



Athena
Sixth Form College
2024



Welcome to our community

It is my pleasure to introduce you to Athena Sixth Form College.

Students at Athena benefit from a personalised curriculum; they are all well-known and treated as individuals in order to develop both their intellectual abilities as well as helping them to develop as independent learners. We will ensure students achieve the highest possible academic outcomes through a combination of outstanding teaching in very small classes and the close support needed to thrive in a more independent environment.

Alongside their studies, students at Athena are offered a wide variety of extra and super-curricular activities to engage in as well as trips and visits. The Student Executive Committee work closely with the Athena team to provide student with a range of events and opportunities to help them develop their skills, unwind and have fun.

We believe it is imperative to develop the whole student, so that they are ready and prepared academically and socially for their future. We are exceptionally proud of the students' achievements and very much look forward to meeting prospective students.



George Pettitt
Deputy Headteacher

Aspire at Athena

Our bespoke offer provides all students with a comprehensive programme of one to one support in taking their next steps after sixth form, right from the start of Year 12.

Expert tutors deliver engaging sessions throughout students' time at sixth form, all of which are tailored to them to ensure they feel fully supported, ready to aim high, and in control of their own future. Our Personal Development tutors are specialists in every aspect of the journey through key stage 5, from the transition skills needed to progress from GCSE, to crafting exceptional UCAS references and apprenticeship application support. Examples of further support on offer include: one to one academic mentoring; trips to university open days; small group sessions with visiting university admissions tutors; regular sessions with subject experts to prepare for university entrance exams and interviews; one to one careers support meetings from external agencies.

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Ambition

Athena students have ambition to be the very best they can be. They aim high in terms of their academic results, destinations and futures. Students will be challenged in all aspects of their learning to develop a genuine love of learning, which encourages aspirational goals, through enquiring minds and gives students the knowledge that they are capable of anything. This is available through a broad range of both academic and extra-curricular activities.

Society

Athena students take a full and active role in the life of the community. Their attendance at Athena is outstanding, allowing them to act as role models to younger members of the Academy. They work with the local community to positively promote Athena and its values of inclusivity and equality. Athena students develop an understanding of themselves and appreciation of different people, perspectives and cultures.

Professionalism

Athena students approach their studies, work experience and volunteering professionally, preparing them for their future professional lives. At Athena we nurture core values of autonomy and leadership.

Integrity

Integrity is central to life at Athena. We encourage emotional maturity, and celebrate kindness, loyalty, gratitude and determination.

Responsibility

Athena students take responsibility for themselves, their environment and their futures. They strive to be proactive in their pursuit of opportunities and they look out for wellbeing and safeguarding of one another.

Excellence

Individuality, innovation and enjoyment are at the heart of everything we promote at Athena as we realise to achieve excellence students must have the confidence to develop a life-long love of learning, resilience to persevere when challenged, passion to embrace all opportunities on offer, and pride in their work.

PSHE Programme

Our Athena PSHE education focuses on life skills and is primarily delivered through the Personal Development PSHE programme. This content is coordinated by Mrs Anthony, the Athena PSHE and Pastoral Lead, and is taught via our team of Personal Tutors and Athena staff. In addition to this, we also run 'drop-down days' as part of our enrichment programme which are designed to support Athena students through Sixth Form and the next stages of their journey through life.

Topics taught within PSHE allow for reflection and are often very thought provoking. Students explore PSHE through balanced, factually-accurate and appropriate lessons. We cover the Law and a range of views and beliefs on a given issue, respectful of different religious and cultural backgrounds.

Our PSHE programme is taught through 3 key themes:

- ✦ **Health & Wellbeing**
- ✦ **Relationships**
- ✦ **Living in the Wider World**





The Sanctuary

The Sanctuary is a quiet place where students can focus on their emotional needs in a safe and relaxing environment and was the brainchild of the Student Executive Committee. Students can visit The Sanctuary if they need a quiet space to sit and reflect. The Sanctuary is important to help students to reach their full potential because it helps them to boost their self-esteem and recognise their strengths, allows them to reflect on their attributes and promotes positivity.

We know that students' emotional wellbeing is central to their overall health and, therefore, The Sanctuary plays an important part of life at Athena.

Student Executive Group

The Student Executive Committee provide a crucial student leadership role during the day-to-day life at Athena.

The Committee meets weekly to provide feedback from the student body to the leaders of Athena. This can be anything from improving the daily lives of students to organising charity events to working with the lower school students.



Our Courses

We offer a broad range of courses suitable for all types of learners. The types of courses offered include:

A Levels are one of the main routes to higher education and university, although they are also useful if you want to go straight into employment. An A Level is a level 3 qualification consisting of four modules studied over two years.

Vocational courses focus on a specific subject area, combining practical and academic study. They are designed to give you the knowledge and skills relevant to a variety of jobs or may offer specialist qualifications for a particular industry sector. They can also be a route to higher education.

