

# ASHBOURNE

Independent Sixth Form College Kensington



2017 - 2018



Ashbourne is a private co-educational college for A level, GCSE and preparation for university. Located in one of London's most beautiful areas, it is situated in a quiet street near Kensington Palace and offers spectacular opportunities to explore the myriad cultural attractions of this great city.

It is a college for students who value the best academic traditions of independent education, but are looking for a radically fresh approach. Ashbourne respects individuality and independence and offers its students the unrestricted freedom to choose from a vast array of interesting and stimulating subjects. With classes very rarely exceeding 10, we stress the importance placed on individual attention. Relations with staff are uncomplicated, informal and often inspiring.

Ashbourne believes that high expectations lead to excellent exam results and fulfilled potential.

ASHBOURNE COLLEGE





### NICOLA BROWNLESS

*English Literature A\*, Drama A, Psychology A*

Nicola epitomises the individuality and talent of many of our students. She came to us from Abbot's Hill school on a drama scholarship and threw herself both into her academic work and into the wider life of our school. She was appointed Head Girl and made an outstanding contribution to cultural activities such as drama and the college magazine.

Never one to follow the crowd, Nicola is taking a gap year, fulfilling a longstanding ambition by taking A Level Art as she prepares her application to art college. Nicola is also pursuing her entrepreneurial career by developing a mobile app.



### ANTONIO MAGALHÃES DECCACHE

*Further Mathematics A\*, Mathematics A\*, Physics A\*, Portuguese A\**

Antonio came to Ashbourne from Brazil with a strong aptitude for Mathematics and Physics, which he converted to excellent A Level grades. He is now reading Civil Engineering at Imperial College.

As Antonio has put it, 'Ashbourne's helpful staff eased my adaptation to the English system. With an independent approach to studies and excellent teachers, I've unlocked my potential and gained responsibility, which were key to the results I needed. I also enjoyed the multiple activities they offer, especially playing for the football team... I couldn't have made a better choice.'

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## SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

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### Principal

#### MICHAEL KIRBY

*MSc (London), BApSc (Toronto)*

Mike founded Ashbourne College in 1981 and has since presided over its continuing academic development and success. Mike is a key figure in the promotion of independent education in the UK through organisations like the Council for Independent Education (CIFE). He was formerly a lay member of the Admissions Panel for Medicine at UCL and is Head of Faculty for Mathematics and Physics, one of Ashbourne's most successful departments. Mike studied Aerospace Engineering and Statistics at the Universities of Toronto and London.



**Director of Studies  
Head of Year 13**

### LEE KIRBY

After living and working abroad, Lee has been instrumental in the development of the structure and direction of the College. As Director of Studies, Lee is in charge of motivating and guiding all our students, especially in the all-important Year 13. He draws on a wealth of experience of different aspects of Ashbourne, from pastoral care to administration and management, previously holding the role of Director of Operations. He is also an accomplished musician and sportsman.



**Assistant Director of Studies  
Leader of Faculties**

### JAMES WYKES

Since joining Ashbourne in 2007, James has made an outstanding contribution to the academic development of the school. As well as leading an exceptionally successful English Department, he was instrumental in establishing Drama as a vital part of Ashbourne's curriculum. He has enriched the College's cultural life with initiatives that have ranged from the college newspaper to critical theory seminars. Above all, as Assistant Director of Studies and Leader of Faculties, he has guided and motivated countless Ashbourne students and has presided over the evolution of the College's distinctive educational approach.



**Assistant Director of Studies  
Head of Year 12**

### ROB KOCHO

Rob Kocho joined Ashbourne College in 2010. His many years spent working in educational environments around the world made him an exciting addition to the Faculty of Natural Sciences. He is passionate about the environment and instigated our annual international Biology field trip. After two successful years as Head of Middle School, Rob was appointed Assistant Director of Studies in 2013. Rob has made an invaluable contribution as Head of Year 12 and is the driving force behind the Year 12 personal tutoring programme. He is responsible for the implementation of the Year 12 student voice, as well as being heavily involved in school events such as the annual European cultural trip.





## High Expectations

### Engagement

Engagement, interaction and communication are fundamental to understanding Ashbourne's success. Class sizes are limited to 10 and exceed this number only in exceptional circumstances. The average is seven. This allows teachers to deal with the needs of each student, creates an animated and productive atmosphere and offers an outstanding degree of personal attention.

### Interaction

A key to the process of education is feedback. Our teachers are able to set and mark much more homework because class sizes are small and teaching time significantly exceeds what is found in most other schools or colleges.

### Supervised Structured Work

In class students are constantly encouraged and engaged: reviewing homework, asking questions or working on supervised assignments. Progress through any syllabus is energetic but never stressful.

### Exam Confidence

The supervised classwork includes formal mock exams every half term. Past examination questions provide a focus for all tuition. This preparation means that students can approach exams in a relaxed and confident manner.



### WILL JACOBS

*English Literature A, History A, Mathematics A*

Will combined his proficiency in mathematics with a real flair for humanities. He performed extremely well with us in his GCSEs in all subjects. As well as being an effective A-Level student, he relished 'thinking out of the box' and had a strong grasp of abstract concepts in historiography and critical theory. Will has commented on the connections that he made at Ashbourne and the boost to his confidence that he received while studying here. 'I've gone from being a really average student ... to gaining As at A level and I think that turn-around is a testament to the teaching.'

Will is currently reading History at London School of Economics.

### Subject Choice, Flexibility

Ashbourne offers its A level students a plethora of subjects from which to choose, virtually without restriction. Students are excited and motivated by this freedom to create their own unique timetable.

The diversity of timetables provides many opportunities for encounters between students with different interests and personalities. This promotes harmony as well as performance.



