

# ASHLAWN

## WINTER NEWS 2024



ASHLAWN  
SCHOOL

*Our best, always*



### Welcome from the Principal

**Wow, what a term it has been here at Ashlawn School.**

As this newsletter highlights, there has been so much to celebrate and shout about. From inspiring careers events and science challenges to arts showcases and sports tournaments – there is always something for everyone to get involved in.

Over the last few weeks, it has been particularly heart-warming to see our students taking part in festive activities with their friends and classmates, and sharing in the joy and laughter surrounding the Christmas season.

None of this would be possible, however, without the dedication of our staff. They continually go above and beyond to provide exceptional opportunities and experiences for the benefit of our students. They are quite simply amazing.

As we look towards 2025, for me personally, the start of next term marks an important moment. In January, I will have officially been the Principal at this wonderful school for two years. During that time every part of Ashlawn has transformed beyond measure and I am incredibly proud of all that we have achieved together so far. Thank you for being part of that journey.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

**Paul Brockwell**  
Principal, Ashlawn School





## **SAFEGUARDING SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY**

**If you have bought your child a device this Christmas, please remember the age limits of social media platforms. These are:**



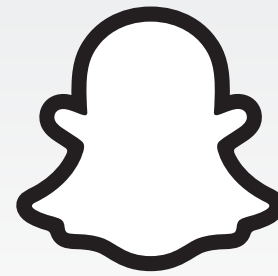
**Facebook:**  
13 years old



**Instagram:**  
13 years old



**Whatsapp:**  
16 years old



**Snapchat:**  
13 years old



**TikTok:**  
13 years old

**At Ashlawn School, we teach all our students how to navigate the internet safely and with caution.**

**Please remember that you also have a part to play in checking what your child can access and monitoring their use.**

**We want all our students to engage positively with the online world and stay safe.**

**For more advice about internet safety, visit [NSPCC Internet Safety Advice](#).**

We wish all our families a wonderful Christmas but if you need to inform us of anything that has happened over the Christmas period, please send us an email so we can support your child once they return to school.

## **RAISING AWARENESS ON KNIFE CRIME: OPERATION SEPTRA AT ASHLAWN**

**This term, we partnered with Rugby Police to host Operation Septra, a powerful knife crime awareness day designed to educate and empower students while highlighting the importance of community and respect.**

The day began with police officers conducting gate checks as students arrived - both a demonstration of safety measures and an opportunity to engage students in positive discussions about stop and search practices and their role in protecting the community.

Assemblies for all year groups featured real-life examples of confiscated items, illustrating the importance of proactive action in preventing knife crime. Officers emphasised that safeguarding starts with awareness and that collaboration between individuals and the community is essential to make a difference.

Year 10 students took part in interactive workshops using VR headsets, immersing themselves in realistic scenarios related to knife crime. This innovative approach offered a first-hand perspective on the emotional and practical consequences of carrying knives. Many students described the experience as deeply eye-opening, helping them gain a better understanding of the risks and repercussions.

The day was a reminder of the importance of Ashlawn's core pillar, Respect. Through their respectful engagement with the law and one another, students demonstrated their commitment to fostering a safe and supportive school environment.

We extend our sincere thanks to Rugby Police for their commitment and collaboration in delivering such an impactful event. Together, we continue to strengthen our shared missions to keep our students safe and informed.

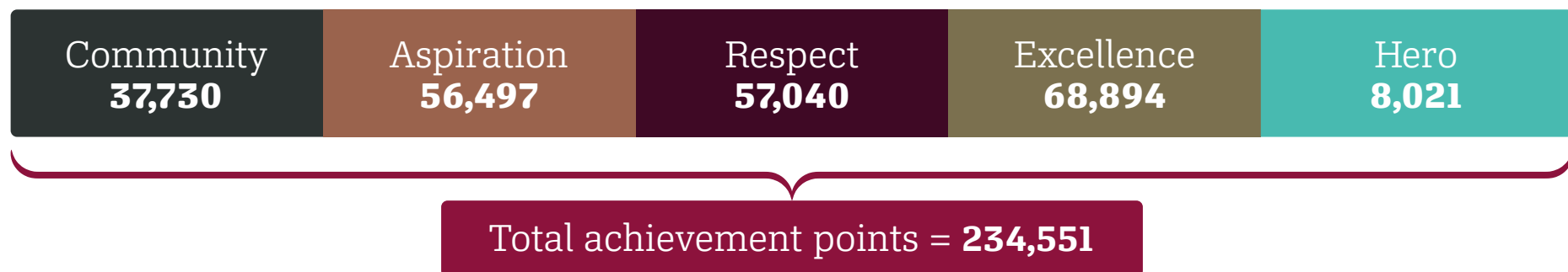




# ASHLAWN ACHIEVEMENT POINTS

Each day, we award achievement points to students in recognition of times when they have shown their commitment to our CARE pillars, or when we have been particularly proud that they are HERO (Here, every day, ready and on time).

