

# T-Bulletin

The school's Temporary Bulletin

12 June 2020



## 1. Update from Mr Shapland

This week, I have been reflecting on the many of the things we take for granted and what will be different going forward - for the short term at least. This was brought home to me as we started filming a 'welcome' for our new Year 7s. One of the amazing things about school is that almost everyone can remember something about starting a new school and being 'new' and, perhaps, the things that made a difference. At Ashlyns, alongside all the activities and various communications, one of the things which I know makes the biggest difference to feeling part of the community is the staff. In fact, it seemed to me, the message in our welcome was not just for Year 7. Please click on the image below and take a moment to view.



At this time of year, the House competition really heats up. Lockdown has not dampened the enthusiasm here and I'm looking forward to seeing the entries for the House Photography competition. Various authors, poets and artists have used this period to show their creativity but I'm sure you will agree our students' work in our virtual art gallery (this week - Year 12) can certainly give them a run for their money.

I would also like to highlight the opportunity for students to take part in the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory event, which considers how space telescopes and satellites are able to work effectively in the challenging environment of space. More details can also be found on the right hand side of page 2.

As we prepare to welcome back students from Year 10 and 12 - under what are undoubtedly heavily restricted circumstances - next week, I am mindful that for the vast majority of students September is the earliest we will see them coming through the gates to attend school. However, given the time they have been away from school, I am very proud of the way our students have continued to adapt, work and communicate with their teachers.

I would like to thank all the staff for their work supporting the students' return - I don't think I've ever seen so much tape or hand sanitiser. I'd also like to thank everyone for their support in what has become 'the great locker clear out of 2020.' There have certainly been some interesting 'finds' I believe.

Finally, there has been a great deal of media speculation about larger scale school return, next year's exams and learning in schools in general. Please remember, that for the moment, it is just that - speculation - and when further guidance is received, we will of course keep you informed and updated.

Have a good weekend

James Shapland

## Students of the Week

### ART

Milo M Y12

### COMPUTER SCIENCE

Darcy B Y7, Milly H Y7, Martha H Y7, Brooke L Y7, Ethan M Y7, Thomas O Y7, Freddie P Y7, Isla W, Y7, Emmy B Y9, Freya B Y9, Eloise C Y9, Indie F Y9  
Alex Hoffman Y9, Ria K Y9, Finlay L, Y9

### ENGLISH

Max I Y7, Haadiya H Y10  
Daisy L Y10, Alice H Y9, Ella J Y12

### GEOGRAPHY

Nischel L Y12, Amelia M Y12

### MATHS

Nicole B Y7, Thomas D Y7, Stefan R Y8, Jacob A Y9, Aylin E Y9, Matthew H, Y9, Jack W Y9, Freya A Y10, Toby H Y10, Aleksa L Y10, Madeleine M Y10

### MUSIC

Harry MY7

### PE

Sarah B Y8, Alex C, Y9, Llewly H Y9

### PSHE

Erin M Y8

### RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Holly O Y7

### SCIENCE

Katie A Y7, Joseph B Y7, Jacob B Y7, Abbie C Y7, Chloe E Y7, Flo L Y7, Molly, Y7, Issy W Y7, Meg S Y7, Oscar W Y7, Verity B Y8, Jay C Y8, Hermione H Y8, Daisy M Y8, Jack M Y8, Emmy B Y9, Iona B Y7, Leon B Y9, Ella L Y9, Josh N Y9, Daisy T Y9, Gracie W Y9, Daniel B Y10, Theo G Y10, Leoni L Y10, Megan M Y10, Tommy P Y10

### YEAR 8

Erin M Y8

### YEAR 10

Megan C, Gabe C, Leoni L, Callum L, Mia M

### Year 12

Ella J

## 2. Virtual Sports Day - please click below for the Sports Day website:



## 3. Remote Learning - keeping motivated

Students have been taking part in remote learning for a while now and sometimes it is tricky to keep them motivated. It might be a good time to reconsider guidance and try some new strategies. UNESCO has created some guidance for parents and teachers.

[Click here for one of the guides on motivating children.](#)

We also previously advised that 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](#).

## 4. LRC Update - reading at home

We have a strong reading culture at Ashlyns and encourage all of our students to read regularly. Research has shown that children who choose to read for pleasure are more likely to do well at school. Reading has a positive impact on vocabulary acquisition and analytical skills and can help improve concentration and writing ability. We would recommend reading for 30 minutes a day.

