



**Ashfield Girls'
High School**



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS 2025

“Each different. Each talented. All valued.”

Welcome to Ashfield Girls' High



Challenging girls today; creating women

School Sixth Form



Contents

| | |
|----|---|
| 04 | Welcome |
| 05 | History and Ethos |
| 06 | Memories to last a Lifetime |
| 07 | Why choose Sixth Form? |
| 08 | A Curriculum of Breadth and Balance |
| 11 | How to Apply for Sixth Form |
| 12 | Pupil Leadership |
| 14 | Sixth Form Leadership Team |
| 15 | House System |
| 16 | Induction into Sixth Form |
| 18 | Effective Study Skills Programme |
| 19 | Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance |
| 20 | Results Day – Making Post 16 Choices |
| 21 | University Destinations |
| 22 | School Uniform |
| 23 | Transport to School and School Policies |
| 24 | Supporting Wellbeing |
| 25 | Pastoral Support |
| 26 | Education Maintenance Allowance |

of value in the future.

Principal's **Welcome**



Thank you for considering Ashfield Girls' High School as a potential choice for your daughter. Our well established Sixth Form has grown over recent years as we continue to offer a wide range of academic and vocational qualifications.

A large number of our pupils choose to return to Sixth Form and we are proud to welcome students from other schools each year. Curriculum provision at Sixth Form is broad and balanced and includes GCE, BTEC and OCN qualifications.

Our Enrichment Programme at Sixth Form includes discrete careers and physical education classes in addition to a wide variety of workshops and tutorials.

There are many opportunities in Sixth Form to develop leaderships skills including being a Prefect, Senior Prefect, Deputy Head Girl, Head Girl, Library Assistants, Peer Mentors, Walk and Talk Mentors, IT Ambassadors and Head of House. To compliment these opportunities we also offer placements on the Career Ready Programme and the ever expanding SistersIN Programme.

Our examination results are a continued source of pride and our Sixth Form students progress to university, college, apprenticeships or employment. The Alumni often support the school by attending careers events to act as role models to students and provide advice regarding progression after Sixth Form.

Our motto is 'Each different, Each talented, All valued'.
I hope that you choose to join the Ashfield family
and enjoy being part of our Sixth Form.

I do hope you will join us.

Principal: Mrs Louise Harvey

History and Ethos

Ashfield Girls' High School was built in 1948 in a prefabricated style building by Short Brothers and Harland. It was opened initially as a grammar school but in 1952 it became both a grammar and secondary school each having its own Staff and Principal. By 1958, the building had become overcrowded and so the grammar departments moved to what became known as Carolan Grammar School. It later amalgamated with its neighbouring Boys' school to become Wellington College.

During the 1970s outward changes in the school could be observed by passers-by on the Holywood Road. Three new red brick buildings were erected - the Courtney Wing opened by Mrs Kathleen Courtney (Headmistress 1952-1976) to accommodate Business Studies, Art, Music and Audio-visual resources, the Chestnutt Wing by Rev Dr William Chestnutt (Chair of Management Committee) for Home Economics and the Semple Hall by Mrs Vi Semple (Headmistress 1976-1980) for Physical Education.

In the Summer term 1987, Classrooms 1-13 and the Examinations Office disappeared overnight in a fire. Five months later on the day following Prize Distribution, as Staff and pupils emerged from the Assembly Hall after the Harvest Service they were met by gentle waves of water lapping the sides of the corridor. The combination of torrential rain, a high tide and drains blocked by debris after the demolition of Rooms 1-13 had resulted in a flood.

However, due to the commitment of staff and pupils Ashfield Girls' High School retained its independence and continued to grow from strength to strength. In 1998, the opening of the Reid Design and Technology Suite (Miss Heather Reid was Headmistress (1980-2001) opened up new career opportunities for the girls.

As the School entered the new millennium in 2000-2001, it was over-subscribed with more than 600 pupils on roll. It was the Department of Education's use of PFI (Private Finance Initiative) arrangements which, after twenty years of appeals by successive Ashfield Management Committees and Boards of Governors, made possible the building of the state of the art new school in the first decade of the new millennium.

Ashfield Girls' High School has always had a strong ethos that is committed to serving the local community. Our vision is to "challenge girls today, to create women of value in the future". As a school community we value our school motto "Each different, Each talented, All valued". We refer to ourselves as the 'Ashfield Family', with high expectations, individual care for each pupil and the building and maintenance of our inter-personal relationships placed at the core of all that we do.

