



THE ASHCOMBE SCHOOL  
**PROSPECTUS**  
FOR SEPTEMBER 2022







# WELCOME TO THE ASHCOMBE SCHOOL

**The Ashcombe School is a genuinely comprehensive school with high academic standards for all, a strong and caring pastoral system and a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities.**

We would like to welcome you to The Ashcombe. The prospectus gives a taste of our ethos and whole school experience. We have developed a range of information sharing events and we hope that the combination of school visits, primary school virtual talks and the Open Evening will demonstrate our diverse curriculum, engaging extracurricular activities and caring pastoral support. Our website offers further details of the school.

We have a personal commitment to the quality of education received by every pupil in the school. Our very strong, well-qualified and committed team of staff deliver quality lessons, provide care and support and offer a remarkable range of extra-curricular opportunities,

which form a distinctive feature of the school. These include the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and our annual dramatic musical production, which both attract high levels of pupil participation. We offer many additional opportunities, including international visits and exchanges, as well as outstanding ICT resources. Our excellent facilities include a Sports Hall and an Arts Centre for Music, Drama and Art.

We value and recognise the contributions and achievements of all individuals in many ways and involve pupils in decisions regarding rewards, as well as other areas of school life. Through such discussion and participation, we encourage pupils to develop respect for

others and understand their responsibilities.

Our relationship with parents is a vital part of the success of the school, and we appreciate the care required in choosing the right school for your child. We hope that the information provided and the opportunities to meet us will help you in making your decision.

We look forward to meeting you.

Chris Panting  
Head of School



**SESSET**





“Information ... about students’ attainment and progress... is used to good effect in ensuring that each student does as well as they can”.

OFSTED

“The school’s comprehensive nature means that it always prioritises the pupil, and I personally feel extremely proud to belong to a community where everyone is encouraged to achieve their full potential”

PUPIL





# ENABLING EVERY CHILD TO ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL

**Our focus at The Ashcombe is to maintain our traditional high academic standards in the context of a broad, stimulating and demanding educational environment.**

We have a strong reputation for academic excellence and our approach supports pupils to achieve their potential right across the ability spectrum. We ensure that teaching is delivered at the right pace and to an appropriate level to all ability groups. The Supported Learning Centre works closely with pupils who find learning more challenging, to devise programmes and strategies that work best for them and the advice of relevant professionals from outside agencies is sought where we believe it will help.

As a result, all pupils are supported by appropriately trained teachers and a dedicated team of teaching assistants. For those with higher academic abilities, we support pupils in progressing to the country's top performing universities and leading apprenticeships, including Oxbridge and the rest of the Russell Group Universities.

During the first three years, our pupils complete national programmes of study. We aim to give all pupils a broad and balanced education in a wide variety of subjects and, during Year 9, they receive a full programme of advice and information on which to base their choice of GCSEs. Throughout the school there is a programme of talks, lessons and 1:1 interviews, which provide support and guidance on matters such as study skills and personal target-setting.

We believe pupils are best served by studying a broad range of subjects – which ensures a degree of balance on the one hand, with the opportunity to develop individual aptitudes and interests on the other. In Years 10 and 11, students will all study Maths, English Language and Literature, and Science. Alongside these core options will be a combination of a modern foreign language, a creative subject and a Humanities option. This breadth is a central feature of our curriculum vision. We have also begun to develop new exciting vocational options for the current Year 10, studying hairdressing in a purpose built salon, and construction. As a comprehensive school taking the full range of abilities, we are delighted that in the most recent public examinations just over 80% of all Ashcombe pupils again gained grades 9-4 in English, Maths and Science. On top of this, over 30% of our pupils achieved a Grade 9-7 (equivalent to A\*-A) in a broad range of subjects including Art, Computer Science, Geography, History, Maths, DT (Product Design), RS, Spanish and Science.

A majority of our pupils progress naturally from their GCSE year into The Ashcombe Sixth Form, where they are joined by pupils from other backgrounds who have chosen to join us for their final school years. The Sixth Form provides an extensive range of subject combinations and The Ashcombe School is distinguished by offering Sixth Form entry to many

pupils who would not be considered for A level courses in other establishments. From whichever starting point, our emphasis continues to be on encouragement and support in achieving the best possible outcome for all pupils in a climate which fosters academic study and learning in its widest sense.