BTEC and Cambridge Technicals Level 3 qualifications have the same academic level as A levels and are assessed through coursework.

A **BTEC Subsidiary Diploma** is the equivalent of one A Level, a BTEC Diploma equates to two A Levels and a BTEC Extended Diploma is equal to three A Levels.

Entry Requirements

A Level Programme Entry Requirements – 2024 Entry

- Minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 6 or above
- Minimum of a 6 in English and Maths and Science if taking A Level Sciences

The opportunity to study four Advanced level subjects will be offered to some particularly well-qualified applicants, currently defined as students who have achieved at least an average grade 7 across their best seven GCSE subjects.

Vocational and Applied Diploma Entry Requirements – 2024 Entry

- Merit at Level 2 in chosen area of study
- Minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above including at least a grade in English and Maths

A Level Courses

A Level Courses	Additional Entry Requirements
Biology	6 in GCSE Biology
Chemistry	6 in GCSE Chemistry
Classical Civilisation	6 in GCSE English and History / Ancient History 7 in a non-History humanities
Computer Science	6 in GCSE Maths 6 in GCSE Computer Science (if studied)
Economics	6 in GCSE Maths
English Lang / Lit	6 in GCSE English language or Lit
English Literature	6 in GCSE English language or Lit
Environmental Science	6 in a GCSE Science or a 6 in GCSE Geography
Film Studies	6 in a humanities or 6 at GCSE English
Fine Art	6 in GCSE Art (if studied)
French	6 in GCSE French
Geography	6 in GCSE Geography
History	6 in GCSE History or a humanities subject
Mathematics	7 in GCSE Maths
Mathematics (Further)	8 in GCSE Maths (can only be taken as a 4 th subject)
Music	6 in GCSE Music or a grade 5 in instrument / voice
Photography	Passion for Photography. 6 in GCSE Art (if studied)
Physical Education	6 in GCSE PE if taken
Physics	6 in GCSE Physics
Politics	6 in a humanities or 6 in GCSE English
Psychology	6 in GCSE English. 6 in a GCSE Science
Sociology	6 in a humanities subject or GCSE English
Spanish	6 in GCSE Spanish
Theatre Studies	6 in GCSE Drama (if studied)

Vocational Courses

Vocational Courses	Course Type	Additional Entry Requirements
Applied Science	Extended Certificate	5 in GCSE Science
Childcare CACHE General Certificate	Extended Certificate	none
Creative Digital Media Production	Extended Certificate	none
Criminology	Extended Certificate	none
Health and Social Care	Cambridge National	4 in GCSE English and Maths
Leith's Extended Certificate in Professional Cookery	Extended Certificate	none
Sport and Physical Activity	Cambridge Technical	Football skills / trials

Student Profiles

Alfie

Interests / hobbies

Keen sportsperson and member of the gym. Enjoys coaching younger students in an out of school club. Interested in working with children as a youth support worker or primary school teacher.

Career ambitions

Something in the sports industry – possibly personal trainer or PE teacher.

GCSE profile

Mainly predicted grades 4 and 5.

Suggested courses

This student could study our childcare route and pair the Health and Social Double with the Childcare course. Alternatively, they could do the Health and Social double alongside our Leith's cookery course.

Megan

Interests / hobbies

Enjoys Maths lessons at school and is interested in business and how businesses work.

Career ambitions

Accountancy.

GCSE profile

Mainly grades 6 and 7.

Suggested courses

This student could study Maths and Economics to open doors in the future in their desired career. These could be paired with another A Level, such as Politics or Sociology.

Sophie

Interests / hobbies

Reading and discussing how the world works. Likes debating and has found the recent general election interesting to follow on the TV.

Career ambitions

Law degree at Cambridge or Oxford.

GCSE profile

8s and 9s.

Suggested courses

This student could follow most of our A Level courses. History and Politics would be helpful for their ambitions, as would the English A Level.

Freddie

Interests / hobbies

Very keen photographer and loves fashion and all creative things.

Career ambitions

Interior Designer.

GCSE profile

Many 5s and 6s.

Suggested courses

This student could be well suited to the Photography A Level and they can pair this with the Creative Media course. They can then choose 1 other course with Theatre Studies and Film Studies an option for creative students.



Leith's Extended Certificate in Professional Cookery

Leith's Academy for Schools is the home of excellence in cookery teaching. Whether you are looking for an accredited academic cookery qualification to help you on your way to a career in food and drink; or a life skills cookery course to give you the skills and confidence to cook at home or abroad; this course is ideal for you!

Why this course?

This Sixth form course, written and run by Leith's and accredited by the CTH, is an A-level style course with 12-36 UCAS points. It is a five-term course based on 46 core weeks of practical menus which will develop a wide range of culinary skills. This qualification enhances a personal statement and UCAS application and can play a pivotal role in opening the door to careers in food and drink from cheffing to food teaching; cookery writing to food photography and journalism; recipe design and development to marketing & advertising.

