

Parents and carers will be aware that we have now entered a period of national mourning following the sad news about the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This will continue until the end of the State Funeral. At the time of writing, details of the funeral are unknown; once this has been confirmed, DfE guidance and information will be shared with schools, which we will then communicate to families.

Understandably, there will be much media coverage over the coming days and it is possible this may be distressing for some of our students. Parents may wish to explore [MindEd Hub](#), which is a source of information to support students manage death and loss. We would encourage students to speak to a trusted member of staff if needed.

The various tributes paid by leaders around the world all remark on the Queen's strong sense of duty, dignity and determination. Whilst she witnessed huge changes to Britain and the world in her lifetime and 70 year reign, these principles are something I am sure we can all agree are timeless and an example to us all.

We will be in touch again when the national arrangements and implications for schools are known.

James Shapland
Headteacher

Next Week - Week 2

Attendance reporting procedure Please report children's absence by 08:30 each morning using our [online google form](#) which can also be found on the school website. This form should also be used to report future absence e.g. dentist appointments.

Lockers

Lockers are still available for all year groups. If you would like to book one for your child, please go to the ILS website: www.ilsschools.co.uk. All available lockers are shown online. Please note that ILS are a separate entity from the school and all dealings should be directly with them.

Extracurricular Clubs

Please click [here](#) for the extracurricular PE clubs starting next week. Sessions are open to all and no booking is required.

The second round of Year 7 football trials will be on Tuesday after school 3.30-4.45pm; for those who may have missed the first round please see Mr Young on Monday break time to make sure he is aware.

The after school gym for senior students will start on the week commencing 19 September.

Key Dates

- 12 Sept: Y11 parents Raising Achievement evening
- 14 Sept: Y12 Information Evening
- 22 Sept: Y10 Information Evening
- 26-28 Sept: Y7 X Band Peak District trip
- 28-30 Sept: Y7 Y band Peak District trip
- 29 Sept: Y8 Information Evening
- 6 Oct: School closes at 12.30
- 7 Oct: INSET Day

Next Week Lunch Menu: Week 2

Year 11 Dr van der Spoel

We are excited to welcome Year 11 parents and carers on Monday 12 September at 7pm for the Dr van der Spoel session in the Hall as part of our Y11 Raising Achievement Programme.

Year 11 iCards

Year 11 students attended an assembly this morning focusing on study habits and marginal gains. Students were issued their first iCard. The iCard has 15 spaces for staff signatures which are issued to recognise contributing factors to academic success. These include attendance, sustained effort/attainment, attending revision sessions, meeting assessment targets and completing practice papers/home learning. Once an iCard is complete these are submitted to student services and the student receives a new iCard. These cards then enter a prize draw every half term, as your child completes and submits more iCards their chances of winning a prize increases. As part of your attendance to the Dr van der Spoel evening your child will receive a fully completed iCard to enter into the draw to get them started.

Careers in Architecture

As part of our careers programme, on Tuesday 20 September we will be joined by [Rise Architects](#) who will be delivering a talk to students in Years 8 -11 about a career in architecture and the variety of roles available within the industry. This is a fabulous opportunity for any student who is interested in design/architecture or is considering working within the creative industries sector. This event will run for one hour during the school day in the LRC. Places are limited, and in the event of being oversubscribed, we will offer places via a ballot system. Please discuss this opportunity first with your child and complete the form [here](#) to register your interest which will be followed by an email to confirm location and timings.

Safeguarding

[Parentsafe](#) is a website with various links that can provide information to parents/carers to support their children. It covers and has links to online issues, extremism and radicalisation, gangs and county lines, and sex and relationships.

Science Lectures

Monthly Lectures from the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory are restarting. These are hybrid - in person/online:

Why small is beautiful - Friday 16 September (13:30 and 19:00), ages 10+, with Dr Annela Seddon.

Click your fingers. In the time it took you to do that, your fingernails grew by one nanometre. In this talk, we explore nanoscience and nanotechnology – the science of the billionth of a metre scale. You'll find out what links the Romans and butterflies, and test out some fundamental theories of physics using Lego and oven gloves. You'll also learn about how some of the biggest problems facing the planet could be solved with some innovative, tiny solutions. <https://TalkingScience2022-23.eventbrite.co.uk>

Back to School Fair

Gagan Mohindra MP has asked that we let parents know about his 'Back to School Fair' taking place on 17 September in Rickmansworth, free to all parents. Full details can be found [here](#).

Communications

- [Welcome Back from the Headteacher](#)
- [Y7 Peak District Trip Information Evening](#)
- [Y12 Information Evening](#)
- [Y11 Effective Learning & Revision Workshops](#)
- [Y13 Elevate Study Skills Evening](#)
- [Rewards & Consequences Update](#)

New Staff

We are delighted to welcome the following new members of staff this term:

- Mr Black - Premises
- Mrs Day - TA
- Mr Eastham - English
- Miss Gould - English
- Dr Lavery - Science
- Mr McDonagh - Maths
- Mrs Pine - TA
- Miss Porter - English
- Mrs Willis - Finance

Vacancies

- [LRC Assistant](#)
- [Foreign Language Assistant - Spanish](#)
- [Student Support Worker](#)
- [Teacher of Spanish](#)

Music Lessons

The majority of music lessons will be starting w/c 12 September. Lessons take place in the Music Block in practice rooms or MB2.

Timetables are put on the notice board in the Music Block and are also posted on Google Classroom (class code **nq4d5yw**) so please be sure that your child regularly checks to see when their lesson time is.

If you have any queries regarding music lessons please email musictuition@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

Tooled Up at Ashlyns - resources from Dr Kathy Weston (please request from school if required)

Please explore the engaging resources to help with settling back into school

- [Back to School Checklist](#)
- [Mindset Planner](#)
- [Settling In Journal](#)
- [Starting University Checklist](#)
- [Top tips for supporting your child](#)

We also have some fabulous new resources designed to support autistic young people as they start university. Co-created by researcher, Dr Kathryn Bates, and Kerrie Portman, a young person with autism who has made this journey herself, our [article](#) is a must read for any family going through what may be a difficult transition.

Autumn programme of webinars is [now available to book on the Tooled Up website](#). We look forward to seeing lots of you at some of our upcoming sessions:

- Nice to Meet You: How Tooled Up 'works' and 10 Ways in Which We Support Families Optimally (September 14, 2022 7.30pm BST)
- How to Make a Confident Return to Work After Maternity and Other Work Breaks (October 10, 2022 7.30pm BST)
- All about Allergies: Your Questions Answered (October 11, 2022 8.00pm BST)
- Making Sense of the Menopause (October 18, 2022 7.30pm BST)