

ASHLAWN

SPRING NEWS 2025



ASHLAWN
SCHOOL

Our best, always



Welcome from the Principal

I can't quite believe that another term has come to an end, and we are preparing for our Easter break!

The Spring Term has been a bustling time across our school, with so many events and activities taking place to inspire our students. We have held workshops with an acclaimed author, talks led by distinguished scientists and businesspeople and a programme of careers and apprenticeships activities covering a wide range of subjects and specialisms.

Other highlights have included Year 12 work experience and our Culture Week, which is becoming a regular fixture in our school calendar. We were also proud to host TLET's Got Talent and the TLET Science Fair, working in partnership with our Trust family to recognise the skills and achievements of all of our wonderful students.

These all form part of our commitment to Student 2030 – our approach to delivering on our ambitions for all of our students: Academic Achievement, Employability, Place in Community, Personal Character and Creation of Aspiration.

And we couldn't sign off for the term without celebrating the achievements of Year 11 student, Viv, who recently starred in the new Disney Snow White movie, you can read more about her amazing achievement in this edition.

Wishing you all a restful break.

Paul Brockwell
Principal, Ashlawn School



As we approach the Easter break, we want to remind families of the importance of keeping young people safe while they enjoy their time off. With lighter evenings and more time spent out with friends or online, it's a good opportunity to talk about making safe choices.

Encourage your child to plan their activities responsibly - whether they're meeting up with friends, spending time outdoors, or using social media. Remind them to stay in touch, be aware of their surroundings, and think carefully before sharing personal information online. For useful guidance on online and personal safety, resources such as ThinkUKnow and Internet Matters provide excellent advice for parents and young people alike.

We hope all our students have a fun and safe Easter holiday!



UNDERSTANDING THE DIGITAL WORLD OF ADOLESCENTS

EMOJI'S EXPLAINED

FROM SECRET SLANG TO CODED MESSAGES, EMOJIS ARE OFTEN USED TO CONVEY MEANINGS THAT PARENTS MIGHT NOT RECOGNISE. UNDERSTANDING THESE HIDDEN MESSAGES CAN HELP BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN GENERATIONS AND ENSURE OPEN, INFORMED CONVERSATIONS.

DRUGS RELATED	Cocaine	Cocaine	Cocaine	Cannabis	Cannabis	Cannabis	Joint
	MDMA	MDMA	Heroin	Heroin	Meth	Mushroom	Ketamine
	Gassed	Lit	Dealer	Dealer	Dealer		
VIOLENCE	Weapon	Weapon	Weapon	Crime	Crime	Murder	Murder
			Threat	Locked Up	Snitch		
SEX	Penis	Penis	Genitalia	Bum	Vagina	Vagina	Nudes
	Porn	Orgasm	Orgasm	Oral Sex	Lust	Lust	Anal Sex
	Intercourse	Fingering	Playful	Horny	Lets Hump		
SELF HARM	Cutting	Cutting	Burning	Trapped	Sad	Down	Anxious
							Not Eating
EXTREMISM	Neo Nazi	Neo Nazi	Neo Nazi	IS Extremist	IS Extremist	Far Right	
INCEL CULTURE	Red Pill	Black Pill	Hopeless	Emotional Detachment	Men are kings	Extreme Masculinity	Power
	Older woman						
HEARTS	Lone Wolf	100 Incel	Incel	Incel	Incel	Anti-Women	Anti-Women
HEARTS	Love	Horny	Friends	Interested	Loyalty	Platonic	Pretty
							Trust

ecp KIDSONLINELINEWORLD

Many of you may have seen the recent Netflix series **Adolescence**, a thought-provoking and often challenging watch that shines a light on the struggles young people face in a world shaped by social media.

The series highlights the complexities of growing up in the digital age, offering valuable insight into the pressures and influences our students navigate daily.

In light of this, we wanted to share a useful resource - a guide to the meaning behind certain Emojis commonly used by young people in their online conversations.

While these symbols may seem harmless at first glance, they can sometimes carry hidden meanings that are important for educators, safeguarding leads, and parents to be aware of.

Understanding the language of social media is just one way we can better support and safeguard our students.

