



# Great Academy Ashton

TRUST  
CONFERENCE 2026  
**EXPLORING THE  
DIXONS DIFFERENCE**  
**#DixonsTogether**

## Welcome

We are delighted to be welcoming you to our Trust Conference 2026.

Each year our conference affords us the opportunity to come together, in person, with all members of Team Dixons. What a powerful symbol of our trust highlighting the importance of our collective endeavour. This year is no different and it is wholly appropriate that our theme is our mission: our universal shared purpose, our compass. How do we operationalise our mission through the Dixons Difference?

We all make the Dixons Difference every day, individually and collectively, by doing our best to support our mission to challenge disadvantage in the North. At our conference we will delve into what we think the Dixons Difference is and what it means to us.

The day has been planned to bring us all together, to focus on educational and associate priorities, to take time out to reflect on the reality of disadvantage, and for us all to spotlight one aspect of our work to develop.

Finally, we know the power of self-determination to motivate us and have therefore designed our conference with our three drivers in mind:

**Mastery:** we learn and grow professionally.

**Autonomy:** we develop our own mental models of our mission, of disadvantage and of what makes the Dixons Difference. We make choices over how we will spend time in our day. We have agency to take learning forward personally and back to our teams.

**Purpose:** this is our shared mission, and by connecting in this way our motivation is multiplied.

Enjoy the day and use it to make a difference.

## Judith Kidd

Director  
Centre for Growth



## Schedule

9 - 9.30am	Arrival and refreshments
9.30 - 10.10am	Welcome and messages: Our mission and the Dixons Difference
10.15am - 12.05pm	Where do we see the Dixons Difference? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Education facing colleagues</li><li>•Associate colleagues</li></ul>
12.05 - 12.55pm	Team Dixons lunch, networking and celebration showcase
1 - 1.30pm	Keynote Sean Harris: Why Dixons mission matters now more than ever
1.35 - 14.25pm	Choice workshop
2.30pm	Close and depart

## Menu

### **Morning refreshments: 9 - 9.50am**

Selection of pastries and fresh fruit.

### **Lunch: 12.05 - 12.55pm**

Selection of wraps, sandwiches, salads and bloomers, houmous dip pots.

Yoghurt and granola pots. Variety of crisps and snacks. Selection of cold drinks.

Muffins and cookies.

All dietary requirements will be catered for.

