



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 see an article [here](#) outlining important new laws banning deepfake AI nudification apps.

Please may we remind parents that no students should have medication upon their person during school hours. Any medication needed to be taken during the school day should be done via communication with and storage by our school Matron.

Character

Our Year 11 Senior Prefects have shown exceptional leadership this week. They are now coordinating teams of Year 10 Prefects, acting as fantastic role models and managers. Their support has been vital in ensuring sessions are delivered smoothly and that our Year 10s feel confident leading their respective groups.

Curriculum Focus by Year Group

Students across the school are currently exploring different facets of character:

- Year 7: Have begun the unit 'Having a Dream,' exploring the ambition and perseverance required to set and reach goals.
- Year 8: Are focused on 'Working Together,' examining the interpersonal strengths needed for effective teamwork.
- Year 9: This half term focuses on 'Good Speech,' highlighting the power of our words and how communication reflects our personal character.
- Year 10: Continue their work with the VESPA programme, bridging the gap between mindset, character, and essential study skills.
- Year 11: With trial results approaching, this week's assembly focused on Self-Discipline. We discussed the importance of prioritising long-term success over short-term comfort, committing to revision even when motivation is low.

Community News: Ashlyns Care Home

Our Year 9 visits to Ashlyns Care Home have drawn to a close for this cohort. The students who volunteered were truly fantastic; they engaged warmly with the residents every Friday afternoon, sharing stories and building wonderful intergenerational links.

What's Next? Due to the success of these visits, we are looking to launch the Ashlyns programme for students in Year 8 and Year 10 very soon. Keep an eye out for sign-up details!

Bucks College Events

Please find details below of Open Events at Buckinghamshire College Group. Click [here](#) to register.

Amersham Campus: Wednesday 21 January, 5pm – 8pm

Wycombe Campus: Tuesday 27 January, 5pm – 8pm

Aylesbury Campus: Thursday 29 January, 5pm – 8pm

Key Dates

- 12 Jan: Y12 Trial Exams Start
- 30 Jan: ASA Burns Night
- 5 Feb: Year 9 Options Evening

Next Week Autumn/ Winter Lunch Menu: Week 2

Communications

- [Year 11 Raising Achievement and Trials Results 2026](#)

House Points

Current house points			
Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
12965	15734	13765	16353
4 th	2 nd	3 rd	1 st

09/01/2026

Music Lessons

To register for music lessons for the Spring Term please go to [HMS Music Lessons](#).

If you wish to withdraw from music lessons please use this [form](#) or email SchoolsDirectInvoicing@hertfordshire.gov.uk before the February half term. Any other queries regarding music lessons please email musictuition@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

Dacorum Family Services: Helping your Child with Anger

'Helping your child with their anger' workshop will be held online via MS Teams and in person at Hobbs Hill Wood Primary on Wednesday 21 January - 10.00-11.30am. More information can be found [here](#).

Student Achievements

The following students have qualified, with the Berkhamsted Swim Club, for the County Swimming Championships. This is a significant achievement, as swimmers must rank within at least the top 25 competitors in their age group across the county. Good luck to both!

Violet S - Y7: 50m Backstroke; 100m Backstroke; 200m Backstroke

Lily W - Y12: 50m Freestyle

Girls' Swim Team

If you are interested in representing the school in competitive swimming galas please email Mr Preston (jpreston@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk) your best times for your preferred strokes.

We have managed to get a last minute entry to some galas with the first one next Wednesday. Please email your name, form and best times for 100m IM, 50m Backstroke, 50m Breaststroke, 25/50m Fly, 50m Freestyle.

Further information will be sent out on Monday to those selected. We have a junior team (year 7 and 8) and senior team (year 9 and 10).

Weather Warning from HCC

With the predicted snowy and freezing weather conditions over the coming days, please see a [flyer here](#) about the increased risk of accidents around frozen ponds, lakes, rivers, reservoirs and canals.

Sports Results

U16 Girls Football vs Chancellors	Won 6-0
Y9B Boys Football vs Emmerson Park	Won 3-1
U13B Girls Football vs Kennet School	Lost 1-0

ASA News

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing break over Christmas. It was a much-needed break for us after the busy Autumn term. If you missed the last e-bulletin, we raised a whopping £12,000. A huge thanks once again for everyone's help and support.

Looking ahead to this term, we have some exciting plans:

Burns Night - Thurs 30 Jan ONLY THREE WEEKS TO GO! Is this cold, rainy weather getting you down?

There's no need to wallow away. We have an absolutely epic event coming up that's sure to cheer you up. and we still have some tickets available! This is shaping up to be a fantastic night. Partygoers will enjoy a three-course supper, including a rip-roaring 'Address to the Haggis', then a live band will lead the way with some Scottish dancing. Tickets: £47.50 on ParentPay

Donations: Do you have some unwanted whiskey lurking in the cupboards? We'd be very grateful for donations (open or unopened). Please email us and we'll arrange to collect them from you: asa@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

New 2 You Uniform - Our first uniform sale was a big success, selling over 180 items. We will hold one a term, so pop the next date in the diary - 21 March. If you need any uniform in the meantime, email us at: asa@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

Dates for the Diary (Summary):

Burns Night: 30 January

Quiz Night: 13 March

Uniform Sale: 21 March

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 School Lottery, the ASA 100.

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

Tooled Up Education wishes you a Happy New Year and warmly invites you to register for their upcoming January 2026 webinars:

Parental Separation after Abuse

Separation can be incredibly challenging for families, especially when abuse, coercive control, or intense conflict is involved. Join family therapist Dr Reenee Singh and family lawyer Antonia Felix (Mishcon de Reya), as they explore how to support children during and after separation.

This interactive Q&A style session will provide practical insights to help children feel safe, heard and emotionally secure. It will also cover the impact of coercive control, navigating parental alienation and what the law says about protecting children's welfare. Register [here](#).

Digital Risks and Harms Affecting Teens

Dr Kathy Weston explores the emerging challenges and risks facing teenagers as they navigate digital technology. She will discuss how to ensure teens use digital devices safely, build resilience to online pressures and how to stay connected with them so they are comfortable to seek support when things go wrong.

Register [here](#).

Early Signs of Eating Disorders

Clinical psychologist and specialist in eating disorders, Dr Anna Colton, will help parents to recognise early warning signs of eating disorders in children and young people, understand what might be driving these behaviours and feel more confident about what to do next. The session will offer clear, compassionate guidance on how to start conversations, when to seek support and how to respond in ways that protect both physical and emotional wellbeing. Register [here](#).