# ENSURING YOUR CHILDREN ARE HAPPY, VALUED AND SUPPORTED

**A harmonious school provides the best environment to enable children to realise their potential.**

The Ashcombe School recognises that children need to be happy and confident to learn effectively and we place significant emphasis on ensuring a successful transition from primary to secondary school. We visit Year 6 in local primary schools and offer discovery days for incoming pupils, whilst liaising with primary school staff over children who may find the change somewhat daunting. Form Tutors, Heads of Year, the wider pastoral team and our mentoring schemes then play a vital role in forming relationships with all new pupils to ensure that each one has a familiar face to turn to for help and advice.

On arrival, pupils join a mixed ability tutor group and remain in the same group from Year 7 to Year 11. In Year 7, much of the teaching takes place in the tutor group, with setting taking place in Mathematics during the year. From Year 8 onwards, setting takes place in the core subjects. Every pupil joins a 'House', a lifelong membership, which encourages participation in sporting, academic and cultural events. Through this, pupils are able to challenge themselves in a variety of ways to broaden their horizons and build determination, resilience and self-confidence.

Pupils are strongly encouraged to discuss any concerns that they have with someone. Each new pupil is allocated a trained peer mentor from further up the school, as it can be easier to talk to fellow pupils in the first instance. Tutors and teachers are on hand to provide advice and discuss problems. The school can also organise a consultation with an external counsellor where this may be helpful. Members of the Sixth Form also undertake both academic and peer mentoring roles, helping their younger charges to develop resilience and preparing them for the challenges of life, whilst providing a very rewarding experience for the mentors themselves.

There are many positions of responsibility to which pupils can aspire. They range from the honour of being Head Boy or Head Girl in Year 13 to House and Form Representatives in Year 7. The School Council is both active and productive. It informs school decision-making and its members are called upon to support the work of the school within the wider community. This sense of ownership serves to instil in our pupils a level of respect for their environment and the positive impact they can have both on their own lives and within the local community.



**“Pastoral care is exceptional. Each member of the community is valued and their well-being matters to everyone.”**

OFSTED

**“Whether it was my Head of Year, tutor or any other member of staff, there was always someone that I felt comfortable to talk to.”**

PUPIL




*“I just wanted to say a massive **THANK YOU** for all the work Ashcombe has done to make September’s intake feel welcome, and informed. It was the only school my daughter wanted to go to, and when I collected her after the induction day she said “I can’t wait to be part of Ashcombe”.*

PARENT







“The school makes an impressive contribution to students’ personal spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.”

OFSTED





# ENCOURAGING ACTIVITY AND PARTICIPATION BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

**From the day our pupils arrive in Year 7 until they leave from the Year 13, they are encouraged to participate fully in all that the School has to offer.**

We provide many extra curricular activities across a wide range of subject areas. Some activities are competitive while others are offered to provide opportunities for our pupils to try something new in a safe and supportive environment.

Our extra curricular programme is designed to provide a rich and diverse range of opportunities for all ability levels. The Debating Society, Product Design Club, Minecraft, creating explosions in Science Club, Humanitarian Society, Swimathon, singing in Glee Club, Cookery – every day, a plethora of clubs, trips and

activities see pupils engaged and having fun.


There are many sporting teams which our pupils can join. Most teams compete in local competitions, with many achieving success and moving on to regional and national competition level. Annual sporting events include the Gym and Dance Performance Evening, the Surrey Youth Games and regular House activities such as Sports Day and Games Day.

Our Music, Art and Drama departments provide pupils with many creative opportunities to develop their own skills, whilst contributing to the cultural life of the school

and the wider community. In the school production, everyone's contribution is valued whether designing the set, running the lighting or performing on stage. Art exhibitions, as well as orchestral, choral and theatrical productions, feature prominently throughout the year. Participation in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme provides outstanding opportunities for personal development, challenge and travel. There are Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. The majority of Year 10 pupils take part in the Bronze Award, with large numbers going on to the Silver and Gold awards in future years.







*“Our three children have all benefited in very individual ways from the global adventures offered by the school and we are grateful to have had The Ashcombe School on our doorstep.”*

PARENT









# BUILDING SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

**At Ashcombe, we are proud of our sense of community spirit and we actively promote our pupils' emotional health and well-being.**

We encourage pupils to develop as well-rounded individuals who have high self-esteem as well as a sense of responsibility for their peers, the community and the environment. We encourage Ashcombe pupils to become confident young people and valuable citizens who have a strong sense of their own place in society.

