

T-Bulletin

The school's Temporary Bulletin

03 July 2020



1. Update from Mr Shapland

This week has been one of various announcements regarding education - the most significant probably being the guidance for the way in which all children will return to school, full time, in September.

Before I outline some of the key measures, the most important thing I want to say is that I believe this is the right ambition. The Government has said, 'Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing' and I could not agree more. We want all our children back - learning, interacting with friends and being part of a wider community.

Clearly, the safe return to school for everyone needs to be undertaken in a way which mitigates risk and the guidance published yesterday offers detailed advice on the actions we are expected to take, whilst also expecting schools to make some adjustments and decisions based on their own particular context. Further details about what this means for Ashlyns will follow in due course, but in short the key principles are listed below:

- All years groups are expected to return but that they will, as much as is possible, remain in year group 'bubbles' avoiding contact between groups where this can be achieved
- Classrooms will need to be arranged to minimise face to face contact e.g. with forward facing desks
- Staff will be required to maintain distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible
- The curriculum should be broad and balanced and should not be narrowed except in very particular circumstances
- Mitigations should be in place to minimise risk of transmission (although this is not the same as social distancing in the community.) This will include prevention measures including robust hygiene practices such as more frequent hand washing
- Enhanced cleaning measures should be put in place for frequently touched items/surfaces
- Strict procedures are to be followed regarding anyone displaying symptoms and/or testing positive for the virus and their contacts.

In other news, we have also received several updates about public examinations. The most significant one for our current students is the consultation on proposals to adapt GCSE and A level examinations in 2021 to reflect the lost teaching and learning time due to school closures. The plan is that these will go ahead - maybe slightly later than usual and with some possible changes to content and assessment in some subjects. Anyone can respond to the consultation which closes on 16 July with results to be published in August. To respond, please click [Here](#).

A further government update was also released this week regarding the DfE's advice for parents/carers - this can be found using the following link: [DfE advice for Parents/Carers](#).

Finally, for all the talk of the importance of returning, it is also important for us to recognise the successes of remote learning that parents/carers and students themselves have helped us deliver. With your support there have been some very significant achievements and - while we need to put in place a recovery curriculum to address the gaps in children's learning we should remember to celebrate these.

I am fully aware that the September return will not be a 'return to normal' but we hope to make it as 'normal' and as welcoming as possible and I know that our students will rise to the challenge of helping us make this work.

Wishing you all a good weekend
James Shapland

Students of the Week

ART

Archie S, Y8

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Jacob B, Y7, Annie B, Y7
Lexie C, Y7, Joel H, Y7
Esme M, Y7, Charlie O, Y7
Meg S, Y7, Lily B, Y8
Finlay B, Y8, Rex C, Y8
James E, Y8, Zara H, Y8
Freya I, Y8, Emilia T, Y8
Pierce R, Y10

DRAMA

Verity B, Y8

ENGLISH

Anna J, Y7, Eve M, Y7
Robert M, Y7, Arran K, Y9
Jamie K, Y9, Ella G, Y10

GEOGRAPHY

Isla S, Y7, Fin M, Y8
Luke J, Y8, Isabella M, Y10

HISTORY

Emma A, Y10, Megan C, Y10
Gabe C, Y10, Gabi P, Y10
Sam R, Y10

MATHS

Emmy B, Y9, Emily H, Y9
Lizzie J, Y9, Cayla H, Y10
Harry L, Y10, Jamie P, Y10

MFL

Lucy B, Y8

MUSIC

Archie I, Y7

PE

Rachel C, Y10
Jude J, Y10, Livia W, Y10

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Gabe C, Y10

YEAR 8

Maisie E
Stefan R

YEAR 9

Anemone B
Margot M
Jamie P, Eleanor S

Online Quiz Night

This takes place next Thursday
- please see details from the
ASA in no.8

2. Face-to-face sessions

We are looking forward to seeing Year 12 in school next week for their face-to-face sessions on Post-18 options. The sessions will cover all aspects of university applications, including: choosing courses and institutions, the UCAS application process and how to write a personal statement. Students will also gain an overview of how to use the Unifrog platform for planning their next steps and have access to support and advice about careers options, apprenticeships and vocational courses.

Well done to Year 10 who received more in-school face-to-face tuition in Maths and Science this week, alongside outdoor wellbeing and academic progress sessions; we are looking forward to seeing those targeted students who have been scheduled for the coming week.

3. Remote Learning

A really successful Sixth Form Induction Day was held on 30 June as a virtual experience. Videoed assemblies, speeches by the current Head Boy and Head Girl, Form Tutor introductions and subjects taster sessions were all prepared and shared with our Year 11 students through google classroom and external students through our website. Feedback from students was really positive:

'I really enjoyed all the taster lessons'; 'It was well organised with good activities from each subject session'; 'I liked how I was able to get a taster for each subject that I have chosen and get a sense of what the work is going to be like.'; 'I really enjoyed the assembly from the Head Boy and Girl as it felt very welcoming and reassuring.'

