



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

There is an unfortunate trend in society currently which is seeing the increased use of the drug ketamine. Please see a useful [article](#) that provides information, key signs and symptoms about the drug.

Countdown to the Ashlyns Careers Expo – Less than 2 Weeks to Go!

The Ashlyns Careers Expo is now just around the corner, taking place on Tuesday, 22nd October. With over 48 exhibitors from a wide range of industries, this is an invaluable opportunity for our students in Years 8, 9, 10, 12, and 13 to explore potential career paths, ask questions, and gather insights directly from professionals.

We encourage parents to review the digital brochure with their child, which is available on their Google Classroom page. This will help students plan their time effectively, ensuring they make the most of their 30 minutes in the expo hall by targeting specific exhibitors and preparing thoughtful questions in advance.

A special reminder for **Year 11 parents**: Please make sure you've signed up via the Google form sent home to secure your place at the after-school session, where both students and parents can attend together. In case you cannot locate the letter here is a link to the attendance sign up [form](#)

Y11 Geography Trip

This week year 11 completed their final GCSE Geography fieldwork. They went to Stratford in London to investigate the causes of the varying levels of quality of life. They also saw the Olympic rings, and the football stadium. Despite the torrential rain on Tuesday the trip was a huge success and they completed excellent work.



Character

Our focus on peer pressure continues this week. We explored the virtue of courage and how students can stand strong in the face of peer reactions if they are labelled as a 'snitch.' The key messages include:

- The importance of integrity: Students are encouraged to stay true to their values, even under pressure.
- Understanding the tactic behind the 'snitch' label: It's often used by those trying to protect their own wrongdoing.

Key Dates

- 15 Oct: ASA AGM
- 17 Oct: Into The Sixth, Open Evening
- 22 Oct: Ashlyns Careers Fair
- 23 Oct: Y11 Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening
- 28 Oct-1 Nov: Half Term

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

House Points

Current house points			
Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
6202	6216	7130	6885
4 th	3 rd	1 st	2 nd

11/10/2024

Communications

- [Year 12 Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening November 2024](#)

Vacancies

- [Exam and Access Arrangement Administrator](#)

Teacher Training

Ever thought of becoming a teacher? Please click [here](#) for information on training within Dacorum.

Public Health Nursing

Please click [here](#) for the Public Health Nursing Team Newsletter.

DSPL8

Please click [here](#) for the DSPL8 newsletter.

- Students can always seek support from the Pastoral and Safeguarding support team, Heads of Year, or any staff member if they need to report something anonymously or want help managing potential backlash.

We aim to help students understand that standing up for what is right, even when it's hard, builds both character and a safer school community.

Year 11 Raising Achievement

We would like to commend our Year 11 students for the positive and proactive approach they've shown so far this academic year. Their dedication is already making a real difference.

At this stage, we believe that "little and often" is the most effective approach to revision. This helps students build good study habits gradually, without becoming overwhelmed. As the year progresses, we will ramp up revision in preparation for the trial exams and, ultimately, their GCSEs.

We are also encouraging students to engage in cognitively active revision, which includes:

- Asking and explaining, "How does it work?" and "Why does it work this way?"
- Creating and answering challenging study questions.
- Testing their recall using flashcards or self-quizzing.
- Drawing and labelling diagrams from memory.
- Setting past papers and exam questions, checking their work using the mark schemes and then reviewing and adapting their notes where appropriate.

We appreciate your continued support in helping your child establish effective routines and study strategies.

Year 11 Top i-Card Totals

1. Mollie S - **9 i-Cards**
2. Noah B, Sofia G, Olivia M, Charlotte P - **8 i-Cards**
3. Tom B, Molly B, Imogen S, Ruby V-D, Ffion W - **7 i-Cards**

Careers Visit to Sky Studios

On Thursday our Year 10 Film Studies students visited Sky Studios, where they learned about the inner workings of film production and the wide variety of job opportunities available within the industry. They had the opportunity to choose roles based on their individual interests and get hands-on experience with professional film equipment. After developing a film pitch from an idea they had in a prior lesson, they worked collaboratively to bring their concept to life and premiered the finished product to the rest of the group. This experience was invaluable and will have enhanced their understanding as they prepare to create their own films for their coursework in the coming year.

Student Achievements

County success:

Congratulations to Ella K in Year 10 on her place in the Herts County U15 performance development programme in netball, and to Martha R and Daisy T in Year 10, Daisy R, Amber R, and Poppy D in Year 9, and Olive D and Tabitha R in Year 7 on their places in the Herts and Bucks County performance development programmes in cricket.

HMS Music Lessons

If you wish to stop Music Lessons for the Spring Term please email HMS.customersupport@hertfordshire.gov.uk by the end of this half term, Friday 25th October 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 Marval at musictuition@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk.

Be Bright Be Seen

As the days are getting shorter, now is a good time to remind your child of the importance of wearing bright and reflective clothing when walking to and from school, to make them more visible to traffic.