This term's achievement points:



## MARKING REMEMBRANCE

To mark Remembrance Day we paid tribute to the brave men and women who have served their country over the years with a whole-school Remembrance Service on the school field.

There were poignant speeches to remember the fallen, as well as two readings in Hindi and Arabic, reflecting our diverse community and the sacrifices of those who have given service from around the world.



## GEOGRAPHY

This half term has been another busy one in geography!

Year 7 have been enquiring about how rivers shape our world, creating comic strips showing all the different pathways water can take through the hydrological cycle.

Year 8 have been studying hazards. The Risky World unit includes earthquakes and how people can better prepare for them.

Year 9 have been considering how we will be able to feed the world's population by 2050. They have compared diets across different countries, looked at the factors that can lead to food insecurity and researched the 'food miles' that can go into a meal.

### Read, watch, view

Every student's Google Classroom has a 'Read, Watch, View' document with suggestions for books, films and programmes that can support understanding around each topic.





# POLITICS WITH RUGBY MP JOHN SLINGER

**Rugby MP, John Slinger, met with students on the Student Leadership Programme to deliver an insightful talk about life in politics.**

He discussed the important role of Parliament in shaping the nation and supporting local communities, as well as the skills and pathways young people can pursue for a future in politics. The session provided an excellent opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of British democracy and the importance of representation.

Following his talk, Mr Slinger held a Q&A session with the Student Council. Students asked thoughtful questions about his career, personal experiences and pressing local issues in Rugby, demonstrating their keen interest.

The event was well attended, and Mr Slinger may have left with some potential future work experience candidates!



# NATIONAL GREEN CAREERS WEEK

**This November, students in Years 7-13 enjoyed inspiring presentations and workshops led by Jo Russell, Stacey Green and Rhiannon Williams from Stoford Planning and Property.**

They showed pathways into town planning, STEM and the Green Careers Industry.

Additional guest speakers from the Women in Property network shared career insights and Nicola Smith, Rugby Borough Council's Chief Officer for Growth and Investment, joined to inspire students about future opportunities in sustainable careers.

It was a great opportunity for students to explore career options and plan for their futures.





## CAREERS FAIR

**In October we hosted a careers fair with providers from sectors including engineering, healthcare, manufacturing, education and the army.**

Representatives from the NHS, Fortem Solutions, Warwickshire College Group, LISI Aerospace and CAVA shared insights on higher education, apprenticeships and university pathways for KS3 and KS4 students. Parents were also invited to attend after school.

Students explored career options, developed employability skills and accessed valuable resources like labour market information and post-school pathways, supporting our career-focused learning through Unifrog.

The event was especially helpful for our Year 9 students as they begin considering their subject options.

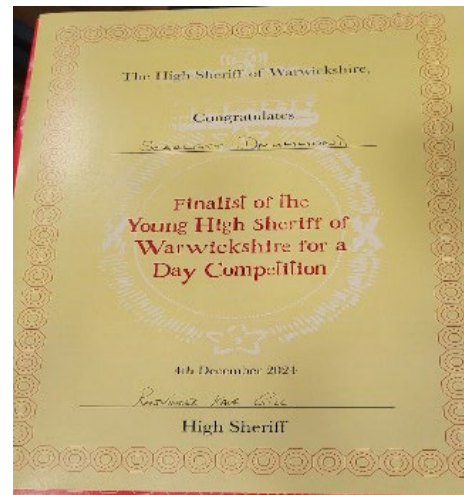


## WARWICKSHIRE YOUNG HIGH SHERIFF FINALIST

**Scarlett D in Year 10 represented Ashlawn as one of 25 finalists in the Warwickshire Young High Sheriff for a Day competition at Rugby High School for Girls.**

Finalists were invited to meet the High Sheriff of Warwickshire, Rajvinder Kaur Gill and other dignitaries.

To enter, students from Years 10-13 submitted essays, poems or videos on tackling crime and supporting their community. Scarlett's entry, which focused on reducing youth crime and helping young offenders reintegrate into society, was praised by judge Sophie Hilleary, last year's High Sheriff, as one of her and her husband's favourite entries.