**Ashlyns Summer Reading Challenge** This year we will be launching our very own Summer Reading Challenge to keep the reading momentum going during the holidays. We will be offering House points and prizes and hope that you will encourage your child to participate. More details will follow nearer the end of term.

**LRC Book Recommendations** If you would like any book recommendations for your child, please contact me on [rlambert@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:rlambert@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk) and I will be happy to offer some suggestions.

## 5. SEND

**ADD-vance** are offering some free, on-line seminars for parents of children with ADHD covering various topics: Going back to School after Lockdown, Transition from Primary to Secondary School, Siblings of Children with ADHD, Transition into Adulthood

To book your free place on a seminar, [register here](#)

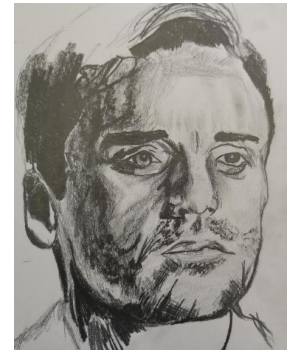
## 6. Careers

**An Apprenticeship opportunity for students aged 16+** A fantastic new opportunity has arisen to become part of the Herts Sports Partnership team as a Level 3 Community Sport and Health Apprentice. In partnership with The Academy of Education and Training, Herts Sports Partnership are funding 10 Apprenticeships (one in each District / Borough across Hertfordshire). For more information go to: [HSP Apprenticeships](#)

The Apprentices will:

- Help to raise the physical activity levels of residents in the local community;

## Virtual Art Gallery



We are delighted to share a gallery of Year 12's work:

[Please click here to view the Gallery](#)

## Online Engineering Event for Years 7 - 9

Delivered by the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, this is an opportunity to learn directly from engineers about thermal engineering, why it's important for space missions and how telescopes and satellites keep working in space. Students can ask the engineers questions and complete a set challenge. The event takes place over 2 Zoom sessions starting on 16 June. [Click here for more info and to book \(free\)](#)

## Exploring Engineering

Jamie A Y8 took part in 'Exploring Engineering' from the Science and Technology Facilities Council. Students attended two virtual workshops and were asked to design and build a vehicle powered by a balloon, rubber band or sail. *"I really enjoyed this project. The car worked because the elastic band connected to a rod on the axle stretched and conserved energy when the wheels were pulled back, then when released the elastic band let out energy"*. Well done Jamie.



- Empower people from inactive and/or hard to reach populations to change their attitudes and behaviours by taking up an active lifestyle;
- Support people within target communities to become involved in the preparation, planning and delivery of sport and active lifestyles.

### Careers Advice and Guidance

Please let the school know if you would like to make an appointment for a virtual meeting with our Careers Adviser, David Ritchie.

## 7. Student Wellbeing

The Department for Education (DfE) has some new online resources designed by health and education experts to boost mental health support for staff and pupils, encouraging them to talk more confidently about the anxieties and concerns they feel as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. These include videos, webinars and teaching materials, produced in partnership with charities: [details here](#). Children and Families Minister Vicky Ford said:

*“There has never been a more important time to speak about mental health and wellbeing – especially for thousands of children, young people and teachers who are adapting to education and different ways of living and learning in these unprecedented times.*

*Schools and colleges are often a safe haven for children and young people, but the challenges we face at this time mean we are all more likely to feel anxious or sad – no matter our age or circumstances.*

*These new resources, created with charities and health experts, will encourage confident conversations between friends, colleagues, pupils and their teachers, and improve our understanding of how to make ourselves and others feel better”.*

## 8. Safeguarding

### Drowning Prevention Week

The Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) have produced some free downloadable resources to help keep families safe around water. Please click [here](#) to access the resources. The impact of COVID-19 has already seen emergency services additionally stretched; with beach lifeguard patrols restricted, water safety skills, and a common sense approach to being around water, have never been more necessary. Drowning still remains an issue across the UK and Ireland: it can happen to anyone of any age, with around 700 people sadly losing their life in avoidable drowning incidents, each year. RLSS UK, the Charity who aims to help everybody enjoy the water, safely, fears that a mix of the warm weather, coupled with more people travelling and the reduced supervision around water, could lead to summer tragedies. The Charity are urging families to access their water safety resources and turn the lockdown restrictions to their advantage. The resources will empower family members to be their own lifeguards; helping you to recognise risks, what to do to minimise the chance of an accident, and how to respond confidently and effectively, in an emergency situation.

