

Year 7 Welcome Pack



Proud to be part of the
Transforming Lives
EDUCATIONAL TRUST



Ashlawn School

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Welcome to Year 7 2023-2024 students

Welcome to Ashlawn School!

I hope that you are excited to be joining our school community in September because we are really looking forward to welcoming you as the newest members of the Ashlawn community. Ashlawn is a very large school compared to where you are now and this brings with it an enormous range of opportunities. You will be studying a host of new subjects with a wide variety of teachers who also work hard to provide you with a superb number of extra-curricular activities including music, art, drama and sports clubs.

There are also plenty of opportunities to make new friends because we take in students from a variety of feeder schools in and around Rugby. We encourage all of our students to become actively involved in school life at Ashlawn. You will all be valuable members of our school community and you are also a large part of its future; we look forward to seeing your contribution towards it.

Ashlawn School has strong traditions of effort and achievement in both academic and extra-curricular areas. We expect all of our students to engage with our school values of Community, Aspiration, Respect and Excellence. We are looking forward to supporting you, as you work hard to fulfil your potential here. We hope that you will take pride in joining our community and will want to make your own special contribution to our reputation.

This handbook is to help you understand what Ashlawn is like and what we expect from you. There is a great deal of information here and reading through it should help you to start positively, settle quickly and grow greatly in confidence when you join us in September.

We are looking forward to getting to know you and working with you to ensure that your time with us is happy and successful.

Fern Linnell - Head of Year 7

INDUCTION AT ASHLAWN SCHOOL

We are really excited to be able to run our usual induction programme this year. This includes visits to primary schools, induction days and summer school. We have collated a whole host of information about each and every one of our students and so that we feel we are well prepared to support every member of our year group in order to ensure a positive transition period in September.

Our summer school programme and induction days aim to allow students to:

- become familiar with the school building.
- meet students who will be joining us from other schools.
- be given information which helps them adapt quickly to secondary education.
- have any queries or concerns addressed and resolved.
- meet some of the Ashlawn teaching staff.

We are really looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students to our school. We hope that our students are excited about having their first taste of life at Ashlawn School during our induction days and summer school.

TRANSITION & WHAT TO EXPECT IN KEY STAGE 3

Key Stage 3 is the first time that you will study different subjects with specialist teachers.

You will study a range of subjects including, English language, English literature, mathematics, science (biology, chemistry, physics), foreign languages, history, geography, art, drama, music, design technology, computing, physical education and P.S.H.E.

Teachers at Ashlawn will already have some information about what you have achieved in Primary School and some information on your particular skills and talents.

You will meet up with your form and be registered by your tutor each day. Your form tutor should be the first person to go to if you have any worries about school life.

Transition Activities

Emailed out alongside this welcome pack is a pack of non subject specific transition activities which will help you feel more prepared for secondary school. Please complete these activities and hand them in to your form tutor on your first day in September. There is also an optional fun bingo challenge for you to take part in, there will be certificates and prizes awarded for your participation.

You will also be able to access copies of these documents on the school website under 'Parents' then 'Welcome to Ashlawn School' then 'Welcome Year 7'.

**AT ASHLAWN WE WANT ALL STUDENTS TO
REACH THEIR POTENTIAL**

POSITIVE ATTITUDE

OFFER YOUR IDEAS IN CLASS

TRY YOUR BEST AT ALL TIMES

ENGAGE IN YOUR LEARNING

NEVER GIVE UP – BE RESILIENT

TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY THAT ARISES

IMPROVE AND MASTER NEW SKILLS

ALWAYS RESPOND TO FEEDBACK GIVEN

LISTEN CAREFULLY

Core Uniform

- Burgundy Ashlawn School logo polo shirt
- Black, smart, tailored trousers (please note that trousers should be full length, in a fabric suitable for formal wear and with a button and a zip. Trousers that have rivets or stitching like jeans are not permitted. Leggings are not permitted)
- Ashlawn School logo knitted jumper/cardigan (if student wishes to wear a jumper)
- Plain black leather or leather look shoes or trainers
- Coats and outer garments should be black, dark grey or navy blue

Optional Uniform Items:

- Ashlawn School logo pleated skirt
- Ashlawn School logo shorts

Please note students can only wear a pleated Ashlawn skirt with logo or shorts with a logo. No other skirts or shorts will be permitted

PE Kit:

- Ashlawn School PE t-shirt
- Ashlawn School PE shorts/skort
- Royal blue socks
- Trainers

Jewellery:

- Students may wear one pair of stud earrings
- Students may wear a watch
- Rings, bracelets and necklaces are not permitted however negotiation will be considered for religious purposes
- Nose studs and facial piercings are not permitted

Hair:

- Hair should be of a colour that is considered natural
- Longer hair will need to be tied back for PE and other practical activities and should not cover eyes during lessons

Cosmetics:

- Make up should be subtle
- Nails should be of a length suitable for all activities and neutral in colour.

