

ASHLAWN

AUTUMN NEWS 2023



ASHLAWN
SCHOOL

Our best, always



Welcome from the Principal

It is with great pleasure that I get to present to you our first newsletter of this academic year.

It has been so great to be back in school and to see how hard staff and students are working together to make the progress they deserve. We are always excited by the opportunity to share our passion for our subjects with students and watch them learn and grow.

Ashlawn continues to provide fantastic opportunities to our students, whether it is through lessons, in school presentations or further afield. Through our parent forums, we have heard how the frequency and quality of home study has improved. These groups have fed back on their children's lived school experience, and we have listened and taken action. Please feel free to join these forums in forming the plans for future school development.

During our recent monitoring visit, Ofsted commented on how far we have come since last November, and on the concerted action that has been taken to address their observations last time. We will continue to drive forward with our ambitious plans to provide opportunity to all our students, regardless of their interests or strengths, ensuring that the experience for all our students is a positive one.

Our motto of "our best, always" is a statement of our intent to not rest on where we are now but strive to be better every day.

I hope this newsletter gives you a flavour of what an amazing experience your children have and our desire to go further.

Paul Brockwell,
Principal



SAFEGUARDING

COUNTY LINES WORKSHOP

This term we have welcomed Warwickshire Police at Ashlawn School to deliver workshops on 'County Lines' to Years 9 and 12. Pupils took part in a discussion around County Lines and watched a video using VR headsets that shows a young person being involved with County Lines. The aim of the session was to raise awareness of the signs and consequences of being involved so that pupils can protect themselves and their peers.



Students said:

'It is really scary to think how quickly you can become involved' – Sean

'The VR headsets made it feel really real... I really felt like I was in the back of a taxi when the boy told them to sell drugs' – Ben

'It is horrible to think that they hurt the young girl. She had so many bruises on her arms and neck' – Olivia

'It has made me think carefully about how to stay safe' – Robert

Mrs. Pountney (Designated Safeguarding Lead) said the event was a real success and that students were informed about several websites that they can report their concerns to. We are looking forward to the team returning in November to complete the workshop with our remaining Year 9 students.

HELP AND SUPPORT

	Warwickshire Police: Tel: 101 Tel: 999
	Childline: Tel: 0800 1111
	NSPCC Helpline: Tel: 0808 800 5000
	Fearless: Tel: 0800 555 111

A-Level Geography Trip

The Shropshire Hills and Shrewsbury were the backdrop to this year's A-Level trip for our Year 13 Geographers. Over three days, the students practiced urban fieldwork strategies in Shrewsbury, considering the representation of Shrewsbury against reality.

They were introduced to urban drifts and methods to collect subjective data while sampling the delights of Shrewsbury's wide variety of food outlets.

The students also had the opportunity to investigate the water cycle in the Cardingmill Valley area, considering infiltration and interception rates, using a variety of methods. Some even gave in and borrowed waterproofs and wellies as a fashion statement!

On the last day, it was over to the students. Having set an investigation question, they took the day to revisit Shrewsbury or the Valley area to collect independent data for their NEA coursework.

They were a delight to take away; they focused on the geography, looked after each other throughout, and laughed lots together. We are very pleased with the start they have made to their NEA and look forward to seeing how these progress in the run-up to Christmas.

Year 11

Our GCSE students have also been out of the classroom, participating in a day visit to the Peak District to investigate changes in the river valley. This enabled them to revise their river processes as well as learn about fieldwork techniques for Paper 3.

The students were fantastic in their approach to the day, with some showing real leadership in their groups. There were a few wet feet on the journey home as students made sure those depth measurements were correct!

