

# ASHLAWN SUMMER NEWS 2023



Ashlawn  
School



## Welcome from the Principal

### Dear Ashlawn community,

Despite it being a very short half term, we have had a busy time here at Ashlawn. From athletics and 'Battle Of Not Just The Bands', to the Junior Maths Challenge and supporting our Year 11 and 13 students as they started their final exams – there has been lots going on across school!

We are incredibly proud of the way that our students in key year groups have settled into the exams. These provide an important opportunity for students to demonstrate their skills and knowledge in their chosen subjects, forming the basis of their next steps in education and employment. As staff and parents and carers, we have all gone through this process and recognise how exciting and scary it is in equal measure. We look forward to celebrating the results of students' hard work at the end of August.

I would also like to once again thank those of you who have given your time this half term to engage with our parent forums, and for your contributions to the conversations that took place. This is an important part of our consultation with our community and your input into the decision-making process at Ashlawn is so important.

If you would like to join either of our parent forums, please let either Mr McKim or Miss Cook know.

This term we have been doing considerable work on improving the environment in many of the areas of school. Windows have been replaced, areas have been given a fresh coat of paint and we have replaced furnishings in a number of subjects. As a school we want our students to be educated

in a positive environment and as work continues throughout the next half term and the summer, staff and students will see the positive change in our school buildings.

Looking towards the new academic year, we have made a number of significant appointments to our team over the past few weeks. Further details will be forthcoming at the end of next term. However, we are thrilled at the interest that has been shown in joining Ashlawn and we are looking forward to having a full staff for September...

Finally, we can't wait to welcome our new Year 7 students next half term. They will be taking part in a range of activities to help them feel a part of Ashlawn before they start with us. I know that they will be made to feel welcome when they visit.

I wish you all a relaxing half term,

**Paul Brockwell, Principal**



# Worrying about the holidays?

School holidays are different for everyone. You might be excited about a holiday or having time off, or you could be thinking about what might happen or how you'll cope.

## You might be worried about:

- feeling lonely or not going out
- not seeing people who normally support you
- problems at home or having to care for your family
- coping without a routine
- worrying about your exams next term or the results you might get
- being hurt or abused

Remember there are many ways in which you can get support and you are not alone!

Why not take a look at the agencies and support lines that could help you. Remember if you are in immediate danger phone 999.

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. Why not give them a call? **0800 1111**

## Helplines & apps

Papyrus: Thinking about suicide, please call 0800 068 4141 or TEXT 07786 209697

Bullying UK: 0808 800 2222

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

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

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

## These free apps mean you can access support wherever you are.

**Stressheads:** Support to lower our stress levels.

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

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

**Moodometer:** Created by the NHS. Allows you to track your moods and what has influenced it. Also provides ways to lift your mood.

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

**Grief support for young people:** Information about grief, bereavement and the feelings we may experience when we lose a loved one.

**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.

**Winston's Wish:** Helpline to support young people with the death of a loved one. **08088 020 021**

## Staying Safe - Top Tips!

- 1 **Be careful of who you are talking to online - not everyone is who they say they are.**
- 2 **Stay away from railway lines. Harrison's Story**
- 3 **Dont go swimming in lakes and quarries - it's too dangerous.**
- 4 **Eat, Sleep and Rest..... it is the best way to feel the best you can.**

**Finally..... HAVE FUN!!**

# Languages news

The first half of the summer term is always a very busy time for the Languages Department, due to the GCSE and A-Level Oral Exams.

Our Year 11 and 13 students, and of course all of our language teachers, have worked incredibly hard this half term to complete these.

Students have shown amazing resilience and aspiration in their revision and completion of the exams and we are really proud of them.

In addition, a huge amount of time and effort has gone in to preparation for the upcoming Year 10 trips to Épernay, Cologne and Barcelona. Everyone is so excited for these trips – we cant wait to update you all in the next newsletter!





# Battle Of Not Just The Bands

On Thursday 11th May, Ashlawn students gathered to compete in the inaugural 'Battle Of Not Just The Bands'.

The event was well attended by parents who were wowed by a variety of acts, from rock bands to solo performances.

The evening was conceived and run by Ashlawn Sixth Form students, Daisy and Freya, with their tireless work in the run up to the night ensuring a slick and impressive event.

