

T-Bulletin

The school's new Temporary Bulletin

07 May 2020



1. Update from Mr Shapland

One thing which has become obvious over the last few weeks, for those of us who are new to it, is that when we are working from home everything seems to take a little bit longer - for both students and adults alike. Workplace conversations, which took a few minutes in corridors, turn into video 'Meets' or 'Teams' - or extended telephone calls - and organising work around the various other aspects of our lives inevitably extends the day even further. Bearing this in mind, I would like to remind everyone that the lessons and work we are setting are not designed to take the whole hour; this helps to build in breaks throughout the day for students, which is especially important when we are all using our 'screens' so much more than usual. In the same vein, the traditional model of 'home-learning' is not operating at this time. I think most would agree, there is enough home learning going on at the moment and students need the time to relax, exercise and have time at home without 'school work.'

You may recall my thanks in last week's T-Bulletin to all those students who completed our most recent remote learning and wellbeing survey, designed to help inform our practice as we continue with life under lockdown. I'm pleased to report that, in response to this, Dr Kathy Weston has developed a series of resources which are tailored to support students and this will include a podcast featuring our very own Mr McDonald and Mr Khalil. More details can be found below.

Despite the changed circumstances, the usual aspects of school planning during the summer term continue. The first students from our 2017 Eight Form Entry expansion will enter KS4 this autumn, and we are preparing for the transition of our new Year 7 students this September, knowing that they, more than ever, will need our full range of wraparound support to feel part of the Ashlyns' community. We have also continued with our recruitment process, interviewing and appointing new teachers and support staff to join us in September.

Finally, we could never have imagined that when the bank holiday was moved to mark the anniversary of VE day that it would be in these circumstances. However, it seems fitting to take a moment to reflect on those that made sacrifices to support others and also on the hope that VE day represents. I'm sure we can all agree that being optimistic is important right now and therefore, I wish you all a restful and positive bank holiday weekend.

James Shapland

2. Remote Learning

We remain pleased that so many students are engaging with remote learning; thank you to parents for continuing to help us monitor and support. Year 10 and 12 students who have been involved in pilot 'live' lessons have also embraced the new technology, as we continue to refine how we can best support students to learn and stay safe. Please watch out for our next survey which we will make available soon.

3. Safeguarding

Please continue to remind your child to 'check-in' online with their tutor each Monday morning - this is a simple but essential part of how we monitor students' wellbeing. Students can also use the tutor checkin to alert their tutor to any learning-related or emotional concerns they have, which will be passed to the safeguarding team. It is also nice for tutors to hear about the novel and ingenious achievements and projects that many of our young people have undertaken to keep themselves occupied during lockdown!

4. SEND

Dacorum DSPL's (Delivering Special Provision Locally) latest parent newsletter can be found [here](#)

Students of the Week

ART

Agatha P-T Y8

BUSINESS STUDIES

Holly F Y10

ENGLISH

Poppy B Y7, Nicola K Y7,

Milo P Y7, Amy E Y10,

Mia M Y10, Lowri W Y10

GEOGRAPHY

Donovan F Y7, James G Y7,

Verity B Y8, Fin M Y8,

Alf M Y8, Deven B-E Y10,

Rachel C Y10, Corina E Y10,

Harry L Y10, Rafael P Y10,

Pierce R Y10, William S Y10

HISTORY

Archie I Y7, Meg S Y7,

Connor R Y10, Oliver M Y12

MATHS

Ethan M Y7, Josh W Y9,

Theo B Y10, Amy E Y10,

Daisy L Y10, Leoni L Y10,

Isabella M Y10

MODERN FOREIGN

LANGUAGES

Gracie L Y8, Simran A Y11,

Holly S Y11, Thomas F Y13

MUSIC

Beau H Y8

PE

Joshua G Y12

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Olivia H Y8, Jasmine H Y12

SCIENCE

Arthur P-B Y7, Luke J-M Y8,

Mrudula K Y8, Stefan R Y8,

Jessie A Y9, Alice O Y9,

Henry A Y10, Loli D Y10,

Lana D Y10, Ollie F Y10,

Holly H Y10, Ilya S Y10,

Lola W-J Y10, Charly P Y12

TECHNOLOGY

Chloe E Y7, Anna J Y7,

Ethan M Y7, Lily G Y7,

Arthur P-B Y7, Meg S Y7,

Lara A Y8, Lilly B Y8, Rex C Y8,

Katie C Y8, Cam J Y8,

Bella T Y8, Emilia T Y8,

Nat A Y9, Daisy B Y9,

Josh D Y10, Toby K Y10,

Louis M Y10, Scott P Y10,

Malachy S Y10, Ilya S Y10,

Fred B Y11

5. Student Wellbeing and Parent Support

Well done to students for persevering with their learning. Of the impressive 1805 merits awarded this week, over 400 were given for showing resilience with their remote learning tasks!