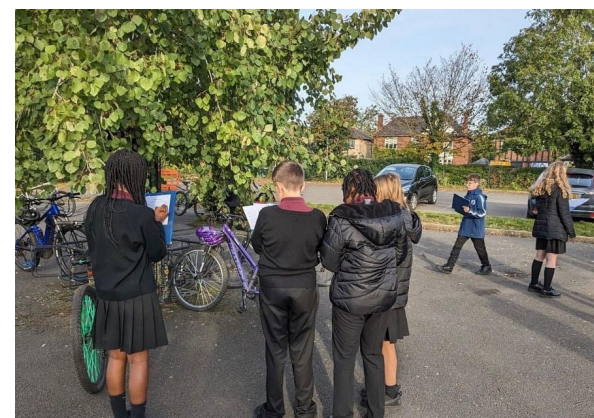
Students can expect to be tested on their fieldwork in the upcoming mock exams - we're sure the day will allow the techniques to be remembered and recalled much more strongly due to their experience.

Well done, Year 11 Geographers!

Year 7

As Year 7 begins their Geography journey with us, they have been practicing a range of skills this term to become strong Geographers. We've spent time learning how to read maps and, more recently, how to conduct a geographical inquiry.

Year 7 students have been out around school collecting data and analysing their results. There are definitely many budding GCSE and A-Level Geographers amongst them!



DofE

Ashlawn School will again offer students the opportunity to complete the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE). This year, we are offering the Bronze Award to students in Year 9, the Silver Award to students in Year 10, and the Gold Award to students in Year 12.

The DofE is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends, develop essential skills for their future, and achieve an internationally renowned award.

About the DofE

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people; it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. There are three levels of the DofE programme, which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, teamwork and self-motivation, and they'll achieve an award that's recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for university, apprenticeships or jobs.

To achieve their award, participants must complete four sections: skills, volunteering, physical and their expedition. At Gold level, students complete a fifth section, the Residential.

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them; they can choose what they'd like to do for their skills, volunteering, and physical sections, and most activities can count. We will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new.

About the Expedition

The Expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their expedition's aim, choose a location, and do some training to make sure they're fully prepared before spending time in the countryside. The length of these expeditions depends on the level of the DofE Award they are undertaking.

Ahead of this, they will take part in a practice expedition covering basic expedition principles and introducing them to expedition equipment. There will also be several training sessions in which your child and their group will plan their route and prepare.

Signing up

Full details on how to sign up can be found in the letter sent to all parents this week.

If you would like any further information, please feel free to contact me at hobsonc@ashlawn.org.uk.



World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day - Tuesday 10th October 2023

Promoting positive mental health is really important to our students and staff, so on Tuesday 10th October we celebrated World Mental Health Day by wearing yellow!

This year's theme was to raise awareness and act on it, and students were reminded in assembly and on the TV screens about how they can access support in school.

Students were reminded that they can access the following support IN school:

- Talk to any trusted adult that works at Ashlawn
- Pop a note in the worry box outside the Welfare Lead Office
- **Email:** Ineedtotalk@ashlawn.org.uk
- **Email:** safeguarding@ashlawn.org.uk



- Talk to Dan Price, our school counsellor, at lunch or break time (his office is situated by the library)
- Talk to the Welfare Lead
- Talk to the school nurse
- Talk to a DSL

Students were reminded that they can access the following support OUTSIDE of school:

- **Mental Health (MIND):** Wellbeing advisers are here for young people aged 15-24 who are feeling down or worried. They can help young people find the right help and then catch up with them further down the line to see how things are going. www.cwmind.org.uk/wellbeing-advisers
- **Harmless:** an organisation that works to address and overcome issues related to self-harm and suicide. www.harmless.org.uk
- **Dear Life:** a website dedicated to helping people in Coventry and Warwickshire find mental health and suicide prevention information and advice for themselves or someone they are worried about. www.dearlife.org.uk
- **Mermaids:** A charity supporting transgender, nonbinary and gender diverse children, young people and their families. www.mermaidsuk.org.uk - Helpline: 08088010400
- **Kooth:** An online mental health community providing free, safe and anonymous support. www.kooth.com

Update from the Ashlawn School Council

On Friday 6th October, the newly elected members of the 2023–24 school council met for the first time.

They got stuck straight into their new roles and had a lively discussion about a range of aspects of school life, including the new times of the day, the canteen and reflecting on the improvements from last year.

As always, it's great to see students collaborating with peers from across all school years and showing exemplary community and communication skills.

