

T-Bulletin

The school's new Temporary Bulletin

22 May 2020



1. Update from Mr Shapland

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the tenth weekend since schools were closed to the majority of students, I hope you are safe and well.

Moving through this period, the changes to our usual routines have been immense and I am grateful to the whole school community for their support in adapting to new ways of working. Last night would have been the date of the summer chill concert, and, along with the hustle and bustle of everyday school life, it is perhaps some of these events that I miss most at the moment.

Continuing with the theme of 'what might have been', today would have been Year 13 leavers' day. They were the first Year 7s at Ashlyns, as we converted to a full secondary school. The first students to go all the way through the school and they have helped play a role as co-architects of Ashlyns as it stands today. They have also been truly outstanding ambassadors and the most fantastic role models the school could have hoped for - we wish them every success and happiness in the future.

I know many of you will be watching the Government announcements and media speculation regarding schools. As you will be aware, the initial phase of secondary school reopening is focused on Years 10 and 12. A separate letter has been sent to parents and carers of Year 10 and Year 12 students updating them on the planning we are carrying out to enable some face -to-face support next half-term.

This week I have been reading some research carried out by National Youth Trends into how young people are dealing with the impact of Covid19. It perhaps challenges our view that, for this generation, social media is all consuming. The feedback displays young people as discerning consumers of media and they have strong views on how this could be a moment for change - to make the world a better place. Barack Obama once questioned, "Do we settle for the world as it is, or do we work for the world as it should be?" - it is clear this generation is willing our leaders to be ambitious and optimistic for the future.

This made me reflect on the words I heard earlier this week, 'Education is where the older generation ask the younger generation to step up and take their place in the world.' Our children at school now will shape the legacy of the period we are living through. They will be at the heart of building the 'new normal' we hear so much about and I am confident we are in safe hands.

I would like to take this opportunity also to publicly thank all the staff at Ashlyns for their incredible work and support for our school community over this half-term - whether it has been through the remote learning, pastoral support for children and families, maintaining the school site or staffing the school for children of key workers, or working behind the scenes in so many other ways - they have been phenomenal.

Finally, I am sure you are all looking forward to a break from 'home-school'. On which note, I would like to recognise the challenges you have faced with remote learning and to thank you for helping us support the students with their studies and all your good wishes. I hope you have a restful bank holiday weekend and half-term break.

James Shapland

Students of the Week

BUSINESS STUDIES

Poppy W Y10

DRAMA

Sophie M Y8

ENGLISH

Daniel D Y7, Phoebe G Y8,
Jenson L Y8, Jessie B Y8, Eloise
C Y9, Darshith B Y10,
Lillie O Y10, Elize A Y12

FILM STUDIES

Aleksa L Y10

HISTORY

Lottie B Y8, Ella G Y8,
Emily G Y8

MATHS

Holly O Y7, Verity B Y8, Vonda
H Y9, Erin P Y10,
Finn M Y10

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Lucy W Y7, Lottie B Y8, James E
Y8, Ella G Y8, Emily G Y8, Olivia
H Y8, Jack M Y8,
Jessica P Y8

PE

Madeleine M Y10

SCIENCE

Max I Y7, Anna J Y7, Sophie S
Y7, Lucy B Y8, Lilly B Y8, Eva G
Y8, Daisy B Y9, Bo G Y9, Erin M
Y8, Marcus A Y10, Aleksa L Y10,
Paige L Y10, Olivia R Y10

YEAR 7

Lily G, Ethan M, Olly M,
Thomas O

YEAR 8

Billy B, Ellie H, William K

YEAR 9

Alice H, Gracie W

YEAR 10

Francesca D, Daniel G

YEAR 12

Oliver M

2. Remote Learning

Students and parents have informed us that it is tricky to manage their work and to prioritise when all work is set with a due date of the Sunday after the lesson. Teachers now know what the assignments look like when the students see them in their Google Classroom 'to do' list and/or in their calendar. From now on, teachers will set the due date to be the same date as the lesson. This will help students in that they will see a list of the five lessons for each day which will make it easier for them to manage their workload over the week.

Over the last half term, a number of teachers have been undertaking a pilot to deliver live lessons to classes in Years 10 and 12. This has been a great success and we have had very positive feedback from staff, students and parents. As a result, in the next half term we will be extending this pilot to KS3, beginning with Year 7 in the first week after half term.

