

ASHLAWN

WINTER NEWS 2025



ASHLAWN
SCHOOL

Our best, always



Welcome from the Executive Principal

As we approach the festive break, it's a pleasure to reflect on the many experiences, achievements, and moments of growth that have shaped our school community over the past few months.

This term has been filled with opportunities for our students to broaden their horizons and explore their interests. Our expanding careers programme has been a particular highlight, with students taking part in a range of exciting opportunities—from meeting industry professionals to exploring pathways in science, technology, the environment and beyond.

These experiences are helping our young people think creatively about their futures and understand the many possibilities waiting for them after they've completed their studies.

We also had the joy of taking students to the theatre this term, as well as educational trips to Warwickshire Justice Centre and a fantastic visit to the University of Oxford.

As always at Christmastime, the school has been buzzing with festive preparation. Decorations have been appearing, we've had some brilliant seasonal performances, and our community is looking forward to the celebrations that always make this time of year feel so special. It is also a moment to pause and appreciate the dedication of our staff, the support of our families, and the commitment our students continue to show in all they do.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter and take pride in the wonderful achievements across our school.

Wishing you all a fantastic Christmas break.

Paul Brockwell
Executive Principal



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

What a busy term it has been here at Ashlawn, and my first one as Head of School.

It is a privilege to work alongside Mr Brockwell and lead this wonderful school. Ashlawn really is a special community that I am so proud to be part of.

This term has been filled with achievements both in and beyond the classroom. From academic progress and creative performances to sporting successes and community involvement, our students have demonstrated resilience, curiosity, and a strong sense of responsibility. I have been particularly impressed by the way students support one another and take pride in their school.

I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of our staff, whose professionalism and care ensure that every student is challenged, supported, and encouraged to believe in themselves. Their work, often behind the scenes, makes a profound difference every day.

As we look ahead, I am excited about building on the strong foundations already in place. Together, we will continue to foster a culture of high expectations, inclusivity, and ambition, ensuring that we all give our best, always.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Stephen Darby
Head of School



TLET IMPACT REPORT 2025

The Transforming Lives Educational Trust is pleased to publish its **Impact Report 2025**

From student attainment to staff wellbeing, the report highlights how the Trust has been making a difference across our communities over the course of the last year.

There is much to be proud of – all of our schools are developing, performance data has strengthened and we have celebrated incredible praise from Ofsted.

It has been a particularly remarkable year for Ashlawn School, which was rated ‘good’ across every inspection area in June 2025. The school was also recognised in the Top 10 Warwickshire Schools for GCSE results and more students than ever before secured their first-choice university following their sixth form studies.

In addition, in the early years, there has been a 14% increase in pupils achieving ‘good levels of development’ in the past two years; while combined Key Stage 2 outcomes were up 11% points in comparison to the previous year.

The Trust has also seen a marked increase in teacher retention, with staff sickness and absence rates also significantly lower than the national average.

2025 has also been a milestone year for TLET, with plans well underway to add both a primary offer and sixth form at Houlton School. The Trust is also currently consulting with the community to bring Henry Hinde Infant and Junior Schools together onto one site.

You can read more about the impact of our work [here](#).



ASHLAWN REMEMBERS

Despite challenging weather conditions, this year's whole-school Remembrance Service was a moving and meaningful occasion for the Ashlawn community.

The service was relocated indoors and live streamed to form rooms across the school, allowing every student to take part. Readings were delivered by members of our school and local community, led by our Executive Principal and attended by trustees and representatives from the local police force. Form representatives from each tutor group laid their handmade wreaths before the school joined together in a respectful two minutes' silence.

We were also proud to see Ollie (Year 9) taking part in the Hillmorton Remembrance Service, where he paraded with 29F Squadron to honour those who have fallen.



ASHLAWN NAMED IN THE TOP 10 SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN WARWICKSHIRE

We are delighted to share that Ashlawn School has been recognised as one of the Top 10 secondary schools in Warwickshire for academic performance.

