

# ASHLAWN END OF YEAR NEWS 2023



Ashlawn  
School



## Welcome from the Principal

Dear Ashlawn community,

It has been quite a year at Ashlawn. I want to thank everyone who has supported the school and its community over the past year. While there have been some challenging times, the true spirit of what makes the school great has shone through and I have been truly inspired by the commitment shown by the staff and students to move forward after the Ofsted report.

I am pleased to say that external observations from school improvement partners have all indicated that we are on the right track to address the issues raised in November and ensure that we can demonstrate the impact of our work to Ofsted when they return to the school. It has taken dedication and hard work from all of the staff and students,

while also preparing Years 11 and 13 for exams, improving the environment of the school and providing all of the enrichment opportunities that make the Ashlawn experience so special. From our sports teams to our talented musicians and singers, we have shown within and beyond the walls of the school that we strive for our best, always. We take pride in our students and staff and in what we can achieve as we work together. I feel hugely privileged to work with so many fantastic people.

As we move into the holidays, I want to let you know that we will continue the work that has been started this year. We are fully committed to once again making Ashlawn the school of choice for our community. We are excited for the future of the school and to welcome our new Year 7 in September.

Please spend some time looking through the incredible experiences that have taken place over the past term. I hope you feel as proud as I do in the talents within our school community.

Have a fantastic summer.

**Paul Brockwell,**  
Principal



# SAFEGUARDING OVER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

## Summer time, and particularly the summer holidays, can be full of hazards and risks to manage.

Here's a roundup of some resources and contact details to help you with keeping your child safe.

### HELPLINES:

**Family Lives (Parentline Plus):** 0808 800 2222

**Childline:** 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 to get support when you need it. 0800 1111

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

**Coventry CAB:** Info/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

**Papyrus:** Thinking about suicide, please call 0800 068 4141 or TEXT 07860 039967

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

**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

### FREE APPS:

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

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

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

**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.



### WATER SAFETY

Keep cool in the water – but make sure your safety is always front of mind. Check out the resources available online via these organisations:

**RNLI:** <https://rnli.org/safety>

**RoSPA:** [www.rospace.com/leisure-water-safety/water/advice](http://www.rospace.com/leisure-water-safety/water/advice)

**Canal & River Trust:** [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/safety-on-our-waterways/water-safety-for-teenagers-and-young-people](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/safety-on-our-waterways/water-safety-for-teenagers-and-young-people)



### SUN SAFETY

**Teenage Cancer Trust:** [www.teenagecancertrust.org/information-about-cancer/how-to-stay-safe-in-the-sun](http://www.teenagecancertrust.org/information-about-cancer/how-to-stay-safe-in-the-sun)

**Cancer Research UK:** [www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/causes-of-cancer/sun-uv-and-cancer/sun-safety](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/causes-of-cancer/sun-uv-and-cancer/sun-safety)

**Skcin:** [www.skcin.org](http://www.skcin.org)

### SOME OTHER IMPORTANT SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS FOR EVERYONE:

**Railway Safety:** [www.switchedonrailsafety.co.uk](http://www.switchedonrailsafety.co.uk)

**Keeping safe away from home (NSPCC):** [www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/away-from-home](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/away-from-home)



## Protection from sexual abuse

**Whilst it's an uncomfortable thought, parents need to ask questions of any childcare provider, play scheme or holiday centre children's services about how they prevent their workers harming a child.**

The NSPCC has a useful video about the prevention of sexual abuse in particular and what adults can do to ask organisations about how they keep children safe. You can watch the video here [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbtSJCw\\_lqw&t=12s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbtSJCw_lqw&t=12s)

- If you are in immediate danger then phone 999
- If you need to report a crime but you are not at risk of harm then phone 101
- If you think a child is at risk of harm then please phone Warwickshire Safeguarding 01926 414144
- If you want to report an adult who is working with young people in the community then complete a POT referral which can be found here [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrens-social-care/child-safeguarding-procedures-professionals/4](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrens-social-care/child-safeguarding-procedures-professionals/4)

# Amazing Achievements

By John Harris,  
Assistant Principal

**Our students do things every day that amaze us. Sometimes these achievements might include incredible sporting success or a good score in a test. But it's not just achievements like this that make us proud. We're proud when they demonstrate care for others, show dedication in taking part in activities or have that drive to do as well as they can, even if they find it really challenging.**

At the beginning of June, I decided to write an article for this newsletter about our incredible students at Ashlawn. As teachers, we see our students in school every day but it's strange how we know very little about what they get up to outside of school. As a result, I dropped every parent and carer an email, asking them to let me know how amazing their children are. I was blown away by the response that I got. In fact, it took me a week to reply to everyone that emailed me!

I knew we had some talented athletes at school, but I also wanted to know about those other students that might be too shy or embarrassed to share their achievements with us, that maybe we don't normally get the chance to really make lots of noise about. I'm also deeply aware of peer pressure and what that can bring. It's strange how some children can be embarrassed about sharing their achievements with us, yet at the same time, their parents want to shout from the rooftops!

