



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

Thursday 1st February is "Time to Talk Day" aimed at supporting mental health through opening communication avenues for those who need to and reducing the stigma around mental health. Please find a [link](#) that provides information and resources of support about this.

Character Education

In our ongoing commitment to fostering character development, we are proud to continue our work around the theme of open-mindedness during this special week. As we reflect on the profound lessons of Holocaust Memorial Week, our aim is to inspire a spirit of empathy, understanding, and open-mindedness among our students. We believe that an open mind is not just receptive to information but actively seeks to understand diverse perspectives, acknowledging the richness that comes from embracing differences.

In form time, students have had the opportunity for personal reflection, contemplating the lessons of history and considering how they can contribute to a more tolerant and inclusive future. These moments of introspection for our students are essential in cultivating the open-mindedness that is crucial for personal growth and positive societal change.

Year 11 Raising Achievement Programme

As we embark on the exciting journey of 2024, it is our pleasure to witness the enthusiasm and commitment displayed by many of our Year 11 students and their proactive attitude towards revision. The new year brings with it a renewed sense of purpose and the promise of academic achievement.

To support our Year 11 students in making a positive start to 2024, there are multiple school-based [revision sessions](#) running throughout the week. These sessions are tailored to provide students with targeted academic support, equipping them with the tools and knowledge necessary for success. We encourage all Year 11 students to take advantage of these invaluable opportunities to enhance their understanding of the curriculum and build a strong foundation for the challenges that lie ahead.

TOP 5 Session 6 Leaderboard

1. Nicole B: 51 sessions
2. Joseph RI: 48 Sessions
3. Isla L-M: 44 sessions
4. Emily J: 38 sessions
5. Evie C: 37 Sessions

Key Dates

- 2 Feb: ASA Quiz Night
- 5 Feb: ASA Meeting
- 8 Feb: Y9 Options Evening
- 15 Feb: Y9 Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening
- 19-23 Feb: Half Term

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

House Points

Current house points			
Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
14777	14473	14093	14709
1 st	3 rd	4 th	2 nd
26/01/2024			

Communications

- [Y9 Options Evening](#)
- [Y9 Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening](#)

Vacancies

- [Head of PRE](#)
- [Teacher of Technology](#)
- [Finance Manager](#)
- [French Foreign Language Assistant](#)

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 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

Careers in Conservation

This week our students had the opportunity to listen to an informative presentation delivered by Hertfordshire Zoo on wildlife conservation. Our guest speaker commented: 'It was a truly fantastic opportunity to come to Ashlyns school and present to a really engaged group of students from different year groups about conservation careers. Students learnt about the vital roles modern zoos play in conservation and the routes into both zoo-based careers and 'in the field' conservation roles. Students undertook a number of activities including a budgeting task for an in-situ conservation organisation in Madagascar and identifying the species of animals from 3D printed life-size animal skulls. We hope the students gained a greater understanding of conservation and may have been inspired to take on the challenge of stopping biodiversity loss and working towards a career in conservation.'

Mercedes-Benz Technician Apprenticeships Open Evenings

Mercedes-Benz are hosting apprenticeship evenings this February where students can look 'under the hood' at pursuing a career in the automotive industry. The Mercedes-Benz Technician Apprenticeship scheme is the most coveted vehicle technician apprentice programme in the UK and they are offering the following Open Evenings for students to find out more:

- Mercedes-Benz of Hemel Hempstead - 6th February - 6:30pm - 8pm

- Mercedes-Benz of Stevenage - 7th February - 6:30pm - 8pm

- Mercedes-Benz of Hertford - 8th February - 6:30pm - 8pm

[Click here](#) to find out more, and sign up for an evening.

Healthy Weight Service

If you have had experience of the children and young people's Healthy Weight Service (provided by BeeZee Bodies), or you have views on this topic, they want to hear from you. Your views are important and can help to understand how to provide services in the future. The survey will ask you about things like weight management, fitness, and nutrition, and you'll have the chance to win a £50 food voucher.

<https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/CYPHealthyWeightServiceParentCarer/>

Free school meals - could your child be eligible?

Recent Hertfordshire County Council research shows that there are more than 860 households across Dacorum that could be eligible for free school meals, but have not applied. Could you be one of them? The application to see if you are eligible is very simple and takes just a few minutes, so if you think it is a possibility, visit: [Free school meals | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

or you can contact the HCC's Free school meals office on 0300 123 4048 or freeschoolmeals@hertfordshire.gov.uk

If students are eligible for free school meals at Ashlyns, they use their fingerprint in the canteen in the same way as all the other students, and can choose up to three items from the canteen for free, each day. This includes a breakfast option, giving them a healthy, nourishing start to their day. You can read more about how our free school meals system works here:

https://www.myculiner.culiner.co.uk/_files/ugd/4eba09_3fd4118f55d34df495815ae2bc76ce9b.pdf

Parents also receive vouchers to cover school holidays and half term breaks, and packed lunches for school trips. Once they are registered for free school meals, this releases further funding that the school can use to support your child's learning and wellbeing.

