



## 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 click [here](#) for information about parental sessions hosted by the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit on Cyber Choices and Online Safety.

## Revised Timings of The School Day

During the exam season we alter the timings of the day to reduce noise around the Main Hall and exam rooms. Please see below for the new timings.

### Revised timings for the school day Wednesday 08/05/23 – Friday 21/6/24

8.35 - 8.50	AM Registration & Tutor Time
8.55 - 9.55	Period 1
10.00 - 11.00	Period 2
11.00 - 11.20	Break
11.20 - 12.20	Period 3
12.20 - 1.10	Lunch
1.15 - 2.15	Period 4
2.20 - 3.20	Period 5

## Financial Support for Families - parent questionnaire

We are working with Hertfordshire County Council to eliminate economic exclusion in school - trying to make sure that every child has the same opportunities at Ashlyns, whatever their family's financial situation.

As part of this process, we are surveying students, staff and governors, and also need your views as parents and carers. You may have already received an email with the short questionnaire we have designed to find out about costs like school trips, clubs, uniform and school meals. All responses are anonymous and confidential, so if you haven't already done so, please do take a few minutes to complete the [Parent/Carer Survey](#) by 9.00am on Tuesday 7 May - your views are very important to us.

## House Poetry

The English Department is so proud of all the talented students who participated in the World Poetry Day House Competition. Their creativity and passion for poetry were truly inspiring.

### Congratulations to Our House Winners:

Bourne: 'How Pointless War Is' by Tyra B (7B1)

Coram: 'You' by Erin S (11C1)

Handal: 'Football' by Thomas M (7H1)

Raven: 'Overwhelming Firepower' by Joseph R (11R2)

### A Special Congratulations to Our Overall Winner:

Amber D-K (9B3) with her captivating poem 'Where did the time go?' Please click [here](#) to read the poem.

## Key Dates

- 6 May: Bank Holiday
- 8 May: Y11 Study Leave
- 10 May: Y13 Leavers' Day
- 18 May: DofE Bronze Expedition
- 23 May: Summer Chill Concert
- 27 May: Half Term

## Next Week New [Spring](#) Lunch Menu: Week 3

## House Points

Current house points			
Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
30309	29852	29673	29829
1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
26/04/2024			

## Vacancies Support

- [Cover Supervisor](#)
- [Teacher of Science](#)

## HMS Music Lessons

If you wish to stop Music Lessons for the Autumn Term (September '24) please email

[SchoolsDirectInvoicing@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:SchoolsDirectInvoicing@hertfordshire.gov.uk) by Monday 13th May.

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

School offers a Music Lesson Subsidy for any students taking GCSE or A' Level Music. For more information please email Mrs Marval, [musictuition@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:musictuition@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk).

## Y12 UCAS Convention

Our Year 12 students had an enriching and productive trip to the UCAS Higher Education Convention at Farnborough last week. The event was an invaluable resource for students as they navigate future educational and career pathways. They had the opportunity to interact with over 100 universities, colleges and apprenticeship employers face-to-face, and were able to attend live expert talks, where they received the latest advice and information on different career choices.

Of course, no convention would be complete without some memorable goody bags, and our students certainly didn't leave empty-handed! They returned with not only practical goodies but a wealth of knowledge and inspiration for their future endeavours. We extend our sincere thanks to all involved in organising this enriching experience for our students.

## Author Visit

This week Manjeet Mann, the award-winning author of *The Crossing*, visited Ashlyns to discuss her book with our Year 9 students. *The Crossing* forms a key scheme of work in the English Department exploring the themes of family, friendship, hope and activism. Manjeet commented: *'It's always an honour and a privilege to be invited into a school to talk to students. Ashlyns is a wonderful school and I had a brilliant time connecting with students and teachers'*.