This achievement reflects the dedication and ambition of our entire school community. To our students, staff, and families - thank you. Your hard work, resilience, and commitment to excellence continue to make Ashlawn a school we are proud of every single day. Read the full article here <https://tinyurl.com/45238ykn>

“HAVE YOUR SAY” WORKSHOPS - YOUNG HIGH SHERIFF PROGRAMME

A group of students took part in our Have Your Say workshops as part of our ongoing involvement with the Young High Sheriff Programme. Students worked closely with community leaders and specialists on issues that matter to young people in Warwickshire.

We were delighted to welcome an inspiring panel of guests:

- **Cllr Barbara Brown** – Mayor of Rugby
- **Mervyn Kimberley** – Former Chief Inspector, Warwickshire Constabulary & Crimebeat Board Member
- **David Kelham DL** – Former High Sheriff of Warwickshire & Crimebeat Board Member
- **Stephen Crowshaw, Laura Evans & Aleksandar Damjanovic** – Warwickshire County Council
- **Simon Jones** – Retired Deputy Head, Myton School
- **Gillian Fletcher** – Young High Sheriff Programme Lead

During the workshops, students explored key issues affecting young people locally and developed a set of creative, student-led proposals. These ideas will now be shared with the whole school community, who will vote on which project will be taken forward and funded by Crimebeat, with the winning initiative set to be rolled out across Warwickshire.

This is an exciting opportunity for our students to influence real change in the community, and we are incredibly proud of their engagement, maturity and innovation throughout the session.



GREEN CAREERS WEEK

To celebrate National Green Careers Week, students explored the wide range of jobs that help protect our planet and build a sustainable future.

Through their Careers Google Classrooms, students looked at roles in energy, the built environment, agriculture, conservation and sustainability.

Using Unifrog, students have been researching different career paths, discovering green apprenticeships, and accessing events, webinars and resources to help them develop skills. Here are some of the highlights from the week:

Year 8 Employers Express Workshop

Our Year 8 students took part in an engaging Employers Express Workshop, where they met a wide range of professionals from fields including community development, business, technology, finance, the arts, design, data analysis, and the police. Students had the opportunity to ask questions about each employer’s role, the skills and study

requirements needed, and their career journeys. The session offered valuable insights and take-away messages about the importance of developing transferable skills, exploring interests, and keeping an open mind about future career paths.

Year 9 Girls in STEM Event

Our Year 9 girls took part in an inspiring Cajigo STEM workshop, hearing from women in tech and exploring how confidence, creativity and teamwork drive success. They collaborated on innovative solutions to real-world problems and discovered how STEM - including Business - opens exciting future opportunities.

Talk by Elly Hemus

We were delighted to welcome Elly Hemus, Community Development Lead at Houlton in Rugby, who spoke to Years 7–10 about her

career journey. Elly shared insights into the skills and subjects that support her role, what she enjoys most about her work, and how her job contributes to creating sustainable, green communities. Her talk encouraged students to consider the wide range of exciting and meaningful opportunities available in green careers.



TRIP TO THE BELGRADE THEATRE!

Our Year 7 and 8 students were lucky enough to enjoy a fantastic visit to the Belgrade Theatre to watch Sleeping Beauty. From the moment the curtain went up, the students were completely captivated, with lots of laughter, gasps, and plenty of that classic panto energy!

The students represented the school brilliantly throughout the whole trip, they were polite, enthusiastic, and fully engaged in the performance. For many, it was their first time seeing a live pantomime, and it was amazing to see them soaking up the experience and talking about their favourite moments all the way home.

There was even an unexpected surprise when Mr Dempsey ended up on stage as the stooge - a moment that had the students roaring with laughter!

A huge thank you to the Belgrade Theatre for hosting us and delivering such a magical production. A perfect start to the festive season!



SEND COFFEE MORNING

The Inclusion team would like to thank all of the parents that attended our first ever SEND Coffee Morning event.

