

# ASHLYNS SCHOOL



19 July 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

With the end of the summer term now almost upon us, we have the opportunity to reflect on the wide variety of events and achievements this year at Ashlyns. Our most recent event was the 'Ashlyns Festival', where so many families and members of the local community enjoyed live music and local food stalls - all hosted within our magnificent grounds. Our thanks go to the Ashlyns School Association for arranging such a fantastic experience for everyone; the ASA raises much-needed extra funds throughout the year and is instrumental in organising events like these, which bring the whole school and wider community together. We are very aware that we are truly fortunate to have such a creative and hands-on parent association working to support the school in this way, and we are grateful for their continued support and enthusiasm.

These final weeks also tend to signal the departure of many of our students on a variety of trips and excursions. Our World Challenge group has set off for Nepal, our musicians are touring Germany and Year 9 have just returned from a PGL residential. Of course, there have been numerous other trips and activities throughout the year, including the fabulous summer concert and Year 11 Prom - with the usual mix of wonderful outfits and transport.

Meanwhile our leadership programmes have continued to flourish, with Learning Ambassadors, Sixth Form Executive, Prefects and Sports and Music Leaders working actively in the community and with younger students. I am sure that, in years to come, it is these opportunities that will form strong memories for our students.

Last week we hosted our KS3 Awards evening where we were able to celebrate and recognise the achievements of so many of our younger students. It has become a tradition for us to invite a past Head Boy and Girl as guest speakers, and their fondness for the school (and past teachers) and an appreciation of the opportunities on offer always figure prominently in their speeches. I am very fortunate to lead a group of talented and committed professionals who help to provide this extensive programme of extra curricular opportunities - which form these lasting memories - and I am sure you will want to join me in thanking the staff for their tireless efforts on behalf of the students.

For our older students in Key Stage 4 and 5 and especially those in Years 11 and 13, we look forward to celebrating their achievements with them on the A level and GCSE examination results days in August and then at our KS4 and 5 Awards evening in the new academic year.

Chesham Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire HP4 3AH  
T: 01442 863605  
E: [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk) [www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](http://www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: James Shapland BSc, MSc

Of course, as we approach the end of any school year we have mixed emotions, as friends and colleagues move on to new challenges and opportunities. This year we say farewell to Mr Arblaster (Science), Mr Cowley (Sociology), Mrs Craddock (Learning Mentor), Miss Cross (Geography), Miss Deeney (Business Studies), Mr Goodchild (English), Mrs Hukins (Maths), Miss Rush (English), Mrs Spooner (IT Technician), Mrs Thompson (Spanish) and Miss Tubbritt (Maths). We also wish all the best to Miss Johnson-Putt, who will be going on maternity leave.

I have always maintained that the staff, wider community and, most significantly, the students, make Ashlyns an exciting and inspiring place to be. The enthusiasm, ambition and drive for further success continues to attract many new families to Ashlyns and we continue to be in the fortunate position of being oversubscribed with a waiting list for our new Year 7 intake.

I'd also like to draw your attention to the stakeholder survey letter (attached) which details the feedback from our community, and how we use this to continually review and refine our practices to ensure our students get the best possible experience.

September may seem a long way ahead, but please make a note of the arrangements for the beginning of term. An INSET day will be held on Monday 2 September. Tuesday 3 September is the first day of term for Years 7 and 12 only. Wednesday 4 September is the first day of term for all students in all other year groups. Please ensure that students have all the necessary equipment, including full school uniform and appropriate footwear, ready to make a flying start to the new year.

When students return in September they will see we have continued with our usual refurbishment of teaching facilities, as well as the introduction of a new catering company: [Access Catering Newsletter](#)

Finally, I'd like to remind all students to stay safe over the summer break; online free and monitored advice and one-to-one counselling for students is available through <https://www.kooth.com/>. Details of family support helplines will also be included in today's e-Bulletin.

I would like to wish you all a very restful summer and look forward to welcoming back all our staff and students to Ashlyns in September.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Shapland', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**James Shapland**  
**Headteacher**