#### VALENTINA FUNARO

*Biology A\*, Chemistry A, Mathematics A, Psychology A, Spanish A*

Valentina is an exceptionally motivated and focused student who came to Ashbourne from a leading performing arts school. She decided to change direction without knowing at first precisely what she wanted to study. She really enjoyed 'the small class sizes', 'focused' teaching and left as a first-rate biologist and chemist 'with a very clear idea of what I want to do.'

Valentina is now reading Biomedical Science at Imperial College.

## A Personal Approach

### Personal Tutors

The Director of Studies leads a team of Personal Tutors who act as the students' guides, counsellors and motivators. The Personal Tutor is the liaison between students, parents and teachers.

### Guidance

The Personal Tutors encourage the development of independence, confidence and ambition. As counsellors, they provide both pastoral and academic support, giving each of their students individual attention and advice.

### Communication

Teachers write reports for each of their students four times each year but, more importantly, report any concerns immediately to the Personal Tutor. These reports include comments on homework completion, grades, attendance, effort, ability, punctuality and participation.

### Academic Focus

The high expectation we have for both staff and students has produced excellent exam results. We insist that all assigned work is submitted and, together with our Personal Tutors, the Assistant Directors of Studies and Director of Studies supervise the completion of any outstanding work.



### Law Programme

Ashbourne College runs a specialist programme for applicants to Law school. The programme focuses on enabling students to make the best possible university applications through a series of legal seminars. The seminars introduce students to key legal concepts as well as giving them the opportunity to discuss issues such as 'What is law?' and the relationship between law and morality. Ashbourne is also fortunate to be able to draw on the experience of expert outside speakers who provide invaluable advice on the legal profession.

The seminars provide students with the most up-to-date information about their chosen course and profession. The insights that they gain are invaluable for writing strong personal statements and making the best decisions about their future. Students are also prepared for the LNAT test required by many Law schools.

The programme is led by Dennis Fulcher, an experienced teacher, and Christopher Masters, a Law graduate from the University of Oxford.

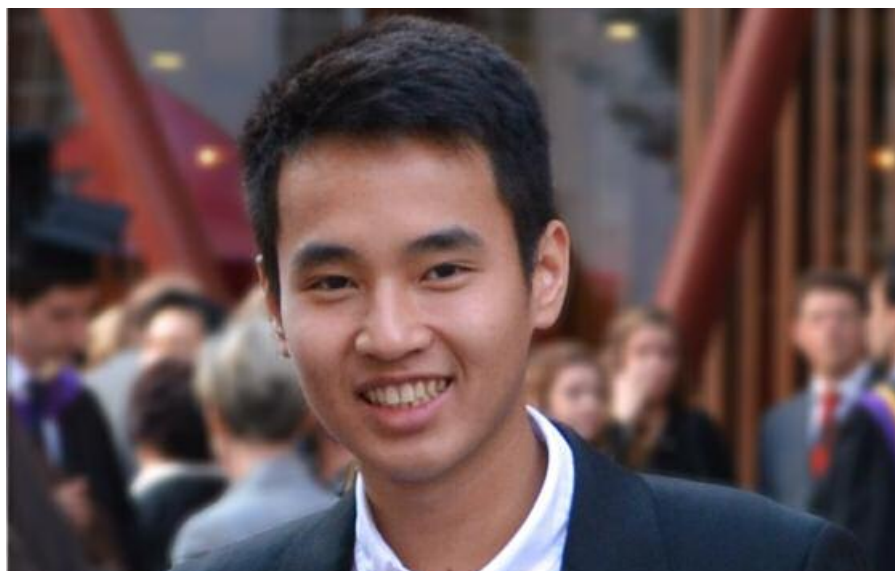


#### NATASHA KAULSAY

*Biology A, Economics A, History A*

Natasha gained four offers to read Law at university. She went on to achieve a first-class honours degree at Queen Mary University of London and has now started her BPP Legal Practice Course (LPC). She is well on the way to forging a legal career and will join us on Ashbourne's Law School Programme in order to share her experiences of studying Law at university.

As she has said, 'I was drawn to apply to Ashbourne at first based on their phenomenal reputation in the UK, but the reality far exceeded my expectations ... The hard work and determination required ... at Ashbourne really set me up for life at university as I knew what I had to do to stay ahead and still even applied revision tactics and tips from Ashbourne tutors to the final year of my law degree!'



## HONG MINH NGUYEN

*Chemistry A\*, Further Mathematics A\*, Mathematics A\*, Physics A\**

Minh is an extremely capable student of Maths and Sciences who took many of his Maths modules a year early, while completing his GCSEs. He then developed interests that went well beyond the A-Level curriculum. He followed innovations in engineering through various media, showing a particular interest in the environmental aspects of new technology. He learned to explain difficult concepts succinctly and richly deserved his place at Cambridge University, where he is studying Engineering.

## Science, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Computing

"Science may set limits to knowledge, but should not set limits to imagination."

*Bertrand Russell (1872 – 1970)*

Having begun over 30 years ago as a specialist college in Mathematics, Science and Economics, Ashbourne has a long tradition of success in the science subjects.