There are some achievements that parents told me about that don't appear in the newsletter because some children felt embarrassed or didn't want to look like a 'show off'; we need to continue to build a culture where everyone can feel pride in sharing their achievements. For now,



these will remain personal to those parents and children that quietly do great things every day.

Before I get on to stand-out arts and sporting achievements, of which there are many, I wanted to tell you about a few special students that have done other things that make us proud. There were many parents and carers that contacted me to say that their son or daughter was in a team of some sort, and although the team might not be the best, they loved taking part, putting their "heart and soul into it". One proud parent told me how her son had saved his money, but then on the way to the bank he gave it away to homeless people. I also heard about Ava in Year 11 and George in Year 13; who are both keen to protect the environment and volunteer at Ryton Pools every four weeks.

A proud parent told me about their daughter in Year 7 who cleans at a horse stables every Sunday because she wants to get to know more about horses. Another student in Year 9 does her best to look after her autistic sister, remaining calm and patient with her.

Many of our students attend the various cadet organisations that do such great work with our children. Numerous parents told me that although their children aren't particularly high ranking, they are so proud to be part of the service. One of our Year 13 students has been a cadet with the Northampton Emergency Services since early 2020.

She specialised as a fire cadet that same year and has since become the cadet chief officer, representing the voice of cadets within the Northamptonshire fire service!



# Here are some more amazing achievements:

## Singing

Megan in Year 7 recently led her theatre class in singing the opening lines of a song from Les Miserables.

## Musicians

Jonah in Year 9 only picked up an instrument for the first time last year, and has passed his first exams with distinction.

Dylan in Year 8 played the drums in the school Jazz Band in Year 7 and is in a band with school friends called 'The Unnamed'. They've played various events and recently won the 'Battle of Not Just The Bands'. Dylan plays the guitar and the piano and was recently on the Radio 2 Zoe Ball Breakfast Show where he played the guitar and sang Fleetwood Mac's 'Dreams'. Zoe Ball said he was a rockstar in the making, and we think he is too!

## Fencing

Bella in Year 8 reached the National Fencing Championships in Sheffield this year. She trains once a week and competes up and down the UK.



## Football:

Max in Year 7 has been a member of Hillmorton Colts FC for over six years and has won various trophies including Most Improved Player and numerous Man of the Match awards.

Rudy in Year 7 has been offered a two-year contract with Northampton Town FC.

Ex-student, Justin Hanks has just signed his first professional contract for Nottingham Forest FC! Justin left Ashlawn in 2021 to pursue his football career and we couldn't be prouder.

## Cricket

Gabriel in Year 8 has taken 10 wickets off 14 overs in Rugby's cricket league. This is the first time he has played for a team and he has taken to the sport really well.

## Canoeing

Will in Year 9 is a Sea Cadet and recently won the Warwickshire district canoeing sprint race and came second in the marathon race. He also won gold in the sea cadet district K1 500m kayaking sprint as well as silver for the K2 2000m kayak marathon.



## Boxing

Kevin in Year 9 is a talented boxer. In his last fight, he broke his hand during the second round but despite this went back out to fight until the end. He trains three nights a week, then runs three miles three days a week.

## Martial Arts

Gabriel in Year 8 recently achieved his purple belt with distinction at G-Force Martial Arts. He has now passed the halfway mark towards achieving his black belt.

Tye in Year 7 is a red belt and on his way to achieving his black belt. He helps to teach 4-6 year olds and 7-12 year olds at G-Force Martial Arts.

Isaac in Year 9 successfully completed a challenging 4-hour grading in Taekwondo to gain his second Dan black belt, grading alongside 29 other black belt students of various grades and ages. He also helps as an assistant instructor at his local club and the head instructors have complimented him on his performance.

Catherine in Year 10 has been training twice a week for the past four months and in her last grading she achieved a merit and moved to blue belt. This was a brilliant example of trying hard and challenging herself!

Shay in Year 7 is a red belt and he uses his talents as a class helper, alongside his friend that also attends Ashlawn, to help teach other students aged 2-12.

Jacob in Year 7 is a red belt in Taekwondo and will be going for his black stripe in October.

## Rugby

Konrad in Year 9 is a valued member of the local rugby team and this year he was awarded the trophy 'Player of the Backs'.

## Cheerleading

Sienna in Year 8 has competed in cheerleading for a number of years now and has loved every minute. This year she also put her name forward to become a volunteer junior coach to support new up and coming cheerleaders, this included a day of training to become qualified.



## Basketball

Hayden, Joe and Tayo in Year 9 have recently become members of a development team with Coventry Tornados, with the intention of getting into the under-15 main teams.

## Dance

Jenny in Year 7 is a talented dancer. Recently, she joined a new dance school in Birmingham and is enjoying being taught by Nat Sweeney, who played the title role in British musical, Billy Elliot. Jenny has performed at the Bridge House Theatre in Warwick and is very much looking forward to future performances in Birmingham.

