



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

Internet Matters has recently produced a page explaining what can be done to support parents and children ascertain what is and isn't "fake news", to help children and young people navigate an increasingly murky information space. Please see the [link](#) here.

School Travel

As part of the continued work to make the roads around Ashlyns safer for students to walk to and from school work has begun on the proposed crossings and traffic calming measures. The proposed crossing in front of the school will be completed at a later date.

ELD Thursday 13 November

Please click [here](#) for a full outline of what each year group will be doing during the day including what equipment they should bring and clothing they should wear.

Character

Our character curriculum continues to build momentum across Key Stage 3 and 4, with each year group engaging in content designed to develop self-awareness, empathy, and resilience.

- Year 7 have begun their *My Character* unit, delivered by our fantastic Year 10/11 prefect team. Students are focusing on reflecting on their own character strengths and identifying areas they would like to develop.
- Year 8 are exploring the theme of *Helping Others*, with an emphasis on building empathy and understanding the impact of small acts of kindness within their community.
- Year 9 have started a new block of work on *Resilience*, looking at strategies for responding to setbacks and maintaining a positive mindset.
- Year 10 continue to work through the *VESPA* programme, developing the mindset and learning habits needed for success at KS4.
- Year 11 are now fully focused on their upcoming trial exams, drawing on the character strengths of determination, independence, and integrity as they prepare

Key Dates

- 13 Nov: ELD
- 24 Nov - 5 Dec: Y11 Trial Exams
- 28 Nov: Occasional Day
- 1 Dec: Inset Day
- 4 Dec: Y7 Parent Information Evening

Next Week Autumn/ Winter [Lunch Menu](#): Week 2

Communications

- [Y10 Careers Programme](#)

Vacancies

- [Higher Learning Teaching Assistant](#)
- [Teaching Assistant](#)
- [Intervention Administrator and Supervisor](#)

House Points

Current house points			
Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
8264	9194	8426	10014
4 th	2 nd	3 rd	1 st
07/11/2025			

ASA News

It's crunch time & we need your help!

CRAFT FAIR - 16th November: just 1 week to go and we need more volunteers!

There's still time to sign up to help at the Craft Fair (via [this link](#)) - lots of positions still need filling, so if you can volunteer your time, we'd be very grateful.

Cake donations needed: We're looking for homemade

Year 11 Raising Achievement Programme

With the upcoming trial exams, it is great to see flashcards and past paper practice in full effect during Session 6. A key message for students is about being *intentional* in their revision. This means arriving at Session 6 with the materials you need, rather than spending the first ten minutes queuing to print off a past paper.

Students should come prepared, knowing exactly how they plan to use the hour, which subjects or topics they will focus on, and how they will divide their time between flashcards, past papers, and other active revision strategies. Being organised and purposeful is critical for success, and this applies equally to the revision students are completing at home.

To avoid procrastination, we are encouraging students to make clear commitments to their revision timetables: deciding what they'll revise, when they'll revise it, and sticking to those plans as closely as possible.

Duke of Edinburgh - Gold Award

Over October half-term, thirteen Year 13 Students took part in their qualifying Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition in the Peak District. Despite freezing night time temperatures and heavy winds, the students persisted and enjoyed the stunning views of the Hope Valley and Edale. The expedition consisted of four days and three nights, in which the students improved their teamwork skills, while bonding with exterior participants.



Sports Results

Y10A Boys Football vs Matthew Arnold	Won 5-2
Y7&8 District Cross Country	7 Boys - 7 Girls - 8 Boys - 8 Girls -
U13 Girls Football vs Beaumont	3-3 AET Won 4-3 on penalties
U18 Girls Football vs Redborne	Lost 7-3
U12 Girls Football vs Alameda	Won 5-0

or shop bought cakes to sell at the fair (no nuts, list of ingredients required - and gluten free options welcome!) Drop off at the main school reception on Friday 14th November, or school on the morning of Sunday 16th November.

See the flyer [here](#) for more details, and please help spread the word—like and share our daily 'spotlight on makers' posts on [Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#) to build local awareness.

Christmas Hamper Raffle tickets can now be purchased via parentpay! Tickets are £5 for 3 numbers, £10 for 6 numbers etc. You can buy as many tickets as you wish in multiples of £5. The draw is Monday 14th December. See the [attached flyer](#) for more information.