Please see sample scheme of work:

Week	Skill	Recipes
8	Fresh Pasta	Fresh pasta Hand cut tagliatelle with pizziola sauce Basil / parsley oil
16	Choux pastry - savoury	Choux pastry Cinnamon beignets with an apple compote Orange and lemon chouquettes Cheese choux buns
23	Use of setting agents	Vanilla pannacotta with roasted rhubarb and shortbread crumb Coconut pannacotta with mango and lime with toasted coconut shards
38	Emulsion sauce - beurre blanc	Fillets of plaice with gremolata crust and tenderstem broccoli Fish stock Beurre blanc
39	Pan-frying meat Emulsion sauce - Bearnaise	Pan-fried sirloin steak with Béarnaise Sweet potato wedges Roasted beef / vine tomatoes
46	Rendering and pan-frying poultry	Duck breast with bramble sauce Dauphinoise potatoes Griddled hispi / savoy cabbage

Working with Children

Interested in a career working with children?

Athena has an exciting new offer that is tailor-made for young people whose future lies within Child Development and / or the Health and Social Care sector.

Students can now pair our new and exciting vocational Child Care course (CACHE General Certificate) with our already long established and highly achieving Cambridge Technical qualification in Health and Social Care.

What are the benefits?

- ✦ 2 qualifications that both lead directly to a career working with children
- ✦ Expert staff in both Health and Social Care and Child Care A chance to gain hands-on experience as part of our 'Super Tots' nursery group
- ✦ Real world placements with nursery providers as part of your timetabled day
- ✦ Part of a supportive, friendly and local Sixth Form College
- ✦ Self Supported Study, allowing freedom to use the town's amenities during the working day



Extended Diploma in Sport

In partnership with Norwich City Football Club

The Football & Education Programme aims to provide like-minded, talented footballers within Norfolk and Suffolk the opportunity to continue their development.

Based at Athena Sixth Form College, students will have access to some fantastic facilities, as well as a range of support both from school staff and the Foundation's coaching team. A vibrant school setting, combined with an excellent football provision, ensures students have everything in place to be successful both on and off the pitch.

Players are supported with their transition into local football at a level and environment deemed best-suited for their personal development at that moment in time.

There is a comprehensive football coaching programme that allows for individual and team development through a series of technical and tactical sessions across the week, based around the 11-a-side game.

Players will also take part in a series of Futsal activities and fixtures to support their technical development, mobility and overall in-game decision making.

Players selected for squads will have the opportunity to represent Norwich City Football Club against other programmes, professional clubs and colleges.



Find out more!

What the students say

“ The support and guidance from staff about next steps and university applications helps make me look forward more to achieving my aims.

Rebekah

“ At Athena, there is focus and support on personal statements and apprenticeship applications, and as a year 13, this helps me organise and plan my future without it taking away from too much of my studies. The school is driven in being a pathway to our futures whilst still caring for their students - as seen in the new Sanctuary area.

Lauren

“ The Sanctuary found within the sixth form centre is very relaxing and calming and is a nice break from studying.

Megan

“ Smaller, more personalised learning environments are better for me as it is easier to ask questions and to feel like a real student. The teachers really know who you are in their lessons.

Tion

“ The staff at Athena are kind and smiley, they make you feel welcome and make it feel like you actually matter and are a person. They have made the transition from high school easy and comfortable. It's nice to be treated like a young adult instead of a child.

George

FAQs

Will I be able to do work experience at Athena?

Yes, your tutor will help you to source high quality work experience and help you to plan it into your schedule effectively.

What sort of trips do you do?

We have foreign travel included as part of our offer, trips to Japan and Kenya currently planned. We also have a range of subject trips (from theatre trips in English to trips to the Supreme Court for Criminology) as well as trips to universities and local employer workshops.

I don't want to go to university, can I still come to Athena?

Absolutely! We have been successful in placing students in a range of futures ranging from degrees in Oxford to apprenticeships at local and national companies. Our futures week (held in June) showcases opportunities at university and for apprenticeships.

I want to do the Extended Project, do you offer it?

Yes! We have many experienced staff and deliver the EPQ in year 12 to students who would like to do it.

In my lower school I had support from the SEN department, will I still receive this at Athena?

We are supported by an outstanding SEN department so much of your support will continue. Examples of this are things such as support plans and access arrangements in exams. We have a full time study manager who is available all day to support you with everything from organising your time, to booking you some time in The Sanctuary to liaising with your teachers for you.

I want to be treated like an adult, is Athena the place for me?

Yes. We have a very different learning environment to secondary school, with lessons taking place in small seminar style rooms and specialist A Level teaching spaces. Students are allocated self-supported study time, during which they are free to leave the site. Some go to the gym or to the town, while some choose to remain in the Athena area and study.



DOWNHAM MARKET ACADEMY



Athena
South Farm College

Want to apply?

Please apply through our website - You'll be invited to a guidance meeting when you will be able to talk through your courses in more detail, as well as meeting some of our staff.



Athena Sixth Form College

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