We appreciate that getting into school can be difficult at times, so this event was arranged for parents to be able to make an appointment with a member of the team to discuss any concerns or queries they may have around the needs of their children.

The morning was very positive! Plenty of tea, coffee and biscuits were consumed and lots of productive conversations between parents and staff were had.

If you are interested in attending the next event, please either contact Fiona Truman send@ashlawn.tlet.org.uk, or keep an eye on our socials for details.

ASHLAWN STUDENTS PRAISED IN THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Ashlawn School students have been praised in Parliament for their commitment to democracy and engagement with key issues as part of UK Parliament Week 2025.

Throughout the week, students across the school took part in a range of form time activities and assemblies designed to deepen their understanding of how democracy works in the UK, the role of Parliament and how young people can have their voices heard. As part of the week, the school welcomed a visit from John Slinger MP, who met with sixth form prefects and A-level politics students to discuss his role as a Member of Parliament and life in Westminster. The session prompted thoughtful discussion, with students asking insightful questions and sharing their views on national and global issues.

Following these discussions, Ashlawn School later received confirmation that the school and its students had been referenced during a House of Commons debate. During the debate, Energy Secretary Ed Miliband praised the engagement and contributions of Ashlawn students, highlighting their interest in democracy and climate change. The recognition in Parliament marked a significant moment for the school and underlined the importance of encouraging young people to take an active interest in the democratic process.

Overall, UK Parliament Week 2025 was a highly successful and inspiring experience, showcasing Ashlawn students as informed, engaged and confident participants in discussions about the future of society.



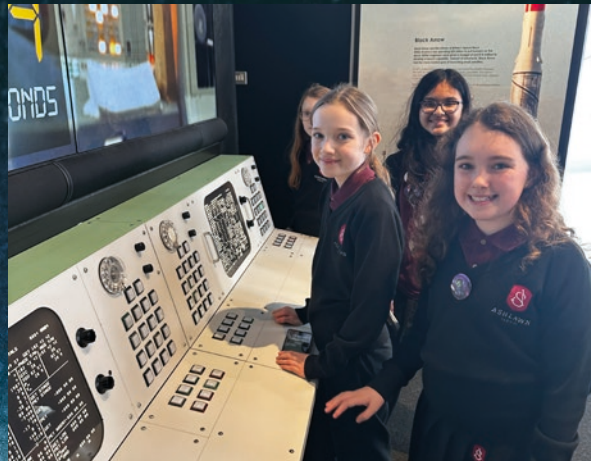
YEAR 7 JOURNEY INTO SPACE

Our Year 7 students enjoyed a fantastic day at the National Space Centre, exploring exploring the wonders of space.

The visit offered a brilliant opportunity for them to deepen their understanding of the solar system, space exploration, and what life beyond Earth might involve.

A highlight of the day was the planetarium show, which gave students an insight into the work of astronauts and the intense training they undergo to prepare for life in space.

It was a memorable adventure that brought the science curriculum to life and encouraged students to look up and imagine what might lie beyond our skies.



DRAMA

YEAR 11 EXPLORE MACBETH AT THE RSC

This term, our Year 11 students took part in an exciting ‘Student Insight’ experience for Macbeth at the Royal Shakespeare Company.

The day began with a practical workshop in which students had the opportunity to speak with members of the cast and explore the play from an actor’s perspective. They even had a go at performing some of the key scenes themselves.

In the afternoon, students watched the RSC’s full performance of Macbeth. It was unlike anything they had seen in class and full of surprising interpretations that challenged their expectations.

The visit brought Shakespeare’s tragedy to life in a vivid way, helping with their study of the text ahead of their GCSE examinations.



