



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 be aware of a 'pop up' app that is being promoted and accessed through Roblox. Pollybuzz (sometimes referred to as Pollyfuzz) is an AI chat game/experience. Although it presents as being harmless and friendly in the first instance, intel suggests that the communications quickly develop into chat around suicide, self-harm and pornography. This app is not an official Roblox one, but the platform is being used to promote and access the game. Please also see a news [article](#) that details further information about safeguarding and Roblox.

Year 11 Raising Achievement Programme

Year 11 have made a really strong start to their trial exams, coming into school with real intent, focus, and a purposeful approach to their learning. It's been great to see such maturity and commitment across the year group. The long weekend ahead is a perfect opportunity for students to consolidate their revision and prepare with purpose for next week's exams. We've been really impressed with their maturity and commitment so far.

Character

Year 10 have taken the reins from Year 11 this week in leading the Character Programme, and they've made a fantastic impression. They've started strongly and shown real maturity - a great opportunity for them to develop leadership and character strengths such as responsibility, communication, teamwork, and initiative. Well done to all involved.

Careers

We received some fantastic feedback from the employers who volunteered for our Year 10 mock interview day - please see their comments below. Well done, Year 10; you were brilliant!

'The Year 10 Mock Interview event showcased enthusiastic, smart and thoughtful pupils who engaged confidently with the process'

'What a privilege to meet such a diverse range of talented students - whether academically or through their extra curricular activities, all had something to bring to the Mock Interview...'

'The pupils I interviewed were confident, articulate and engaging. I came away from the Mock Interview event very impressed by the young people I had met at Ashlyns'

'The students grasped the opportunity and gave really good accounts of themselves. I was overall very impressed with their CVs, conversation and involvement'

Key Dates

- **28 Nov: Occasional Day**
- **1 Dec: Inset Day**
- 4 Dec: Y7 Parent Information Evening
- 8 Dec-12 Dec: Y13 Trial Exams
- 14 Dec: Carol Concert
- 17 Dec: Christmas Lunch
- 19 Dec: Last Day of Term, school closes 12.30pm

Next Week Autumn/ Winter Lunch Menu: Week 2

Communications

- [Y7 Parent Information Evening](#)
- [Y10 GCSE Science Live!](#)

Vacancies

- [Safeguarding and Pastoral Support Officer - Sixth Form](#)
- [Safeguarding and Pastoral Support Officer](#)

House Points



Current house points



Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
10388	11933	11169	12695
4 th	2 nd	3 rd	1 st



27/11/2025



Christmas Tree

The Christmas Tree Place has very kindly donated a tree to Ashlyns for our reception area again this year. They also supplied one for the Chapel which will be decorated by the ASA for the Carol Service. Please help to support this local business by visiting their shop which is conveniently located on Chesham Road, just off the

MFL Headphones

Headphones are an essential part of the required equipment for all year groups in Modern Foreign Languages lessons. Students use headphones regularly for listening activities, pronunciation exercises, and digital learning tasks. Please take a moment to check with your child whether they still have a suitable set of headphones for school and remind them to bring their headphones to every language lesson. Thank you for your support.

Y7-9 Christmas Card Competition

There is still time for students in Y7-9 to enter our annual Christmas Card competition. The winning entries will become the year's school Christmas card. The deadline is Tuesday 2 December, please click [here](#) for more details.

Cyclo-Cross Event - Sunday 7 December, 8am - 2pm

Ashlyns are hosting this annual event - open to all. Please check the website for details and how to enter [here](#). British Cycling are also hosting some [skills sessions and mini races](#) and world challenge students are raising funds from running a refreshment stall and manning the bike wash, so come along and support them as well.

Sports Results

Y7 Boys Rugby vs JFK	Lost 6-3
Y9A & Y8B Netball vs Longdean	9A - Won 15-11 8B - Won 19-4
Y9 Boys Rugby vs Tring	Lost 10-1
Y7 A&B Netball vs Hemel	7A - Lost 11-9 7B - Won 7-3
U13 A&B Girls Football vs Tring	U13A - Won 3-1 U13B - Lost 2-0
U15 A&B Girls Football vs Redborne	U15A - TBA U15B - Won 2-0
Y8 Boys Rugby vs Tring	Lost
Y7 A&B Boys Football vs KLS	7A - Lost 2-1 7B - Lost 4-0
U12 Girls Football vs St Columba's	TBA
Y8A Boys Football vs Parmiters	TBA
Y11B & Y9B Netball vs Adeyfield	TBA

roundabout to the A41. Please click [here](#) for their website with more details.

Berkhamsted Half-Marathon and Fun Run

Sunday 1 March 2026: Early Bird entry is open for next year's event. There is a £250 School Team Prize for the top girls and boys teams in the fun run, and it's a great opportunity for any world challenge students to raise funds through personal sponsorship. Details and entry found [here](#)

Berkhamsted Neighbourhood Plan

The town council is starting its next round of consultation on the Berkhamsted Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan is an opportunity for the local community to influence the future of the town, establishing policies that set out how they wish to see Berkhamsted change and evolve over the next ten to fifteen years. They are seeking feedback on the Plan from as many people who live, work, and visit Berkhamsted.

An online survey will run from the 26 of November to the 7 of January 2026, and all of the information is available on the [website](#)

ASA News

Festival Of Light

A huge thank you to Helena P and our wonderful tombola team for making our stall such a success at last week's Festival of Light! We're also grateful to everyone who contributed donations.

