

## Dear community of Ashlawn School,

This has been an incredible time over the past term, working with such dedicated staff and students on addressing the judgments raised by Ofsted in November. Many parents have been incredibly supportive of the school since then, having attended personally, and now watching their children go on to have the quality of education that they remember.

This is a role that I am thrilled to be able to continue. We have already made a number of changes to the way we operate. Any changes that we have made have involved the staff, students and parents. We want to be an open and reflective school, listening and adapting to the needs of our community. We know that these changes will not only

have an impact on the culture and environment of the school in the short term, but will form the basis for the long-term progress of Ashlawn School. I am so excited by the prospect of sharing Ashlawn's journey and watching your children achieve their full potential.

I want to welcome you to our new format, half-termly newsletter. We wanted to better showcase the fantastic experiences that our students have here, while at the same time sharing important information from the term. All year groups will now receive a year group newsletter at the start of each half term from the head of year that will include important dates, activities and information for the students in that year group. In this way, we hope to give you a simpler way of accessing what your children will be involved in each half term, and celebrating success at the end of each half term.

"The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate."

**Oprah Winfrey** 

Please enjoy this half term's newsletter.

Paul Brockwell,





We've recently redeveloped our school vision statement to make our ambitions for current and future pupils clear. We're proud to present this to our pupils, families and wider community for the first time here in our newsletter.

"Ashlawn is an inclusive school. We pride ourselves in providing a high quality education for all of our students, regardless of the challenges that they have faced or will face in life. We do this through the development of the team that works with our students every day, and the curriculum that they follow.

"We believe in educating for life, providing our learners with the skills to become positive contributors to their community. Our broad curriculum provides students with opportunities to gain the skills, knowledge and leadership experience that support their lifelong learning and highest aspirations, but also to ensure that they are able to grow as individuals. We model the positive behaviours of kindness and loyalty by being helpful and considerate in the way we work together.

"We value all members of our community, treat each other with respect and kindness, and are considerate of the beliefs and values that each of us hold. We actively teach understanding, acceptance and celebration of our students' and staff uniqueness.

"We challenge each other, every day, to improve and reach for excellence. We actively plan to create within our community the courage and desire to develop and stretch ourselves, a curiosity for understanding the world and our place within it, and a joy of learning. We recognise the need to support one another to achieve this. In this way, we ensure that no-one is left behind.

"We are all proud to be part of the Ashlawn family."

#### **WORRYING ABOUT THE EASTER 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. Harrisons 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!!

#### **Parent Forums**

On the 22nd and 23rd of March, Ashlawn School held its first parent forums around teaching and learning and culture and attitudes.

These sessions provided an opportunity for staff to explain current practice, gain opinion on developing policies and plans and share the vision for the school.

There was an opportunity for the parents to feedback and share their own ideas and perspectives on these areas. We would like to thank the 40 parents who gave us their time to support Ashlawn and look forward to sharing the progress being made at the next forum meetings.

#### Bringing the house down with 'Bonnie and Clyde'

Ashlawn School pupils brought the house down this February with their production of the internationally acclaimed musical, Bonnie and Clyde.

The East Hall was transformed into a theatre for the production, joining our amazing Year 13s were our fabulous Year 12 performing arts students, incredible Year 10 dancers and other talented actors from across the school.

Telling the story of America's ill-fated lovers and outlaws, Bonnie and Clyde, through a non-traditional score combining rockabilly,

blues and gospel music, the show was a huge success thanks to the professional performances of all involved. Special thanks also go to everyone in set design, stage production, audio-visuals, costume and make up.





The Ashlawn Astronomy Club, open to all year groups, has been taking advantage of winter darkness to meet on Tuesday afternoons for the last two terms.

The club has three telescopes, one solar, that they use to image the moon and the sun.

Now the days are getting longer, the club plans to do some observing sessions later in the evening and get started on constructing







#### **Read for Good** Readathon

Well done to everyone that took part in the four week long 'Read for Good' Readathon to raise money for children in hospital.

Pupils could choose what they wanted to read, from comics to classics, and asked friends and family to sponsor them per book or per minute of reading.