Representatives from Rugby Rotary Club and two professional musicians from the local area were part of the judging panel. Tech, front of house and backstage were manned by students with a little support from a few members of staff.

Highlights from the evening included Jack playing an unaccompanied tuba solo, Isla who performed a haunting rendition of Hallelujah, and Mr Musarura's opening songs.

Phoebe in Year 11 and Amelia in Year 10 won a pass through to the semi-finals of 'Rugby's Got Talent', with Amelia winning Best Solo Vocal Performance. Ellie and Eva in Year 11 won Best Instrumental Performance and band, 'Un-named', comprising Dylan, Liana and Nelly won Best Band and were the overall winners of the event.

**Well done to everyone involved!**



# Ashlawn pupils rise to the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

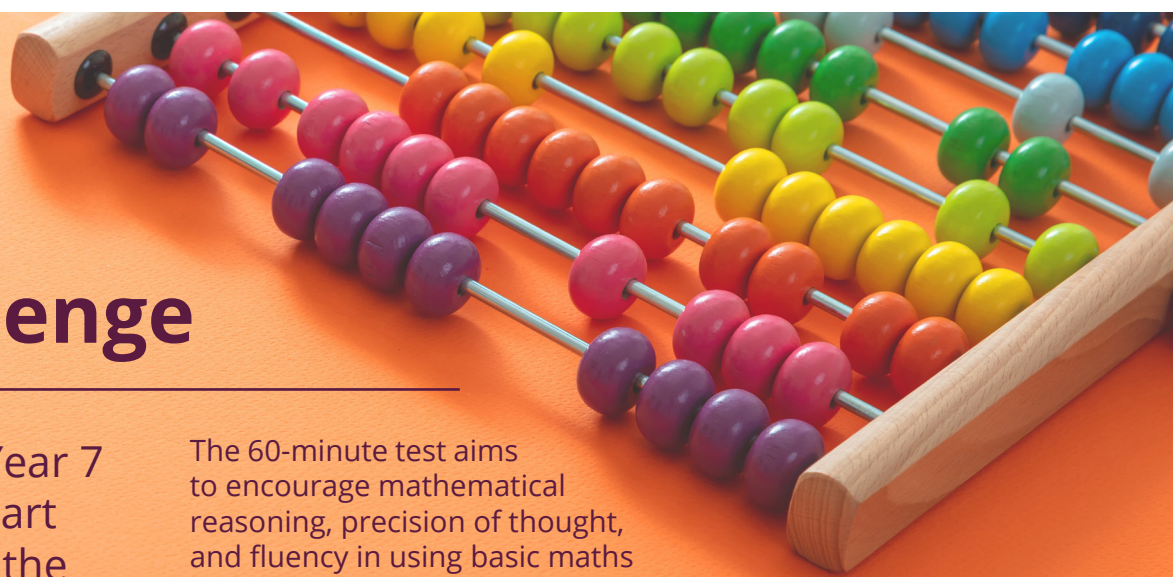
On Wednesday 26th April, over 120 Year 7 and 8 students volunteered to take part in the Junior Maths Challenge run by the charity, UK Mathematics Trust.

The charity, which aims to advance the education of children and young people in maths, run a junior, intermediate and senior maths challenge every year for pupils across the UK. The challenge is entered by around 700,000 pupils each year and is the UK's biggest national maths competition.

The 60-minute test aims to encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic maths techniques to solve problems.

Well done to all those who chose to take part and stretch their problem solving skills!

Maths Challenge Club will continue to run after school on a Tuesday with Miss Marson, as we look forward to upcoming competitions.





# Year 12 chemists were in their element at Inter School Chemistry Quiz

Original commentary provided by Ms Davis.

Eight heroic chemistry athletes competed this month in the 'Sixth Form Inter-Schools Chemistry Quiz', a prestigious event hosted by Rugby School and attended by 21 schools from across the Midlands.

Our two teams took their seats, and the fight began. In the first few warm-up rounds, both Ashlawn teams scored highly, outcompeting many of their erudite rivals. A series of challenges followed, with rounds including Chemistry calculations, knowledge of acids, model making, smell tests and equipment memory recall.

