

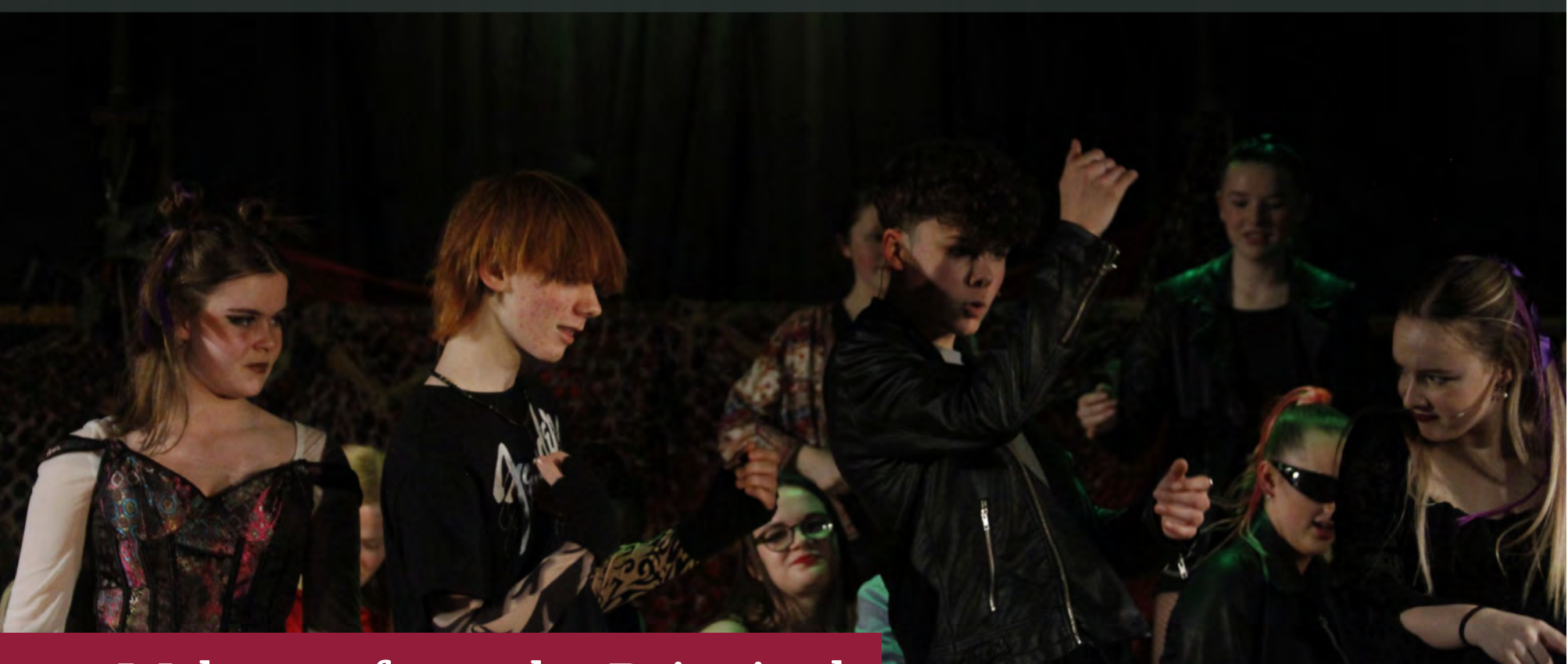
ASHLAWN

HALF TERM NEWS 2024



ASHLAWN
SCHOOL

Our best, always



Welcome from the Principal

It has been the darkest time of the year, but Ashlawn has remained a shining light of opportunity and exciting experiences for our students. I am thrilled to share with you the amazing work that has taken place this half term.

We continue to improve our facilities and anyone who has visited recently will have seen the improvements that have been made to our school reception. Our reception team have also been noted by visitors for the way in which they are made to feel welcome. We will continue, with support from our trust facilities team, to improve the environment that our community works in. We want our staff and students to feel that their learning environment is the best that it can be.

A number of key staff joined us in January and have settled into their respective roles well, providing energy and enthusiasm to their teams. Our inclusion team, that includes our support for our SEN and SEMH students, is now fully staffed and settling in well. If you have a child who has an additional need and you have not been contacted by our new SENCo, please get in touch and ask to meet with Mr Merrick and the team. We have invested significantly into

ensuring that all of our students get the support that they need and I know how keen the team is to listen to find out how we can do that.