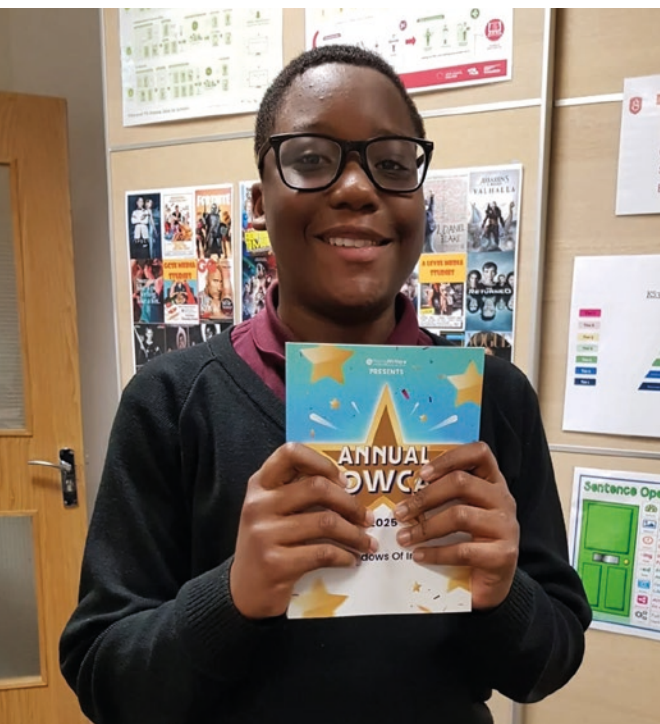
ENGLISH

STUDENT BECOMES PUBLISHED YOUNG WRITER

A huge congratulations to Maxwell O in Year 8, whose work has been published in the Young Writers Anthology, November 2025 edition.

Being selected for publication is a fantastic achievement and a testament to Maxwell’s creativity and enthusiasm for writing. What makes this achievement even more remarkable is that Maxwell independently wrote the entire story and took the initiative to submit it to the competition himself. We are incredibly proud of him and look forward to seeing where his talent takes him next.

Well done, Maxwell!



ENGINEERING

JAGUAR VISIT ASHLAWN SCHOOL

Jaguar engineers visited our school to deliver an exciting and hands-on Engineering and Business workshop for our Year 10 students. From the moment the session began, students were fully engaged as the engineers shared their real-life experiences, explained how modern vehicles are designed, and talked about the wide range of careers available in the automotive industry.

Working in small groups, students were each paired with their own Jaguar engineer who acted as a mentor throughout the session. This gave them the unique chance to ask questions, get personalised guidance, and learn directly from industry professionals. Students then worked together to build their own electric vehicle circuits, experimenting with how different components affect speed and performance. They were able to put their designs to the test by racing them on a mini track, bringing a fun and competitive edge to the workshop.

One of the highlights of the day was getting to see the iconic Jaguar Land Rover Defender up close - an opportunity that sparked plenty of curiosity and excitement.

This workshop didn’t just teach new skills; it opened students’ eyes to future possibilities. Many left feeling inspired, with a clearer idea of the engineering and business careers they might pursue. It was a memorable experience that encouraged creativity, teamwork, and ambition.



BOYS FOOTBALL

Year 7 Boys Football

The Year 7 boys football team have enjoyed a fantastic start to their season, showing impressive progress, determination, and teamwork throughout their opening fixtures. Their journey began in style with an outstanding 8-0 victory in their very first competitive match, setting the tone for what has become a highly promising campaign.

In their second outing, the boys battled hard but narrowly fell to a 2-1 defeat, a result that only strengthened their resolve. Their third fixture saw a spirited performance that ended in a 2-2 draw, with the team showing real character to stay in the game and take a valuable point.

Since then, the group have gone from strength to strength, putting together a remarkable run of four consecutive wins, displaying excellent attacking play, solid defensive organisation, and a growing sense of confidence across the squad. These results have pushed the team to the top of the league, a well-deserved reward for their effort and commitment.

Their success doesn't stop there. The team have also secured their place in the next round of the County Cup, an exciting achievement that gives them the opportunity to showcase their talent on an even bigger stage.