The final round approached with both teams in the running for victory with a strong score. But the last round had a catch. If teams got one answer wrong, the entire round scored zero. Every answer given was a risk. Both teams looked confident. Both teams looked capable of securing victory. But alas, the final round was a wipeout, Ashlawn 1 thinking the band Nickelback peaked in the 1970s and Ashlawn 2 with an unlucky gamble on the most abundant element in the human body.

The final totals were in - Ashlawn 2 getting an impressive score and beating many schools from across the local area.

Warwick and MSC Oxford won the much-coveted golden pipettes of victory but as the undisputed underdogs, we definitely won the crowd's heart.

**From left to right: Sam F, Tom U, Noah H, Akai S, Nicholas M, Max B, Hassan M and Monty F.**



## New member of the team for Ashlawn Science Department

The science department at Ashlawn is pleased to announce a brand-new member of the team - Sir Sheldon Cromwell-Hughes, a 10-year-old rescue tortoise.



In need of a new home after his elderly owner passed away, Sir Sheldon was taken in by 'Aunt' Miss Lodge and given a new home in Lab 3.

A routine vet check-up showed a few health issues, however, a bespoke food plan has given Sir Sheldon a new lease of life and he will be observing students' experiments for many happy years to come.

Should anyone like to come and visit the newest member of the science team, they are very welcome!







# Bringing the Battle of Hastings to life

This year, in History, Year 7 students have studied the events of 1066, amongst other topics. Students have enjoyed getting to learn about the events of the Battle of Hastings and how William the Conqueror then (brutally) took control of the country through various methods.

Some groups created board games to show the key events that they had studied, whilst others made some excellent display pieces. Below are a selection of interesting facts relating to the Battle of Hastings.

## Did you know:

### 1. The Battle of Hastings didn't take place in Hastings

It took place in a field seven miles from Hastings, which is now the appropriately named village of Battle.

### 2. The battle took place over one day

The battle was fought and won in a day, starting around 9am and ending at dusk, which would have been around 5pm, and took place on a Saturday.

### 3. The Normans won by pretending to be scared

The Normans used a well-known ancient tactic called "feigned flight" which involved them pretending to run away. It tricked the English troops into breaking formation, opening themselves up to attack.

### 4. A singer struck the first blow of the battle

William's singer, Taillefer, allegedly sang the Chanson de Roland at the English troops while juggling with his sword. An English soldier ran out to challenge him and was killed by Taillefer, who then charged the English lines and was engulfed.

### 5. Harold probably didn't get an arrow in the eye

Although historical infamy and apparently the Bayeux Tapestry has it that Harold died after an arrow shot to the eye, many historians believe he was in fact drubbed (beaten) to death.

### 6. It's not even a tapestry

The 230ft long Bayeux Tapestry telling the story of the battle is actually an embroidered cloth. Tapestries are woven not embroidered. It was commissioned by Odo, Bishop of Bayeux and Earl of Kent who was the half-brother of William the Conqueror.







## Food at Ashlawn

Ashlawn students have been hard at work in Food Technology lessons this half term, whipping up delicious lunchtime salads and learning about the nutritional properties of a classic breakfast dish. Here's a sample of what some year groups have been doing...

### Year 7 – Summer Layered Salads

Year 7 students have been learning about the Eat Well Guide and how we can eat a balanced diet. Their summer salads also showed their creativity with choices of ingredients.

### Year 11 – Breakfast Science

Year 11s had a pre-exam treat of a full English breakfast! Never missing an opportunity to learn, the tasty breakfast also involved some last minute revision on the functional and chemical properties of the ingredients.

### Year 10 – Puff Pastry

Year 10s learned about the properties of puff pastry and the secrets to making the lightest, flakiest sheets. Can it even be called work when the outcome is this delicious?

## Singing with Scar

Some lucky Ashlawn Performing Arts students received the opportunity of a lifetime this May – the chance to have a private singing lesson via Zoom with Broadway star, Stephen Carlile. Stephen currently plays the role of Scar in the 'The Lion King', at The New York Theatre on Broadway.



Stephen delivered the lesson from his apartment in New York, sat at a desk with incredible views of the Empire State Building. He even shared that he lived just minutes from 42nd Street and Broadway Theatre Land.

