



Next Week, after half term - Week 1

Attendance reporting procedures - to speed up the process of recording morning daily absence, late arrivals and appointments, and ensure we have accurate records of symptoms, we are now asking parents to report children's absence by 0830 each morning using our [online google form here](#) which can also be found on the school website. This form can also be used to report future absence e.g. dentist appointments.

Covid Flow Chart - please see the updated [flowchart](#) in line with the new guidance (outlined below) which summarises simply how attendance works.

Please see the Message from Herts County Council on page 4

Art Gallery

Please click [here for a gallery](#) of some 'challenge curriculum' art work produced by Y7-10 students.

Careers

National Apprenticeship Week is an annual celebration of apprenticeships that takes place across England. Information on how to become an Apprentice, what roles are available and which employers offer them can be found by clicking [here](#).

Safeguarding

We are seeing a surge in popularity in students using apps, games and platforms to 'find friends' since the start of the pandemic. The way that young people use online spaces continues to involve and now more than ever, it is essential to understand the risks that some of the emerging 'friend-finding' apps pose.

Wink

This app is linked directly with Snapchat, allowing users to exchange profile information. Once a user has exchanged their details, their conversations continue on Snapchat. Wink's Terms of Service require users to be 13+ but there is no effective age verification and anyone can re-enter a fake date of birth until they gain entry. Some may be familiar with the function of 'swiping right' and 'swiping left' – found in popular dating apps, including Tinder. The premise is simple: swiping right expresses interest in chatting further and swiping left moves to the next user. In any case, this function is based on finding others to chat with.

There are limited privacy and safety settings. Users cannot restrict who can contact them and there is no option to make an account private, but they can block and report users. Wink users often include sexual themes and references to alcohol and other drugs. To address this, the platform uses technology to scan for inappropriate images.



Key Dates

- 14-18 Feb: Half Term
- 24 Feb: Y10 PTC evening
- 2 March: Y9 PTC evening

Communications

- [Y7 Peak District Trip](#)
- [GCSE Assessment Week](#)
- [Active Lives Survey](#)
- [A Level Geography Residential Fieldwork](#)
- [Y9 Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening](#)

House Points

Current house points			
Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
28168	28223	25895	26999
2 nd	1 st	4 th	3 rd
11/02/2022			

Attendance

Forms with the highest attendance week ending 04 Feb:

7B1 96.5%
8R2 95.7%
9C1 98.6%
10B2 96.9%
11R1 96%

Vacancies

Support Staff

- [ICT Support Technician Apprentice](#)
- [Premises Site Support](#)

Teaching Staff

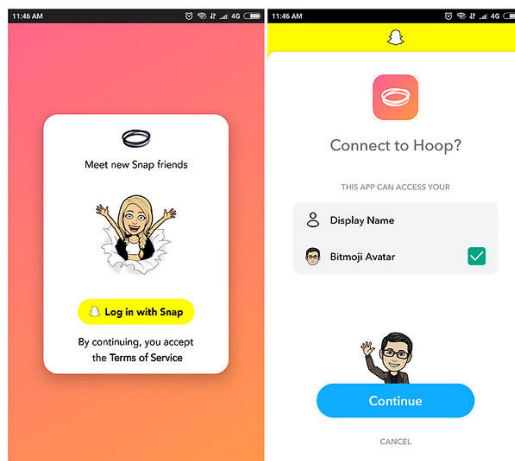
- [Teacher of A Level Physics](#)

Thank A Teacher

Entries are now open for the 2022 Pearson National Teaching Awards as featured on BBC's The One Show. Click [here](#) for more information.

Hoop

This is a very similar app to Wink as it directly links to Snapchat, allowing users to exchange usernames and 'make new friends', allowing conversations to continue on Snapchat. It again has ineffective age verification. 'Age gating' means adults can't see profiles of users under the age of 18, and vice versa, but users can edit their age at any time. Users can report photos but NOT other users.



Discord

Discord is a very popular free online platform (owned by Amazon) that hosts voice, video, and text chat. It was founded in 2015 by two friends who wanted a better way for gamers to connect with each other whilst on-line gaming.



Discord's simple design is especially appealing to children and young people. However, this creates a prime environment for someone with harmful intentions to easily build rapport with a young person based on similar interests. Risks can include sexual exploitation, inappropriate or illegal content, lack of privacy settings and harsh or inappropriate language and bullying.

If you would like more information about the age restrictions and safety settings that you can put in place, please see this handy [article](#).

There is some advice [here](#) from the NSPCC about keeping children safe online that is useful.

Cross Country

Congratulations to Freya W, Y7, who ran in the county school cross country race in St. Albans last Saturday. Out of approximately 100 runners, she came 8th which qualified her to run in the national school cross country championship in March. Well done, an amazing achievement.

Well done to all those who took part on Saturday!



Sports Results

Y9 Boys Football vs Astley Cooper	Won 7-4
Y7B Netball vs Laureate	Won 5-3
Y11 Netball vs Laureate	Lost 15-1
Netball vs Laureate	Lost 9-3
Y9B Netball vs JFK	L28-3
Y10 Netball vs JFK	Won 19-6

ASA News

**ASA MEETING - Monday
21st February - 7.30-8.30pm
- at school!!**

We are so pleased to be able to invite you to our first face-to-face meeting after such a long time, and we'd love to meet our new parents too, so please come along, say hi and share your event ideas with us. Sign up to the volunteer list via the asa email to receive the agenda; we'll be discussing fundraising as well as agreeing on allocation requests by school.

