

ASHLAWN

SPRING NEWS 2025



ASHLAWN
SCHOOL

Our best, always



Welcome from the Principal

As we reach the end of another busy term, we also mark the half-way point of the academic year. I am so proud of all that we have achieved together so far.

This term's highlights have included our incredible school production of 9 to 5, a trip to the University of Cambridge, success in inter-school maths and languages competitions and reaching the final 16 out of over 600 schools in the ESFA Cup - it has been wonderful to see everyone making the most of these opportunities and giving their best, always.

In addition, it has been fantastic to celebrate the achievements of this term's student superstars and pillar award winners, who have gone above and beyond in some way to contribute to school life or deserve recognition for a personal achievement.

It has, of course, also been an important time of preparation for forthcoming GCSE and A Level exams, with students working hard to embed their learning and begin thinking about revision. Being prepared and planning ahead will stand those students in good stead for the coming months.

Paul Brockwell
Principal, Ashlawn School



School holidays are different for everyone. You might be excited about a holiday or having time off, or you could be thinking about what might happen or how you'll cope.

You might be worried about:

- Feeling lonely or not going out
- Not seeing people who normally support you
- Problems at home or having to care for your family
- Coping without a routine
- Worrying about your exams next term or the results you might get
- Being hurt or abused

Remember, there are many ways in which you can get support, and you are not alone!

Why not take a look at the agencies and support lines that could help you? Remember, if you are in immediate danger, call 999.

Childline is always available throughout the holidays to support you, whether that's having someone to talk to, giving you ideas of things to do, or helping you get support when you need it.

Why not give them a call? 0800 1111

HELPLINES



PAPYRUS
PREVENTION OF YOUNG SUICIDE

Papyrus

Thinking about suicide, please call 0800 068 4141 or TEXT 209697



family lives

Bullying UK

0808 800 2222



Coventry CAB

Information/advice on issues facing young people. 02476 252066



NSPCC

If you feel you or someone you know is a victim of abuse. 0808 800 5000

SAMARITANS

Samaritans

Someone to listen 24/7 free of charge. 116 123 or TEXT 07725 909090



Compass

Support and advice for young people using substances. 0800 121 4043



Stonewall

Support for anyone around issues of sexuality. 0800 0505 2020

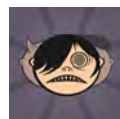


Winston's Wish

Helpline to support young people with the death of a loved one. 08088 020 021

APPS

These free apps mean you can access support wherever you are.



Stressheads: Support to lower our stress levels.



Stay Alive: Support to those who may experience suicidal thoughts/feelings.



Self Help Anxiety Management (Samapp): Support and techniques to help manage anxiety and panic.



Moodometer: Created by the NHS. Allows you to track your moods and what has influenced it. Also provides ways to lift your mood.



Calm Harm: Activities to assist in the management of self-harm.



Grief Support for Young People: Information about grief, bereavement and the feelings we may experience when we lose a loved one.



InsightTimer

Insight Timer: A large collection of free guided exercises to help relieve stress, improve relaxation and wellbeing.



Calm: A large collection of exercises designed to calm us down.

STAYING SAFE

Top Tips!

- 1 Be careful of who you are talking to online – not everyone is who they say they are.
- 2 Stay away from railway lines. Harrison's story.
- 3 Don't go swimming in lakes and quarries – it's too dangerous.
- 4 Eat, sleep and rest... it is the best way to feel the best you can.

Finally... HAVE FUN!!

STUDENT SUPERSTARS

At Ashlawn, we love celebrating the hard work and achievements of our students, and our Student Superstars award system does just that!

Each week teachers nominate students who have gone above and beyond – whether through academic excellence, kindness, perseverance or creativity. This is our way of recognising the incredible effort our students put in every day.

This term, we've seen some truly inspiring achievements. For example:

- Samuel (Year 13) impressed everyone with a brilliant presentation on the challenges of a two-party political system, delivering his arguments with confidence and passion.
- Max (Year 10) showcased his sporting talent by scoring two goals in the ESFA Cup, taking Ashlawn through to the last 16 out of 655 schools.