Viv in Year 9 is representing England in The Dance World Cup. She qualified third in England for her Musical Theatre Song & Dance Solo.

## Swimming

Immy in Year 7 has swum for Rugby Artistic Swimming Club since she was eight and has competed at National Age Groups six times. She has been part of the Midlands Regional squad for the past four years and this year the squad won the regional games, taking part in all three elements - land, figures and relay - all of which they won.

**Well done everyone – you are all amazing!**

## Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

We are delighted to introduce you to Ashlawn School's first Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. Jessica (Year 12), Freddie (Year 9), Autumn (Year 8) and Max (Year 8) have received extensive training from the Diana Award to earn their Anti-Bullying Ambassador accreditation.



Using their training, the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors are looking to the future. They are planning and implementing initiatives to support the Ashlawn School community in its absolute commitment to eradicate bullying of any kind, whether verbal, indirect or physical.

Further to this, the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors plan to support victims of bullying and encourage students to become 'upstanders' who will stand up to and report any bullying behaviour. These students have taken on this responsibility and aim to use their expertise in creating suitable, engaging and successful strategies to support students and the wider Ashlawn community in tackling any form of bullying behaviour.

The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors will be supported by the school in their efforts. They have successfully presented their ideas and strategies to the Senior Leadership Team and can't wait to get started as soon as possible.



Alongside this, the school has created an Anti-Bullying Charter, to be delivered to and signed by all students in September. This charter confirms that, as a school community, each member of our community understands what bullying is and the different formats it may take, and that everyone in our community is committed to eradicating it.

We'll be providing regular updates on this important programme in future newsletters.

## Ashlawn welcomes Educating Yorkshire's Musharaf Asghar

Ashlawn School welcomed a very special visitor on 6th July - Musharaf Asghar, better known to many as Mushy, one of the pupils featured on Channel 4's award winning documentary series, *Educating Yorkshire*.

Musharaf captured the heart of the nation when he appeared on *Educating Yorkshire* to document his struggles within education due to his impaired speech. Musharaf suffered a period of ill health and a huge asthma attack resulted in him suffering from a stammer.

Unfortunately, Musharaf's mental health and wellbeing was also impacted due to extreme bullying and his school attendance dropped to 34%.

Musharaf's journey through school resonated with millions of viewers as they watched him overcome his stammer and build his self-confidence, supported by his teacher, Mr Burton.

Demonstrating amazing resilience, Musharaf would practise his speaking skills every day by repeating lines from films in front of the mirror, knowing that he couldn't miss a single day or he would suffer setbacks with his speech.

When the time came for him to leave school, Musharaf gave a speech to his peers in Year 11 and thanked the students and staff for their kindness – there wasn't a dry eye in the house upon witnessing his success.

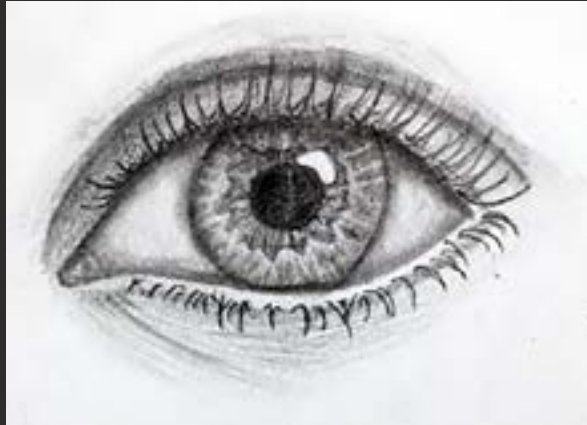
When Musharaf spent the day at Ashlawn, he delivered speeches to each year group about the impact derogatory language can have on mental health and how this affects wellbeing. Musharaf encouraged students to think about their words and how the way they speak to and about each other can have far-reaching consequences that can last a lifetime.

Musharaf also met with staff at the end of the day to inspire them to be 'that' teacher to a child, and to be that surrogate safe space that every child needs.

This was a hugely inspiring and uplifting day and we cannot wait to welcome Musharaf back at some point in the future!

# Art & Photography

Take a look at these fantastic studies by Jennifer in Year 7:



## Why Choose Art?

In our modern world Art, Design, Technology and Engineering are important skill sets for future generations' career paths and advancements in technology. In this day and age, the internet has created an explosion of opportunity for digital designers, multimedia artists and photographers alike.

There is also a profound art prevalence in a range of careers, for example in marketing and mental health disciplines which are becoming increasingly popular.

Our GCSE Art and Photography courses are geared up to provide students with a wide range of mediums and techniques, taking inspiration from cultural and historical contexts within the wider world. Students trial all the different media, then specialise in their own preferred disciplines. Our A Level courses provide students with the opportunity to develop this further and reach mastery in their field.

We are a coursework-based subject with high demands - which can be an initial shock, but teaches students self-discipline, organisational skills and time management. Students also have the opportunity to submit entries to national competitions.

