

Next Week - Week 2

Update on Face Coverings

[Please click here for a letter from the Headteacher.](#)

Covid Testing and Reporting

Sadly, case rates continue to rise in the UK, and Hertfordshire is no different. Please do not send children in if:

- They have any symptoms of Covid-19 (a new, continuous cough, change or loss of taste or smell, a high temperature) – in this instance you must book a PCR test
- They have been identified as a close contact and/or asked to self-isolate
- If they are generally unwell, including colds, headaches and runny noses – it's better to be safe than sorry

It is important that students and staff continue to take twice-weekly Lateral Flow Tests to help reduce the spread of the virus. **Please continue to report positive, negative and void LFT results to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and the school via the [online form](#).** If the result of the test is unclear (void) you should do another test.

We encourage all parents and carers to take regular tests too: you can order online, collect from a pharmacy or visit a mobile testing site, view your options at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest. If you test positive using a rapid test you must book a confirmatory PCR test at: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test. Your whole household must begin self-isolating immediately.

Please see below for an update from Herts County Council.

Attendance

A reminder of the School's Attendance Policy - please could parents/carers, inform the School of absence on a daily basis, and communicate the reason for their child's absence. Reasons should include a brief description of the illness. Please be aware that "unwell", "not 100%" and "under the weather" will always trigger follow up calls as more information will be required. Please notify the school of absences by emailing attendance@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk. Alternatively, parents can leave a message on our absence line: 01442 863605/Option 1.

Student Achievement

Well done to Maisie E, Y9, who came 2nd in an ice-skating competition, artistic division.

Prefects

We have had some marvellous applications submitted by Years 9 and 10 for next year's prefect team; successful candidates will be invited to training before the end of term.

Bedrock

We have an exciting Summer Holiday challenge to share with you next week to encourage students to continue using Bedrock over the break! Students are

Key Dates

- 19 July: Activity Day/Y9 DofE
- 20 July: Sports Day/Y9 DofE
- 21 July: Last Day of Term, School Closes for Students at 12.30

Letters Out

- Letter from The Headteacher

House Points

Current house points			
Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
34800	36549	34194	35788
3 rd	1 st	4 th	2 nd

02/07/2021

Attendance

Forms with the highest attendance week ending 25 June:

7C2 98.7%
8B2 99.7%
9C2 97.9%
10B2 98.4%

Well done all!

Staff Vacancies

All vacancies can be found [here](#).

Medical

Please remind your children to bring in a water bottle each day, they can refill them at the water fountains.

Matron has a large number of sanitary products available to students. If your child would like some please ask them to see Matron or student reception.

still showing fantastic engagement with the programme and the statistics below speak volumes:

Year 7 has had an excellent week of lesson completion, with the top performing class completing 157 lessons (7H2)

Year 8 has also been working extremely hard this week, with 8B1 amazingly completing 156 lessons.

This week in Year 9, 9Y/En2b and 9X/En1 were the top performing classes with 44 and 37 lessons completed respectively.

Well done to the Bedrock stars!

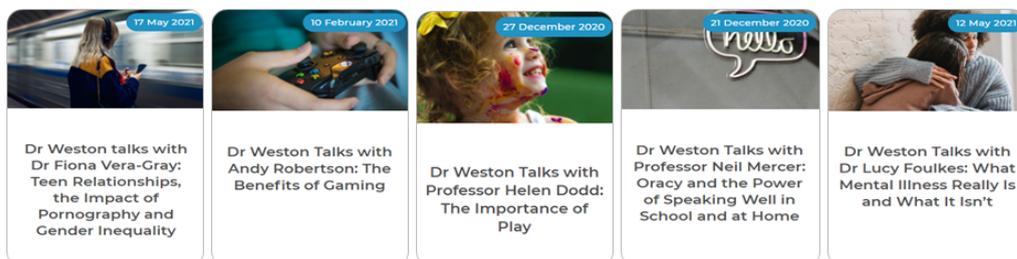
Finance

Please remember to pay back any loaned meal-token money as soon as possible. You will find it on the ParentPay site under 'Active Payment Items', 'Loaned Meal Tokens'.