Memories to last a Lifetime





Why choose Sixth Form?

Ashfield Girls' High School provides a vibrant and exciting learning environment for post 16 study which is fundamental in equipping our students with the excellent qualifications they require for entry into competitive job markets, apprenticeships and further and higher education. Our strong academic track record is however just the starting point. Within Ashfield Girls' it is our aim to provide a rich variety of new experiences for students which will allow them to develop as resourceful, resilient, and creative women. Sixth Form study at Ashfield Girls' is built on individual choice, independent learning, and personal responsibility.

Sixth Form students enjoy a holistic personal development journey as they progress through Year 13 beginning as always with our Induction Programme incorporating First Aid, Safe Motoring, Team Building with Pathways Adventure Activities, Wellbeing and much more. This is further developed through online courses in Personal Finance and Positive Mental Health provided by Nebula Learning and University Preparation provided by the University of Ulster, while Inspire Education provides an evidence based, interactive, bespoke effective study skills programme and resources.

As a school we feel it is important to support our students in all aspects of life and are lucky to be supported by a wide range of organisations who provide guidance to our students, including Love For Life, Nexus, Cara Friend, and the Secondary Students' Union of Northern Ireland.

Collaboration is key to providing a wide range of opportunities for our students and we are proud to work closely with the Career Ready programme, the SistersIN female leadership initiative, which provides female mentorship from a wide range of local and global industries and the Queen's University Pathway Opportunity Programme.

We encourage our pupils to participate in all aspects of school life and place a key emphasis on creating a family atmosphere as our Sixth Form students help and support our Year 8 pupils within form classes, on our 'walk and talk' sessions and through in school programmes as librarians, ICT prefects, paired reading buddies, science club coordinators and through a variety of committees. These opportunities allow our pupils to develop the skills necessary to take up positions of leadership and become advocates of pupil voice within the Sixth Form Leadership Team and other areas of responsibility as they move into Year 14 and beyond.

If you would like to join us, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Doak (Head of Sixth Form).

A Curriculum of Breadth and Balance

Key Stage 5

Pupils choose a minimum of three subjects to study at AS Level in Year 13.

Art & Design
BTEC Business*
BTEC Engineering*
English Literature
English Language & Literature*
Environmental Technology
Geography*
Government & Politics
BTEC Health & Social Care
History
BTEC Hospitality*
BTEC ICT
Life & Health Sciences (Double Award)
Life & Health Sciences (Single Award)
Mathematics*
Media Studies
Moving Image Arts*
Music
BTEC Performing Arts
Photography*
Professional Business Services
Psychology
BTEC Uniformed Protective Services
Religious Studies
BTEC Applied Science*
BTEC Sport
BTEC Travel & Tourism
BTEC Performing Arts

* Delivered by Ashfield
Boys' High School

Outstanding Results

Summer 2024 GCSE Results

Achieving 5+ GCSE grades at A* - C **78.9%**

Achieving 5+ GCSE grades at A* - C (inc English & Maths) **54.5%**

Summer 2024 A Level Results

Achieving 3+ A Levels at grades A* - C **46.5%**

Achieving 2+ A Levels at grades A* - E **100%**





How to Apply for Sixth Form



Admissions Criteria

Admission Criteria for entry of pupils to Year 13

The Board of Governors expects that all applicants for admission to Ashfield Girls' High School will support the ethos of the school as outlined in the Prospectus and that an application will indicate that parents agree to this precondition for entry.

The Board of Governors delegate to the Principal, or her nominee, those functions relating to the admission of pupils.

All information on record from a previous school must be available to the Principal before being considered for admission to the school.

For girls to be considered for entry into post - 16 courses they must satisfy three of the following criteria:

1. Entry into Sixth Form is dependent on achieving a minimum of;
 - 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C, or
 - 4 GCSEs at grades A*-C, plus 1 BTEC at Level 2 graded MERIT, or
 - 3 GCSEs at grades A*-C, plus 2 BTECs at Level 2 graded MERIT.

Please note that a Level 2 PASS in OCN IT or OCN Applied Science will be accepted as an equivalent to a GCSE or BTEC qualification.

Please note that Occupational Studies qualifications or the Prince's Trust (Personal Development & Employability) qualification, cannot be accepted as an equivalent for purposes of admission.

