

The Albemarle Ethos

"A modern college with a traditional approach"



Albemarle is an award-winning independent sixth-form college, offering a broad A-level and GCSE curriculum for students from public, state and private school backgrounds.

Why Choose Albemarle?

The majority of students who come to Albemarle do so because of our reputation for excellent A-level and GCSE results. This is true of students both on our full two-year programme, as well as those on the one-year intensive programme. Most students will progress on to a Russell Group (UK) or Ivy League (US) university, and all students benefit from our advice on choice of degree course and career path.

Students are taught in small groups, concentrating on the skills needed to pass examinations and to be successful at university. All teachers at Albemarle are subject specialists and most have experience as examiners. They are particularly successful with young people: they are able to motivate and communicate with them in ways which they understand. Barriers are quickly broken down, enhancing the learning process.

How Do We Get The Best Out Of Our Students?

Students benefit from individual tutorials outside of classes – a key element of our successful A-level and GCSE programmes, and at Albemarle each student has a Curriculum Manager who provides advice on study skills, subject choices and careers, and who also monitors the progress of their students.

We expect full commitment from our students and as such we have strict rules on attendance and timely submission of assignments. Parents are able to monitor progress through monthly reports, easily accessible using our online Parent's Portal.



"At Albemarle the well-being of students is just as important as their academic progress."

Ceri Christensen-Jones
Senior Administrator

Parents' Evenings are held during the Autumn and Spring terms.

We encourage our students every step of the way and we help them to build confidence through examination success. We see the learning process as a successful partnership between students, tutors and parents.

The College Principals

"Focus on excellent exam results... top UK universities"



Principals:
Beverley Mellon & James Eytle.



Stephen Bailey
Vice Principal



Ashley Richardson
Director of Studies



Tushar Depala
Director of Studies

Albemarle's founders and Principals, Beverley Mellon and James Eytle, had two key objectives when establishing the college: achieving excellent examination results and success in placing students at the top UK and US universities.

Beverley and James have used their considerable experience in teaching and careers counselling to guide students in choosing the right subjects and selecting the career path that best fulfils their needs.

Beverley entered the teaching profession having trained initially as an Accountant and retains strong links with the banking and accounting sectors, useful for mentoring students wishing to enter these professions. She is a graduate in Maths & Computer Science from Cardiff University.

James read Biochemistry at King's College, and maintains his connections to the world of medical and pharmaceutical training, providing practical guidance and advice to candidates with aspirations in these areas. James is responsible for overseeing the college's highly successful Medical Sciences Programme including the International Medical & Dental Programme which provides routes to training in Europe.

James and Beverley have vast experience in liaising with university admission officers and have established a close network of contacts in the university sector.

The Vice Principal, Stephen Bailey, a graduate of the University of Nottingham, is responsible for the smooth running of the academic calendar, as well as acting as a Curriculum Manager, providing careers advice and mentoring students wishing to embark on careers in Law or Politics. Steve also teaches Sociology at Albemarle.



The Senior Director of Studies, Ashley Richardson is a graduate of Cambridge University and has special responsibility for overseeing applications to Oxbridge. Ashley teaches A-level Philosophy and Psychology and oversees the running of the Humanities and Foreign Languages departments.

Our newest Director of Studies, Tushar Depala, is a graduate in Economics from the University of Birmingham. He worked for a couple of years at Goldman Sachs before joining the teaching profession. Tushar is responsible for the ULS & EPQ programmes in the Lower Sixth at Albemarle.

Teaching, Assessment and Reporting

“Student-centred tuition focusing on the individual”



Chris Mason
Finance Administrator



Tracy Higgins
Welfare Officer



Mohammed Aneizi
Marketing and Information
Officer

Students at Albemarle benefit from the small class sizes, on average five students in each class. Tuition is very much centred on the students, who are encouraged to participate fully and, most importantly, to think for themselves.

Our teachers are all highly qualified specialists in their subject area. They use a mixture of motivation, encouragement and confidence building to get the best out of students. Teachers focus on examination techniques and make extensive use of past examination questions.