- Ava (Year 8) and Tulsi (Year 12) have demonstrated the power of peer mentoring, fostering a supportive relationship that has had huge benefits for both students.

A special mention also goes to all Year 10 students in PSHE, who recently took part in the Healthy Relationships Roadshow.

Their mature engagement, thoughtful questions, and reflective comments truly impressed the organisers running the event.

Their excellent behaviour and willingness to discuss sensitive topics with such respect and understanding were a credit to the school.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS TERM'S STUDENT SUPERSTARS! KEEP UP THE FANTASTIC WORK!

Name	Year	Subject
Kiersten		Science
Denuya	7	Geography
Varshini	7	History
Anabelle	7	History
Caitlin	7	German
Demira	8	Geography
Ava	8	Year 8 Peer Mentoring
Haitham	8	French
Henry	8	Maths
Mollie	8	Spanish
Lucas	9	English
Esme	9	Pastoral
Lily	9	History
Blake	9	History
Lucas	9	Computer Science
All Students	10	PSHE
Max	10	PE
Kexin	10	Geography

Name	Year	Subject
Abbie	10	Maths
Cadence	10	Geography
Elissa	10	Geography
Minnie	10	Maths
Heaven	10	Child Development
Oliver	10	Spanish
Blossom	10	English
Morgan	10	Drama
Verity	11	Inclusion
Samantha	11	Year 11 Peer Mentoring
Havin	11	Pastoral
Jess	11	Health and Social Care
Sienna	11	Health and Social Care
Chloe	11	History
Ava	11	History
Issy	11	Science/Biology
Megan	11	Health and Social Care
Abigail	11	Engineering

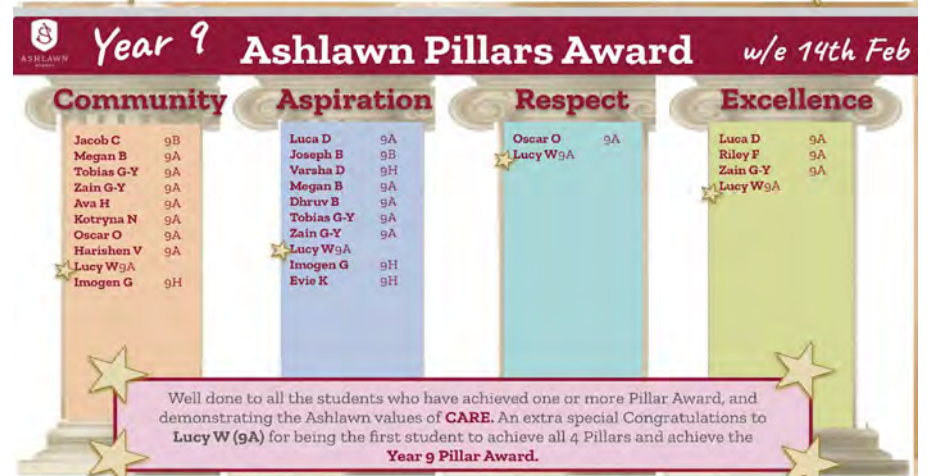
Name	Year	Subject
Mohammed	11	Engineering
Harry	11	English
Ravinesh	11	Computer Science
Finnley	11	French
Erika	12	Criminology
Millie	12	Music
Orlando	12	Economics
Tulsi	12	Year 12 Peer Mentoring
Lois	12	Health and Social Care
Aidan	12	Media Studies
Samuel	13	Extended Project
Megan	13	Criminology
Harry	13	Music
Ellie	13	Year 13 Peer Mentoring
Hannah	13	Health and Social Care
Sophie	13	Health and Social Care
Katy	13	Health and Social Care
Ambrose	13	English

ASHLAWN PILLAR AWARDS

Since October 2024, students in Year 7, 8 and 9 have been making pledges which link to each of the Ashlawn Care Pillars. Students have been volunteering in the Community, Learning new skills which links with Aspiration.

Students have also been demonstrating Respect for Nature, and finally demonstrating their talents in physical, creative or musical activities, which links to Excellence.