2. Meet the entry requirements to the post-16 course set by the school for the subjects chosen.

In the event of the school still not reaching its quota after the application of criteria 1-4, then the final place(s) will be offered to those applicant(s) who:

1. Have the highest grade scores over their best five GCSE subjects.
2. Live closest to the main entrance of the school (Holywood Road), as determined by a straight line measurement on an Ordnance Survey Map.

Exceptional circumstances will be considered

Pupil Leadership



Librarians



ICT Prefects



SistersIn



Charity Committee

Pupil Leadership

Head Girl - My Role

I am honoured to be the Head Girl of Ashfield Girls' High School. I have met a lot of new friends and enjoyed the wide variety of opportunities that are available for me to develop my interests and talents.

I have been involved in the School Council and currently lead the Senior Council in my leadership role as Head Girl. School Council and Senior Council meet regularly and are working on a number of school improvement activities. As Head Girl, I have presented at Prize Day and was pleased to meet our Guest of Honour, Jill Warwick from Pincent Masons Law Firm.

In addition, I am involved in the SistersIN Leadership Programme and am working as part of a team on our school project with the support of the female leaders from industry who have given their time to mentor both me and my fellow students. I have benefited greatly from the support of my teachers in my subject areas of Environmental Technology, Religious Studies and ICT at A-Level and am delighted that I have applied through UCAS to university and will hopefully be able to fulfil my dream to become a lawyer.

I am a Year 8 Sixth Form Mentor and I attend Year 8 form classes to support pupils with the transition into post-primary school. I enjoy listening to the pupils in the Year 8 class that I support and I love that they always say hello to me in the corridor. Being an IT Leaders is also something I am proud of and I really enjoyed helping with the preparations for Ada Lovelace Day. I really feel that I am part of the Ashfield Family and want to continue to give back to my school community.



Madeleine

What Sixth Form in Ashfield Offers

A wide range of level 3 courses including AS/A2, Applied A Levels and BTEC Level 3

Supervised study to enable pupils quiet time to work and study

A Head of Sixth Form and dedicated Form Tutor who provide support and guidance

Careers periods, support with UCAS and advice for future careers

A well-established tracking and monitoring system to ensure the pupils are supported to fulfil their potential

A range of opportunities that include: Living Law Programme; links to Allen and Overy; Study Skills day; Preparing for Interview Day; Sixth Form Formal; Pupil mentoring; and many more...

Head Girl



Madeleine

Deputy Head Girls



Jasmin



Rebecca

Senior Prefects



Maria



Lucinda



Leila



Chelsea



Mia



Elleigh



Milena



Maja

House System

House System Champion
Mrs E McLees



Head of House



Mr C Burns



Mrs S Parks



Miss M Lee



Mrs Z Hewitt



Mrs G McClintock



Induction into Sixth Form

Sixth Form will begin with an opportunity to meet your new Form Class and Form Tutor. Form classes are usually based on subject choice to allow pupils to support peer learning.

Each year we run an induction programme to allow students to settle into Sixth Form. The format will be similar to the one below.

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Time Management | Mindfulness | Presentation and Portfolio skills | Target Setting |
| Healthy Eating | First Aid | Sexual Health/ Alcohol Awareness | Safe Motoring |

More details on arrangements for the beginning of term will be sent to you over the summer period.



Induction into Sixth Form



Effective Study Skills Programme

The development of effective study skills enhances academic performance, time management, critical thinking, confidence, and wellbeing. These are skills which are essential in allowing pupils to fulfil their potential in post-primary education and beyond as they become lifelong learners. To enhance and support these key skills the school provides both an internal and external study skills framework.

At the outset of each academic year, all Key Stage 3 pupils are provided with a learning outline (The Year Ahead) giving both parents and pupils a clear overview of the academic content covered each year, key assessment dates and links to resources parents can use to support learning at home. Study skills are taught in all subject areas and pupils are supported in planning their revision programme ahead of each assessment. This internal programme is supported by our external education partners Inspire Education, who provide bespoke study skills seminars and resources for each year group.