The money raised will be used to send books and storytellers to children's' hospitals. The school will also receive 20% of the total funds raised in free book vouchers available to spend at Scholastic Book Clubs.

It was wonderful to see how involved pupils have been in the challenge, it not only supports children going through tough times in hospital, but also helps our pupils to see the value in reading for pleasure, and all the benefits it can bring.

#### **Maths** news

The maths department has experienced a term of building a sense of community and striving for excellence.

The 'Thursday Afternoon Past Paper Society' has proven a huge success, with student numbers remaining high every single week.

It has been so encouraging to see large groups of students working both with peers and their teachers to really develop their understanding of how to approach their exam papers.

For many this has already paid dividends with the progress seen in their Mock examination results, and continuing to engage will give them the best possible opportunity for success when they sit their final exams in the summer.

The department also had a large group of Year 9, 10 and 11 students taking part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, a nationwide Maths Competition run by the UK Mathematics Trust.

These challenges make students think about maths puzzles and problems in slightly different ways, underlining that real fluency comes with being able to apply mathematical understanding in a flexible way.

Miss Marson has been running, and will continue to run, after school sessions each Tuesday for students that would like the opportunity to tackle these sorts of problems and take part in future challenges as they progress through the school.

#### **Bonjour Paris**

## Twenty-one Ashlawn School students, studying French GCSE or A Level, spent four sunny days in Paris this February.

Students and staff had a fantastic time exploring the city's landmarks, including walking the typical Parisian streets of Montmartre, visiting the Eiffel Tower, cruising along the Seine River and, of course, trying macarons, croissants and pains au chocolat on the Champs Elysées. They even got to meet 'La Joconde' (also known as Mona Lisa), herself in

Our students were outstanding throughout the trip; they showed curiosity and fully embraced French culture. We could not be prouder of them and we hope this study visit encourages a lifetime love of cultural and linguistic exploration.



## **Top revision tips for languages students**

Year 11 are fast approaching their modern languages speaking exams. This is their chance to show off their speaking skills they have learnt.

Students should be revising how to:

- Describe a photo
- Do a role-play
- Answer their general conversation questions

#### Our top tips are:

- 1 Remember to ask a question even if it is just "et toi?", "und du?" or "y tu?". That is basically a free mark!
- 2 One short sentence for the role-play
- 3 Three sentences and an opinion for the photo questions
- 4 Practise your conversation questions with somebody so that you are practising saying them, not just reading them.

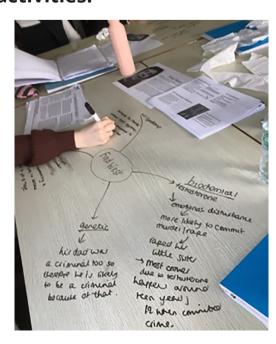
Bonne chance, viel Glück, buena suerte!

## **Exploring revision techniques in humanities**

## Sixth formers studying Criminology and Sociology have explored using a range of different revision activities.

From making key terms out of PlayDoh for others to guess, mind mapping criminal case studies to a connecting wall from 'Only Connect', students spent an interesting week discovering alternatives to notecards and highlighter pens.

Mrs. Haworth, Head of Faculty, Humanities and Subject Lead, Sociology, said: "Both students and teachers have really enjoyed these sessions. It is great to see their hard work paying off."



#### **Ashlawn Artists**

Art students across the school have been producing some exceptional artwork across different mediums this term.

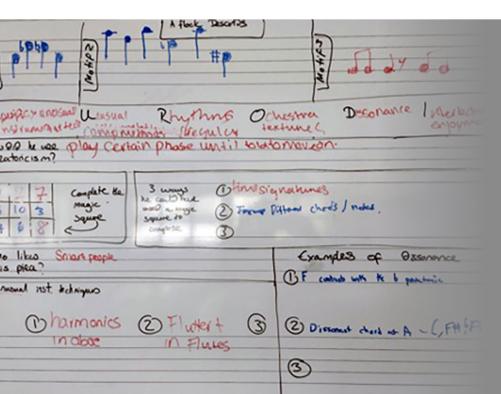
Seb in Year 11 has been blazing a path for the school as the first GCSE student at Ashlawn to specialise in digital drawings, with amazing work being produced for his exam unit.