This half term has seen our first achievers of the Community/Aspiration/Respect/Excellence Pillar Awards in Year 7, Year 8 and in Year 9. Well done to all of these students for committing to achieve the CARE values. We have also seen our first students to have completed all 4 Pillars and achieve their Year Pillar Award. They have been receiving their certificates this week in the Celebration assemblies. Well done to Cameron K (7J), Chadana S (8B) and Lucy W (9A).



A HILARIOUS AND HEARTFELT TAKE ON WORKPLACE WOES: A REVIEW OF ASHLAWN SCHOOL'S PRODUCTION OF 9 TO 5: THE MUSICAL

Ashlawn School's production of 9 to 5: The Musical brought energy, humour, and heart to the stage, entertaining audiences with its lively take on workplace life in the 1970s.

With such a wealth of talent, the lead roles were triple cast, allowing all of our BTEC level 3 students to shine. Each brought their own unique charm and comedic timing to their roles, capturing the essence of their characters while making them their own. Lucy, Effe and Naomi perfectly portrayed the strong and independent Violet, Ella and Felix embodied the sweet and sassy Doralee, complete with a pitch-perfect Dolly Parton twang. And Livvy and Amelia brought down the house with performances of 'Get out and Stay out'.

Charlie's portrayal of the villainous Mr. Hart was suitably slimy and over-the-top, eliciting boos and hisses from the audience with every lecherous grin. Millie and Emily as Roz, Mr. Hart's lovestruck assistant, provided plenty of comic relief with her desperate attempts to win his affection.

The ensemble cast was equally impressive, their energy and enthusiasm infectious. The choreography was sharp and dynamic, with the office setting providing a creative backdrop for some memorable dance numbers. The musical numbers were a highlight of the show, with the cast delivering powerful vocals and impressive harmonies.

While the story is set in the 1970s, the themes of workplace inequality and sexism still resonate today. Ashlawn's production balanced humour with a thought-provoking message, making for an engaging and enjoyable performance.

Congratulations to the cast and crew for their hard work in bringing this musical to the stage.



EXPLORING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

National Apprenticeship Week is WC 10th February. During this week, a number of events and activities have taken place across the school to raise awareness and understanding about apprenticeship opportunities available to young people.

These include:

- A guest speaker from Warwickshire College Group to deliver an assembly to our year 10 and 11 students about apprenticeship opportunities across Warwickshire
- A workshop for year 11 students with a particular interest in Apprenticeship opportunities
- Lesson activities which link curriculum learning to Apprenticeships
- Home learning tasks where students can use Unifrog to research Apprenticeship opportunities in the local area

Please also have a look through the following links for more information about Apprenticeships:

[National Apprenticeships](#)

[Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

[Apprenticeship Quiz](#)

[#NAW2025](#)



NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2025 10-16 February

#NAW2025

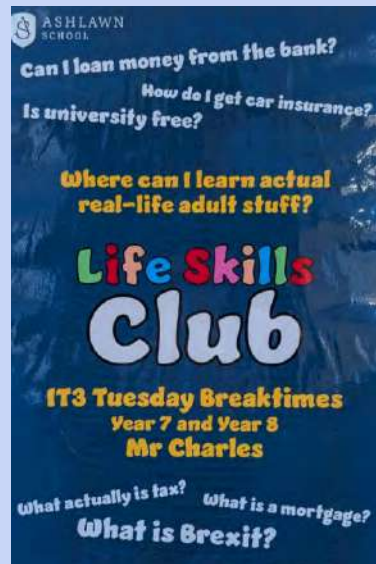


LIFE SKILLS CLUB – GET INVOLVED!

We are excited to announce the launch of a brand-new club - 'Life Skills' for Year 7 and 8 students.

This club is a great opportunity to pick up valuable skills in a supportive environment. From finances to national politics - this club will teach you the 'real-life' stuff you need for the future.

Why not pop along and see what you can learn?



PROMOTING POSITIVE BODY IMAGE

Year 9 students recently had the opportunity to be visited by Compass to take part in three sessions on 'Positive Body Image'.