“We Will Rock You” was a triumph and showed the commitment of staff and students to be the best they can be. My thanks and praise to all those involved, both in front of and behind the lights. The American writer and philosopher, Ralph Waldo Emerson once said: “Enthusiasm is one of the most powerful engines of success. When you do a thing, do it with all your might. Put your whole soul into it. Stamp it with your own personality. Be active, be energetic, be enthusiastic and faithful, and you will accomplish your objective. Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.”

The performance of “We Will Rock You” was a clear example of how enthusiasm and passion can create something magical.

In sport, the school continues to go from strength to strength, providing opportunities for all students to be involved in competitions and events. We also recognise the exceptional talents that many of our students demonstrate outside of school and we will continue to

celebrate these in our newsletters, our social media and in school. If your child does something outside of school that you would like us to share in our social media coverage, please let us know.

We are committed at Ashlawn to ensuring that every student, whatever their skills and interests, has the chance to be involved, both inside and outside of the classroom. Our vision is to challenge each other, every day, to improve and reach for excellence. We are so proud of our students and in them taking on board the ethos of being their very best, always. Sometimes we fall short, but we strive to always support each other in getting back up and going again.

I hope that you enjoy this half term’s newsletter. Despite only being five weeks long, has been a really busy one.

Paul Brockwell
Principal,
Ashlawn
School



SAFEGUARDING

Dealing with Prejudice and Stereotyping

A Guide for Parents

Despite the best efforts of many parents and teachers, children can still learn prejudice and practice discrimination. How does this happen?

Prejudice is learned through living in and observing a society where prejudices exist. Children's opinions are influenced by what the people around them think, do and say. Even if you as a parent are a model of tolerance, your children could still be exposed to influences such as the media where difference is not always respected or where stereotypes are reinforced.

If no one explains that this is wrong a child may grow up thinking that this is the way it is supposed to be, and that people who have been discriminated against deserve this treatment. This is why it is so important to address issues of prejudice and discrimination when and wherever they occur, to point out inequities, and to let children know such ideas and actions are unacceptable.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! WHAT CAN PARENTS DO ABOUT PREJUDICE?

Make sure your children understand that prejudice and discrimination are wrong and unfair. Make it a firm rule that no person should be excluded or teased on the basis of race, religion, nationality or ethnicity, accent, gender, disability, sexual orientation, or appearance.

Help your children become sensitive to other people's feelings. When personal conflicts occur, encourage your children to think about how the other person might be feeling.

Help your children understand the seriousness of name calling. Often, young children do not know the meaning of the words they use but they do know that the words will get a reaction from the victim. Children need to learn that discriminatory language is unacceptable and is as bad as undesirable physical behaviour.

Help children recognize instances of stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination. Point out and discuss discrimination when you see it and make sure children know how to respond to such attitudes and behaviours. Television, movies and newspapers often provide opportunities for discussion. Encouraging children's critical thinking ability may be the best antidote to prejudice.

Encourage your children to create positive change. Talk to your children about how they can respond to prejudice and discrimination. Confronting other children can be particularly hard, so children need to have a ready-made response to such instances. If another child is called a hurtful name, a friend might simply say, "Don't call him/her that. Call him/her by his/her name." Or, if your child is the victim, "Don't call me that. That's not fair." or "You don't like to be called bad names and neither do I." In all cases, try to help your child to feel comfortable in pointing out unfairness.

Take appropriate action yourself against incidences of prejudice and discrimination. For example, if other adults use bigoted

language around you or your children, you should not ignore it. Your children need to know that such behaviour is unacceptable even if it is from a familiar adult. A simple phrase will do: "Please don't talk that way around me or my children." or "That kind of joke offends me." Adults need to hold themselves to the same standards they want their children to follow.