## SCARLETT'S ENTRY:

***One of the main responsibilities of a High Sheriff is to help out the surrounding community.***

***I've always tried to help others and my family, whether it's through helping someone during a lesson or just helping out a family member with fixing something or shopping.***

*Being High Sheriff for a day would give me a good chance to extend that help to the people who need it most. I'd focus on raising awareness about causes that bring people together, like providing safety in the community.*

*Youth crime is a major problem in both my hometown of Rugby but countrywide. This affects many underage people who are either directly involved or who have become associated with a crime through others.*

*One way I would help stop youth crime is to make a program for children living in poverty, since 10% of violence and robberies are caused by children who are on the poorer side of living.*

*An example of this could be to help children who are in juvenile detention centres get themselves back into normal life by giving them proper housing, a job, if they are old enough, and a proper education.*

*Over 50% of children in UK detention centres miss out on a decent education. This can mean these youths are unable to continue on, following release, to get regular jobs, resulting in them turning to crime once again in order to survive.*

*Often, it's noted people as young as the age of 12 years old are getting into situations that they shouldn't have to be in. When crime happens to those at a young age, around 13-18 years old, they would likely expect to come out of prison and return to their homes and normal life as before.*

*However, that is not the case since 16% of ex-offenders end up becoming homeless and struggle with life out on the streets. 16% may not seem very high, but if you consider the population of under 16s in the UK is 4.71 million then 16% of these ex-offenders are actually around 753,600 children becoming homeless after their sentence is finished.*

*This can often lead to these juveniles becoming repeat offenders just so they the means to have a place to live.*

*I believe, for this reason, that as well as just homes they should be able to easily obtain their own private quarters, or perhaps even be given a small individual flat, in case they have issues with trust resulting from their past crimes and experiences associated with that and needing that extra security.*

*Unfortunately, this mistrust could make juveniles not want to trust those people willing to help them.*

*A possible solution to this could be to publicise these options to them on billboards, posters or leaving leaflets in public spaces (which include QR Codes or internet links to give further information and show they are legitimate).*

*This way these people will know they have help available to them when they may be too ashamed or proud to ask for help.*

**We are exceptionally proud of Scarlett for her thoughtful and passionate entry and look forward to seeing her future successes!**

## SCAREFEST

**This term we had a terror-ific time at Ashlawn's annual Scarefest, with over 250 students facing their fears at our interactive event!**

Over 25 student actors and 10 teachers created a spooktastic walkthrough event featuring five chilling scenes: the hospital, witches' forest, prison, carnival and a photo experience.

A huge thank you to Mrs Ellard, Mrs Johns, Mr Brockwell, Mrs Pickering, Ms Bond, Mrs Williams, Mr Dempsey, Mrs Lodge and Mrs Alabaster for facilitating the event and to all our incredible students who took part. Keep an eye out for more exciting events like this in the future!





## ENGLISH

# DICKENS DAY: A CELEBRATION OF LITERATURE, FUN AND FESTIVITIES!

Year 7 and 8 English students took a day to celebrate the legacy of Charles Dickens, the renowned 19th-century author whose works have become cornerstones of English literature.

Dickens Day offered students an exciting opportunity to dive into the world of Victorian England and explore the timeless stories and characters created by one of the most influential writers in literary history

## A JOURNEY INTO DICKENS' WORLD

**Dickens Day is rooted in this half term's units about Charles Dickens, which explore his life, the cultural context of his works, fascinating facts about his childhood, struggles, and his rise to fame.**

Students discovered how his works, such as *Oliver Twist* and *A Christmas Carol*, shed light on Victorian society, with a particular focus on Christmas as popularised by the author.

The day provided an opportunity to discuss themes like poverty, class disparity, and social reform, helping students connect literature with the world around them, participating in 19th century games, Christmas decoration making, writing stories, poetry and letters, whilst also exploring the true meaning of Christmas, instilling values of kindness, creativity, and collaboration.

Teachers had fun dressing as their favourite Dickens characters including the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge, the three ghosts and Jacob Marley.

Students participated in dramatic readings and performances, reenacting famous scenes from *A Christmas Carol*. These readings helped to bring Dickens' words to life in a creative and engaging manner. It was fantastic to see our young readers engaging with literature in such an interactive and meaningful way.

One Year 7 student said: "A Christmas Carol really has a moral to the story. It makes you realise that you should be kind to everyone."

This event allowed students to connect with the past, reflect on its enduring lessons and embrace Ashlawn's CARE values. Experiences like these nurture a love for reading that can last a lifetime!