These sessions explored the pressures young people face and helped students build confidence through interactive activities.

In a world where unrealistic beauty standards and social pressures can negatively impact self-esteem, understanding and promoting a positive body image is more important than ever.



YEAR 11 MOCK INTERVIEWS

This term, we ran a series of mock interviews for Year 11 students.

With the support of fantastic volunteers from the Rugby Rotary Club, Revive! UK Ltd, Warwickshire Careers Hub Coventry & Warwickshire, East Midlands Ambulance Service, and Kiss My Brand amongst others, our students stepped up to the challenge and truly impressed.

They received glowing feedback, with comments such as:

- "The world will be their oyster!"
- "Hugely motivated."
- "Very presentable."
- "Has their head screwed on."

It's clear that our students are making a fantastic impression - the working world will be lucky to have them!



BUSINESS STUDIES

TYCOON ENTERPRISE AT ASHLAWN – JOIN THE CHALLENGE!

We are excited to launch the Tycoon Enterprise Programme, in partnership with the Peter Jones Foundation.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop entrepreneurial skills in business, finance, marketing, and more!

Over the coming months, students will work in teams to create and run their own businesses, gaining hands-on experience and competing in a national challenge. This is a great way to enhance leadership, creativity, and financial awareness, all while having fun and learning essential life skills.

Open to all aspiring young entrepreneurs at Ashlawn.

If you are interested in taking part or want to find out more, speak to Mrs Bharaj or visit IT1.

Let's make business happen!



TYCOON ENTERPRISE COMPETITION

Extra curricular club will run every **Tuesday after school**
Offered to Year 9's & 10's

Get involved:

Think you've got what it takes to make it in business? Sign up for the Tycoon Enterprise Competition, and the Peter Jones Foundation will provide you with the resources, and funds, to get your business off the ground.

You'll compete with schools across the UK, develop new skills, make yourself more employable, and hopefully make some money too!

The *Tycoon Final* has previously been held at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle— are you enterp **For more details, speak**

Mrs Bharaj in IT1



FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

COOKING, SCIENCE, AND ETHICAL CHOICES

In Food Preparation & Nutrition, our students have been busy exploring a range of cooking projects while learning about key concepts in food science.

Year 8 have been perfecting their chocolate mousse recipes, a treat that also ties in with their study of aeration and Fair Trade products. Chocolate, as the most popular Fair Trade food item sold in the UK, has sparked some discussions in class about the importance of supporting Fair Trade. It's great to see the

students not only honing their cooking skills but understanding the wider impact of their food choices.

As it has been Veganuary, Year 9 have also taken on the challenge of making a Quorn Chilli to learn about the role of alternative proteins in a balanced diet.

Meanwhile, Year 10 students have been getting hands-on experience making their own cheese for pizzas. They learned how to make ricotta cheese from scratch, a process that involved heating milk to 200°C and adding an acid like lemon juice or vinegar to separate it into curds and whey. The result was not only a fun learning experience but also a delicious homemade pizza.

It has been a fantastic term of cooking, learning, and exploring new ingredients and techniques.