For those looking to learn more about online safety and digital wellbeing, we recommend exploring the following resources:

- **NSPCC – Online Safety Hub (www.nspcc.org.uk)**
Guidance for parents, carers, and professionals on keeping young people safe online.
- **Internet Matters (www.internetmatters.org)**
Expert advice, resources, and tips to help navigate online risks.
- **ThinkUKnow (CEOP) (www.thinkuknow.co.uk)**
A police-backed education programme providing information on staying safe online.
- **Childnet (www.childnet.com)**
A charity dedicated to empowering young people and their families to make informed online choices.

If you haven't seen the poster yet, we encourage you to take a look - it's a valuable tool for anyone working with or caring for young people today.

ASHLAWN SCHOOL STUDENT STARS IN BLOCKBUSTER DISNEY FILM

One of our very own students has appeared in the latest Disney blockbuster, Snow White, which has just premiered worldwide and soared to number one at the box office.

Year 11 student, Viv, has made an incredible leap into the world of Hollywood, acting and singing in the live-action adaptation of the classic fairytale. Not only does Viv appear in the film, but she also performs the song 'Good Things Grow' on the official soundtrack.

Over the course of filming at the iconic Pinewood Studios, Viv had the chance to work alongside renowned director Marc Webb (The Amazing Spider-Man), celebrated choreographer Mandy Moore (La La Land), and global superstar Gal Gadot (Wonder Woman) as well as Snow White herself – Rachel Zegler.

We are so proud of Viv and everything she has accomplished. Her success is the result of extraordinary talent, perseverance and passion. It is truly inspiring to see a member of our school community shine on the global stage.

The entertainment industry is fiercely competitive, making Viv's success even more remarkable. Her achievement is a testament to years of dedication, with intensive performing arts training every evening, every weekend and throughout school holidays since she was a young child.

At Ashlawn we believe in giving our best, always, and Viv is an incredible example of this – the whole school is cheering her on as she takes this exciting step in her career.



TLET SCIENCE FAIR

The first-ever TLET Science Fair took place at Ashlawn School on 11th March, bringing together students and their families from across the trust for an evening of scientific discovery.

The event was an opportunity for pupils and family members to work together as a team to create a piece of scientific work on any subject that sparked curiosity. Inspired by similar science fairs seen in the USA, the event allowed students to undertake a study, create an innovation, or conduct an experiment. The results were showcased in the evening, where participants proudly presented their work to a panel of judges.

A total of 21 students took part, wowing attendees with their knowledge and creativity. Some of the standout projects included cloud formation, fingerprinting, henna staining, battery and temperature operation, candy floss dissolving, electrolysis, sunglasses with window wipers and the science of particles and acoustics, which made for an inspiring evening.

The judging panel consisted of Ashlawn's KS4 and KS5 students, external judges as well as judges from within the Trust schools.

Congratulations go to Aarav from Houlton School who showcased an experiment that was of university calibre.

Mr Hillman, who helped coordinate the event, praised all participants for their hard work and dedication, emphasising the incredible teamwork displayed between students and their family members. We are already looking forward to next year's event, which promises to be even bigger and better.

Thank you to all who took part - your passion for science was truly inspiring!



TLET'S GOT TALENT SHOW

The second annual TLET's Got Talent Show also took place at Ashlawn School this term, bringing together talented pupils and students from across our Trust family for an evening of outstanding performances.

The competition featured a wide variety of acts, ranging from dog tricks and singing and dancing, to sports skills, gymnastics and

musical instrument showcases. There was an incredible line-up of 15 acts representing their schools with impressive skill and creativity.

A huge congratulations to Izzy from Houlton School who was named this year's overall winner, with her adaptation of a musical song, and to the four runners up who really impressed the judges on the night.

There was also lots of praise for the hosts, Ashlawn Sixth Formers, Amelia and Millie, who did a fantastic job hosting the show and making all of the acts feel at ease.

Well done to everyone who auditioned and took part in the event, we are so proud of you!



ASHLAWN'S NATIONAL CAREER'S WEEK

Every year, National Careers Week is an important part of our school calendar, designed to help students make informed decisions about their futures.

This week-long event gives our students some hands-on experience, introduces them to industry professionals and showcases real-world applications for their studies.

Throughout the week, each subject area brought Careers Week to life in different ways:

Science:

- Year 8 students had a visit from Polestar a Swedish electric performance car company, who ran a series of challenges for everyone to take part in.
- Year 10 and 12 students met a Prosthetist and Orthotist who demonstrated how custom splints are made and discussed how their work improves lives.
- A chemist visited to talk about careers in the industry, explaining how chemistry is used to improve everyday products.