Ashcombe pupils acquire a wide cultural perspective through many opportunities for travel, whether locally, nationally or internationally. Last year, our pupils participated in many curricular and extra curricular trips across the globe to China, America, Iceland, Uganda, Romania, Paris and Spain. These trips are available to all pupils, with the vast majority of Year 7 going to Germany and Year 8 to Normandy. These trips and visits help stimulate the pupils' interest and understanding of

the subjects they are studying, whilst broadening their horizons and understanding of the wider world.

Our school is linked to a number of charities which benefit from the efforts of our pupils. This can be seen through the whole school supporting the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, Year 7 doing the Lepira Challenge, Year 10's Big Breakfast for The Teenage Cancer Trust and the Sixth Form Community raising over £15,000 for Build Africa. This work adds to the increased sense of responsibility for communities across the world and for the natural environment.

"Your vision for an academic curriculum, supported by high-quality teaching and learning, that prepares pupils well for life in 21st Century Britain is shared by all staff at the school"

OFSTED







"I have been given so many great experiences and opportunities. These have allowed me to develop a wide range of personal qualities and pushed me out of my comfort zone."

PUPIL



"The trip to Uganda was an eye opening, humbling and rewarding experience"

PUPIL









## SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

The Ashcombe has a traditional attitude concerning school uniform and expects all pupils to look neat and smart, both within school and whilst off the premises. The co-operation of parents in helping us to set and maintain high standards of appearance is essential. Pupils must wear a school blazer with badge, and a school tie. If a jumper is worn, it must be navy blue with a 'V' neck and logo. In the summer term students are permitted to wear a white polo shirt with school crest. Uniform requirements include footwear (trainers are not acceptable). Items should be purchased through our uniform provider which arranges for the sale of uniform just after the New Parents' Evenings in July. For further information, contact the school or look at the uniform link on the school website: [www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk). The School has a smart navy blue and red P.E. kit. Other non-specialist items of uniform are carefully detailed in the uniform list.



"Business Week was truly useful as not only did it provide an insight into the world of business, but also let us gain skills for life after school"

PUPIL







# AN ENVIRONMENT FOR LEARNING, A PREPARATION FOR LIFE

**We continually develop our facilities, teaching methodologies and the learning experience of our pupils to ensure that they are fully engaged and stimulated at school and properly prepared for the outside world.**

We set high expectations in order to give all pupils the opportunity to fulfil their potential, whatever their starting points. We embrace new educational ideas and thinking as a means of improving pupils' learning. Teaching staff reflect upon the concepts and strategies that form the School Development Plan.

School facilities include eleven high quality Science laboratories, five modern technology workshops, which incorporate facilities for teaching Electronics plus Computer Aided Design, and Information Technology rooms. Modern Languages are taught in a suite of eight rooms, including two multi-media rooms. There are also specialist suites for Mathematics, English and Humanities. The Main Assembly Hall is fully equipped for dramatic and musical productions with recently installed LED lighting, provided by the PTA. The library provides a

focus for learning and study for the whole school, whilst the Bradley Arts Centre offers outstanding facilities for Art, Drama and Music. We have a Sports Hall offering six courts, with adjacent gymnasium, whilst outside there are tennis and netball courts and extensive playing fields.

Careers guidance, work experience and links with local business help us to prepare pupils for the world beyond school. We seek to assist pupils in identifying their career objectives and in determining the best way to achieve them. As part of this process, careers guidance forms an important part of the curriculum and is available in PSE lessons and from the careers library in the school library. Sixth Form students also receive structured careers guidance and advice regarding future paths, including employment, Further Education and Higher Education. The Ashcombe School currently offers all Key Stage 4

pupils a broad curriculum that includes special features, such as International Business Week, which supports language learning in a business context, employment interviews and CV preparation, financial management and economic awareness.

Year 11 and Year 12 undertake a week's work experience with a wide variety of companies and organisations, many of their own choosing. We monitor and evaluate all proposed placements to ensure maximum benefit for all participants. The school has strong business links with the local business community which supports our International Business Week, Careers Fair, Apprenticeship Fair and Awards Evening. The combination of events and guidance thus offered ensure that our pupils are well prepared for life beyond school.

**“There is a strong senior management and pastoral team, many passionate subject teachers and strong teacher-pupil relationships”**

PUPIL



# WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

We strive to develop close links with the families of our pupils.



Parental involvement with the school makes an essential contribution to the welfare and achievement of pupils. We organise a regular cycle of Parent Support Evenings covering key issues for each individual year group. In addition, parents meet with individual teachers to discuss their child's learning at Parents' Consultation

Evenings. Students receive progress reports during the school year which allow staff to track academic achievement and effort. Parents elected to the Ashcombe Governing Body serve a four year term and perform an informed role in the governance of the school.

