



The Astley Cooper School

Part of the East Dacorum Co-operative Learning Trust



A s p i r a t i o n • D e t e r m i n a t i o n • I n t e g r i t y



Learners feel safe and are happy at school. They told inspectors that, 'You come to school to learn' and 'Being at Astley Cooper is about doing the very best you can do.'

Ofsted June 2016



The Astley Cooper School

Part of the East Dacorum Co-operative Learning Trust

Welcome

I am proud to welcome you to The Astley Cooper School, an 11-18 Co-operative Trust school on the outskirts of Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire. Our vision is to ensure that when students leave, they have become successful, well rounded and confident individuals prepared to succeed in the modern world.

This is an exciting time in the history of the school. Our student and staff numbers are continuing to grow and our new building will be completed in summer 2023 which will considerably enhance the learning environment for all students. We firmly believe that a student who feels happy, safe and valued is a student who enjoys learning and achieves their academic potential.

We are a good school, one that is inclusive and ambitious for all our students. Our students are friendly and respectful, and our staff are hard-working and committed to providing the best opportunities for all students. Our core values of Aspiration, Determination and Integrity underpin our curriculum and run through everything we do here at The Astley Cooper School.

I hope that you will come to visit us to see the school in action and we look forward to welcoming you into the Astley Cooper family.

Sam Orsborne

Headteacher



I have found Year 7 to be exciting, fun and I've enjoyed it very much. I've made some good friends and I feel the school prepares me really well for mixing socially with others. I'm now looking forward to the challenges in Year 8.

Year 7 student





The Astley Cooper School

Part of the East Dacorum Co-operative Learning Trust

Opportunities

At The Astley Cooper School we believe that all students should be treated equally and given access to all the opportunities available to them.

We ensure that all students have opportunities to:

- Develop lively, imaginative and enquiring minds and the ability to question and argue rationally
- Apply themselves to extended tasks and take responsibility for their own learning
- Acquire understanding, knowledge and skills relevant to adult life and employment in a rapidly changing world
- Use language and numbers effectively



Staff have been really supportive and assisted me in meeting my aspiration. Teaching has always been very effective and I feel prepared for the next stages in my life and education.

Year 12 student



- Develop personal moral values, respect for other cultures, religions and ways of life
- Appreciate human achievements and aspirations
- Develop physical skills and artistic skills
- Develop a concern for the environment and an understanding of the world in which they live and the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations
- Take their place in modern Britain in an informed, positive and active way



The Astley Cooper School

Part of the East Dacorum Co-operative Learning Trust

Years 7, 8 and 9

Our curriculum is created using our core values based on:

- **Aspirational** individuals who go above and beyond and lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- **Determined** learners who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve
- Students who have **integrity** and make a positive contribution to society

In our Key Stage 3 programme, we offer a broad and balanced curriculum which consists of the core subjects (English, Mathematics and Science) and the foundation subjects: Art, Computer Science, Design Technology, Geography, History, a Modern Foreign Language, Music, Physical Education, Religious Education and PSHE (Personal Social Health Education), Drama, Dance and Food Studies are also included for all students.



The overall quality of teaching is good and improving. Teachers have high expectations of pupils.

Ofsted June 2016



Years 10 and 11

From Year 10, as students embark upon courses leading to GCSE, BTEC and other qualifications, we provide an opportunity to choose study programmes. New courses are introduced in Year 10 which enable students to concentrate on areas of the curriculum where they may have a particular interest or strength. There is a core element to studies at Key Stage 4. The subjects include English, Mathematics, Science, Computer Science, Geography, History, PE, PSHE and RE.



Our range of options include:

- Art
- ASDAN
- Dance
- Drama
- Film Studies
- Music
- Production Arts
- Other subjects offered are Business Studies, Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering, Design & Technology and Spanish.





The Astley Cooper School

Part of the East Dacorum Co-operative Learning Trust

Enrichment

We believe that the opportunity to experience new activities outside the curriculum enriches the quality of education at Astley Cooper. Extra-curricular activities build character, realise potential, promote a sense of community and present new challenges for students of all abilities and ages.

The school has a strong reputation for its work in the arts. Our dance company, ACDC, regularly participates in local and national competitions. The Art department produces an annual exhibition and students have a number of opportunities to work with professional artists in a wide range of disciplines.



Pupils and their parents are very positive about the welfare support provided by the school. They feel that the teachers know each pupil as an individual and that the school is a place where young people can develop their own personalities which 'creates interesting people.'

Ofsted June 2016



The school offers the Duke of Edinburgh Award to all students at Key Stage 4 and 5.

The students learn a number of skills such as map reading and camp craft. It also develops confidence, teamwork and self-esteem, which are all vital skills for further education and employment.

The PE department runs a successful sports day as well as a range of teams, which are entered into District and County competitions.

Throughout the year we provide a number of extra-curricular opportunities. We run an annual residential PE trip where students take part in a variety of outdoor and adventurous activities. We also run a ski trip during the Easter holidays to a number of different resorts across Europe.

The PE department is committed to supporting various local and national charities.

Our students annually raise money through a range of sporting activities for Sport Relief and Comic Relief, increasing awareness and understanding of a particular cause across the school.



The Astley Cooper School

Part of the East Dacorum Co-operative Learning Trust



The Sixth Form

The Sixth Form offer a variety of courses such as A-Levels in Art, Biology, Computer Science, English Literature, Geography and Maths in addition to BTEC qualifications in Business Studies, Forensic Science, Performing Arts (Dance & Drama), Psychology, Sport and Travel and Tourism, a Personal Finance qualification and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

We pride ourselves on our individual support of students so that they can make the best use of their time in the Sixth Form, and use it as a springboard to success in the future. We work in collaboration with Longdean School as part of the East Dacorum Co-operative Learning Trust to offer students the choice from an extensive range of A level and other qualifications. We also run an award-winning Pre-Apprenticeship Programme, working in close collaboration with a range of local businesses.

Students are guided by experienced staff to prepare them for the challenges of entry into Higher Education, employment or training. A range of enrichment activities are encouraged, from sports and debates to summer school programmes and work placements. Students have exclusive use of a computer suite, study area and common room. Our Sixth Form students are 'excellent role models for the rest of the school' – Ofsted June 2016

My time at the Astley Cooper School has helped me improve and be prepared for later life. The teachers are always very willing to help me and have supported me as I progressed through the school.

Sixth Form Student





The Astley Cooper School

Part of the East Dacorum Co-operative Learning Trust

Trust is a major consideration when choosing a school for your child, and I trust that all the staff at the Astley Cooper School have my child's best interest at heart.

Year 11 Parent



The Astley Cooper School
St Agnells Lane
Hemel Hempstead
HP2 7HL

telephone: 01442 394 141
email: admin@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk
follow us on Twitter: @Astley_Cooper



www.astleycooper.herts.sch.uk