MATHS

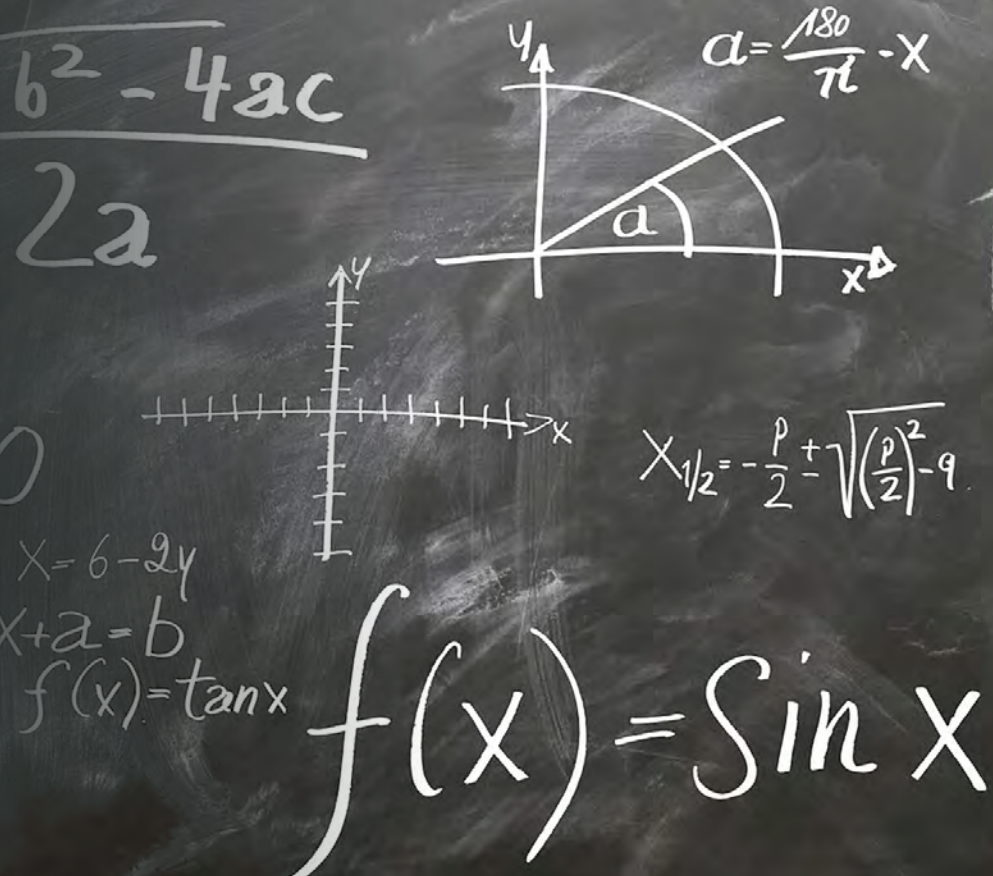
UKMT INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE SUCCESS

On Wednesday 29th January, we hosted the Intermediate Maths Challenge for over 200 students in Years 9, 10 and 11, and the results are in!

We are very proud to report that between them, our students managed to achieve 52 Bronze awards, 17 Silver awards, and 6 Gold awards.

A particular congratulations to Sandra P, Cezary K, James N and Pranov J who all managed to qualify for the next round. We will be supporting them and cheering them on when they take their next challenge on Thursday 20th March.

For all our younger students in Year 7 and 8 who are raring to go with their maths challenge, the Junior Maths Challenge will be taking place on Thursday 1st May – more information to follow!



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

LANGUAGES SPELLING BEE

This term, a group of Year 8 languages students attended a spelling bee competition hosted by Lawrence Sheriff School.

They competed against several local schools from across Rugby and worked in teams of four to complete rounds including spelling, dictation and speaking aloud. The students showed great teamwork and represented the school well.

The results for each of our teams were as follows:

- Team German - 2nd place
- Team French - 3rd place
- Team Spanish - 4th place

This is hopefully the first of an annual inter-school competition, so we are always on the lookout for future languages superstars to compete next year!



MUSIC AT THE MOVIES TRIP

Our recent school trip to see the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) perform Music at the Movies at Birmingham Symphony Hall was an unforgettable experience for our students.

The concert showcased some of the most iconic film scores, bringing the magic of cinema to life through the power of a live orchestra.

From the moment the CBSO began, the students were captivated by the grandeur of the venue and the rich, immersive sound of the orchestra. The programme featured a well-balanced selection of classic and contemporary film scores, ensuring there was something for everyone.

Highlights included stirring renditions of John Williams' Star Wars and Harry Potter themes, Hans Zimmer's electrifying Pirates of the Caribbean, and the sweeping romance of James Horner's Titanic.

For many of our students, this was their first experience of a live symphony orchestra, and the impact was profound. Several commented on how hearing the music performed live made them appreciate the skill and dedication of the musicians, and some were even inspired to explore orchestral playing further.