Respond to children's questions and comments. Find out more about what your children think in order to know what misconceptions may need to be corrected. After you have determined what they think, respond with a simple, "I'm trying to understand why you said that, but I don't see it that way." Be direct. Be brief. Use language your children will understand. Examples of questions that might be addressed:

- **"Why don't people like those people? Why do people call them names?"**
One answer could be: "Some people make judgments about a whole group of people without knowing very much about them. Sometimes people are afraid of those who seem different from them and, unfortunately, they express that with name-calling and negative treatment. When people grow up with these ideas, sometimes it's hard to get rid of them."
- **"Why do those people look (or act) so funny? Why can't he walk? Why do they believe such strange things?"**
Children need to realize that all people are different. It is important to communicate to children that we often think others are different simply because they are unfamiliar to us. We don't think our own beliefs and appearances are strange or funny because they are what we're used to. Point out that we must appear different to others, too.
- **"I don't like (name of group) people."**
Such a comment needs to be handled carefully. It is important that you address such comments without making your

children become defensive. With young children, the tone of the discussion should be one of exploring their thinking. A discussion might go as follows:

"You sound as if you know all the people who are (name of group), and that you don't like any of them. You can only like or dislike people you know. If you don't know someone, you can't have a good reason for liking or not liking them. There are children you may not like to play with, but their skin colour (religion, accent, appearance, size, etc.) should have nothing to do with it." Discuss with your children the character traits they look for in their friends, such as kindness, honesty, etc.

Some definitions explained

Stereotype: A standardised mental picture about a group of people that represents an oversimplified opinion, prejudiced attitude, or uncritical judgement. A stereotype assumes that all people who share a characteristic will conform to a certain type of behaviour; stereotypes prevent us from seeing people as individuals.

Prejudice: A preconceived, irrational, sometimes unconscious thought, belief, attitude, opinion or emotion not based on facts. Prejudice can be positive as well as negative and often involve strong feelings that can be difficult to change. Prejudice is pre-judging. A person who thinks, "I don't like (name of group)," is expressing a prejudice.

Discrimination: When people act on the basis of their prejudices or stereotypes, they are discriminating. Discrimination may mean putting other people down, not allowing them to participate in activities, or denying them something they are entitled to by right and law.

If you need support with an incident then please contact your child's Head of Year and discuss your concerns with them. We are here to help!

WE WILL ROCK YOU

A message from the director...

I am thrilled to share the success of our musical 'We Will Rock You'. The energy, passions and dedication displayed by our talented students and staff have truly made this production a triumph to remember.

From the very first rehearsal to the first curtain call, every member of the cast and crew poured their heart into bringing the iconic musical to life. The hard work, commitment and enthusiasm were evident in every note sung, every dance move executed, and every scene portrayed.

The case members showcased not only their extraordinary talent, but also their resilience and teamwork. 'We Will Rock You' demanded a fusion of singing, dancing and acting skills. The memories created during this production will undoubtedly be cherished for years to come.

Thank you for your unwavering support and being part of this unforgettable adventure. I am incredibly proud of what we've accomplished together, and I look forward to many more successful productions in the future.

Rock on!

Mrs. Pickering
Subject Lead - Dance and Performing Arts



ASHLAWN'S ELITE TRAMPOLINE STAR

Huge congratulations to Isabelle Montgomery in Year 9 who has qualified to the National British Schools Trampoline finals this term to represent Ashlawn at Elite level. Isabelle is a nationally ranked competitor in her sport, and we are very proud of her success and wish her good luck and all the best in her upcoming competition in March.



READY, SET, BAKE!

Join our **LGBT+ Bake Off** on Monday 26th February! Whip up your most fabulous cake, cupcake or muffin creation to represent **LGBT+ month** and bring it in on Monday 26th February ready to impress our judges! Will yours be the **Ashlawn Bake Off showstopper?**

Bring your bake in Monday 26th Feb for the judges.



Competition

BAKE A CAKE, CUPCAKE OR MUFFINS TO REPRESENT LGBT+ MONTH

ART

Happy New Year from the Art Department! We are thrilled to share some exciting updates and achievements this term so far from our talented students...

Firstly, a warm welcome to Mrs. Jatta, who has settled into the team well and has been an inspiration for our students and a ray of light in the art department. I would like to give a heartfelt thanks for her dedication to her teaching so far and guiding students and challenging them with their creative endeavours this term. We are pleased to have Mrs. Jatta on board, with her extensive experience and expertise, particularly with supporting the sixth form students through their exams.

