

# Ash Hill Academy

Prospectus 2023/24





# PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

On behalf of the Ash Hill Community, I would like to welcome you to our Academy.

Ash Hill Academy is an exciting place to learn and as soon as you enter the building you can feel a buzz of enthusiasm. There is a sense of purpose, and the Academy is calm and orderly, with state-of-the-art facilities.

Choosing the right secondary school for your child can be one of the most difficult decisions you make. I hope this prospectus gives you a flavour of what we offer, and that you will be eager to visit our Academy to find out more and to ask any questions you may have.

We believe that every child has a right to an outstanding education. We are determined to make this a reality at Ash Hill Academy.

At Ash Hill Academy, the entire school community is committed to providing an outstanding educational experience, allowing all students to achieve their undoubted potential. We deliver exciting and engaging lessons within a supportive environment.

We have a hugely talented staff team, who are dedicated in making sure, that every student has a curriculum and enrichment opportunities that meet their needs. We pride ourselves on high expectations, which ensure that our students are well organised, caring and supportive to one another and the community.

This is underpinned by the strong pastoral care which our students receive from our dedicated staff, which ensures we have a calm and well-ordered environment, which is focused on the successful outcomes for all.

In 2020, Ash Hill Academy was rated as a 'good' provider by Ofsted. We have continued to build on this success with our fantastic new building, soon to include a new sports centre to ensure that your child receives the very best education, in outstanding facilities.

In summary, I look forward to sharing more of the Academy's successes when you visit.

Mr Hicks  
Principal

# OUR VISION ...CHANGING

## Our Academy

Our mission is to 'Change Lives' and give every child in our care the grounding both academically and experientially to thrive in life.

Our relentless belief in students and staff is resulting in great achievements and is underpinned by a focus on collaboration through our teaching techniques to our tutor groups. We look forward to your visit and know you will leave amazed and wanting to be part of our community.

# G LIVES.

We will:

- Place students at the heart of everything we do.
- Place collaboration before competition, working with others for the betterment of all.
- Develop and support professionals in our own and other academies and schools to establish practice that improves lives.
- Adhere to the 'Seven principles of public life.'
- Ensure that all children make good progress irrespective of their starting point and those young people facing disadvantage are lifted from educational poverty.
- Never do anything to the detriment of learners, staff, or other stakeholders, in a neighbouring community.
- Promote environmental awareness and protection locally, nationally and globally.



# INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT



# FOR EVERY STUDENT

We believe in the values of: – Commitment and Perseverance – Compassion, Empathy and Tolerance – Courtesy, Respect and Selflessness – Honesty, Fairness and Trust – Teamwork – Safeguarding the welfare of our students and staff.

We take pastoral care very seriously at Ash Hill Academy, and we work tirelessly to make sure our students are happy and settled with no barriers to what they can achieve.

Each of our students attend a weekly year group assembly and meet within a tutor group on a daily basis. All available time is structured into learning opportunities and form groups are utilised to teach students all aspects of safety and wellbeing. Our students have collaborative learning opportunities in all subjects so that they benefit from each other's experiences and gain invaluable insights into working as a team.

We use a tried and tested student support system in which non-teaching staff focus on how each individual is progressing through the school, and step in if their help is needed. Each year group has a dedicated Learning Manager who is there to deal with any other issues our students may encounter, in or outside of school. We have other pastoral staff responsible for helping students with areas such as attendance and welfare, and we also have close working links with several external agencies.

Parents are able to develop strong relationships with their child's Form Tutor and Learning Manager. Furthermore, they have opportunities to meet with all their child's subject teachers at regular Parents' Evenings.

In essence, Ash Hill Academy's vision and values underpin everything we are striving to achieve on a daily basis for all staff, students and the wider community.

# RAISING ASPIRATIONS

At Ash Hill Academy we pride ourselves on providing a wide range of opportunities and experiences which allow students to succeed and fulfil their potential.

We pride ourselves on the broad and balanced curriculum we can provide for all students at Ash Hill Academy. We have designed our curriculum so that your child's programme of study will be individually tailored to suit their interests and needs, providing them with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed.