## What our students have to say:

*"I think that art is important for you in other subjects because it increases your focus and your creativity. Art could help with expressing yourself and your feelings. Moreover, art has been proven to be good for wellbeing and it could calm you down and create a space of creativity and peace. In all sorts of subjects, you may have to draw a diagram or create a project. This could include arts and crafts and intense detail."*

**- Corina S**

*"Art is key for other subjects as it allows you to look deeper into topics and analyse them. For example, looking at the technique and figuring out how they did this. Another reason I think art is important for other subjects is because it helps brain development and how you look at things. It could also bring people together as a community, sharing a common focus and boosting teamwork."*

**- Ben S**

*"Studying art can develop organisational skills and working to deadlines. Also, studying art can be good for your mental wellbeing and therefore allow you to do better in other lessons. It also improves your focus and critical thinking, meaning you can work harder to get more done."*

**- Lily W**

*"I think art is helpful for literacy because it develops your imagination for coming up with stories. It can also be helpful for real life. For example, in the working world where people can create a stable career and digital work is becoming more popular."*

**- Jonathan C**

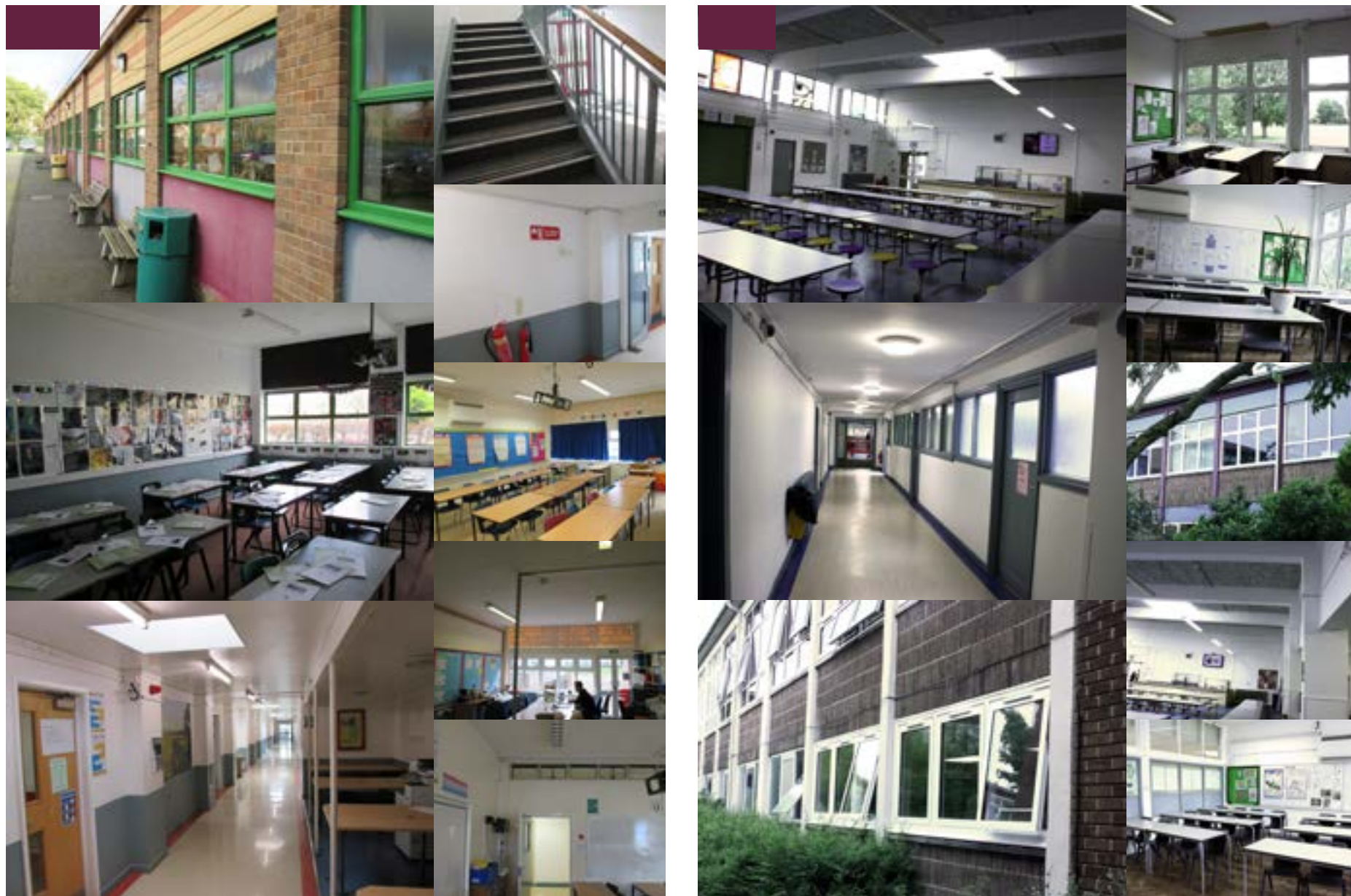
*"Art has introduced me to different cultures and styles and made me more aware of detail in my work. Art draws focus as you pay attention to every single detail and make sure you have achieved something to be proud of. Art can also be celebrated in the community, for example, you see lots of street art or you could be an artist and sell your pieces again and again."*

**- Josh P**



## Fantastic facilities for all

Take a look at these amazing 'before and after' pictures of all the works completed on site this year. So much hard work has gone into improving school facilities and creating the best possible learning environment for all. A huge thank you to everyone involved!