Sixth Form – We are immensely proud to commend our Year 13 students for their exceptional hard work and dedication in Unit 1 and their mock exams. Staff have consistently commented on the remarkable talent and work ethic demonstrated by our Year 13 cohort. Sincere congratulations to them all for their outstanding achievements. Their commitment is truly commendable, and we look forward to witnessing their continued growth and success as individuals and artists for the few remaining weeks left in school. It has been a peaceful and smooth end to Unit 1 for us and testament to Year 13 for this.

We are also very proud of our Year 12 students who are transitioning into the next phase of their artistic journey in their personal investigations. It is good to see them begin to immerse themselves in their projects and find their own flair now and personal strengths. Looking forward to seeing this manifest and for them to find their own way in both photoshoots and artworks. Also, big thanks to Ms. Kaur (English Teacher) for sharing her passion for photography and helping some of our students in using analogue cameras.

GCSE – Our Year 11 artists and photographers have hit the ground running in Unit 2. They are channelling their creativity and honing their skills and confidence as they start their new projects. It's inspiring to witness their enthusiasm and commitment to pushing the boundaries...and take a big leap of faith for their final couple of months. We have no doubt that their artworks will be thought-provoking as initial thoughts and ideas are fabulous so far! Lots of positive conversations at parents evening and it was lovely to meet so many Year 11 parents from our Art cohort.

In Year 10, students have been experimental with new techniques, mediums, and styles as they build their portfolios. It's incredibly



rewarding to see their confidence grow as they embrace the process of creative discovery. Year 10 Photography students have been exploring identity this term and various editing techniques, styles, lighting and learning to adapt these for effect. We have also had a visitor this term, sharing expertise from the professional industry with our students.

Lower school – Congratulations to all those in Year 9 who entered the Art Bytes competition last term! Entries have gone in, and we are excited to see who gets through the rounds to the final competition. More information will be shared via form tutors and edulink emails - watch this space!

Year 9 students have also been adding to their skillsets in their Andy Butler inspired Distorted Portraits, where they have combined traditional skill with their own twist.

Y9 Parents evening

Whilst we are proud of all of our students, we politely ask that Year 9 parents evening appointments are only made with Miss Eburne or Mrs. Jatta if your child wishes to take GCSE Art or Photography. This is to ensure that everybody who wants to take our subjects has the opportunity to discuss their child's progress and ask any questions about our GCSE courses.

Pastel Masterpieces

Year 8 students have been working with Miss. Wells on using pastels to create highlights. They have created jellyfish using pastels and have done an amazing job using both chalk and oil pastels to create highlights and a sense of serenity and calm through these amazing translucent creatures.

Year 7 Explores Watercolour with Kandinsky

Year 7 classes have been experimenting with watercolours this term and learning more about abstract art. They have created art based on Wassily Kandinsky, a Bauhaus artist from the mid 1900s. Students have used circles and lines to create an abstract piece which they have then painted using watercolour.

We are grateful to our students for their passion, creativity, and dedication and also for your ongoing encouragement and involvement in your child's Art education.



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Let there be light!

In Year 7 this half term, students have completed their second D&T project - lightboxes! Students designed their lightbox using templates which were then laser cut. We then soldered LEDs to power leads and learned more about how paper is made and how we can all help reduce or recycle paper. Finally, students have assembled their lightbox and attached their LED ready to take home.

Mechanical Marvels

Year 8 have been working on producing automata for a shop window display. They have explored mechanisms such as gears and cams and then produced a timber box frame using hand tools and added graphic design elements to create a point-of-sale display. There was lots of problem solving and peer support being shown throughout this project - well done Year 8!

Cultural Creations

Year 9 have all now completed their first D&T project of the year - Felt Frames. Students have designed their frame starting with a personal culture based concept board and then using CAD 2D Design software and having them laser cut. Students then embellished their frames using stitches, buttons, beads and sequins to create a frame that reflects themselves and their culture.

Soldering Success

Year 10 have been hard at work on their second GCSE project and have created stained 'glass' windows using acrylic and copper tape which they have soldered together. They have then added frames for their 'glass' insert using timber and added a box which they used the 3D router to cut the joints. They will spend the next half term working on a project based on props, sets and accessories following a visit to Warner Bros Studios, London.



YEAR 8 LORD OF THE FLIES

Year 8 Drama students have been exploring 'Lord of The Flies'. They are looking at how to bring scenes from page to stage, with the Big Question: 'How can we build tension and excitement for our audience?'

