ASHLYNS SCHOOL

ASPIRE & ACHIEVE

e - Bulletin

Number 07

Week ending 16 Oct 2026

Next week- Week 2/B

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

Please find the slides from Mind Hertfordshire's recent talk Supporting your Child with Self-Harm here.

Year 11 Raising Achievement Programme

As the Trial Exams approach, for some students getting started is the hardest part. Dr Kathy Weston has shared an excellent resource on ways to beat procrastination (helpful for adults and children alike!). The Tooled Up School PIN is 4989.

Over half term Year 11 should be aiming for at least 2 hours of revision a day. They should have a revision timetable (template here) to help structure their time.

It's the first BIG PRIZE DRAW next Friday with all the names of those who have been attending Session 6 and those who have handed in i-Cards in with a chance of winning vouchers and other goodies! Please encourage your child to get their names in the hat!

Please be aware that there will no Session 6 on Wednesday 21 October or Thursday 22 October due to school events.

Careers

Y8 Cisco Visit: As part of our careers programme, a group of Y8 students visited Cisco's Head Office in London this week for an inspiring Women in Technology event which offered an exciting behind-the-scenes look at one of the world's leading technology companies.

The action-packed day gave students a dynamic view into the technology sector and highlighted the diverse career pathways open to them. Highlights included interactive workshops, an AI presentation, an office tour and the opportunity to network with Cisco apprentices and engineers. A huge thank you to the team at Cisco for hosting our students and providing such a memorable experience.

Student Achievement

Netball achievements: well done to Sophie C in Year 10 on her selection into the South Bucks county player development programme and to Ella K in Year 12 on her selection into London Mavericks U17 Academy.

West Herts College

Please book your place at the upcoming Open Days here.

PL Schoolwear

Please find a flyer attached here with information about half term opening hours.

HMS Music Lessons

If you wish to stop Music Lessons at the end of the Autumn Term please email HMS.customersupport@hertfordshire.gov.uk by the end of this half term, Friday

Key Dates

- 21 Oct: Into the Sixth Evening
- 22 Oct: Ashlyns Careers EXPO
- **26-30 Oct: Half Term**
- 5 Nov: Y12 Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening

Next Week Autumn Menu: Week 2

Communications

- Y11 Geography Field Trip
- Y12 Geography Field Trip

Vacancies

- Science Teacher
- Exam Invigilator

House Points

Current house points

Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
2748	2843	2948	3028
4th	3rd	2nd	1st

16/10/2026

Coram Family Lives

Will be running two "*Parent Alienation Workshops*" for Hertfordshire parents. Please find the link to register here.

Herts Parent Carer Involvement 5th Annual SEND Survey

HPCI wants to hear from Hertfordshire families of children and young people with SEND. Please complete the survey thinking of ONE child or young person only. If you have more than one child with additional needs,

23 October or use this form to withdraw from lessons. If notice is given after this date, costs will be incurred for the following term.
If you wish to register for music lessons please go to HMS Music Lesson Registration.
Any other queries regarding Music Tuition at Ashlyns School please email musictuition@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk.

please complete a survey for each of them if you can.

There are 2 surveys:
HPCI Short Annual SEND Survey (2026) - there is only 10 questions to this one
HPCI 5th Annual SEND Survey (2026) - this will take between 15-30 minutes to complete depending on the needs of your child.

Both close on **Sunday 1 November 2026 at 11pm**.
There is also an opportunity to be entered into a Simmons voucher prize draw.
Your responses will be used in the key work HPCI do with Herts County Council and Herts NHS Services to help improve services for children and young people with SEND.

ASA News

DONATIONS NEEDED: for our busiest fundraising period
Add a few things to your Christmas shopping list

We'll say this properly once now, so you can plan ahead. The ASA's Christmas fundraisers run on your donations, and the easiest time to help is when you're already in the supermarket.
For the **Craft Fair Cafe** (Sunday 15 November): cakes, homemade or shop-bought. Please make sure they're nut-free and come with an ingredients list. Gluten-free bakes are very welcome. Drop off at the main reception on Friday 13 November, or bring them to school on the Sunday morning.

