

April 2024

# YEAR 11 Newsletter



## Welcome to the Summer Term!

I hope that all of our year 11 students and their families had a restful Easter break.

We are immensely proud of our year 11 students. Each term they arrive back in school even more focussed and determined to work hard towards their exams. Attendance in the after school revision sessions continues to be impressive.

## Celebrating Success

We ended our Spring Term with our traditional Celebration Assembly. students waited in anticipation as we spun the 'wheel of names' and lots of students received Easter Eggs or vouchers! You could feel the warmth in the room as students congratulated each other and applauded them on collecting their prizes.

We had a wide range of awards, including: attendance, zero club (those with zero behavior points), Hero award (100% attendance and no lates), Form Tutor Awards, Head of Year Awards and an abundance of nominations from subject teachers. We also awarded vouchers for the Passport To rewards and drew the 'nudge' raffle. Well done to all of our students in year 11!

Donna Holland  
Head of Year 11

## KS4 Reward Trip

Congratulations to those students who met their Passport targets for attendance, behavior and punctuality last term. Year 10 and 11 students were invited to go to the cinema to watch Dune 2 and 108 students chose to go.

The trip was a great success, all enjoyed the experience, and students proved themselves to be excellent representatives of Ashlawn School. It was a pleasure to take them.



## Revision Space

We have liaised with The Sixth Form team and they are happy for year 11 students to make use of the Sixth Form Study Hub during lunch times if they would like somewhere to revise. This will also give our Year 11 students the opportunity to see how Sixth Form operates, what it looks like to be a part of Sixth Form and speak to some of our Sixth Form Student Leadership Team. Students can also use the library if they wish but must understand that this is more of a quiet space. Ms Mills has kindly closed the library to other year groups to allow for Year 11, 12 and 13 to have a space to study quietly. It has been inspiring to see so many students making use of their lunch time and the spaces provided.



## Year Book

We are excited to be working with Fizz Yearbooks again this year! We have been busy in school collecting comments from students, tutors and key staff members as well as taking individual and from photos. These will all go towards documenting students' time at Ashlawn School in the 2024 yearbook. In addition to this we will add photos from the Year 11 Prom.

The Online Shop is ready for the students/parents/carers to place their order for the Yearbooks. £23 per book.

Please see the below link and Unique ID which the parents/carers will need to place an order:

Link: <https://shop.fizz-group.co.uk/>

Unique ID: 24715YR11

Please note: The expiry date for the shop is 23/06/2024. All orders must be placed by this date. No additional orders will be accepted after the closing date! Yearbooks will be available to collect 22nd August on GCSE Results Day!

## Leavers Hoodies

The deadlines for ordering the leavers hoodies have now passed and all orders are in the process of going to print. The hoodies will be printed and delivered by the manufacturer in time to hand them out to students after their leavers assembly which is to be confirmed shortly.

## School Council

To spread some positivity at the end of term, we came up with things that students thought were going well, or had improved this term:

- *Students had high praise for the Duke of Edinburgh programme and expeditions, they feel it is very valued across the school, and a great experience*
- *They liked the amount of charity events and awareness being raised on school wide events*
- *The Christmas concert was very well received, and students felt it was very successful. They'd like more things like this to showcase the talents of their fellow students*
- *Students appreciated the fact that there are more rewards starting to be implemented for end of term*
- *They feel that we are on the right track with challenging discriminatory language, and that addressing it is becoming more normalized*

## Punctuality

We would also like to stress the importance of arriving to school on time. Our school gates open at 8.30am, where students are greeted by their Head of Year at the gate. The gates close at 8.40am, after which students must enter via the main pedestrian gate. Our first lesson begins promptly at 8.45am, students are expected to be in classrooms by this time, anyone arriving after this time will be marked late.



## Classroom expectations:

This term we will be reminding students of lesson our expectations, and the goal that we should be 'Our Best, Always'. This means arriving to lessons on time, equipped to learn with a positive attitude and ready to learn.

We have the following expectations for our students:

### Entry into the classroom

- Students greet the teacher at the door, enter calmly and quietly, removing coats/outerwear
- Sit where asked with equipment on the desk
- Start 'Do Now' task

### During the lesson


- Respect the classroom environment, books and equipment
- Put your hand up if you have a question
- Complete all activities to the best of your ability

### Exit from the classroom

- Pack away when instructed, leaving the classroom tidy and presentable
- Quietly stand behind your chair
- Leave when dismissed and move with purpose to your next lesson

## The Ashlawn Way

We are pleased to be able to share our newly created Ashlawn School pledge, '**The Ashlawn Way**', this has been shared and discussed with students during form time activities in the previous half term and forms the foundations of being 'Our Best, Always' as we work together in all areas of school life.