Overall, the CBSO's Music at the Movies concert was an enriching and inspirational trip. It not only entertained but also deepened our students' understanding of film music and orchestration.

The quality of the performance, the professionalism of the musicians, and the world-class venue made for a truly memorable evening. We will certainly be looking forward to future CBSO concerts!



SCIENCE

YEAR 11 EXPLORE HEART ANATOMY

Last week, our Year 11 students took part in a fascinating heart dissection, giving them a hands-on opportunity to study mammalian anatomy.

By dissecting a pig's heart, they explored its chambers, valves, and blood vessels, gaining a deeper understanding of how blood is pumped around the body.

Although some found the experience a little squeamish at first, they showed great teamwork and curiosity throughout the session. This practical learning experience brought students' studies to life and helped them appreciate the incredible workings of the human heart.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

YEAR 7 BOYS FOOTBALL

The Year 7 boys football team made the trip over to Stratford Upon Avon School in January to represent the school in the county cup.

The team put in a good performance against a very strong Stratford team and despite things not always going their way, fought through not giving up and staying strong as a team.

This is the first year this group of students have played together and over the season they have had some good results. They have

always shown great team spirit and it has been a pleasure to take them for fixtures. Hopefully when they are next in the county cup in two years, they will still be a team and can have a good run in the competition.

GIRLS FOOTBALL TRAINING AND MATCHES



Girls football training has now started on Tuesdays after school, 3.20 - 4.30 pm.

We've been getting a great turn out of Year 7 and Year 8 students, but would love to see more Year 9 and 10 girls.

Fixtures will begin after half term and we will share the dates for these as soon as they have been organised.

We would also welcome any of our older students to coach or lead some of the sessions. If you are interested, please come to see us.
Ms Hobson and Miss Ashmore.



KS3 BOYS' RUGBY TRAINING

Mr Ford and Mr Hillman have taken the Year 7, 8 and 9 Boys' Rugby Training this term in preparation for inter school fixtures next term for both KS3 and KS4 Teams.

We have been impressed by both numbers and some boys trying out rugby for the first time. Our Year 7 team have also been invited to the prestigious KES Birmingham 7s Tournament which will be played on the first Friday back after half term. Next term will also see the School take a number of Sports Leaders to assist a Tag Rugby Primary School Tournament @St Andrews Rugby Club.



YEAR 10 BOYS FOOTBALL

A fantastic run in the ESFA Cup came to an end this week against Higham Lane.

The Year 10s lost 2-1 in a fiercely competitive game against a very talented opposition. The students made the last 16 in the country out of over 600 schools and should be very proud of their achievements this year.

They have been a pleasure to coach, both in terms of their attitude and performance levels and this is the first time they have been beaten in over two years showing great sportsmanship.



ASHLAWN BUCKS THE NATIONAL TREND FOR FEMALE ECONOMISTS

With Rachel Reeves all out to ‘kickstart’ growth in the UK economy, and President Trump’s dramatic start to his term in office imposing tariffs on China and threatening more on Mexico and Canada, A-level Economists are spoilt for choice in terms of seeing theory taught in the classroom being played out on the global stage.

When students embark on the subject, they are generally under the misconception that it is about stocks, shares and the money markets, whereas economics is about how we allocate the earth’s scarce resources among competing uses to maximise welfare.

Economics graduates are amongst the highest paid in the country and a degree can lead to a huge range of careers from business journalism, government advisors and, yes, bankers.



However, there is a HUGE gap between the number of men and women studying economics, which is a tragedy when one considers the influence economists have in our world. Professor Claudia Goldin (Nobel Economics Prize winner 2023 for her work on the gender pay gap) is quoted as saying:

“Even before students enter university, they believe Economics is a field more oriented towards finance and management, and women are less interested in these than men.

If we explained that Economics was about inequality, health, household behaviour, society, then there would be much greater balance.”