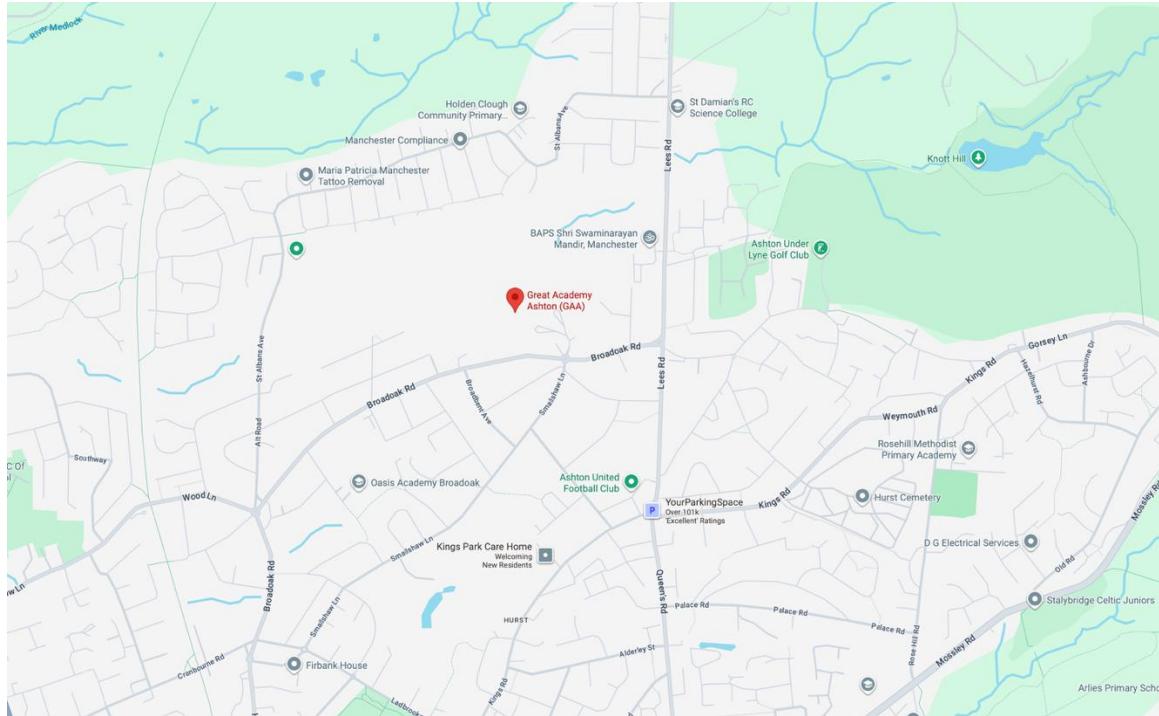


## Great Academy Ashton

### Travelling to Great Academy Ashton

If using a Sat-Nav, please enter the following address and follow directions accordingly:

Great Academy Ashton  
Broadoak Road,  
Ashton under Lyne  
OL6 8RF



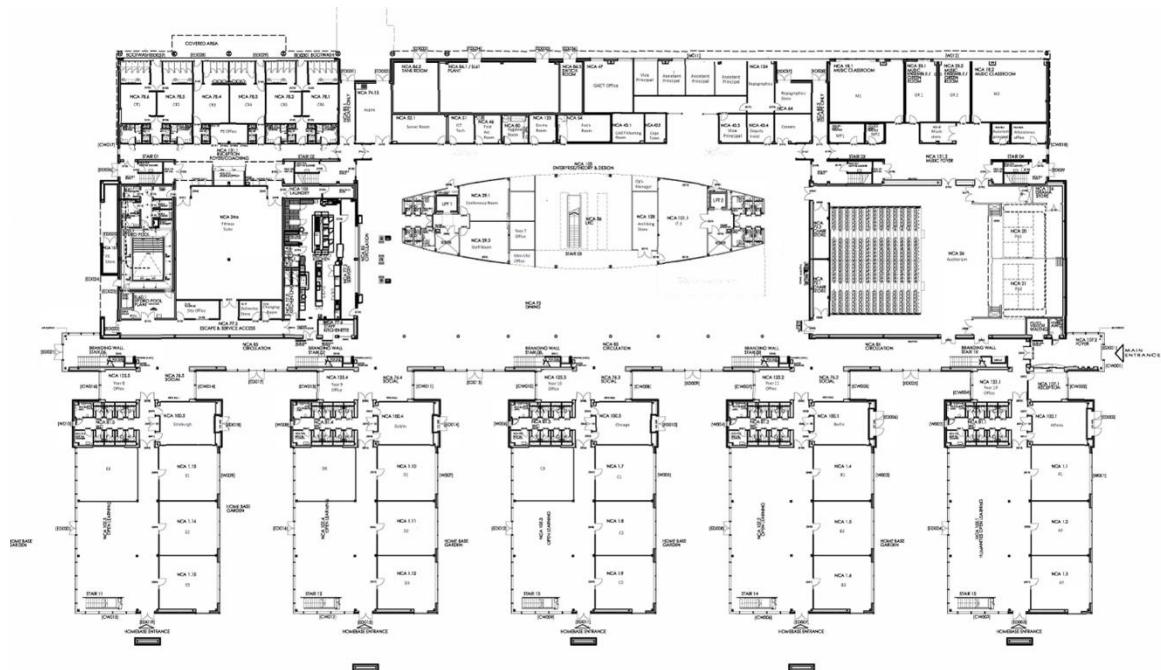
### Parking at Great Academy Ashton

Parking onsite will be restricted due to the volume of people. We urge you to car share to get to our academy.