Other exam unit standouts include the wonderful image shot and edited by Year 11 student, Olivia, for GCSE Photography. We've also seen some incredible shots of ink travelling through water produced by Jacob in Year 13 for his Photography exam unit - this was very difficult to capture, requiring several attempts and a slow shutter speed.

Other highlights include the beautiful natural forms drawings done by Maia in Year 10 and the vibrant watercolour paintings produced by Harriet and Holly in Year 9.







#### **Music at Ashlawn**

### It has been a busy term for our music students at Ashlawn!

Year 7 students have been learning to play a variety of pieces on the keyboard and it has been great to see many students growing in confidence and learning to play two hands together. They have been performing to each other and giving feedback before they perform to their teacher as part of their end of unit assessment.

Year 13 music students have been studying the music of Tōru Takemitsu. They have been learning about advanced and unusual approaches to composition, including use of magic squares to compose. They have also been working on identifying and analysing the features of Takemitsu's music and other composers of the twentieth century.

The image shows an example of a recap task completed by the class!

#### **Design and Technology**

Year 9 students have been working on a textiles lampshade that reflects the style of the 1960s in a modern interpretation, as part of their final projects for the first rotation.

Some excellent work has been completed, with students really proud of their achievements.

Students have used a range of techniques including applique, disperse dyes, block printing, stencils and hand sewing to complete their shades. Groovy work, Year 9!

Year 11 students have been working incredibly hard to finish their non-examination assessment which is worth 50% of their final grade. Unfortunately we can't show any pictures due to exam guidelines, but we can tell you there is some amazing work to be seen!

Finally, the DT department is calling on all interested students to enter the Technology Design and Innovation (TDI) Challenge.

The TDI Challenge offers school and college students a unique opportunity to showcase their ideas to an industry that relies upon the creativity and innovation of its designers and engineers. The competition is open to all students aged 14-19 and students can win a range of prizes including a day out to watch a Cup Motorsport Race Day with UWR for the top three entries.



#### **College Reflection Garden**

# Ashlawn School is seeking the support of parents, staff and students to transform a piece of land into a peaceful outdoor space for students.

The space will be the school's College Reflection Garden, a tranquil area for students who need some time to relax and reflect during the day.

The school is looking for helpers to donate time or equipment over the Easter break to clear the area. Students and staff will do weekly maintenance and upkeep of the garden once it is established.

Helpers can come along on Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th April from 10am.

If anyone would like to help or have any donations or ideas for the garden, don't hesitate to contact Miss Williams - williamsa@ashlawn.org.uk



## Charity bake sale fundraiser for Birmingham children's hospital charity

To mark the end of National Heart Month, a group of Year 13 students held a charity cake sale to raise funds for Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity, Cardiac services.

13 babies each day in the UK are born with a congenital heart defect (CHD) and only half are diagnosed during antenatal scans.

Mrs McHale, Subject Lead Health and Social Care, has a son who was antenatally diagnosed during routine scans: "We are heart parents and know full well the rollercoaster that children and parents go through, we also know we are not alone.

"If you have been affected by Congenital Heart Disease either directly or indirectly I can recommend Little Hearts Matter."

Little Hearts Matter is the only charity in the UK dedicated to supporting and empowering anyone affected by the diagnosis of a single ventricle heart condition – or half a working heart. They support families along every step of their journey, from initial diagnosis, through treatments and into life at home.

The bake sale was a roaring success, raising £639.40 for Little Hearts Matter. A huge thank you to everyone who got involved – in particular Lilia, Lili, Ellie, Lily, Ellie, Mary, Eesha, Chloe and Emily.

#### Food, glorious food!

Year 11 students studying Food Preparation and Nutrition have been showing lots of hard work and dedication to complete their non-exam assessment, worth 35% of their final grade.

The budding chefs made three high skill dishes in three hours, with amazing results! Sadly, due to exam guidelines, we can't share any pictures but trust us - they were delicious.

