



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 see a useful [link](#) that provides safeguarding advice to parents and carers for the holidays. We wish our school community a safe and happy Christmas holiday. Should you have any safeguarding concerns please call children's services on 0300 123 4043.

Year 11 Raising Achievement

As we approach the Christmas break, we want to extend our congratulations to our Year 11 students for their outstanding work ethic and dedication. This term has been filled with hard work, challenges, and triumphs, and we are proud of all of them. They've earned some well deserved time off to relax and recharge over Christmas!

In early January students will receive both their trial exam grades and their predicted grades in a reflective target setting session. This is an important session where goals are set for the months ahead.

Character Programme

The character education program is not just about academics; it's about shaping well-rounded individuals equipped with the values that will serve them throughout life. Courage, in particular, is a cornerstone of resilience and personal development, and we are proud to see our students embracing it as part of the character theme of the week..

As we approach the end of the term, let's continue to encourage our students to apply the lessons of courage in all aspects of their lives. The holiday season provides an excellent opportunity for them to showcase courage in various ways, from trying new activities to engaging in meaningful conversations with family and friends

Christmas Lunch

On Thursday we were delighted to serve over 700 Christmas lunches to our staff and students. The extended feast comprised 120kg of meat and over 230kg of potatoes and vegetables. The hand-rolled pigs in blankets were ever popular as were the vegetarian and gluten free options. 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.



Key Dates

- 20 Dec: Last Day of Term, School Closes 12.30
- 20 Dec: Non Uniform Day
- 4 Jan: School Starts
- 15 Jan: Y12 Trial Exams
- 18 Jan: Y11 Raising Achievement Evening
- 2 Feb: ASA Quiz Night

Next Week [Winter Lunch Menu: Week 2](#)

House Points

Current house points			
Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
9334	9167	8386	8974
1 st	2 nd	4 th	3 rd
15/12/2023			

Vacancies

- [Head of PRE](#)
- [Science Technician](#)

Christmas Tree

If you have not got your tree yet please consider visiting The Christmas Tree Place, who donated our tree in reception, their shop is conveniently located on Chesham road, just off the roundabout to the A41. Please click [here](#) for their website with more details.

HMS Music Lessons

If you wish to stop Music Lessons for the Summer Term please email SchoolsDirectInvoicing@hertfordshire.gov.uk by **Monday 5th February** or use this [form](#) to withdraw from lessons. If notice is given

Careers

Year 10 Mock Interviews

This week all of our Year 10 students took part in a mock interview event delivered by industry professionals with extensive recruitment experience. As part of the preparation process students were tasked with writing their first CV which provided the foundation for the interview. Our students were a credit to the school with one of our interviewers commenting: *'Each student I met was impeccably behaved and very professional. The standard of some of the CVs were akin to what I would see in an entry level role in the corporate world - very articulate and impressive. This Year 10 group were outstanding!'*

Careers in Animation

On Wednesday our Year 9 and 10 students had the opportunity to listen to a presentation on careers in animation from a guest speaker who is Head of Layout on the award-winning Peppa Pig children's TV series. Students gained an insight into the production process and the variety of different roles and skills that are needed to create each episode. We are very grateful to our speaker for providing such a wonderful experience for our students.

Careers Programme

If you have a career or a skill that you would like to share with our students to give them an insight into the world of work, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Becky Lambert via rlambert@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

House Event

Raven

On Monday 18th December, Raven House will be holding a Christmas craft and bake sale in the hall after school. Money raised will be going to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Any Christmas craft decorations or baked contributions (no nuts) are welcome and can be dropped at the staff room from 8am. If your child would like to support by purchasing goods, they will need a small amount of change or a card, with prices ranging from 50p-£5.

If you would like to donate to Macmillan directly, then please follow the Raven JustGiving link [here](#).

Handel

Thank you to all students and staff who supported our Handel House Bake and Sweet Sale on Monday 11th December. We raised £165.12 for the Hospice of St Francis.