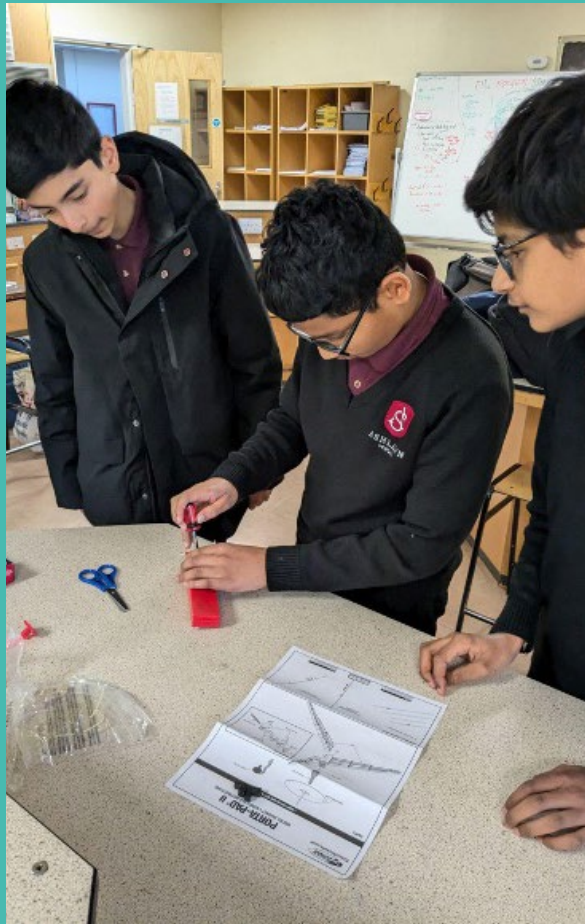
## ENGINEERING

### ROCKETRY COMPETITION

**This term, an enthusiastic group of rocket scientists have been working hard designing and building rockets for the UK Rocketry Competition.**

The challenge was to launch two eggs to a height of 790 feet and return them safely to Earth. Along the