In addition to the whole year group presentation, Manjeet also delivered two creative writing sessions illustrating how books are adapted for theatre and film. One student who attended the workshop commented: *'I had a lot of fun at the creative writing workshop. Manjeet was an exceptional speaker and an inspiring writer! I loved it!'*

## Student achievement

Congratulations Eimear M who took part in last weekend's Mini London Marathon! Eimear qualified to be part of the East of England team by winning the Hertfordshire cross country club championships in January. The course was 2.6km and the athletes were the first to cross the world-famous finish line on The Mall, the day before the TCS London Marathon. Eimear finished 15<sup>th</sup> in a field of 220 of the best under 13 athletes in the UK. What a fantastic achievement!



## Raising Achievement Programme

As our Year 11 students draw closer to their exams, maintaining focus and determination is paramount. Our Raising Achievement Programme is designed to provide targeted support during this critical period, ensuring that students have the tools and strategies needed to excel. It is crucial that students make full use of the expertise of our staff and the sessions available to them, particularly through Session 6.

## ASA News

### Ashlyns Festival Comedy & Curry Night - Friday 12th July - Tickets on sale!

Tickets are selling fast for this summer's Comedy Night with our most amazing line-up to date! Don't miss out! Huge thanks to Culinera, our Event Partner. See our flyer [here](#).

### Ashlyns Festival Saturday Night Fever - Saturday 13th July - Save the date!

More details coming soon for our 70s/80s disco theme social event but rest assured there'll be live bands, our resident DJ Collective and a disco glitter ball! Dress code: 70s/80s (optional). A great way to celebrate the end of the school year.

**Like** and **follow** our social media pages to get the latest updates.

## ASA meeting

Our last meeting of this academic year will be held on 1 May at 7pm in the LRC. We will be discussing the appointment of a new Chair as well as considering five new funding bids from the school. This includes the possibility of providing a new sound or lighting system for the new drama space.

Please come along and have your say.

## Character Programme

Next week, we are excited to be exploring resilience as our theme of the week, through assemblies and tutor time. In emphasising perseverance, courage and adaptability, we aim to empower our students to face obstacles head-on and emerge stronger. Fostering resilience will not only benefit our students academically but also equip them with essential life skills.

## Careers

Buckinghamshire NHS Summer term careers news and events:

- [Discover careers in biomedical science - Stoke Mandeville Hospital - Thursday 27 June](#)
- [Discover careers in medicine - Stoke Mandeville Hospital - Wednesday 3 July](#)
- [Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust Open Day - Saturday 14 September](#)

NHS Trust Open Day: Saturday 14 September 2024 from 9.15am – 2pm at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury

[Find out more and book tours](#)

[View the Open Day flyer](#)

## Tooled Up at Ashlyns - resources from Dr Kathy Weston



75 Things To Do Outside



Reaching Girls Early Conference



Allergies and Asthma Q&A

Monday of this week marked Earth Day 2024 so at Tooled Up we're thinking all about our planet and our natural environment. We want our children to grow up as passionate guardians of Planet Earth! Here are some of the resources Tooled Up offers to foster a love of nature in your children, all supported by research that shows the benefits of time outdoors enjoying what the natural world can offer.

Our [list](#) of 75 Things To Do Outside is a great place to start, packed with ideas from bug boxes to mud monsters. Thanks to technology there are plenty of ways to learn about the natural world as well as playing in it: this list of [apps](#) to help children engage with nature contains bug identifiers, bird guides and maps of the night sky.

For the nature lovers in your house, this fantastic list of [Books](#) for Earth Day enables children of all ages to celebrate nature, learn about the world around them and feel like adventurers!

There is a growing body of research looking into the positive effects of playing outdoors. We spoke to researcher Gemma Goldenberg about her work on the impact of outdoor learning on young children. You can hear about her findings in this [podcast](#).

When we engage our children in the natural environment, we also owe it to them to talk about climate change and the impact of human activity. In this [podcast](#), Dr Kathy Weston talks to Dr Verity Jones about "eco anxiety", thinking about the best way to discuss climate issues with young people.

Upcoming Tooled Up Event

Allergies and Asthma: May 10th 2024, 1:30pm BST

Join Professor Adam Fox, Britain's leading paediatric allergy expert, as he answers your questions and shares his expertise on allergies and asthma in young people. Register [here](#).