Music Tuition

If your child is isolating, please contact the HMS music teacher directly to arrange for any remaining lessons to be online if possible.

From Dr Kathy Weston - *Tooled Up Education*



Did you know that we've now interviewed over 70 leading experts on numerous issues relating to parenting and education? In fact, listeners have tuned into our podcasts almost 38,500 times. If you've not caught up with them yet, here are some of our recent favourites. Don't forget that, as *Tooled Up* parents, you have access to extensive notes for each episode too:

[Teenage Relationships](#): Hugely topical given recent press about the normalisation of sexual abuse, this podcast with Dr Fiona Vera-Gray covers teenage romantic relationships, the impact of pornography and what parents can do to help both boys and girls become agents of change.

[Gaming](#): Gaming can have a bad reputation with parents, often undeservedly! Listen now to our interview with expert Andy Robertson to find out about why gaming can actually be very good for your child.

[The Importance of Play](#): Professor Helen Dodd tells all about how crucial play is to children's development and mental health.

[Oracy](#): Oracy isn't all about speech-making and debating. Professor Neil Mercer outlines how crucial good speaking skills are and how parents can easily cultivate them at home.

[What Mental Illness Really Is](#): Dr Lucy Foulkes, author of *Losing Our Minds*, helps to untangle knots in our thinking about mental illness.

News From The ASA

Bags 2 School

A huge thank you to everyone who donated their unwanted items as another impressive "Van Full" was taken today and driven off to be weighed and we should receive our cheque next week

Uniform Sale

A big thank you to our volunteers and supporters who helped to make this a safe and profitable event. We have not been able to hold many 'in person' fundraising events this year, so it was great to see so many people buying good quality uniform and PE kit to raise money for the school. Trade was so brisk, we made £1,300 in the first 45 minutes and the whole event takings exceeded £1,600.

As we approach the end of the year, please remember that you can donate good quality, clean uniform and PE kit to the ASA for resale (no shirts please, unless brand new) or buy good quality items from us at any time and at half the average price of new.

For any enquiries relating to second hand uniform and kit, please email asa@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

Tim Peake – My Journey to Space

The ASA have been lucky enough to have had 2 tickets donated (1 adult and 1 full time student) for the *Tim Peake – My Journey to Space* show at the Royal Festival Hall on Saturday 30th October 2021 at 7.30pm. If you are interested in obtaining these tickets please send a “Secret Bid” to the ASA via email by FRIDAY 23RD JULY 2021 (asa@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk) and the highest bid will be allocated these tickets. Please note that the face value of both tickets combined is £35.

Hertfordshire County Council have asked us to share the following with you:

As you will be aware, there has been an increase in positive cases of Covid-19 recently, many of these in our early year and education settings. The Government and Public Health England have provided guidance to early year settings and schools on what they need to do when they are notified of a positive case at their setting.

There is a dedicated team, including infection prevention control (IPC) nurses, who support schools to deal with any positive case(s). Close contacts of a positive case, including students and staff, must self-isolate at home for 10 days. This is required by law and we have no ability to change this locally. The purpose of this is to reduce the risk of transmission and to protect the school and wider community. On some occasions, due to the nature of school buildings and mixed classes across year groups, this can mean that whole classes and year groups must self-isolate. We have fed into national agencies and the Department for Education that we need a national system for the new school year that minimises disruption to your child's education as much as possible.

We know that being in nursery or school is best for children's development and wellbeing and we are working hard to keep the number of children self-isolating at home and learning remotely to a minimum. Please be patient with your school when they are asking for your support on self-isolation as they are simply following the mandatory national Government guidance set out for them and the advice of the infection control support team.

You can help us to protect your school community by following the Government guidance on hands, face, space and fresh air. Parents, carers and children in 7 and above should be taking regular rapid tests at home and book a confirmatory PCR test if they test positive. If children are generally unwell, they should be kept at home just in case and if they have any Covid-19 symptoms (a new, continuous cough, change or loss of taste or smell, a temperature) you must book a PCR test at: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test.

You can order LFD tests to use at home from here or they are available at most pharmacies.