



THE ABINGDON CONSORTIUM FOR EDUCATION
Learning at the heart of our community

www.ACfE.co.uk

ABINGDON & WITNEY COLLEGE

Wootton Road, Abingdon
Oxon OX14 1GG
T: 01235 555 585
F: 01235 553 168
E: enquiries@abingdon-witney.ac.uk

FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

Northcourt Road, Abingdon
Oxon OX14 1NP
T: 01235 520 698
F: 01235 534 590
E: office.4127@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk

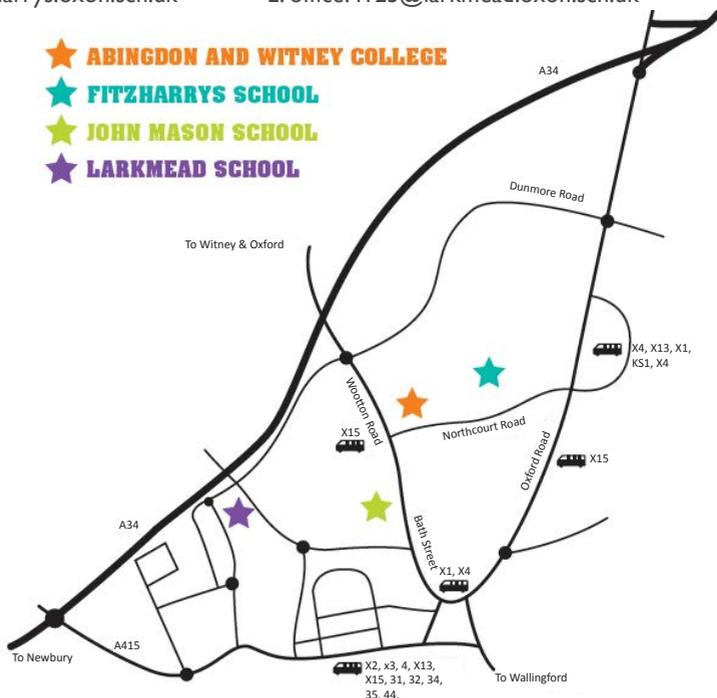
JOHN MASON SCHOOL

Wootton Road, Abingdon
Oxon OX14 1JB
T: 01235 524 664
F: 01235 520 711
E: office.4126@johnmason.oxon.sch.uk

LARKMEAD SCHOOL

Faringdon Road, Abingdon
Oxon OX14 1RF
T: 01235 520 141
F: 01235 533 179
E: office.4125@larkmead.oxon.sch.uk

- ★ **ABINGDON AND WITNEY COLLEGE**
- ★ **FITZHARRYS SCHOOL**
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- ★ **LARKMEAD SCHOOL**



16+
Choices

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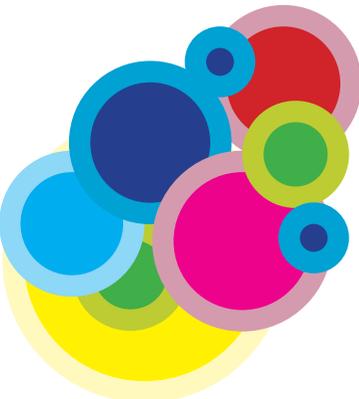
SIXTH FORM
ABINGDON
success for all



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This prospectus is issued without prejudice to the right of the Abingdon Consortium of Education partners to make such modifications to the matters dealt with as the Consortium considers necessary without prior notice.



WELCOME TO THE ABINGDON CONSORTIUM FOR EDUCATION



Students in the Abingdon Consortium for Education are once again celebrating record A Level and vocational qualification exam results. The percentage of students across Fitzharrys, John Mason and Larkmead schools achieving at least 3 A* or A grades has improved on last year's record, and is once more above the national average.

The last three years of A*-B grades also puts ACfE above the national average. AS results in Abingdon show great promise for the future, bucking the national picture of uncertainty and rising 14% at A-B. These are a fantastic achievement from the students in Abingdon, proof of the consistently rising standards in our community.

In terms of Level 3 vocational qualifications, Abingdon & Witney College is now the No.1 college in the south of England for pass rates and No. 2 in England, with students achieving pass rates of 95%.