Christmas Hamper Raffle

Make sure you're in with a chance to win one (or two!) of our spectacular Christmas hampers. Buy your raffle tickets now via [ParentPay](#). Tickets: £5 for 3 numbers | £10 for 6 numbers (any multiple of £5). Draw date:

Monday, 15 December (correction from last week!). Donations still urgently needed: We're critically low on hamper donations! We're aiming to create at least 20 hampers and would love more festive items! Thank you to those who've already contributed. Please drop off donations by 8 December. See the flyer [here](#).

Burns Night - Tickets Selling Fast!

Our inaugural Burns Night has been incredibly popular - buy your tickets now on [ParentPay](#).

Date: Thursday, 30 January 2026

Time: Doors open 6:30pm

Price: £47.50

Includes: Three-course Scottish supper, live band, dancing, and the ceremonial Address to the Haggis

Whisky donations welcome: Clearing out your drinks cabinet? We'd be delighted to receive any whisky donations (opened or unopened!) for the event. Drop-off points listed below.

Santa's Sleigh - Volunteers Needed

Help us bring Santa to the community on the Rotary Club charity sleigh!

Date: Thursday, 11 December

Time: 5:30pm - 8:00pm

Volunteers needed: 8 people

It's a magical festive evening and a wonderful way to spread Christmas cheer. If you can spare the time to volunteer, please sign up [here](#).

Pre-loved Uniform Sale - *NEW EVENT*****

Join us for our first sustainable uniform sale, helping reduce textile waste and environmental impact while supporting our school community. More information and full price list can be found [here](#).

Date: Saturday, 13 December

Time: 10am - 12pm

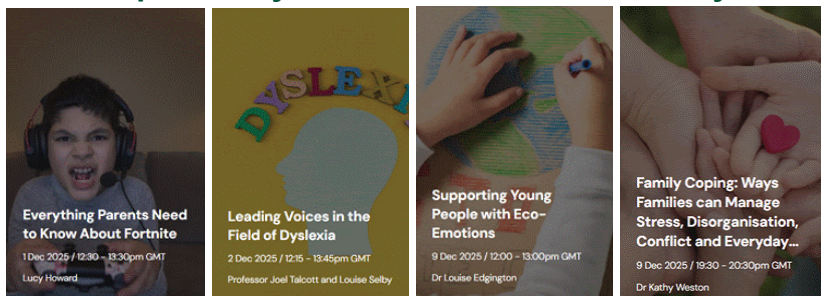
Donations needed: Please donate good-condition uniform items to the school office or bring them on the morning of the event. Volunteers needed: We'd love your help with setup, the event itself, or takedown. [Sign up here](#)

Donation Drop-Off Locations

- 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

As always...Complete [this](#) form to stay in the loop about fundraising activities and see where your contributions make a difference. Sign up [here](#) for a chance to win a cash prize with our 100 Club (aiming for 150 Club!).

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



Upcoming Webinars:

Everything Parents Need to Know About Fortnite: Lucy Howard, a former Detective Chief Inspector, investigates Fortnite, uncovering its appeal to children, in-game interactions, the challenges it presents and how parents can support safe and positive gaming experiences. Please register [here](#).

Leading Voices in the Field of Dyslexia: Join us for an enlightening chat with Professor Joel Talcott, a leading expert in dyslexia and neuroscience and Louise Selby, a specialist dyslexia teacher, as they share knowledge and help us understand how to empower every learner. Please register [here](#).

Supporting Young People with Eco-Emotions: Join Dr. Louise Edgington, a psychologist specialising in climate distress, as we explore how parents, carers, and school staff can support young people facing eco-emotions - a feeling of being sad or overwhelmed by the realities of climate change. Learn practical tools and strategies to help children process difficult feelings, build resilience and stay hopeful in the face of environmental challenges. Please register [here](#).

Family Coping: Ways Families can Manage Stress, Disorganisation, Conflict and Everyday Challenges: Join Dr Kathy Weston as she discussed strategies that can be easily implemented to ensure family life runs smoother, contains less conflict and feels better for everyone. This webinar will touch upon family dynamics, sibling relationships, mental health, wellbeing and management of screen-time and digital devices. Please register [here](#).

Tooled Up

Think of a moment when you truly felt heard, valued or seen. Perhaps someone listened with genuine interest, cared about your ideas or your lived experience, or simply made you feel welcome. Those small moments stay with us because they communicate something powerful: **you matter**.

The idea of mattering sits at the heart of World Children's Day which took place on 20th November. It calls us to reflect on the quality of children's lives and what more we can do to keep them safe, happy and thriving. It reminds us that **every child** regardless of background or circumstance, **deserves love, respect and the chance to flourish**. When children feel they matter, these outcomes become far more achievable.

To understand more about the concept of mattering - the feeling of being truly significant to those around us, **watch [What it Means to Matter](#)**. In this short webinar, **Dr Weston shares practical, easy strategies** that you can use to help children of all ages feel genuinely valued and loved.

Find inspiration on opening up dialogues with your tweens and teens with [Mattering: Conversation Cards](#). These cards can be used at home or school and are helpful to prompt conversations about the different aspects of mattering.

Regular family check-ins can help everyone feel heard and valued. Use our simple [Family Audit Template](#) as a framework to help you all reflect together on what is working well and what might need tweaking in your family's life.