We look forward to continuing to build the role that the student council plays in school life, as well as the growth of student voice.



Food and Nutrition

Year 11 students have demonstrated fantastic effort in tackling their first NEA, contributing to 15% of their final grade.

They worked hard, doing lots of research, careful planning and trying out different experiments focusing on how ingredients work and their chemical properties.

In Year 10, students are delving into the world of macronutrients and micronutrients. They're also acquiring practical skills, such as enhancing their presentation abilities. The focus is on creating imaginative and innovative salads that are packed with essential vitamins and minerals.

Year 8 students had a busy start to the term making pasta from scratch using only flour and eggs! They took their pasta home, created a sauce, and shared pictures. The lessons were fun, but quite messy!

In Year 7, students had a blast learning new knife skills by chopping carrots. They also made a vegetable couscous salad, rock cakes, and savoury scones. Learning through practical work is so much fun!

Scarefest

The Ashlawn Arts Department is hosting a historical 'Scarefest' on Friday 27th October at 5pm. This will be a spooky and interactive walk-through experience for students to attend. Tickets are £5 and can be purchased through ParentPay. Please contact Mr Dempsey for further information. We hope to see you there!

ASHLAWN SCHOOL

DARE YOU **FACE YOUR FEARS** AS YOU **EXPLORE**
THE **GRUESOME TRUTHS** OF THE PAST...

A person wearing a dark grey hoodie is shown from the chest up. They are making a 'shh' gesture with their right hand, holding their index finger to their lips. The background is dark and moody.

SCAREMAZE

FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER | 5PM

TICKETS £5
SEE MR DEMPSEY OR MS BOND

THIS ATTRACTION WILL CONTAIN FLASHING LIGHTS, FOG AND SCARY THEMES

STEM Club Launch

The STEM faculty is excited to announce that we are launching a brand NEW club solving the 30 Days Lost In Space Challenge! Starting on Thursday 9th November, the club will run in IT2 after school. You only need to bring yourself.

The Challenge

We're sorry to say it, but you seem to be stuck 100 feet underwater on some alien planet. No worries though, we've dealt with this situation thousands of times.

We know this may sound overwhelming, but you need to learn to code and wire so you can fix your destroyed control panel.

While you're at it, we detected a few other "minor" repairs you will need to complete. Your solar panel is offline, the air ballast system has failed, your security systems aren't working, and the worst problem of all, your entertainment system is down.

Again, nothing to stress out over, it's all fixable with the right tools and training. This repair kit has an excellent success rate and will walk you step by step through each repair mission.

It will take you exactly thirty days to repair your shuttle and we will guide you through all the steps necessary, from coding to wiring up your fancy new hardware setup.



Starting with those dang lights, it's kind of hard to fix complex systems if you can't see them. Then we will work all the way to getting your shuttle out of the water and off this backward planet!



Drama

The Ashlawn Drama Club has loved getting back into the swing of things since returning after the summer break.

They have been working incredibly hard to develop relationships and connections, leading to their first creation being based on the stimulus 'Life is a wonderful fairy tale'.

They have all displayed brilliant care for each other, aspiration with their ideas, respect when working as a team of different age groups and excellence in their performance.

The Drama team is super excited to see this group continue working over the year!

Drama Club takes place every Friday and is open for Years 7, 8 and 9.