For the first time this year we are offering students the opportunity to combine vocational and A Level qualifications, a combination intended to fit a career aspiration or appropriate pathway.

The A Level courses will be studied at the partner schools, with the vocational qualification being studied at the Abingdon campus of Abingdon & Witney College.

If you would like to find out more about this alternative route, please discuss with your careers advisor or Head of Sixth Form.

The Abingdon Consortium for Education is a unique partnership between Fitzharrys, John Mason and Larkmead Secondary Schools and Abingdon & Witney College. The proximity of our institutions allows us to offer an extensive range of A Level qualifications, and for the first time this year, the chance to study both vocational and A Levels together. We believe that by working in this way young people have the opportunity to study a diverse range of courses taught by subject specialists and have access to high quality resources and settings.

As a partnership we pride ourselves on maintaining consistently high academic standards, an exciting range of trips and extracurricular learning, as well as extensive careers support and guidance, to ensure our students achieve their very best.

The ACfE also offers a pastoral support programme that supports students throughout their time with us, as students learn the vital skills of independence and resilience, in preparation for their future career.

Together we are passionate about the future of education in Abingdon. Together we are committed to collaborate to ensure that every student has access to high-quality experiences and support. Together we are putting learning at the very heart of our community.



16+ Choices

AS / A LEVEL A LEVELS

A Levels are courses examined at the end of two years. At the end of the first year AS exams are taken in all subjects. These are free standing qualifications that, for the most part, comprise of two units of assessment and are worth 40% of a full A Level.

Both AS and A Level qualifications can count towards the requirements for university entrance.

LEVEL 3 VOCATIONAL COURSES

Level 3 vocational courses are of an equivalent standard to A Levels that can be taken alongside AS and A Levels. These courses have a more applied nature and are assessed through a combination of coursework and external exams. Vocational courses also count towards the requirements for university entrance.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To study AS/A Levels you will normally need a minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade C or above. However if these 5 subjects include English or Maths, these will need to be a grade 5 or above.

For students who do not have at least a grade 5 in Maths or English, there is an expectation that they will continue to study Maths or English GCSE.

Advanced Level Qualifications can act as a gateway to many opportunities, from higher education to a better job.



16+ Choices

WHAT CAN I STUDY?

As an A Level student you can choose from over 30 A Level subjects, a number of level 3 vocational courses and GCSE Maths and English.

You can choose to study:

3 or 4 A Levels or vocational courses (5 subjects if your choice includes Maths and Further Maths) or 3 or 4 subjects and GCSE Maths or English.

WHERE WILL I STUDY?

All A Level students are members of a school sixth form. This is your 'home base'. At the home base you will attend regular meetings with your personal tutor where you will discuss a range of topics including targets, progress reports, independent study support and preparation for university entrance and employment.

In group tutorials you will work together on life beyond the sixth form and explore personal and social issues of importance.

There will be many opportunities for enrichment – which may include additional AS qualifications (the Extended Project Qualification or General Studies) – as well as sport, extracurricular clubs and community service.

You will find detailed subject explanations on the consortium website: www.ACfE.co.uk

A graphic logo consisting of several overlapping circles in red, blue, green, yellow, and pink, with the text '16+ Choices' in white. The background of the entire page is a photograph of a young man, Ahmed, wearing glasses and a dark jacket over a blue hoodie, standing in front of a red sign that says 'Abingdon & Witney College'.A graphic logo consisting of several overlapping circles in red, blue, green, yellow, and pink, with the text '16+ Choices' in white. The background of the entire page is a photograph of a young woman, Joanne, with long brown hair, smiling, standing in front of a building with 'FITZHARRYS' visible on the roof.

ABINGDON & WITNEY COLLEGE

MEET AHMED...

Ahmed is 18, and in the second year of his course studying Engineering Level 3.

He aims to study a BSc in Civil Engineering at university and is considering Edinburgh Napier University and the University of East London among his choices.

“ **THE COURSE HAD THE RIGHT MIX OF ACADEMIC STUDY AND PRACTICAL SESSIONS, TO ALLOW ME TO FOLLOW MY CHOSEN CAREER PATH.** ”

FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

MEET JOANNE...