Individually, Anthony and Emeka have consistently been standout performers, offering strength, skill, and leadership in every match. Since joining the starting line-up in game

four, Codi has also been nothing short of outstanding, adding energy and creativity to the team's play.

Year 8 Boys Football

The Year 8 team have enjoyed an excellent season, showing real progress and maturity in their performances. They remained unbeaten in the league with five wins and one draw, finishing with a superb +17 goal difference that reflects both their attacking quality and defensive discipline.

Several Year 8 players also stepped up impressively to support the older age group in the County Cup, gaining valuable experience and demonstrating the depth of talent within the squad. It's a shame they cannot play up in the English Schools' national competitions due to age restrictions, as many of them have clearly shown they are ready for that challenge.

Overall, this has been a confident and highly successful season for the boys, who should be proud of their development and the way they have represented the school.

Year 11 Boys Football

The Year 11 boys have enjoyed a season full of effort, resilience, and moments of real quality. Although the team were knocked out in the first round of both the English Schools' FA Cup and the County Cup (after a last 16 of 700 teams run last year), they approached each competition with commitment and pride, representing the school with excellent attitude and sportsmanship.

What followed in the league, however, showed the true character of this group. The boys responded brilliantly, putting together an outstanding run that saw them win every single league match. Their consistency, teamwork, and determination were clear throughout, finishing the season with a superb goal difference of +14 - a reflection of both their attacking threat and defensive organisation.

While the early cup exits were disappointing, the team should be extremely proud of how they bounced back. This group has grown in maturity on and off the pitch, showing excellent leadership, work ethic, and unity. Their league success is fully deserved and a testament to the hard work they've put in over the past term.

Well done to all involved - a fantastic league campaign and a strong finish to Year 11 football.

A special mention must also go to Max N (Derby County) and Brody C (Coventry City) who have been offered scholarships and will move onto the professional phase of their journeys. Congratulations and we wish you both every success in the future.

Upcoming clubs after the Christmas break:

- Mixed Trampolining
- Girls Y7 Netball
- Boys Rugby
- Girls Football
- Mixed Dodgeball



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

MIXED BADMINTON

During the past half-term our students have been participating in mixed badminton tournaments with a year group playing each week against a number of schools across Rugby.

The tournaments showcased outstanding participation, teamwork, and resilience from all students involved with students not only competing but officiating as well.

Each year group played a series of singles and doubles matches, demonstrating not only strong technical skill but also excellent sportsmanship.

All teams performed well, but special congratulations go to our boys' teams in Years 7, 9, and 10, who delivered particularly impressive performances and successfully secured their places in the finals. Their consistency, determination, and tactical play were evident throughout, and they thoroughly deserve their progression.

Our other teams also put in commendable efforts, with many matches going down to the wire. Several students made notable improvements in technique and match awareness, reflecting their hard work in lessons.

Overall, it was a highly successful set of fixtures and a brilliant representation of badminton at our school. We wish the Year 7, 9, and 10 boys' teams the best of luck as they prepare for the finals, and we look forward to building on this success in the coming weeks.

Well done to all players who participated!

YEAR 7 GIRLS FUTSAL

This term, some of our Year 7 Girls Football squad competed in a Futsal competition at Rugby High School.

The students played against teams from Rugby High, Harris, Houlton and Avon Valley.

Well done to all those who took part!

There will be more opportunities for Girls Football after Christmas with training and fixtures after February half term. Please get in touch with the PE department if you would like to be involved.



SCIENCE

YEAR 9 EXPLORE THE HEART

Our Year 9 students have been deepening their understanding of the cardiovascular system with an engaging, hands-on science lesson involving a heart dissection.

This practical session enabled students to identify key anatomical structures and see exactly how blood circulates through the body.

Bringing textbook learning to life in this way enhances understanding and helps students develop scientific curiosity and confidence.

It was a brilliant learning experience for all involved.