We are delighted that the take up of economics at Ashlawn amongst female students has increased this year from 7% to 46% of the cohort. You never know, the UK’s second female Chancellor of the Exchequer may be in their midst.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY - ANALYSING OTHELLO WORKSHOP

We took our Year 12 and 13 English A-level Cohorts to the RSC’s Rehearsal Rooms for a performative, analytical and “hands-on” workshop, breaking down Shakespeare’s Othello into different elements, introducing students to the play in a new, theatrical light - and even giving students the chance to work with peers to perform certain parts of the play to the group.

Students were incredibly involved and despite being pushed well outside of their usual comfort zones, were engaged with the staff at RSC and each other, and it proved to be a super productive day. We took some amazing action shots of students mid-acting and students have since done work in class around bringing the workshop and its learning into our classrooms.



PROTECT: SUPPORTING SIXTH FORM WELLBEING

We're pleased to introduce **PROTECT** - a discreet sexual health service for our Sixth Form students in partnership with **Connect Health**.

It provides free condoms and confidential pregnancy testing, helping students make safe, informed choices.

Our staff have been fully trained to offer this support in a professional and non-judgmental way. This isn't about encouraging anything - just making sure students have the right information when they need it!

Year 12 and 13 have already had their first Connect Health presentation this term to introduce the initiative to them.



ASPIRATIONS SOAR ON UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE TRIP

Year 11 and 12 Ashlawn students had a fantastic trip to University of Cambridge this term, immersing themselves in the academic atmosphere of one of the world's top institutions.

This invaluable experience aimed to raise aspirations and encourage our students to aim high in their academic journeys.

They left feeling motivated and excited about their potential next steps.

It was a brilliant day for everyone involved, providing incredible insight into everyday undergraduate life at Cambridge.



QUESTIONS? OUR PASTORAL TEAM IS HAPPY TO HELP!

PEER MENTORING

Student Leadership and Community is an integral part of our Sixth Form

We are so proud of our Sixth Form students who take time every Wednesday to mentor younger students in Years 7-11.

They might give them tips for their revision, support with friendship issues or help them with maths and English revision.

In turn, the Sixth Formers develop their team working, empathy and listening skills as well as acting as role models for the younger students, really encapsulating the Ashlawn CARE values. It is one example of how proud we are of our Sixth Form students.



Paddox

READING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCHEME WITH PADOX PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year 12 and 13 have been visiting Paddox school once a week, reading to younger students in Reception to Year 3.

The younger pupils at Paddox have enjoyed their time with their reading buddies and look forward to seeing them each week.

This has been a great opportunity for our Sixth Form students, as this has allowed them to develop their leadership and communications skills as well as giving back to the community.



SIXTH FORM CHINESE NEW YEAR

A huge thank you to everyone who attended, participated, and helped bring the Year of the Dragon to life. Your enthusiasm, energy, and dedication made the event a truly special celebration!

Students took part in a range of activities, from dragon mask and lantern making to calligraphy workshops, origami, and more.

A special shoutout to Charlie, who somehow managed to run three stalls at once - talk about multitasking! And a huge thank you to Easahn, who did a fantastic job ensuring everything ran smoothly on the security side. We couldn't have done it without you!

The festival was a fantastic way to kick off the year and we're already gearing up for Valentine's Day Festival!



ASHLAWN
SCHOOL



At Ashlawn we...

CARE

COMMUNITY

We value every member of the Ashlawn family and treat each other with kindness and compassion.

ASPIRATION

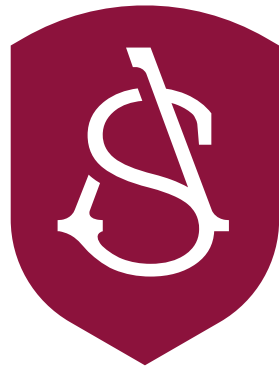
We work hard and make the most of exciting and challenging learning experiences, in order to open up the world around us and achieve our dreams.

RESPECT

We respect each other and our differences. We respect our learning environment and appreciate everyone's right to the best possible experience at Ashlawn.

EXCELLENCE

We are committed to trying our best and achieving the highest standards in our love of learning, so that we can be the best versions of ourselves.



ASHLAWN
SCHOOL

Our best, always

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