



## Next Week - Week 1

**Attendance reporting procedures** 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.

## Character Standards Card

This week has seen the launch of our new orange Character Standards Card. This card is being used to recognise, encourage and promote students acting positively by displaying the new school values & associated character virtues. Students who receive 3 signatures on this card get a postcard home and entered into a prize draw at the end of the term. Alongside the character card, work continues around the school both in the curriculum and as part of the pastoral programme to explicitly teach and reflect on developing character strengths, part of our overall work and continual aim to help our students to flourish in both school and society.

## Trial Exams

Year 11 have now completed their two weeks of trial examinations, and their attitude towards both the exams themselves and their revision has been exemplary. We wish Year 11 students and their families a very well earned rest this weekend.

Next week it is the turn of Year 13, with a week of trial examinations ahead.

## Assembly Theme

This week our assemblies have been led by Mrs Gee, Head of Year 9, on the theme of unconscious bias. Through virtual assemblies while the chapel is in use for Year 11 trial exams, Mrs Gee and form tutors have explored definitions of unconscious bias, how and why it happens, what impact that can have on students in schools, and what we can do about it.

## Safeguarding

Children and young people can be at serious risk of exploitation, both sexual and non-sexual. Whether it comes from criminal gangs inducing children into criminal activity, or networks of individuals preying on children, recognising the warning signs is crucial. The Children's Society has published [guidance](#) on how to spot the signs and stop exploitation.

## Carol Service

Our Carol Service takes place on Sunday 11th December, and is always a highlight of the festive calendar. Please do come along, hear our students perform, and get into the festive spirit; it starts at 4pm.

## Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA) Online Coffee Morning for Parents & Carers - Tuesday 6th December 10.30am - 12 midday

Please find a [link](#) to information on an online coffee morning that can provide support for children who have attendance issues that are caused by emotional challenges.

Please note booking is needed as per details on this link.

## Key Dates

- 4 Dec: Cyclocross at Ashlyns
- 5 Dec: Y13 Trial Exams Start
- 8 Dec: Y7 Parents' Information Evening
- 11 Dec: Carol Service, 4pm
- 14 Dec: Preloved Christmas Jumper Boutique
- 21 Dec: Last Day of Term, School Closes at 12.30
- 21 Dec: Non Uniform Day
- 5 Jan: First Day of Term

## Next Week Lunch Menu - Week 3

## Communications

- [Y7 Parents' Information Evening](#)

## House Points

Current house points			
Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
17714	17074	17914	18654
3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
02/12/2022			

## Attendance

Forms with the highest attendance week ending 24 Nov:

7H1 90%  
8B3 93%  
9C2 89%  
10B1 91%  
11H2 100%

## Vacancies

- [Teacher of French \(full or part time\)](#)
- [Administrator](#)
- [Teaching Assistant 18hrs](#)
- [Teaching Assistant 30hrs](#)

## Preloved Christmas Jumpers Boutique

On the 14th of December, our student Charity Leaders will be giving Christmas jumpers a new home at our pop up [Christmas jumper boutique](#) with all proceeds supporting Northchurch Community Pantry and the Open Door Community Food project in Berkhamsted.

Reminder to drop off donations by **Friday 9th December** - please give to form tutors.

## Student Achievement

'Break A Leg' to students who are in the cast and crew for Berkhamsted Youth Theatre's production of Beauty and the Beast taking place at The Court Theatre in Tring this weekend – Finn M, Sophia M, Theo G, James S, Gabi B, Emma G, Aisling E, Emilia S, Evie M, Goldie S, Holly G, Rose W and Aniya M . Tickets are still available [here](#).

## Christmas Lunch

We are delighted to announce that Christmas lunch will be taking place on Thursday 15 December. Please be aware that all lunches must be pre-ordered via ParentPay by 8 December.

In addition to the Christmas lunch, a limited number of other items will be available to purchase on the day in the usual manner. Please click [here](#) for the menu.

## Christmas Tree

We would like to thank Christmas Tree Place, Berkhamsted for their generosity in donating the Christmas Trees for Reception and the Chapel this year. Their Christmas Tree farm and retail site is open now and located 200 metres from the Berkhamsted A41 junction on the Chesham Road. Please visit their [website](#) for more information. We would be grateful if you could mention Ashlyns when you buy your tree.

