

# Higher Education

## University

Going to university to study for a degree is as invaluable now as it has ever been. If you aren't afraid to work hard you will leave university fully rewarded, both in terms of personal satisfaction and employability. Currently, the numbers of graduates entering employment six months after leaving university is at a record high. At university, in addition to studying a subject that you really enjoy, you will develop all the skills employers are looking for. You will learn some of these directly through your chosen subject and others you will acquire them from your overall university experience.

Ashfield Post 16 has a good record of sending students away to university, with around 100 of our students enrolling each September. All student in the United Kingdom who wish to go to university must apply through the University & College Admission Service (UCAS). You will be fully supported in this application process by the Post 16 pastoral team. The UCAS website (link below) is an ideal tool to investigate the diverse range of courses that are to be found in the UK's 130 universities.



We are a UCAS registered centre

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

## Apprenticeships

Years ago, apprenticeships were thought of as a poor relation to a degree. That's changed. Now apprenticeships are viewed as a valid alternative to a university education. They are a dynamic way to learn practical skills that can enhance long-term career prospects. Apprenticeships have three major benefits. Firstly, apprentices earn while they learn – you get paid for doing a job. Secondly, apprentices work in a low pressure learning environment surrounded and mentored by experienced people who pass on their skills. Finally, if you impress your employer during an apprenticeship there is a strong chance that they will give you a permanent position. Apprenticeships come in several levels. Level 2 apprenticeships are equivalent to 5 GCSE passes, Level 3 apprenticeships are equivalent to 2 A-level passes, level 4/5 apprenticeships are equivalent to a foundation degree and level 6 apprenticeships are equivalent to a degree.

Ashfield Post 16 will give the same level of support to students wishing to secure apprenticeships as we do to those wishing to attend university. An excellent way to source apprenticeships is by the government website (link below).



<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>