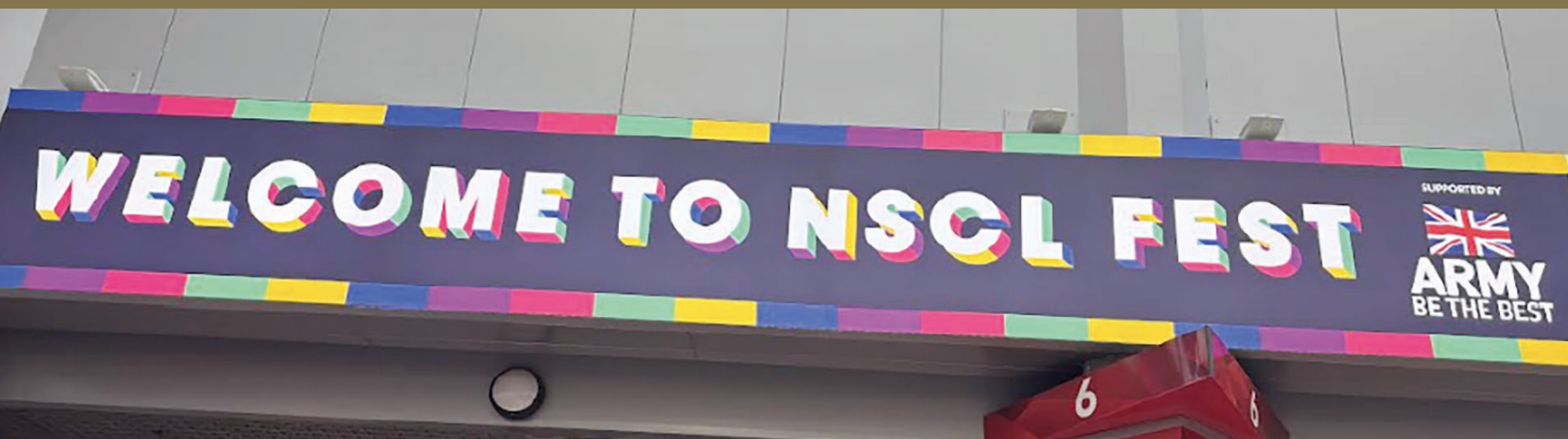
YEAR 12 CAREERS TRIP - EXPLORING APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAYS

Our Year 12 students recently attended The National School & College Leaver Festival at the NEC Birmingham.

The event brought together over 120 employers, universities, and training providers, giving students a fantastic opportunity to explore a wide range of apprenticeship and career pathways available after sixth form. Students met industry professionals, discovered different sectors, and gained valuable insights into the skills and qualifications needed for future roles.

The visit helped students understand how apprenticeships can provide a practical and rewarding alternative to university - combining learning with hands-on experience in the workplace.

Our students represented the school superbly, showing great enthusiasm and maturity throughout the day. Well done to everyone involved for making the most of this exciting careers experience!



BANK OF ENGLAND VISIT

Our Year 12 Business and Maths students recently had the valuable opportunity to visit the Bank of England for a subject enrichment trip.

During the visit, they attended an engaging presentation delivered by Bank staff, which offered a clear and informative insight into how the Bank manages key areas such as monetary and fiscal policy.

This real-world context helped students strengthen their understanding of concepts they have been studying in class, especially those relating to inflation, interest rates, and the wider Financial Services sector.

Following the presentation, students explored the Bank of England Museum, where interactive exhibits and historical displays allowed them to deepen their knowledge of the institution's long-standing role in the UK economy. The experience not only broadened their subject knowledge but also gave them a glimpse into potential future career pathways within finance, economics, and business.

Overall, it was an inspiring and rewarding trip that helped bring classroom learning to life.



CRIMINOLOGY STUDENTS EXPERIENCE THE COURTROOM FIRST-HAND

Our Year 12 and 13 Criminology students enjoyed an exceptional learning experience during their recent visit to the Warwickshire Justice Centre in Nuneaton.