## Sports Results

U14 Girls Football vs St Clement Danes (a)	Lost 6-0
Y9 Boys Football	Won 6-0
Y8A Netball vs JFK	Won 25-14
U18 Boys Football vs JFK	Won 2-1
Y8B Netball vs Laureate	Won 13-3
U12 Girls Football vs Chesham Grammar	Won 2-1 in extra time
Y8B Boys Football vs Dr Challoner's	Lost 7-1
Y9A & 10A Netball vs Tring	9A - Lost 20-7, 10A - Lost 30-10
Y7A Boys Football vs Davenant	3-3 Full time, Lost 5-4 on penalties

## Cross Country

Last week the Ashlyns annual inter-house cross-country competitions took place for students in Years 7 to 10. All students took part, enduring some very muddy and wet conditions, in order to win points for their house. Well done to all runners!

## ASA News

### Donations

Firstly, a massive thank you for your Tombola donations which enabled us to run a hugely successful event at the Festival of Light raising around £1700 for the school!

Please keep your wonderful donations coming for our Hampers and also ensure that you purchase your tickets via ParentPay to be in with a chance of winning one of them.

**Cyclocross Event** - Sunday 4th Dec at Ashlyns  
**\*\*URGENTLY NEED HELP - PLEASE SIGN UP**

Please support the ASA team running the refreshment stall at this large event - use this [link](#) to sign-up.

Any cakes and bakes gratefully received - homemade or shop-bought - deliver to school on Saturday morning 9.45am - 10.30am, or bring to the stall on Sunday if you're popping along for the event.

**Santa Sleigh** - Thursday 8th December **\*\*\* NEW DATE\*\*\***

We urgently need volunteers for this fundraiser hosted by the Rotary Club, as the new date means we have lost some previous volunteers. Sign up [here](#).

### Chapel Decorating

(Saturday 10th Dec 2-4pm) and Refreshments at the Carol Concert (Sunday 11th Dec 4-6pm, help from 3pm)

Please sign up [here](#).

We would really appreciate donations of mince pies by Friday 9th Dec to school.

**\*\*London Marathon 2023 - Silver Bond Place\*\*** The ASA has been given a Silver Bond place for next year's London

Handle and Raven were the joint winners with 23 points, Bourne came a close 2nd with 22, Coram were 3rd with 12 points.

## DSPL

The latest 'DSPL8 Parent/Carer communication: Autumn Term' & 'Dacorum Parent/Carers courses and support' newsletters are available [here](#).

Marathon, and so we'd like to offer this place, free of charge, to anyone who's interested in running the Marathon to raise funds for the ASA. Please get in touch, with a brief bit about yourself, why you would like the place, and how you can promote it to raise as much funds as possible through your network of friends and family, and work. Deadline to submit your name is extended to Friday 9th Dec

## Tooled Up at Ashlyns - resources from Dr Kathy Weston



TikTok: Your Questions Answered



Tate Truths: Questions to Aid Discussion with Young People about Toxic Online Content



Thinking about Who We Follow and Why

Recently, we attended a [book launch](#), hosted by leading Consultant Paediatrician, Dr Sophia Mooncey, an expert on neurodiversity. It highlighted how we must work towards reducing stigma and creating a safe and accepting world for neurodivergent people. If you are interested in this, you might want to read last week's [Wednesday Wisdom](#), which focused on this topic.

We're lucky enough to have already [spoken](#) with Dr Mooncey and her co-author, Adele Devine, about helping children with autism to thrive. If you want to learn more about neurodiversity, tune into our [podcast interview](#) with Dr Kathryn Bates or bust some neuromyths in this [webinar](#) with UCL scientist, Dr Jo Van Herwegen. If you've already watched any of Dr Van Herwegen's [webinars](#), she's looking for your feedback. Please let her know if you found them useful by filling out this short [survey](#).

We also have interviews and presentations with experts on various aspects of neurodiversity, including its potential [impact on siblings](#), [pathological demand avoidance](#), [dyslexia](#), [dyscalculia](#) and [tic disorders](#). It's also important to provide children with access to literature that features strong neurodivergent characters - this [list](#) of books will be helpful.

We're in the process of planning an online conference "All About Autism" to be held in April 2023 and want to hear from parents of autistic children or those interested in learning more about optimal ways to support them. Please get in touch and let us know your thoughts, comments and experiences, by emailing: [office@tooledupeducation.com](mailto:office@tooledupeducation.com)