The activities will remain available to all Year 11 students until Monday 13 July.

A reminder that the deadline for the opportunity to purchase a chromebook is next Friday 10 July. You can purchase through Freedom Tech for Years 8, 9 and 10. We have arranged this offer for you as an extension to the offer we have made to our new Year 7 students. We are not expecting students in Years 8, 9 and 10 to have a chromebook but wanted to extend the offer to pay monthly if you were considering the purchase of a device for use at home. [You can see the devices and answers to FAQ on the school website - link here.](#) Please be reassured that there is no need to purchase a chromebook as students can access the google suite from any device.

4. SEND

Please [see attached here](#) the fortnightly update for parents from the DSPL. This includes a flyer and sign-up details for a 40 minute online seminar, through ADD-vance, regarding Transition to Adulthood.

5. Student Well-being

This may be a difficult time for children and young people. Some may be struggling now, while others may be affected later. During this time, it is important that you take care of your own and your family's mental health – there are lots of things you can do, and support is available if you need it. You will find more advice on mental health at Gov.UK by following this link: [Advice to parents and carers on keeping children safe from abuse and harm](#)

If you have urgent concerns about your child's mental health and wellbeing, you can call 'Young Minds' free Parents Helpline on 0808 802 5544 for confidential and expert advice. Find out more about the parents helpline here: [Parents Helpline](#)

6. Safeguarding

- Excellent resources are available to help parents guide their children through the problem of sexting (the sending and receiving of sexually explicit photos, messages and video clips, by text, email or posting them on social networking sites) from this link on the [InternetMatters](#) website.
- Dacorum police have issued alerts this week about the dangers of Nitrous Oxide with their 'Say No To N2O' Campaign. More information can be found by clicking [here](#).

Upcoming Dates

- Tues 14 July: Y7-9 online tutor mentoring sessions (see letter)
- Weds 15 - Thurs 16 July: online activity days
- Fri 17 July: last day of term (Hub provision closes at 12.30pm)

Music Lesson Reminder

If you wish to end your child's music lessons this term, please contact Mrs Marval: kmarval@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

Supervision for children of critical workers and vulnerable children

We continue to provide supervision for vulnerable children and children of critical workers, during normal school hours. If you are a key worker or the parent of an identified vulnerable child, and require supervision of your child for remote learning during the school day, please email admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk. All spaces must be pre-booked to ensure we have adequate, safe levels of staff provision.



7. Addams Family Production Update

As the situation regarding school operations continues to remain uncertain, we thought that we would offer a brief update on the production.

As we have already paid for the licence, we do still hold the performing rights. I am sure you will appreciate that, at the present time, the school is not in a position to decide on the next steps, and that these will be dependent upon what happens over the next few months. In terms of refunds, as we outlined at the start of 'lockdown', we do intend to return all monies paid and will be in touch in due course.

8. ASA News

Reminder - Good as New Uniform - please observe strict timings as below:

- Monday 6 July 11am-1pm - Year 11s only - students to drop off donations at the Chapel, when collecting leavers' hoodies
- Monday 6 July 2.00pm - 3.30pm - any donations from other year groups to be dropped off at the Front Gate
- Uniform Sale - Thursday 23 July - Ashlyns School - time and location TBC

Donations (no trousers or shirts) MUST BE WASHED and NAME LABELS REMOVED; if at possible, also mended and on hangers.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help. An email has been sent confirming details to those helping at drop-off, and a further email will be sent regarding offers of help with prepping the clothing ready to sell. Even if you can just wash a bag, that would be a massive help - email the ASA asa@ashlyns.hertssch.uk

VOLUNTEERS still required for SALE DAY - a sign-up link will be advertised nearer the time.

Quiz Night - Thursday 9 July 8pm - Everyone Welcome

For our last fundraising quiz of the term, we'd like to invite everyone to join the Ashlyns Online Quiz - parents, staff AND teachers!

via ZOOM.LINK ID: 897 2823 2740

Suggested donation £3 to

<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/112574636177901026/charity/3153935>

Congratulations to the Goss Family who were the winners of last week's years 6 & 7 quiz.

Letters sent out this week

- Moving into Year 8
- Years 7 to 9 Tutor Mentoring

Current Vacancies

- IT Technician
- Pastoral Officer
- Lettings/Events Officer

Details can be found here:
<https://www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk/vacancies/>

ASA MEETING - 13 July, 8pm - open to all

Please join us for our last ASA meeting of this term, via Zoom meeting. The agenda will be emailed prior to the meeting ready for any feedback and comments, but we hope as many as possible will join us to say hi - it would be lovely to see you!

Meeting ID is 811 0889 6919.