

T-Bulletin

The school's Temporary Bulletin

05 June 2020



1. Update from Mr Shapland

I hope that you all managed to have some relaxation time over half term - perhaps in the sunshine and away from screens.

Parents and carers of Years 10 and 12 will have received an additional letter today regarding the planned face-to-face opportunities for their children in the weeks ahead. However, I recognise there is little clarity at the moment regarding a wider return to school in the Autumn term. As the country begins to edge out of lockdown, we anticipate schools will receive more guidance on this and, of course, will keep you updated when we are made aware of more details. Although we are given to understand that schools won't be entirely 'back to normal' in September, we sincerely hope we will be well on our way.

This term always marks significant events for new students - new Year 7 and new sixth formers. As with so much else, we have worked to find alternative ways to provide these experiences. Currently, we are preparing a 'virtual tour' of the school in preparation for a virtual transition event and also a virtual sixth form induction day. The fact that there will be no students present on our 'school tour' is an irony not lost on me.

In the same week that the English Premier League is due to start again, an equally high profile sporting event is taking place a little closer to home - our 'virtual sports day' at Ashlyns School. More details will follow but an outline can be found below.

This week, you may be aware, I posted another video update to our students, which can be found on the school website. On a lighter note (and shoulders - literally) it might have been obvious that I finally had a 'home haircut' over half-term. Please forgive me if you only see me talking directly at the camera in future videos for a while.

Whilst I am excited about all of the events and opportunities to connect and reconnect with students and their families, I - maybe like you - am looking forward to a time when I don't have to preface every notice with the word 'virtual.'

Have peaceful weekend

James Shapland

2. Virtual Sports Day - look out for more information next week



Students of the Week

BUSINESS STUDIES

Connor R Y10

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Jacob A Y9, Aylin E Y9, Bill B Y9, Maddie B Y9, Leon B Y9, Ruby E Y9, James F Y9, Toby HY9, James H Y9, Rosanna H Y9, Grace J Y9, Harrison M Y9, Margot R Y9, Jack W Y9, Zach X Y9

DRAMA

Beau H Y8

ENGLISH

Emma B Y7, Benedict H Y7, Ben H Y7, Rosie H Y7, Emily W Y7, Lily R Y8

Lillie S Y8, Jim C Y9

Alice H Y9, Emma A Y10, Marcus A Y10, Deven B Y10

GEOGRAPHY

James G Y7, Jonathan B Y8,

Pippa F Y8, Ella G Y8

William K Y8, Erin M Y8

Emily M Y8, Aliya P Y8. Lily R Y8, Jessica T Y8, Lily V Y8, Etian D Y9, Indie F Y9

Jasmine R Y9, Niamh S Y9

Florence S Y9, Zach X Y9

HISTORY

Annie B Y7, Iris B Y7

Charlie R Y7

MATHS

Evie M Y7, Molly R Y7

Fin M Y8, Emma Y Y8

Ruby E Y9, Frankie J Y9

Mia M Y10, Zak S Y10

MUSIC

Iris B Y7, Hari M Y7

PE

Erin M Y8

PHOTOGRAPHY

Phoebe K Y11, Carys L Y12

SCIENCE

Iris B Y7, Rosanna H Y9, Jack W Y9, Cameron E Y10

Harry L Y10, Mia M Y10

YEAR 8

Lauren E, Aliyah P

YEAR 9

Alex C, Elliot C, Lucy C

Etian D, Haadiya H, Freddie L

3. Remote learning

Following the continued success of our live teaching pilot in Years 10 and 12, some live lessons are now taking place in KS3, beginning last week with Year 7 and continuing this week with Years 8 and 9. A key principle for our remote learning curriculum is that it should be accessible and manageable for all. Live teaching, therefore, will not become the normal way of working for any class; instead it will supplement the already comprehensive provision via Google Classroom, supported where appropriate by video clips from teachers. If one of your child's classes is part of the pilot, they will be notified by their teacher via Google Classroom. All KS3 parents will receive the Virtual Code of Conduct via email; please go through this with your child before any live lessons.

