



# ASHFORD SCHOOL

*Inspiring Minds*



## Strategic Priorities

— 2024 - 2027 —

Nurseries | Prep School | Senior School | Sixth Form



## INTRODUCTION

This plan builds on the transformational work that we have undertaken since 2018, when the strategic priorities for the School were last reviewed.

The thirty-three items outlined in this document are a distillation of the many ideas and insights which were collated from a collaborative consultation process. Each member of our school community has directly, or indirectly, helped shape our objectives which we believe are realistic, achievable, measurable and set an exciting direction of travel for the school's future.

To flourish, the School must continue to strive to be a centre of academic excellence, not just for the pupils and staff currently in the school, but for the longer term. Each strategic objective has been chosen with the aim of making the school's vision a reality for pupils, teachers, parents and alumni.

With objectives agreed, the next step is to focus on implementation. Together, we will continue to strive for excellence, ensuring every student and every teacher can work and study in a supportive and dynamic learning environment.

# VALUES

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## Vision

- To be a centre of excellence, empowering and equipping young people to make a difference in their changing world.

## Aims

- Inspire the minds of all our learners to be adventurous inside and outside of the classroom.
- Create a supportive environment where the wellbeing of the child is paramount as we believe that happiness breeds success.
- Foster a sense of respect for individuality by encouraging intellectual freedom and creativity, determination and leadership.
- Encourage academic confidence and curiosity.
- Empower our community of learners with confidence to be a genuine and best version of themselves.
- Offer a broad and extensive co-curriculum allowing pupils to experience and excel in a range of activities.

# ACADEMIC

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Parents choose Ashford School because we get the best possible levels of academic achievement from all our pupils. Our highly capable, expert and enthusiastic teachers have developed a set of high-quality academic programmes. These programmes need to constantly evolve and develop. The areas of academic focus listed below are all interconnected and a small improvement in one will lead to greater level of combined progress across the whole:

## Priorities

- Teaching methodology
- Performance and cognitively challenging lessons
- Raising boys' achievement
- Education technology
- Curriculum Development at GCSE and A Level



# CO-CURRICULAR



2


Our impressive co-curricular programme is designed to ensure a well-rounded education that nurtures all aspects of our pupils' social and academic development. Over the next three years we will emphasise the following areas and ensure our offer outside the classroom keeps pace with our academic progress inside the classroom.

## Priorities

- Creative and Performing Arts
- Sport
- European Links
- Care Craft Cognition Award (Activities and Enrichments)

# PASTORAL CARE

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Since the 'Covid years' the School has invested a great deal of time, money and energy in pastoral care. We know that happy, content children make better progress socially and academically. For this reason, we intend to build on our existing provision in the following areas.

## Priorities

- Wellbeing
- Vertical integration of year groups
- Pre-emptive support
- Equality, diversity and inclusion

# LEARNING ENHANCEMENT

All children learn differently. Our objective is to ensure that all pupils get access to the extra support and motivation that they might need. Our emphasis on Learning Enhancement between now and 2027 reflects the increasing importance of this provision and reflects changes in attitudes and expectations from families and society in general.

## Priorities

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- High Potential Learners
- Skills Development Framework

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# STAFF DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT

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Great teachers teach but they also learn. Investing in the professional development of our teachers will be of strategic importance. Beyond developing our teachers, we need to train the next generation of school leaders. These three initiatives will help the school thrive into the future and ensure that the school reflects the community it is rooted in.

## Priorities

- Professional Development Hub
- Leadership development
- Diversity and inclusion

# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

As part of United Learning’s strategy of creating local ‘educational hubs’ Ashford School will lead the development of education in Ashford. As the town continues to grow, we will build upon our cooperation with local primary schools and will nurture a strong and supportive network with other UL schools in the area.

## Priorities

- Charities and community profile
- United Learning local hub
- Primary Schools

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# SCHOOL STRUCTURE

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Schools must reflect the demographic, economic and cultural profile of the local area, as well as the national context. Boarding schools also need to adapt to global changes in the market for high quality education. Our strategy will need to adapt and evolve along with changes in these four areas of school life.

## Priorities

- Boarding
- Nurseries
- Size of Prep and Senior School
- Structure of the Prep school day

# SCHOOL PROFILE

Ashford School is at the vanguard of some exciting and potentially significant educational initiatives such as the Pre-Senior Baccalaureate, the Six Learning Habits and the development of the Ashford Advance programme. These projects, and our role as a key part of the largest educational group in the UK, should also be celebrated and communicated to a wider audience. The life-long advantages associated with being educated at Ashford School must continue to be made to current and prospective parents. This will help the future of the school.

## Priorities

- External relations
- Profile within representational bodies
- Parent communication
- Alumni

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# FACILITIES

## 9

We have two good options for the longer-term location of the school. Each option comes with very clear advantages and some disadvantages. The next three years will help us clarify which option is going to be best for the future of the school, our teachers and the local community. We must be ready to take advantage of whichever decision is made.

### Priorities

- One site at Great Chart or develop the current site



# SUSTAINABILITY

The School has a commitment to financial and environmental sustainability. The first item on this list will help the School maintain economic stability. The second will align our commitment to reducing our ecological impact along with the other schools that are part of the United Learning group.

## Priorities

- Non-fee income
- United Learning sustainability strategy

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