



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 this term's edition of the [Herts for Learning online safety newsletter for parents](#).

Character Education

As we continue to explore citizenship, we're reminded of the profound responsibility each of us bears in shaping our communities for the better. Through engaging assemblies and thought-provoking tutor time discussions, we've explored the essence of citizenship – the principles of respect, responsibility and active participation in the betterment of society.

Year 9 Options Evening

It was wonderful to see so many families at our Year 9 Options Evening last night, and to receive such excellent feedback via the form sent out this morning; this feedback will be passed on to our staff. The slides from the main chapel presentation have been emailed to parents.

Year 11 Raising Achievement Programme

With exams on the horizon, our Year 11 Raising Achievement Programme is in full swing, offering an array of invaluable resources and support to elevate student performance. We urge students to seize every opportunity presented, particularly the plethora of revision sessions available both within and outside of school hours. These sessions are crafted to cater to students' individual needs, providing targeted guidance and reinforcement across various subjects.

Throughout the past few weeks, students have been introduced to a diverse range of revision techniques during tutor time. Flashcards and past papers have emerged as popular choices, offering a dynamic approach to consolidating knowledge and honing exam skills. [Open Revision Timetable](#)

i-Cards - TOP 5

1. Emily J - 25
2. Joe P - 25
3. Faith B - 23
4. Evie C & Tiana M - 22
5. Nicole B, Lewis D & Skye H - 21

Session 6 & Revision Session Attendees - TOP 5

1. Isla L-M - 70 sessions
2. Nicole B - 65 sessions
3. Joseph R - 58 sessions
4. Joe P, Alfie H & Faith B - 48 session
5. Megan S - 47 Sessions

Key Dates

- 15 Feb: Y9 Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening
- 19-23 Feb: Half Term
- 27 Feb: Y12 UCAS Evening
- 29 Feb: Y10 Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening
- 5 March: Extended Learning Day

Next Week [Winter Lunch Menu: Week 1](#)

House Points

Current house points			
Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
17325	17056	16387	17394
2 nd	3 rd	4 th	1 st
09/02/2024			

Communications

- [Y12 UCAS Convention](#)
- [Traffic Consultation](#)
- [Y13 Extended Learning Day](#)

Vacancies

- [Teacher of Technology](#)
- [Student Services Receptionist](#)
- [Teaching Assistant](#)
- [Second in Inclusion](#)
- [Finance Officer](#)

NHS

Please click [here](#) for the Winter Term newsletter from the School Nursing Team.

HMS Music Lessons

If you wish to register for music lessons please go to [HMS Music Lesson Registration](#). Music Lesson fees from September 2024 can be found [here](#).

Careers

As part of the Hertfordshire Careers Hub we are once again participating in their annual Apprenticeship Survey which has been running since 2019. We would really appreciate your help in completing this short survey to share your thoughts generally about post-16 options for your child. The survey responses are really useful as a school to identify how we can improve careers education and knowledge of the different pathways available for all students. Survey responses also help build up an accurate picture across Hertfordshire – you can read the outcomes of the 2023 survey [here](#).

To complete the 2024 survey please follow this [link](#). The survey will be open until 31st March.

Apprenticeship Trip

To celebrate National Apprenticeship Week our Year 10 students visited Safran Electrical and Power, world leaders in electrical components for the aircraft and aerospace industry. Students had a factory tour to see how aircraft generators are manufactured and looked at development of battery technology to create the next generation of low-carbon aircraft. At the end of the tour students worked in teams to develop communication and team-work skills. Our thanks to Safran for creating such a wonderful opportunity for our students.

Martin-Baker Apprenticeships

The Martin-Baker Electronics Engineering Apprenticeship application process is now open for current Year 11 students. More details can be found here [Martin-Baker Careers | Apprenticeship \(Electronic Engineering\) \(ciphr-irecruit.com\)](#)

West Herts Spring Open Days

West Herts College are hosting two open days for students to tour their campuses and facilities:

Hemel Hempstead Open Day: Saturday 2 March 9.30am - 12.30pm

Watford Open Day: Saturday 9 March - 9.30am - 1pm

Further details can be found [here](#).

Berkhamsted Rotary Fun Run 3rd March

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. If they can show they will have at least £10 sponsorship they will not have to pay the entrance fee. Sponsorship forms can be collected from Student Reception. The deadline to enter as part of the Ashlyns team is Monday 12 Feb.

Cross Country Championship

Congratulations to all those who took part in the Hertfordshire County Cross Country Championship on Saturday. A special mention to Indie F who won the Senior Girls and Eimear M, Junior Girls. They will go on to represent Herts at the National finals.

