ASHLYNS SCHOOL
ASPIRE & ACHIEVE

e - Bulletin

Number 08

Week ending 23 Oct 2026

Next week, after half term- 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

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our students and their families a safe and happy half term. Should you have a concern about a child please contact the police via 101 or 999, or children's services by this link or 0300 123 4043.

Attendance

After half term the side gates to school will be shut at 8.35am. Students will need to ensure they are on time; if they are late they will need to enter via the main school gate where there will be a member of SLT present to sign them in.

LRC Great British Book Bake-Off Competition

The popular Year 7 Great British Book Bake-Off competition is taking place on Monday 9 November 2026. Cake creations can be in the form of a favourite book, character or scene. Any cake form such as tray-bakes, biscuits, cupcakes etc. are allowed, but all entries must be nut-free please. Students should deliver their cakes to the LRC before registration on Monday morning with the prize-giving ceremony taking place at lunchtime at 1.40pm. Amazing prizes and House Points to be won. *Ready, Steady, Bake!*

Ashlyns Careers EXPO

This week we held our flagship biennial Careers EXPO, welcoming students from Year 9-13. As the cornerstone of our comprehensive careers programme, the event provided an invaluable platform for students to gain first-hand insights into professional life beyond the classroom.

Our Main Hall was transformed into a dynamic hub of careers exploration, showcasing nearly 50 exhibitors representing leading organisations across a diverse range of industries and professions. Visiting professionals commended our students on their curiosity, engagement and enthusiasm for their future ambitions.

Our sincere thanks go to all the exhibitors, as well as the Ashlyns School Association and Culinera, whose generous support helped make the event such a success.

Year 11 Raising Achievement Programme

Today in assembly we held the RAP half term Prize Draw! The following lucky students were selected at random for a share of goodies.

Attendance at Session 6 - won a selection of chocolates and sweets:

- Daniel W
- Amelie B
- William B
- Edward S
- Evan G
- Melissa L
- Olivia W
- Daisy R

Key Dates

- **26-30 Oct: Half Term**
- 5 Nov: Y12 Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening
- 27 Nov: Occasional Day - School Closed
- 30 Nov: Inset Day - School Closed

Next Week New Winter Menu: Week 1

Communications

- Y7 Harry Potter - After School Event
- Y7 LRC Book Bake Off

Vacancies

- Science Teacher
- Safeguarding and Pastoral Support Officer - Sixth Form
- Exam Invigilator

House Points

Current house points

Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
3144	3214	3252	3403
4th	3rd	2nd	1st

23/10/2026

Dacorum Family Services

"Anxiety and Attendance - Helping children feel more confident about coming to school". This workshop will be held online via MS Teams and in person at Hobbs Hill Wood Primary on Tuesday 10 November 2026, 10.00-11.30 am Please find further details about this session here.

Winners of the iCard draw for Tesco and Starbucks vouchers:

- Lola H
- William R
- Amelie B
- Harry B
- Neve B
- Anya L

The next draw will be a Christmas special! The more iCards and sign-ins for Session 6, the more chances to win!
Year 11 have continued to make a great start and should be looking to do around 2 hours a day revision for their upcoming Trial Exams. Topic lists have now been shared, so please encourage students to use these to create their revision timetable.

Sixth Form

Please see the next installment of the Ashlyns Edit, created by our Sixth Form students.

School Travel

When we return to school after half term the clocks will have moved back an hour and 'Be Bright Be Seen' becomes an important message for the whole school community. Visibility is a key issue all year round, all day round, whether children are walking or on their bike. However, over the autumn and winter months, it is especially important as the school day can start and end in twilight.
The general principles of being visible to motorists are:

- During the day, bright and fluorescent clothing is best
- At twilight and night time, reflective clothing or tape that is picked up in car's headlights is best
- It is against the law to cycle at night without a white front light, a red back light and a red reflector at the back
- Always choose routes and cross at places that are well-lit
- Where possible, cross the road at a pedestrian crossing

The message for pedestrians and cyclists is to wear bright clothing during the day and reflective clothing or accessories after dark.
Drivers should be especially careful around schools and mindful of their speed when visibility is poor.

Student Achievement



NHS Healthy Lifestyles

Beezee by Maximus offers free support for Hertfordshire families, children and young people to make healthy lifestyle changes that last. Please click here for more information.

Herts Fire and Rescue Service

Please find flyers attached here and here regarding Halloween and Fireworks safety.