The school website [www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk) has a wealth of information, whilst our tracking systems allow secure access to individual information such as pupil reports and homework schedules. There is also a 'ParentPay' facility, enabling parents to pay electronically for some activities, school meals and uniform.

Homework is regarded as an essential element in a successful school career and each pupil maintains a planner, which includes the individual's timetable and allows a record to be kept of homework set and the time taken to complete it. Whilst Class Charts gives homework information, we think it important for pupils to take ownership of personal record keeping.

The PTA is very involved in supporting the school. It hosts educational evenings, social activities and fund raising through the "300 club" as well as providing pre-loved uniform sales throughout the year. Above all, it provides an opportunity for parents and staff to promote The Ashcombe School's community ethos in school.



*“The calibre of teaching and the support network is in our opinion unparalleled in the local area. Ashcombe School has allowed our son to grow and grow as a person and instilled in him a confidence that is amazing.”*

PARENT

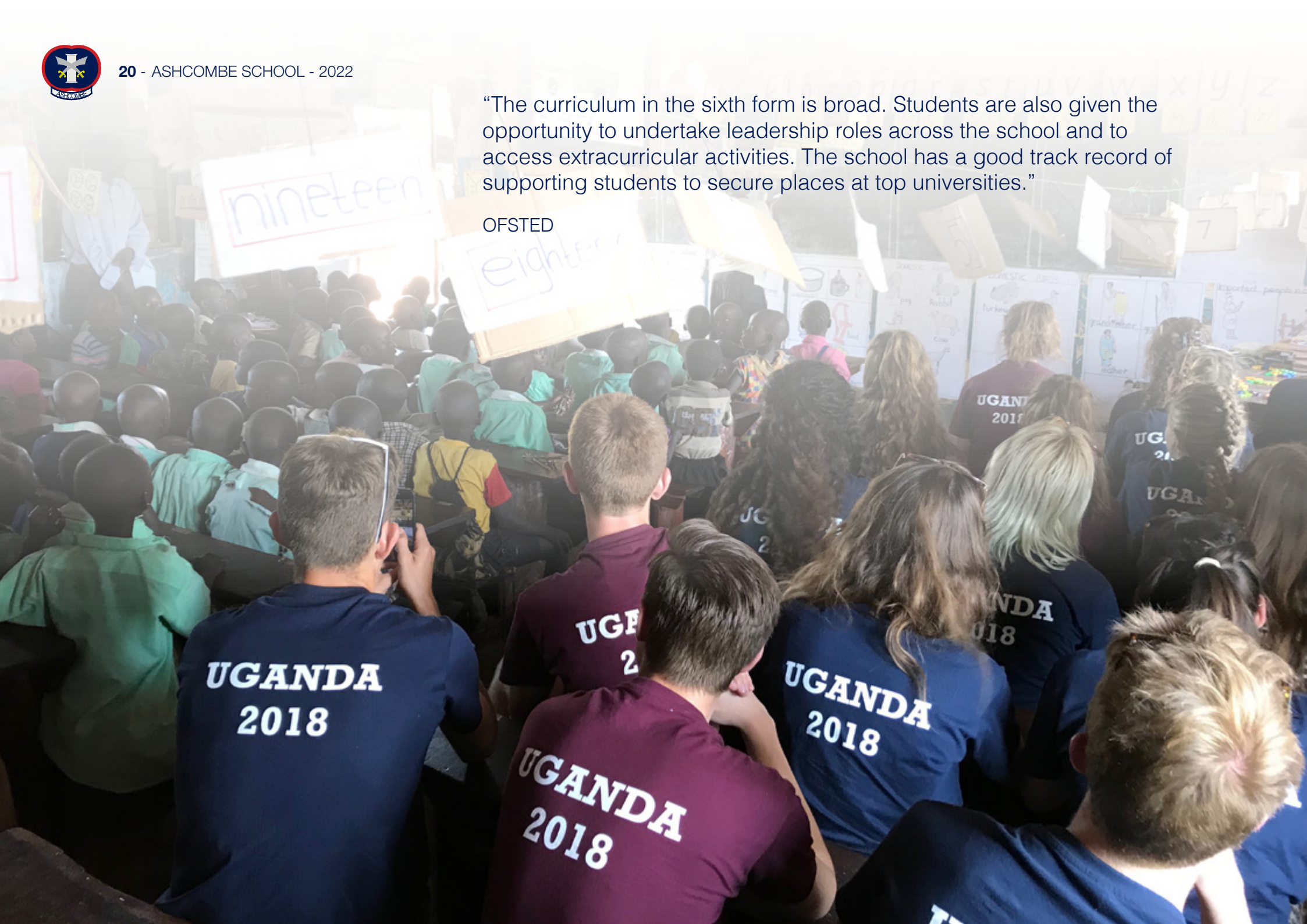






“The curriculum in the sixth form is broad. Students are also given the opportunity to undertake leadership roles across the school and to access extracurricular activities. The school has a good track record of supporting students to secure places at top universities.”

OFSTED





***“Thank you again for all you did for my daughter during her time in the Ashcombe 6th Form. They were two very happy years for her and it was remarkable to witness on results day how well she and all her friends had done – great A level results and lots going to top universities. The 6th Form at Ashcombe really is most impressive.”***

PARENT

## THE ASHCOMBE SIXTH FORM

**A vibrant and intellectually challenging community.**

Our Sixth Form reinforces the philosophy of the school as a genuinely comprehensive institution and continues our strong and caring pastoral system. It is a feature of The Ashcombe School's Sixth Form that we maintain an achievable entry level for many pupils whose GCSE results may have precluded them from sixth form entry at other institutions and our own Year 11 pupils are joined by many individuals from other schools who have been attracted by what Ashcombe has to offer. A formal induction programme supports all students in making the transition between GCSE and study at Sixth Form level and our Sixth Formers continue to enjoy a wide range of extracurricular opportunities.

Moving from the Upper School into the Sixth Form provides valuable continuity for our own students who can then enjoy a different rapport with staff they already know, whilst the many incoming students settle in very quickly to enjoy our high academic standards and the range of social opportunities.

