

## Next Week - Week 1

### 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](http://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](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test). Your whole household must begin self-isolating immediately.

### Great Behaviour for Learning

We are delighted at how many students have received zero behaviour points since the return from lockdown in March and May half term. Overall, nearly 600 students have zero behaviour points for the entire year! On top of this, in excess of 130,00 merit points had been awarded up to May half term - an average of almost 120 per student. Well done all!

### Cedric Sharpley Drumming Bursary

A letter was sent home this week with information about a drumming bursary which will pay for one student to have a 30 minute individual drumming lesson each week for an academic year. If you feel that your child would benefit from this, please apply in writing (addressed to Mrs Gillian Mabey) to Renata Marzec c/o Finance Office or by email to [rmarzec@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:rmarzec@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk) by 30 June. Please explain why you think your child should be considered.

### House Art Competition

Well done to the students who took part in the house art competition, the standard was very high. Please click [here](#) for images of the winning entries.

### Careers Event

Next week the LRC are hosting two events for Year 8 and Year 10 linked to careers in creative writing and journalism.

Ali Cronin, who works at Ashlyns as a part-time Teaching Assistant, started out writing for magazines and newspapers including *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph*, *Heat*, *Bliss*, *Sugar* and *more!*, before starting at the BBC as their Teens Editor. She left the BBC to write full time; since then she has had 8 YA novels published along with a biography of Harry Styles. This is an amazing

## Key Dates

- 19 July: Activity Day/Y9 DofE
- 20 July: Sports Day/Y9 DofE
- 21 July: Last Day of Term

## Letters Out

- [Year 7 & 8 Activity Days](#)
- [Year 9 & 10 Activity Days](#)

## House Points

| Current house points |                 |                 |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Bourne               | Coram           | Handel          | Raven           |
| 33977                | 35572           | 33429           | 34953           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>      | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 4 <sup>th</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |

25/06/2021

## Attendance

Forms with the highest attendance week ending 18 June:

7C2 96%  
8R1 100%  
9H1 98.3%  
10C1, B1 98.8%

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.

opportunity for students to get a first-hand insight into the life of an author, along with some top tips on how to turn your writing talent into a career. The events will be taking place on Tuesday 29 June for Year 8 students and Thursday 1 July for Year 10 at lunchtime in the LRC starting at 1.35pm.

## Safeguarding

**(1) Review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges.** Last week's [letter to parents](#) provided information about the Ofsted review of 30 sample schools, which listed findings in those schools such as:

- issues around sexual abuse and harassment are “so widespread that they need addressing for all children and young people”
- for some young people, sexual abuse and harassment is so commonplace, that they see no point in reporting it
- online sexual abuse is prevalent and group chats are a problem
- sexualised and homophobic language is common
- Nearly 90% of girls, and nearly 50% of boys, said being sent explicit pictures or videos of things they did not want to see happens a lot or sometimes to them or their peers.
- 92% of girls, and 74% of boys, said sexist name-calling happens a lot or sometimes to them or their peers.

Whilst we continue to gather information from our own student focus groups, **we would also urge all parents to have discussions with their own child(ren)** around this topic. The findings from the report above may be a useful start point for discussion. **This website link may also be of use:** [Preventing harmful sexual behaviour in children - Stop It Now](#)

If you have any concerns or require any further advice, please contact the safeguarding team at [admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk).

**(2) Bright Sky App** is a mobile app and [website](#) for anyone experiencing domestic abuse, or who is worried about someone else. The app can be downloaded for free via the app stores. Please only download the app if it is safe for you to do so and if you are sure that your phone isn't being monitored. For more information, please click [here](#).

## Finance

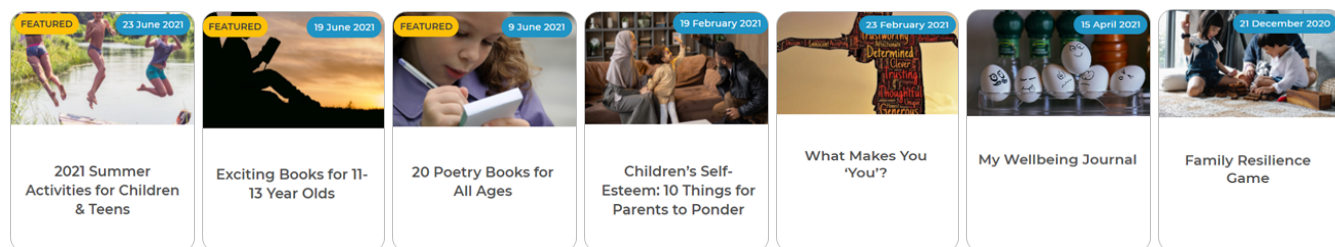
Please remember to pay back any loaned meal-token money as soon as possible. You will find it on the ParentPay site under 'Active Payment Items', 'Loaned Meal Tokens'.

## Music Tuition

If your child is interested in taking music lessons from September, Hertfordshire Music Service offers tuition in a range of different instruments. For further information please go to [www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk](http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk)

To guarantee lessons from September the deadline for booking is FRIDAY 25th JUNE. HMS offer financial support with the cost of lessons: please click [here](#) for more information. Ashlyns contribute to the cost of lessons for any students taking GCSE or A' Level Music. For more information, and any other queries regarding music tuition, please email [musictuition@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:musictuition@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk).

## From Dr Kathy Weston - *Tooled Up Education*



As the holidays begin to loom, why not check out our new [list of Summer activities](#) for young people of all ages, across the UK? Whether your child wants a music, dance or sport camp, a taster of university life, or a STEM experience, there is something for everyone. Be quick though: lots of the activities are filling up and some have booking deadlines which close this week, so log in to *Tooled Up* now and make sure that you don't miss out!

If you have a bookworm in the family, holidays are also the perfect time for reading. Get prepared with our brand new booklists – [Exciting Books for 11-13 Year Olds](#) and [20 Poetry Books for All Ages](#). It's currently World Wellbeing Week, so here is a quick reminder of some of the resources within *Tooled Up* that can help your child to feel good.

### [Children's Self-Esteem: 10 Things for Parents to Ponder](#)

10 ways to cultivate a strong sense of self.

### [What Makes You, 'You'?](#)

Activities to encourage self-compassion.

### [My Wellbeing Journal](#)

14 day journal to prompt your teen or tween to think about their wellbeing, be grateful for the good things in their lives and take pride in their achievements.

### [Family Resilience Game](#)

Simple conversation starters to prompt chats about things you and your family are grateful and hopeful for.

## **News From The ASA**

### **Bags 2 School**

Many thanks to everyone and please keep the donations coming as we now have well over 100 bags to be collected which has doubled our minimum target. However, there is still plenty of time to sort out and donate your unwanted items (please ensure they are items that are on the list) and drop them at 30 Oakwood, HP4 3NQ with the last drop off day being Thursday 1st July

### **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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2021 ([asa@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto: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.

### **Second-hand uniform sale - 28 June**

Our second-hand uniform sale is scheduled for Monday 28 June from 4 to 7pm. We have a large number of good quality uniform and PE items for sale. All proceeds go to ASA funds to provide a variety of equipment and enrichment opportunities for the students.

Please note that the sale will be subject to COVID measures as below:

- Separate entry and exit - please park at the rear of the school and follow the signs
- Limited numbers in the hall at any time and socially-distanced queues
- Requirement for face coverings
- Payments by card only
- No carrier bags will be provided, so please bring your own
- Garments may not be tried on, but we will happily swap anything that turns out to be the wrong size