



Ashlawn School Newsletter

Friday 3rd February 2023

TL Proud to be part of the
Transforming Lives
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Website: www.ashlawn.org.uk

Email: info@ashlawn.org.uk

Tel: 01788 573425

Message from Associate Principal

Thank you to all of the parents and guardians who have written to us expressing an interest in becoming a member of the Parent's Forum. If you are still considering this I would like to remind you that next Friday is the deadline for letting us know so that we can start to plan for the first meeting shortly after half term.

Bonnie and Clyde is next week, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Please buy a ticket and support all of our students in a celebration of their incredible talents in dance, music and drama.

I have been incredibly impressed by the amazing opportunities that our students have already had so far this year as part of our extra-curricular provision:

Fencing, Gardening Club, Xmas Cross Stitch, Dance Club, KS3 Handball Club, Dance, Model Parliament, Creative writing, Japan Club, Science Club, History of the British Empire, History through film, Knitting Club, Irish Dancing, Astronomy club, Bike Club, Tycoon Enterprise, Spanish enrichment, German reading and German Culture, Music Tech, Vox, Guitar, Keyboard, Jazz and Concert bands, Jigsaw puzzles, Xmas wreath making, Board game club, Maths Challenge, British Sign Language, Tabletop wargaming, Dungeons and Dragons, Yoga for beginners, Neurodiversity, Girls Rugby, Chess club, preparing for University.

This is by far the most opportunities that students have had in a school that I have seen, and is testament to the staff passion for sharing their own interests to benefit the students at Ashlawn. At Maths challenge alone this week, over 100 students attended and took part in this national competition.

Thank you for your consideration and support on the day of action on Wednesday. While this was a difficult day, our Year 11, 12 and 13 worked well in school and lost as little education time as possible. I will keep you briefed on our strategy for the next day of action, scheduled for the 1st March.

Our plans for addressing the judgements raised by Ofsted have started. We are currently reviewing our behaviour and attendance systems to reflect the need to improve the climate around our school and the attendance of students to school. The challenge of raising the aspirations of all of our students is being developed through our staff training programme and we have engaged experts in the national field of SEND to support rapid progress in removing the barriers to learning faced by this cohort. The CEO, Mr Higham, and I are currently working on a format to share the progress being made and the impact of that progress.

As we enter the weekend I was reminded of a quote from Pele, who as you know passed away recently. Coming from challenging beginnings he became an icon in his field. He once said:
"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do."

Have a great weekend,

Paul Brockwell



Dates for the Diary

Monday 6th February

Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

Tuesday 7th February

Year 9 GCSE Options
Information Parent Forum -
Online

Tues 7th & Wed 8th February

Year 9 HPV2 Vaccinations

Wed 8th - Fri 10th February

Bonnie & Clyde Performance,
East Hall

Thursday 16th February

Year 9 Online Parent
Consultations



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This week's college winner is **Evans** - well done!



World Book Day, Thursday 2 March

After the huge success of the last two years, we are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day together again at Ashlawn.

The week will be filled with fun activities, virtual events and competitions for everyone to take part in. You can also look forward to seeing your teachers and other staff around the school dressed up as famous literary characters. **We are also really excited to announce that we will be taking part in Read for Good's Readathon challenge;** students will have the opportunity to raise money for the local children's hospital through nurturing their love of reading - more information to follow. We really hope students will join in the fun as well by either getting dressed up as their favourite character from literature, or taking part in all the exciting tasks that will be happening.



ART OF THE WEEK

Celebration of Year 9 oil painting of a Kiwi. This example is by Holly and it shows her great control of the media. We congratulate her and are very proud of her first ever oil painting.



Year 9 Parent Consultations

Year 9 Parent Consultations will be taking place on Thursday 16th February from 4pm to 7.30pm via Microsoft Teams. This will be your opportunity to meet your child's subject teachers on an individual basis to discuss their progress and attainment and how you can support your child at home to make further progress.

Appointment bookings will open on Thursday 9th February at 7pm. Information about how to book will be emailed to you next week. If you need any support with your Edulink login, please email admins@ashlawn.org.uk.

Year 7 Fencing Club - En garde!