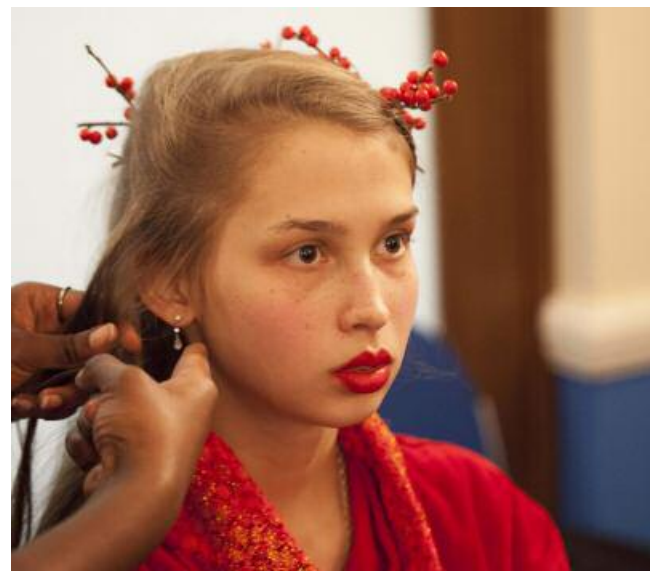
Over the past three years, 61% of our results have been at A\*/A and 83% at A\*/A/B in Mathematics. We are extremely proud of our performance in all of our subjects but would like to highlight the exceptional achievement in this discipline.

### Engineering Programme

Ashbourne College runs a specialist programme for applicants wishing to study Engineering at university. The programme builds on many years of success in placing students in top Engineering departments. It prepares the students to make the best possible UCAS applications through a series of seminars and talks, group projects and field visits. Students will be taught to understand the different streams of engineering and how they relate to each other. The course also covers the changing role of the engineer in contemporary society.

The programme is overseen by Course Leader, Sean Pillai, who is an enthusiastic and dynamic Engineering graduate from Warwick University.

Graphic Design, Photography, Fine Art, Textiles



LIDIIA MAKAROVA

*Fine Art A\*, History of Art A\*, Russian A\*, Textiles A\**

Lidiia is a gifted figurative painter, draughtsman and sculptor. She has a strong interest in combined media and the manipulation of a range of materials, including textiles. She is also a talented art historian, and her work draws on a range of sources, from surrealism to her own Ukrainian heritage. Lidiia is currently studying BA Fashion at Central Saint Martin's.



**Head of Arts Faculty**  
**Teacher of Fine Art**

### LAWRENCE QUIGLEY

*MA Fine Art, Painting and Printmaking (Royal Academy of Arts, London)*

*BA Fine Art, Painting and Printmaking (Loughborough College of Art and Design)*

*Foundation Course Diploma in Art and Design (Laird School of Art, Birkenhead)*

*Secondary Education (Art and Design) PGCE (University of Leeds)*

Since joining Ashbourne in 2011, Lawrie has presided over an exceptionally strong art department. In 2016 more than 62% of our grades in Fine Art were A\* or A. Students benefit from the detailed specialist advice offered by Lawrie and his department in preparing and presenting their portfolios, and Ashbourne's outstanding reputation has resulted in many successful applications to leading London art schools. Lawrie also organises several exhibitions each year in London galleries in order to showcase the artistic talent of Ashbourne's students.

Lawrie is an accomplished figurative artist in his own right, with numerous residencies, solo exhibitions and works in collections such as Leeds University Gallery and the Welsh Arts Council. He places great emphasis on technique and practical skills, while also encouraging students to develop their own styles and themes. All Art students are exposed to a wide variety of artistic media, whether they are specialising in Fine Art, Graphic Design, Textiles, Photography or are taking the combined Art, Craft and Design A Level.



## MUXUE LI

*Graphics A\*, Chinese A, Fine Art A*

Muxue is a very talented artist who relocated to London with her family. Despite initially struggling with English, she settled very well into life at Ashbourne, commenting that she always found her teachers friendly and helpful. She developed into a highly productive and creative art student, with a particular flair for figurative work and illustration. Muxue won two prizes at the Leighton House art competition for school students and had work exhibited by local businesses, giving her art significant public exposure. She went on to an Art Foundation course at Camberwell College, University of Arts London.



## AMY HYAM

*Fine Art A\*, History of Art A\*, Classical Civilisation A*

Amy's very strong skills as a draughtsman and painter of the human figure has led her to win numerous prizes. She won the competition for local art students at Leighton House and has had work shown at 'Art Explosion' in London's Saatchi Gallery, as well as at local businesses. Her academic background in the history of art and classical civilisation gives her work deep cultural resonances. She is currently taking an Art Foundation course at City and Guilds of London Art School.





**SUSANNAH BAIN**

*Drama A\*, English Literature A\*, History A, Philosophy A*

Susannah, who was home-schooled before joining us, enjoyed the stimulating academic and cultural life at Ashbourne. A highly sensitive and intelligent actor, she brought to the College her wide reading and impressive analytical skills, which she was able to develop fully during her time with us.

As Susannah has put it: 'the best thing about the college is the teaching approach. Rather than having information drilled into you, you are taught through conversation. This means students act maturely and are well prepared for learning at a higher level. It also, personally, taught me to have confidence in myself, and this helped me to gain a place at my university of choice.'

Susannah is now reading History at UCL.

Humanities

In the Humanities, there is depth and excellence across a vast range of subjects from which, in general, students may choose freely.

Classical Civilisation	German*	Music
Drama and Theatre Studies	Government and Politics	Philosophy
English Literature	History	Portuguese*
Film Studies	History of Art	Psychology
French	Italian*	Sociology
Geography	Media Studies	Spanish

English Literature

The English Department, led by James Wykes, is exceptionally high-performing in terms of A-Level results and university placements. Despite the emphasis on exam success, English lessons are, above all, thrilling intellectual experiences, in which students are shown how to read texts closely and place them in their literary and social context.

English at Ashbourne has also benefited from the presence of talented students of Drama, another high-performing subject. Some of these students have come to Ashbourne on our scholarship scheme, which also applies to gifted musicians.