### Short videos for parents and carers: delivering online safety at home (Think U Know)

Think U Know have created videos to support parents during Covid-19 and the closure of schools to many children. You can find the videos [here](#)

## 9. House Update - House Photography Competition: Hold Still

Launching this week, an opportunity for students to make a portrait on their phone or camera making a creative, personal record of these extraordinary times. [Please click here for full details on how to enter](#)

### 100K in May

Well done to all the students and staff who took part in the 100K in May challenge.

Together we travelled over 3000 KM and raised some vital funds for the Hospice of St Francis. Well done to all who took part, including a big staff contribution. Special mentions to: Simran A (166km), Summa B (153km), Harvey R ((150km), Jim C (353km), Georgina J (103km), Bella W (108km), Sara B (200km), Nicole B (200km)

### ASA News

#### Virtual Family Quiz Years 6 and 7

We hope all our families are keeping well and staying sane during the lockdown! Whilst the ASA cannot hold our normal fundraising events, we look forward to holding a virtual family quiz for all our current year 7 families, and welcome year 6 families who will be joining Ashlyns in September. More details to follow next week.

#### 100CLUB winners - MAY draw

1st : M Armitage  
2nd : D Mills  
3rd : J Rollit

An easy way to continue helping raise vital funds for our school whilst socially distancing! Choose a number or two , fill in this form, set up a standing order and have the chance to win a cash prize for little to no effort!

Contact email:

[asa100club@gmail.com](mailto:asa100club@gmail.com)

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.

## 10. Behaviour Policy Update

We have added an Annex to our Behaviour Policy in response to Covid-19. This can be found here: [Annexe to Behaviour Policy](#)

## 11. 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 email [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk). All spaces must be pre-booked to ensure we have adequate, safe levels of staff provision.

## 12. Music Online

We know a small number of pupils have signed-up for online lessons directly with Hertfordshire Music Service (HMS), which we understand are working very well. For those pupils that haven't signed-up for online lessons, and there is no obligation to do so, HMS have 'paused' lessons (unless you have already given notice that you do not wish your child to continue with lessons in September).

Whilst we remain hopeful that HMS will be able to deliver face-to-face lessons again in school in September it is looking increasingly unlikely that this will be possible. HMS would therefore like schools to remind all parents that they are now teaching over 2,600 pupils online. If you are interested in signing your child up for online lessons please visit [hertsmusicservice.org.uk](http://hertsmusicservice.org.uk) or take a look at the attached leaflet from HMS.

## Lockers

If you missed the previous opportunity to clear out your child's locker, please email [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk) and you will be contacted in due course.

## Exercise Books

We encourage students to record remote learning digitally or on any form of paper you have to hand; if you urgently need an exercise book and cannot source elsewhere, please contact [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk) and you will be contacted to arrange collection.

## Current Vacancies

We are currently recruiting for an IT Technician in school. [Further details can be found here.](#)

## Letters sent out this Week

- Y10 and 12 letters re face to face sessions
- Y11 Unifrog access

# Hertfordshire Music Service is going ONLINE!

Register now at  
[www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk](http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk)

**Online music lessons for over  
16,000 young musicians and access  
to online music resources for all  
Hertfordshire school pupils!**

Hertfordshire Music Service are pleased to announce that we will be offering **online music lessons** in the Summer Term so that existing pupils can continue their instrumental and vocal lessons with their HMS teacher at home.

The development of a **brand new partnership** with Musictutors.co.uk, an **online learning platform** specifically designed for delivering music lessons, will mean pupils continue to receive **excellent music tuition** whilst restrictions remain in place due to COVID-19 and beyond.

Online music lessons with Hertfordshire Music Service will provide **ongoing stability** and regular access for students to continue to **develop their skills and musical ability**. They are a great way to create some relaxation time, have considerable benefits for **well-being** and **provide a focus for students** with a weekly activity to work towards and practice.

**YOUTH MUSIC** |  | Supported using public funding by **ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND** | 