Frequently Asked Questions

What do I do if I am upset?

Talk to your form tutor, class teacher, Head of Year or Key Stage Leader. Every member of staff wants you to feel happy, safe and confident in school and we will always do our best to help you if you are ever feeling upset.

What do I do if I forget my lunch or have no money on my parent pay account?

If you realise this when you first arrive at school you can let your form tutor know and they will make sure that you are able to get some food throughout the day. If you realise later on in the day then you can come and find your Head of Year or Key Stage Leader who will also be able to help. Our student services team will also be on hand to help out if for any reason you couldn't find your Head of Year or Key Stage Leader. We will always ensure that you get something to eat and drink.

What do I do if I forget my homework?

If you realise when you first arrive at school then you should talk to your form tutor about this and they will be able to reassure you and support you in taking the right steps. If you don't realise until the lesson when your work is due then raise your hand and ask if you can talk to your teacher about your homework at the end of the lesson. When you discuss your homework with your class teacher you can agree an extension date for it to be completed by and then hand it in by that date.

What do I do if I get lost?

Our site is quite large but you will quickly get used to where all of your lessons are. It usually takes most students about 2-3 weeks to feel like they know their way around well. Your form tutor will support you in getting to know the school site and you will find that your peers are a great source of support too. If you are lost on the way to a lesson you can ask any member of staff that you see to help direct you to where you need to be. Our students are also incredibly friendly and helpful and they really enjoy helping to show you where you should be going so there is never any need to panic. You will probably get lost more than once and that is OK!

Will I get in trouble if I am late?

Attendance and punctuality are so important and we do want you to be on time when you start the school day and also when you start each lesson throughout the day. However, we also know that you are likely to get lost during your first few weeks at school. If you arrive to a lesson late you should always apologise and ask where the teacher would like you to sit. Your teacher may talk to you about your lateness during the lesson or at the end of the lesson to make sure that you are OK. You should do your best to always be on time. If you are late and arrive after registration ends you should sign in at student services.

What do I do if I can't do my classwork or homework?

If you are struggling with your classwork then you should raise your hand and wait to speak to the teacher or teaching assistant who will be more than happy to help you. Sometimes, it is also appropriate to ask the person who is sitting next to you for some support and your teachers will often encourage you to do this. If you are struggling with homework then you should email your subject teacher using your Gmail account or go and see them in person to ask for help. You should always ask for help in advance of the deadline so that you can receive the help that you

need and still hand your homework in on time.

What do I do if I can't find my friends?

If you can't find your friends then you should come and find your Head of Year and they will do their very best to help you! To avoid this situation you should arrange meeting places with your friends so that you can all stay together.

What do I do if I am worried about another student?

Talk to your form tutor, class teacher, Head of Year or Key Stage Leader. Every member of staff in school is responsible for looking after you all and we will do our very best to listen to your worries and then help with whatever the problem may be.

What do I do if I lose something?

It is really important that you keep your belongings with you at all times. You should never leave belongings somewhere and then come back to get them later – even if you are outside playing! It is also important to make sure that all of your belongings are easily identified as being yours. This means adding labels to your clothes, shoes and bag. Please don't just write your first name on your belongings as we have lots of students in school who share the same first name. Please ensure that your full name is on all of your items. If you do lose something our staff and students are really good at handing in any items that get found. Lost items are kept at student services and so checking here is the first thing to do. If the student services team do not have your lost item do not panic as it may just mean that it hasn't been handed in yet. If a teacher has found your item they may not have had a chance to drop it off straight away! If your lost item is not in reception then you should also see your form tutor and they will do their best to help. The vast majority of lost items end up being found and returned to their owners.

Are there any clubs that I can join?