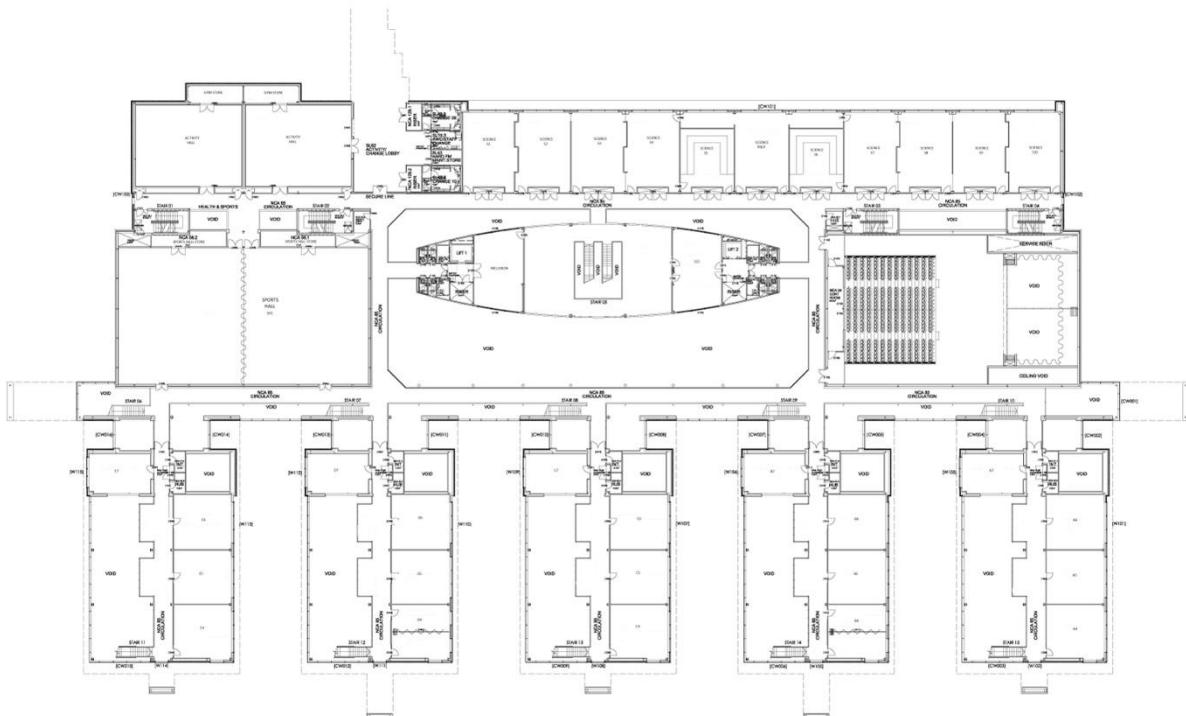
## Academy site map

Please see below the full site map for Great Academy Ashton.