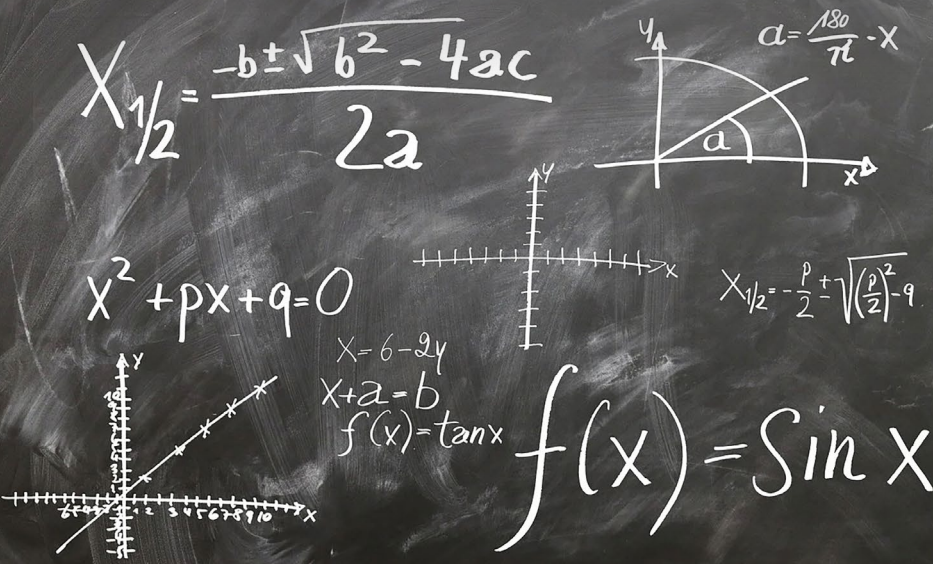
Maths

16 girls in Years 11, 12 and 13 took part in the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Girls Mathematical Olympiad on Wednesday 27th September.

The challenge took 2.5 hours and tested the students' ability to solve mathematical problems. All the girls volunteered their time to attempt this terrific challenge.

Years 12, 13 and a select few Year 11s also took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge on Tuesday 3rd October. This is usually a Sixth Form only challenge, but some of our top-set Year 11s pushed themselves to take part.

We are incredibly proud of everyone who took part in the two challenges!



Art

Rugby Art Gallery Opportunity

Rugby Art Gallery and Museum has started the search for top contemporary artists to showcase works in the Rugby Open 23 exhibition. The exhibition runs from 25th November 2023 to 3rd February 2024.

Application forms and payment must be submitted by Monday 13th November 2023.

There is a flourishing youth section for young artists aged 14–19 years old. The Open offers a rare opportunity for emerging artists to present works alongside pieces from established artists in a professional gallery setting. Application forms and payment (£5 per piece submitted) must be submitted by Monday 13th November 2023.

All the relevant information and terms and conditions can be found online at: <https://www.ragm.co.uk/Open23> or alternatively, email Miss Eburne at eburnec@ashlawn.org.uk

Year 7 Art Kits

Thanks to all parents and carers who have purchased art kits for their son or daughter. The payment window has now closed. If you have paid and your son or daughter has not received it, can you please contact Miss Eburne at eburnec@ashlawn.org.uk

Black History Month

Thank you to Rebecca, Lyla, and Joseph for their brilliant pieces for Black History Month. Please take a further look at the Art Corridor.

Key Dates:

Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd November (Half term): Intervention Dates for Year 11

and 13 Art students to catch up on coursework. Further details are to follow via email to relevant students and parents.

Ex-Year 11 portfolios: The date is approaching when work can be given back. Further details are TBC.



A-Level Sociology

All A-Level Sociology students are busy writing essays on whether patriarchy is still alive and kicking, for a national competition run by the British Sociological Association.

They are writing essays debating patriarchy in literature, social media, gaming, politics, healthcare, education, sport and the justice system. 16 of our students are developing their essay writing skills, all aiming to win this national competition and secure the top prize of an iPad mini.

Good luck to all entering!

Year 7 Arts Showcase

On Wednesday 18th October, around 50 Year 7 students joined together to perform in the Year 7 Arts Showcase; a celebration of the work that Year 7 students have been doing in lessons.

There were solos, ensembles, band performances, drama performances and dances as well as a display of student artwork. As is tradition, our ears were also delighted by the big group sing where all students joined together to sing Fight Song, Roar and Hero, and it was great to see Mr Dempsey make his conducting debut.

Year 7 students were supported by older students who performed and also ran backstage and front of house. There was an amazing atmosphere throughout the evening and we are so proud of what our Year 7 students have accomplished in only 31 days of being at Ashlawn!