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 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

Sports Results

Y9 Netball vs Tring	Lost 28-14
Y9B Boys Football vs JFK	Won 4-1
Y10 Boys Football vs Cedars	Won 5-1
Y8B Boys Football Vs Queens	Lost 7-0

Interhouse Cross Country

Results:

Lowest Score		Wins
Bourne	36	3rd
Coram	35	2nd
Handel	37	4th
Raven	22	1st

ASA News

Thank you for a brilliant Halloween Disco

We hope everyone had a spooktacular time at the Halloween Disco this week! It looked amazing. Huge thank you to Amy C for leading the event for so many years, and to Anna K & Monica M as well as the school for their support. Thanks also to the Sixth Form team for providing the tuck shop!

Christmas shopping list: a quick reminder

If you're stocking up over half term, the list from last week's bulletin still stands:

- **cakes** for the Craft Fair café (must be nut-free and include an ingredient list. Gluten free is always welcome. Drop off the morning of the Craft Fair, or to the school by Friday 13 November)
- **bottles and chocolates** for the Festival of Light tombola (drop off by Thursday 19 November)
- **festive bits** for the hampers (drop off by Monday 7 December)
- **mince pies and mulled wine** for the Carol Concert (drop off by Thursday 10 December)

Drop-off points to come, after half term.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

Bags2School, by lunchtime Monday 9 November: the first Monday back, so if you're clearing out the wardrobes over half term, please think of us - bag up unwanted clothes, shoes and textiles and drop them at 15 Swing Gate Lane, HP4 2LJ.

Ashlyns Craft Fair, Sunday 15 November: three halls of handmade gifts and festive treats, open to everyone, plus a café open all day. Follow the Craft Fair on Facebook and Instagram for stallholder news, and please share.

Festival of Light, Sunday 22 November: come and support our chocolate & bottle tombola 2pm onwards.

Volunteers wanted:

Craft Fair volunteers needed: three weeks to go

We're just three weeks away from our Craft Fair on Sunday 15th November, and we need YOU to make it a success!

The Café is a vital part of our Craft Fair, both for welcoming visitors and raising crucial funds through sales of paninis, cakes, and coffees! We are looking for volunteer(s) to **lead the kitchen,** and keep things running smoothly on the day. We are completely flexible with how this role is managed - you could share the responsibility with a friend, or split the day into morning and afternoon shifts. If you are able to take this on, please email asa@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk.

In addition, we need a small village to support us on the day. Whether you can spare an hour or stay for the whole day, we'd be grateful, happy, overjoyed to have your help. Not only do many hands make light work, but it's also fun; it's a great atmosphere at the Craft Fair.

Please sign up here.

SAVE THE DATE: Burns Night, Friday 29 January 2027
Last January's Burns Night sold out, and we're doing it all again. Put the date in your diary now: tickets go on sale after half term, and we'd expect them to go quickly.

ASA 100 September Winners
Big congrats to P Wiggs for scooping the top prize of **£65** in our September lottery draw, and also to M Hyland and A Hall for winning the second and third prizes. Sign up here for your chance to win.

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 and 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

Have a lovely half term!

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



Creative Careers: An Inspiring Resource for Teens

Article



Classical Music to Explore with Your Child Even if You Think You Don't Know Anything about Music

Activity



Dr Rhodes Talks with Dr Marie-Stephanie Cahart: Drumming and the Brain

Podcast

Celebrating the arts: why creativity matters

From music and dance to drama and storytelling, the arts offer young people a wealth of opportunities to explore their interests, express themselves and discover new talents.

Tooled Up's resources offer inspiration for families to explore and discover the benefits of the arts whether your child already has a passion for them or has yet to find what sparks their interest.

Our booklet **Creative Careers: An Inspiring Resource for Teens** shares personal stories, honest reflections and **practical advice** on the many **pathways into creative work**. It showcases a diverse group of professionals working across creative industries, from **authors** and **musicians** to **filmmakers**, **designers** and **photographers** offering inspiration and ideas for young people exploring where their own interests might lead.

You don't need to be musical to enjoy **Classical Music to Explore with Your Child Even if You Think You Don't Know Anything About Music**. Our **accessible guide** introduces families to wonderful pieces of music, with suggested recordings, **simple explanations** and conversation starters.

Our podcast **Dr Rhodes Talks with Dr Marie-Stephanie Cahart: Drumming and the Brain** **explores** the fascinating relationship between music and the brain, highlighting **how rhythm can influence concentration, coordination and emotional wellbeing**. Discover what research into drumming reveals about the benefits of musical activities and find **inspiration** for simple ways **to encourage musical creativity at home**.