The lesson began with a physical and vocal warm-up that Stephen uses whilst waiting in the wings for his entrance to the New York Theatre. Then the group focussed on singing the Lion King classic, 'Can you Feel the Love Tonight', written by Elton John.

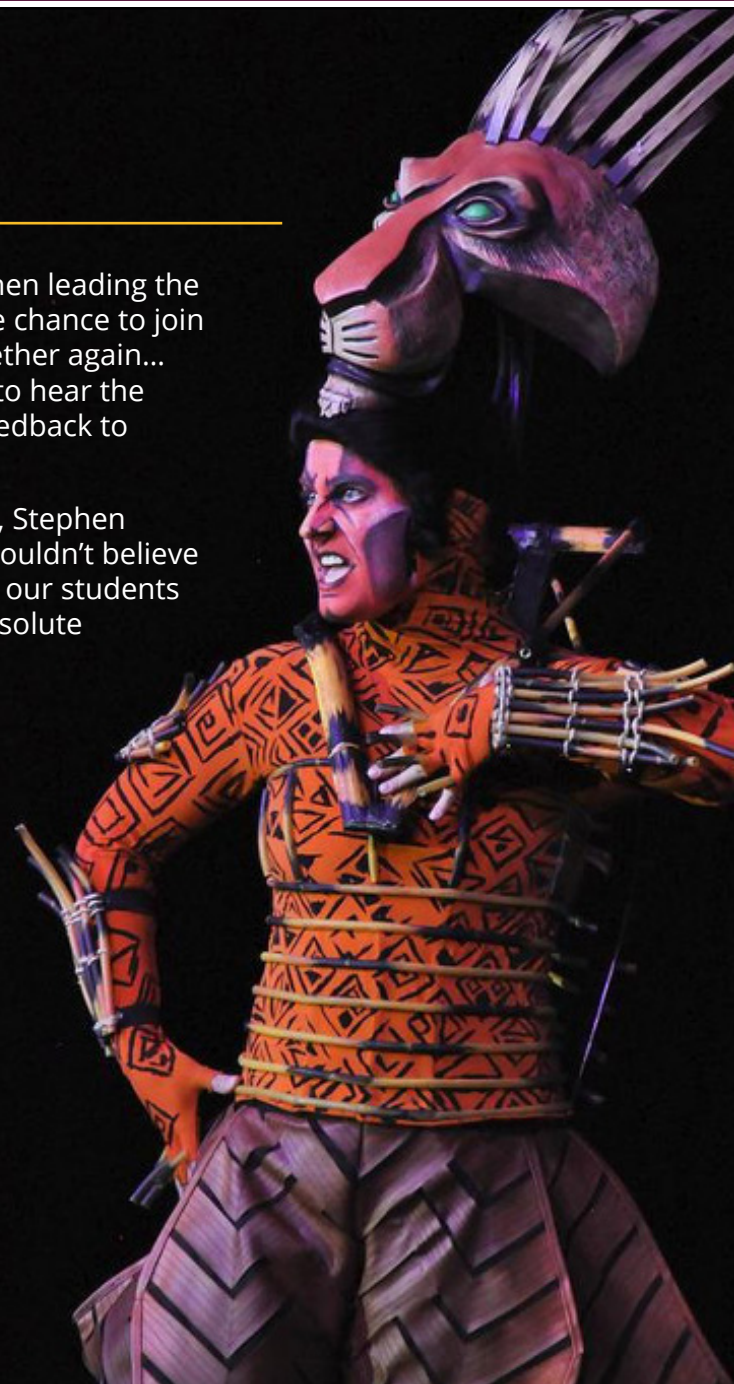
It was magnificent, with Stephen leading the session every student had the chance to join in - all together, solos, all together again... more solos... It was fabulous to hear the Maestro himself delivering feedback to our students.

An hour and 15 minutes later, Stephen concluded by saying that he couldn't believe what amazing voices some of our students had and that they were an absolute pleasure to work with.

What an honour! Well done to Isabella, Sam, Matilda, Ruby, Amanda, Amelia, Emily and William for keeping cool in the presence of such a talent and showcasing their wonderful skills – and, of course, a huge thank you to Stephen Carlile.