ASA Key Role Vacancy

Our current Co-Chair will be stepping down this September, and we are looking for a new candidate to fill this rewarding position. Ideally we would like this position filled as soon as possible in order to give the new Co-Chair a chance to work alongside our current Chairs in readiness to take on the role by Autumn. Please register your interest, or ask any questions, via email to asa@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk and FAO: Co-Chair.

*****SAVE THE DATE - Friday
15th and Saturday 16th
July*****

The Ashlyns Festival is back on after a two-year hiatus, and we cannot wait to celebrate the start of summer with you!!

We will be asking for help on this, one of our biggest events for our school and our local community, so please let us know if you would like to help in one of our teams working behind the scenes, or if you know of any businesses willing to support us with great advertising

U15 Girls Football vs HHS	Won 4-0
U18 Boys Football vs Tring	L5-4
Y8 Boys Football vs Laureate	Won 4-1
Y9B Boys Football vs Tring	Won 4-3 on penalties
U13B Girls Football vs Tring	Drew 2-2
Y10A Netball vs Tring	Lost 20-17
Y7 Sportshall Athletics	Girls -3rd Boys -2nd

Tooled Up at Ashlyns - resources from Dr Kathy Weston



It was [Safer Internet Day](#) earlier this week. To celebrate Safer Internet Day, Dr Weston delivered an exclusive live webinar for Tooled Up subscribers exploring the ways in which parents can help children to become good digital citizens. If you missed the live event, look out for the recording in the library, coming soon. The Tooled Up library is full of resources that can help to kick start good conversations about young people's digital life:

- [Internet Safety Conversation Starters](#)
- [Digital Family Values](#)
- [Things to Consider if Your Child Uses Social Media](#),
- [50 Things to Ask Your Teen About Their Digital Diet](#)
- [cultivating good gaming habits](#).
- [explicit images](#)
- [image-based sharing](#).

For those interested in the digital life of teenagers, check out our [brand new webinar](#) on vulnerabilities and online risk with forensic psychologist, [Dr Aiman El Asam](#), and a fresh recording with clinical psychologist, [Dr Elly Hanson](#) on the consumption of explicit online content by teens and how they are being impacted by it.

opportunities - get in touch!!
asa@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

BAG2SCHOOL - collection date 24th March

Having a Spring Clean this half-term? Make space for your summer wardrobe and save your unwanted items for another BAG2SCHOOL collection for 24th March 2022. Donations can be dropped off from Monday 14th March. Details of drop-off point to be confirmed.

Please also note that unwanted Christmas gifts can also be donated in readiness for the 2022 Christmas Hamper Raffle

ASA 100 CLUB

This is a great way to raise money for Ashlyns with a chance to win a prize. Anyone can buy one or more numbers in our monthly draw. Each number is £2 per month or £24 a year, half of this money is used for 3 cash prizes and half to the ASA. We have still not sold 100 numbers each month so sign up today to be in the February draw. Email ASA100CLUB@gmail.com for more info. The more members we have, the more we raise for Ashlyns.

Congratulations to the winners of the January draw:

1st prize - G Okin
2nd prize - E Robson
3rd prize - A Barsby

Message from Hertfordshire County Council

Ahead of February half-term, we'd like to say thank you once again for continuing to play your part and for helping to keep yourselves and others safe from COVID-19.

If you're travelling abroad this half-term be sure to check and follow COVID-19 guidance for your country of travel and on re-entering the UK, you can find the latest travel guidance [here](#).

Get vaccinated - vaccination continues to offer the best protection for ourselves and others around us from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19.

There are lots of walk-in options available locally for first, second doses and boosters, you can find your nearest vaccination centre and also book an appointment [here](#).

Young people aged 12-18 yet to receive their COVID-19 vaccination(s) don't need to wait for a visit to their school or setting. You can find out more, including walk-in options for clinics for young people, and book [here](#).

Half term COVID-19 'Relax and Vax' sessions for nervous teenagers

Five of the larger vaccination centres across Hertfordshire and West Essex are running 'Relax and Vax' sessions during half-term week aimed supporting 12 to 18-year-olds who are nervous about having their COVID-19 vaccine.

Specially trained staff will be on hand to help overcome worries like a fear of needles and answer any other concerns using simple and clinically effective relaxation techniques to help reduce tension and support them through the process. Children aged 12-15 need to be accompanied by a consenting parent or carer and just mention they're nervous on arrival so that the staff can make adjustments and they're given plenty of time and support.

You can find a list of participating venues and times [here](#).

People under 18 who have recently had COVID-19 must wait 12 weeks before having their vaccination.

- Test regularly – 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 don't display symptoms. Regular rapid testing at home can help to prevent transmission. Find out all the ways to get home test kits (LFD tests) at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest
- Stay at home – if you have symptoms stay at home and book or order a PCR test online at: www.nhs.uk/get-tested
- If you test positive you must self-isolate for the required period and not have people visit you at home. There is support available to help people who need it to self-isolate, call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, email info@hertshelp.net or visit www.hertshelp.net

Please do not send children and young people back to school following half-term if they have any symptoms or feel unwell. There continues to be a high number of outbreaks across Hertfordshire's childcare, nurseries, schools, special schools and colleges – they need your support to help protect our communities and have the least disruption to children's learning and development as possible.

We hope you enjoy a healthy and safe half-term.

Hertfordshire County Council