The Academy is dedicated to creating an environment which enables young people to grow and develop their independence in preparation for further education, university and employment. We work closely with parents, local partner schools and community groups, to build a caring ethos which meets the needs of our learning community.

We are committed to raise students' aspirations. We offer students the chance to explore a variety of career paths which cover a wide range of employment skills and opportunities, bridging the gap between secondary, further education, higher education and employment.

Through the support of our Academy Alumni, we are able to share the accomplishments of some of our former students who have achieved success in a diverse range of careers, including education, fashion design, photography and business.







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“I am so proud of my grades. I wouldn't have been so successful without the support of all of my teachers”

Alex E – Year 11

“

“My results have given me far more confidence in myself and my future, I can't wait to start college now”

Sophie C – Year 11



# BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING

We have a very clear, rigorous and fair approach to instilling the highest conceivable standards of behaviour for learning at Ash Hill Academy.

This serves to guarantee the best possible learning experiences and subsequent life chances available to our young people. Clear Delta Academies Trust policies and practice empowers us to ensure our students learn in lessons with clear learning objectives, challenging, well-paced and engaging activities, supported with highly, aspirational learning outcomes.

The Academy has high expectations and any student failing to fully focus their efforts will receive sanctions accordingly. This ensures that any disruptions to learning are swiftly addressed, teaching students to develop the self-discipline required to be successful throughout life.

Our Behaviour Policy is fully transparent with the aim to create a harmonious Academy culture that holds in high regard, effort, consideration and self-awareness, in collaboration with key stakeholders.

We believe that developing effective working relationships is essential in underpinning our fundamental core values.

We share this with students in a way that enables them to act positively and to help them understand how their actions can directly affect others as well as themselves, developing a sense of personal responsibility.

As an Academy, the emphasis on students having their planners available at all times is paramount. The student planner is integral to learning within lessons and also provides parents with a full overview of their child's daily activities, rewards, homework and behaviour aspects.

Throughout the year we regularly reward effort via positive praise assemblies with certificates and prizes. This emphasises that our educational vision is about the recognition and rewarding of students above all else for trying their best throughout the whole academic year.

# TRANSITION

The transition from primary to secondary school is the most important stage of your child's education to date. The structure of their day changes massively going from one teacher a day to a different teacher for each subject and moving round the Academy to get to their next lesson. The Academy is also much bigger than what they may be used to, which can be quite daunting in itself.

At Ash Hill Academy we work extremely hard in partnership with our primary feeder schools to make the transition process as smooth as possible. Our transition process begins early in the autumn term with some of our departments, for example Science working with our primary schools supporting them with aspects of the Year 6 curriculum. We hold our first transition event in October, inviting Year 5 and 6 students and their families to look round Ash Hill Academy. This introduces the students to the Academy and allows them to start preparing for the move from primary to secondary school.

Our family focus events welcome students and their families into the Academy to take part in a range of exciting opportunities. We feel that this gives our next year group of students a real chance to engage with Academy staff and students, to help them make the smoothest of transitions from primary to us.

Over the winter months a huge amount of work takes place behind the scenes as we and our primary colleagues work closely to share information about students who are moving up to the Academy, this allows us to ensure everything is in place ready for the start of Year 7 including appropriate support for SEND and vulnerable students.

In the Summer term we visit Year 6 students in their primary setting and speak with the staff at the primary schools to build up a full picture of every student prior to their start with us in Year 7. In addition, all students are invited to a two-day transition event at Ash Hill Academy. During these two days, they will meet key staff such as their Year Leader and Form Tutor.

Students experience a typical day in a secondary school and learn about the expectations and culture at the Academy. There will also be additional transition dedicated to SEND and vulnerable students in which families are invited into the academy to speak with members of the Inclusion and SEND teams to get students prepared to start in the autumn.

This rigorous transition process is complemented with SEND and vulnerable students being invited to the academy to work with key staff.

