



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.

Christmas Lunch

On Thursday we were delighted to serve over 600 Christmas lunches to our students. The extended feast comprised 110kg of meat and over 200kg of potatoes and vegetables. The hand-rolled pigs in blankets were ever popular and of course there were Yorkshire puddings for all along with all the trimmings. The plates were piled high but we all managed to squeeze in a delicious dessert. Thank you to all those who joined the lunch, sang along with the Christmas hits and helped deliver a record number of lunches.



Safeguarding

We wish our parents and students a safe and happy Christmas. In the event that you should need support from a safeguarding or child protection perspective please contact Children's Services on 0300 123 4043

Learning Ambassador Visit

This week a group of our learning ambassadors visited Westfield Primary School with Mr McDonald and Mr Roberts to deliver a Computer Science lesson. Our students demonstrated perfectly a number of character strengths that we are working on in school including leadership, teamwork, empathy and kindness. Both our students and the Westfield students greatly enjoyed the visit!

Uniform

On Sunday the weather is due to return to less extreme temperatures, so we will return to usual school footwear and coats to be worn only outside the school building. Thank you for your support in this.

A reminder that Wednesday 21 December is non uniform, with a voluntary donation to Save the Children that can be made via Parent Pay if you have not already.

Careers

This term has seen a busy schedule of inspiring career events for students including apprenticeship assemblies and workshops plus talks focussing on engineering, architecture, law, forensic science, catering and the police force. It is never too early to discuss career aspirations with your child at home and [Talking Futures](#) is an excellent toolkit with resources and information you may find useful.

As we are nearing the end of the term, we would like to thank parents who have given up their time and professional expertise to support our careers

Key Dates

- 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 2

Communications

- [GCSE PE Revision Sessions](#)

House Points



Current house points



Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
20014	19494	19866	21134
2 nd	4 th	3 rd	1 st



16/12/2022



Attendance

Forms with the highest attendance week ending 9 Dec:

7H2 96%
8R2 98%
9C1 95%
10C1 96%
11B1 92%

Vacancies

Teaching Staff

- [Teacher of Art, part time](#)
- [Teacher of French](#)

Support Staff

- [Cover Supervisor](#)
- [LRC Assistant](#)
- [Science Technician](#)
- [Teaching Assistant 18hrs](#)
- [Teaching Assistant 30hrs](#)

Local Food Banks

Please click [here](#) for a list of food support in the local area.

programme. If you work in a profession that you would like to share with our student community, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Becky Lambert: rlambert@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk to find out more.

Careers in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines

On Thursday 19 January '23 we are hosting a Royal Navy and Royal Marines careers talk. The event will take place in the LRC starting at 10am and is open to students in Year 7-11. The Royal Navy and Royal Marines have a diverse range of responsibilities, job roles and career paths. They protect the UK and Overseas Dependencies utilising Engineers, Logistics, Operation, Science, Catering, Medical and Aviation to carry out these responsibilities.

Please discuss this opportunity with your child and then complete the form [here](#) to register your interest. Should we be oversubscribed we will allocate places via a random ballot and confirmation of a place will be sent one week before the event.

PSHE Workshops

This week we have welcomed speakers and workshop facilitators from Services for Young People to do some PSHE work with Years 9, 10 and 11 through very informative and engaging sessions. Topics covered across the year groups included healthy relationships, drugs and alcohol, and contraception.

Christmas Concert

A huge thank you and well done to all the students who took part in the Christmas Carol Concerts over the last week. It was a lovely chance to spread some Christmas cheer and have a good old fashioned sing-a-long. Merry Christmas from the Music Department!

Food Bank Donations

Thank you for all the wonderful donations that we have already received for our food bank donation drive, organised by our student Charity Leaders. You still have until Monday if you are shopping over the weekend and want to add any [more](#)!

Senior Citizens' Christmas Carol Service

On Wednesday we welcomed a group of senior citizens from the local area to Ashlyns for carols in the Chapel, performed by our talented students. They were then treated to a tea party put together by some budding chefs from Year 10. Sports leaders helped to serve and enjoyed talking to the guests. A wonderful time was had by all.

Christmas Tree

Our beautiful tree (kindly donated by Christmas Tree Place) has been adorned with wonderful decorations and has taken pride of place in our reception area. Thanks to our friends at Dazzling Occasions for kindly volunteering to turn an already beautiful tree into something truly magical.



DSPL

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

Spring 2023 parenting courses and support [brochure](#).

ASA News

Thank you

Firstly a huge THANK YOU to everyone who has helped out this term. It is always a busy time of year for us, with several events to run, but we have been overwhelmed at the level of support and generous donations from the school community. We will report on the amounts raised in due course, but all the events ran very smoothly, due in no small part to all our wonderful volunteers. The money will go towards enrichment opportunities and specialist equipment for students across the whole school.

Christmas Hampers

Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets and made donations. The raffle is now closed and our hampers team will be busy this weekend making up fabulous Christmas hampers. Mr Shapland will make the draw on Monday 19 December and winners will be notified soon afterwards.

Uniform

Don't forget that we sell good quality second hand uniform and PE kit all year round. Items can be delivered to your door over the Christmas break in time for the new term. Just email us on ASA@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk.

Christmas Tree Collection

Ashlyns students who are part of local scout groups will be helping with collecting Christmas trees on 8 January, [for details please click here](#).

After School Canteen

From the New Year, our caterers, Culinera, will be operating an after school service. Open to all students, they will be serving reduced priced snacks and drinks until 15:45.

Handel House Charity

Handel House raised £104.61 from their red themed bake and sweet sale. This money will go to our House charity, Hector's House based in Berkhamsted. Thank you to students who supported in donating.



Dates for your diary

We will hold an ASA meeting in January, where we have three new funding bids from school to consider – keep an eye out for the invitation and come along and find out what's planned for 2023 and have your say.

In February there will be another Bags2School collection of unwanted clothing and shoes so please make sure you save your items for that.

On Friday March 17 we will hold our first quiz night for several years – start revising, gather your team together with a great team name now!

We would like to wish all students, parents, carers and staff a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tooled Up at Ashlyns - resources from Dr Kathy Weston

With Christmas just around the corner, we can't stress more how important it is to take care of yourselves as parents and carers. 'Check in' with yourself perhaps using this free evidence-based app, [How We Feel](#), developed by [Professor Marc Brackett](#) at Yale in the run up to Christmas and over this festive period. Remind yourself of your 'anchors and assets'; who is there for you and actions you can take to actively cope better. Our [Coping Menu](#) might give you some ideas and give you a tool to use with the whole family.

Feeling anxious or stressed? *Puzzle it out*. If it is possible to identify anxiety triggers, we are more likely to implement interventions that can reduce those wobbles. Our [Stress Less](#) activity can help, as can any number of our '[Wobble resources](#)' in Tooled Up. You can find lots of [creative](#) ideas in our library too that can aid relaxation.

Let's not forget about all our seasonal resources: [50 Ways to Bond with Your Child Over Christmas](#) is full of easily actionable tips and our Christmas screen time [article](#) and short [podcast](#) will help you with strategies to help make screens enjoyable for the whole family. If your children divide their time between two homes, we have some tips from [Dr Reenee Singh](#). Sleep is also a vital part in self-care and you can find some great, evidence-based tips on sleeping better [here](#).

Make sure you keep browsing our site over the festive period, register for some of our amazing 2023 [webinars](#) coming up and set yourself some new [goals in 2023](#).