Maths:

- Year 12 mathematicians had a session with an engineer at FANUC – a global leader in factory automation, CNC systems and robotics – who shared his journey to becoming a controls engineer and discussed the impact of mathematics in engineering.

Criminology:

- Year 12 and 13 students became detectives, analysing real case files, witness statements, and physical evidence to solve a mock murder investigation.

History:

- Year 9 students researched career opportunities in history, broadening their understanding of where the subject could take them.

Psychology:

- Year 11 students met an Educational Psychologist who explained her role, the required training, and shared real case studies of her work with young people.
- Year 13 students took on the role of Clinical Psychologists, analysing case studies and even speaking with a CBT therapist about careers in therapy.

Geography:

- Year 7 explored careers for geography graduates, from environmental consultancy to weather presenting, and practised presenting their own weather forecasts.

Other students looked at the transferable skills geographers gain and the diverse career paths available.

National Careers Week has given our students a glimpse into the many pathways their studies can lead to, inspiring them to think about their future with confidence and ambition.



EXPLORING FUTURE PATHWAYS AT THE NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SHOW

Earlier this term, a group of our Year 11 and Year 13 students were given the opportunity to attend the National Apprenticeship Show at the Coventry Building Society Arena.

The event showcases a wide range of post-16 and post-18 opportunities, from intermediate apprenticeships to degree-level apprenticeships, giving students valuable insight into potential career paths.

Our students showed fantastic confidence in engaging with employers, discussing career options and exploring qualification requirements.

Some exhibitors, including the Army, the Royal Air Force, and Actemium, offered interactive experiences, which made the event even more engaging. As you can see from the pictures, our students fully embraced the experience!

Throughout the day, our students were a credit to the school, polite, respectful, and eager to learn. We hope they found the event valuable and left feeling inspired about their future steps.

CELEBRATING OUR CULTURES AND HERITAGE

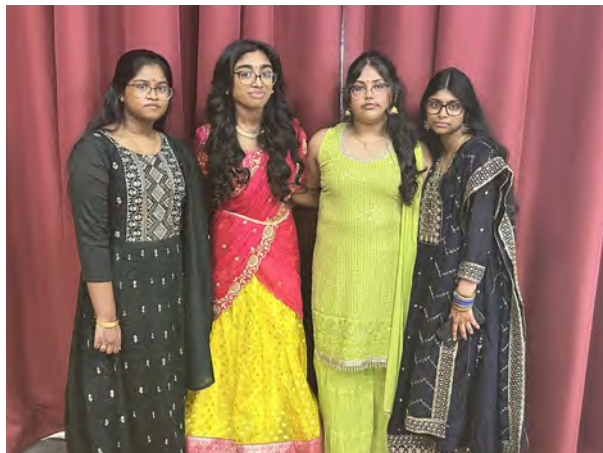
From 7th to 11th April, we held our second annual Culture Week.

This special event was an opportunity for our school community to recognise, celebrate and share the diverse culture of our Ashlawn families through various activities and discussions.

This included cultural assemblies, exploring identities and trying different foods from across the world as well as opportunities to share individual stories of backgrounds and heritage.

A particular highlight of the week was inviting staff and students to come to school wearing their cultural dress.

It was wonderful to celebrate the variety of cultures we have here at Ashlawn. We felt such pride at the number of students who were wearing their traditional dress, clothing, religious jewellery and body art to represent their culture and heritage.



CELEBRATING OUR TALENTED STUDENTS!

This term, our Art students have created some incredible works of art that deserve to be shared.

A huge well done to Ethan in Year 7, who has painted beautiful depictions of the moon. His attention to detail and skill at such a young age is impressive.

Zoya in Year 10 recently completed a beautiful piece of work on 'Dia de los Muertos' which deserves to be shared.

We also want to celebrate Isabella in Year 12, whose latest artwork is nothing short of stunning. Her creativity and technique continue to inspire.

Well done to all our young artists - keep up the amazing work!



FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

EASTER RECIPES – GET COOKING AT HOME!

Easter is the perfect time to get creative in the kitchen! Whether it's baking chocolate nests, decorating Easter biscuits, or trying out a traditional family recipe, cooking at home is a great way to have fun and learn new skills.

We'd love to see what our students are making over the holidays! If your child tries out a new Easter recipe, why not share it with us?