THE LION KING  
THE SHOW  
OF A LIFETIME





# Design and Technology

Our current Key Stage 3 classes have been busy researching and developing their design and communication skills in preparation for manufacturing their designs.

Here's a snapshot of what our students have been up to...

## Year 7

Our students have been researching metal and design periods for their Metal Bugs. They have also been developing their communication skills with some excellent oblique and isometric drawings.

## Year 8

Year 8 students have been cutting and filing their wooden mechanical toys, building on skills learned in Year 7. They have been tasked with designing and making a flat packable wooden toy for children in refugee camps, a key component of the design is to use a simple cam mechanism to create movement.

## Year 9

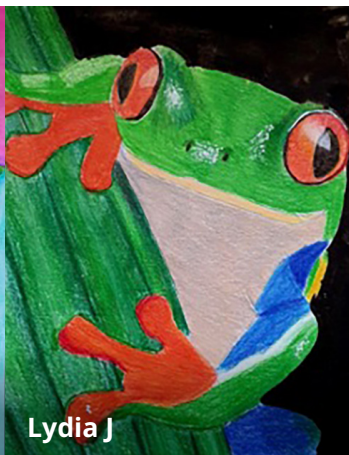
Students in Year 9 have been inspired by colourful 1960s pop culture trends for their textile design project, creating a retro lamp shade.



Luke S



Sandra P



Lydia J



Rueben H



Lawson H

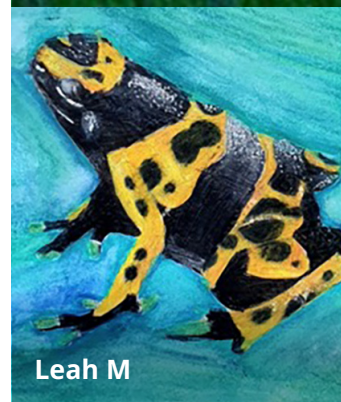


Rishwanth V

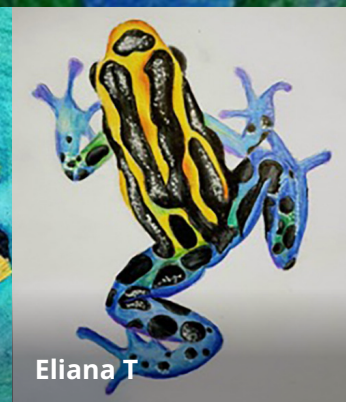
## Year 7 artists make a great leap in skill

Year 7 students have been working hard this half term, learning new skills with colour pencils.

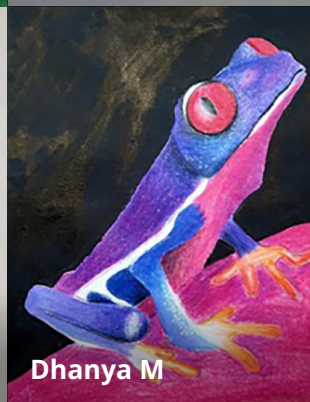
Here are just a selection of a few outstanding pieces from 7X1, showcasing exceptional blending, layering and neatness.



Leah M



Eliana T



Dhanya M



# Drama Club

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“I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being.”

- Oscar Wilde

Drama Club at Ashlawn is always a popular enrichment activity, with over 20 Key Stage 3 students currently enjoying the Friday afternoon sessions.

The budding thespians have so far explored new and exciting short scripts, funny adverts, improvisation games and devising activities. Most importantly, however, are the new friends being made across the different year groups.

A huge thank you goes to Alex in Year 10 who gives up his time to help lead Drama Club, alongside Mrs Ballinger.

The students really enjoy working with Alex, and his knowledge and positivity have boosted the confidence of so many students.

Want to join Key Stage 3 Drama Club? Please come to DR2 on Fridays, 3.20pm - 4.20pm.

# Student Council summer update

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Members of the Ashlawn School Student Council took part in a training morning run by an external provider in April this year.

It was a busy morning, with students looking at the role of student leadership within the school, and strategies for successfully running a meeting. It was a great opportunity to practise valuable leadership skills for the future!