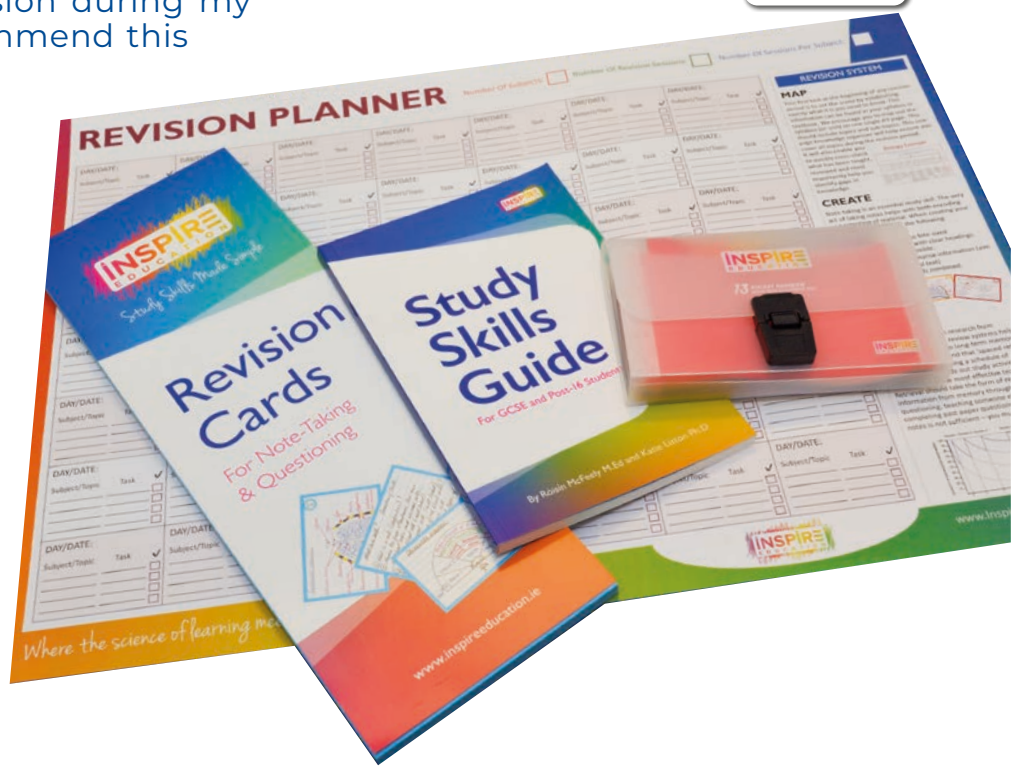
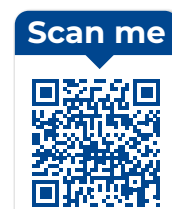
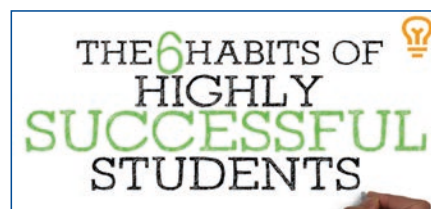
Inspire Education's evidence based, interactive programme begins with Ignite in Year 8. The Ignite seminar is designed to captivate, motivate, and educate students about the brain and the process of learning. It seeks to create a success-oriented mindset, boost academic performance, and foster a positive and lifelong attitude to learning. In the first year of post primary education, it enables students to develop the mindset and study habits to be successful, ensuring the journey through post primary education is not only smoother but also more rewarding, personally and educationally.

Pupil Experience

My experience of the study skills workshop was amazing! It was an interesting session and it helped me with revision during my winter exams. I would recommend this study skills workshop. Zara, Year 13.

The study programme helped me to find the best way to revise. Ellie, Year 8.

I found the session helped me to find strategies that worked for my revision, it also helped me not to feel under pressure. Jodie, Year 8.



Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance



Key Stage 5

Our Year 13 and 14 pupils receive a comprehensive biweekly Careers Programme and will be able to continue to access the Unifrog platform within allocated class time and at home when pursuing further and higher education courses. In addition to timetabled careers classes, pupils will participate in:

- Mock Interviews for Year 13 pupils
- Opportunities to sign up to online work experience and careers talks
- Special guest talks – Apprenticeships Work+, Belfast Metropolitan College, Cafre, Health and Social Care talks
- Opportunity to enrol in the Queen's Pathways Programme
- Preparation guidance for applying to university and colleges using the UCAS system
- Visits to UCAS exhibitions, Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University Open Days.