As well as using brilliant characterisation, the students have really enjoyed incorporating costume, projection, lighting and sound to achieve this. We have seen fantastic examples of all four of the Ashlawn CARE pillars in lessons, well done Year 8!



CHEESECAKE CHAMPIONS



This term Mrs Pountney's Year 10 class were set a challenge of making a new 'Signature Cheesecake' for the restaurant 'On the Rocks' in Rugby.

The challenge was to make it eye-catching, consider portion control and for it to taste delicious. Students also had to make the digestive biscuits themselves before crushing them up and making them into a base.

The results were amazing! We even had a visit from an employee at the restaurant who awarded the students with 1st, 2nd and 3rd place!

Well done everyone!



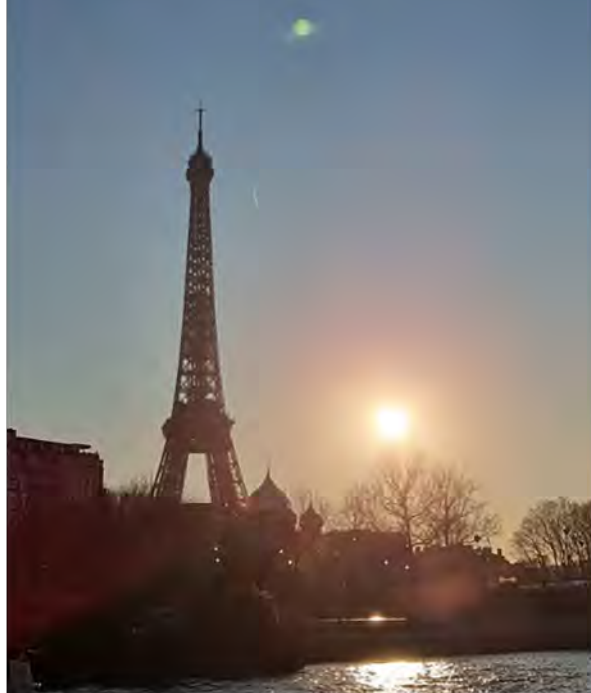
YEAR 10 FRENCH TRIP TO EPERNAY & PARIS

We are excited to share the adventures of our Year 10 students who took a trip to France this term, visiting the charming and picturesque town of Epernay and the bright lights of Paris.

Epernay, renowned for its vineyards and champagne production, offered a distinctive backdrop for our students to delve into French culture. Visits to local landmarks, such as walking down the Avenue de Champagne, were both educational and enjoyable.

One of the best parts of the trip was the opportunity for our students to spend a day with their penpals at our partner school, Lycée Stéphane Hessel, in the centre of the town. This not only fostered international friendships but also provided a firsthand cultural exchange experience, broadening their perspectives and understanding of different lifestyles.

Following this, students then got to explore the city of lights and love, Paris. From the iconic Eiffel Tower to exploring Montmartre, our students had the chance to witness the cultural richness and historical significance of this vibrant metropolis.



SCIENCE SPARKS AT LONG LAWFORD

The Ashlawn Science Department recently visited Long Lawford Primary School. Three half hour sessions were run with pupils on the subjects of Chromatography and Static Electricity. All the pupils got the opportunity to complete some hands-on practical experience using equipment that they had never used before. The children even got the opportunity to use a Van der Graaf generator and watch their teacher's hair stand on end!



EXPLORING THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Fifty Year 8 students had an amazing day out at the Natural History Museum this term in an Ashlawn Science Departmental trip. The students spent the whole day at the museum, taking in the many scientific exhibitions on topics ranging from dinosaurs to minerals of the earth. Many of the exhibitions they observed supplement their curriculum at Ashlawn and allowed students to see specimens and examples of what they have studied in school. A fun and informative day was had by all!

Y13 BUSINESS STUDIES TRIP

Year 13 Business Studies students went on a trip this half term to the Museum of Branding and the Bank of England. They had a great time learning about how business branding has evolved over the years. In addition, they visited the Bank of England and received an informative presentation about the key roles and responsibilities and decisions they make that impacts the UK economy.

Our students said:

“The trip was a great day out which incorporated an educational itinerary of various elements of business. Firstly, the branding museum left us with a great insight into how companies change their marketing strategies over time and how there is a constantly changing demand for certain products. Then, we went to The Bank of England where we were fortunate enough to experience a talk on monetary policies and interest rates.