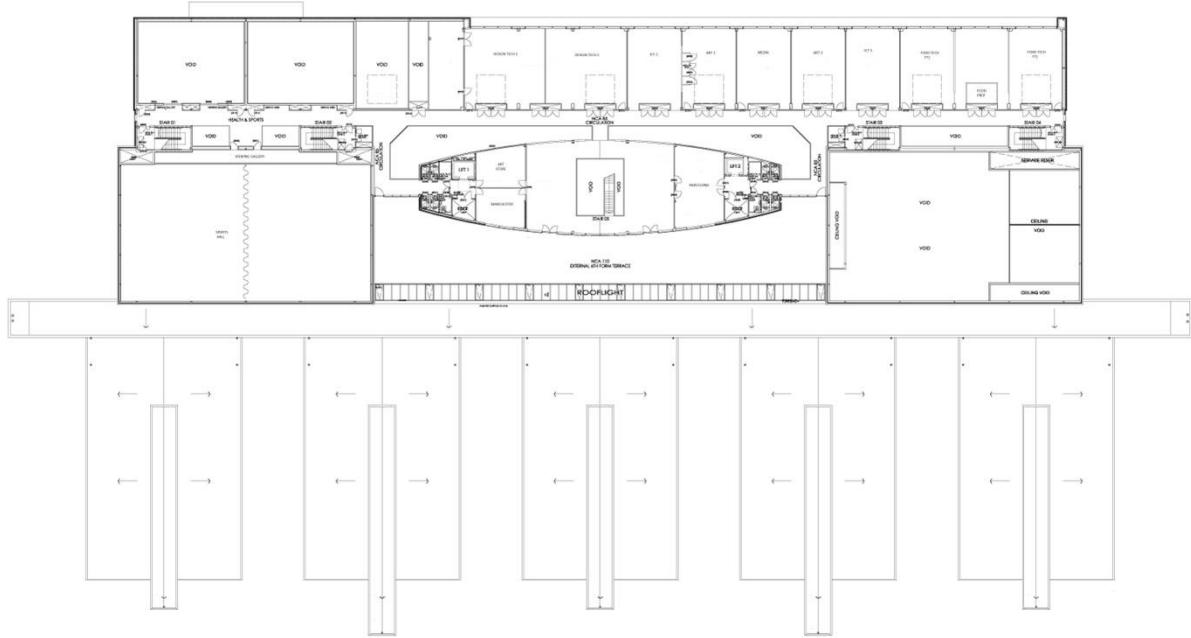
## Ground Floor



## First Floor



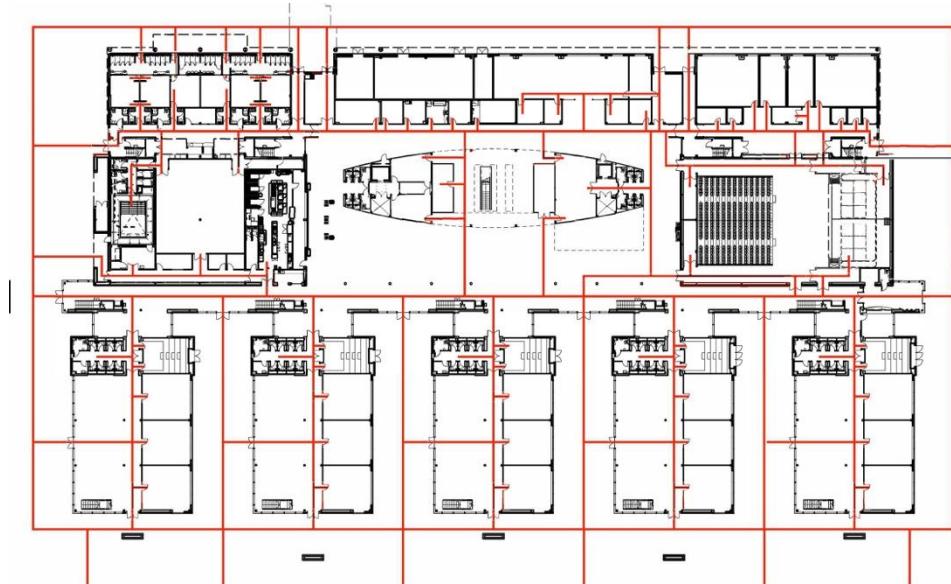
## Second Floor



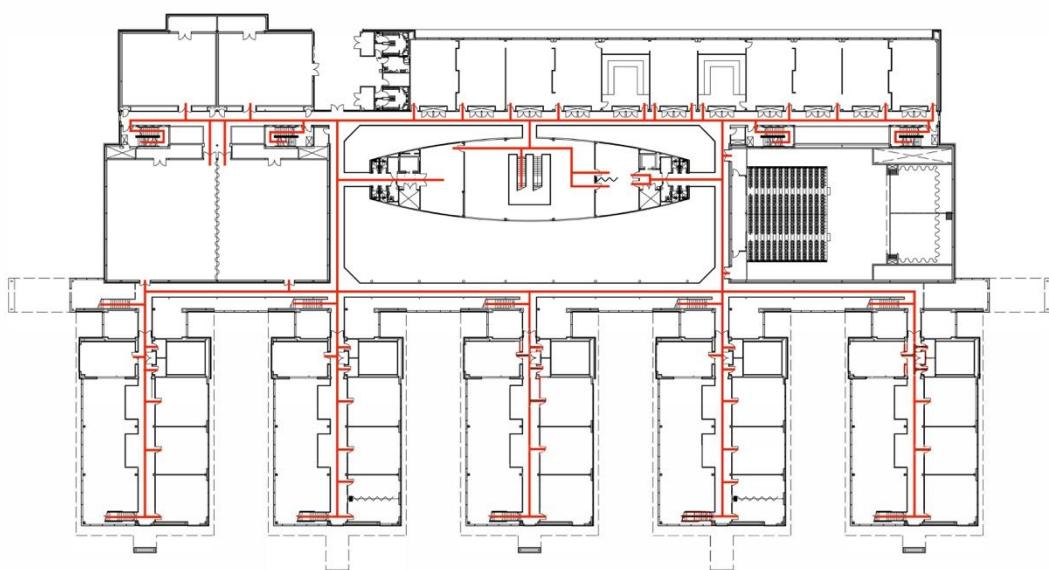
## Great Academy Ashton fire and emergency evacuation plans