The 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 Year 7 parents will receive the Virtual Code of Conduct via email; please go through this with your child before any live lessons.

The Department for Education (DfE) has just published guidance for parents entitled "Help secondary school children continue their education during coronavirus (COVID-19). Advice for parents and carers supporting the home learning of secondary school children (year 7 to 11)". You can see the guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-secondary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

3. Year 9 Curriculum from 1 June

From after May half-term, Year 9 students, who have all received their GCSE options confirmation, need only complete remote learning in the compulsory subjects (English, Maths, Science, PSHE, RS, core PE) and their chosen options. Further guidance will be posted on your child's YearGroup GC page, and sent out via group call, ready for Monday 1 June.

4. Student Wellbeing

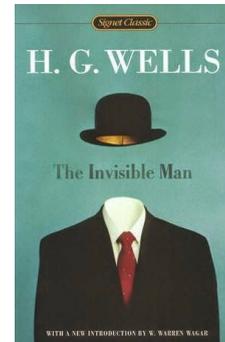
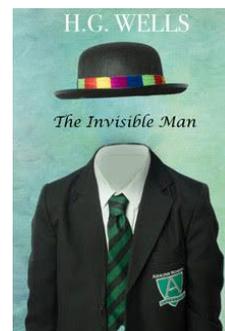
'Be A Champion' The School Advisory Service is offering the opportunity to Ashlyns students to sign up to 'Be a Champion', an app-based pupil health, wellbeing and mentoring programme. It is easy to fall into bad habits which can affect our physical and mental health. 'Be A Champion' encourages students to change those habits, educates students about health and wellbeing and rewards students for participating. It is an eight week programme which enables students to monitor their health and well-being. There is the chance to achieve rewards and to win a £50 voucher. [Sign up instructions are here](#)

Extra-Curricular Activities Well done to all students for their hard work and excellent attitude to remote learning over the half term. Not only is this evidenced by the huge number of merits awarded (a further 2244 over the last week), but we have been extremely impressed with their engagement with all of the extra activities that staff have encouraged them to undertake. There is a daily tutor-time schedule including Joe Wicks, activities on current affairs, art and culture, relaxation and mindfulness, inspiring stories and the popular Friday quiz. The PE team has set up the '100K in May' challenge. Students are sent a weekly schedule of virtual '[V-talks](#)' by a variety of inspiring and successful individuals which they can join live. We have also had a variety of House Lockdown challenges.

Careers and next steps preparation Year 12 students have been given links to access MOOCs (Massive Open Online Course). There is a huge range of free, easily accessible, completely online courses which give the students the chance to study with top universities around the world and develop career skills, prepare for further education, or explore a new interest. University style study skills have been encouraged with links to wider reading and online lectures. A Google Classroom has been created specifically for Oxbridge/Medical/veterinary hopefuls with weekly tasks created to help them prepare for

Book Cover Competition

Congratulations to all students who submitted their recreated book covers.

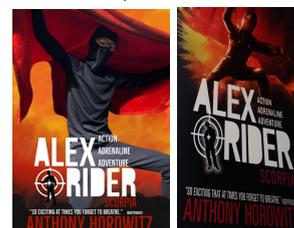


Each student who participated was awarded 20 House points.



Miss Lambert was so impressed with the level of creativity that it was a very difficult decision to choose the overall winners. Well done to the following students who will be emailed Amazon e-vouchers:

Alex H Y9, Lily v D Y8, Eila G Y8, Agatha P-T Y8, Martha F Y8, Emily G Y8, Lucy H Y7, Isla S Y7, Archie I Y7, Safron H Y7



their applications.

Please talk to your child about which of these activities they have taken part in (and enjoy most!) and encourage them to continue to do so next half term.

Raising Resilience: DPSL8 (Delivering Special Provision Locally) is pleased to offer a free 6-week online course, Raise Resilience by Bounce Forward. These sessions will help to support building students' resilience in this uncertain time. For more information and to book your place, [please click here](#)

The Educational Psychology Service is creating a resource to help schools support the wellbeing of children and families in the return to school. To make sure this is matching the needs of parents, they would like to hear from parents about any concerns they have and the support they would be interested in receiving. The survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete and can be accessed by clicking here: [Click here to complete the survey](#)

5. House Update

Coram has increased its lead substantially, boosted by over 4000 points for merits this half term (500 more than any other House) and are looking favourites to clinch the title again. However, Handel is still in the running after a strong performance in the Y7 gratitude lockdown challenge. It looks to be a tight tussle to avoid the wooden spoon. There is much still to play for, so look out for the House events next half term.