Students stepped into the shoes of legal professionals - taking on the roles of judge, clerk, barristers, solicitors, and jury members. They also had the rare opportunity to speak with a real judge, gaining valuable insight into courtroom processes and the realities of legal decision-making.

Working from a real-life scenario, both prosecution and defence teams prepared and delivered persuasive cases, while the jury considered the evidence to reach a fair and thoughtful verdict.

Ms Wylupek, Teacher of Social Science, praised the students for their outstanding conduct, professionalism, and enthusiasm throughout the day, describing the group as a “credit to the school”.



ASHLAWN YEAR 12 STUDENTS RETURN TO AVON VALLEY TO TALK ABOUT THEIR SIXTH FORM EXPERIENCE

Two Year 12 students, along with the Head of Sixth Form, returned to their former school, Avon Valley, to talk to Year 11 students about their experience at Ashlawn Sixth Form.

Rakkshana and Molly enjoyed going back to their former school and talking to the Year 11s about the sixth form subjects they had

chosen, how easily they settled into their new school and made new friends as well as the many enrichment opportunities they are now involved with. They also enjoyed catching up with some of their teachers about their future aspirations and how Ashlawn was supporting them with exploring different career paths.

Students have until Friday 19th December to apply to Ashlawn Sixth Form and we currently have over 350 applications from both Ashlawn students and students from our local Rugby schools, so we are very excited for September 2026!



YEAR 12 PREFECT SCHEME LAUNCH

We are delighted to announce that this year’s Year 12 Prefect Scheme has launched earlier than ever, following an exceptional level of interest from our students.

Applicants were invited to submit a 150-word statement, and we were thrilled to receive a high number of thoughtful, motivated applications.

So far, around 40 students have been successfully appointed as prefects, with plans to expand the programme further next term as more leadership opportunities arise.

Our new prefects will work closely with the Year 13 Leadership Team, supporting a wide range of important areas across the school.

Their roles will include assisting with fundraising events, contributing to whole-school activities, generating ideas for school improvement, engaging in the School Council, and carrying out key duties around the site.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our Year 12 students to demonstrate leadership, responsibility and commitment to the school community. Well done to all students who have been appointed so far!

EXPLORING THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

A group of our sixth form students enjoyed an inspiring visit to the University of Oxford.

The visit began with a welcome talk from admissions staff, who provided an engaging overview of Oxbridge, the application process, and what makes studying at Oxford distinctive. Students gained an insight into how to prepare a strong application, the importance of super-curricular exploration, and the variety of courses available.

After the talk, our students were taken on a guided tour of Keble College. Highlights included the stunning Victorian architecture, the famous chapel and dining hall, and the chance to see real undergraduate facilities such as accommodation and study spaces. This helped students get a genuine sense of daily life at Oxford.

The group then had the opportunity to meet current Keble students, who shared honest and relatable experiences about university life, workload, societies, and settling in. Our students particularly enjoyed asking questions about balancing studies with social life and what it feels like to be part of such a historic institution.

A delicious lunch in the college's dining hall rounded off the visit, giving everyone a chance to soak up the atmosphere and reflect on what they had learned.

Students on the trip said. "It helped me understand more about the different colleges in universities like Oxford and Cambridge, as well as giving me more insight into the campus and the day to day life of students in Oxford."

"The students were really inspiring for me and the atmosphere of the college seemed so friendly. As a bonus the food was nice as well."

"I enjoyed the Oxford trip because it allowed me to see aspects of university life, finding out more about what its really like and the options available for me."

Overall, the trip offered a glimpse into the world of Oxford University, inspiring many of our students to think ambitiously about their futures.



FORMER STUDENT RETURNS TO INSPIRE YEAR 12 BUSINESS STUDENTS

We were delighted to welcome a former student back to school to speak with our Year 12 Business students.

Richard Phipps shared valuable insights into both university and apprenticeship pathways, offering honest and practical advice about the opportunities and challenges students should consider when planning their next steps. The session was highly engaging and inspirational, and it was wonderful for our students to see the success of an ex-student who remains grounded, motivated, and committed to hard work.