\*Please consult with Admissions



## FRANCESCA NARDONE

*Music A\*, French A, Mathematics A*

Francesca's career at Ashbourne exemplified the connection that has often been made between the disciplines of Mathematics and Music. As one of the College's Music students, she excelled in both subjects, as well as being a fine linguist. With this versatility, she was admirably suited to her chosen degree course, Liberal Arts at King's College London.

## Performing Arts – Drama and Music

A student's time is divided between classroom lessons and practical theatre sessions, including six visits to the theatre each year. Thus we combine academic rigour with the practical and creative demands of the course. Exceptionally in Drama, practical workshops are deliberately limited to 5/6 students; this enables us to give our students the direction, energy and commitment that they deserve.

Our Music A level programme is gradually expanding every year. We are very confident that it will go from strength to strength, with new music ensembles and a new music facility, including a music practice area and Mac computers supporting the advanced composition and recording software.

### Auditions

The College hosts annual scholarship auditions. For Drama each student is asked to prepare a monologue of their own choosing, on which they will be asked to comment in their interview. For Music, in addition to an interview, each student is asked to prepare and perform a piece of their choice.

### Ashbourne Revue

The very popular annual Ashbourne Revue is a fantastic opportunity for drama and music students to showcase their talents. The show is open to all students across the College and includes dance, drama, music and fashion and involves around 50% of the student body.



### University Entrance – an Overview

Helping each student to make a confident application to university is one of the strengths of our UCAS Personal Tutor system. Our concern is to understand our students' abilities and aspirations, whilst ensuring that they choose appropriate courses and present themselves as effectively as possible in their UCAS applications. Last year more than 50% of our students were admitted to Russell Group universities, and almost 20% of them won a place at either Cambridge, UCL, LSE or Imperial College.

#### SOALA AJIENKA

*Fine Art A\*, Mathematics A\*, Physics A\*, History of Art A*

Soala is a Nigerian student who made rapid progress in both her art and her academic studies when she joined Ashbourne. She has commented on the friendliness of staff and students as well as the calm yet charged teaching atmosphere. 'I found the Personal Tutor system at Ashbourne extremely helpful, as through the support of my tutors I was able to make a strong application to the universities of my choice!' Soala is now reading Architecture at the University of Cambridge.



## Oxford, Cambridge and Medical School Entrance

Ashbourne's specialist programme for applicants to Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine and other demanding courses builds on many years of impressive results. Students are prepared for the BMAT, UKCAT and other aptitude tests required by Oxford, Cambridge and Imperial College among others.

Ashbourne is fortunate to be able to draw on the experience of academics and other professionals who provide invaluable advice to our students.

Through seminars and talks by outside speakers, the programmes give the most up-to-date information about the students' chosen course and profession, providing insights that are invaluable for making strong university applications.

In 2016, five students won places at Cambridge to read Architecture, Engineering, English and Mathematics respectively.





Ashbourne is fortunate to have a wonderful location in a quiet street close to Kensington Palace and Hyde Park. It benefits from this beautiful setting as well as the easy access to such cultural sites as the Royal Albert Hall and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Ashbourne's main building at Old Court Place is fully equipped for A level study. There is wireless, broadband Internet access throughout the College and a full range of learning resources including the near-universal provision of interactive boards. The laboratories are modern and well-equipped for all the Science subjects the College offers.

The Media and Film room contains digital video and audio facilities for recording

and editing, using state-of-the-art iMacs. These facilities enable students to work on creative publishing, graphic design and computer animation projects.

Visual Arts and the GCSE department are housed at our building in Young Street, two minutes' walk from Old Court Place. There are studios for Fine Art and Textiles, Graphic Design and Photography, including a dark room and processing area.

We also have a facility dedicated to Drama in our nearby premises at 47 Kensington Court. This inspiring space, with its elegant skylights and modern fixtures, is on the upper floor of a period building, which also houses a suite of state-of-the-art classrooms.

## ACCOMMODATION AND WELFARE

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Ashbourne is happy to provide a list of hostels and homestays to which students may apply independently; it has no dedicated accommodation and is not a boarding school.

### Types of Accommodation

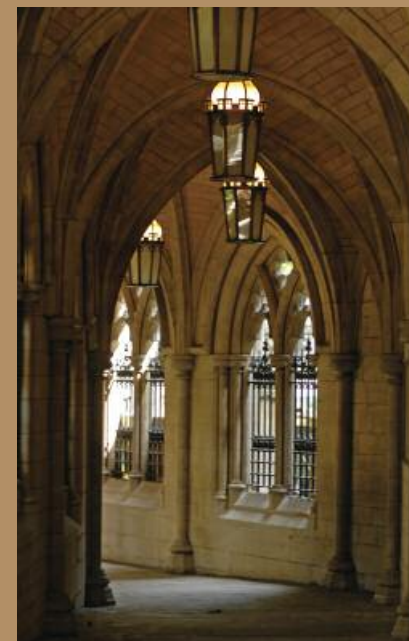
There are various accommodation options for anyone studying at Ashbourne. Nearby are several hostels where students from Ashbourne and other colleges reside. Students may also choose to stay with a host family where they can study whilst experiencing life as part of an English family. The College has about 75 students who live in these types of accommodation, with almost equal numbers in hostels and homestays.

### Suppliers of Accommodation

Ashbourne has a list of suppliers who have provided accommodation for Ashbourne students over many years. Parents, students or guardians may use this list to arrange accommodation, and just as they apply to the College, deal directly with these suppliers or make their own arrangements. Ashbourne does not inspect the accommodation offered by the providers and does not make any claim or guarantee as to the standard or safety of the premises listed. Nonetheless, we receive few complaints about these providers and generally feedback has been very positive.