## Summer Sport 2023

**Rugby Borough Council have launched a packed programme of sport and play sessions for the school summer holidays.**

The Summer Sport 2023 programme gives youngsters the chance to try a new sport or develop skills under the guidance of a qualified coach, while the council's Play Rangers bring free outdoor play sessions to the borough's parks throughout the school break.

Summer Sport 2023 starts on Monday 24 July, with activities including tennis, golf, horse riding and sailing.

Costs apply to all Summer Sport 2023 sessions. For more information and to book places online, visit [www.rugby.gov.uk/summersport](http://www.rugby.gov.uk/summersport)

The council's Play Rangers hold free play sessions every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the six week school break, visiting parks with a range of themed, fun activities.

Sessions take place at Caldecott Park and GEC Recreation Ground on Tuesdays, Hollowell Way, Brownsover, and Millennium Green on Wednesdays, and Cawston Grange Park and Long Lawford's King George V Field on Thursdays. National Play Day celebrations will also take place at Whitehall Rec on Wednesday 2 August, with a wide range of free fun and games on offer from 11am to 3pm.

For more information on National Play Day and the summer play sessions, visit [www.rugby.gov.uk/summerplay](http://www.rugby.gov.uk/summerplay), book in advance to avoid disappointment. You can book by calling (01788) 533777.





## French

### Our trip to Epernay & Paris

This term, Year 10 French students spent four days in France visiting their penpals from the Lycée Stéphane Hessel in Epernay and discovering Paris.

Our students were really curious, enthusiastic and eager to discover France! Everyone used the opportunity to practise their French and it was lovely to see them making friends with their penpals. It was also a fantastic opportunity for them to embrace French culture.

#### One of our students has written an article about our trip together:

The coach ride began with tired teenagers attempting either sleep or quiet chatter, but time passed quickly and with it came a slow rise in enthusiasm, leading to a few hours later what can only be described as a swarm of children overtaking the ferry across the English Channel. As we crossed, the clouds quite literally parted, and after the excitement of basically walking in a circle exploring the decks of the ship for an hour we had sun and an abundance of snacks to fuel our continuing journey. The coach ride came and went, and we happily found ourselves at our hotel then got ready for dinner at a local restaurant. The night ended with a walk home and we were mostly just ready to recover from the early morning and attempt to get half decent sleep.

Heat came with the second day. The night had been warm, nothing unbearable, but certainly quite a change from the pretty miserable May we had been having, so we headed to our penpals' school. After an introduction of mangled French and English, we split into groups, slightly confused and rather awkward in our attempts at introductions. A game



and a treasure hunt later, we had actually managed to socialise, with the French students making up for what we lacked in heat-frazzled tiredness with amicable chatter that made our lunch time fun and easy. Next came the moment of the day I was dreading the most: sports.

In my slightly over dramatic dislike of exercise, especially when I could embarrass myself in front of considerably cooler French teens, I had readied myself for a gruelling hour of sunburn and suffering. However, the universe smiled down upon us, or at least the teachers who understood my English lack of coordination, and the games were good! Highlights included possibly the worst game of basketball I had ever seen, some ungraceful attempts at a sack race, and a combination of an egg and spoon race and obstacle course where you were supposed to balance a can of water on a tray, yet most of it ended up down our shirts. We met with the school again in the evening at a cinema and whilst my understanding of the films in French was definitely limited, I could proudly say that I mostly managed to grasp the plot.

Finally, as the weather grew to a burning crescendo of 30 degrees, came the highlight of the trip: a day out in Paris. This was what

we had been waiting for, the main event, the climax of it all, and to sum it up: it was brilliant. (Excluding the traffic, but you can't have it all). Sightseeing was operated out of a boat along the Seine and we created a hasty but efficient method of getting everyone photos with the Eiffel Tower as we sailed past. After the ride, we took the perilous journey up to the Trocadero, taking photos and trying our best to ward off heat stroke and salesmen attempting to scam us out of our change. We then took the coach back to see our penpals one last time, as they had organised a goodbye disco. The disco itself was a brilliant blur of enthusiastic dancing to random French songs and continuously foiled attempts to go outside and escape the boiling heat of the hall we were in. We left with great memories, some dodgy videos of dancing and, for some reason, a baguette in hand.

The French trip was amazing, fun and exciting and so very, very hot. I hope that I can say on behalf of all of us who went that it was an amazing experience that we will never forget.