Meanwhile, Year 10 students have been channelling their inner 'Masterchef' by practising their food styling and presentation skills with minimal ingredients such as one egg, one piece of bread and other basics - not a buttery biscuit base in sight. There was also a 'Great British Bake Off-style challenge, where students had to prepare a 'showstopper' cheesecake and 'technical bake' Viennese Whirls before undergoing judgement by Mrs. Taylor, who gave Prue and Paul a run for their money.





## **Characters come alive on World Book Day**

Ashlawn School pupils and staff came to school in some incredible outfits inspired by favourite books, with the school playing host to Lady Macbeth, Ms. Trunchbull, The Eye of Sauron and several assorted staff and pupils from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry - to name but a few of the famous literary characters in attendance.

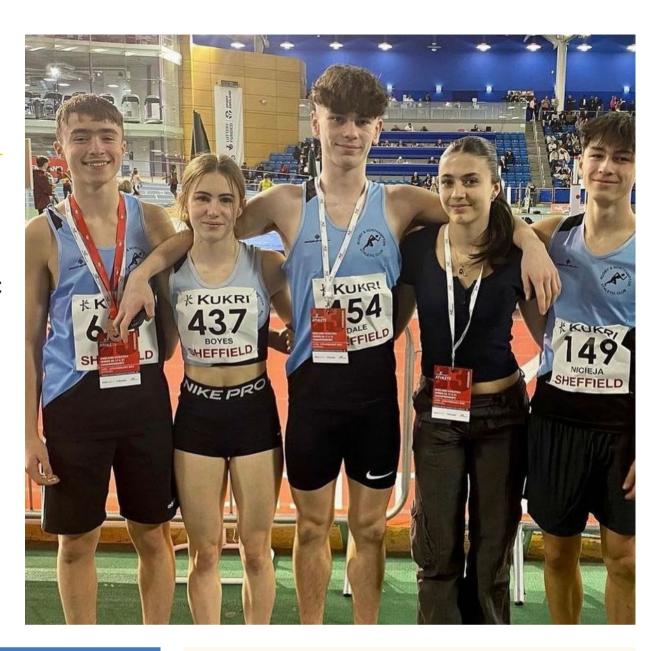
Each year, World Book Day is a great opportunity to inspire young people to love books. It is also a key chance to promote reading for pleasure, offering every child and young person the opportunity to have a book of their own, giving them the chance to discover the many different worlds that are out there, hiding beneath the pages of the millions of books available to us all.

#### Students compete in the National Indoor Athletics Championship

A group of Ashlawn School students took part in the National Indoor Athletics Championships this February, achieving excellent results and flying the flag for Ashlawn School.

The National Indoor Athletics Championship is an annual athletics competition, which took place at Birmingham's Utilita Arena this year. The championship features the top indoor track and field athletes from across the country, competing in a range of events including sprints, hurdles, jumps, throws, and middle-distance races.

Our students, Jacob, Robbie, Lucy and Maia, all competed in various events and achieved amazing results. We are so proud of them all for competing at such a high level, demonstrating excellence and the importance of aiming high. Well done all!



#### **Adventure time for Year 11**

124 Year 11 Ashlawn students descended upon Dearne Valley, a state-of-the-art outdoor activity centre in South Yorkshire for a few days of amazing adventure surrounded by glorious countryside.

The students took part in activities designed to build character, focusing on confidence, resilience and life skills.

High ropes, zipwires, water sports and other team building activities were all tried by the students, leaving them tired and ready for a well-earned hot chocolate around a campfire in the evening.

It was brilliant to see students engaging in activities that pushed them out of their comfort zones.

Courage was tested to the limit on the high ropes 'leap of faith' and communication and teamwork were vital to the success of the blindfold obstacle course.

On the zipline, students had to not only focus on the ziplines but also pass a ball back and forth while flying in the air!

Everyone had a fantastic time and students developed abilities to collaborate with their peers outside of normal friendship groups. A huge well done to everyone who participated, and of course to staff for making it happen and run so smoothly.

## 'Who am I?' - Year 9's find out with Humanutopia

# Year 9 pupils took part in a challenging, thought-provoking and inspiring workshop that asked the big question: Who am I?