Follow the Arts faculty on Instagram: [@theartsdepartment_ashlawn](https://www.instagram.com/theartsdepartment_ashlawn)



Boxhouse Theatre Company Visit

The Arts Faculty welcomed Boxhouse Theatre Company to Ashlawn School on Friday 6th October.

Boxhouse's style of drama is so unique, incorporating sound effects, body props and exaggeration to tell stories in their own way. The performance was created by actors alone and one crash mat!

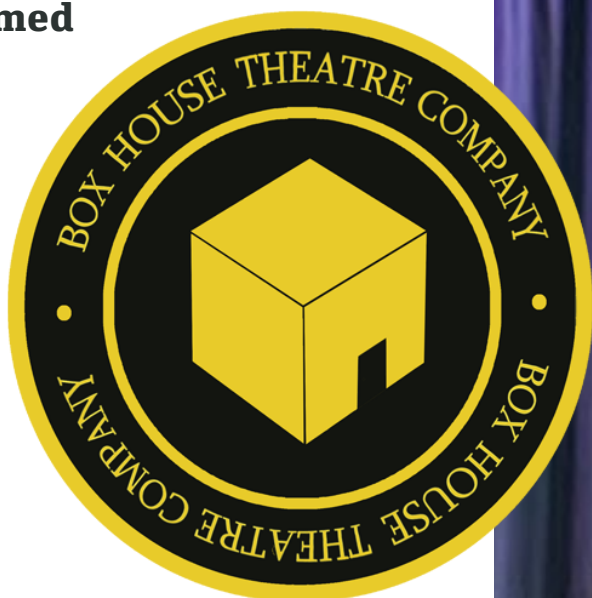
Boxhouse say "We stand as proof that impressive theatre should not be restricted to budgets, resources and opportunity, and that "boundary pushing theatre" is born from imagination and creativity alone."

Over 70 GCSE Drama, BTEC Level 2 and 3 Performing Arts students were lucky enough to experience their performance of 'Twisted Tales' and take part in a bespoke set of workshops working alongside the professionals to create some fabulous work. We also welcomed all of Year 7 and our Key Stage 3 Drama Club to watch a performance too.

"The performance was really funny, their characters were really exaggerated!"

"I look forward to using these ideas in my devising exam, it has been really helpful!"

The students really enjoyed this opportunity and we look forward to hosting more events like this in the near future.



English and Theatre Studies

A Level Media Studies Theatre Trip

Students will be visiting the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry on the 9th of November to watch a live performance of I, Daniel Blake. This is a fantastic opportunity for our Year 12 and 13 students to watch a live performance of one of the set texts on the Eduqas curriculum.

The Guardian trip

Also next term, a group of 25 Year 12 and 13 students will visit The Guardian offices in London to see where the journalists work and take part in a journalism workshop.

The Ashlawn Insight is ready to launch!

Our brand new Sixth Form newspaper - 'The Ashlawn Insight' is almost ready to launch and we are looking forward to publishing articles from our Year 12 students!

What we're currently reading:

Underland by Robert McFarlane (NWI) and The Life of Pi (NBO)

Politics

A quick quiz from the Politics Department – how many can you get right?

- 1 Which two US states have fewer members of the House of Representatives than Senators?
- 2 How many days was Liz Truss PM for?
- 3 When a new Speaker of the House of Commons is elected, how do they traditionally get to the speaker's chair?
- 4 Which children's book did US Senator Ted Cruz read as part of a filibuster?
- 5 What name is given to members of the House of Lords which do not belong to a political party?

- 5 Crossbenchers
4 Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss
3 They are dragged there by other MPs
2 49 days
1 Delaware and Vermont

Answers



Languages – European Day of Languages

European Day of Languages was celebrated in school on 26th September.

Year 7 students had a European bake-off competition with some amazing cakes procured by students.

Proceeds from the sale of the cakes went to the French Pen Pal Scheme.

16 Year 11 students went to Hillmorton Primary School to teach language lessons to pupils in Years 4-6. They taught mini lessons in French, German, Spanish and Polish. It was an amazing experience for both our students and the primary school pupils.



Languages – Speaking exams

Year 11 Languages students have been working hard this term towards their first mock speaking exams.

