



February 2025

Dear Parent / Carer

We are pleased to be able to offer a new opportunity for our students to experience maths outside of the classroom and explore the connection between magic and mathematics in a workshop run by the popular speaker, Ben Sparks. Ben Sparks gives maths talks and workshops around the world to students, teachers and the general public and has delivered talks and workshops at events such as Maths Inspiration and MathsFest, and is involved in content on Numberphile.

This exciting maths enrichment workshop will last one hour and involve presentations of some magic effects that can be performed and analysed with mathematics. It is aimed to provoke curiosity and be entertaining. Students will discover the incredible power of maths as a tool for uncovering hidden patterns, solving mysteries, and making sense of the unknown. With confidence, they can harness its full potential to analyze, explore, and even reshape the world around them.

Details of the Workshop:

- **Cost:** £7.50
- **Date and Time:** Monday 17 March 2025
 - Year 7: period 2
 - Year 8: period 4
 - Year 9: period 3
- **Limited places available:** the 50 places per year group will be allocated by a ballot

To register your child's interest, please fill in this [google form](#) by 9am Monday 3 March. If we notify you that your child has been successful in the ballot, payment should then be made by ParentPay by Tuesday 11 March. If your child is unsuccessful in the ballot, they will be placed on a waiting list and contact will be made if a place becomes available. Once made, payments are non-refundable. Please note that the school's policy is that activities outside the normal teaching programme should be self-funding. Contributions are voluntary but if these are insufficient the event may have to be cancelled. In cases of genuine hardship, register your interest by completing the ballot form **and** please contact Mrs Stringer in the Finance Office, by Friday 7 March.

We hope this fantastic opportunity will ignite an ongoing love for both maths and magic in our students.

Kind regards

Miss G Kershaw
Second in Maths Department

Chesham Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire HP4 3AH
T: 01442 863605
E: admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

Head Teacher: James Shapland BSc, MSc