



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

This Tuesday, 10 February, is Safer Internet Day with the theme being smart tech, safe choices - exploring the safe and responsible use of AI. Please find more information [here](#).

Lost Property

There will be an opportunity on 12 February to look through the lost property. Items will be put into the main hall for students to look through at lunch break. Parents/carers are invited after school from 3.20-4.30pm; please use the front entrance by reception.

Sixth Form News

As part of their Enrichment programme Sixth Form welcomed two external speakers this morning. Year 12 heard from The School of Sexuality Education who delivered an informative talk on Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights. Year 13 welcomed Connor Freeman, a Diagnostic Radiographer, who provided students with an insight into his career path, working in medicine and more generally about the skills and qualities needed for university.

Careers

Over the coming weeks, we will be hosting two major national events designed to inspire our students and open doors to their future paths.

National Apprenticeship Week (wc 9 Feb)

Theme: "Skills for Life" Apprenticeships are an incredible way to "earn while you learn." To celebrate, we have a packed schedule:

- Tutor Time Takeovers: Interactive sessions exploring different apprenticeship levels, from Level 2 right up to Degree Apprenticeships.
- Guest Speakers: We are welcoming local employers and current apprentices to share their "day in the life" stories and top tips for successful applications.

National Careers Week (wc 2 March)

This week is all about expanding horizons and "dreaming big." Activities include:

- Industry Insights: Guest speakers from a diverse range of sectors will be visiting to talk about their career journeys.
- Curriculum Links: In every subject, teachers will be running specific sessions showing how the skills learned in the classroom (from Pythagoras to Poetry) apply to specific job roles.
- Form Activities: Students will engage in career-matching games and explore the latest labor market information to see where the future jobs are.

Key Dates

- 12 Feb: Lost Property
- 12 Feb: Spring Chill Concert
- 16-20 Feb: Half Term
- 24 Feb: Y12 UCAS Evening
- 26 Feb: Y9 Parents Evening

Next Week Autumn/ Winter Lunch Menu: Week 3

Communications

- [Y11 Hoodie, Yearbook and Prom](#)
- [Y9 Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening](#)
- [Y9 Work Shadow ELD](#)
- [Y11 ELD Additional Trial Exams](#)
- [Y7 & Y8 Author Visit](#)
- [Reporting Absence via Arbor App](#)

Vacancies

- [Teacher of Technology - Product Design](#)
- [Head of Drama \(Maternity Cover\)](#)
- [Drama Teacher \(Maternity Cover\)](#)

House Points

| Current house points | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Bourne | Coram | Handel | Raven |
| 16586 | 20046 | 18532 | 21270 |
| 4 th | 2 nd | 3 rd | 1 st |
| 06/02/2026 | | | |



Sports Results

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Y7 Boys Football vs Tring | Drew 1-1 |
| U18 Boys Football vs St Clement Danes | Won 3-2 |
| Y8 Boys Football vs Longdean | Won 6-1 |
| U15B Girls Football vs Shenfield | 0-0 AET Won 2-1 on penalties |

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

World Challenge - Wine Tasting Event

Wine Tasting Evening: 6 March. Tickets on sale [here](#)

Ellie D (Y12), in collaboration with Waples Wines, is arranging a night of fun and educational wine tasting to raise money for her World Challenge trip to Borneo this summer.

Ticket price of £25 includes arrival drinks, light supper, raffle prizes & games, as well as an expert-led tasting of 3 red wines, 3 white wines plus 1 blind wine.

More information can be found [here](#).

Please come along and bring friends - all welcome!

ASA News

Burns Night: What a success!

What a fabulous evening - complete with bagpipes on arrival, Tom L-E's amazing address to the haggis, the customary Grace and Toasts, and brilliant ceilidh dancing.

On top of all the fun, we raised nearly £3,000!!

Huge thanks to Jan B for instigating and driving the event, and to her team: Jenny, Monika, Jules, Esther, Faye, Elsa, Becky, Vicky, Helen, Helena, Gina, Martin & Rachel. Thanks also to Milo, Peter B & Helen M for speeches, our lovely 6th formers for waiting tables, Culinera for the wonderful food, and the school Premises team for their support. It will be back next year!

Next event:

Quiz Night: Friday 13 March.

Tickets go on sale **TODAY**, so round up your brainiest mates, grab your tickets fast, and don't miss out - this one always sells out! Click [here](#) for the flyer.

Price: £10 ticket or £90 for a table of 10

On Sale: Via [ParentPay](#)

Cake Auction: if you can bake, or create a platter for us to auction on the night, we'd love your contribution. Please email the ASA to let us know.

ASA Meeting: 3 March at 7pm

Join us for our Spring term meeting. We're a friendly bunch and always happy to welcome new faces. Maybe you're a new Y7 parent who's finally feeling settled into the school routine and curious to see what the ASA is all about - or perhaps you've been around for a while and have been thinking about getting involved. Either way, please do join us! Drop us an email to let us know.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We're looking to expand our volunteer team. Could you help in any of these areas?

Co-Treasurer

If you're a qualified accountant who'd like to support the ASA, please take a look at the job description [here](#), and contact us on the email address below.

Design

It's not a demanding role, but we'd love your help if you have basic design skills (or know someone who does).

Social Media Support

If you have a flair for words and social media skills, we need you! Again, the commitment is manageable - more hands really do make light work.

Comedy Night:

We're in need of a few volunteers to help organise our Comedy Night. The lead person is in place, but looking for additional support in the management of the night, and the marketing / communications etc.

Please do get in touch if you can help with any of the roles.

Future dates for your diary:

- **ASA Meeting:** 3 March, 7pm
- **Quiz Night:** 13 March
- **New 2 You Uniform Sale:** 21 March
- **Comedy & Curry Night:** 10 July

As always...

Stay in the loop: complete this [form](#) to hear about fundraising activities and see where your contributions make a difference.

School lottery: Sign up for the ASA 100 Club [here](#) for a chance to win a cash prize.

Shop & raise: Sign up [here](#) for effortless fundraising as you shop via Easyfundraising

And contact us at asa@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk if you want to get in touch.

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

Even the most picture-perfect families can struggle to get along from time to time - a reality highlighted by a recent high-profile family fallout making global headlines. For parents, this can raise important questions: how do we reduce the risk of painful rifts, support siblings through conflict and ensure communication with children stays open and honest, rather than issues being quietly brushed aside?

The Tooled Up platform has a wealth of expert-led resources to help parents navigate life as family relationships evolve and change, and a selection are shared below.

With younger children, feelings about family life can be explored through play or stories. As children move into the tween and teen years, conversations may need to be more intentional. Thoughtfully planned check-ins can help surface concerns early, before small issues grow into bigger ones. [How to 'Audit' Family Life and Have Difficult Conversations](#) offers practical prompts and strategies to help you start these conversations early.

Sibling relationships from early childhood through to adolescence play an important role, influencing social and emotional development. Where positive, they support communication, empathy and emotional regulation; when conflict is frequent or unresolved, behavioural and social challenges can follow. Paying attention to this relationship really matters. [Nurturing Positive Sibling Relationships: Tips for Parents](#) shares simple, positive steps to encourage kindness, collaboration and greater harmony at home.

For some families, challenges may be compounded by separation or relationship breakdown. If this is your experience, you're not alone. [30 Ways to Support Your Child Through Parental Separation](#) is packed with practical guidance to help children feel supported, loved and considered as families adjust to new arrangements.