The aspiration, resilience and excellence shown by students have been outstanding.

Languages - French

On Thursday 5th October, Year 11 French students welcomed their French pen pals from Epernay to Ashlawn School.

The day started with a tour of the school led (in French!) by our talented Year 11 students. All students were welcomed by Mr Brockwell, who did his Year 11 assembly both in English and in French!

In the afternoon, students took part in a French or English-speaking activity to get to know each other better, and we then went to Rugby School for a visit. The day ended with a quiz on British and French culture and a disco. It was an unforgettable experience for all our students, who have formed strong intercultural friendships.



Boys' Football

This half term we've seen a strong start to extra-curricular competitive fixtures for the Boys' Football teams.

Year 7 Boys' have won two games, beating LSS 3-0 and AVS 4-1 while losing 3-2 to a well drilled Houlton side.

Year 8 have beaten LSS 5-1 and AVS 5-1, however lost to Harris 1-2.

Year 9 Boys' Football team followed up a 5-1 win away at Avon Valley School, with a resounding victory against our TLET neighbours, Houlton, 9-0.

Year 10 have only played one game and lost 2-1 against AVS.

Year 11 have drawn one game against Harris 2-2, and lost one against AVS 3-1.

Well done to all involved!



Criminology and Law Trip

Year 13 Criminology and Law Students are invited to take part in the upcoming outing to the National Justice Museum in Nottingham. Students will have the opportunity to take part in a Courtroom Workshop and a Museum Workshop.

The trip will take place on Thursday 21st December.

All participating students should give permission slips to Miss Sheffield by 27th October, and the trip should be paid for via ParentPay by 17th November.

Please speak with Miss Sheffield for more information.

Science Club

The Science Department is very excited to be hosting a Science Club for KS3 every Thursday between 3:30pm and 4:30pm in L10!

In our first week, our scientists made their own biodegradable plastic with a spooky twist.

These creepy creations started out as a gooey paste of glycerol, water and cornstarch but with a little heat and some time to let the water evaporate they've become hard, plastic Halloween decorations which can be composted after use.



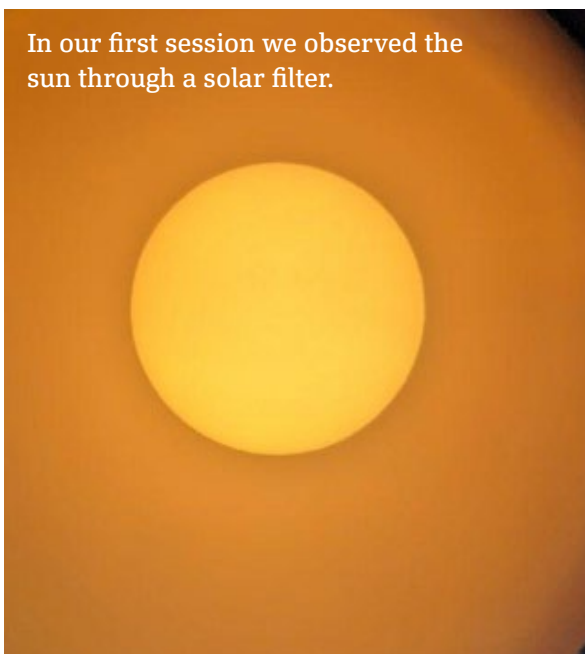
Astronomy Club

Astronomy Club has begun again, taking place on Tuesday afternoons 3.30 - 4.30pm.

We're one of the few groups of people looking forward to the nights drawing in and it getting darker earlier!

The club is open to all year groups and offers a great opportunity to use our three telescopes to view the moon, the planets and other objects in the night (or early evening!) sky. We're also very excited to be taking delivery of a new AI assisted smart telescope very shortly.

In our first session we observed the sun through a solar filter.



We also looked at one of the robotic telescopes we have access to - the National Schools Observatory in the Canary Islands. Here's an image of Saturn we used the telescope to capture.