**ASHLAWN**  
SCHOOL

# The Ashlawn Way


**We commit to being a part of the Ashlawn community and pledge to:**

- **Demonstrate kindness to all and help those in need**
- **Be proud of our uniqueness and champion the differences of others**
- **Celebrate our successes together**
- **Express gratitude for things that others do for us**
- **Show respect and pride in our words and actions**
- **Challenge ourselves and each other to be our best, always**

Our school community charter is driven by the TLET trust values of courage, kindness and loyalty.

**Community    Aspiration    Respect    Excellence**

This charter forms the foundation of the way in which we work together in all areas of our school life.



## Key Stage 4 Curriculum Overview

At Ashlawn, every young person journeys from 'novice' to 'expert' learner, made possible by a curriculum designed to provide continuity and progression between and within key stages. [Click here](#) to find out more about the Key Stage 4 curriculum.

## Support

As we edge closer to the summer exams, I want to remind you that there is always support available for those who may be struggling. Dan Price, our school counselor, recently sent out some useful links to both parents and students. I am attaching them here for your reference:

Exam season is upon us and it can be an incredibly stressful, overwhelming time for everyone involved. Exam stress can affect how a young person thinks, feels and behaves.

Please find below links to Young Minds (Parents/Carers) on how to support a child through the exam period, NHS on helping your child beat exam stress, a short video on exam stress tips for parents/carers and exam stress tip sheet from Place2Be.

[Exam Time & Exam Stress | Parents Guide To Support | YoungMinds](#)

[Help your child beat exam stress - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

[Exam Stress Tips for Parents | GCSE Stress | Supporting your Child | Protecting Mental Health - YouTube](#)

[Exam Stress Tipsheets \(place2be.org.uk\)](#)

# Attendance

<b>Sept - Mar</b>	Year 11	All Years
<b>Attendance</b>	89.61%	91.26%

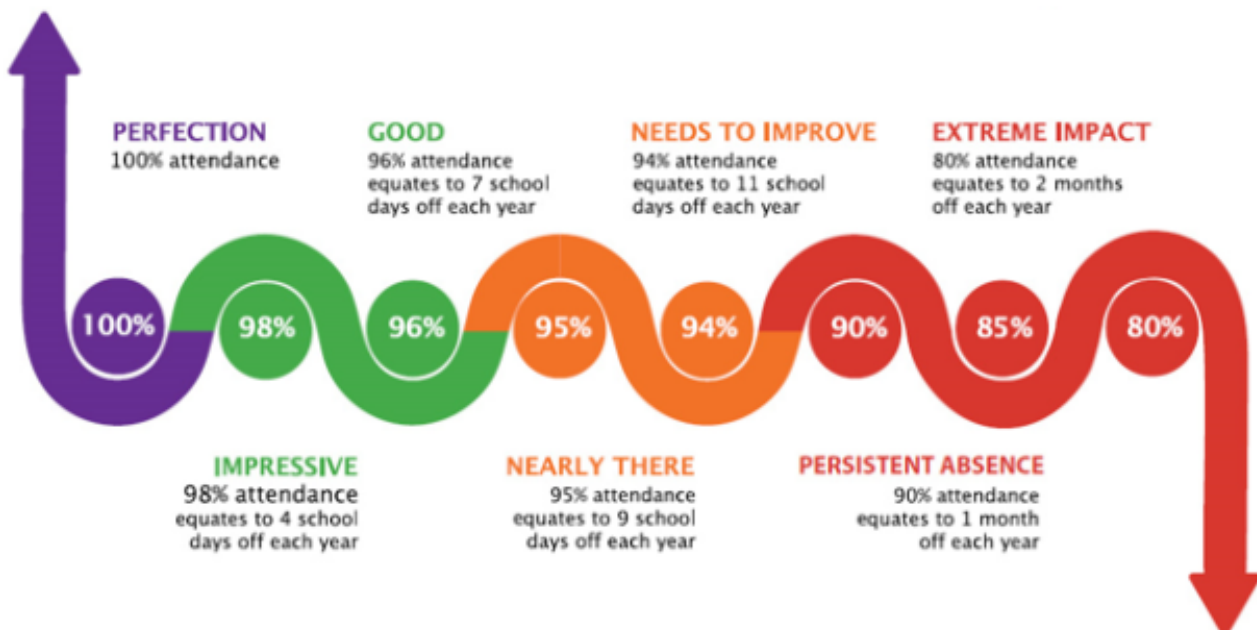
Parents and carers may recall from our original letter issued in January of this year, of the **'Moments Matter, Attendance Counts'** campaign.