ASA News

With your help, we have raised over £200,000 in the last 10 years. Thank you to everyone who has supported us. The following are just a few examples of what we have been able to purchase recently for the school:

- New projector for the Dining hall
- Minibus with disability ramp – to transport our students for sports fixtures and school trips
- Specialist equipment for science, textiles, technology and music departments
- Dyslexia reading pens and books for Inclusion

Sports Results

U12 Girls Football vs Parksfield	Won 7-0
Ashlyns Ski Team - NSSA Competition	2nd
Y10 Boys Football vs St Clement Danes	Won 2-0
Y7B Netball vs Hemel	Lost 8-6
U14 Girls Football vs Haileybury Turnford	2-2 Won 4-3 on penalties
Y9A Boys Football vs Chiltern Hills	

Ski Competition

Written by James P. (Year 8)

On Monday, 7th October, Ashlyns School debuted their first ski race team at the NSSA Open Championships (South), competing against over 380 participants.

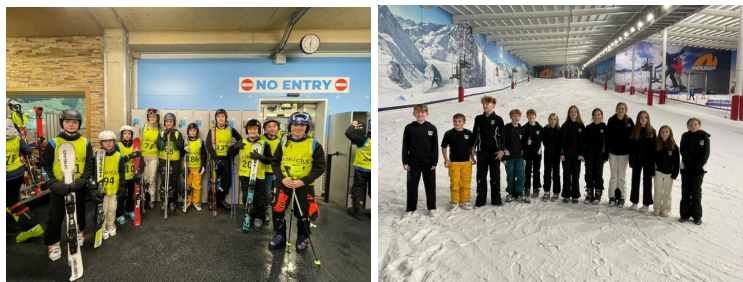
Twelve Ashlyns students competed in three mixed teams, and for many, it was their first experience of skiing slalom gates in a competition. Everyone successfully recorded a time to count towards the overall team events.

There were strong performances from Stanley D-T, Oscar R, Thomas M, Tabitha R, Poppy D, Olive D, Maisy H, and Finlay M.

James P finished 2nd in the U14 Boys category, and with Sophie R, Lucy S and A also successfully completing the course, Ashlyns A team were placed 2nd in the Mixed Team competition, behind the victors Millfield.

If you are interested in being part of the Ashlyns Ski Team, there are competitions in 2025, the team has weekly ski development training sessions on Mondays 16:30 to 17:30 at The Snow Centre.

Please speak to Mr Preston jpreston@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk or email suepresence@gmail.com (Team Manager) for more information.



Berkhamsted Rotary Fireworks

This year's firework display takes place 2nd November at Berkhamsted Cricket Club, gates open at 6pm and the display starts at 7pm. Tickets are available from Reception at a reduced rate to the door price. Adult: £10, Child: £7, Family: £25

Please click [here](#) for a full update from the new ASA team.

HALLOWEEN PARTY – Years 7 & 8 – Thurs 24 Oct, 7.00 to 8.30pm

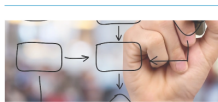
Tickets are now on sale for our annual Halloween Party, just for Years 7 & 8. Available to purchase on ParentPay, it's just £5 a ticket, which includes a drink and snack.

Please email asa@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk with any questions or to help on the night.

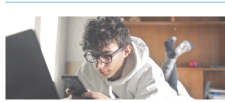
ASA AGM

Please join us for the AGM Tuesday 15th October, at 7pm in the Boardroom (first floor, off Reception).

Tooled Up at Ashlyns - resources from Dr Kathy Weston: School PIN 4989



Algorithmic Literacy



Raising A Digital Detective



The Truth About Gaming

This seems to be the season for questions about smartphones, gaming and digital diets. Parents want to raise responsible digital citizens and to support young people as they grow and develop, but we also need good quality information to support family conversations and family decisions.

Digital parenting is one of the most challenging aspects of parenting today. Here are some resources that respond to what Tooled Up parents have asked our research team in recent weeks.

For parents of young children questioning the introduction of digital devices at home, this [podcast](#) with developmental scientist Andy Ribner should help with your decision-making. Even before the introduction of personal devices, parents can model the digital behaviour they wish to later see and establish digital values.

For those worried about the impact of screens on children, listen back to our chat with psychologist and science writer Professor Pete Etchells, on the [Real Science of Screen Time](#), where he separates fact from fiction and encourages us to give more weight to what children are doing online. Professor Etchells is returning to Tooled Up to deliver a webinar on The Truth about Gaming on 14th October. Register [here](#) to come along.

A crucial aspect of parenting in the digital age is raising children to be skilled, self-protective users of technology. That means helping them develop an understanding of how content is created, how it gets served to them, and how they can be discerning and sceptical about what they read and watch online. Our article packed with tips on [Developing Algorithmic Literacy](#), and Dr Kathy Weston's webinar on [Becoming A Digital Detective](#), are packed with research-backed and realistic advice on how to raise confident, discerning online citizens.