



Next week- Week 2/B

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

The Harmless Organisation has recently published an exploration of masculinity and mental health. To read about this subject please click [here](#).

Open Evening Thursday 2 October

The school will be closed to students from 12.30pm. Please refer to the specific details provided in the letter this week regarding drop off and collection for students assisting departments, performing for the Music Department and being a guide for the evening.

Character

A huge commendation goes to our Year 11 prefect team for continuing their sterling work in delivering our character programme to Year 7 and Year 8. They will soon be helping to prepare the new Year 10 prefect teams as they step into their roles.

Year 10 students can still apply to be prefects via their Google Classroom Intake page. The prefect programme is an integral part of school life, helping students to build confidence, leadership, responsibility, teamwork, resilience and many other skills that will serve them well beyond school.

We are also delighted to have launched our Ashlyns Care Home visits as part of the programme. This is currently open to Year 9 students—if your child would like to get involved, please encourage them to sign up to come along and spend some time with the care home residents.

Year 11 Raising Achievement Programme

Year 11 have made an excellent start to the academic year. There is a palpable focus in lessons, with students approaching their studies with real intention and purpose.

Session 6 has been running Monday–Thursday, and the response has been outstanding, with 50+ students attending each night—so much so that we've had to create additional seating! It has been great to see so many students engaging in *cognitively active revision* (such as past papers and practice questions), which provides a real challenge and significantly impacts memory and understanding compared to more passive, 'comfort' revision.

Keep it up, Year 11—your hard work now will pay dividends later in the year.

ParentPay

We have been alerted to a fraudulent app in the Apple App Store that mimics ParentPay branding. Please be aware:

- ParentPay does not have an app available for download from any app stores
- To use ParentPay, visit <https://www.parentpay.com/> from a mobile phone or computer

Key Dates

- 22-24 Sept: Y7 X Band Peaks Trip
- 24-26 Sept: Y7 Y Band Peaks Trip
- 25 Sept: Y8 Parents Information Evening
- 2 Oct: Open Evening, school closes to students 12.30pm
- 3 Oct: INSET day, school closed to students

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

Communications

- [Y12 Enrichment Letter](#)
- [Y13 Enrichment Letter](#)
- [Y7 LRC](#)
- [Y8 Parent's Information Evening](#)
- [Y8&9 PSHE](#)
- [Non-Uniform Days](#)
- [Open Evening](#)
- [Y10 Parents' Information Evening](#)

Vacancies

- [Maths Teacher \(Maternity Cover\)](#)
- [Premises Assistant](#)

SEND News

Please find attached the latest Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Workshops flyer [here](#).

ASA News

AGM / General Meeting - 7 Oct, 7pm

We will be holding our AGM and first general meeting of the academic year in the school Boardroom. Everyone is welcome as always. Please email us if you would like to attend or hear more

- After logging in, you can save a shortcut onto your phone's home screen

Sports

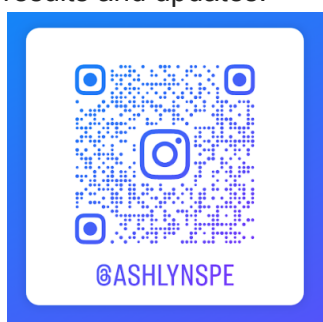
Hertfordshire Schools Scratch Golf Championship: Mill Green Golf Club - 16 October. If your child is interested in playing, please email Mr Preston jpreston@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk for further information. Maximum Handicap Index of 12.0 for boys and 18.0 for girls.

Ashlyns Equestrian Team

If you are a keen rider and would like the chance to represent the school in competitions, please email Mr Preston: jpreston@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

PE Updates

Ashlyns PE Department is now on Instagram! Follow us @AshlynsPE for scores, results and updates.



Results

Y7 Netball League Setting Tournament	A - 1st in group B - 5th in group
U15 Girls Football vs Van Dyke	Won 6-4
U14 Girls Football vs Van Dyke	Lost 1-0

information:

asa@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

Dates for your Diary

- 23 Oct - Yr 7+8 Halloween Disco - TICKETS ON SALE SOON
- 16 Nov - Craft Fair
- 14 Dec - Carol Concert
- 23 Nov - Tombola at the Festival of Light
- Dec TBC - Rotary Club's Santa Sleigh

The ASA 100 Club, our Private Lottery: To take part, complete the form [here](#). Only £2 a month - 50% goes into the prize pot and 50% goes to the ASA to support our school. The more people who take part, the bigger the prizes!

For more information about our fundraising activities, and if you would like to be included in direct communications about the ASA, please complete [this form](#)

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



Why Phonics Matters



Motivating Word Learning



Tips to Promote Reading at Home

UNESCO's International Day of Literacy last week highlighted the essential role of reading and writing in children's learning, daily lives and future success.

Literacy is a cornerstone of education, beginning when children are introduced to phonics, and as they continue to develop reading, writing and speaking skills with greater fluency and confidence.

As **parents and carers**, it's natural to **feel** a sense of **responsibility to support** children's **literacy at home**, and ensure that they are making steady progress at an age-appropriate level.

Tooled Up's resources will help build your knowledge and confidence in this important area.

In **this webinar for parents of younger children**, language learning expert Professor Kathy Rastle **explains the importance of phonics** learning and deals with some misconceptions that surround it. [Why Phonics Matters: Parents' Questions Answered](#).

A substantial body of research explores literacy acquisition - the development of reading and writing skills.

What motivates young children and teens to expand their vocabulary and why do some struggle with word learning? Our podcast, [Professor Krishnan and Professor Ripollés Discuss the Role of Intrinsic Reward in Word Learning](#) explores these key topics.

The **benefits of a diverse and regular reading routine are well-known**, but **as children grow older** and other activities and devices compete for their attention, **how can we inspire them to continue reading at home?** [Ten Tips to Promote Reading at Home](#) has been developed in collaboration with librarians in Tooled Up schools and **offers practical ideas to foster a love of reading**.