To all the teachers who went with us, Mr Chadwick, Ms Kenney, Ms Jaillet, Ms Dubois and, of course, our legendary coach driver Jan, I would like to say from all the French students: **Merci beaucoup!**



## Reading and Science Competition

**At Ashlawn we are encouraging students and teachers alike to read more, and perhaps read something different to the usual.**

This term we are focussing on science – and, luckily, there are literally hundreds of books written about science topics and scientists to get stuck into!

To encourage everyone to read more about science, the science department is running a competition.

Can you identify the link between the molecule that makes up the backdrop of our display, pictured below, and the books shown?

If you can, please email your answer(s) to Miss Lodge [lodgek@ashlawn.org.uk](mailto:lodgek@ashlawn.org.uk)

We have added the molecule and a selection of the books here to help.

The prize is a £20 gift voucher for Hunts Bookshop in Rugby.



## Science – STEM Day for Year 9

**Students in Year 9 took part in a STEM day this half term. Students designed and then constructed a wind turbine to produce the greatest amount of electricity possible. They produced a gearing system, designed and constructed turbine blades to maximise output and created a tower to carry the turbine.**

After choosing a budget and purchasing the items to make their turbine from the onsite shop, students then had to create a pitch to try to sell their product.

All teams managed to generate some electricity with their wind turbines, which was amazing. The winning team were Evergreen who created an aesthetically pleasing design that produced the most electricity, as well as delivering a fantastic pitch!

Judy who ran the event said: "Your students were not only lovely and intelligent but also resilient in the hot temperatures! I am very impressed by their amazing designs and their effort to continuously improve their wind turbines to make them function better."

Thank you to Quartzelec who sponsored the event, making it free for our students. A huge well done to all our students who took part, you were fantastic! We can't wait to run the event again next year.



# German

At the time of writing, 30 Year 10 students have embarked on a long-awaited trip to Germany! Students can't wait to practise their language skills and visit the many sights Cologne and the Rhineland have to offer.

Here are just some of the highlights so far...

**'Gute Reise' everyone!**



## Food and Nutrition

This term our Year 10 students have been busy getting ready for Year 11, focussing on time plans and dovetailing. This included planning three high skill dishes in just three hours including ravioli and mini gateaux!



## Parliament Trip for Year 12

Also this term, our Year 12 Politics class went on a trip to visit The Houses of Parliament. As part of the trip, students were able to tour both the houses that make up Parliament, the House of Commons and House of Lords, as well as taking part in a debate amongst themselves on the viability of the death penalty.

All sides of the debate made interesting and informed points with Mr Gardiner relishing his role as Speaker of the House! Our students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were able to link their studies of political parties and their policies, ideologies, the constitution and the legislative branch to the realities of these aspects of their course in action in Westminster.



Pictured is a photograph taken of the Y12s in Westminster Hall, the oldest part of Parliament, with the Speaker's State Coach.

## Thank You

Thanks to all our students who entered the Royal Academy of Arts "Young Artist's Summer Show".

The show is held at the Royal Academy of Arts and brings together work from primary and secondary age students across the country.

The event is free to visit and runs from 18th July - 13th August at the Royal Academy of Arts, London.

Further details can be found at

[www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibition/young-artists-summer-show-2023](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibition/young-artists-summer-show-2023)

## A note from Miss Eburne and Mrs Williams

"A massive well done to all our A Level and GCSE Photography students who have worked tirelessly leading up to their final exams and completion of their units. Your skill, commitment and effort will undoubtedly bring you success and we are incredibly proud."

## Sports Week at Ashlawn

As the final week of the school year draws to a close, it seems an appropriate time to reflect on what has been a fantastic Sports Week here at Ashlawn, culminating with the track finals on Thursday 20th July.

The week began with hundreds of students from each year group, competing in the track heats and field event finals over a four-day period. Each year group showcased some outstanding athletic performances, with the top six competitors in each race qualifying for the heat finals.

The weather on the initial Finals Day got the best of us, but this did nothing more than build the suspense going into the final week of school. On the day itself, we were all incredibly excited to have the whole school cheering on all the finalists across every year group.

Given the sporting skills on show, it really is no surprise that Ashlawn School has so many athletes competing at both County and English School level. We are very fortunate to have so many talented students representing us.

**Have a lovely summer, from everyone in the Ashlawn PE Department.**



## Key Stage 3 Celebrations

### Key Stage 3 Graduation

On Monday 17th July we celebrated the successes of our Year 9 students, in Ashlawn School's first Key Stage 3 Graduation.

In March, all Year 9 students were set criteria to meet relating to attendance, attitude to learning, behaviour and achievement. The students who met the criteria were rewarded with a celebration afternoon and a graduation evening.

Both events proved to be a huge success with a fantastic atmosphere and were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Alongside the graduation events, all Year 9 students have had the

opportunity to experience their GCSE subject choices in taster sessions throughout the last two weeks of term.

During the celebration afternoon, students enjoyed some well-earned downtime on the inflatables provided, along with ice lollies and treats. Everyone had a brilliant time and even the typical British summer weather didn't dampen their spirits!

The graduation evening was highly enjoyable for parents, carers, students and teaching staff alike. It was a privilege to be able to recognise students' efforts, resilience and commitment to the Ashlawn School community.

