



Ashlawn School Newsletter

Friday 3 March 2023



Proud to be part of the
Transforming Lives
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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Message from Associate Principal

We have had a calm return after the half term. Students have returned to their learning and have been focused on settling back into school. It was also lovely to see all of the improvements that have been made to the environment that our Ashlawn family uses. The entire languages department has been given a fresh coat of paint and new blinds have made a huge difference to the learning spaces in that area, while the canteen has also been repainted. In the coming weeks, additional areas of the school are being invested into, with new furnishings and decorating. We want our staff and students to feel pride in where they come to school and these are the first steps towards improving the environment.

World Book Day was a great success with many students and staff getting into the spirit of the day by dressing up as characters from their favourite books. This celebration of reading, which was shared across the country in many schools, is part of our overall literacy strategy in support of students reading for pleasure. My thanks go to all of those staff that organised this enjoyable day.

We have been really privileged this week to welcome a number of visitors to the school, a professional actor from Squire Stage Combat came to meet our drama students, while our local policing team visited on Thursday to discuss how we can work together to educate students in the law and how it impacts their role in being part of their community. Further details on this initiative to follow.

We are extremely excited to have received the list of Year 6 students who will be joining us in September. Over the coming weeks, we will be contacting students and their parents to discuss the schedule of events that they can take part in before they arrive in September, to help them feel part of the Ashlawn family. I look forward to meeting them all soon.

I found this quote from George Bernard Shaw inspirational this week as I continue to reflect on what we want our Ashlawn family to look like:

"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live."

Have a good weekend all.

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

Paul Brockwell



1156



1064



1019



979



925

World Book Day at Ashlawn!

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
2 MARCH 2023

“Books are the plane, the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey. They are home.”— Anna Quindlen, How Reading Changed My Life

We would like to say a huge thank you to all students and staff at Ashlawn for their effort and support for World Book Day 2023. There were some amazing costumes and it was lovely to see so many people getting involved.

World Book Day changes lives through promoting and encouraging our young people to love books. Our mission is to promote reading for pleasure, offering every child and young person the opportunity to have a book of their own, giving them the chance to discover the many different worlds that are out there, hiding beneath the pages of the millions of books available to us all.

Have a look at some of the incredible outfits. Who is your favourite?!

Miss Rogers

Second in English and Head of Media Studies



You can read about an exciting opportunity to design a National Book Token and find a copy of the World Book Day £1 Book Token towards the end of this newsletter.

Year 11 Residential Trip



Before half term, we took 124 Year 11 students to Dearne Valley, a state-of-the-art outdoor activity centre in South Yorkshire.

It was a delight to see students engage in activities that pushed them out of their comfort zone. Their courage was tested to the limit on the high ropes “leap of faith”, and communication and teamwork were vital to success for the blindfold obstacle course. On the zip line, students had to not only focus on the ziplines but also tasked with passing a ball backwards and forwards whilst flying through the air!

In the evening, students drank hot chocolate around a camp fire and enjoyed music and dancing.

Everyone had a fantastic time and students developed abilities to collaborate with their peers outside of their normal friendship groups. A huge well done to all of the students who went and thank you to the staff as well.



ART OF THE WEEK

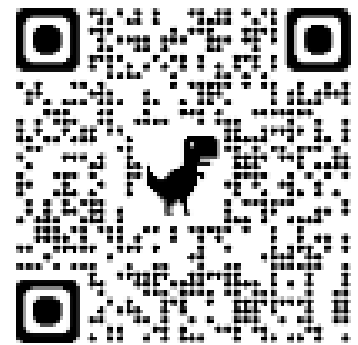


Bake Sale



To celebrate the end of National Heart Month, Team Health and social care held a charity cake sale to raise funds for Birmingham Children’s Hospital Charity, Cardiac services.

13 babies each day in the UK are born with a congenital heart Defect (CHD) and only half are diagnosed during antenatal scans. Our son was one of those antenatally diagnosed during routine scans. We are heart parents and know full well the rollercoaster that children and parents go through, we also know we are not alone.



If you have been affected by Congenital Heart Disease either directly or indirectly I can recommend Little Hearts Matter. Little Hearts Matter is the only charity in the UK dedicated to supporting and empowering anyone affected by the diagnosis of a single ventricle heart condition – or half a working heart. We support families along every step of their journey, from initial diagnosis, through treatments and into life at home.

If you wish to make a donation, please scan the QR code above. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your support. Team Ashlawn have been AMAZING!

Thank you,

Mrs McHale and team Health and social care.



Who is Andrew Tate?



You may have seen this name pop up in the news, or you may have heard about him from your children. Find out who he is, why he's in the news, the risks he poses and how to talk about him at home.