We would like to thank all students for their engagement in this year's School Council, they have shown a constructive attitude and a mature approach to being role models and representatives for their peers.

They have played an important role in reviewing and providing feedback on a range of school policies, from the anti-bullying campaign, to the new behaviour system and meeting Ofsted and the challenge partners. They truly are a credit to the school!

Student council representatives:

**Year 13:** Joe, Grace, Olivia, Sam

**Year 12:** Max, Amaani, Flavio

**Year 11:** Fariyah HJ

**Year 10:** Betel, Pradeep, Lisa

**Year 9:** Joe, Evie

**Year 8:** Autumn, Holly, Liam

**Year 7:** Harishan, Lulu

Elections for next year's School Council will take place later this term - students interested in joining should keep an eye out for information via their form bulletins after half term.







# PROTECT TRANS KIDS

## Transgender awareness

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On Monday 24th April we were delighted to welcome Jessica Lynn into school to talk to our students about her life and the challenges she faces as a transgender woman.

Jessica transitioned in 2010 when she took a psychology class at Hancock College, a campus near to where she lived in Santa Maria, CA. She took this class hoping to learn more about the transgender and gender non-conforming communities, and had thoughts of maybe one day becoming a therapist to help others in a position similar to hers.

While taking this class, she came out to her professor, Tom Vandermolen, who in turn asked her to share her transgender journey with her classmates. Her first presentation lasted around 20 minutes, and it has led her to becoming one of the most travelled and sought after transgender awareness speakers in the world. Since 2010, Jessica has presented to hundreds of thousands of students in 28 countries around the world. She feels these students will be the next leaders in the world, and this is the best way to educate all of them while they are still in school, learning, and with open minds.

Over the last number of years, Jessica has started speaking with, and has developed presentations for students as young as 10 years old. One of the only countries that really allows

students under 18 to hear and learn about transgender issues is the UK. Not only does the British government accept it, but they encourage students to learn more about these issues.

Jessica's core message is about getting people to accept themselves and others, letting people live their lives as the person they truly are. The tale of Jessica's life demonstrates the power of one story to highlight the pain and injustice that a transphobic society can bring. It rings alarm bells for the amount of prejudice in the world that anybody can face and how a single person's bias and discrimination can completely ruin someone's life. She asks students during the presentation to go out and speak about what they have heard to at least one person to spread the message of acceptance. Hopefully in this way the tide of prejudice can be turned as people become more aware.

We are privileged that Jessica agreed to speak to our students about her journey and hope that students will empathise with the struggles that Jessica has faced. It is so important that students understand and accept each other's differences and this will form an important part of their awareness.



# What our students said:

## Year 7

- It was good, it was inspirational, it was moving and it was sad!
- Be yourself. Don't be ashamed of who you are. Always be supportive, empower and encourage everyone around us as we don't know what somebody could be going through.
- Inspirational. Different. Trying to aid people's confidence. Confidence boosting. Interesting. Treat people with respect – you don't know what is going on with some people / what they are going through.

## Year 8

- You don't know what's going on in someone's head, only they know!
- Don't take people for granted and don't change yourself for other people.
- Never assume something about someone's life. Everyone could be struggling. Her story was very inspirational. You should tell people how you feel and not keep it to yourself. It's your choice who you want to be.

## Year 9

- She's had a really hard life, I was surprised how much she's been through and she is still smiling.
- It was very emotional.
- She's the most resilient person I know.
- Always be kind to others. Don't judge them for the decisions they make.
- It is important to learn about someone's life as being transgender, it helps with awareness.

## Year 10

- It was eye opening.
- It was quite emotional.
- It was interesting.
- Assemblies should be like this one.



## Year 12

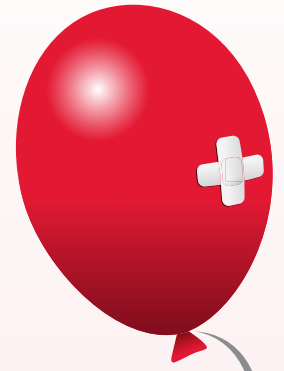
- Be who you are and empower yourself to be your own person. Be confident with yourself.
- Talk to people and open up. Don't hold your emotions in and keep them to yourself.
- Remain true to your values in the face of adversity.
- Her story was very inspiring and raised a lot of awareness about how trans youth may feel and what they could go through with a secure support system - which needs to be understood and acknowledged by those around us.
- Jess showed us that we can't presume a person's life experiences just by looking at them. Jess was inspirational. Teaching us to live our best life.
- Jess showed us that we need to keep going in the face of tragedy.