Mr F Cuttle
Head of Careers



Mrs E McKenna
Assistant Head of Careers
Post Year 14 Destinations



Mr C Burns
Assistant Head of Careers
Curriculum Provision



Miss M Lee
Assistant Head of Careers
Work Related Learning



Results Day – Making Post 16 Choices

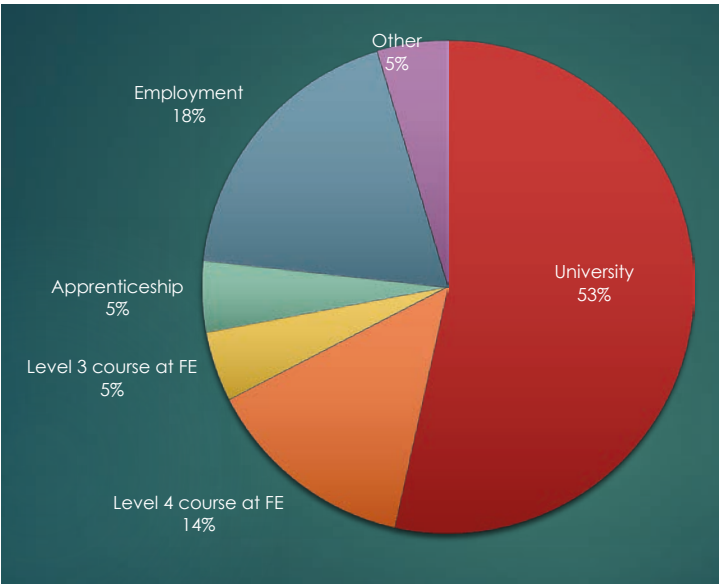


Exam Successes

| Summer 2024 Exam Results | |
|--|-------|
| Achieving 5+ GCSE grades at A* - C | 78.9% |
| Achieving 5+ GCSE grades at A* - C (inc English & Maths) | 54.5% |
| Achieving 3+ A Levels at grades A* - C | 46.5% |
| Achieving 2+ A Levels at grades A* - E | 100% |



Year 14 Leavers – Overview of Destinations



GCSE results will be issued on Thursday 21st August 2025.

Results are usually issued within school before those students who have achieved the required grades confirm their GCE/BTEC choices with staff. For those students who do not wish to return or who have not achieved the required grades, careers guidance is available.

If you wish to return to school you will need to confirm three GCE/BTEC choices. You will need to make these choices from the option blocks which will be come available once all provisional choices have been made.



University Destinations

Queen's University Belfast

University of Surrey

Ulster University

Ulster University

Queen's University Belfast

Queen's University Belfast

Queen's University Belfast

Ulster University

City, University of London

Ulster University

Queen's University Belfast

LJMU

Ulster University

Ulster University

Ulster University

Ulster University

Ulster University

Edinburgh Napier University

Ulster University

Ulster University

Ulster University

Union Theological College

Ulster University

Professional Nursing (Children and Young People's)

Midwifery: Registered Midwife

History

Nursing (Adult)

Professional Nursing (Adult)

English with Creative Writing

Criminology

Communication Management and Public Relations

Media and Communications

Law

Professional Nursing (Children and Young People's)

Adult Nursing

English

Sociology with Criminology

Graphic Design

Criminology and Criminal Justice

Graphic Design

Nursing (Child Health)

Health and Social Care Policy

Psychology with optional placement year

Sociology with Criminology

BA Hons Theology

Politics & International Studies with Criminology





The Ashfield School Uniform consists of:

- Blazer:** Ashfield blue (woollen cloth) with school badge on pocket. Sixth Form blazer with braid trim.
- Skirt:** **Pleated knee length skirt in Ashfield blue colour.** The pleated skirt **must** be worn by all pupils in Years 8 – 14.
- Cardigan:** Fine v-neck in dark blue, with school colours in neck-band.
- Shirts:** **White long sleeve shirt to be worn by Years 13 and 14 only.**
- Sixth Form Tie:** Ashfield tie, available from the school office.
- Coats:** Plain navy waterproof jacket or anorak suitable for wearing over blazer is acceptable.
- Scarf:** **Knitted school** scarf for Years 8-12 and college style wrap scarf for Years 13 and 14.
- Shoes:** Plain black flat-heeled leather school shoes. No ankle straps, studs or coloured soles. No black canvas or casual style shoes / plimsolls.
- Tights/Socks:** Plain black tights or navy knee length school socks.
- Hair:** Hair must be of a natural colour and no extreme styles are permitted. Hair accessories should be plain blue or black.
- Piercings:** One pair of small studs are allowed to be worn on the ears. No facial piercings. Ear bars or stretchers are not permitted as this is a health and safety issue. Pupils must be able to remove any piercings when in school.
- Jewellery:** One watch and a plain ring only. No other jewellery permitted.
- Badges:** No badges other than school approved badges, to be worn.
- Nails:** Only natural nails are permitted. Pupils are not allowed to wear nail polish, nail extensions or acrylics.
- Tattoos:** No visible tattoos are permitted.
- Make Up:** Natural and appropriate for school.