way, students have learned CAD, 3D printing and the importance of keeping the parachute intact by avoiding overheating from rocket motors.

The department will continue designing and testing next term, aiming for success in the national finals!



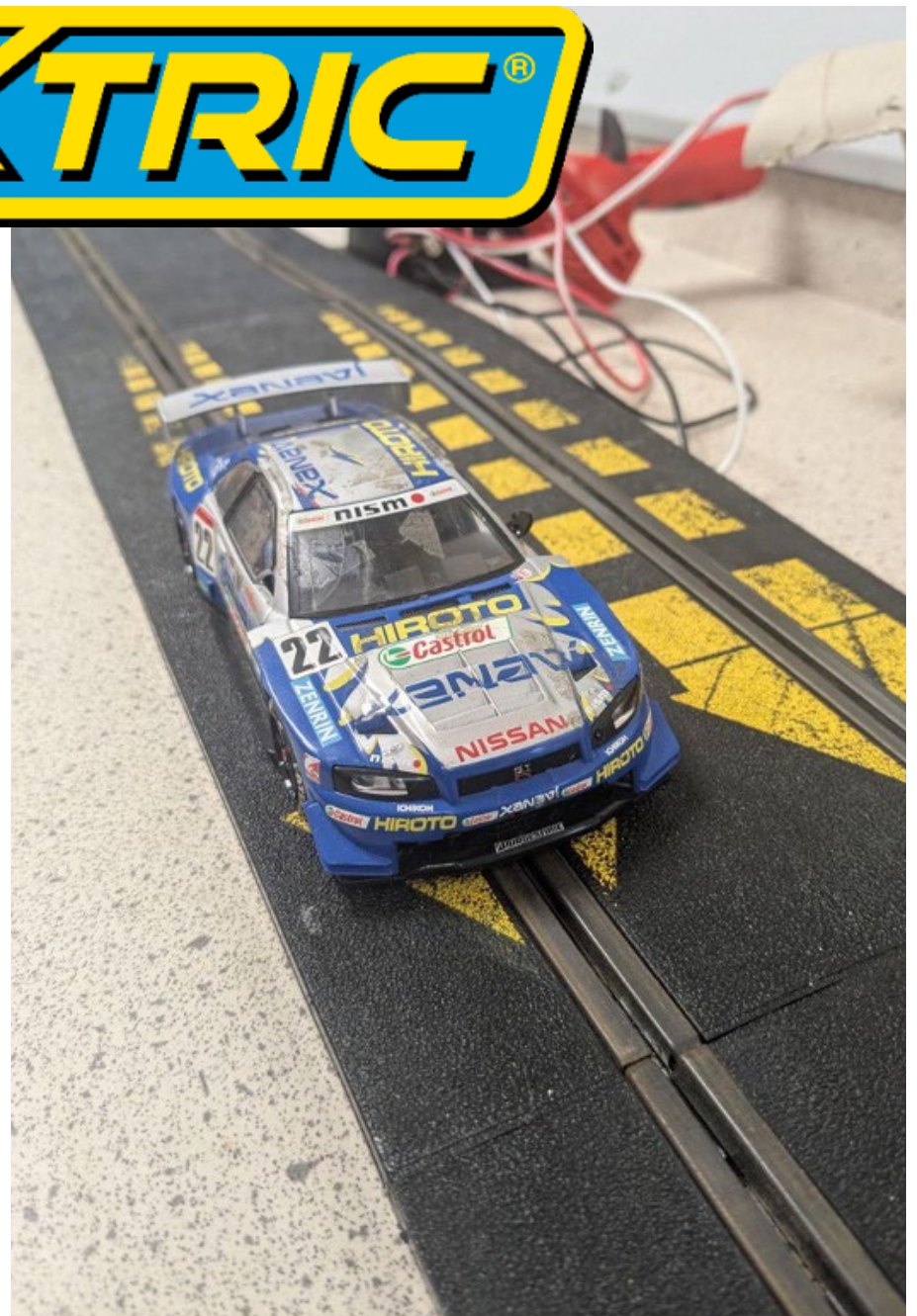
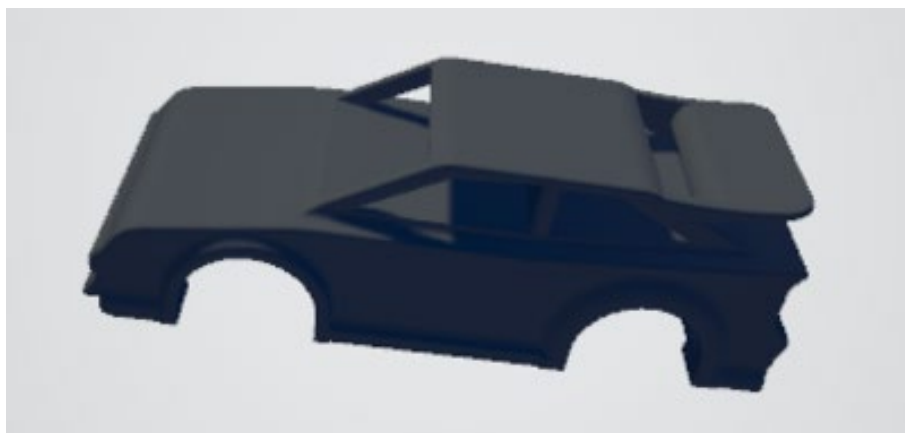
# SCALEXTRIC®