“The most fascinating element of the trip was understanding the different security features on everyday notes which go unnoticed even though we handle these banknotes on a regular basis. Also, being able to feel the weight of a real gold bar was a real eye-opener. Thanks to Ashlawn for this trip, more specifically to the organiser Mrs Bharaj and bus driver Mr Thompson who also helped us to navigate the London Underground.”

Richard Phipps

“I had a great time on the business/economics trip today. It was a very eventful day with the excitement of the branding museum and a visit to the thoroughly interesting Bank of England.

“Some highlights of the day: Everything! And, to top off the great day, we enjoyed a ‘mandatory’ visit to Nando’s with great company. Credit to Mrs Bharaj and Mr Thompson for organising and making the trip as great as it was.”

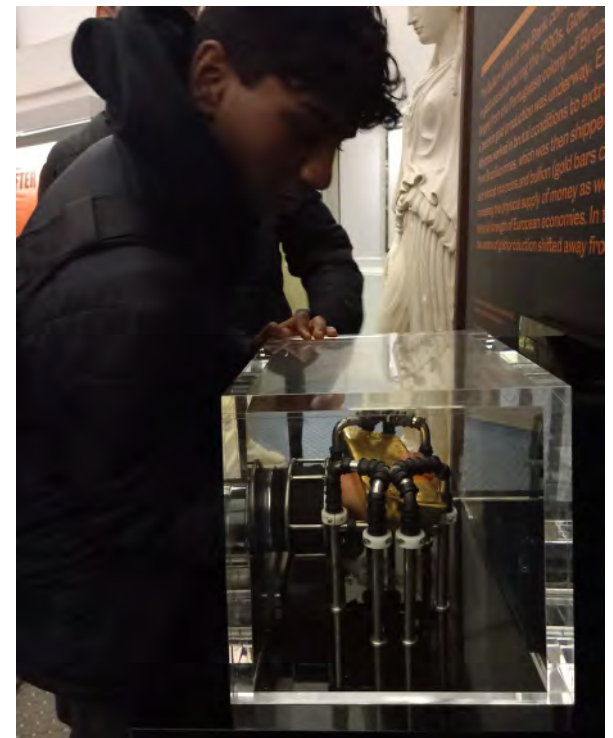
Daniel Harrison

“The trip was very educational as it gave me a deeper understanding of monetary policy within the UK. While also giving me wider knowledge of how financial systems are created and operated within the UK.”

Isaac Skinner-Kakite

“The business studies trip was one of the most educational and memorable experiences of my entire life. Not only did I learn a lot about branding and economics I’ve become a better person and a stronger minded individual. Shoutout Mrs Bharaj.”

Joel Jacob



PE

It's been an action-packed sporting calendar, with plenty of in class and extracurricular sports. Clubs and Fixtures have included Rugby, Trampolining, Netball, Basketball, Badminton and Football to name but a few.

Highlights

Football

The boys' football teams competed in the county cups, which was a step up on last year. The Year 7 (U12s) lost in the quarter final and Year 9 (U14s) have progressed into the semi-final where they will be playing Myton or Stratford. The Year 9s have beaten Princethorpe 7-1 and AVS 4-0 on the way. The U16s unfortunately lost to a very strong Myton



team. A special thanks must go to the Ashlawn PTA for funding the purchase of new KS3 and KS4 football kit, proudly worn by our students.

Rudy in Year 8 and Max in Year 9 continue to be outstanding prospects who represent the school with fantastic ability and leadership. Max has also represented Derby County FC at an international tournament in Malta this term. In addition, Zane in Year 7 represented Leicester City in Spain, again in an international tournament.

Fundraising

The PE department ran a successful fundraising 'Bearpee Challenge' for Children In Need. We smashed the 1,000 Bearpee target and even teachers got involved! Well done to all who took part, especially the winners Joel (KS3), Nigel (KS4) and Katy (KS5).



Basketball

Last term also saw a number of students represent the school in basketball fixtures. A particular highlight for me was the senior boys' game against Avon Valley School, in which their technical quality shone through and ran out 40-20 winners. Seb in Year 11 picked up the player of the match award. The Year 9 and Year 10s also came a close second to Rugby Free.