Yes, there are lots of clubs that you can join and activities that you can get involved in. Clubs are available throughout the school and they cover a range of interests so there is something for everyone. Joining clubs is a great way of making new friends and you should take advantage of as many opportunities as you can to attend them when you join us at Ashlawn School. On the whole, the clubs offered in school are free of charge and do not require any letter of permission to attend. You simply need to turn up and make sure that you have made your parents aware that you will be home later than usual!

How does lunch work?

Lunch can be pre-ordered using ParentPay or you can bring a packed lunch to school. You should not bring any money to school with you as you will not need it! Whether you have purchased food or have brought a packed lunch there is a large seating area where you can have your lunch and chat with your friends. When you finish your lunch you should put all of your litter in the bin and then you can go outside and socialise with your friends and get some fresh air!

Do I need to worry about detentions?

No. Teachers do not enjoy setting detentions for students, they much prefer being able to issue positive learning points and to praise you for your superb approach towards learning. As long as you are doing your best and meeting the school's expectations then there is no reason that you should be worrying about receiving a detention. Many students go through their secondary school lives without receiving a detention and this will likely also be the case for many of you. If you do receive a detention then you must learn from the situation so that it

doesn't happen again.

What do I do if I am feeling unwell?

Talk to your teacher and let them know how you are feeling. They will decide whether they think you should go and see our medical team who will then look after you and call home if necessary. If you feel unwell at break or lunch you should find your Head of Year.

Can I bring my phone to school?

Yes, but this needs to be turned off and kept in the bottom of your bag. If you are found to be using your mobile phone during the school day or it is seen in your pocket, then it will be confiscated and stored at reception for your parents/carers to collect.

It can also be switched off and handed in to your head of year at the gate as soon as you arrive in school. It will be kept safe and can then be collected from student services at the end of the day.

What do I do if I miss my bus after school?

This is very unlikely to happen but if it did happen you should go to student services who will be able to support you.

While the above questions and answers are by no means exhaustive, hopefully they address a number of common concerns that you may have. If you have any other questions you can email them in to us and we will reply as soon as we can.

Messages from our Students

Before I started at Ashlawn School, I was in the same boat as everyone else; scared and nervous, but to this day I still don't know what I was worried about! Right from induction day I made lots of new friends and it was the beginning of the best part of my life. All the adults are so welcoming and the students and classmates are so kind. The classes here are so fun too! DT and Drama are my personal favourites. The food at lunch is super scrumptious and a big step up from the primary school dinners. The Monday assemblies cover interesting things like the holocaust and National Languages days. Overall, everything here is perfect and I couldn't have asked to get into a better school.

Alyssia

My experience at Ashlawn has been such a journey! I remember on induction day that I was really nervous to start secondary school because it's a really big step from primary. I thought that I was going to get lost in the school so many times because it was enormous! Luckily, the staff are really kind and helpful and even the older students would be willing to help you, which I think is really nice. Yes, you will get lost at least once but you'll get to know the school within no time, so don't panic! Also, the lessons at Ashlawn are so interesting; you get to do Chemistry, Physics and even Biology! You even get to do practicals! If there is ever something that you don't understand in class, you can ask the teachers and they will help you (all of my teachers are so kind!). If you ever

have any issues with anything at school, there are so many people you can talk to! Your Head of Year, your form tutor or any of your teachers! Overall, I have had an amazing time at Ashlawn and have made so many friends. You don't need to worry about making friends because it's such a big school! There will be so many people that will want to be your friend! Anyway, good luck!

Jaslyn

I came to Ashlawn from Coventry, leaving my friends behind. I came in with no friends at all. During the first four days I started to make friends and in my first real lesson I was allocated my seat and the person I sat next to became my best friend! I have made many friends and Ashlawn has amazing teachers who are extremely nice. I'm really glad I chose this school. I feel really happy with the way they do things; they challenge me and I have learnt many things.

Gurpal

I am excited to learn, because Ashlawn has great teachers, lessons and so much to offer. I can never choose what clubs to do, because there are so many clubs to choose from! If you want to make lots of friends, you just have to be you and the first two days give you a chance to learn about the interesting personalities and lifestyles of other people in your classes.

Donnie

Once you have settled into Ashlawn, you will realise how easy it is to navigate around and will notice that the school isn't as massive as thought at first glance. It is also an awesome environment to make new friends and meet great and encouraging teachers. Whenever you have a problem, you will always have someone to speak to, and you won't have to feel alone or unsafe. This is why Ashlawn really is a great school and I gladly welcome you to it.

Rianna