There is also a Parents' Evening where you are invited to tour the Academy, meet key staff and can ask questions about transition. The final stages of transition will be supported by a range of resources and materials available online to help students prepare for the next exciting stage of their education with us.



“

“My teachers are caring and kind and take the time to get to know me. I really enjoy my lessons”

Ellie S – Year 9

“

“Our year leaders stay with us through school, so I always feel like there's someone to talk to who knows me”

Jaydan B – Year 10



# CURRICULUM

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum and aim to develop our students in preparation for life in modern Britain. Our curriculum offer is adapted to meet individual needs where appropriate and therefore offers a range of pathways, designed to enable our students to explore and discover their strengths and talents. We have a strong focus on the core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science, RE, EPC (Ethics, Philosophy and Citizenship), French, Geography and History. In addition, we teach Design Technology, Computing, PE, Dance, Food Technology, Art, Music and Drama.

In Key Stage Four we offer a broad range of technical, vocational and academic subjects including the opportunity to study new subjects such as Health and Social Care, I-Media, Hospitality and Catering, Sports Science and Photography. Everyone has 25 lessons per week, each lasting an hour.



We employ a team of outstanding English and Mathematics tutors to support those who need a little extra help and we also run intervention sessions to develop reading in our library. We have a team of dedicated Teaching Assistants who work with individuals or small groups of students in lessons. There is a strong emphasis on personal development and preparing students for work and life beyond the Academy in the wider community.

We have an extensive tutor time programme when we learn about local and global issues with an underlying focus on improving reading, writing and oracy. We have assembly every week, and welcome visiting speakers into the Academy. Our careers and enterprise education offer is award-winning and we regularly work with visitors from a variety of professional backgrounds.

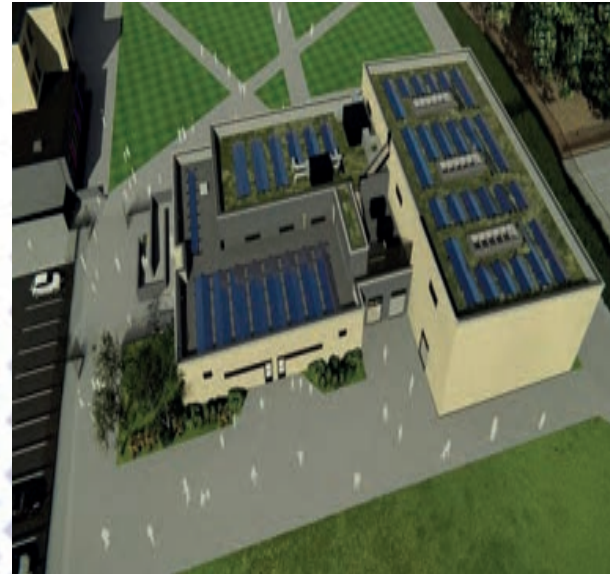
# WORLD CLASS FACILITIES

The new state of the art Sports Centre will open in January 2024

This outstanding facility will feature a state-of-the-art activity studio and sports hall. The new facility will have a low carbon footprint with solar panels and a green living roof to reduce carbon emissions.

Students will use these exceptional facilities during their Physical Education lessons throughout their learning journey at Ash Hill Academy and will be able to access them during the wide range of sports extra-curricular activities on offer.

Following on from the Sports Centre, Ash Hill Academy have plans to build 4G flood lit sports pitches, which will further enhance the sporting facilities on offer for Ash Hill Academy students and it will make the Sports Centre a Sporting Hub for the local community and the surrounding area of Doncaster.



'If you add a little to a little and do this often, soon the little will become great'.  
Hesiod (Greek Poet)

- Knowledge Organisers and quizzing.
- Sparx Maths.
- Reading for pleasure.

In addition to the above students may receive further home learning tasks on platforms such as GCSE Pod and Language Nut. These should be completed in addition to the above.

# READING FOR PLEASURE

As part of the nine main reading routes, students will be exposed to a range of genres:

## History

## Fantasy

## Mystery



# INCLUSION QUALITY MARK

Ash Hill Academy provides each student with exceptional pastoral and emotional support, together with a relentless focus on ensuring each young person reaches their potential.