You may also be aware that for a child to be categorized as 'persistently absent', their attendance will have fallen below 90% for the academic year, this equates to missing one half day each week. Attendance of 50% or below is regarded as 'severely absent'.

Research shows that lower attendance leads to lower attainment outcomes for students at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11), and the statistics are compelling:

Data from the 2022-2023 academic year for the end of Key Stage 4, pupils who missed less than 1% of sessions across Year 10 and 11 had an average Progress 8 score of +0.73, that is almost a grade higher than their peers in similar schools, while those who missed 50% of sessions or more had an average score of -2.83, almost 3 grades lower than their peers.



## Attendance

While the link between attendance and attainment is clear, absence is not just about exam results. It's about all the other important moments in school that help shape young people:

- building positive peer relationships
- taking part in extracurricular activities and trips
- developing important personal skills and finding a sense of belonging within the school community

We all have hopes and dreams for our children. But the statistics show young people will only be able to realise their full potential, academically and personally, if they are in school and ready to learn at least 97% of the time. However, it is never too late to benefit from good attendance.

There are times when absence is unavoidable and a student is too unwell to attend. In a post-pandemic world, it's sometimes difficult to know when children suffering from mild coughs and colds can and should be sent into school. To help parents make an informed decision, please see the [advice and guidance from the Chief Medical Officer](#). In these circumstances, please advise us of your child's absence using the **StudyBugs** app..



We understand that, for some families, the challenges around attendance are very real and there are significant barriers preventing children from coming into school. If you are struggling and need support, please contact your child's Welfare Lead, Head of Year or the School Attendance Officer directly and we will work with you to put a plan in place.

Here are a few strategies to help improve your child's attendance:

- Establish a routine: Set a consistent daily routine that includes ample time for sleep, meals, and preparation for the school day.
- Open Communication: Keep the lines of communication open with your child about their experiences at school. Address any concerns or issues they may be facing that could contribute to absenteeism.
- Highlight the Value of Education: Reinforce the importance of education and how it shapes their future. Discuss their goals and aspirations, emphasizing how attendance plays a crucial role in achieving them.
- Celebrate Achievements: Acknowledge your child's achievements, both big and small. Positive reinforcement can motivate them to attend school regularly.
- Stay informed: Be aware of school events, projects, and activities. Engaging with the school community can foster a sense of belonging and enthusiasm for learning.
- Remember, every day of school missed is a missed opportunity for learning and growth. We appreciate your commitment to your child's education and look forward to working together to ensure they have the best possible experience.

## Reporting an Absence

Reporting an absence Studybugs! We are pleased to announce that Ashlawn has introduced a new, more efficient, and secure system for reporting your child's absence due to illness, called Studybugs. If you haven't already please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child's ill and unable to attend school.

# Medical Appointments

Where possible, appointments should be made out of school hours or in the school holidays. However, we realise that this is sometimes not possible. Students should come into school before and after appointments to ensure they miss as little lesson time as possible. If possible, we ask that if appointments are made during the school day, please try and book the appointments between 10.30am and 12.30pm. Students should sign in at reception and sign out at student services.