Sports Results

Y10B Boys Football vs Astley Cooper	Lost 6-0
Y11A Boys Football vs KLS	Won 3-2
Y9A vs 9B Netball	9A won 25-7
Y7 Boys Football vs Verulam	Won 4-1

If you are in receipt of Free School Meals you are eligible to apply for Remission of Fees (means tested). Applications must be made and confirmed in writing before registering for any lessons. Please click [here](#) for more information and to make an application. New applications will open on the 1st March 2024.

Ashlyns School offers a Music Lesson Subsidy for any students taking GCSE or A' Level Music. For more information and any other queries please email Mrs Marval:

musictuition@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

ASA News

Urgent: The ASA needs you if it is to survive!

The ASA and all its work in putting on whole school community events (Comedy Night, Quiz Night, Craft Fair etc) and raising money for enriching events and experiences for our children will end in July unless some parents step forward to take on key roles.

As the chair and secretary stand down when their children leave the school at the end of this academic year we need people to take on these roles, either alone or jointly with another parent. The current incumbents will provide ongoing support into 2024/25 if necessary. If you are interested in finding out a bit more then please complete the attached google form or drop a line to asa@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk <https://forms.gle/MTKJGC6aBsBDmZdE6>

Comedy Night
TICKETS ON SALE
COMEDY & CURRY NIGHT-
Friday 15th March Don't miss

Y11A&B Netball vs Berkhamsted	11A - Lost 13-7 11B - Lost 35-3
U13A Football vs Hemel	Drew 7-7
Y7 District Sports Hall Athletics	Girls - 2nd Boys - District Champions
Y9 Boys Football vs JFK	Won 2-0
Y10A Netball vs Hemel	Won 23-20
Y10A Boys Football vs Tring	Lost 2-1
Y7 Basketball vs Adeyfield	Won
Y8B Boys Football vs JFK	TBC

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 like and follow our social media as well.

facebook.com/ashlynsfestival
instagram.com/ashlyns_festival
www.ashlynsfestival.co.uk

Bags2School

Just a reminder that we are doing another clothing collection in March so start saving any donations. Details to follow before half term

Quiz Night

Thank you to everyone who supported the Quiz Night on Friday 2 February, which was a great social event and raised over £2000 for the school.

Tooled Up at Ashlyns - resources from Dr Kathy Weston



Conversation Starters on Family Values



Q&A with Dr Anna Conway Morris



The Importance of Dinnertime Conversation

What can we do within family life to promote, boost and protect children's mental health?

An important first step is to ensure that our children are able to voice concerns: talk about anything that upsets or distresses them, and access trusted and supportive adults. A great way to prepare the ground for these open conversations is to talk with children about who they would go to for help when they need it. Younger children might enjoy our [Five Fingers of Support](#) resource, while older children might be encouraged to map out support with our [Who Is There For Me?](#) planner.

The quality of relationships that our children enjoy in their lives is fundamentally important for mental health and wellbeing. Many parents, though, recognise the challenge of juggling career needs and family time. We spoke to Dr Gauri Seth for this [webinar on connecting with our children](#) whilst leading a high-stress lifestyle. If you have a child who lives apart from you, you can get some ideas for sustaining connection in this [webinar](#).

For younger children, play is vital for learning to build relationships and is proven to benefit mental health, reducing anxiety and increasing social and emotional competence. This [video](#) contains tips for facilitating high-quality play with your children, which is also a great way to connect with them. For older children you can be a little braver and involve them in a conversation about family life. These [conversation starters](#) about family values are a great way to consciously consider and strengthen family connections.

Never be afraid to 'lean in' as a parent and to ask what is going well for your child or what has been tricky for them recently. [Debriefs at dinnertime](#) serve as important occasions to talk about daily challenges, model coping strategies or promote gratitude. Tune into this [podcast](#) with Cambridge University's Mishika Mehrota all about how dinnertime chats can improve children's mental health.

We know that many families in our community are struggling with a range of struggles and challenges; parental mental health, anxiety struggles, bereavement, loss, trauma, and difficult diagnoses.

Please remember that within the Tooled Up platform, you will find interviews with many eminent psychiatrists and clinical psychologists who offer informative responses to a variety of common questions. For starters, try our [Q&A](#) with Consultant Psychiatrist Dr Anna Conway Morris, Professor Tamsin Ford's [talk](#) on improving young people's mental health, Dr Dennis Ougrin's [webinar](#) on supporting young people who self-harm, and Dr Meinou Simmons' [Q&A](#) on mental health in children.