### Education Guardianship

Parents of students who are resident outside the UK should appoint an education guardian for the student in the UK who can take responsibility for the student and provide them with support when they are not in the care of the College. The education guardian should be given legal authority to act on behalf of the parents in all respects. The parents are responsible for satisfying themselves as to the suitability of an education guardian and should keep the College up-to-date with the contact details for the education guardian appointed.





### Cultural Visit to Europe

Every year, the College visits a major European city during the Spring half-term, enhancing students' appreciation of the European cultural heritage of art, architecture, music and drama. In recent years, the college has visited Barcelona, Paris, Rome and Vienna amongst others.

### Special Events

Recent special events arranged by Ashbourne have included:

- Tour of London for new students
- Opera - La Traviata
- Show - Cirque du Soleil
- Musical - Wicked, Stomp, Aladdin
- Go Karting competition
- Maths competition
- Bowling competition
- Art gallery trips
- Ballet - Swan Lake, Giselle
- Various theatre trips in London
- Laser Tag competition



*Year 13 Biology field trip.  
Algarve, Portugal*

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



## Extra-curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities have always been integral to the Ashbourne ethos, providing a platform for the varied talents and interests of the College's vibrant student body. In recent years, the activities programme has been expanded to feature numerous clubs, trips and social events.

- Ashbourne Magazine
- Astro Particle Physics club
- Bollywood
- Chess club
- Choir
- Composition and Recording club
- Critical Theory seminars
- Debate club
- Drama club
- Fashion club
- Film club
- French club
- German club
- Italian club
- Japanese club
- Knitting
- LGBTQ+
- Meditation and Mindfulness
- Music Improvisation club
- Photography club
- Programming
- Spanish club
- Tango and Salsa
- 8-a-side football



### Technology at Ashbourne

Ashbourne is committed to promoting the use of innovative and accessible new technologies to organise, manage and deliver the learning experiences and outcomes of their students.

In addition to the near-universal provision of interactive boards, the range of tools includes subject blogs which collate learning materials and resources and are accessible anywhere in the world via the Internet (parents included). They can be used to structure and organise delivery of the curriculum, provide a resource for students to revisit lectures, provide links to useful content in web, audio/video form or provide access to multi-media learning resources. Past papers, mark schemes and subject-specific advice relating to universities are also increasingly made available.

The Media and Film departments have experimented with the introduction of Google docs, which has an integrated facility for live-time collaborative teaching and learning. Any student equipped with widely available IOS devices (iPhones, iPads...) can integrate teacher and student learning. Through Zenbe shareflow teachers and students can share research, questions, tasks, links and reminders outside of class-time. This dramatically improves student focus so that they arrive at class with an immediate sense of purpose, ready to participate and learn. Prezi, a powerful animated presentation tool, allows for up to 10 participants to collaborate on the creation of a single presentation.



#### JUSTIN VALLIS

*Economics A\*, English Literature A, Mathematics A*

Justin flourished at Ashbourne after coming to us from Charterhouse. He is currently reading Economics at the University of Durham.

## Personal Tutors

Success in education depends on unlocking the student's potential. Through its system of Personal Tutors Ashbourne aims to be at the forefront of educational practice, ensuring that students study and prepare for exams as effectively as possible. The help that Personal Tutors provide is vital in achieving this aim, and Personal Tutors also provide an essential link between the College, parents and guardians. We are proud of the many compliments that we have received for our emphasis on communication and personal attention.

Each student receives individual assistance from their Personal Tutor, who is assigned to them at the beginning of the year. The Personal Tutors for Years 10, 11 and 13 are the heads of those years, while five Personal Tutors are dedicated to Year 12.

Initially a Personal Tutor will meet students in a group and focus on important academic issues of study skills and management of time. First and foremost, the Personal Tutor will ensure that all students fulfill their academic potential by monitoring their work and performance in examinations. Personal Tutors liaise weekly with teachers, Assistant Directors of Studies and the Director of Studies.

As well as producing academic work of the highest quality, a student must make a strong UCAS application in order to be accepted into a top-ranking university. Ashbourne provides each student with a dedicated UCAS tutor, who oversees the whole application process. The student will engage with the UCAS tutor on a



one-to-one basis to ensure that the most confident application is made. Where appropriate, this assistance will include interview practice and preparation for special entry exams such as BMAT and LNAT.



## One-Year A Level Courses

For students who are able, determined and have strong academic foundations, one-year A Level courses offer outstanding opportunities. These can include one-year intensive courses for students who have never studied the A Level in question before; retake (resit) courses; and transfers from the lower sixth in another school to the upper sixth at Ashbourne. We also offer 18-month courses.

Ashbourne has been delivering highly successful intensive courses for more than thirty years. The keys to the success of these intensive courses are small classes, exam orientation and outstanding teaching. Most importantly, we provide almost double the usual teaching time so that students can approach their exams in a relaxed and confident manner.

### LUCIA ZUBALOVA

*Film Studies A\*, German A, History of Art A*

Lucia, who is from Slovakia, joined Ashbourne after completing a one-year exchange programme in Toronto. She wanted to pursue her History of Art studies in the UK and so enrolled for a one-year A Level course. As she has put it, 'my year at Ashbourne was very intense, but I will always remember it as a positive environment, where every problem has a solution ... I lacked confidence to apply to the best universities at first, but my UCAS tutor helped me to prepare for my interview and entrance exam.'

Lucia is now reading History of Art at the Courtauld Institute of Art.



