

## Next week- Week 1/A

**Attendance reporting procedures** Please report children's absence by 08.30 each morning via the Arbor app. Please use the [Absence Form](#) to report future absence e.g. dentist appointments.

## Safeguarding

Whilst pinterest is not one of the more common online usage spaces for children, recently there have been instances in which the messages function has caused safeguarding issues to occur. Please see this [link](#) for details.

## Chicks



The science department has welcomed some new arrivals this week with four chicks hatching on Wednesday and Thursday. Students have been learning about the life cycle of chickens, the genetics behind their sexual dimorphism (different colours) and how to care for baby animals. The students have also had the opportunity to enter the naming competition for the chicks; the winning names will be announced to students next week.

## Sixth Form

### UCAS Discovery Day

Our Year 12 students had an enriching and productive trip to the UCAS Discovery day in Farnborough this week. The event was an invaluable resource for students as they navigate future educational and career pathways. They had the opportunity to interact with over 100 universities, colleges and apprenticeship employers face-to-face, and were able to attend live expert talks, where they received the latest advice and information on different career choices.

Of course, no convention would be complete without some memorable goody bags, and our students certainly didn't leave empty-handed! They returned with not only practical goodies but a wealth of knowledge and inspiration for their future endeavours. We extend our sincere thanks to all involved in organising this enriching experience for our students.

## Head Student Hustings

Hustings have taken place in the Chapel today, where six candidates from Year 12 delivered very professional and thoughtful speeches to staff and students to garner votes in today's election. It was clear how much effort and preparation had gone into their presentations and they should all be very proud of getting this far in the process.

## Key Dates

- 25-26 April: DofE Bronze Practice Expedition
- 29 April: Y8 Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening
- 4 May: Bank Holiday, School Closed
- 8-11 May: Y12 French Trip
- 21 May: Summer Chill Concert
- 25-29 May: Half Term

## Next Week [New Spring/Summer Menu:](#) Week 3

## Communications

- [Y10 Geography Trip](#)

## Vacancies

- [Science Teacher \(Maternity Cover\)](#)

## House Points

Current house points			
Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
24614	30458	29858	31619
4 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
24/04/2026			



## Student Achievement

Well done to Lily T-K (Y7), who, as part of Team England Youth Co-Ed made it through to the Cheerleading World Championship Finals yesterday out of ten other countries in their category and earned a Silver medal for England! They did really well over a two day competition, making it through to the finals in first place on day one but ultimately coming second to Columbia yesterday on day two.

## Year 11 Raising Achievement Programme

Huge congratulations to our GCSE Art students for completing their practical exams this week; their hard work has set a brilliant standard for the entire year group. With written exams just two weeks away, it is crucial that all Year 11 students remain strategic, focusing their energy on closing specific knowledge gaps rather than easing off. As discussed in assembly, please make a final push for i-cards to reach the 15-point tariff and ensure that attendance, punctuality, uniform, and NEA completion remain exemplary. These are core Passport to Prom conditions, and maintaining these high standards through the exam period is essential.

## Careers

This week our Year 8 students had the opportunity to attend a STEM careers event focusing on civil engineering. Our inspiring guest speaker provided a compelling insight into career pathways and highlighted the importance of soft skills like communication, problem-solving and teamwork. Students also engaged with a hands-on activity building weight-bearing sandcastles to demonstrate geotechnical engineering principles.

## ASA News

### ASA Comedy Night - Friday 10th July

Well that was fast! Our earlybird tickets sold out in under 24 hours — thank you so much for the incredible response from the Ashlyns community!

Full price tickets are now available for what is going to be a brilliant night of professional stand-up comedy on Friday 10th July, headlined by Nathan Caton — as seen on Live at the Apollo, Mock the Week and Richard Osman's House of Games.

Don't miss out — grab your tickets before they're gone too!

Tickets are available as comedy only or as a comedy and curry package

### **Book [here](#)**

See more information on our leaflet [here](#)  
and visit our website [here](#)

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## THE ASA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The ASA offers wonderful opportunities for children at Ashlyns, but we rely on the generosity of volunteers to make it happen. Please do consider joining our team! It's the perfect way to get more involved, feel more connected, and join a genuinely lovely group of people (even if we do say so ourselves!).

**ASA Co-Chair:** We're looking for a Co-Chair to work alongside Martin and the team. Martin is at the end of the phone if you want to chat about what exactly is involved.

**Social Media support** If you have a way with words and some social media know-how, we'd love your help. Please!

If you're tempted, we'd love to hear from you: [asa@ahslyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:asa@ahslyns.herts.sch.uk)

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## FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

**Dacorum Decorating Supplies - LAST CHANCE** - This is the last week to grab a bargain at Dacorum Decorating Supplies. They have a range of discounted mis-mixed trade paints but only available until the end of April. All proceeds go to the ASA - pop in to check out the selection.

**Bags 2 School - CLOSED** - Thanks to everyone who dropped off bags of unwanted clothes and textiles. We collected a whopping 323kg! No more donations now please, we don't have the space to store them until the next one.

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### As always...

**Stay in the loop:** Complete this [form](#) to receive updates on fundraising activities and see where your contributions make a difference

**Join our lottery:** Sign up for the ASA 100 Club [here](#) for monthly chances to win cash prizes

**Shop & raise:** Sign up [here](#) for Easyfundraising - raise funds effortlessly while you shop online

**Get in touch:** [asa@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:asa@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)

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



Dealing With Exam Stress

Webinar



Tips for Relaxation (Video for Primary-Aged Children)

Video



Dr Weston Talks with Professor David Putwain: Understanding Test Anxiety

Podcast

**As the academic year progresses, students around the world begin preparing for exams.** Whether your child is approaching key qualifications or end-of-year assessments, this period can feel particularly busy and at times, stressful.

For many families, revision schedules, preparation and expectations start to build, and it's not unusual for tensions to rise alongside them. Children may experience this in different ways, from feeling under pressure, to becoming more tired or needing extra reassurance. To ease this, steady, supportive routines at home are essential.

Creating space for rest, keeping communication open and helping your child stay organised can all help them feel more confident and supported. Tooled Up has a range of practical, evidence-based resources to help.

In our webinar, [Dealing with Exam Stress](#), Dr Kathy Weston and teacher and examiner Patrick Cragg share **advice and strategies to manage** both your own and your child's **stress and help you feel prepared and ready to face exam season.**

Even **if your primary school aged child isn't preparing for exams, they may still experience worries** or feel unsettled by other challenges at school or beyond. Watch our video [Tips for Relaxation](#), which **shares simple and effective techniques to help children feel calmer and more relaxed.**

Many **parents wonder what sits behind the stress and anxiety** children can experience during exam periods. In the podcast [Understanding Test Anxiety](#), Professor David Putwain **draws on 20 years of research to explain how test anxiety can affect all learners.**

May 2026 webinars:

**Starting School as an Only Child, Building Confidence, Friendships and Independence.** Register [here.](#)

**What Should Parents Know About Discord?** Register [here.](#)

**Finding Our Feet with Friendships in the Early Years.** Register [here.](#)