## SCALEXTRIC IN SCHOOLS

**We are thrilled to launch the Scalextric in Schools competition, giving Engineering students the opportunity to improve their CAD skills while testing their electronic and mechanical abilities.**

Students will design, 3D print and build Scalextric cars to race against entries from other schools.

Year 10 Engineering students have already started building their cars and an impressive track is taking shape in Lab 8. Look out for updates in the new year! If you have any old tracks or cars to donate, please email [hardimani@ashlawn.tlet.org.uk](mailto:hardimani@ashlawn.tlet.org.uk)





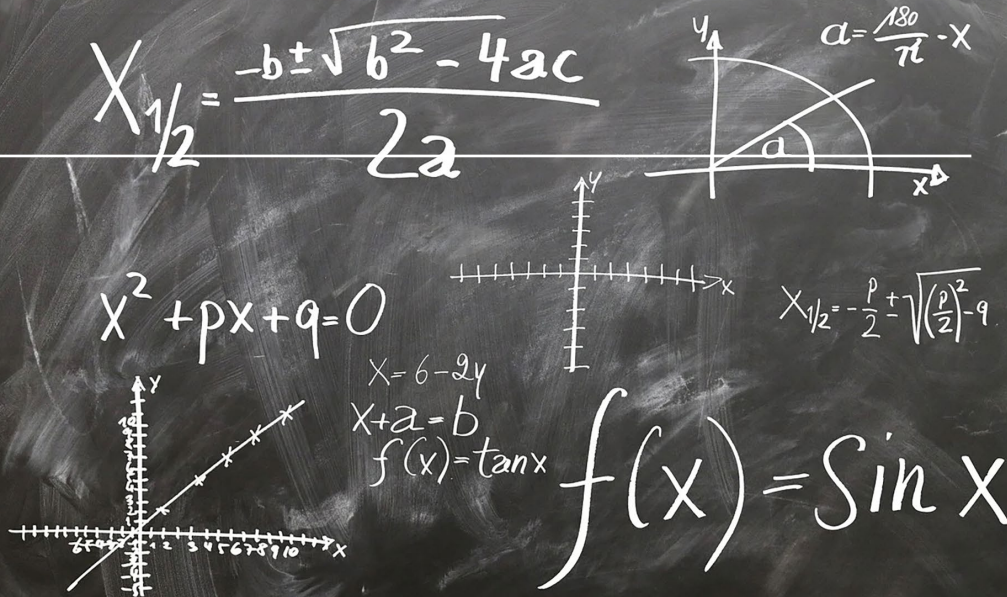
# MATHS

## SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

**Sixth Form mathematicians and 34 Year 11 volunteers participated in the Senior Maths Challenge.**

The event saw an impressive turnout, with students achieving bronze, silver and gold certificates earning a spot in the next round – the Senior Kangaroo.

A special congratulations to Will T, Emily W, Aidan P and Keira W for their exceptional performance in these challenges.



## MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD FOR GIRLS

**Our female A-Level mathematicians, joined by 10 Year 11 volunteers, took part in the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls.**

This initiative encourages more girls to engage in STEM activities. The participants delivered outstanding performances, with Abigail C, Asvitha K and Keira W achieving the highest scores in their respective years – an incredible achievement!



## CHESS CLUB

**Mr Thomas is currently hosting a chess tournament with prizes for the top three players and a special award for the top-performing female student to encourage greater participation.**

The current leaders are Donnie O, Deekshith S and Elliott B. Best of luck to everyone taking part!

## AXIOM CLUB

**Every Wednesday after school, Miss Marson runs the Axiom Club for selected Year 7 students.**

These students, chosen by their teachers for their outstanding curiosity and enthusiasm for Maths, explore mathematical challenges beyond the standard curriculum.

Working in small groups of like-minded others, they work together to solve complex problems.

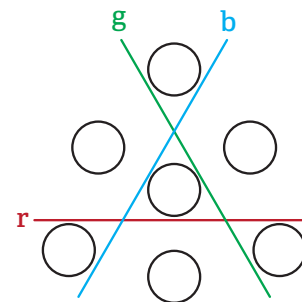
Well done to Gideon A and Jan K who worked especially hard to tackle one of the week's challenging problems.

Write the numbers 1 to 7 in the circles so that:

there is the same total on each side of the **blue** line

there is the same total on each side of the **green** line

there is the same total on each side of the **red** line



## TEACHING AND LEARNING IN MATHS

**In Miss Sparrow's Year 10 class, students created posters to teach others about trigonometry.**

They designed their own examples, wrote clear explanations and presented their work to help deepen everyone's understanding of these concepts.

Meanwhile, Miss Marson's Year 12 students explored sampling methods using Skittles.

This hands-on activity brought theoretical concepts to life, as students physically observed selection techniques, plus they got to enjoy a snack afterwards!



## PERFORMING ARTS


### ASHLAWN ARTS PRESENTS: '9 TO 5: THE MUSICAL'!

Join us for an evening of laughter, music, and empowerment as our talented students bring this high-energy classic to life!

Based on the iconic film, '9 to 5: The Musical' follows three determined women who turn the tables on their less-than-stellar boss, leading to a show-stopping performance you won't want to miss!

 Show Dates: January 29th - 31st, 2025

 Time: 7:00 pm

 Tickets: £10 – available on Eventbrite here: <https://bit.ly/ashlawn9to5tickets>

Come and support our incredible students as they perform this hilarious, feel-good musical as part of their KS5 exam. Bring your friends, family, and colleagues for a night of unforgettable entertainment. Get your tickets now and don't miss out!



## WINTER SHOWCASE

We are so proud of all the students that took part in this term's Winter Showcase.

This included a fantastic performance of 'Elf' by our KS3 Drama club students and Drama leaders. With over 50 students involved in this production, it was a fabulously light-hearted and funny retelling of this modern Christmas classic.

So many students wanted to take part, we had to multiply the roles which was AMAZING! Everybody had a chance to take on lines in the performance, and to hear the whole cast and audience collaborating with a rendition of 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town' really brought the festive cheer!



A huge well done to our six wonderful Drama leaders who support Mrs Ballinger with directing and rehearsals. It was so fantastic to see you all shining on stage as performers too, what brilliant aspirational role models for our younger students.

So many of the cast only joined us in September, it has been wonderful to welcome them to our Drama club family. We love Drama Club Fridays!

See you all in the summer for our next KS3 Drama Club Pantomime...



## BTEC L1/2 PERFORMING ARTS PERFORMANCE

A huge well done to our Year 11 BTEC Performing Arts students who bravely took part in their examination performances at the Autumn Showcase in the East Hall.