Run by company Humanutopia, the workshop was split into two sessions. Session one was spent 'in the past', examining how choices, actions and consequences contribute to how you become the person you are. Session two took place 'in the future', during which pupils imagined who they could be in the future, discussing dreams, hopes, goals and ambitions. The day concluded with every student identifying and committing to making three positive changes to improve their future.

Teachers were hugely impressed by Year 9 over the course of the two days, commending their maturity and enthusiastic participation in the sessions. They embodied the school's values, showing respect to each other and the Humanutopia team.

## humanutopia

empowering young people to make positive change



Our school Colleges came together at lunchtime on Friday 17th March to raise funds for Comic Relief on Red Nose Day - and what an eventful lunchtime it was!

There were plenty of stalls including a tombola, 'Guess how many sweets are in the jar' game (shout out to winners Daisy in 9A as well as Nicholas in 7B), basketball and football penalty shoot-out sessions and a snack stall.

However, the biggest money spinners on the day were undoubtedly the 'wax the teacher' and 'sponge the teacher' stalls where Ms Johnson-Slaney, Ms Cooke, Miss Khan, Ms Hobson, Ms Pickering, Mr Walker and Ms Hall all got soaking wet. Pupils could vote on which teacher would have the privilege of undergoing the waxing process, choosing between Mr Modarasi, Mr Atwell and Mr Hillman. Mr. Atwell won by a landslide, to the relief of the others.

A grand total of £535.15 was raised so a huge thank you to everyone who took part.

Extra special thanks go to our Sixth Form helpers (Matty, Lucas, Tom, Finlay, Amaar, Faith and Monika) who helped run and organise the stalls - We couldn't have done it without you! Thanks also to Mr Harris for helping out and making sure everything ran smoothly.





#### Winning streak for U13 and U16 Girls' Football teams at Ashlawn

The Ashlawn School U13 Girls' Football team is celebrating a triumphant 8-0 win in their first game in the district league.

An impressive hattrick from Megan, a brace from Ruby L and one goal each from Zuzanna and Ruby H, together with an own goal by the other side rounded off an amazing team performance.

The Ashlawn team displayed excellent teamwork and communication, showcasing their individual skills. We even had Imogen, our goalkeeper, playing outfield and Megan, our striker, playing as the goalkeeper.

This impressive performance was followed up with a second win in the Rugby District Schools League, against Bilton. Awesome teamwork and communication resulted in five goals scored.

Another solid performance from Imogen in goal and a strong defence of Elsie, Mollie, Louisa, with contributions from Erin and Ruby H resulted in another clean sheet. Goals came from Megan (2), Ruby L (2) and Sophie (1).

The U16 team must have been inspired by their younger counterparts, as they put in their own incredible team performance, culminating in a 9-0 win against Harris.

The girls showed excellent cohesion and communication to split apart the Harris defence over and over. Some brilliant individual team performances from Rachael and Millie in midfield and attack, working as a pair to net a hattrick each.

Some other strong performances from Bethan, Aimee, Zoe and Robyn to keep out the Harris attack and help to secure a 9-0 win. A clean sheet from Amy in goal ensured a strong first game of the league.

Well done girls!



#### **Sixth Form News**

#### **Prefects**

We have had over 60 applications from Year 12 students wishing to take on the role of school prefect. The Sixth Form team has begun to look through the impressive number of submissions and hope to let students know the outcome before the Easter break so that students can take on their roles early in the final term. There will be a second round of applications towards the end of the academic year to recruit additional prefects from September.

#### **Y12 UCAS Trip**

All Year 12 students are invited to join a trip to the UCAS Discovery Exhibit at the NEC in June, to find out more about the different facets of university life, along with careers advice and opportunities.

Students can register for this event via a link previously issued, or speak with Mrs Underhill for more information.

#### **Year 13 Mentors**

Year 13 students have been continuing to mentor our younger students in KS3 and KS4 this half term, once again acting as superb role models for the school and helping our community.

