reason for absence in advance may result in you being withdrawn from Realising Aspirations.

Apply here!

<http://bit.ly/aspirationsapp2019>

Watch the video of last year's programme here!

https://youtu.be/dOD2tFiPF_A





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