### JOSH KILLALEA

*Politics A\*, Economics A, Psychology A*

Josh came to Ashbourne from the state sector after taking his GCSEs. He made rapid and substantial progress, achieving excellent A Level results and contributing greatly to Ashbourne's clubs and extra-curricular activity. Josh has commented on Ashbourne's teacher-to-student ratio: 'They try to keep the classes as small as possible and that means that teachers can really dedicate their time to you, understand you and understand what your strengths are and what motivates you, and then use that to educate you to the best of their abilities.' He has also remarked on the dedication of Ashbourne's teaching staff: 'The thing about Ashbourne teachers is that it's almost immediately obvious that every single one of them loves what they do.'

Josh is now reading Law and Politics at Queen Mary, University of London.



### DANIAL RAHIMI FARAHANI

*Mathematics A\*, Persian A\*, Biology A, Chemistry A, Further Mathematics A*

Danial's success at Ashbourne began in his first year with us. In a single year Danial achieved 7A\* and 2As at GCSE, despite having come from a non-British education system. Danial has developed an exceptionally wide range of skills, from computing to music. However, he particularly excelled in Maths and the Sciences and gained a place to read Medicine at UCL. He has described Ashbourne's unique qualities as "...encouraging independent learning while providing students with sufficient support when needed, along with its active, lively and friendly atmosphere."

### Admissions

Ashbourne aims to attract students with good character and solid academic achievements. The College takes great care with admissions and interviews each applicant. The interview is friendly, informal and without obligation.

### A Level Courses

A level students may choose to study for 1 year, 18 months (beginning in January) or 2 years. Each of these longstanding courses has their own specific format; in particular, extra teaching time is allocated for the more intensive courses.

### Transfer from AS Level

Having taken their AS levels elsewhere, students are welcome to transfer to Ashbourne to complete their A level studies.





### Head of Middle School

#### RUPERT BROWETT

*BA History (Goldsmiths)*

*CELTA Level 4 (Cambridge)*

Rupert Browett, who has worked at Ashbourne for more than 15 years, led the College's EFL Department. However, since 2013 he has headed Ashbourne's Middle School and has presided over a period of growth, accompanied by excellent GCSE results and exceptional pastoral care. He and his department place a strong emphasis on the personal development and wellbeing of the pupils, who are from a wide range of backgrounds and nationalities.

Although renowned for its A level programme, the College has more than 30 successful years of experience at GCSE. Rupert Browett ensures that the students are especially well cared for, motivated and, as with all of our pupils, happy. The Middle School offers a one year or two year GCSE programme. The first year is organised around the national curriculum so that students usually study the following:

- Art
- Computing
- Drama
- Economics
- Geography
- History
- English Language and Literature
- French or another major European language
- Mathematics and Science (Physics, Chemistry and Biology)
- Music
- PSHEE (Personal, Social and Health Economics Education)
- Sports

For their final year (or the single year for the one-year course) students take both core (compulsory) and optional subjects.

**Core subjects:** Mathematics, Science, English Language, English Literature, another major European language, PSHEE, Sports.

**Optional subjects:** Art, History, Geography, Economics, Music, Computing, Drama.

For all subject choices, please contact the Admissions department to discuss in more detail. Other subjects may be available on request.

## SUBJECT AVAILABILITY

	A LEVEL	GCSE		A LEVEL	GCSE
Accounting	●		History of Art	●	
Art, Craft and Design	●		*Italian	●	●
Art and Design		●	*Japanese	●	●
Biology	●	●	*Latin	●	
Chemistry	●	●	Mathematics	●	●
Classical Civilisation	●		Media Studies	●	
Computing	●	●	Music	●	●
Drama and Theatre Studies	●	●	Philosophy	●	
Economics	●	●	Photography	●	●
English Language		●	Physics	●	●
English Literature	●	●	Psychology	●	
Film Studies	●		Science		
Fine Art	●	●	<i>(combined Biology, Chemistry, Physics)</i>		●
French	●	●	Sociology	●	
Further Mathematics	●		Spanish	●	●
Geography	●	●	Textiles	●	●
*German	●	●			
Government and Politics	●				
Graphic Design	●	●			
History	●	●			

\*Please consult with Admissions

Fees 2017 / 18

A Level (AS and A2) Courses

Two year courses	
Three/four subjects per term	£8,000
One Year and 18 Month Courses	
Three/four subjects per term	£8,000

Exam Fees

AS level per subject	£150
A2 level per subject	£150

GCSE Courses

One year courses	
Five or more subjects per term	£8,000
Two year courses	
Five or more subjects per term	£8,000

Exam Fees

GCSE per subject	£100
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International Students

International students per term <i>(applying directly from overseas)</i>	£8,500
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Additional Fees

Individual tuition per hour	£90
Registration fee	£250
Refundable book deposit	£200
Practical fees per subject, per term <i>(for A level students of Fine Art, Graphics, Music, Photography, Textiles, Drama and the Sciences)</i>	£225

Term Dates 2017 / 18

Autumn Term

First day of term	Monday 4th September 2017
Half-term	Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October 2017
End of term	Friday 15th December 2017

Spring Term

First day of term	Tuesday 2nd January 2018
Half-term	Monday 12th to Friday 16th February 2018
End of term	Friday 23rd March 2018

Easter Revision

Week 1	Monday 26th March 2018
Week 2	Monday 2nd April 2018
Week 3	Monday 9th April 2018

Summer Term

First day of term	Monday 16th April 2018
<i>There is no half-term or study leave, except for Bank Holidays</i>	
End of term	Friday 25th May 2018

## Principal Head of Mathematics and Physics Faculty

Michael Kirby\*  
MSc (London), BApSc (Toronto)  
Mathematics, Physics

## Director of Studies Head of Year 13

Lee Kirby\*  
SEN Coordinator

## Assistant Director of Studies Leader of Faculties Head of Humanities Faculty

James Wykes\*  
BA (Hons) English (Wales), MA (Birkbeck),  
PGCE (King's College)  
English Literature