Some are checking in with them weekly and offering advice with revision techniques and how to organise their work, some are offering a friendly face and a smile each morning to get their day off to a good start and one student is talking to a KS4 student in her own language to answer any questions she might have or just to check in with her.

Thank you to all of them. You are making a difference to someone else's life at school and we thank you for this.

#### Y13 Prom

Plans are underway to celebrate the next group of sixth form leavers in June, with tickets for the Year 13 prom now available. The evening will include a hot buffet, photo booth and a disco. Students should speak to Mrs Underhill in Sixth Form Reception for more details!

#### Ski Trip to Salzburger Sportwelt

During the February half term, 36 KS4 and 5 students spent a week developing their skills on the slopes at Salzburger Sportwelt, Austria.

Students of all abilities enjoyed the challenge of five hours skiing a day, while evening activities included bowling, swimming and Apres ski hot chocolate.

The students had a wonderful time building new friendships and incredible memories.

Thank you to the staff who gave up their own holidays and the students who made it a truly amazing experience.







#### Inspiring assembly with Paralympic athlete, Sam Ruddock

We were incredibly fortunate to welcome an inspiring visitor to school this term, Paralympic track cycling athlete Sam Ruddock who delivered an assembly for pupils in Ruddock College, the College House named after him.

Sam represented Great Britain in the F35 classification in the 100 metres and shot put events, for athletes with cerebral palsy.

He is the British Record holder for the F35 Shot Put and the C1 Kilometre Time Trial, specialising in the track sprint events.

But it is in the sport of para track cycling that Sam has found his true calling, becoming the MC1 Kilometre World Champion and winning the gold medal in late 2022.

Sam grew up in Rugby and attended Bishop Wolston School until the age of 16 when he was awarded a scholarship at Rugby School.

Born with spastic diplegia, a form of cerebral palsy, Sam's condition has affected the lower half of his body throughout his life, impacting his flexibility, balance and coordination.

Sam's passion for sports outweighed the limitations of his disability, and as a schoolboy he took part in basketball and American football.

After being spotted and coached whilst studying at Loughborough University, Sam began his career as an International Paralympian.

Sam spoke to pupils about his journey to a Gold Medal and the barriers that he faced, sharing some great advice with pupils, including:

- Don't 'comment' unless it's a positive 'contribution'.
- Take every opportunity that life throws at you.
- Your teachers are invested in you make the most of that opportunity.
- Learn from your mistakes and plan how you can do things better next time round.
- Every mistake is a learning opportunity.
- When you are feeling mad, scared or anxious, talk to someone -mental health is as important as physical health.

Sam's final piece of advice was: "You can walk away from any task with your pride if you give all of your effort."

Sam said he felt very honoured that a school in his home town had named a college after him.

Jayne Delves, Senior Vice Principal, said: We feel very lucky and proud to welcome Sam to our school to share his inspirational story with our pupils.

"His sage advice and inspirational story make him a true role model for our pupils and we look forward to welcoming him back in the future."



#### **Careers**

#### Work experience for Years 10 and 12

Year 10 and 12 have had the opportunity to experience the world of work during this half term.

Placements have ranged from engineering to medicine to retail and have been an incredibly valuable experience for all involved.

Students have had the chance to develop their key employability skills such as communication, leadership, adaptability and resilience during the week and all have gained valuable references/feedback from the employers.

Employers described Ashlawn students as polite, motivated and hard-working among many other positive comments.

A massive thank you to all involved!

#### **Year 10 Careers Assembly**

On Wednesday 15th March Year 10 welcomed Sian and Shannon from Warwickshire College and Heart of England training centres.

Alongside Mr Naylor from the Ashlawn Sixth Form, they promoted the courses on offer post 16 and allowed them to explore the vast range of exciting opportunities open to them from A-levels to T-levels and apprenticeships.

## School Fundraisers!

Over the next few months students from Year 11 and Year 12 will be setting up various fundraising activities to raise money for a World Challenge trip to Vietnam and Cambodia in 2024.

Keep an eye out for adverts in the newsletter, on social media and around school.





At Ashlawn we...

# C A R

#### 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 Road, Hillmorton, Rugby, CV22 5ET

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