Send in photos or a short description of your dish, and we'll feature some of our favourites in the next newsletter. Happy cooking!

Here are some of the amazing recipes our students have cooked in school to celebrate the theme, Easter.



WORLD BOOK DAY

We would like to say a huge thank you to students and staff for all of their efforts in supporting our celebration of World Book Day 2025.

There were some amazing costumes, and it was lovely to see so many people getting involved. World Book Day changes lives through promoting and encouraging our young people to love books.

“Books are the plane, the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey. They are home.” - Anna Quindlen, *How Reading Changed My Life*.

Our mission is 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.



STEPHEN KELMAN AUTHOR VISIT

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, we welcomed critically acclaimed author, Stephen Kelman, to the school to talk about his novel Pigeon English.

He also delivered high-quality workshops, question and answer sessions and shared his expertise more widely with our students in Years 7 to 11.

We were really delighted to be able to offer students this opportunity not only as part of our World Book Day celebrations but also as part of our ongoing commitment to Ashlawn School's "Student 2030" strategic plan for building and creating aspiration among our student cohorts.

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE - TRIP TO RUGBY THEATRE

Our A Level English Literature students recently had the exciting opportunity to watch a live performance of A Streetcar Named Desire.

This theatre trip brought Tennessee Williams' powerful play to life, offering students a deeper understanding of its themes, characters, and dramatic techniques.

Experiencing the play through a live performance provided a valuable insight into the complexities of Blanche, Stanley, and Stella's world, enriching their analysis and appreciation of Williams' work. The production's staging, direction, and performances sparked thought-provoking discussions, which will no doubt enhance studies.

A huge thank you to Rugby Theatre for an outstanding production!



A Streetcar Named Desire

"Desire! The name of that rattle-trap streetcar that bangs through the Quarter, up one old narrow street and down another."

Tennessee Williams

YEAR 9 LEICESTER TRIP TO RELIGIOUS CENTRES

We are delighted to offer students in Year 9 a visit to different religious places of worship in Leicester. This trip has been chosen as it fits well with our Humanities Faculty curriculum.

Students study different religions in Religious Studies earlier in Key Stage 3 and will also be studying the Abrahamic faiths at the start of their Religious Studies GCSE in Year 10.

In addition, students in Year 9 will be studying multiculturalism in Britain at the end of their Year 9 studies in History as part of the post WWII Britain topic.

Leicester is the most diverse multicultural city in the UK today. We will be visiting the following sites: The Muslim Islamic Centre, the Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur Gurdwara; and the Church of England Leicester Cathedral.

Trip Itinerary

- **8.45 am** – leave school (Please ensure students are at school on time for a normal school day)
- **4 pm** – arrive back to school

Please ensure students have an alternative way home if they catch a bus or coach home, as we will be returning after school.

Trip Cost

£14 per child, this covers transport and entrance fees. Students are allowed to bring with them a small amount of spending money

for souvenirs. **Students entitled to Pupil Premium funding may use their personal allowance to pay for part of this trip.**

Trip Allocation

There are 100 spaces available. If your child would like to attend this trip can I ask that you please complete the Google Form <https://forms.gle/1y7c7chAgzqMWnrJ8> by Thursday 1st May 2025. After this date the parents of the pupils who are going on the trip will have a payment added to ParentPay.

If the trip is oversubscribed, we will draw names at random to ensure fairness. Parents will be notified if their child has a place and they will be able to pay via Parent Pay.

YEAR 8 BLACK COUNTRY MUSEUM

We are excited to offer Year 8 students a trip to The Black Country Living History Museum in Dudley on Friday 20th June. This visit has been carefully selected to complement our Humanities Faculty curriculum.

In History, students will begin studying the Industrial Revolution at the start of Year 9, making this trip an excellent foundation for their upcoming studies. In Geography, students explored how countries develop

and how development is measured in Year 7, and in Year 8 they have been studying the emerging economies of China and India—providing valuable comparisons to the UK during the Industrial Revolution. Additionally,

in collaboration with the STEM Faculty, Year 8 students have also examined industrial processes during their STEM lessons.

Trip Itinerary

- **9.00 am** – leave school
- **4.45pm** – arrive back at school

Please ensure students have an alternative way home if they catch a bus or coach home, as we will be returning after school.

Trip Cost

The cost of the trip is £21.50 and this covers transport and entrance fees. Students are allowed to bring with them a small amount of spending money for souvenirs.