Girls' basketball was introduced to the district fixtures this year and we had a great turn out of Year 7 and 10 students of mixed experience wanting to compete. The Year 7s started with a mini tournament where they quickly picked up key skills and strategies and worked hard to win 1 of the 2 games with player of the match awarded to both Rohdiat DT and Ava T. A more experienced Year 10 team fought hard throughout their games against Rugby Free and Rugby High with a particular highlight being a 20-12 win over Avon Valley with player of the match going to Freya R.

Rugby

Congratulations to Henry S and Liam C (Y9) who have been selected to join the Midlands Rugby Union U14's DPP squad for 2023/24. Outside school, Henry plays for Kenilworth RFC as a scrum half and Liam, Old Laurentians RFC as a 2nd row.



Boys' rugby training and fixtures have started. Please look out for the upcoming games.



Badminton

Last term has seen students from Year 7 - 10 compete in the Annual Rugby School Badminton Competition. There have been lots of Ashlawn students from all year groups attending our Badminton clubs after school. Students who showed dedication and commitment attending these clubs were picked to represent school in the competition.

There were some fantastic individual performances throughout the half term of fixtures and some brilliant teamwork and community shown amongst our teams, as well as respect towards the opposing schools. All the students involved in the competition showed aspirations to do their best and try their hardest to win.

Amongst the successful teams who showed excellence in their performance were the Year 8 boys and girls, and Year 10 girls' teams who were runners up in their leagues, and even more excellence demonstrated by Year 9 and 10 boys' teams who won their leagues and went on to the finals, only to be closely beaten by the Harris Year 9 and 10 boys, making us runners-up overall. However, the Year 7 boys' team totally smashed it, winning their league and then winning the finals against Avon Valley to be crowned overall winners!

Well done to all those who took part, at club as well as in the competition. We look forward to seeing more Badminton next year.

We would also like to congratulate Rikza S on winning singles Gold at the WSBA Tournament on 11th November in Warwickshire. We wish her luck as she moves on to other challenges and tournaments.



Ashlawn PE Department

SIXTH FORM NEWS

ASHLAWN AMBASSADORS TAKING PRIDE IN OUR SCHOOL

Student Ambassadors from Years 7,8 and 12 gave up their time this term to paint the new school reception, showing pride in our school. They donned appropriate dress and got to work very quickly working well as a team to paint in record time!

Thank you to our Ambassadors!



ASHLAWN YEAR 13 OXBRIDGE SUCCESS

We are delighted to share with you that two of our Year 13 students have been successful in securing places at Cambridge!

Over the past few months they have been preparing their applications and practising their interview skills in the Sixth Form study hub at lunchtimes, following Rugby School mock interview practise and advice from an Oxford Admissions tutor on Zoom.

Their hard work, determination and drive has paid off and we are delighted for them. Nicholas Marsh will read Land Economy and Hassan Makki, Medicine.

We continue to host Year 13 Medicine and Dentistry students in the Sixth Form Study Hub at lunchtime, they support each other and practise their interview skills. They are challenging each other with difficult interview questions to practise for their interviews.

They are such good examples of Aspiration and Excellence and Community.

Well done all of you!



ASHLAWN YEAR 12 AND YEAR 11 VISIT OXFORD

On Tuesday 6th May, 30 Year 11 and 12 students visited Oxford for the day to find out about life and study at Oxford and how the college system and application system works.

Many students left feeling inspired and believing that Oxbridge is an option for them, that the university is looking for students just like them.

We visited two colleges, Keeble and Exeter, and were shown round the library, dining hall, college grounds and accommodation as well as having a tour of the beautiful city and a series of talks on Oxbridge and

study at the university. We enjoyed lunch courtesy of Keeble College and met some student ambassadors.

The students did themselves and the school proud.

Mrs Wilmot and Mrs Cunliffe





ASHLAWN
SCHOOL



At Ashlawn we...

CARE

COMMUNITY

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

ASPIRATION

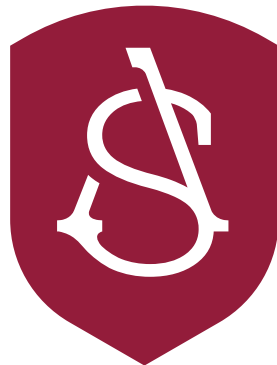
We work hard and make the most of exciting and challenging learning experiences, in order to open up the world around us and achieve our dreams.

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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