Following Jessica's presentation, she spent the lunch time with our LGBTQ+ community answering questions and signposting them to where they can get support. Jessica is keen to return to Ashlawn in the final term and speak to our parents.





# Raising money for Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity



Earlier this year, Year 13 Health and Social Care students worked so hard to raise the profile of Birmingham Children's hospital and Heart month. They used socials to promote the event and displayed such strong leadership and enthusiasm for fundraising.

Through this they raised an amazing £408.93 for the Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity. The funds will go towards projects and activities that support over 90,000 children and their families and make the hospital a more welcoming environment.

**Thank you to everyone involved in every way!**

**#teamhealthandsocialcare #community**

Birmingham   
Children's Hospital  
Charity

## Goodbye and Good Luck, Year 13!

On Friday 19th May we said goodbye to our wonderful Year 13 students during their last Celebration Assembly and lunch in the Sixth Form Study Centre.

We had a lovely day celebrating their time with us in Sixth Form and, for many, the past seven years at Ashlawn School. We enjoyed Domino's Pizza in the sunshine, followed by a Celebration

Assembly with 32 subject awards, nine student leadership awards, nine form tutor awards and four Head of Year awards. All award winners received a Love to Shop voucher.

We also had some subject nominated awards such as 'Best Dressed' and 'Most Likely to be Prime Minister' where students were presented with an Oscar trophy!

There was a special presentation of photos of them throughout their time at Ashlawn followed by a few tears, lots of laughter and joy.

Everyone behaved so well and were a credit to the school, just as they have been throughout the two years here. I would like to wish every single one of them all the very best of luck with their exams and their futures.

Thank you Year 13 for the wonderful memories.

I am so proud of you all.

By Lorraine Cunliffe - Head of Year 13





# Ashlawn Triumph at Warwickshire Schools Combined Events Championships

Ashlawn students celebrated multiple successes at the Warwickshire Combined Events Championships on the 10th and 11th of May, with a number of students receiving gold medals for athletics.

In the Minor Girls tournament, Ava (Year 7) received gold, as did Jacob (Year 9) in the Junior Boys.

The Intermediate Girls Team also took home a gold medal after besting several prestigious schools to win overall. The wins may not end there, as we are still awaiting the results of the Intermediate Boys tournament.

Students were also praised by the staff for representing the school with the highest of standards and good sportsmanship.



Congratulations to all those involved!

Please see below for the names of those who took part.

## Minor Boys U13

Ben V  
Noah D  
Harry G

## Junior Boys U15

Jacob V  
Daniel R  
Rhys Y

## Inter Boys U17

Robbie D  
Nigel N  
Ethan W  
Dinis M

## Minor Girls U13

Erin T  
Ava H  
Sophie F

## Inter Girls U17

Maia T  
Lucy B  
Kirsty G  
Scarlett S

## Attendance matters

It is essential that children of school age attend their school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career.

Excellent attendance is key to allow a child to achieve their potential.

- To learn
- To have fun
- To make friends
- To experience new things
- To develop awareness of other cultures, religions, ethnicities and gender differences
- To achieve
- To gain qualifications
- To develop new skills
- To build confidence and self-esteem

### How can parents help?

- Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day
- Ensure your child arrives to school on time
- Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours where possible
- Always inform school if your child is absent due to illness
- Take truancy seriously – if your child is not in school, they could be putting themselves at risk
- Take family holidays outside of term time
- Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work
- Attend parents' evenings and school events
- Praise and reward your child's achievements at school
- Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school – staff are here to help and be supportive

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**90% attendance =**  
One school day  
missed per fortnight

This may not sound like a lot, but it equates to three weeks and four days of learning opportunities that are missed in school.

Please speak to your child's Head of Year if there is an issue we can support you with.





Ashlawn  
School



At Ashlawn we...

# CARE

## Community

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

## Aspiration

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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

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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

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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

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