Last week was the first session of the Ashlawn year 7 fencing club, hosted at Houlton School. This is the first time the sport has been offered for Ashlawn students and they returned buzzing! Due to increasing popularity, we are looking to host the club at Ashlawn in the near future. The club currently runs on Thursdays after school. If your child is interested in joining, please speak to Mr Woolley or email woolleyj@ashlawn.org.uk.



Ashlawn welcomes new arrival

A huge congratulations to Mrs Hodgson from our English Department who gave birth to a beautiful baby girl earlier this week. Both mum and baby are doing well.



Attendance Update

Attendance at school is the key to student success

Students who miss school frequently can fall behind with their work and do less well in exams. Good attendance also shows potential employers that a young person is reliable.



What the research says

Research suggests that students who attend school regularly could also be at less risk of getting involved in antisocial behaviour or crime. We expect all our students to attend school regularly unless they are extremely unwell or have a medical issue that they have provided evidence for.

Stage 1 Letters

This term we have sent out Stage 1 Letters to families where the attendance of their child has fallen below 90%. Less than 90% attendance means that on average the child has missed half a day of school per week.

Stage 1 Letters have been sent to remind you that it is your responsibility to ensure your child is in school. If there is a reason why they can't attend, you must let us know. Any barriers will be explored in school and an action plan will be put together to support you and your child.

Stage 2 Letters

Stage 2 Letters will be sent out this week. If you receive a Stage 2 letter this means that your child's attendance has deteriorated further since the Stage 1 Letter has been sent. This is typically over a 4 week period. This means that they are at risk of being referred to Warwickshire Attendance Service who may at some point visit your home to discuss why your child is not attending.

Supporting you

We want to work with families and we understand that sometimes teenagers can be difficult to manage at home. Please contact us if you need our support and remember that if they are not at school, it becomes more difficult for us to help. If you need any further information or help please contact your child's form tutor.



What is Ableism?

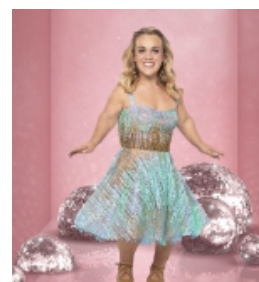
This term we have spent Tuesday form times learning about different forms of hate crime and the use of derogatory language.

Our students have asked sensible questions and held debates and discussions surrounding this topic.

Next week, we will be exploring the term 'ableism'. Ableism is the term used to describe someone who is discriminated against due to their disability.

At Ashlawn we have a number of students who have disabilities. All of these students add value to our school and show resilience and determination in making sure their disability doesn't define them.

Next week, our students will examine the success that many well known celebrities have achieved whilst living with a disability.



Stephen Hawking was diagnosed at the age of 22 with motor neurone disease and was confined to a wheelchair for the remainder of his life.

Elton John has lived his life with epilepsy and is unable to drive.

Keira Knightley is severely dyslexic.

Ellie Simmons was born with dwarfism.

David Blunkett was born with blindness and has had a guide dog by his side every day.



On Tuesday, we will remind all of our students that name calling, offensive mimicry and unwelcome jokes about a disability will be dealt with very seriously. These include:

- Physical intimidation or attack
- Being non-co-operative with people because of their ability
- Making assumptions about people because of their ability
- Having false or low expectations because of their ability



If your child witnesses a discriminatory act then they must report it to their Form Tutor or Welfare and Behaviour Lead. Follow the link to report it online: [Bullying and Prejudicial Incident Report](#)



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Children's Mental Health Week

February 6th to 12th



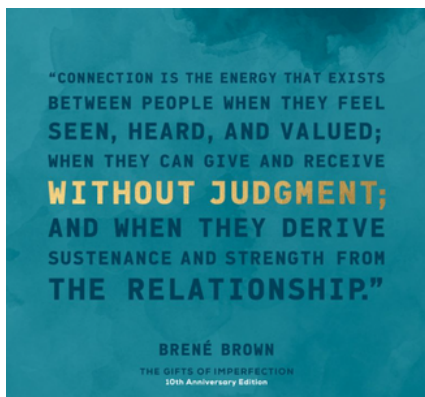
Children's Mental Health Week is organised by the charity Place2be and takes place from the 6th to 12th February. **This year's theme, 'Let's Connect' encourages children, young people and adults to look at how we can make meaningful connections.**

1 in 6 children have a diagnosable mental health difficulty, so it is important to help each other out when we can. In fact, 1 in 4 of us will experience mental health issues at some point in our lifetime.