4. Careers Advice for Students

Parents are able to request a virtual remote careers interview for their son or daughter from our independent Careers Adviser, David Ritchie. Please contact admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk if you would like to request an interview. Priority will be given to Years 11,12 and 13.

5. SEND

Did you know that students could use voice typing in Google? This link will take you to the instructions <https://www.smore.com/91m4v-voice-typing-in-google-docs>

Dacorum Delivering Special Provision Locally - please [click here](#) for the latest parent update

6. Student Safety

Travel advice for parents and pupils The Department for Transport has issued [advice on how parents and pupils can travel safely](#) as part of the #TravelSafely campaign. Resources have been developed to help parents, pupils and staff to stay safe on the public transport network. This includes information on how to cycle and walk safely, where possible. <https://extranet.dft.gov.uk/safer-transport-campaign/schools/>

From the British Red Cross: Child Safety Week This week is Child Safety Week; the Red Cross have produced a [new resource](#) focusing on safety and first aid for remote learning at home for children aged 7-18 years.

7. Student Wellbeing - Digital Check-in Resource

We recognise that screen-time has increased dramatically for many families, often doubling, during the COVID-19 lockdown. Understanding your family's digital habits is a great way to lead on screen-time boundaries. 'Kidscape' encourages families to create a family agreement rather than dictate rules; their Family Digital Wellbeing Check-in resource supports healthy online interactions and open conversation. Click [here](#) to access their Family Digital Well-being Check-In resource and see what their research with parents reveals about the impact of the last 9 weeks of lockdown on staying safe online.

8. Safeguarding - social distancing reminders

A reminder please to parents to discuss with your child the rules around social distancing - we have seen an increase in students in the local area not following the latest guidelines. The latest Government guidance can be found [here](#), the key message of which is: 'You can spend time outdoors with members of your own household and you can also meet in a gathering of up to six people you do not live with, **provided you maintain social distancing and stay 2 metres apart**. This can be in a public outdoor space, or in a private garden or uncovered yard or terrace.'

9. Learning Motivation Survey

We have been contacted by a doctoral researcher at University College London Institute of Education focusing on the impact of school closures on students' motivation for learning. A survey is being sent to as many secondary school students as possible, to complete an on-line questionnaire about their motivation for home-learning during the pandemic. The survey asks

Second Hand Uniform

The ASA would be delighted to receive donations of uniform, in particular blazers and PE kit, from Y11 students (or indeed any year group). Please contact us via the admin account for further details on how to get this to us.

Art Gallery



Parents, students and staff so enjoyed seeing some of the work created by students at home before half term. We are delighted to share a new gallery of work with you: [Please click here to view the Gallery](#)

LRC Competition



The LRC is excited to announce a **Flash Fiction Competition** for all budding writers.

Stories can be about any subject or genre, but have to be delivered in 500 words or less. The competition is open to all year groups with house points for each entry and e-voucher prizes for the winners. Deadline for entries is Friday 12 June. Please send entries to rlambert@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk with name, form and final word count. **Good Luck!**

for some background biographical information (but is otherwise anonymous). All survey data will be collected in accordance with [GDPR](#). The survey has been circulated to students and can be found here: is.gd/MotiMetaStudy.

10. Supervision for children of critical, key workers and vulnerable children

We continue to provide supervision for vulnerable children and children of critical and key workers, during normal school hours (8.35am-3.20pm). If you are a key worker or the parent of an identified vulnerable child, and require care, please continue to book spaces in the usual way, emailing admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk. All spaces must be pre-booked to ensure we have adequate, safe levels of staff provision.

11. Letters sent out this week

- Y10 & Y12 Remote Learning and Face to Face Support
- Y9 into Y10 letter
- Sixth Form Virtual Induction letter
- Y11 Yearbook update

Muchas Gracias & Merci Beaucoup KS3

Students participated in a Languages Bingo Challenge as part of their remote learning before half term, embracing many cultural activities. Special mention to Martha F's homemade churros, Leighton B's paella for his parents, Sean B's Gracias NHS poster and Ella L's socially distanced language lesson on her street