At Ash Hill Academy, everybody's voice is heard, encouraged, and valued. Strong relationships are the key to our inclusive school which are developed through the outstanding pastoral support each student receives.

Ash Hill Academy is very proud to be an Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) Centre of Excellence. The school achieved this award following a rigorous assessment in March 2023.

Only around 240 schools in the UK have met the standard required to become an IQM Centre of Excellence for outstanding practice in inclusion.

The Inclusion Quality Mark provides schools with a nationally recognised framework to guide their inclusion journey. The IQM team help schools evaluate and measure how they are performing, empowering them to improve and develop.

Excellence states that Ash Hill Academy promotes equal opportunities for all pupils, whatever their age, ethnicity, attainment and background. It pays particular attention to the provision made for, and the achievement of, different groups of pupils within the Academy. Inclusion is at the heart of what we do at Ash Hill Academy and the IQM is recognition of the outstanding contribution of all at the school: pupils, parents, staff, trustees and local partners.

'Ash Hill Academy offers their students a consistent but individualised educational experience. This was evident in discussions with a number of students, who described the cultural awareness as evident across the school'. IQM March 2023

'Ash Hill Academy provides all pupils in all years the opportunities to have positive diverse cultural experiences'. IQM March 2023

'Safeguarding is given high priority; it is clear who is able to support if there are any worries or concerns'. IQM March 2023





# ENRICHMENT

At Ash Hill Academy we believe that learning and personal development is not just about what happens in the classroom, we firmly believe that opportunities beyond the classroom also play a critical part in the development and achievements of our students. We have a wide range of enrichment opportunities which broaden horizons, grow essential life skills, build self-confidence and resilience – and the students have fun while being a part of them!

## Our Approach

We have developed a new and exciting approach to enrichment at Ash Hill Academy. We have broken down the enrichment opportunities into four unique components.

**Contributions** – All year groups will have the opportunity to contribute to Academy life in different ways depending on the year group at the are in. This could be through representing the Academy in different roles, such as being part of an academic event, representing the school at a sporting event, being part of one of our enrichment clubs or debate team. Alternatively, it could be being part of a charitable event, presenting or representing the Academy at transition days, or being an anti-bullying ambassador.

**Experiences** – We strongly believe that students having a plethora of experiences outside of the Academy helps to broaden horizons and enables pupils to view academic content in real-life settings. Therefore, in addition to the many trips that are led by individual subject areas, we offer all students in every year group an opportunity to join us on different excursions. These range from a trip to the theatre and a coastal visit in year 7, numerous residentials in year 8, a visit to London in year 9, an exploration of different venues for further education in year 10 and to experience different cuisines in year 11.





**Contributions – Pledge 1, 2, 5**

You will contribute to representing the academy by:

- Hosting parents' evening and academy events – Pledge 2
- Being part of academy sports teams – Pledge 2
- Joining an academy academics team such as debate – Pledge 5
- Taking part in academy games clubs – Pledge 1
- Having a role in the academy choir or performance productions – Pledge 5

**Experiences – Pledge 7**

- Seaside
- Theatre Performance

**Celebrations**

- Awards Evening

**Careers -Internal Experiences**

1	2	3
Fire and Rescue	Engineering	IT/Programming

**Enrichment Pledge 1**

101	102	103	104	105	106
<b>Horrible Histories</b> Find out more about our gruesome past!	<b>Dance Starts</b>	<b>Rubik's Cube</b> Unlock your potential genius	<b>J'adore France</b> Immerse yourself in all things French	<b>Our Sustainable Futures</b>	<b>Sign of the Times (SSL)</b>

**All Year Round**

Science Club	Minecraft Club	Sports	Band	Choir	Drama Club	Choir Drumming	I Hola Español
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**Celebrations** – Celebrating students' successes is a vital element of our ethos at Ash Hill Academy. We therefore take time out of each half term to ensure that students are recognised for their efforts and accomplishments. The cumulation of these celebrations can be observed in our annual year 9 Graduation and the celebration of the hard work and achievements in the year 11 Prom.