Human beings thrive in communities and are hardwired for connection. It is this connection that is vital for our well-being and our own survival. When we have healthy connections to family, friends and others, this can support our mental health and our sense of well-being. Yet when our need for rewarding social connections is not met, we can sometimes feel isolated and lonely, which can have a negative impact on our mental health.



This year's Mental Health week is about creating meaningful connections for all. We are encouraging our young people to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways. **There are many ways to bond with others, and it is important to find what works best for the individual.** When we consider them, it can make us realise how many different types of connection there are and how they can enhance people's well-being or conversely, cause it harm.



If we could understand the connection between how people think, feel and behave, and how those three things are connected, we could achieve a greater understanding of both ourselves and others. This year's theme encourages children to explore how they can cultivate meaningful connections in their lives to support their mental health and well-being.



Hands off Policy

Why has this policy been introduced?

This underpins our core value of respect whereby children have the right for their personal space to be respected by all. The purpose of 'hands off' is to stop pushing, jostling and play fighting. All of these cause students to feel unsafe in our school. Hands off generates a calm school where children can move around the corridors and play at break times safely.

How does this work in practice?

The policy is to educate our young people on how to interact in a non physical and safe manner. It is not about sanctioning young people, however there may be instances when a sanction would need to be used, for example, on a busy corridor if a student deliberately pushes other students. This is clearly dangerous and the behaviour points system and associated sanctions would then be used. There would also be a follow up session with the student and the Welfare and Behaviour Lead to discuss safe behaviour in school.



Hands Off!

Are all forms of physical contact banned?

Students and parents have asked about hugging and shaking hands. Teachers in corridors do not know whether the hug or handshake is welcome by both parties, so 'hands off' to avoid any form of bullying is the safest option for all our young people.

 Coventry and Warwickshire

Parent & Carer Webinar:

How To Talk To Your Child About Mental Health

Tuesday 7th February 2023, 2-3pm
Monday 27th February 2023, 6.30-7.30pm
Sunday 26th March 2023, 10-11am



To find out more and register, visit:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parentcarer-workshop-how-to-talk-to-your-child-about-mental-health-tickets-524653702347?aff=odcleoeventsincollecti&keep_tld=1



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Ashlawn Out of Ashes presents:

BONNIE

Sam Downey

Performances:
Wednesday 8th, Thursday 9th and
Friday 10th of February
7pm East Hall
Tickets on parentpay
Adults - £10 | Concession - £8

Joe Hutson, Isobel, Joe Keenan, Matilda Ash

& CLYDE

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR

Maths/Logic Puzzle

The three little pigs have built a house together. Obviously the big bad wolf wants to blow the house down.

From previous experience, the big bad wolf knows that he will need 10 wolves working 15 hours a day for 5 working weeks (Mon-Fri) to bring the house down.

As the big bad wolf doesn't like leaving things to chance, he is very meticulous with his planning. He wants to start the job at 9am and be done in time for his tea at 3pm on the same day. How many wolves will he need to take down the house of the three little pigs in one day? Email your answers to normanr@ashlawn.org.uk

Last week's answer was: the scarf cost £20 and the shirt cost £60 before the sale.

Congratulations to Elliana T and Rianna M who got the correct answer, and Manav L, who was close!

Menu week commencing 6 February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sausage, mash, onion gravy & vegetables	Chicken Milanese with spaghetti & tomato sauce	Roast with gravy, potatoes & vegetables	Sweet & sour chicken bites, rice & sauce	Fish, chips & mushy peas
Veg sausage, mash, onion gravy & vegetables	Quorn Milanese with spaghetti & tomato sauce	Quorn with vegetables & potatoes	Quorn sweet & sour with rice	Veggie fingers & chips
Chicken burger	Sausage roll	Cheese & ham toastie	Chicken & bacon baguette	Crunchy chicken wrap
Jacket potato & beans	Pasta king – meat or vegetable	Jacket potato & cheese	Pasta king – meat or vegetable	Jacket potato & cheese
Cheese salad /BBQ chicken sandwich	Chicken bacon mayo / cheese & cucumber sandwich	Chicken & stuffing / cheese & tomato sandwich	Chicken, bacon & mayo / egg & cress sandwich	Sweet chilli chicken / cheese & tomato sandwich