



Next Week – After Christmas Holidays, Week 2 School News and Notices

Christmas break Covid arrangements

If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) at any point during the Christmas break, please notify us as soon as possible so we can complete the relevant tracking and tracing process with public health, if required, and notify any other children or staff who have been close contacts and who need to self-isolate. During the holidays you should contact covid@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk – this will only be monitored until Christmas Eve as after this point your child(ren) shouldn't be a close contact of anyone at the school. Please don't call the normal absence line as this won't be covered during Christmas term.

Updated Guidance on Self-Isolation

The Government have updated their guidance on the self-isolation period for close contacts from 14 days to 10 days.

Safeguarding Support

Students have access to Kooth, (online Herts-approved support and one-to-one free counselling) which can be an effective source of help and advice for children over the Christmas period. Students can access Kooth via the Student Wellbeing button on their RM Unify dashboard, and also via Kooth.com. It is open Monday to Friday, 6pm-10pm and Saturday-Sunday, 12pm-10pm. Students can also access Childline and ChatHealth via the same button.

Bad Weather, School Closure Procedure. Everbridge

Now that the weather is getting colder, please sign up to the Everbridge School Closure System. In the event of the school needing to close due to severe weather conditions in the winter months, we will send out a message via the Herts County Council School Closure Notification System (Everbridge) which provides immediate information and updates - [link here](#)

Virtual Carol Service

Happy Christmas! [Virtual Carol Concert](#)

House Competition

As we approach the end of the first term the surprise early leaders, Bourne, have managed to maintain their position despite the relentless challenge from last year's champions, Coram, who remain in second place. Bourne's strategy of high turnout at all events alongside consistently gaining lots of merits each week appears to be working. Coram lost ground with a disappointing 4th place in the House Cross-Country however a spectacular contribution to the Hygiene Bank initiative meant they have closed the gap to just 115 points! Handel and Raven have been tussling for third spot, but Handel have edged an advantage with first place in the Cross Country and a strong performance in the merit totals in the last week - a clear 200 more than any other House! With two more terms to go there is clearly all still to play for as there are fewer than 1000 points separating first and fourth spot.

Art Gallery

Please see our [virtual gallery](#) for a selection of artwork created by the students this term.

Carol Service for Senior Citizens

In lieu of our annual carol service for the local senior citizens, our Year 7s designed some wonderful Christmas cards which were sent out this week.

Key dates next half term:

- **4 January: INSET Day**
- **5 January: Return to School in Person Y11 & 13; Virtually for Ys 7,8,9,10 & 12**
- **11 January: Y12 Trial Exams Start**

Letter Out:

- [Headteacher's End of Term Letter \(Important Updates – link here\)](#)

Attendance

Forms with the highest attendance week ending 11 December:

7H1 99.3%
8B2 98.1%
9R2 99.5%
10C1 94.8%
11R1 98.8%

Congratulations to all those students who have achieved 100% attendance this Term. Certificates will be issued in January.

Tooled Up

If you haven't yet signed up for a Tooled Up account, click [here](#) to enter your email and choose your password. **PIN number 4989**

Intervention and Session 6

Apart from some specific Cambridge National coursework catch-up sessions, all other lunchtime and after school sessions will resume on Monday 11 January.

| Current house points | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Bourne | Coram | Handel | Raven |
| 17669 | 17554 | 16958 | 16822 |
| 1 st | 2 nd | 3 rd | 4 th |

18/12/2020

COVID Advice from HCC

Remember, as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test regardless of it being Christmas.

Main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- A loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- If you're not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have COVID-19 or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>
- **Please do not send children back to school if any of the following apply:**
- They have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- They, any members of your household, or any close contacts (including extended family or friends they have seen and bubbles at holiday activities and sports clubs) have tested positive for COVID-19
- They haven't completed the full 10 day isolation period requested

Self-isolating is one of the most important things we can all do to help stop the spread of the virus and protect our loved ones and the vulnerable. You can read our helpful self-isolating guide at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide

If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

Hertfordshire County Council has also asked us to share the following important information with you following a significant increase in coronavirus infections amongst 12-16 year olds:

Dear parent/carer

Thank you for everything you and your family are doing to play your part in the fight against coronavirus. Our schools and other education settings have worked extremely hard this term to help keep everyone safe. However, as we move into the Christmas holidays, it is of utmost importance that we continue to stay safe.

We have seen a significant increase in the number of coronavirus infections in 12-16 year olds and would therefore urge you to have a conversation with your child to make sure they understand, and are following, the Government regulations to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The actions you and your family can take to play your part are:

- Wash your hands regularly, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and warm water or use an antibacterial hand sanitiser if soap and water isn't available
- Stay at least 2 metres (or 1 metre with other measures, such as a face-covering) away from those not in your immediate household
- Wear a face-covering where required and when it is difficult to socially distance
- Self-isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms
- Do not socialise indoors with anyone who isn't in your immediate household and only meet in groups of up to 6 people outdoors

Hertfordshire will be moving into Tier 3 restrictions as of 00:01am on Saturday 19 December. Residents in this area will need to familiarise themselves with, and adhere to, Tier 3 restrictions: www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-3-very-high-alert

Please remember that while your child is in school, they are in a 'bubble', which is carefully managed by the school. However outside of school hours, they should continue to follow the most up to date Government guidelines, and we encourage you to explain this to your child.

If you choose to socialise in a bubble of up to three separate households during 23-27 December, which is the period the Government proposes to relax guidelines, please enjoy this time but please also remember to do so safely by continuing to follow good hand hygiene and socially distance where possible. Coronavirus is known to linger in enclosed spaces, so keeping windows open can also reduce risk.

ASA News

Please [click this link](#) for our end of term newsletter to see the amazing results of the LRC Garden makeover

CHRISTMAS TREES - help us raise more funds by purchasing your trees from this pop-up
£7 for every tree sold goes to the ASA when you mention Ashlyns School. [Details here.](#)

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS - CONGRATULATIONS to our winners!

Huge thank you to you all for your generosity in donating towards our hampers, and well done to our winners who have been contacted by email to arrange delivery. This was a huge success, and we'll be doing it again for 2021, so if you didn't win this year, try again next year!



CHRISTMAS CLEAR-OUT - BAG 2 SCHOOL and 2021 Hamper donations!

If you are having a clear out of clothes, etc over the holidays, please see [this flyer](#) from BAG2SCHOOL of what you can do to help those who are in need, whilst raising money for the ASA at the same time.

Also, the ASA are happy to take any 're-gifted' presents off your hands, which could be suitable for our 2021 Christmas Hampers.

It's so easy, at no extra cost to you, and less going into landfills too - so a win-win all-round! More details to follow next term.



WINE TASTING EVENT - February 2021 - more details to follow next term.

The ASA would like to thank our brilliant school community for their continued support this term.

We wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The ASA Team