Those in attendance were further treated to a fabulous dance performance from Amaneet in Year 9. The atmosphere at the Graduation Evening was incredible and highlighted to all involved how special Ashlawn School is.

### One parent said of the evening:

*"It was really great seeing the Year 9s receive acknowledgement for their hard work, and the best bit is us parents get to feel proud. Thank you for starting this new tradition, it will be motivating for the future years coming up."*

A huge congratulations to all of our Year 9 'graduates' - we cannot wait for next year's ceremony!



## Year 7 and 8 Awards Evening

**On Monday 10th July, parents and carers were invited into school to celebrate the individual achievements of students in Lower Key Stage 3.**

**Each subject head nominated a student for their attainment and their progress. In addition to this, there were students nominated by their form tutor as recognition for encompassing the Ashlawn School CARE pillars of school life.**



The Principal's Award was also presented to the students in Year 7 and Year 8 who have exhibited the CARE pillars most consistently throughout the academic year – a huge well done to Sophie Foots (Year 7), Ben Koe (Year 7), Kevin Weng (Year 8) and Thomas Nathan (Year 8) for their incredible achievements.

This evening was a fantastic celebration which highlighted how lucky we are as a school to have such wonderful and committed students. We cannot wait to see who will be at the next celebration evening!

As Head of Key Stage 3, it has been an honour and a privilege to recognise and see on such a large scale how so many of our students are outstanding in every aspect of their education. Our students often encompass our school CARE pillars, showing pride in the community, aspirations to achieve, respect for others and excellence in all they do in school. It has been a pleasure working with so many incredible students over the past year and I am so excited to see what next year holds for us all.

**I hope that everyone has an enjoyable summer break.**



## Year 10 Celebration Assembly

Year 10 students celebrated their summer term successes in a celebration assembly led by Mrs Holland, their Head of Year.

The celebration began with an excellent singing performance by one of the Year 10 students and was enjoyed by everyone.

Students receiving certificates included those with an attendance of 96% and above, members of the Zero Club (zero behaviour points), and those who had been nominated by their teachers for awards in specific subject areas. A Head of Year Award was presented to the student who embodies the Ashlawn pillars of Community, Aspiration, Respect and Excellence.

A special mention was given to those students who completed the GRIT course, a course focussing on personal development that encouraged students to set themselves ambitious personal and academic targets that they worked hard to achieve.



## Year 12 Induction Day

This term, we welcomed around 100 students to the first of our Year 12 Induction days. Students started with a welcome assembly where they heard about our Sixth Form values of support and opportunity, as well as essential information such as our dress code.

Next, students attended 'taster' lessons for their chosen subjects, as well as a session in the Sixth Form study hub, where Miss Willis, our Sixth Form learning coach, spoke to them about their independent study time and the post-18 university and apprenticeship support that we offer. They also had the chance to speak to current Year 12 prefects and find out what Sixth Form student life is really like.

We enjoyed welcoming the students to our Sixth Form and can't wait to welcome them to Ashlawn properly in September!



## Year 11 Prom

**Our end of year celebrations continued with the Year 11 Prom on 30th June 2023, taking place at Staverton Park Hotel in Daventry.**

Many students made quite the entrance, from motorcycles and sports cars to golf carts and camper vans! It was wonderful to see them all so excited and ready to celebrate their time at Ashlawn School.



The evening started with a red-carpet welcome, professional photographer and buffet followed by our Prom Awards which were all well-deserved and met with raucous applause.

- Funniest in the Year - *Robyn T*
- Smartest in the Year - *Blythe K-S*
- Most friendly - *Oscar J-T*
- Most creative - *Milo S*
- Social butterfly - *Naomi A*
- Best hair - *Leo I*
- Best sports performer - *Rachel M*
- Most likely to become famous - *Phoebe W*
- Best performer - *Vera R*
- Most likely to become a millionaire - *Kyle G*
- Most likely to succeed - *Jonathan M*

Our students, and staff, spent the rest of the evening celebrating in style with music and dancing late into the evening. A great time was had by all, and we look forward to further celebrations on results day on August 24th.

**Good luck to everyone!**

Miss Kenney and the KS4 team.



## Year 13 Prom

**Year 13 students celebrated the end of their exams in style at their Prom evening which took place at Staverton Hall Hotel in Daventry.**

Everyone dressed in their best to walk the red carpet and have their pictures taken by a professional photographer. Slightly less formal pictures came later via the photo-booth! Everyone enjoyed a beautiful meal before bagging some amazing prizes donated by the Ashlawn PTA and then dancing the night away. It was a fun-packed and memorable evening and the perfect way to mark the end of the year.



## Celebrating the Arts

---

### Ashlawn's Summer Soiree

On Tuesday 11th July, the best of Ashlawn's dancers, musicians and thespians gathered to demonstrate their talent and say a final goodbye to the Year 13 music and performing arts students.