For the **Festival of Light tombola** (Sunday 22 November): bottles and chocolates.
Wine, fizz, spirits, soft drinks, boxes of chocolates, anything a tombola winner would be pleased to take home. Drop off by Thursday 19 November.
For the **Christmas hampers**: anything and everything festive. Treats, crackers, candles, decorations, biscuits, nuts, a nice bottle. We're aiming for 20 hampers, raffled on Monday 14 December. Drop off by Monday 7 December.
For the **Carol Concert** (Sunday 13 December): mince pies and mulled wine. Drop off by Thursday 10 December.
We'll share drop-off points after half term. Until then, if you spot a two-for-one, you know where the second one's going.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:
Bags2School, by lunchtime Monday 9 November: bag up your unwanted clothes, shoes and textiles and drop them at 15 Swing Gate Lane, HP4 2LJ.

Craft Fair, Sunday 15 November: three halls of handmade gifts and festive treats, open to everyone, plus a café open all day. Keep an eye out on the Craft Fair Facebook and Instagram pages for stallholder news. Please follow, like & share, because it really does help bring people through the door.

Burns Night, Friday 29 January 2027: last January's was a sell-out and enormous fun, and we expect the same again. Tickets go on sale soon after half term. You don't even need to be Scottish.

Wanted: someone to run the Craft Fair kitchen
The Craft Fair doesn't happen without volunteers, and this year we particularly need someone to lead the kitchen and café on the day, with a team behind you. If you feel you can help out here, please get in touch: asa@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk - we promise you'll get a team to support you.

Thank you for coming to the AGM
Thank you to everyone who joined us in the boardroom on Tuesday. 2025 / 2026 was a great year for funding; your support meant the ASA put over £40,000 into the school, including a new minibus, new drama equipment, new pianos for the music department, Author visits for the LRC, a computer-aided embroidery machine for textiles, new visual props for the science department - the list goes on!

Thank you to Helena P, who steps down as co-treasurer, and welcome to James, who takes it on.
We also have roles to fill. Our Chair and co-secretary both step down next summer, and we'd love someone to look after ASA social media and comms. If you're even slightly curious, drop us an email.

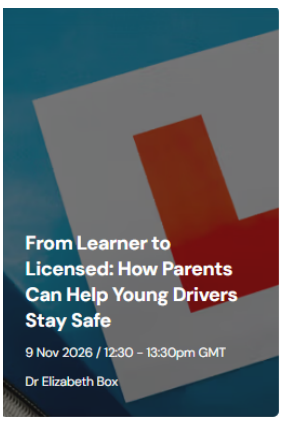
Halloween Disco, Tuesday 20 October - SOLD OUT
Have a brilliantly spooky evening, Years 7 and 8. Sixth Form will be running their tuck stall, and their Charities & Fundraising team will be face painting to raise money for their chosen charity, so bring a bit of change.

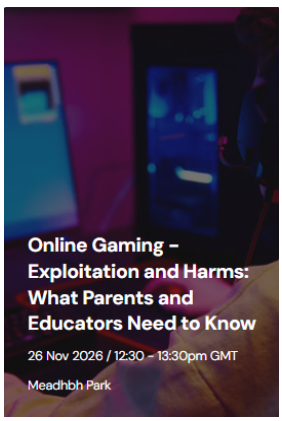
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Bags 2 School - 9 November
Craft Fair: 15 November

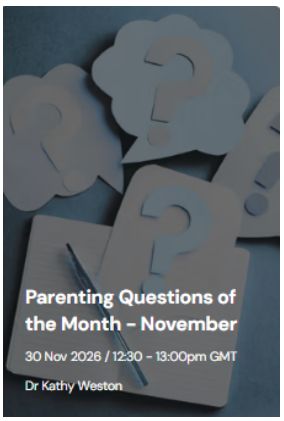
As always...
Stay in the loop: Complete this form to receive updates on fundraising activities and see where your contributions make a difference
Join our lottery: Sign up for the ASA 100 Club here for monthly chances to win cash prizes
Shop & raise: Sign up here for Easyfundraising - raise funds effortlessly while you shop online
New 2 You uniform: Drop us an email if you're looking to buy. Donations welcome - either to the school office or at 67a Kings Road, HP4 3BP.
Get in touch: asa@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