Students entitled to Pupil Premium funding may use their personal allowance to pay for part of this trip.

Trip Allocation

There are 100 spaces available. If your child would like to attend this trip can I ask that you please complete the Google Form <https://forms.gle/RkrwvuWc1ZoytFU78> by Thursday 1st May 2025. After this date, the parents of the pupils who are going on the trip will have a payment added to ParentPay.



T&C's

If the trip is oversubscribed, we will draw names at random to ensure fairness. Parents will be notified if their child has a place and they will be able to pay via Parent Pay by **Friday 30th May**.

We reserve the right to remove any student from participating in the trip if their behaviour and conduct in school falls below our expected standards. This judgement will be made by the Head of Year, the school's Educational Visits Coordinator and the Trip Leader.

Please note that any payment made to the school once your child has secured a place is non-refundable (unless there is a valid medical reason for withdrawal from the trip and/or your child's place is taken by another student.)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



YEAR 7 & 8 GIRLS SHINE AT LEICESTER TIGERS RUGBY FESTIVAL!

Our Year 7 and Year 8 girls had an incredible experience at the Leicester Tigers Rugby Festival at Lutterworth RFC this term!

They enjoyed a fantastic day of competitive play, developing their skills and learning new techniques.

Well done to everyone who took part!

SIXTH FORM NEWS

INSPIRING THE SCIENTISTS OF THE FUTURE

Ashlawn School was delighted to welcome keynote speaker Sam McKee, this term, who shared his expertise on DNA molecular biology and its role in cancer research. His visit aimed to inspire students and open their minds to careers in science.

Sam, a researcher in Biomedicine and an Associate Tutor in History and Philosophy of Science at Manchester Metropolitan University, played a key role in a 2023 experiment on the International Space Station.

During the day, he spoke to Year 10 and Year 12 students in both large sessions and smaller science groups. Many students left feeling inspired and thoroughly enjoyed the discussions.

These talks support Ashlawn's 2030 Core Ambitions of Aspiration and Employability, and we look forward to welcoming more industry experts to share their career journeys in the future.



SHREWSBURY PRISON VISIT

Year 13 Criminology students had the opportunity to visit Shrewsbury Prison and learn about its significance in the history of punishment and penal reform.

Students explored the daily lives of both prisoners and staff, enhancing their current studies on crime and punishment.

Students were highly engaged in learning and exploring the history of the building, as well as the penal changes it has undergone over the centuries. For example, we had the chance to visit the execution room, where one of the most

controversial hangings took place in 1961 and we learnt about the final days of many prisoners who were sentenced to capital punishment.

Our guide, a former prison officer with years of experience, answered all our questions about life in prison. Towards the end of our trip, during free exploration time, we even visited one of the most haunted cells in the UK!

There was also a fun aspect to the trip - a prison cell escape room! The students' logical thinking and creativity were astounding, and some even managed to escape before time ran out.



Y12 WORK EXPERIENCE

Work experience is an exciting opportunity for our students to explore potential career paths, and we love seeing them thrive in different environments.

At Ashlawn this term, three of our Year 12 French students - Jannah, Caitlin, and Holly – spent a week at their partner school in Epernay, France. They stayed with their pen pals and their families, fully immersing themselves in the French language and culture.

Before beginning their placements, they had the chance to visit Reims and Paris, taking in the sights and historic landmarks - a fantastic way to start their experience!

Meanwhile, closer to home, Holly spent a week at Crescent School, where she supported lessons across a range of subjects, including



Games and Forest School. A keen linguist, she particularly enjoyed assisting in Modern Foreign Languages alongside Mrs Day. Her enthusiasm and engagement with the children made a great impression, and we're sure this experience will be invaluable as she considers her future career.

Well done to all our students for making the most of their work experience opportunities, gaining confidence and developing skills for the future!





At Ashlawn we...

CARE

COMMUNITY

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

ASPIRATION

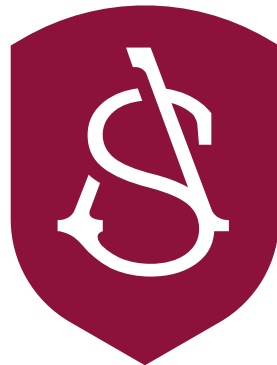
We work hard and make the most of exciting and challenging learning experiences, in order to open up the world around us and achieve our dreams.

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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