Other donations needed (see further down for drop off points):

Beyond cakes for the Craft Fair, we're also collecting:

- Bottles and chocolates for the Festival of Light tombola 23rd November (donation deadline 21st November)
- Mince pies for the Carol Concert (we're still well-stocked on mulled wine from last year!) 14th December (donation deadline 12th December)
- Christmas hampers goodies - draw date Monday 14th December (donation deadline Monday 8th December); think Christmas treats, decorations, bottles, chocolates, nuts & crackers, festive candles, seasonal luxuries, and anything

U18 Boys Football vs Beaumont	Won 4-2
Y8 Boys Football vs Tring	Won 4-2
Y8B Boys Football vs John Hampden	Lost 4-0
Y10A Boys Football vs Hemel	TBC
U16 Girls Football vs Samuel Whitbread	TBC

Careers Activities

From physio to pharmacy: book on local NHS after-school talks

Want to find out about wider roles in healthcare? Students from Years 7 – 13 can book on Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust's latest after-school talks:

Discover careers in the Allied Health Professions: Thursday 4 December 2025 5 – 7pm Thursday 4 December 2025. Held in person at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury. [See full agenda and book tickets – Discover careers in the Allied Health Professions – Stoke Mandeville Hospital – Thursday 4 Dec 2025](#)

Discover careers in pharmacy: Thursday 12 February 2026

5 – 7pm Thursday 12 February 2025. [See full agenda and book tickets – Discover careers in pharmacy – Stoke Mandeville Hospital – Thursday 12 February 2026](#)

Apply over the Christmas holiday for work experience with Bucks NHS

Students in Years 12/13 (or college equivalent) interested in healthcare careers can apply for work experience at Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust between Friday 19 December 2025 – Sunday 4 January 2026 for placements during the spring term.

Plus there's an additional 3-day, multi-role Allied Health Professions (AHPs) taster experience during February half-term based at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury..

The links to apply will be posted on the Trust's website over the school holiday: [Find out more and apply for work experience at Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust](#) – see 'apply for work experience'

West Herts College - Autumn Open Days

West Herts College are hosting their Autumn Open Days in November.

If you're considering your options for post-GCSEs, then attending an Open Day is a great way to get an insight into everything available at West Herts College. You can book your place [here](#)

SfYP

Herts Services for Young People attended year 7-10 assemblies this week to outline all the services and activities they have on offer. Please see this [document](#) for further details.

DSPL8

We are running SEND Support Surgeries for parents and carers of children with SEND who are looking to have a chat and gain advice from a professional SEN consultant. We have 4 time slots available on Thursday 13 November, a slot can be booked by clicking [here](#)

DSPL8 Raise Resilience

Please click [here](#) for more information on a course for parents regarding developing your child's resilience.

that will make these hampers truly special.

Please dig deep where you can for us - both with volunteering & donations. Drop off locations are below.

Save the Date: Burns Night is Coming to Ashlyns! 30th January 2026

Tickets coming shortly for our inaugural Burns Night. It promises to be a fabulous night with a 3-course Scottish supper, live band, dancing and the ceremonial Address to the Haggis. Pop the date in your diary and standby for ticket sales!

Donations can be dropped off at the school office, or at the following addresses:

- 32 Shrublands Avenue, HP4 3JA
- 9 Birtchnell Close, HP4 1FE
- 11 Haynes Mead, HP4 1BU
- 15 Swing Gate Lane, Berkhamsted HP4 2LJ
- 5 Falcon Ridge, HP4 2HJ
- 1 Upper Hall Park, HP4 2NW

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

Resilient children are those equipped to meet life's challenges head-on, recover from setbacks and find their place in the world.

As parents, there is so much we can do to help establish self-confidence in our children, along with a strong feeling that they're valued.

At Tooled Up, we believe that resilience is a key life skill, one that allows children to navigate difficulties with strength and perseverance. It's not about avoiding challenges, but about learning to bounce back from them and keep moving forward.

What is resilience? In this video, we break down the 10 key components of resilience, offering practical strategies for boosting each one. Some tips may feel familiar, while others might spark new ideas for strengthening your child's resilience in everyday life. Watch here: [The 10 Rs of Resilience](#)

A child's **resilience** is **built through** their **experiences with relationships, social interactions and emotional awareness**. In this **worksheet activity for younger children**, ask your child to reflect on their social world, relationships and how they handle their feelings. It's a simple but powerful way to start important conversations and uncover new insights: [Raising a Resilient Child](#)

As they grow into teenagers and then young adults, children will find their resilience and self-confidence is tested like never before as they navigate the world of friendships, attraction, peer pressure and academic expectations. In **this guide to promoting resilience in your teenager** you can find practical **advice** for supporting young people during these tricky years, and **links to** a wealth of **Tooled Up resources** offering more guidance: [Raising a Resilient Teen](#)