Understandably, motivating students to continue with their learning can be one of the biggest challenges facing parents. Dr Kathy Weston has produced an excellent parent tip sheet on motivating your child, as well as a podcast interview 'motivating learning during the Covid-19 school closure' with a leading academic. Both can be accessed on Tooled-Up Education. If you have not yet signed up you can do so via this [link](#).

6. House Events

The House competition is back on! The points were extremely close so there's everything still to play for. Please see below for details of how your child can get involved.

Whole School Book Cover Competition The LRC is running a House Competition inspired by #mettwinning. We'd like you to get creative and recreate a book cover using items and props from home. House points will be given to each entry and the overall winners will receive online Amazon gift vouchers. Your submission should be sent to rlambert@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk by Monday 18 May. Please add your name and form in the subject box of your email. Please include your recreated cover plus the original design in one file. The winning entries will be announced in the TBulletin and on the LRC App before half-term. Good luck and have fun! Miss Lambert, LRC Manager. [Click here for some more brilliant examples from the English department to start you off.](#)

House Lockdown Challenge Each year group has been set a challenge by their Head of Year for house points, running in parallel with the 100Km and LRC Book Cover Competition (above) - and on Google Classroom. [House Lockdown Challenge](#)

7. Herts coronavirus webinar for young people.

On Thursday 14th May, 11:30am - 12:30pm there will be a FREE Hertfordshire Coronavirus webinar for young people. There is no need to sign up, the webinar will be accessed on the day via this [link](#). The webinar was organised in response to young people asking for reliable information on Covid-19. Professor Jim McManus, Hertfordshire's Director of Public Health, will lead a panel of professionals including representatives from Children's Services, Herts for Learning, and Hertfordshire's Cabinet member for Public Health and Prevention.

Young people were invited in advance to submit some questions to help us shape the session - thank you for your help with this. There will also be another chance for them to ask further questions towards the end of the webinar.

For people with accessibility issues - subtitles can be turned on for the webinar, and there will also be a translation function. The session will be recorded and uploaded online so that anyone unable to make the webinar will still be able to watch it back. There will also be a written FAQ document alongside this.

8. Year 11 and Year 13

As the work on establishing our Centre Assessed Grades continues, we would like to reassure parents and carers with children in receipt of Access Arrangements that these are being taken into account by teachers when they produce their estimated grades for submission to the exam boards. They also inform part of the checking procedures undertaken by senior and middle leaders.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents that the answers to a range of FAQs relating to this year's examinations can be found using the [following link](#).

9. Key Stage 5 Bursary Information

The KS5 Bursary is still available to offer financial support to students in the Sixth Form. If you think you may be eligible, please contact Mrs Marra at jmarra@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk for further details and an application form.

YEAR 7

Emily Johnson, Jamie Kuehn

YEAR 8

Lara Averill, Rory Hunt

YEAR 10

Laura Campbell, Kai Ruscoe

YEAR 12

Charly Preston



VE Day Anniversary

Please click on the link below to download a bunting template for families to colour and display to mark VE Day tomorrow; many Year 7 students have their displays underway:

[Template to download](#)



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 opening 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. Government direction remains that, If children can stay at home, they should.



Current house points



Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
24468	27103	25933	24056
3 rd	1 st	2 nd	4 th



New virtual cyber initiative for teenagers

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has announced an online initiative that aims to inspire school pupils to work in the cyber security sector through a range of extracurricular activities including online classes. This provides the opportunity to learn and develop the important skills required for future jobs in areas like cyber security from home. [Click here for full details of this announcement and the resources available can be found here](#)

Relationships and Sex Education Policy Update

The school's policy has recently been reviewed and updated and can be found [here](#).