



Next week- Week 1/A

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 find a useful [link with toolkits](#) to support parents with regards to the early signs of eating disorders and early intervention advice.

LRC Half Price Scholastic Book Fair

The LRC is hosting a Half Price Scholastic Book Fair from 5-8 December. The fair will have a fantastic selection of titles for all year groups and will be a great opportunity for students to pick up some book bargains. The fair will be open at break and lunchtime in the LRC; please note that this will be a cash-only event.

Youth Speaks Competition

Congratulations to the three teams who admirably represented Ashlyns last week in the district round of the Rotary Club Youth Speaks Competition. Well done to Sophie R, Cerys J and Ellie Z who won the Senior division and progressed to the regional competition with their impressive debate on the dangers of AI. Cora B, Niamh S and Holly H were highly commended in the Intermediate division, as were Holly B, Elodie B and Rose W in the Senior division (with written contributions from Katie Y and Imogen S). All of the students were praised by the judges and large audience for their sophisticated content and confident performances. Well done!

Christmas Tree

The Christmas Tree Place has very kindly offered to donate a tree to Ashlyns for our reception area. Please help to support this local business by visiting their shop which is conveniently located on Chesham road, just off the roundabout to the A41. Please click [here](#) for their website with more details.

Christmas Lunch

We are delighted to announce that Christmas lunch will be taking place on Thursday 14 December. All lunches must be prepaid by Friday 8 December via ParentPay selecting the Christmas lunch additional item at £4.30 - not by topping up their usual lunch allowance. As we're sure you appreciate, once ordered, the payment for lunch is non-refundable. In addition to the Christmas lunch, a limited number of other items will be available to purchase on the day during breaktime in the usual manner. Please click [here](#) for the menu.

Year 11 Raising Achievement

As the trial exams come to an end for our Year 11 students, it brings us real pride to extend our warmest congratulations to each and every student who displayed dedication, resilience, and determination during this critical phase of their academic journey.

The trial exams have been a significant milestone for our Year 11 students, serving as a comprehensive assessment of their knowledge and skills acquired

Key Dates

- 4 Dec: Y13 Trial Exams
- 6 Dec: Y7 Parents' Information Evening
- 10 Dec: Christmas Carol Service
- 20 Dec: Last Day of Term, School Closes 12.30
- 4 Jan: School Starts

Next Week [Winter Lunch Menu: Week 3](#)

House Points

Current house points			
Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
6810	6197	5887	6752
1 st	3 rd	4 th	2 nd
01/12/2023			

Vacancies

- [Teacher of English](#)
- [Head of PRE](#)
- [Teacher of Maths](#)

HMS Music Lessons

If you wish to register for music lessons please go to [HMS Music Lesson Registration](#)

Music Timetables can be found on the Music Block Notice Board and on Google Classroom

Code: nq4d5yw. It is the student's responsibility to check lesson times to ensure they attend.

Any music lesson queries please email Mrs Marval at musictuition@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk.

ASA News

As we now plan for our final 2 events of the year and into

throughout their GCSE journey to date. We commend our students for approaching these exams with a positive mindset, commitment to their studies, and a hunger for continuous improvement.

We encourage our Year 11 students to reflect on their performance, celebrate their achievements, and set ambitious and achievable targets for the upcoming months. This process of goal-setting will empower them to focus on specific areas for improvement and take proactive steps towards mastering the subjects that will be vital in the upcoming summer exams.

Character Programme

This week, we focused on the essential character virtue of "Respect.". Throughout the week, our students have engaged in meaningful discussions, activities, and reflections centred around the concept of respect.

Student Achievement

Well done to George H, Y7 who after 4 rounds of climbing competitions in the region of London & SE North achieved 3rd place, earning him a place in the National Finals for England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

George climbed in the Grand Final two day competition which took place at the weekend. George pushed himself and did everyone proud achieving an impressive 15th place of 99 in his age group category.

Ashlyns Netball Kit

We have now added an exciting new product to our kit store in collaboration with Liss Sport. Following numerous requests, those who play netball for the school can now order a bespoke netball dress or top to be worn for match play. A big thank you to the ASA who have provided the PE department with a full set to be worn by our players. Please note that thanks to this generous donation students can be provided with kit; it is not necessary to purchase unless students and parents wish to.

<https://www.lissport.co.uk/ashlyns> Keep an eye on our X (Twitter) feed to see the new kit in action soon!



School Of Hard Knocks

Congratulations to the School of Hard Knocks students for their fantastic efforts and success at the Rugby tournament at Harrow School last week.



2024, we of course, still need your wonderful donations and help to ensure they are the success they usually are

Carol Concert (10th December) - Donations of Mince Pies and Mulled Wine are required so these can be warmed up and served as a Christmassy and social end to the concert and also some volunteer helpers are needed to help in serving the refreshments - Please see sign up genius link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C45AAAF2EA3FA7-46367161-ashlyns/68867223>

Christmas Hampers (15th December) - Tickets are currently on sale and donations are still needed so that we can maximise the amount of hampers you can win and also pack them with lovely gifts for christmas. The deadline day for tickets and donations is fast approaching (15th December)

Please see [attached flyer](#) with all donation details including drop off locations

Quiz Night 2nd Feb 2024

We have now finished the final preparations for our 2024 Quiz Night so why not get a team together and come and join us. Tickets on sale via parentpay and all details are on [attached flyer](#)

Sports Results

Y8B Boys Football vs Adeyfield	Won
Y9B Netball vs Astley Cooper	Won 21-6
U13 Girls Football vs Queens	Won 2-1
Y8B Boys Football vs Sandringham	Lost

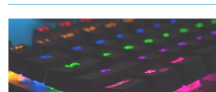
Tooled Up at Ashlyns - resources from Dr Kathy Weston



Wednesday Wisdom: Family Games



Understanding Girls



Gaming and Mental Health

Playing with our children – and watching them play with their siblings or peers – can provide some of the most rewarding moments as a parent, from the first tower of stacking blocks that we make for a baby to knock over, all the way to cricket in the park or a video gaming session in the living room.

But play time has to compete with all the other demands on family life: jobs, homework, school pressure and the online world of social media. As a result, many parents wonder how to use play time well. What sorts of play are most beneficial to our children, what limits should we set and where, and do we need to worry about the impact of digital play when it takes over from “real world” activities?

In our fascinating new [podcast](#), health lecturer Dr Jennifer St George and Emeritus Professor of Psychology Peter Smith discuss their work on rough and tumble play. If you worry when you see your children rolling around on the floor together or chasing each other, their work can challenge your thinking and open a new window into children’s minds. Dr Kathy Weston continues the theme of rough play in this week’s [Wednesday Wisdom](#).

Learn more about the importance of play in this [video](#) from Dr Kathy Weston, especially in relation to children’s development and mental health. There’s an accompanying [tip sheet](#) too on facilitating high-quality play.

Researcher Dr Rachel Nesbit has investigated the link between adventurous play – play which challenges children and pushes them to the edge of their comfort zone – and children’s development. Listen to our podcast interview with her [here](#).

If you have an older child at home, “play” is often synonymous with gaming. But is too much time playing video games detrimental to teenagers’ wellbeing? Dr Simona Skripkauskaite from the University of Oxford answered questions about the impact of gaming in a fascinating [podcast](#).

Finally: our recent webinar on Understanding Girls with Dr Tara Porter was one of the most popular online events we’ve ever held at Tooled Up. Many of you have been asking when the recording and notes will be available. The wait is over! You can delve into this session [here](#).