**Enrichment** – We are proud to introduce our after-school enrichment package, tailored to allow pupils to best develop their interests and hobbies. Students have access to a wide range of personal development opportunities. Students have half termly opportunities to select which enrichment they would like to be a part of. They can choose to be a part of enrichments such as Ocean Explorers in Geography, Stainforth – This Is Your Life in History, Witchcraft and Wizardry in Science and many more.

In addition to this we also run our all-year-round enrichment opportunities such as 'The Big Band', SING! which is our choir group, Sports Nation where pupils are offered many afterschool sporting opportunities.

Enrichment allows students to create memories that last a lifetime and develop cultural capital to complement their academic achievement. We encourage all students to take part in an enrichment opportunity from our extensive range that we have on offer.



# UNIFORM

Parents tell us they welcome having clear knowledge of what their children are expected to wear for school. In light of this, we have produced these clear guidelines for you. The uniform at Ash Hill Academy will ensure they look professional and that they are ready to learn.

We thank you for your continued support in enabling us to maintain the high standards expected from Ash Hill Academy students.

ALL Year 7s get a FREE Uniform pack to start the year in the correct way. The uniform pack includes: Blazer, Skirt or trousers, shirts, tie and PE kit.

- Delta logo blazer
- White shirt with collar and top button (delta shirts optional)
- Trousers - Plain black; loose fitting trousers with a centre zip and button. (DELTA trousers are optional)
- Skirt - (optional) Plain black; they should be straight and knee length. (DELTA skirts are optional). Tights must be worn with skirts; socks are not permitted
- Plain black belt (if desired)
- Flat, plain black shoes (no trainers, pumps or boots and no embellishments)
- Black socks
- A4 sized bag
- Academy logo jumper (if desired, to be worn with Academy blazer, not instead of)



# #TeamAHA

## JOIN OUR TEAM!

Everyone who joins Ash Hill Academy automatically becomes part of #TeamAHA. As an Academy and community, we are all part of a team, with a real drive and focus on achieving our absolute best.

The Academy is incredibly proud of the team ethos we have built and continue to foster. As part of our team, you'll not only represent the Academy, but you'll play a pivotal role in inspiring and motivating those around you.

We share the successes of #TeamAHA across the Academy and across our wider community including parents/carers, local residents and further a-field into towns and cities around the UK, utilising our extensive Delta Academies network.

As part of #TeamAHA you can expect to take part and showcase yourself in:

### Proud Thursday

Our weekly work showcase where the best student work from the week is displayed across our social media channels, our Academy website and during the Academy day.

### Weekly Leaders

You could be our next Hegarty Hero, Language Nut Leader, iDEA Inspirer, GCSE Pod Professional... and the list goes on. We have a huge range of weekly leaders across our subjects whose achievements are celebrated Academy and community wide!

### Attendance Achievements

We're the best team we can be when everyone shows up! That's why we celebrate attendance achievements regularly throughout the year with rewards and prizes.





@AshHillAcademy



@AshHillAcademy

Year 6 joined Mrs Mouncey in Food Technology and taste tested different fruits – discussing the health benefits of fruit along the way

@AshHillAcademy Year 8 managed an average of 99.1% attendance this week  
#SmashedIt keep it up Y8!  
#TeamAHA



@AshHillAcademy Year 7 enjoying their free trip to the Theatre as a reward for their outstanding attendance and behaviour  
#Sheffieldtheatres #TeamAHA

@AshHillAcademy We're in 2<sup>nd</sup> place on Delta's GCSE Pod leader board, and in the top 10% worldwide! Lets get to 1<sup>st</sup>! #Winning  
#TeamAHA



@AshHillAcademy Our amazing Year 8 students enjoyed their free residential to Dallowgill. Kayaking, archery, stories around the camp fire.  
Bring on next year  
#Whataweekend #TeamAHA

@AshHillAcademy Our family focus events are coming up soon! We can't wait to meet our next group of students and their families! Welcome to #TeamAHA





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