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

Tooled Up Education warmly invites you to register for their upcoming November 2026 webinars:



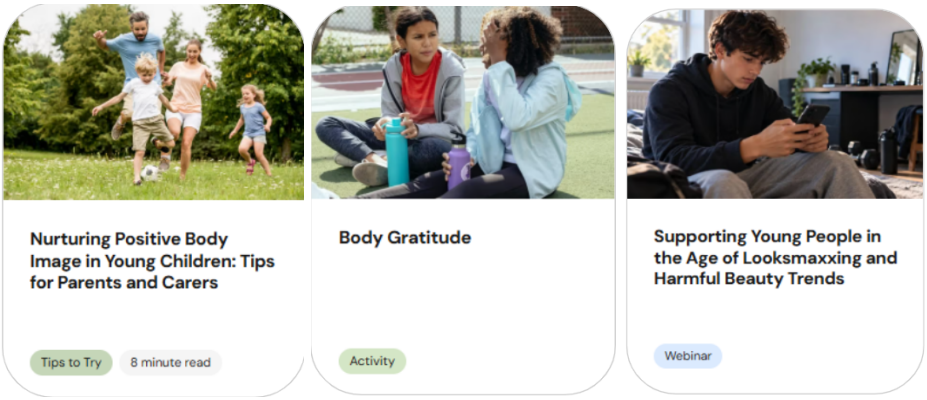




From Learner to Licensed: This webinar explores how parents and carers can help young people become safer drivers - from initial lessons through to the crucial first year after passing their test. We will share guidance on making the most of supervised practice, building good driving habits and modelling safe behaviour. You'll leave with a clear understanding of the key risks young people face and practical strategies to help your teenager become a safer driver for life. Please register **here**.

Online Gaming - Exploitations and Harms: Gaming can offer young people play, connection and creativity, but can also expose them to harmful content and exploitation (both financial and sexual). This webinar explores what we know about these risks, separating genuine concerns from assumptions. It also offers practical guidance on the signs to look out for, and how adults can talk with young people about gaming and online harm in ways that encourage openness and critical thinking. Please register **here.**

Parenting Questions of the Month: Every month, parents in our community ask thoughtful, challenging and fascinating questions. In this session, we'll explore a selection of recent queries and share evidence-informed advice and practical suggestions. Please submit your questions when booking so we can include as many as possible. Please register **here.**



Helping children develop a positive relationship with their bodies can protect their mental health, build self-esteem and foster lifelong healthy habits. From early childhood through the teenage years, everyday conversations at home can help young people build confidence and resilience by appreciating what their bodies can do rather than simply how they look.

Tooled Up's resources offer parents and carers practical, evidence-informed ways to help children value themselves for more than appearance, question unrealistic pressures and feel more comfortable talking about body image.

Nurturing Positive Body Image in Young Children: Tips for Parents and Carers, **offers tips and guidance on nurturing a positive body from early childhood,** exploring the different influences that can shape how children think and feel about their bodies.

Body Gratitude **is a simple activity for tweens and teens** that encourages them to **notice what they appreciate about their bodies** and the amazing things that it can enable them to do. Shifting the conversation from appearance to strength, ability and experience can be a powerful habit.

Our webinar, **Supporting Young People in the Age of Looksmaxxing and Harmful Beauty Trends**, helps parents and carers **understand the growing online pressure to 'optimise' appearance**, including content that can encourage unhealthy or risky behaviours. *We don't recommend sharing this webinar with young people*. Instead, it can be used **as a conversation starter to understand what children are seeing online**, **who created it and how it makes them feel** about themselves. This will **help them question unrealistic claims** and remember that what appears in their feeds isn't necessarily healthy, true or representative.