Who is Andrew Tate?

- Social media influencer with over 5 million followers on Twitter
- Former professional kickboxer
- Previous Big Brother contestant

Why is he in the news?

In 2022, Andrew Tate was banned from YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok due to his controversial and misogynistic (hatred and discrimination against women) posts. In December 2022, he was arrested in Romania along with his brother on suspicion of human trafficking, organised crime and rape.

How does this affect the students in our school?

Andrew Tate, sometimes referred to as the 'king of misogyny', is a famous and influential figure on social media, even after being banned. He draws a lot of attention to his extreme wealth, luxury lifestyle and possessions, such as his expensive cars.

Children may still see his content (as other people can still share his posts) and may believe that acting and thinking like he does will lead to fame, fortune and success.

He promotes ideas such as:

- Men are more important and more powerful than women
- Violence against woman is okay
- Men shouldn't show emotion

He has said things like:

- I think the women belong to the man”
- “[Women are] intrinsically lazy”
- “[There is] no such thing as an independent female”
- “Depression isn't real”
- “The hallmark of a real man is controlling himself, controlling his emotions, and acting appropriately regardless of how he feels”
- We know our students are talking about Andrew Tate, and boys in particular are being influenced and ‘groomed’ by his views, with concerns that his power and influence could lead to radicalisation and violence against women. Girls are also in danger of accepting that what he says about women is true (i.e. that they're worth less than men).

What can you do as parents?

We are talking about topics raised by Andrew Tate in school through our Personal Development Program, PSHE and Humanities. However, children are less likely to listen to influencers such as Andrew Tate if they are having similar conversations reinforced at home.

We recommend you:

1. **Read recent news articles about Andrew Tate**, if you're not already familiar with him (you can find some in the ‘Sources’ box below).
2. **Ask your child what they're getting up to online** – show genuine interest, don't judge them or tell them what they should and shouldn't be doing. Children are more likely to share if they feel you're interested, rather than trying to check up on them.
3. **Have open discussions about Andrew Tate** – don't tell your child how to think, but question their thinking and understanding. Ask if they believe what Andrew Tate says, for example his comments that women “belong” to men, and how that might make the women in their lives feel, or they themselves feel. The charity Bold Voices have a great toolkit to help with this, which you can find in the ‘Sources’ box below.
4. **Be role models** – encourage your child to be open with their emotions. Teach them that it's okay to cry if you're sad. Show respect for women and girls, and encourage your child to model this behaviour.

If you wish to talk to a DSL about this topic then please contact safeguarding@ashlawn.org.uk.



Sources

- Andrew Tate's appeal to Birmingham schoolboys 'looking for direction', BBC News
- Andrew Tate toolkit, Bold Voices

Noticeboard

Year 10 Face-to-Face Parent Consultations - Bookings Open

Bookings are now open for Year 10 face-to-face Parent Consultation appointments, taking place on Thursday 9th March in school, from 4.15pm to 7.15pm. To book, log in to your Edulink account and click on the Parents' Evening menu icon. Appointments are 5 minutes and are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

The booking system will close at 7pm on Monday 6th March. If you need any support with your Edulink login, please email adminservices@ashlawn.org.uk. For any other queries relating to the Parent Consultations please email peakej@ashlawn.org.uk.

Students on site after school

We would like to take this opportunity to ask that parents remind their children that they should only remain in school if they are participating in a supervised enrichment activity. Students are not permitted to remain in school to use any facilities without an adult. There have been particular concerns that students are trying to remain on site to use the basketball courts. Students have already been reminded of this by their Heads of Year. Thank you for your support.

Menu W/C 6th March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cheese burger & criss cross potatoes	Chilli & nachos	Roast of the day with gravy & vegetables	Sweet & sour chicken bites, rice & sauce	Fish, chips & mushy peas
Macaroni cheese & garlic bread	Vegetarian Chilli & nachos	Quorn with vegetables & potatoes	Sweet & sour Quorn with rice	Veggie fingers and chips
Fish finger bap	Mediterranean flatbread	Bacon, cheese & tomato panni	Cheese & ham toastie	Chicken pate burger
Jacket potato & tuna	Pasta king – meat or vegetable	Jacket potato & tuna	Pasta king – meat or vegetable	Jacket potato & beans
Bacon, lettuce & tomato / cheese sandwich	Chicken & ham / Tuna & cucumber	Ham salad / egg & cress sandwich	Chicken coronation / tuna & cucumber sandwich	Ham salad / cheese salad sandwich

DESIGN A NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN COMPETITION

NATIONAL BOOK tokens

It wouldn't be World Book Day without National Book Tokens' **DESIGN A NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN** competition, the annual nationwide contest that encourages children and young people of all ages to share their creativity – and their love for books and reading – by designing their own fabulous gift cards!