Uniforms should be obtained from the following official stockists.

SCHOOL WEAR
D CRAWFORD
21 Frances Street
Newtownards, BT23 7DW
Tel: 07801 343 505
www.schoolwearni.co.uk

C A GOWDY LTD
121 Woodstock Road
Belfast
BT6 8AB
Tel: 028 9045 9052
www.gowdys.net

WARNOCKS LTD
791/793 Lisburn Road
Belfast
BT9 7GX
Tel: 028 9038 1828
www.warnocks.co.uk

SCHOOLDAYS NI
434 Newtownards Road
Belfast
BT4 1HJ
Tel: 028 9543 3725
www.schooldaysltd.co.uk



Transport to School

Pupils can use Translink's 'mLink' app, which can be downloaded to any smart phone, to find a variety of ticketing options which can be stored on the phone and presented to the driver whilst boarding. Tickets can be purchased on board or at any ticket vending machine along the Glider routes. A Translink weekly ticket costs £7.50 and there are no limits on the number of journeys it can be used for throughout the week, it can also be used at weekends.

Translink School Service

Morning service to school (Monday – Friday)

- 8.10am school service from Holywood Arches to Ashfield Girls' High School
- 8.25am school service from Holywood Arches to Ashfield Girls' High School

Afternoon service from school (Monday to Thursday)

- 3.25pm school service from Ashfield Girls' High School to the Holywood Arches

Afternoon service from school (Friday)

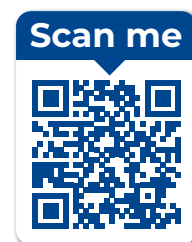
- 1.40pm school service from Ashfield Girls' High School to the Holywood Arches

The normal public bus service can be accessed by pupils and details of routes and times can be found on the Translink website.



School Policies

Our policies can be found on the school website and are regularly updated in line with new legislation, guidance and good practice.



Supporting Wellbeing



At Ashfield Girls' High School we understand the importance of wellbeing. Having positive wellbeing enables young people to cope with challenging life situations, achieve their full potential and contribute to society.

A whole school approach to promoting wellbeing allows our pupils to become more resilient, successful and to obtain support early. We do this by ensuring that they have opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills, feel safe and secure, build relationships and be connected to our school community. Pupil voice plays a significant role in our wellbeing support.

Ways that we identify pupils who may struggle with their wellbeing include:

- monitoring visits to the Pupil Welfare Auxiliary
- monitoring visits to the Sanctuary
- monitoring attendance
- analysing Pupil Attitude to School Survey (PASS) data
- staff identifying pupils needing additional support
- regular parent / carer contact
- contact with support groups in our community
- monitoring progress
- evaluating the transition process

Pupils learn about wellbeing in a number of ways including through the taught Personal Development Curriculum, opportunities to develop social and emotional skills embedded in a range of subjects, assemblies and other events delivered by external agencies.

Ways that we support wellbeing include:

- availability of school counselling services
- liaising with external services
- peer mentors
- therapeutic activities including art, relaxation, and mindfulness techniques
- activities such as games (indoor and outdoor) at lunchtime
- resources in the pupil planner
- signposting pupils to resources
- wellbeing area in the school library
- providing items to pupils in need, such as the 'Club Breakfast'
- having clear policies on key pastoral issues, such as Wellbeing, Promoting Positive Behaviour and Pupil Voice.





Pastoral Support

Our Pastoral Care team is made up of experienced and committed staff who place the wellbeing of each pupil at the centre of their pastoral role.



Mrs C Hoey
Vice-Principal for Pastoral Care
Designated Teacher for Child Protection



Mrs P Doak
Head of Sixth Form and Assistant Vice-Principal



Ms J Bomber
Pupil Welfare Auxiliary (Medical)



Education Maintenance Allowance



All you need to know about EMA for academic year 2025/26

What is EMA?

Education Maintenance Allowance is a **weekly allowance of £30 to help 16, 17, 18 and 19 year olds** with the costs of further education. Payments are made every 2 weeks as long as you continue to meet your school or college’s attendance requirements.