Classes are timetabled in 60 minute sessions between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. The college remains open daily until 6.30 on weekdays and is also open on Saturdays, for private study and extra tutorials.

Students are provided with a full set of notes in each subject, with homework being assigned at the end of each lesson. Students must complete all assignments on time and we monitor all coursework carefully to ensure that students meet their deadlines.

Our ongoing assessment programme features weekly tests in each subject and formal mock examinations once a month. Experience demonstrates that regular testing is vital for improving examination performance, and we monitor this carefully.

Students who underperform in mocks are timetabled into supervised study sessions and given additional help outside of classes by their teachers. They are also coached in study skills and exam techniques, and given advice by their Personal Tutor as to how best improve their performance.

Formal reports are compiled each month and these are accessible online in the secure



Parent's Portal on our website. Parents and students can also view previous reports for comparison. Tutors also maintain regular contact with parents and guardians on an informal basis.

Parents' Evenings are held in the Autumn and Spring terms, when parents are able to discuss a student's progress with their teachers and Principals. During half-term weeks students are provided with revision packs, but they can also come into the college for extra help if needed. The college also provides dedicated courses to help students with essay-writing and numeracy.

The Two Year A-level Programme



The majority of students on this programme will take 4 AS-level subjects in their first year and 3 A-level subjects in their second year.

The AS-level is a qualification in its own right and students sit formal AS-level exams at the end of their first year, generally carrying forward 3 of their 4 subjects into the second year.

All students in the first year of the A-level programme (Year 12) have weekly University & Life Skills (ULS) classes, which incorporate the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). During the ULS classes, students are able to develop and hone their skills in giving presentations, team work and project management, as well as focusing on CV preparation and Work Experience. We also invite guest speakers from a wide range of professions including Law, Investment Banking, Engineering and Medicine to name but a few.

A key part of the ULS programme focuses on preparation for university, including help in compiling a Personal Statement and advice on choice of universities and degree courses. The college runs a highly successful university tour at the end of the first year, where students have the opportunity to visit universities with teachers from Albemarle, all around the country.

A wide range of sporting activities is provided during the weekly sports session on Wednesday afternoons, including football, basketball, badminton, tennis, dance aerobics, swimming and body-building.

During the Spring half-term all Lower Sixth students are invited to take part in the college cultural trip to a European city of interest. This



is an immensely popular and enjoyable experience for students. Recent destinations have included Florence & Venice, Athens, Seville & Granada, Rome, Istanbul and Berlin.

Teachers make the most of the college's excellent location in the heart of London and students are taken on visits to places of interest such as the Wellcome Institute, Natural History Museum, British Museum, the Houses of Parliament, the Wallace Collection as well as to attend lectures at UCL, LSE, Imperial and the Royal Society of Science.

ULS/EPQ Programme

"Developing independent Learning skills"



"My EPQ was talked about at interview. It led to a lower offer (one grade was reduced from an A to a B) from Southampton and Sheffield universities."

Matthew Collins, Student



Our unique University & Life Skills (ULS) programme consists of weekly lessons geared towards helping students to build self-confidence and develop a wide variety of skills. It incorporates the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

ULS is dedicated to students in their first year of A-level study and key elements of the programme include:

- Presentation & Debating Skills
- CV writing & Work experience
- UCAS workshops
- Charity & Business projects
- Guest speakers from universities
- Guest speakers from industry (careers)
- EPQ (optional)

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Most students in their first year of A-level study opt to complete an EPQ alongside their AS-levels. This qualification is an invaluable way of developing research and project management skills, essential for Higher education and the workplace. The Extended Project is a stand-alone qualification that is equivalent to an AS Level, but with an A* also achievable. It is accredited by the OCR exam board.

The Extended Project Qualification has enormous benefits to students:

- It encourages students to think and perform independently, allowing them to manage a project from start to finish.
- It gets them ready for university or employment, being designed to develop skills in decision making, problem solving, planning, researching and evaluating.
- It can give them a competitive edge with university and employer applications.
- It can increase confidence and time management.