The theme of the evening was 'Queen' and performers and some audience members embraced the theme dressing as a variety of manifestations - from drag queens, through to the band Queen, and other various regal representations.

There was a packed and varied programme following a record number of applicants, making the audition process a bittersweet one for Mrs Pickering and Ms Bond.

Those who succeeded in securing a solo in the concert demonstrated not only their excellence but also their commitment to the arts community here at Ashlawn School.

It was especially great to see representation from all year groups, not only in the acts on stage, but also the production and tech team which was primarily comprised of students.

Acts included singers, dancers, bands and small ensembles, large ensembles and the Drama Club, amongst others. There was also an art exhibition showing artwork from sixth form students and, as is, tradition, the staff performed a song to wish those leaving the very best of luck for the future.

**What an amazing end to the year for all of our 'Arts' students. We can't wait to see what next year will bring!**

Miss Bond, Mrs Pickering, Mrs Ballinger and Ms Williams.

## Spotlight on ...

---

### Poppy

Congratulations to Poppy in Year 12 for passing her flute performance diploma.

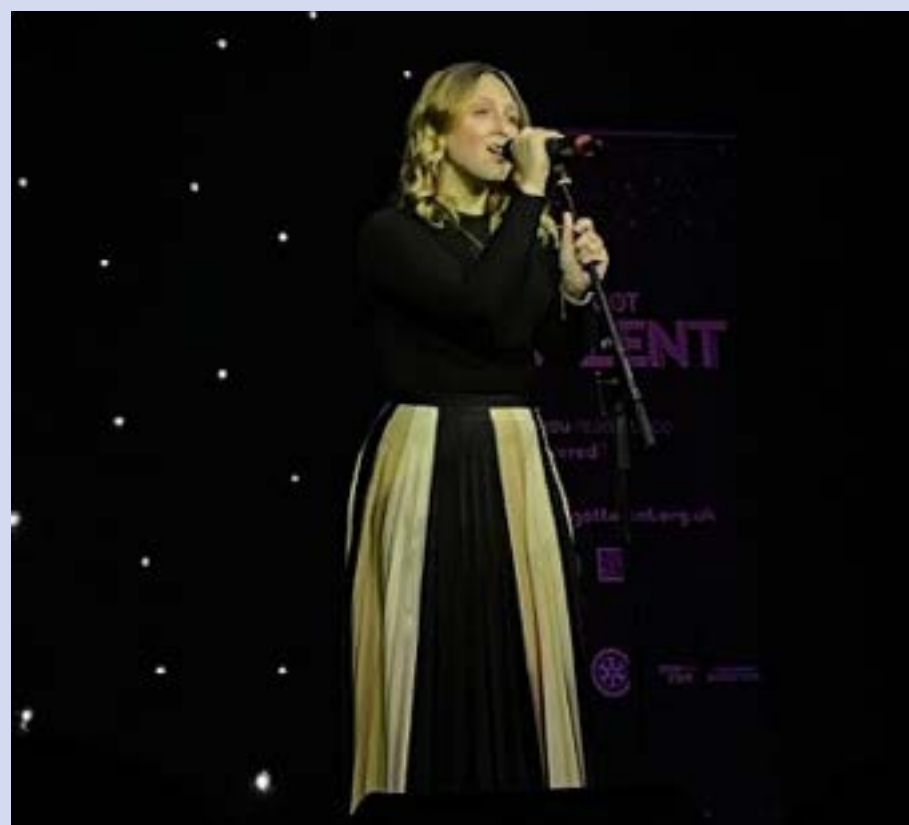
This post-grade 8, level 4 qualification is an opportunity for musicians to demonstrate their expertise in an aspect of preparing for performance, such as showing their knowledge and understanding of a particular piece(s), their instrument, how to select a programme, or the preparation required for advanced performance.

Poppy has been studying music at the Birmingham Junior Conservatoire where she plays first flute and first piccolo, bassoon and saxophone in their ensembles. She has performed at Birmingham Symphony Hall and Bradshaw Hall at the Conservatoire amongst many other venues. She is also a regular member of our school band.

### Amelia

Good luck to Amelia in Year 10 who will be singing in the Rugby's Got Talent final on the 20th July.

Amelia was scouted for the semi-finals at Ashlawn's Battle Of Not Just The Bands where she won best solo act. She sailed through to the finals with a haunting rendition of 'On My Own' from Les Misérables. The judges said her performance was 'captivating and a clear demonstration of her talent and the time she has spent cultivating it'. Mrs. Pickering and Miss Bond will be there to support Amelia on the evening and wish her the best of luck.





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

Ashlawn School  
Ashlawn Road, Hillmorton, Rugby, CV22 5ET

Telephone: 01788 573425  
Email: [info@ashlawn.org.uk](mailto:info@ashlawn.org.uk)  
[www.ashlawn.org.uk](http://www.ashlawn.org.uk)

 [@ashlawnschool\\_rugby](https://www.facebook.com/ashlawnschool_rugby) |  [@AshlawnSchool](https://www.twitter.com/AshlawnSchool)