



# Welcome!

- We hope you are all keeping well.
- Please feel free to ask questions in the Google Meet chat on the right hand side.
- Please ensure microphones are switched to mute for the duration of the presentation.
- This presentation is being recorded.

# A-Levels Explained

Lee Kirby

*Director of Studies at Ashbourne College*

Webinar Q&A

# My position and role

- Director of Studies
- Head of Sixth Form and GCSE
- Line Manager to Leader of Faculties
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Head of Admissions

# Agenda for the Presentation

1. What are A-Levels?
2. Advantages of A-Levels
3. Assessment
4. Subject Choice
5. Why Study A-Levels at Ashbourne?
6. Entry to Ashbourne
7. Tips and Success at A-Level
8. Next Webinar and Events
9. Any Questions?



**What are A-Levels?**

# 1.1

## What are A-Levels?

- Pre-university qualification
- Standard qualification used for UK university applications
- Usually a 2-year programme, Year 12 , Year 13
- Assessed through examinations, coursework and practical assessments

# 2.1

## Advantages of A-Levels

- You can focus on your strengths
- You can delve deeper into each subject
- Specialise earlier
- Gain an internationally recognised qualification

# 3.1

# Assessment of A-Levels

## Linear System

- Two-year programme
- Take A-Level examinations at end of Year 13 (2nd year - May/June)
- Mocks, reports and feedback each half-term at Ashbourne
- AS Examinations
  - a) Can be at end of Year 1 or 2 (Ashbourne Year 1 only)
  - b) Do not count towards final A-Level results
  - c) Can be used for university points and predictions
  - d) Ashbourne offers some subjects at AS



# 3.2

## Assessment of A-Levels

### Linear System - is it getting harder?

#### A-Level Mathematics - 54% of Total Marks\*

- Old A-Level (2017) - E grade - missed a D by 1 mark
- New A-Level (2019) - B grade - missed an A by 1 mark

\*The 2017 figure relates to the C4 examination.



# Subject Choice

# 4.1

# Subject Choice

- How Many A-Levels Should You Take?
- Key Points When Considering Your Choices
- Suitability for Individual Degree Programmes
- Facilitating Subjects or Informed Choices
- Native Languages
- Subject Availability at Ashbourne
- Suitable Combination Tips

# 4.11

# Subject Choice

## How Many A-Levels Should You Take?

- Start with four (not one year students)
- University offers are invariably based on three subjects, but consideration should be given to:
  - a) Mathematically related degrees at competitive universities
  - b) Imperial, LSE, Oxford, Cambridge
- You can drop from 4 to 3 subjects at any time at Ashbourne
- We commit to any subject combination until 1st July
- Permitted changes in first two weeks



# 4.12

# Subject Choice

## Key Points When Considering Your Choices

- University requirements
- Which subjects will you enjoy? It is a two year course
- Which subjects are you more likely to achieve success?
- Keeping your options open with your subject choice (e.g. Mathematics)



# 4.13

# Subject Choice

## Suitability for Individual Degree Programmes

We will now look at a number of examples

# 4.13.1

# Subject Choice

## Engineering Degree University Requirements

- Standard university offers require Mathematics and Physics
- Chemistry is also usually required for Chemical Engineering
- Computer Science is a logical choice for Software Engineering
- You should take advantage of our Engineering Programme
- Further Mathematics is recommended for Imperial, Oxford, Cambridge

# 4.13.2

# Subject Choice

## Engineering Degree (Imperial)

### University Requirements

In relation to the third subject for Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Imperial suggests the following:

*“the preferred subject is Further Mathematics. We prefer Further Mathematics as it provides a better grounding for the material taught in the first year of the course”*



# 4.13.3

# Subject Choice

## Medicine Degree

### University Requirements

- You must take Chemistry and it would be logical to take Biology
- Mathematics or Physics would be a good choice for your 3rd subject
- Unusual third subjects can also work (e.g. Music)
- UCAT/BMAT will probably hold more importance than third subject
- Take advantage of our Medical School Programme

# 4.13.4

# Subject Choice

## Medicine Degree (Cambridge)

### University Requirements

*“To meet the minimum requirements for Medicine, you must take A level Chemistry, and you must take one further subject from the following list: Biology (or Human Biology), Mathematics, Physics.”*