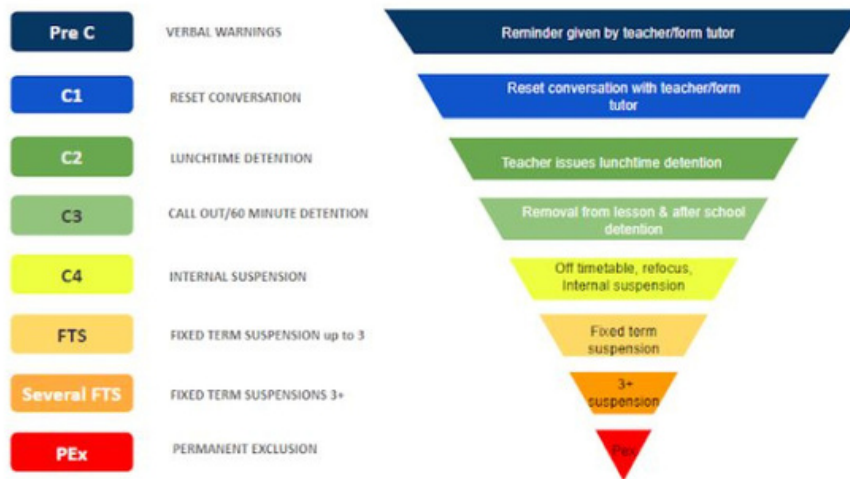
# Free School Meals

The current economic climate has meant that more families are finding it difficult to make ends meet. It may be that you and your family could be entitled to additional help. Miss Lodge is our Pupil Premium advocate, so please do email [lodgek@ashlawn.org.uk](mailto:lodgek@ashlawn.org.uk) if you have any questions or concerns. We are able to support in certain circumstances with food bank vouchers, and we have attached below the link to apply for Free School Meals. If you have any problems completing the form we can also help with this.

<https://admissions.warwickshire.gov.uk/Synergy/Enquiries/Citizen/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx>

# Behaviour Reminder

The following is a reminder of our **school consequence system**, used when students need to reflect on the choices they are making in school.



# Social time and 'Hands Off'

As we move into the summer term, the hope that weather will improve, students will be invited to use the school field during social times. This will provide more space for students to socialise and to play. We would appreciate the support of parents in reminding our young people of the school's 'Hands off' policy. If students are using the field for games, then this should be done sensibly, there should be no physical contact or play fighting.

This is for the safety of all students in our community.





# Uniform

We would like our initial interactions with students on a daily basis to be positive rather than reminding students about uniform requirements. For the majority of students our uniform is worn correctly, with pride and exemplifies the high standards of the school.

Please can you support in upholding the [uniform policy](#) outlined below, specifically that black leggings are not part of our uniform. Any student not in the correct uniform may borrow uniform from our donated uniform items. Any student not in correct uniform may otherwise be off timetable until this issue is resolved during the school day.

## Core Uniform

- Ashlawn School logo polo shirt (Burgundy for Y7-9 and Black for Y10-11)
- Black, smart, tailored trousers (please note that trousers should be full length, in a fabric suitable for formal wear and with a button and a zip. Trousers that have rivets or stitching like jeans are not permitted. Leggings are not permitted)
- Ashlawn School logo knitted jumper/cardigan (if student wishes to wear a jumper)
- Plain black leather or leather look shoes or trainers
- Coats and outer garments should be black, dark grey or navy blue

## Optional Uniform Items

- Ashlawn School logo pleated skirt (students can only wear a pleated skirt)
- Ashlawn School logo shorts
- No other skirts or shorts will be permitted

## Jewellery

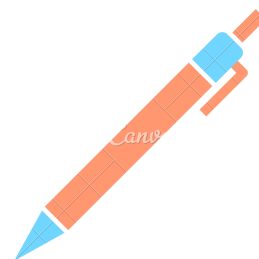
- Students may wear one pair of stud earrings
- Students may wear a watch
- Rings, bracelets and necklaces are not permitted however negotiation will be considered for religious purposes
- Nose studs and facial piercings are not permitted. Please note, plastic nose studs are not permitted in place of nose studs

Students wearing excessive jewellery will be asked to remove it and place it in an envelope and collect it at the end of the school day.

## Equipment

To be successful and ready to learn, all students should be fully equipped with:

- A school bag, large enough to carry A4 sized books
- Pencil case
- 2 pens, black or blue biro
- Green biro pen
- Highlighter pen
- Pencil
- Sharpener
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Scientific calculator



## Mobile phones

- Y7 - 11, should be handed in at the gate. If not handed in, students accept responsibility in case of loss, theft or damage.
- Phones, if not handed in, should be kept, switched off, at the bottom of school bags at all times.



If a student is seen with a phone, including in a pocket:

- Staff will confiscate the phone and take it to the welfare lead office to hand to a member of admin staff on duty, admin services will email home to inform parents.
- Students may collect their phone if it is a first occasion.
- Second confiscation will be parental collection. Admin services will collate a log of this
- At the end of the day, phones are to be collected from reception.