## Assistant Director of Studies Head of Year 12 Year 12 Personal Tutor

Rob Kocho\*\*  
BSc (Sunshine Coast, Australia), BEd  
(Queensland Technology)  
Biology

## Head of Middle School

Rupert Browett  
BA History (Goldsmiths),  
CELTA Level 4 (Cambridge)  
IELTS

## Designated Safeguarding Lead

Frances Burns  
BA General (Liverpool)  
MA Drama (Ohio)  
Drama

\* indicates that the member of staff  
is also a UCAS Tutor

\*\* indicates that the member of staff  
is also a Personal Tutor

## Heads of Faculties

### Head of Finance and Computer Science Faculty

Ruchi Agarwal\*  
Bcom (Delhi University), MSc Computer  
Applications (University of Meerut),  
ICT PGCE (IOE)  
Computing

### Head of Multi-Media and Social Science Faculty

Dennis Fulcher\*  
BSc Sociology (Kingston), MA Politics and  
Government (London Metropolitan),  
PGCE (Greenwich)  
Film Studies, Government and Politics,  
Media Studies

### Head of Natural Sciences Faculty

Amy Harper-Tarr\*  
BSc Neuroscience (King's College)  
Biology

### Head of Arts Faculty

Lawrence Quigley\*  
MA Fine Art, Painting & Printmaking (RAA),  
BA Fine Art, Painting & Printmaking  
(Loughborough), Art & Design Foundation  
Diploma (Laird School of Art, Birkenhead),  
Art PGCE (Leeds)  
Fine Art

### Head of Languages Faculty

Alberto Lado Rey\*  
MA Hispanic Studies (UCL), BA English  
Language, PGCE (Santiago de Compostela  
University, Spain)  
Spanish

### Head of Culture and Society Faculty

Will Stockland\*  
MA History of Art Hons (Edinburgh)  
History of Art, IELTS

## Year 12 Personal Tutors

Katie Pettitt\*\*  
BA, History or Art and English (Birmingham),  
MA, History of Art (Essex), PGCE  
History of Art, English Literature, Media Studies

Sean Pillai\*\*  
MA Civil Engineering with Business  
Management (Warwick)  
Mathematics

Amjad Shah\*\*  
BSc (Glasgow), BSc (UEL), PGCE  
Chemistry, Science

Sarah Thompson\*\*  
BA Human Sciences (Oxford),  
MSc Neuroscience (UCL)  
Psychology

## Teaching Staff

Seema Ali  
BSc Maths, PGCE (Durham)  
Mathematics

Zahra Behrang  
MSc Mathematical Sciences (Tabriz University,  
Iran), PhD Pure Mathematics (Birmingham)  
Mathematics

Cristina Bottigella  
BA Italian Literature and Contemporary Art  
(Milan), MA Cultural Policy (City University)  
Italian

Arabella Bridge  
BA English Literature (Open University),  
PGCE Education (Sussex)  
English Literature

Joanna Budden  
BA History (Leeds), PGCE Secondary Education  
(Manchester Metropolitan)  
History

## Stephen Burton

BA Geography, PGCE, PhD Philosophy (Leicester)  
Sociology

## Frances Bushe

BA English (UCL), MA Acting (Arts Educational  
School), PGCE Education (Cambridge)  
Drama

## Brendan Casey

BSc Economics (LSE), BEd (Greenwich)  
Accounting, Economics

## George Chaldezos

BA Classical Civ (Aristotle Uni of Thessaloniki),  
PhD Classical Civ (Cambridge), PGCE (UCL)  
Classical Civilisation, Latin

## Sheila Cosgrove

BA Design & Textile Design (Chelsea College of  
Art), CFA (Ruskin School of Drawing, Oxford),  
BSc Design (University of Cincinnati, USA),  
Fashion Illustration (School of Visual Arts,  
NYC, USA)  
Textiles

## John Curran

BSc Economics (CNA), MA Economics  
Education (UCL), MEd Policy, Research &  
Professional Practice (London Metropolitan)  
Economics

## Rupinder Dhillon

BSc Industrial and Natural Resource Chemistry  
(Brunel), PGCE (Brunel)  
Mathematics

## Carolina Emmanuel

BSc Mathematics (Nottingham),  
Dip Actuarial Techniques, Cert. Finance and  
Investment (Institute and Faculty of Actuaries)  
Mathematics

## Jeremy Evans

BSc Hons (Aberystwyth), FSI (City University)  
Geography

**May Everett**

BA Fine Art (Brighton), Foundation Diploma (City College Brighton), PGCE (Brighton) Fine Art

**Jennifer Fee**

BSc Industrial Design Engineering (Brunel), PGCE Secondary Science (Institute of Education), QTS (Dept of Education) Mathematics, Science

**Louise Forster**

BA German and Italian (Reading) German

**Peter Franklyn**

BSc Science (LSE), QTS (GTC), PGCE Mathematics (Middlesex) Mathematics

**Joanna Kay**

BA Painting (Camberwell College, UAL) Photography

**Natalia Lemanska-Kazemzadeh**

MA Psychology, MA Law (St Andrew's), MPhil Criminological Research (Cambridge), PhD Criminology (Manchester) Psychology

**Lisa Kilmartin**

BA Natural Sciences, (Trinity College, Dublin), PGCE (University College Dublin) Biology

**Sahib Marwaha**

LLB Law (Reading), PDip Legal Skills (City University) Psychology

**Chella Nathan**

MA Mathematics (Open University), PGCE (Greenwich), BA Engineering (University of North London), BSc Physics (Jaffna University) Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics

**Sakae Osakabe**

Diploma in Floral Art & Design (NAFAS), Japanese Language Teachers Training Course (Japanese Education Teachers Society), Japanese Teachers Training (Asahi Culture Center) Japanese