A Safe Christmas

Christmas is almost upon us, and there will be a plethora of Christmas films and TV specials gracing our screens - it's important to look out for their age ratings before viewing.

The BBFC (British Board of Film Certification) released some fantastic videos explaining how and why they give the ratings they do. The BBFC's website is a treasure trove of information including detailed case studies on their reasonings.

Whilst older films may seem like a safe choice, many older films are currently being re-classified especially if they are going back into cinemas. Jurassic Park for example, went from a PG to a 12A with its re-release into cinemas.

Information for the BBFC can be found at www.bbfc.co.uk

More information as to how the BBFC classify their films can be found here <https://tinyurl.com/yc76t2yf>

There is always someone that can

HELP

Parents and carers – during the Christmas holiday the Safeguarding Team want to remind you that support is available.



Warwickshire Family Information Service

Looking for some help and advice? Try visiting Warwickshire FIS website for lots of free advice and guidance available to all Warwickshire residents. www.warwickshire.gov.uk

Early help family support work

A service providing advice and guidance on parenting and all aspects of family life, children and young people's behaviour. You can speak to a family support worker over the telephone, **01926 412412, Monday to Friday between 9am – 4pm**. Alternatively, you may book a face-to-face consultation by telephoning the same number. For further information about this service, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/z9zp455b>

Warwickshire Refuge

If you are experiencing domestic abuse of any kind, Warwickshire's Refuge regional Domestic Violence and Abuse Service can support you and your children to keep you safe. Call the Refuge's Domestic Violence and Abuse Service helpline on **0800 408 1552, Monday to Friday between 8:30am – 8:30pm** and speak with one of our support workers. www.refuge.org.uk

Worried about your mental health?

Wellbeing for Warwickshire is a 'joined-up' support service for adult mental health that can meet a number of needs in a way, and a time and place, that suits people best. For ease of use, the service has a single phone number, **0800 616 171** and a single website www.wellbeingforwarwickshire.org.uk and these are available for Warwickshire residents 24/7, 365 days a year.

Worried a child is at risk of significant harm?

If you have concerns that a child is suffering any form of abuse, neglect or cruelty please contact the Warwickshire Family Connect immediately by calling **01926 414144, Monday to Thursday between 8:30am – 5:30pm and Friday 8:30am – 5pm**.

If you need to get in touch out of the usual office hours, please contact the Emergency Duty Team immediately by calling **01926 886 922**.

If you think that a child is at immediate risk, contact the Police immediately by calling 999.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME - UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school ‘regularly’ means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school’s discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Headteacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents’ responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the ‘resident’ parent i.e. the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as ‘unauthorised’.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council’s Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).
 - **First Leave of Absence offence:**
The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
 - **Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice):**
The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.
 - Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council’s Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.
 - Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notice will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council’s Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.
- Your child’s progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.**

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Attendance during one school year	Equals approximate days absence	Which is approximately weeks absnece	Which is approximately lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	40 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	80 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	120 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	160 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	200 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	230 lessons
65%	67 days	13.5 weeks	270 lessons



At Ashlawn we...

CARE

COMMUNITY

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

ASPIRATION

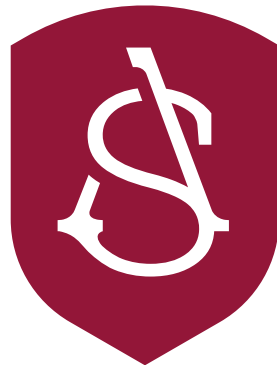
We work hard and make the most of exciting and challenging learning experiences, in order to open up the world around us and achieve our dreams.

RESPECT

We respect each other and our differences. We respect our learning environment and appreciate everyone's right to the best possible experience at Ashlawn.

EXCELLENCE

We are committed to trying our best and achieving the highest standards in our love of learning, so that we can be the best versions of ourselves.



ASHLAWN
SCHOOL

Our best, always

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