Please see below the floor plans and all fire and emergency evacuation routes and assembly points. In each room, there is an escape plan. Please make yourself familiar with this in case of an emergency. Staff will guide you to the nearest exit in an emergency but please ensure that you are familiar with the routes from the area which you will be in on the day.

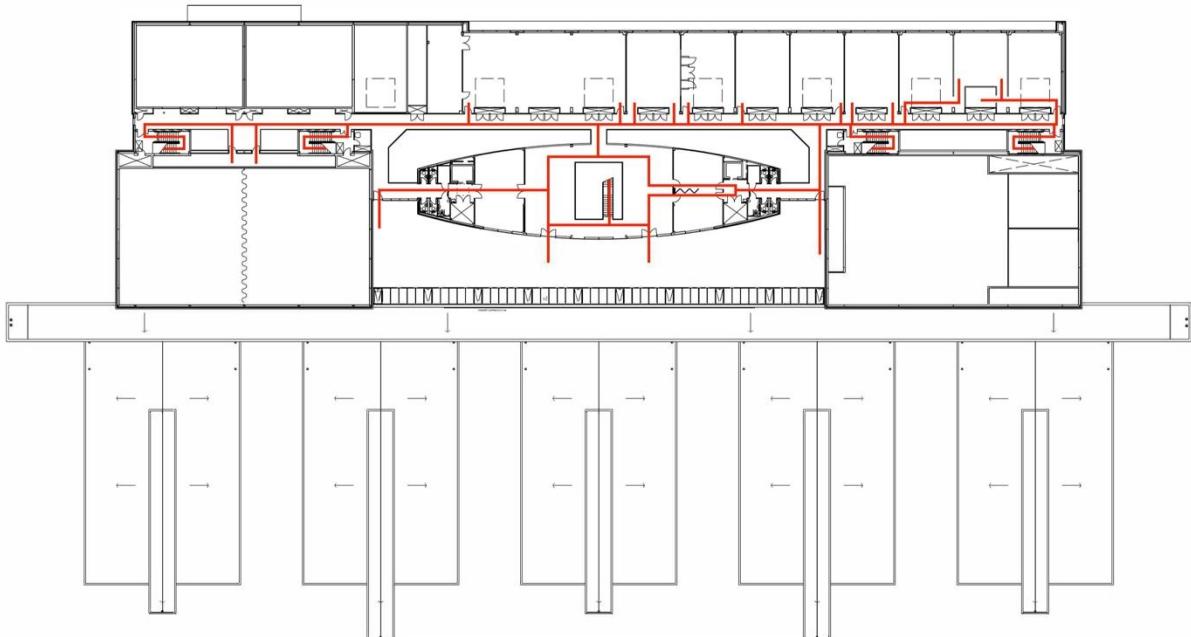
### Ground Floor



### 1st Floor



## 2nd Floor



## Contacts

**Matthew Little:** Great Academy Ashton principal will be on site attending the conference at Great Academy Ashton. Jason Patterson, Dixons school and college trust leader will also be in attendance.

If, for any reason, you are unable to attend on the day, please contact your line manager as usual for them to log your absence, and email [conference@dixonsat.com](mailto:conference@dixonsat.com).

Contact **Abigayle Winterbottom**, School Business Manager, with any further site-related queries about your day and the venue. Her email is: [Abi.Winterbottom@gaa.org.uk](mailto:Abi.Winterbottom@gaa.org.uk)

Also contact Abigayle with any queries about parking or the building / access and any building related emergencies.

**Join in the conversation  
and share your thoughts  
using #DixonsTogether**