*We recommend that you go beyond the minimum requirements and that your third A level should also be from the list of Biology (or Human Biology), Mathematics, Physics.”*



# 4.13.5

# Subject Choice

## Finance Related Degree

### University Requirements

- The term Finance, refers to degrees in the following areas (not exhaustive): Economics, Business, Management
- Take Mathematics
- Further Mathematics is sometimes preferable (especially for Economics)
- Take Advantage of our Finance Programme



# 4.13.6

# Subject Choice

## Economics Degree (LSE Requirements)

### University Requirements

- A\*AA including A-Level Mathematics
- Consideration is given to the combination of subjects
- A-level Economics is not required.
- Further Mathematics at A-level is also desirable
- You must possess both analytical and writing abilities (e.g. History/Politics/Economics)



# 4.13.7

# Subject Choice

## Art Degree

### University Requirements

- Ashbourne offers Fine Art, Textile Design, Graphic Communication
- First term 'Carousel' allows exposure to all three subjects at Ashbourne
- We advise against more than two art subjects due to workload
- History of Art - excellent supplement to practical art subjects
- Ashbourne offers portfolio classes to prepare for university application



# 4.14

# Subject Choice

## Facilitating Subjects or Informed Choices

- Russell Group Universities (24 top-ranking UK universities)
- Some subjects are deemed more challenging than others
- Facilitating subjects at Ashbourne
  - a) Mathematics, Further Mathematics
  - b) Biology, Chemistry, Physics
  - c) English, History
  - d) Languages
- Also referred to as Informed Choices
- Look at individual universities and their requirements

# 4.15

# Subject Choice

## Native Languages

- Take advantage of your strengths
- Excellent back-up plan but can be your first plan
- At Ashbourne, you can take it as your 5th subject
- Normally completed in Year 12
- We will provide support for the majority of these subjects

# 4.16

# Subject Choice

## Subject Availability at Ashbourne

- Practical Based
- Humanities
- Sciences/Mathematically Based
- Languages



# 4.16.1

# Subject Choice

## Practical Based

- Fine Art
- Graphic Communication
- Textile Design
- Photography Darkroom - add photographic elements to your artwork
- Music
- Drama
- Film Studies

# 4.16.2

# Subject Choice

## Humanities

- English Literature
- History
- Philosophy
- Classical Civilisation
- Politics

# 4.16.3

# Subject Choice

## Sciences/Mathematically Based

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Mathematics and Further Mathematics
- Physics
- Psychology

# 4.16.4

# Subject Choice

## Languages

### Normal Group and Native Classes

- French
- Spanish

### Native Classes

- Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), German, Italian
- Japanese, Latin, Portuguese, Russian



# 4.17

# Subject Choice

## Suitable Combination Tips

- No more than two Art subjects (e.g. Graphics, Fine Art, Textile Design)
- At least one (preferably two) 'Facilitating Subjects' for top-ranking universities
- Mathematical skills are required for many subjects (e.g. Chemistry, Physics)
- Be aware that some subjects have coursework elements
- Carefully consider your English language capabilities





**Why Study A-Levels at Ashbourne?**

# 5.1

## Why Study A-Levels at Ashbourne?

- Achieve outstanding performance for your A-Level grades
- Gain entry into competitive University destinations
- Life changing experience
- Prepared for your future

But how.....

# 5.2 Why Study A-Levels at Ashbourne?

## Personal Attention

- Small Class Sizes
- Year 12 Personal Tutoring system
- Individualised UCAS support
- Quick and constructive Interventions
- Small, dynamic environment allows us to react swiftly



# 5.3 Why Study A-Levels at Ashbourne?

**Practice, Review, Practice some more**

The following happen each half-term

- Mock Examinations
- Reports
- Self-reflection of performance and one to one review meetings

# 5.4 Why Study A-Levels at Ashbourne?

## Developing Independence and Maturity

- Treated like a grown-up - First name basis, no uniform
- Student led, mature approach to education