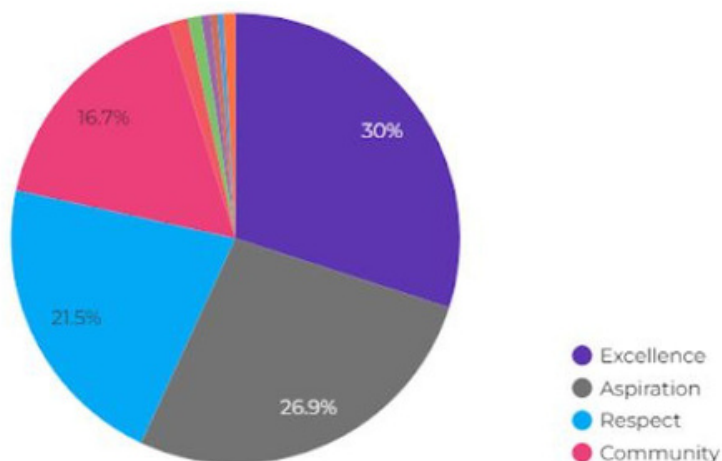
Sixth form students may only use phones in sixth form areas.

## Achievement points and CARE (Community, Aspiration, Respect and Excellence)

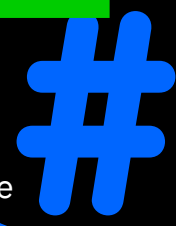
Our drive for this half term will be on community, this is especially important as we begin the process of inviting new students into our school for induction days and visits. Students should expect to achieve points for their contributions to school community in a variety of ways:

- Working well with others
- Getting along with new people
- Contribution to tutor group/class/college/year group
- Supporting at a school event
- Being supportive of others
- Taking part in enrichment opportunities
- Performing in a school activity/event/sport
- Modelling/demonstrating core pillars of Community, Aspiration, Respect or Excellence to others, particularly to new members of our community

A huge **181, 265 achievement points** have so far been achieved by our students this year, broken down into the following categories:



# Social media tips

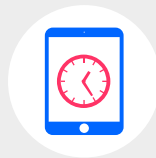


Social networks are a great place for young people to stay in touch with friends and demonstrate their creativity. As a parent, there are simple things you can do to ensure your children's experience is both safe and fun.



## 1. Are they sharing inappropriate selfies?

Discuss the reasons why they feel the need to share such images and the potential long-term impact this could have on them if the pictures are used without their consent.



## 2. Do you feel they're spending too much time on social?

Talk together so they understand your concerns. Agree house rules on when and how long they can go online and which sites they should visit.



## 3. Are they sharing their location through apps?

Make sure geo-location is disabled to keep their whereabouts private. Explain why it's important that they never share personal information with people they don't know online.



## 4. Have they posted too much personal information?

Talk to them about who they've shared the information with and assess the risk it poses to your child. You can also ask your child to remove the information from their account and help them understand how to share safely.



## 5. Are they chatting to strangers online?

Make sure your child understands that people may hide behind fake profiles for dishonest reasons and the person they've been chatting to could easily be someone with bad intentions.



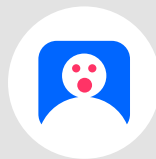
## 6. Are they gaming with strangers online?

Playing games can be fun and positive but ensure your child understands people may hide behind fake profiles for dishonest reasons and learn how to block and report anything offensive.



## 7. Do they have hundreds of followers?

Explain that some people may not be who they say they are and tell your child how privacy settings can put them in control of who they talk to.



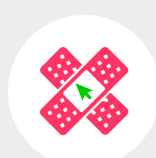
## 8. Have they shared embarrassing images?

Remind your child that these images are their personal digital footprint for years to come and advise them to use settings that only let them share with friends they know. If they're not comfortable wearing it on their T-shirt, they shouldn't put it online.



## 9. Are they at risk of being cyberbullied?

Stay calm, listen without judging and reassure your child that you can help. Discuss any action you may take together. Encourage them not to retaliate and to save any evidence.



## 10. Do they know what they share online can hurt others?

Talk together about peer pressure and how screens and anonymity can lead to behaviour that is hurtful. Remind them there's a fine line between sharing content because it's funny or might get lots of 'likes' versus the potential to cause offence or hurt.



## 11. Have they been affected by content shared online?

Encourage them to think about why friends may share certain posts. Show them how to gently challenge their friends if they find their content offensive. Remind them they can always talk to you about things happening online.



## 12. Are they ready to share on social?

Most social media apps have a minimum age rating of 13. If a social network has set an age limit it means that some of the content may not be suitable for a younger child.