Those academic standards are reflected in the high average points score per student. Achieving such a high average score is especially significant in the light of our entry requirements for A-level courses, which are amongst the lowest in Surrey schools and colleges. That success is attributable to the hard work of students and the high quality of teaching, together with sophisticated individual target-setting and support systems, which ensure high value-added, measured by progress. On average they achieve a quarter of a grade higher than equivalent students across the country – right across the ability range.

We are proud of all our students who achieve their goal, ranging from those who gain several A and A\* grades, securing places on courses at universities with very high entry requirements, through to those who enter the Sixth Form with minimum requirements and gain 2 grade Es as a passport to Higher Education or Higher Apprenticeships, besides those who use the one year

Cambridge Technicals Business course to develop their personal and business skills as the first step on a vocational training path.

The Sixth Form here offers a multitude of other opportunities, ranging from the Community Sports Leadership Award through to a wide range of study visits including France, China and Berlin as well as those to support communities in Romania and Uganda. There are many ways of developing personal skills, whether completing the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, or helping younger pupils with reading difficulties through the 'Toe-by-Toe' reading scheme. For many students, these experiences have literally been life-changing, for some leading to a complete change of degree subject, or for others, inspiring a deep sense of vocation for working with people.





# SCHOOL INFORMATION

## School Address:

The Ashcombe School,  
Ashcombe Road,  
Dorking,  
Surrey RH4 1LY  
Tel: 01306 886312  
[www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk)

## Education Authority:

Surrey County Council,  
County Hall,  
Kingston-upon-Thames,  
Surrey KT1 2DJ  
[www.surreycc.gov.uk/learning](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/learning)


## Admission Enquiries & Transport:

Admissions & Transport,  
Surrey County Council,  
Quadrant Court,  
35 Guildford Road,  
Woking,  
Surrey GU22 7QQ  
Tel: 0300 200 1004  
[www.surreycc.gov.uk/learning/schools](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/learning/schools)

For details about admission to the school, please see the school website under 'Joining the Ashcombe'. Full details of the Admission process can also be found on the Surrey C.C website "School admissions" <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-admissions>

Therfield School, The Ashcombe School and The Carrington School have formed and are part of South East Surrey Schools Education Trust (SESSET), a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 10479401. The registered address is The Ashcombe School, Ashcombe Road, Dorking Surrey, RH4 1LY





*“The Ashcombe School has  
been of fantastic support, both  
academically and pastorally, to  
both our children over the years  
and I wish you all continued  
success in the years to come.”*

PARENT





Ashcombe Rd, Dorking RH4 1LY  
[www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk)