The EPQ is graded A* - E, with an A grade equating to 28 UCAS points.

"We welcome the introduction of the Extended Project (EPQ) and would encourage students to take one as it helps them to develop independent study and research skills and ease the transition from school/college to higher education."

Cambridge University Admissions



Students work with a teacher to produce an outcome that can take a variety of formats. They can:

- Write a dissertation/investigation/report
- Create an artefact or design
- Organise an event
- Put on a performance of some kind.

Students are assessed by their teachers across a range of skills, which are the same regardless of the type of project undertaken.

The One-year A-level Programme

"Strategic planning is crucial"



Rob Smith
Head of Photography & Design



Biology field trip
to Portugal.

The one-year A-level courses are designed for students who wish to complete a full A-level in one year starting from scratch. Students will need to show aptitude for the subject and, in some cases, must have studied the subject to GCSE level or equivalent.

Most students on this programme will have already completed one or two years of A-level study, but need to improve their grades to get onto their chosen degree course. Retake students on this programme will need to achieve higher A-level results than their first time counterparts, so it is essential that they get it right the second time round.

Students are able to achieve success on this programme not simply because of the excellent tuition at Albemarle, but also because of the support and help they receive outside the classroom from subject teachers as well as their Curriculum Manager.

Our Curriculum Managers have a wealth of experience dealing with students undertaking A-levels in a year and the advice they give is tailored to suit the needs of each individual. We are able to call on a vast network of contacts at universities to assist us in getting students onto the degree course of their first choice at a good university.

Curriculum Managers offer advice to students on an individual basis helping them with all elements of the UCAS admission process from the production of a uniquely attractive personal statement to the finishing touches to the online forms and mock interviews. UCAS admissions are completed by early October to give students the best possible chance of receiving offers for their first choice university and degree course.

In the past academic year, students on our one-year programme have achieved places at many of the top UK universities including



"Our approach is very much geared towards getting the best out of individual students and encouraging them to develop independent learning skills."

James Meadows
Head of History

Cambridge, Imperial, UCL, LSE, Warwick, Edinburgh, Bristol and Durham.

We can also count a number of doctors, dentists, accountants, lawyers, computer scientists and journalists, to name but a few professionals, among our past students on this programme.

The GCSE Programme

"Small classes... focusing on the individual"



The GCSE programme at Albemarle is a one-year intensive programme covering Key Stage 4 of the national curriculum and most students will take 6 to 9 subjects in the year.

Our GCSE students come from a wide variety of backgrounds, attracted by our reputation for achieving excellent examination results and the very individual support and attention they will receive at Albemarle.

Our GCSE programme is highly structured and most lessons will take place between 9.00am and 3.50pm every day. Classes are of 60 minutes duration and study sessions are also timetabled during which students are able to complete homework or coursework, under supervision.

The core subjects for most GCSE students include English, Mathematics, and Science subjects. Other popular subjects are Foreign languages, Art, Photography, History and Geography. A full list of GCSE subjects on offer at Albemarle can be found on page 37.

The Head of GCSE acts as Personal Tutor to all GCSE students, closely monitoring their progress and maintaining regular contact with parents or guardians. Towards the end of the academic year GCSE students may begin to consider A-level choices and they are given advice and guidance throughout the decision-making process. They also have the opportunity to take part in A-level taster sessions to explore their choices.

Trips and visits to galleries, museums and places of interest are an integral part of the GCSE programme. Our excellent central London location offers us the opportunity to make the most of the fantastic places available to young people. Often these visits



"GCSE students benefit from individually tailored programmes with support from teachers outside of classes."

Chris Downer
Head of GCSE

are subject related, such as visits to the Globe theatre for English literature GCSE.

GCSE students are also encouraged to take part in the college's wide-ranging extra-curricular and sports programmes, although sport is not compulsory.

Our main objectives are to empower students to obtain the best possible GCSE grades through expert tuition in an environment that encourages hard work, independence of thought and examination success, and to build the right foundation for students to progress on to A-level study.