**Virash Patel**

BSc Chemistry, PhD Chemistry (University of North London) Chemistry

**Michael Peat**

BA Divinity (UCL), BSc Physics (Birmingham) Philosophy

**Harry Poole**

BA Geography (LSE) Economics

**Dr Barry Rhule**

PhD Philosophy (Westfield College, UCL), BSc Science (Polytechnic of North London) Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics

**Wesley Rykalski**

BA History, MA Medieval Studies (UCL) Media Studies, History

**Madeeha Saad**

BSc Mathematical Sciences (Open University), MSc Medical Statistics (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London) Mathematics

**Abdul Sami**

BSc Pure Mathematics, MSc Science in Mathematics (UCL), PhD Philosophy (Imperial College) Mathematics

**Sangthian (Jak) Sritraipop**

BA Applied Art (Silapakorn University, Thailand) Graphics, Photography

**Sophie Smith**

BA Film Studies (Kent), MA Arts Criticism (Kent) Film Studies

**Peter Stanton**

BSc History & Philosophy of Science (UCL), PGCE (London Metropolitan) Physics

**Piers Tattersall**

BA Music Composition (Royal Northern College of Music), MA Music Composition (Royal College of Music) Music

**Christopher Todd**

BSc Chemistry (East Anglia) PGCE (Roehampton) Chemistry

**Lauren Vanderhurst**

MA English (UCL), PGCE (IOE) English Language, English Literature

**Michael Wilkinson**

BA Politics (SOAS), MSc Politics and Sociology (Birkbeck College) Government and Politics

**Mark Youngman**

BSc Biochemistry (Southampton) Biology, Science

**Admissions and Marketing****Suzanna Liu**

BA French and German (King's College) Admissions and Visa Officer

**Christopher Masters\***

BA Law (Oxford), MA History of Art (Courtauld Institute), Admissions Tutor

**Anh Nguyen**

BA Graphic Design New Media (UCA) Admissions Officer

**Shaheena Teeluck**

LLB (Wolverhampton), LPC (Westminster) Head of Admissions

**IT and Premises****Fabio Carpena**

Facilities Manager

**Tim Cooke**

Facilities Assistant

**Eddy Nguyen**

Database Management & Statistics Officer

**Administration****Huong (Chloe) Bui**

PA to the Director of Studies

**Nancy Bui**

Head of Finance & Examinations

**Stephanie Cooke**

Activities Coordinator

**Marta Dongresova**

College Administrator

**Cassandra Denton**

College Administrator

**Anisha Joahill**

Year 12 Academic Administrator

**Marcus Loudon**

Head of Reception

**Kathleen McCullough\*\***

Year 13 Administrator  
Head of Academic Administration

**Christopher Mutter**

College Administrator

**Hien Nguyen**

Head of Administration

**Ruggero Romanelli**

Finance & Examinations Assistant

## ACCREDITATION

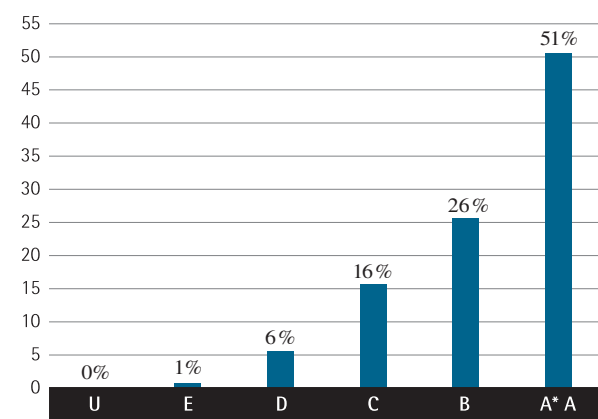
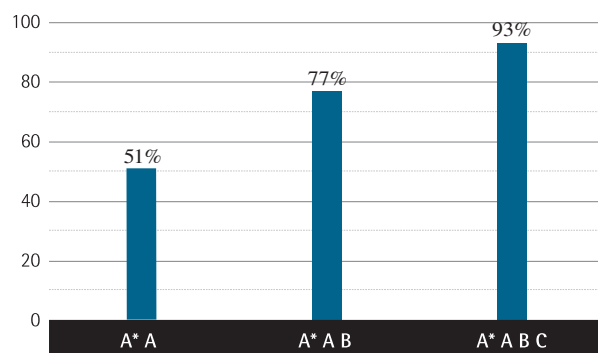
During its most recent inspection, Ashbourne received an outstanding report from OFSTED, the Government's inspectorate for education. The college received the highest grading in 6 of the 7 categories assessed. An excerpt from the report follows below and the full report may be accessed through the college's website.

*“Ashbourne Independent College provides an outstanding quality of education and meets its aims effectively. As a result of an outstanding curriculum and outstanding teaching the students make outstanding progress. Their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding, as is their behaviour. The college has robust procedures for safeguarding.”*

Ashbourne was also one of the first private colleges to achieve HTS (Highly Trusted Sponsor) status from the government body UKVI (United Kingdom Visa Immigration).



### A level 2016 (328 exams)



### University Destinations

The list below shows the most popular destinations of our A level graduates over the past 3 years. In Summer 2016 more than 50% of our graduates won a place at one of the Russell Group universities, including five students meeting their offers for Cambridge.

- University of Cambridge
- University College London (UCL)
- London School of Economics (LSE)
- Imperial College London
- King's College London
- University of Bristol
- University of Manchester
- University of Warwick
- Queen Mary, University of London
- City, University of London
- University of the Arts London (UAL)
- University of Sussex

# ASHBOURNE

Independent Sixth Form College Kensington



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