We had outstanding performances of extracts from Frozen the Musical, Lord of the Flies and Percy Jackson and the Lightening Thief - The Musical.

It was so fantastic to share your hard work with an audience and we are incredibly proud of you all!





## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### BADMINTON TOURNAMENTS

**This term, our school competed in singles and doubles badminton tournaments against local schools, with teams from each year group showcasing their skills and determination.**

The season kicked off with the Year 11s, who used the competition to prepare for their GCSE practical moderation. Cara and Bailey excelled, winning 3 out of 4 singles matches, while Lauren and Yasmin achieved the same in doubles.

The Year 10 team, though less experienced, showed impressive skill and strategy. Mikayla, Megan, Lottie and Abbie demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and embraced feedback to improve their game.

The Year 9s followed, with Sophia and Laiba shining in doubles, winning 3 out of 4 matches thanks to their great communication and teamwork.

Next, the Year 8s faced tough competition from Rugby High, Avon Valley and Harris School. Rikza topped her league, while Eliza won 2 out of 3 matches. Georgia, Amelia and Jasmine also contributed strongly, both competing and officiating.

Finally, the Year 7 team closed the season on a high, with Anvi and Akshada winning 3 out of 4 individual matches. In doubles, Anvi and Libbie matched their success and a massive well done to Elizabeth for participating in her first competition representing Ashlawn School.

A huge congratulations to all participants for their efforts and achievements! Stay tuned for trampolining, rugby, girls' football and Year 7 netball after the holidays.



### BASKETBALL SEASON

**The Year 9 team has participated in just one match this season, in which they achieved victory over Avon Valley School. Felix served as the team's captain.**

The Year 11 team remain undefeated this season, maintaining a perfect record following a strong performance against Lawrence Sheriff and a hard-fought win over Avon Valley. Particular stand outs have been Tayo, Hayden and Joe.

The senior basketball team kicked off the half term with an impressive 57-24 victory against Rugby High School. Standout performances came from Gabriel and Bence (Year 12), as well as Hayden and Tayo (Year 11), with special mention to Hayden and Tayo for playing up a year. Congratulations to all involved and we are looking forward to more exciting fixtures next half term!





## FOOTBALL SUCCESS

**The Year 10 boys' football team secured an impressive 6-2 victory against Cardinal Wiseman (A) in the 5th round of the prestigious English Schools' FA Cup, with goals from Max, Joe, Dawson and Harry.**

The win takes the team into the 6th round, where they will face Wigston MAT in the first week back after Christmas. Out of over 650 teams, Ashlawn is now among the top 32 in the country, an astounding achievement!

Also, we would like to congratulate Rudy G (Year 9) on being selected for the England Football U15 training camp at St George's Park last weekend. Well done, Rudy! Rudy currently plays for Northampton Town and represents both the Year 9 and Year 10 football teams.





## SCIENCE POLESTAR EGG DROP CHALLENGE

**Engineers from Polestar visited Ashlawn School to host The Egg Drop Challenge for 30 students.**

The session began with insights into the engineers' careers and roles, followed by students designing and building egg protection systems. Working within budgets and focusing on sustainability, teams tested their designs from a second-storey window. Only two systems survived the fall!

The winning team earned a trophy and medals before students explored Polestar's innovative smart materials and even sat in one of their electric cars. It was a fun and inspiring afternoon for all!



## FUNDRAISING

### YEAR 12 PREFECTS STEP UP FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

**Student leadership is a cornerstone of our Sixth Form. Last term, our newly appointed Year 12 Prefects demonstrated this brilliantly by organising a fantastic range of events for Children in Need, despite only being in their roles for two days!**

Activities included:

- Fancy dress day
- A bake sale at break time
- A chess competition
- A "Guess the Name of the Bear" contest

Their efforts raised over £300 for Children in Need, setting a fantastic example for the rest of the school and truly embodying Ashlawn's CARE values. We are so proud of their dedication and leadership!





## SIXTH FORM NEWS

### YEAR 13 STUDENTS DEVELOP THEIR INTERVIEW SKILLS

**This term, Year 13 students prepared for university and apprenticeship interviews by developing their skills with local professionals, including volunteers from Revive Ltd, Rugby Round Table, Kiss My Brand, East Midlands Ambulance Service and the Rugby Rotary Club.**

After interactive preparatory sessions, students participated in mock interviews, showing confidence, strong communication and well supported answers.

The volunteers provided invaluable feedback and guidance, with many offering to return in January to support Year 11 mock interviews. We are incredibly grateful to our volunteers for helping students take this important next step in a supportive school setting.