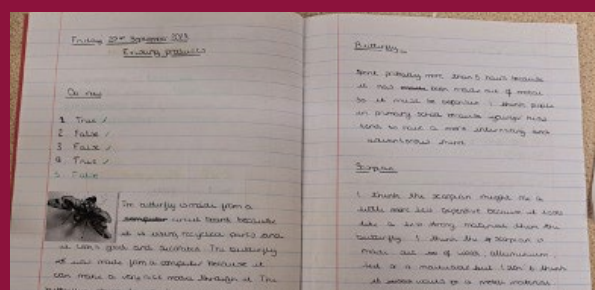


Design and Technology

Year 7 students have been hard at work learning about metals in Design and Technology, and have now finished their second assessment which has been drawing skills and working in isometric.

After half term, we will be moving into the workshop to make our bugs!

Year 8 students have been learning about mechanisms and have constructed kits to show how different mechanisms work. They are now



working on producing their own designs and will be making the box frames for these after half term.

Year 9 students have been working to make frames from felt as part of this element of the Key Stage 3 course.

They have tried to make different types of fabric and have designed their work on 2D Design so it can be laser cut. They now need to add their finishing touches before they move to Food on the 20th November. Don't worry Year 9, you'll be back to complete a final KS3 project on textiles with embedded electronics in the new year!

Year 10 students have made an excellent start to their GCSEs by completing their first assessments, and have enjoyed trialling lots of different presentation ideas for their drawings.

Year 11 are hard at work on their NEA and are generating as many different and varied designs as they can!

All students are reminded that they need to secure long hair and should make sure they have a hair bobble if required.





Our best, always

Ashlawn School Sixth Form Open Evening

The Ashlawn School Sixth Form team are delighted to invite current Year 10 and 11 students to attend our Sixth Form Open Evening from 5.30pm on Thursday 23rd November 2023.

Please visit the school website for further information about how to book onto a talk

You can contact us via **01788 573425** or **info@ashlawn.org.uk** if you need any further details.

Sixth Form Provision
Ofsted Good
Nov 2022

Our Sixth Form Offer

It is with great pleasure and pride that we invite you to consider Ashlawn School Sixth form.

Our school motto of “our best, always” helps us to strive to become the best we can, supporting each other along the journey.

Our well qualified and experienced teaching staff provide high quality learning experiences that allow our students to develop the skills and knowledge to succeed.

We are proud to offer a broad and exciting range of over 30 subjects from both a traditional academic pathway alongside Level 3 BTEC qualifications.

Students leave us with exam results that they are proud of, progressing onto their next step whether that be a university place, a high level apprenticeship or employment.

Our students flourish here, not just academically but personally

Our dedicated team provide opportunities for our 6th formers to act as ambassadors across the whole school, volunteering as peer mentors to younger students and organising charity and community events.

Our 6th form students are proud to represent our school

In November, Ofsted judged our 6th form to be a good provision, an award that demonstrates the quality of the teaching and the support and opportunities provided to our students.

We have continued to look for how we improve our service to our students, and have for example introduced a ‘Passport’, enabling students to study independently at home in the afternoon.

Our Trust values of nurturing potential, inspiring community and delivering excellence are demonstrated in the extra opportunities we provide, such as our Early Entry/Oxbridge programme and First Aid training.

We look forward to welcoming you to be part of our excellent facilities and opportunities, supporting you in your aspirations and developing you into rounded citizens of the future.



ASHLAWN
SCHOOL



At Ashlawn we...

CARE

Community

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

Aspiration

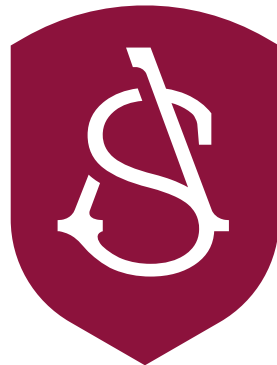
We work hard and make the most of exciting and challenging learning experiences, in order to open up the world around us and achieve our dreams.

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.



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

Telephone: 01788 573425
Email: info@ashlawn.org.uk
www.ashlawn.org.uk

 @ashlawnschoolrugby