There are also 2 performance based bonuses of £100 normally paid out in January and June.

Getting EMA won’t affect any benefits you or your family already receive.

You need to meet the following requirements to be able to get EMA:

Age

Your 16th, 17th, 18th or 19th birthday falls on or between 2 July 2024 and 1 July 2025 and you are starting or continuing in further education from September 2025.

Course

You attend a post-compulsory further education course at an approved school or college in Northern Ireland. This must be full-time at school or a minimum of 15 guided hours per week at college, studying an eligible course and attending all classes.

Nationality and residency

If you’re a UK citizen who normally lives in the UK you should be able to get EMA. If you’re not a UK citizen you may still be able to get EMA, go to www.nidirect.gov.uk for more information.

Household income

The table below shows how much you can get based on your household income.

| Annual household income | Weekly EMA entitlement |
|--|------------------------|
| £20,500 or less | £30 |
| £22,500 or less and there’s at least 1 other dependant eligible for child benefit in your household, other than you. | £30 |
| Between £20,501 and £22,500 and there are no other dependants eligible for child benefit in your household, other than you. | £0 |
| £22,501 or more | £0 |

Education Maintenance Allowance

Applying

How do I apply?

You need to complete an application form.

You'll be able to get one from:

- your school or college
- www.nidirect.gov.uk

When do I apply?

Application forms will be available from spring 2025. You should return your application form as soon as possible, as far in advance of your course start date and no later than 31 March 2026.

Keep an eye on www.nidirect.gov.uk for updates about when to apply.

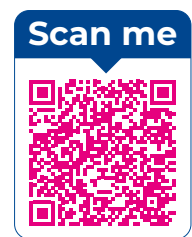
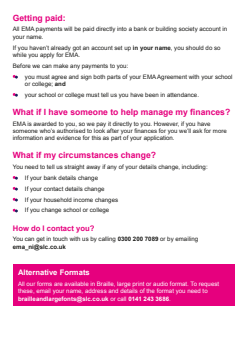
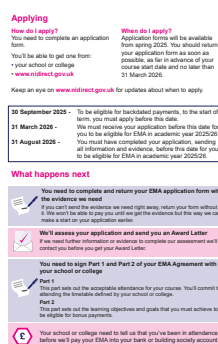
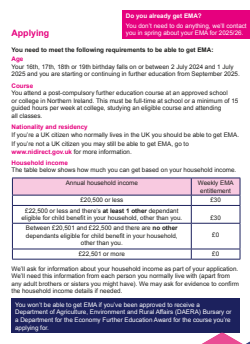
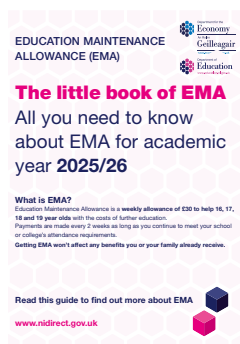
30 September 2025 - To be eligible for backdated payments, to the start of term, you must apply before this date.

31 March 2026 - We must receive your application before this date for you to be eligible for EMA in academic year 2025/26.

31 August 2026 - You must have completed your application, sending all information and evidence, before this date for you to be eligible for EMA in academic year 2025/26.

Little Book of EMA - Quick Guide to EMA - Really important - Please Read

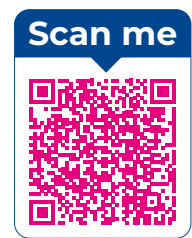
<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-04/Ema-ni-little-book-of-ema-guide-2526-o-pdf.pdf>

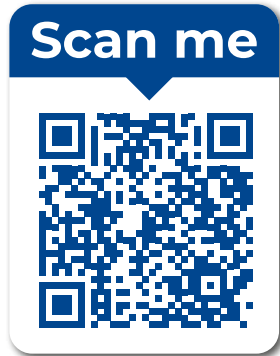


Further information about EMA and application forms can be found at

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/publications/education-maintenance-allowance-general-guidance-information>

Please remember to send completed applications and supporting documents directly to EMA and not into school.





Online
Prospectus

Challenging girls today; creating women of value in the future

www.ashfieldgirls.org

CONTACT US

Principal: Mrs Louise Hanvey BSc (Hons) PGCE, PQHNI, PGDH

Hollywood Road, Belfast, BT4 2LY

Tel: 028 9047 1744

info@ashgirls.belfast.ni.sch.uk

www.ashfieldgirls.org