If you've got any questions or would like some help with your application, please get in touch with Mrs Woods.

Marval at
musictuition@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk.

ASA News

ASA 100 CLUB

This is a great way to raise money for Ashlyns with a chance to win a prize. Anyone can buy one or more numbers in our monthly draw. Each number is £2 per month or £24 a year, half of this money is used for 3 cash prizes and half to the ASA. You have to be in to win, so sign up today to be in the next draw. Email ASA100CLUB@gmail.com for more info.

Congratulations to the winners of the November draw:

1st prize - T Harris

2nd prize - E Ayres

3rd prize - E Hopwood

TICKETS ON SALE - COMEDY & CURRY NIGHT - Friday 15th March

Don't miss out on this usually sold-out event, invite friends and family, and enjoy a great line-up of brilliant comedians whilst helping to raise funds for our school. Please the flyer for details. Please like and follow our social media as well.

facebook.com/ashlynsfestival

instagram.com/ashlyns_festival/

www.ashlynsfestival.co.uk

Rotary Club Santa Sleigh

A huge thank you to our team of Elves who braved the weather back in December and supported the Rotary Club Santa Sleigh collection. We were awarded £574 this week which is a

Help with Music Fees

Hertfordshire Music Service offers means-tested financial support at 50% or 100% of the fees. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Applications for new students will then be open from the 1st March 2024.

Please only register for lessons once you have received confirmation of financial support. Eligibility does not mean you will automatically receive support and you will be liable for the cost of lessons if you do not get accepted for financial support.

If you have any queries regarding this please email:

music.remission@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Herts County Cross Country Championship 2024

These will be held at Verulamium Park, St Albans on Saturday 3 February. If you are interested and feel your child meets the necessary standard then please send them to see Mr Preston or email him with your child's details and for information: jpreston@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

Sports Results

Y10 Boys Rugby Tournament	4th
U18 Boys Football vs Bushey Meads	Won 5-1
Y11A&B Boys Football vs Berkhamsted	A - Won 3-1 B - Lost 4-0
Y11 Netball vs Hemel	Lost 32-29
Y7A Netball vs Hemel	Lost 4-1
U18 Boys Rugby Tournament	Champions!
Y10 Boys Rugby vs Hemel	Lost
U14 Girls Football vs Presdales	Lost 4-2
U15 Girls Football vs JFK	Lost
U13 Girls Football vs Abbot's Hill	Won 7-0
Y10 Netball vs JFK	Won 19-15
Y8 Basketball vs Adeyfield	TBC
Y10A Boys Football vs Longdean	TBC
Y7A Netball vs KLS	TBC

magnificent effort - well done to you all

Quiz Night – 2 February

We still need offers of puddings or cakes for the ASA quiz auction. Donations can be bought or homemade. If homemade, we kindly ask for a list of ingredients too (ASA@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk).

ASA Volunteers meeting – Monday 5 February, 7pm – LRC

Now is a great time to find out more about the ASA and see if you would like to lend us some support. There are experienced teams and well-established processes in place for most of our big events, so the running of the ASA is in great shape, but we need to think about planning for the future so that the ASA can continue to fund activities, equipment and experiences for our students.

Bag2School – 7 March

Just a reminder we shall be doing another clothing collection in March so start saving any donations. Details to follow nearer the time

Tooled Up at Ashlyns - resources from Dr Kathy Weston



Science Questions for Curious
Teens



Beach Science: Teens



Science of Fire Quiz

Wherever you read our newsletter from, there's a good chance you've seen plenty of weather in the last couple of weeks! With freezing temperatures chilling the UK, closely followed by Storm Isha lashing the country with wind and rain, we've all had to think about the power of nature. And whenever there's something interesting happening outside, there are questions from your children and a chance to discover and learn!

Here at Tooled Up we have an ever-expanding list of resources for engaging children in broadening their knowledge and finding out more about the world around them.

Do you know what a weather bomb is? We worked with meteorologist David Bowker to create [20 Fun Facts About Storms](#) to share with your children. If your little ones find fierce wind and lightning scary, it might help them to understand a bit more about the science behind the storm. You can follow storm facts with cloud facts, using David's [Types Of Clouds Quiz](#), perfect for the budding weather-watchers in your family.

After cloud facts, try fire facts! Try our [Science of Fire Quiz](#), from science teacher Lucy Haseler. Lucy also created this fun and educational list of [Questions for Bathtime](#). Every part of the day can be a learning opportunity, especially if it teaches you why your fingers and toes go wrinkly in the water!

If you're lucky enough to live on the coast, we have beach science activities for both [primary aged children](#) and [teens](#)..

Even more inquisitive children – and their inquisitive parents – will love our [Learning Through Intrigue](#) questions covering such ground as why drinks are fizzy, why some people are left-handed and where freckles come from! For older children, our [Scientific Questions for Curious Teens](#) activity tackles some more in-depth topics.

Of course, learning about the natural world means engaging with the threats facing it. In this [podcast](#), Dr Verity Jones of the University of the West of England talks about climate change education, and how we can help our children through a barrage of dire warnings and anxiety.