### YEAR 13 OXBRIDGE AND EARLY ENTRY

**Our Year 13 Medicine and Dentistry students and those applying for Oxbridge have truly impressed us with their dedication and preparation for their upcoming interviews.**

In recent weeks, they attended a lunchtime Zoom session with an Oxford admissions tutor, gaining invaluable insights into the interview process. Additionally, they participated in a mock interview with a professor from Rugby School, which provided them with constructive feedback and a chance to refine their responses.

These students exemplify the Ashlawn CARE values and the feedback from their interviews has been outstanding. We wish them every success in the next steps of their applications!

### A DAY AT THE GUARDIAN OFFICES

**Our Year 12 students had a fantastic day learning how to write feature articles at The Guardian Newspaper Offices in London. We definitely have some future journalists in our midst!**





# NEW YEAR 12 PREFECTS

## Student Voice and Leadership are an integral part of our Sixth Form.

As such, we are thrilled to announce the successful appointment of 30 new Year 12 Prefects! Following an online application process and endorsement by their tutors,

these students have been selected to take on key leadership roles in our Sixth Form. Congratulations to all!

The newly appointed Prefects wasted no time getting involved. They organised a bake sale in the Sixth Form for Children in Need, raising over £300. In addition, they mentor younger students in the Sixth Form Study Hub every Wednesday lunchtime, offering guidance and sharing their experiences to help others make informed choices.

Looking ahead, a second round of Prefect appointments will take place next term as we continue to grow our leadership team. Students will also have the opportunity to apply for Senior Leadership roles.

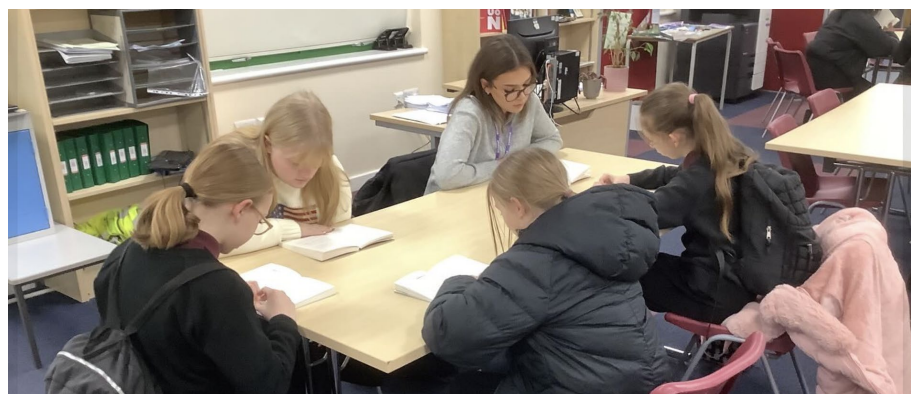
We are excited to work with this talented group over the next two years to shape the future of our Sixth Form and inspire positive change across the entire school community.

# PAYING IT FORWARD

## As part of our Sixth Form 'pay it forward' programme, our post-16 students have been meeting with our Year 7 students and helping them with their reading skills.

Reading is so important, and we are hoping that working with their reading buddies will help our Year 7 students reduce their stress levels and help them relax; improve their concentration and memory; expand their vocabulary and strengthen their writing abilities; as well as building their confidence.

Some of our Year 13 students are also acting as Peer Mentors for younger students. These positive relationships are starting to develop and our KS3 students are opening up and discussing any barriers to learning they may have. A big thank you to our Sixth Form team for organising this opportunity for all.



# ASHLAWN ALUMNI SOCIETY

## On Tuesday, Ashlawn welcomed back last year's Year 13 students to celebrate their success in their exams, hand out their A Level and BTEC certificates as well as present some Awards based on the CARE values.

These students embody the school's core values and ambitions and we are so proud of them. We launched our Alumni Society with them, whereby they can keep connected with the school and share their successes as well as come back into school and support current Sixth Formers with their studies and future ambitions.







ASHLAWN  
SCHOOL



At Ashlawn we...

# C A R E

## **COMMUNITY**

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

## **ASPIRATION**

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

## **RESPECT**

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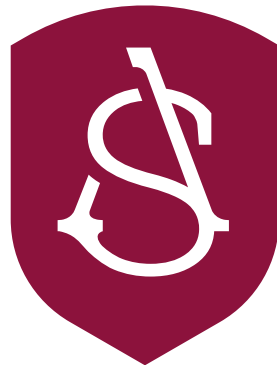
We respect each other and our differences. We respect our learning environment and appreciate everyone's right to the best possible experience at Ashlawn.

## **EXCELLENCE**

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





ASHLAWN  
SCHOOL

*Our best, always*

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