The winning entrants can bag **HUNDREDS** of pounds worth of National Book Tokens for their schools – including, for the overall winner, a £10/€10 National Book Token in their winning design for every student in their class!

This year the theme of the competition is 'Choosing to read'. Young people can interpret this any way they want to celebrate and communicate the joy that comes from choosing to read, as well as choosing which books to read.

To enter, young people should design a National Book Tokens gift card with this theme in mind – and thinking about what might make their gift card appeal to customers if it was on display in a real shop.



ONE OVERALL WINNER

will get a £10/€10 gift card in their design for every student in their class*, and the opportunity for their class to visit a real bookshop, virtually or in person, to spend their National Book Tokens.

FIRST PRIZE

in each age range wins:

- £350/€380 National Book Tokens for the school
- £100/€110 National Book Tokens for the student

SECOND PRIZE

in each age range wins:

- £200/€220 National Book Tokens for the school
- £50 / €60 National Book Tokens for the student

(*Up to 35 gift cards; see terms and conditions for home-schooled students)

HOW TO ENTER

Visit worldbookday.com/competition/design-a-nbt for full details and to download the entry form.

Closing date for entries is Sunday 2 April 2023.



CHANGING LIVES THROUGH A LOVE OF BOOKS AND READING



HAPPY WORLD BOOK DAY!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT HELPING US TO GET BOOKS TO THOSE WHO NEED THEM MOST.

For up-to-date information, visit our website and follow our social media channels.

worldbookday.com #WorldBookDay



£1 Book Token

Secondary Schools (UK)

World Book Day® changes lives through a love of books and reading. Our mission is to promote reading for pleasure, offering every child and young person the chance to choose and have a book of their own. We hope you will join us in celebrating the joy of reading. Visit worldbookday.com for reading tips, videos, activities and brilliant recommendations from your favourite authors. Your **£1 book token** is available below.

	<p>VALID FROM 16 FEBRUARY – 26 MARCH 2023</p>	<p>SPONSORED BY</p>	<p>YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES: Participating retailers undertake to redeem this token as described, subject to the terms and conditions: worldbookday.com/terms-conditions</p> <p>Find your nearest participating bookseller at worldbookday.com/participating-retailers</p> <p>RETAILERS: Retailer's full terms and conditions: worldbookday.com/resources/booksellers</p> <p>PROMOTER: World Book Day is co-ordinated by World Book Day Ltd, registered charity 1079357 (England and Wales), registered company 05783095 (UK).</p>
<p>THIS IS YOUR</p>			
<p>£1 BOOK TOKEN</p>			
			<p>Take me to a bookshop. Choose your £1 book for FREE. OR use me to get £1 off any book or audiobook worth £2.99 or more or more in participating booksellers only, subject to stock availability.</p>
<p>Changing lives through a love of books and reading</p>			<p>9 930430 081007</p>
			<p>#WORLDBOOKDAY</p>

For the full list of £1 books, visit worldbookday.com/books, for full terms visit worldbookday.com/terms-conditions

Discussion Boards and Live Forums available via [Kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com) this March:



kooth
What's on Kooth in **March**

Friday 3rd March Live Forum Being together against discrimination 7.30pm - 9pm	Wednesday 8th March Live Forum Boosting confidence and resilience 7.30pm - 9pm	Tuesday 14th March Discussion Board Let's Celebrate Neurodiverse Minds!	Wednesday 22nd March Live Forum Coping with feeling left out 7.30pm - 9pm
Sunday 26th March Discussion Board Epilepsy Awareness	Wednesday 29th March Live Forum What stops you reaching out for support? 7.30pm - 9pm	Friday 31st March Live Forum Social Takeover: LGBTQIA+ 7.30pm - 9pm	

Whatever is on your mind, our team and community are here to listen.



Recruiting now Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA)



Teaching Assistants act with honesty and integrity; have strong subject knowledge, keep their knowledge and skills as teaching assistants up-to-date and are self-critical; forge positive professional relationships; and work with others in the best interests of their students.

Hourly rate:	NJC12 - NJC17
Hours:	37 per week
Work pattern:	Monday to Friday 8am-4pm
Working weeks:	Term time plus 5 days
Contract:	Permanent

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If you are interested in this job opportunity, please apply online today by downloading an application form from our website, TLET vacancies, or get in contact via careers@tlet.org.uk or call 01788 593108.

The post holder will have a shared responsibility for the safeguarding of all children and young people.



Dates for the Diary

Monday 6th March

Year 11 Assessment Week

Thursday 9 March

Year 10 Face-to-Face Parent Consultations

Thursday 16 March

Year 9 Careers Speed Dating (East Hall)