Joanne is 17, she is studying Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Further Maths.

She studies at Fitzharrys for Biology, Maths and Chemistry and Larkmead for Further Maths. She thinks that sharing resources is a great idea, that way you get the best of all the Abingdon schools. She wants to go on and do medicine at university.

“ **IT'S GREAT MEETING NEW PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT SCHOOLS, WHICH REALLY PREPARES YOU FOR UNIVERSITY.** ”



LARKMEAD SCHOOL

MEET HOLLY...

Holly is 18, and currently studying Art, French and English Literature, she hopes to go on to university to study a Creative Arts programme.

She studies at Larkmead and Fitzharrys for French, John Mason for Art and English Literature at Larkmead.

“IT’S EASIER WITH THE CONSORTIUM TO GET THE COMBINATION OF A LEVELS THAT I WANTED.”



JOHN MASON SCHOOL

MEET FAHAD...

Fahad is 16 and currently studying Geography, History, Maths and Biology.

He studies Geography at John Mason, Maths at John Mason and Fitzharrys and Biology at Larkmead.

“GOING TO THE CHOICES EVENING WAS REALLY USEFUL. THE STAFF COULD GIVE YOU DETAILS ON THEIR EXPECTATIONS AND YOU COULD SEE ALL THE SUBJECTS ON OFFER.”

HOW TO APPLY FOR FULL-TIME COURSES

We welcome applications from any student whatever your background, experience or needs. We aim to provide an environment which has equal learning opportunities for all students on this programme, irrespective of disability, ethnic origin, gender, social class, religion or belief, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Please use the application form that can be found on the ACfE website or by contacting one of the three schools or college directly. Once completed it can be returned to any of the Consortium partners either in person, by email or by post. Full postal addresses and contact details are listed on the back cover of this prospectus. Applications are also welcomed from learners who are not currently attending one of the four consortium institutions. Please get in touch if you have any questions.

PLEASE NOTE

Course viability is subject to adequate numbers. The Abingdon Consortium for Education reserves the right to cancel programmes that do not meet this criteria.

GUIDANCE IN CHOOSING THE RIGHT COURSE

Staff are available to provide you with impartial advice about your education. If you are uncertain about the best course for you please contact the head of sixth form in any of the three schools. Alternatively, please speak to your Careers Adviser in school or college.

FEES FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS

(Home and EU Countries)

If you are under 19 years of age on the 31st August 2017, you are not required to pay any course fees for a full-time course. However, some full-time courses include a residential week and students normally pay the costs of this. Full-time students will normally be supplied with free books and materials although some courses may need to make a charge for specialist equipment. These charges are generally non-refundable.

SUPPORTED TO ACHIEVE YOUR AMBITIONS

When you join the Abingdon Consortium for Education you will be part of a supportive learning community. Our dedicated staff and governors are passionate that every student is encouraged and supported to reach their personal goals. We are proud of our growing success in examinations and extra-curricular achievements that help make this happen.

We are committed to building upon the existing strengths of our collaboration, with a clear focus on the quality of teaching and learning alongside the ethos of support and challenge that will enable everyone within the consortium to achieve their high ambitions.

STUDENT SUPPORT

- All students will receive at least 4 reports a year. These show current progress and monitor how well students are staying on track to achieve their potential.
- Pastoral support runs throughout ACfE, ensuring that students make a positive transition to the greater responsibility that comes with Sixth Form study.
- A number of Parents' Evenings over the two years keep students and parents well informed so that parents can monitor and support success as part of that vital partnership between student, school and home.
- Careers information supports our students as they move to the next phase in their life after school be it university, apprenticeship or employment.
- The members of ACfE each provide support for UCAS applications, including preparation for interviews as well as access to information, advice and guidance.
- Our annual Higher Education Evening gathers together universities from across the country, widening the horizons of our students and preparing them for their varied and exciting futures.

Abingdon Consortium for Education is built on the values of ambition, respect, trust and care that form the core ethos of our four institutions. Students will be part of an exciting, lively and creative group of students at 16-19, each valued as a member of a vibrant learning community committed to helping you achieve your ambitions and preparing you for a bright future.