Borrowed Kit

There are a number of items of school uniform that have been borrowed from Student Reception this term and not returned. We would appreciate your support in checking your child's uniform and ensuring that any borrowed items are returned to us.

School Travel

As part of Ashlyns' commitment to safe and sustainable travel, we have been updating you about our work with Hertfordshire County Council to reduce speed limits in our immediate and surrounding areas. Hertfordshire County Council has proposed a reduction from 60mph to 30mph (from the A41 roundabout to the school gates), as well as the surrounding roads leading to Swing Gate Lane becoming part of the 20mph zone.

As part of our collaboration with local primary schools, Ashlyns staff members and Learning Ambassadors recently met with representatives and pupils from

after this date, costs will be incurred.

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

Any other queries regarding Music Tuition at Ashlyns School please email Mrs Marval at musictuition@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk.

ASA News

A huge THANKYOU from the ASA

To everyone who, over the course of 2023, has volunteered, donated, helped out, bought tickets and supported our fundraising and community events which has enabled us to raise over £20,000 which will be invested back into the school. This most definitely cannot be done without your support, so a huge thank you again from the ASA Team and have a wonderful Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Thomas Coram, Swing Gate and Victoria schools. This was an opportunity to discuss how the community can support the proposals during the consultation period, which is due to take place in the next few weeks. Staff and students also discussed ways to cultivate their shared commitment to sustainable school travel, which improves the wellbeing of both the individual and the community.



Sports Results

U14 Girls Football vs Nicholas Breakspear	Won 7-0
Y10B Netball vs JFK	Lost 19-8
U18A Boys Football vs JFK	Won 7-0
Y8A Netball vs JFK	Won 12-9
Y7B Boys Football vs Sandringham	Won 4-0
Y8 Boys Rugby vs JFK	Won 11-4
U16 Girls Football vs Watford Girls	Won 9-2
U18 Girls Football vs Beaumont	TBC
Y9A Netball vs Tring	TBC

PE Clubs

A huge well done to all of you who have attended a PE club this year and represented the school in a fixture. We have had over 2200 after school places filled and hopefully in the new year we will see some new faces alongside our regular participants. Just a reminder there will be no clubs next week, we will start again on the 8 January. Merry Christmas from the PE Department.

Tooled Up at Ashlyns - resources from Dr Kathy Weston



Emotional Literacy at Christmas



Raising A Resilient Teen Boy



Coping Menu

Christmas is less than two weeks away and schools are breaking up for the holidays. During term time, the routine of school and work sweeps many families through one week to the next. But at Christmas, we are thrust into much closer quarters with one another and have to adjust to a slower pace, an intense amount of “family time”, and a much emptier calendar.

Loneliness can be an issue for many people at Christmas. When everyone around is moving between family gatherings and social occasions, a lack of companionship and close connections is felt a lot more keenly. Children can feel lonely too, away from their friendship groups.

Dr Kathy Weston's podcast on [Emotional Literacy At Christmas](#) is a great starting point for preparing to navigate the highs and lows of the festive period.

Our [Coping Menu](#) provides suggested activities for children experiencing difficult emotions: it could be a valuable go-to if loneliness hits or tempers fray over the Christmas break. You might feel the holidays are already packed with activities and obligations, but it can still provide structure and calmness to think about what you'd like to achieve. Our [School Holiday Planner](#) can help, and is a great way to ensure there's time for recharging batteries and maintaining connections and friendships.

If family life becomes stressful or difficult over the holiday, our [Family Audit Template](#) can help you to take a step back and consider what might be going wrong. Completing these reflection tasks only takes a short time but they're a great way to take stock.

For younger children experiencing isolation or loneliness, our [Loneliness Book List](#) can help them talk through feelings and be more confident. If older children are struggling emotionally, our webinars on [Raising A Resilient Teen Boy](#) and [Understanding Girls](#) provide a wealth of insight and helpful advice.

And finally: thank you! We are so grateful to our parents and families for their questions, suggestions and feedback throughout the year, and for making Tooled Up such a rewarding experience.

Have a wonderful holiday however you celebrate, and we'll be back in 2024!