# 5.5 Why Study A-Levels at Ashbourne?

We help you to prepare ahead of your start date

- Planning for what you will do over the summer
- Get your books in advance

# 5.6 Why Study A-Levels at Ashbourne?

**We really care**

- Personal Tutors are proactive with their support
- Regular positive intervention meetings
- Safeguarding meetings to support student welfare

# 5.7 Why Study A-Levels at Ashbourne?

## Selective Environment

- Year 12 students need to achieve at least CCC to get into Year 13
- We look to accept:
  - a) Motivated and committed applicants
  - b) Ambitious and aspirational
  - c) Academically capable

# 5.8 Why Study A-Levels at Ashbourne?

## Positive atmosphere

We shift the focus of interactions with students to a more aspirational and positive tone.

From: *“Can Lucy get an A?”*

To : *“How long will it take for Lucy to get an A?”*

# 5.9 Why Study A-Levels at Ashbourne?

Prove it

# 5.10 Why Study A-Levels at Ashbourne?

A-Level Grades (Average of past 7 years)

50% A\*A



# 5.11 Why Study A-Levels at Ashbourne?

A-Level Grades (2019/20)

1 in 5 students gained AAA or above



ASHBOURNE  
Kensington, London

# 5.12 Why Study A-Levels at Ashbourne?

## A-Level Grades - Improvement

- Outperforming ALIS by 0.6 grades per student per subject
- This is equivalent to improving the ALIS prediction of BBB to AAB

# 5.13 Why Study A-Levels at Ashbourne?

University Destinations (19/20)

54% Russell Group Universities

# 5.14 Why Study A-Levels at Ashbourne?

## Student University Destinations - Last 5 Years

1. KCL (41)
2. UCL (36)
3. QMARY (29)
4. CITY (17)
5. MANCHESTER (16)
6. WARWICK (16)
7. WESTMINSTER (15)
8. CAMBRIDGE (14)
9. IMPERIAL (14)
10. BRISTOL (13)

# 5.15 Why Study A-Levels at Ashbourne?

**Great Feedback from Students and Parents**

<https://www.ashbournecollege.co.uk/sixth-form-college-london/testimonials/>

# 5.16 Why Study A-Levels at Ashbourne?

## Preparing for September 2020

- We will be here
- We will continue to offer Online Distance Learning if required
- Lots of preparation is taking place already
- Individualised approach as per normal

# 6.1.1

## Entry to Ashbourne

- Usually at least five GCSEs at grades 6-9 (B to A\*)
- At least grade B in the specific subject(s) you want to study
- However, we consider applications on a case-by-case basis
- We organise subject-specific testing as part of the Admissions process

# 6.1.2

## Entry to Ashbourne

Details to contact Ashbourne if you are interested in applying:

**Email** - [admissions@ashbournecollege.co.uk](mailto:admissions@ashbournecollege.co.uk)

**Phone** - 020 7937 3858 or 00 44 20 7937 3858 (from overseas)

**Website** - [www.ashbournecollege.co.uk](http://www.ashbournecollege.co.uk)





# Tips for Success at A-Level

# 7.1.1

## Tips for success at A-Level

- A-Levels are a big step up from GCSE, use the summer effectively
  - a) Get books early and prepare for September
  - b) Differentiate your application from other students for university purposes – See our UK University Applications webinar
- You cannot leave revision to the last minute with A-Levels!

# 7.1.2

## Tips for success at A-Level

- Ask questions in class
- Be proactive - ask questions outside of class
- Use each half-term effectively
  - a) Prepare thoroughly for each assessment
  - b) Review reports and grades
  - c) Set yourself goals for the next half-term
  - d) Make the necessary changes
  - e) Repeat

# 8.1


## Next Webinars and Events

- **UK University Applications Explained** - Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020
- **Subject-Specific Webinars** - Monday 1st June 2020 onwards
- **Introduction to A-Level Mathematics** - Prepare for Further Mathematics
- **Literature Essay Competition** - Friday 12th June closing date

9.1

Any Questions?



A photograph of several young women in a library or study area. They are looking at books and smiling. A blue banner is overlaid on the image with white text.

For any queries, please contact us at  
[admissions@ashbournecollege.co.uk](mailto:admissions@ashbournecollege.co.uk)