



Next week, after half term- 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.

Safeguarding

Please see a [link](#) that supports parents with keeping their child safe online as part of safer internet day.

Please also see a [resource](#) that can provide information and guide conversations with your child should you have concerns about vaping.

Youth Speaks District Final

On Tuesday 7th February, our talented Youth Speaks team took part in the District Final of the Youth Speaks Debate Competition. Competing against eight other schools, the team delivered a fantastic debate on the advantages and disadvantages of social media, for which they were awarded an admirable second place prize. Well done Cerys J, Sophie R, and Ellie Z!



Character Education

We continue to grow our Character education programme. Our vision at Ashlyns School is to enable students to flourish in all areas of their lives, by supporting their development into well-rounded, empathetic beings who are able to contribute and shape society and the wider world, whilst respecting and supporting those who live in it, through the teaching and modelling of good character. Since September we have introduced our new school values of integrity, inclusivity and independence and worked with students around what this looks and feels like at Ashlyns. Students continue to be recognised for demonstrating these character strengths through the schools reward system.

Year 9 Options Evening

Thank you to all the Year 9 parents and students who attended our Options Evening last night; it was wonderful to see so many of you in school. The main presentation slides and the Citizenship recording will be emailed out today. Please encourage students to read the information in the options booklet that was emailed to you if they did not manage to attend any presentations and to talk to teachers of subjects they are interested in if they need further information. We look forward to receiving their option choices by 3rd March.

Rearranged Year 7 PTCE

The Year 7 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening is due to take place on 16th March, which is a date identified for industrial action by the NEU. We have therefore taken the decision to rearrange the PTCE for 23rd March.

Key Dates

- 13 Feb: Half Term
- 23 Feb: Y9 Parent-teacher Consultation Evening
- 17 March: ASA Quiz Night
- 23 March: Y7 PTCE

Communications

- [Y11 Half-Term Revision and Prom](#)

Next Week Lunch Menu: Week 1

House Points

Current house points			
Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
26338	26002	27020	28075
3 rd	4 th	2 nd	1 st
10/02/2023			

Attendance

Forms with the highest attendance week ending 03 Feb:

7H2 97%
8C2 98%
9B2 97%
10B1 98%
11R1 96%

Vacancies

Teaching:

- [Teacher of French part time](#)
- [Teacher of Sociology part time](#)
- [Second in Inclusion Maternity Cover](#)

Support Staff:

- [LRC Assistant](#)
- [Premises Assistant](#)
- [TA 18hrs](#)
- [TA 30hrs](#)
- [Science Technician](#)
- [Exam Invigilators](#)

Berkhamsted Rotary Fun Run

Students who would like to enter the fun run as part of the Ashlyns team need to show their sponsorship forms to student reception with a £10 pledge on Monday 20th. If they can show they will have at least £10 sponsorship they will not have to pay the entrance fee.

Careers

National Apprenticeship Week

This week has been exceptionally busy as we celebrated National Apprenticeship Week with a number of events and activities for our students. The week started with ASK Apprenticeships delivering an assessment centre workshop for Year 10 students with lots of great advice on how to perform in this recruitment environment. Year 10 received an assembly explaining apprenticeships and highlighting the many benefits and opportunities across a wide variety of job opportunities and sectors.

On Wednesday a group of Year 10 students visited Silverson Machines in Chesham to tour their factory facilities to find out more about their 5 year mechanical engineering apprenticeship programme.



On Thursday we welcomed Gary Laybourne, CEO of CoachCore, who gave an inspiring presentation to our Year 8 and 9 students about his career journey and sporting apprenticeship programme.

And finally, today in assembly our Year 11 students heard from a KPMG software engineering degree apprenticeship ambassador and our Year 10 students received a two hour employability workshop delivered by 15 local business volunteers developing skills in CV writing and interview techniques.



Mental Health First Aid

Please click [here](#) for details of a free mental health first aid course for parents and carers.

School Travel

We are committed to ensuring that everyone travelling to and from Ashlyns can do so as safely as possible. Now that the evenings are getting lighter we encourage students to walk to and from school where possible. This contributes to the health, safety and developing independence of our students.

ASA News

London Marathon 2023

We are really excited to announce that a parent of students in years 9 and 11 will be running the London Marathon on 23 April in aid of the ASA. His fundraising target is £1,000 and you can sponsor him here: <https://2023tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/doug-jarvis-ec6ef>

Quiz night – 17 March

Tickets are sold out now for this event. We still need offers of cakes for the cake auction to be held on the night. Please email the ASA if you can help.

ASA vacancies

We still need a co-Chair for the ASA to help with the overall leadership of the charity. In addition, there is a risk that the Craft Fair in November may not go ahead if we do not find someone to run it. Please have a think and see if you can come up with a small team of people to lead this big fundraiser. A full handover and support will be given.

ASA@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

Careers Survey

Our school is a member of the Hertfordshire Careers Hub and one of their key strategic objectives is to help promote Apprenticeships and Technical and Vocational routes. This is now the fifth year that this survey has been commissioned and we would be very grateful if you could complete this short digital survey to share your thoughts based on your eldest school-aged child.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ashlyns-23>

Hertfordshire County Cross Country Championship

Well done to all those who took part last weekend. Special mentions to those who qualified to represent the County in the national champs which include Eimear who won the pre-junior girls, Indie F and Leon D.



Sports Results

Y10 Basketball vs Hemel	Lost 26-17
Y9A Netball vs KLS	Won
Y9A Boys Football vs Tring	Won 3-1
U15 Girls Football vs Hemel	Won 3-0
Y8 Basketball vs Hemel	Lost
Y9 Boys Football vs Longdean	Lost 3-0
Y7B Netball vs Hemel	Lost 18-3
U18 Boys Football vs St Michaels	Drew 2-2 Lost 3-2 AET
Y11 Netball Abbot's	A 16-12, B 13-8
Y7 Indoor Athletics	Girls 2nd, Boys 4th
Y10B Boys Football vs Tring	Won 2-0
Y11 Netball vs Longdean	Won 31-5
U13 Girls Football vs Croxley Danes	Lost 3-1

Tooled Up at Ashlyns - resources from Dr Kathy Weston

You might well be aware that it is **Children's Mental Health Week** and that this year's theme is 'Let's Connect'. Thinking about how we connect with others and ways that we can proactively improve our wellbeing are important which is why we've created an activity [resource](#) on making connections, created for both children and adults. This resource also contains lots of links to other relevant resources.

In other news, we're very proud to announce our first ever [Tooled Up conference](#). Tooled Up and Riverston School are joining together to host: **"Support for Children with Autism: An Exploration of Practical and Evidence-Based Ideas for Parents and Educators"** on Friday 21st April 2023.

This free, online event is aimed at parents and educators across our Tooled Up School community. Attendees can look forward to a range of talks and short presentations from brilliant speakers like [Dr Mary Hanley and](#)

[Professor Debbie Riby](#) who will be demonstrating their free “Triple A Training” for schools, which focuses on the impact of sensory classroom features on engagement, and [Dr Felicity Sedgewick](#) who will be presenting her research on masking. [Louis Camilleri](#) will showcase his free app that can help parents/educators write social stories as well as other fantastic speakers. Attendees can expect to learn more about research evidence and get lots of practical tips that they can ‘try and apply’ in their everyday parenting or educational practice. Click [here](#) to register your place.