Lockdown Challenge Thank you to the many students who participated in the various year group challenges. There were some truly amazing and heartwarming entries.

Year 7 Gratitude Challenge highlights included:

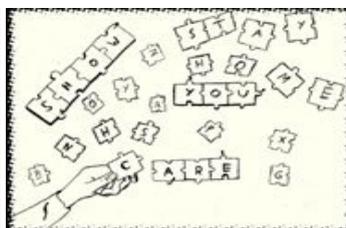
"I am grateful for a well-stocked pantry"

Making crown shaped shortbread for a veteran neighbour for VE day

"I am grateful for being able to run in beautiful places like this on a daily basis"

Being grateful for my family keeping my spirits up with Saturday night discos (sadly no photo...)

Year 8 made individual messages to the community - uplifting words of reassurance and reminders of how to keep safe. Berkhamsted Firefighters helped to promote the competition, offering a tour of the fire station for the winner and a friend. They also judged the entries and expressed how difficult the final decision was - there were just so many amazing entries! 1st Hermione H (100 points) 2nd Chloe H (75 points) 3rd Stefan R (50 points). (Notable mentions with an extra 10 points each: Agatha P, Lily V, Bella T, Martha F, William K)



Dacorum and LINK Family Services over Half Term

School Family and Pupil Support Workers will be unavailable during the school holidays. They will be returning on 2 June. Support during half term can be accessed through [urgent family support lines here](#)

Current house points			
Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
28158	32023	30057	28234
4 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd

Y7 Gratitude Challenge:



6. SEND

The Autism website is a source of in-depth information and advice. They are currently offering you the opportunity of a free subscription to the digital version of 'AutismEye' <https://www.autismeye.com/>

7. Safeguarding - the 'Schools and Families Advice Line'

The 'Schools and Families Advice Line' (SFAL) is a new service established to provide emotional wellbeing advice and early help to children and young people, families and schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It can be really worrying when you or someone you know is going through a difficult time. **If you feel this service could help, please call the Single Point of Access (SPA)** who will take your details before passing them onto our call back service.

This service is open to self-referrals from families and young people, and education, health and other professionals involved in supporting young people and their families.

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

Contact details: Telephone: 0300 777 0707 Email: hpft.spa@nhs.net

You will get a call back from a mental health practitioner between 8am-5pm,

Monday-Friday. Support will be offered in a one-off, up to 1 hour phone call

How can the service help? Supporting children, young people, their families and schools by providing early advice around:

- General concerns around mental well-being, coping strategies and self-care.
- How to support children and young people in relation to the Covid-19 outbreak (e.g. understanding, frustration, anxiety etc). Supporting mental well-being during the transition back to school and the anxiety around this uncertainty.
- Support for education staff around their own mental well-being and advice around how they can care for themselves.
- 'Whole school approaches' to supporting mental well-being.
- Specific anxieties (around COVID-19/self-isolating measures, transition between year groups, developing and maintaining relationships, fear of failure, low self-esteem or aspirations, trust issues, social anxiety, etc.)
- Phobias (animals/insects, specific food stuffs, specific objects, modes of transport etc.)
- Low mood
- Emotional regulation difficulties.
- Mild obsessive compulsive difficulties that are starting to impact day to day activities.
- Low-level behavioural concerns
- Sleep difficulties
- Signposting to services and resources that may be helpful for supporting mental wellbeing.

8. Herts Coronavirus Webinar for Young People

The coronavirus webinar for young people aged 11-19 took place on Thursday 14 May 2020. The webinar was hosted by Professor Jim McManus, Director of Public Health, joined by Councillor Tim Hutchings (Cabinet Member for Public Health and Prevention) and representatives from Children's Services and Herts for Learning.

During the webinar, the panel answered as many questions from young people as possible, ranging from questions about social distancing and the progress of vaccine development, to questions about returning to school and exams.

The recording of the webinar is now online at this [link](#) and the answers to all the questions asked in the chat-line are to be published on the same website this week.

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.

Due to no requests for places over May half term, provision will resume from Mon 1 June.

Letters sent out this week

- Letter to Y10 and Y12 Parents
- Y7 Live Lessons
- Y6 Chrome Books and Uniform