



February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

## National Year of Reading - Author Event

To celebrate the National Year of Reading, the author and explorer Matt Dickinson will be visiting Ashlyns on Friday 13 March 2026 to speak to Year 7 and Year 8 students for one lesson during the day to support the English and Geography curriculum.

As an award-winning film maker Matt has lived a life of adventure, working extensively for National Geographic TV, Discovery Channel and the BBC. During his action packed career he has filmed on Everest's summit, in Antarctica, Greenland, Alaska, the Sahara Desert and on top of the highest live volcano in the world. In his presentation Matt will share how these experiences have inspired his fiction writing.

This visit provides a powerful cross-curricular learning opportunity that directly supports the Key Stage 3 National Curricula for both English and Geography. By engaging with an author who is also a professional explorer, students will see firsthand how geographical knowledge of extreme environments, from tectonic landscapes to glacial regions, is developed into compelling narrative fiction and descriptive prose. The session encourages a love of reading for pleasure while simultaneously reinforcing students' understanding of human-physical interactions and global challenges. Matt's journeys bring our core values to life. His stories of independence, integrity, and inclusivity challenge students to navigate their own paths with resilience and a global perspective.

To support this event we are offering one of Matt's books, the first in the trilogy, *The Everest Files*, to pre-order on ParentPay at a cost of £7.99. Books will be available for students to collect from the LRC on the day of the event and the deadline for ordering is Monday 23 February. This book is available to borrow from the LRC and also to read on the Ashlyns eLibrary.

We are looking forward to an inspiring event to foster a love of reading and learning and hope that your child enjoys this unique opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Harvey  
Head of English

Miss A Hirst  
Head of Geography

Ms R Lambert  
LRC Manager