

September 2023

YEAR 11 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that all of our Year 11 students and their families have had an enjoyable summer and feel motivated for the exciting year we have ahead of us.

Year 11 have been off to an impressive start and have already made a great impression on their new tutors and teachers.

They were impeccably well behaved during our fire drill practice and in our first assembly with Mr Brockwell and Miss Delves. They were reminded by Mr Brockwell that they are in control of where they are heading but at times things may feel unfamiliar or testing and they may need to access support from their teachers and tutors to move forward. Miss Delves welcomed students to begin exploring what options are open to them at Ashlawn Sixth Form and to start having conversations about courses with teachers and existing Sixth Form Students.

I understand that some students may feel nervous about returning to school and may already be worrying about their exams. I would like to reassure you that we have an experienced and understanding pastoral team ready to support any students who may be worried or who find themselves struggling. I would always urge you to reach out to your young person's form tutor in the first instance- no issue is too small so please don't hesitate to get in touch!

I feel very privileged to continue to lead such an inspiring cohort of students in such an exciting part of their Ashlawn journey. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the students and their families throughout year 10.

Year 11 really is a fantastic year group with a reputation for being hard working and enjoyable to teach. I cannot wait to see them continue to flourish over the next year and watch them get the results they have worked so hard for. It will also be an absolute pleasure to celebrate with them once exams are over at their Prom!

With warm regards,

Donna Holland,
Email: hollandd@ashlawn.org.uk

Year 11 Form Tutors

11A - Miss Rogers

I am a teacher of English and media.

Email: rogersl@ashlawn.org.uk



11B - Miss Hughes

I am a teacher of English and have been teaching for 12 years. I will be seeing them everyday and supporting them in terms of their pastoral care and their academic progress.

Email: moranl@ashlawn.org.uk

11C - Mrs Fallon

I am a teacher of History and have been at Ashlawn for 17 years. Email:

fallonl@ashlawn.org.uk.



11D - Mr Fogarty

I am a teacher of History, Second in the Humanities faculty and subject lead for Politics at A Level. I have been teaching for 11 years now and have worked at Ashlawn School for 10 years.

Prior to that I worked as an archaeologist.

Email: fogartyl@ashlawn.org.uk

11E - Miss Warrilow

I am a teacher of English and have been at Ashlawn for 2 years. Email: warrilown@ashlawn.org.uk





11F - Mr Dempsey & Miss Ballinger

I am a teacher of Drama and, having just started myself, am looking forward to beginning my journey with the tutor group. Mrs Ballinger (Drama) will also be joining our form group on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and is looking forward to supporting the students too.

Emails: ballingerg@ashlawn.org.uk,
dempseyc@ashlawn.org.uk

11G - Mrs Williamson

I am a teacher of English and have been at Ashlawn since April this year. Email: williamsonn@ashlawn.org.uk



11H - Mrs Kaur

I am a teacher of English and Media Studies and have been at Ashlawn for just over 2 years.

Email: kaurr@ashlawn.org.uk

11I - Mrs Malhi

I wanted to take the time to make you aware that I am continuing as 11I's form tutor this year. As such, I will be seeing them everyday during form time and supporting them in terms of their pastoral care and their academic progress. Email: malhir@ashlawn.org.uk



11J - Mr Burkill

I wanted to take the time to make you aware that I am gladly continuing as 11J's form tutor this year, as they take a huge step forward in their academic careers as Year Eleven(s).

Email: Burkilld@ashlawn.org.uk

Key dates

There is lots going on in Year 11 this year. Please see the following key dates:

| | |
|---|--|
| 5 th October | Year 11 Evening with French Penpals |
| 17 th October | Year 11 Information Evening (core subjects) |
| 27 th October | October Half Term |
| 23 rd November | Sixth Form Open Evening |
| 24 th November | Staff Training Day (school closed students) |
| 4 th December | Mock Exam Week |
| 22 nd December | End of Term |
| 8 th January | Teacher Training Day (School closed to students) |
| 9 th January | Start of Term |
| 18 th January | Year 11 Parents' Consultation |
| 9 th February | Half Term |
| 18 th February | Back to school |
| 29 th Feb to 1 st March | Year 11 Residential to Kingswood |
| 11 th March | Year 11 Mock Week (2) |
| 22 nd March | End of Term (Easter) |
| 8 th April | Return to school |
| 6 th May | Early May Bank Holiday |
| 24 th May | Half Term |
| 3 rd June | Return to school |
| 28 th June | Year 11 Prom |
| 19 th July | End of Term |
| 22 nd August | Exam results |

Safeguarding

Vaping

If you've been out and about this summer enjoying Britain's "wonderful" summer weather, you're likely to have seen congregations of school age children with vape sticks. Within the space of a few years, it has become shockingly common place for those underage to have these devices.

It is vitally important that our students are well aware of the potential health implications of this new trend. Action for Children have published information on their website about vaping and we believe it's well worth a read. Please follow the link below to find out more:

[Worried about your child vaping?](#)

Online Safety

We all play a role in keeping children safe online and therefore we urge you to read the following information so you can support your child whilst using the internet:

[Keeping safe when using social media](#)

[Online games - understanding the risks](#)

[Advice and guidance on Internet connected devices](#)

[What to do if you see online abuse or inappropriate content.](#)

Please report serious concerns to the police directly and let the school know the incident number. Remember to check your child's phone on a regular basis to ensure they are using it appropriately.

School timings

Parents/Carers may already be aware of changes to timings within the school day, but here is a reminder:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Period 1 | 8.45am to 9.45am |
| Period 2 | 9.50am to 10.50am |
| Break | 10.50am to 11.15am |
| Period 3 | 11.15am to 12.15pm |
| Lunch | 12.15pm to 12.45pm |
| Registration | 12.45pm to 1.15pm |
| Period 4 | 13.15pm to 14.15pm |
| Period 5 | 14.20pm to 15.20pm |

The school gates are open for students between 8.30am and 8.40am. At 8.40am, year group gates are closed, allowing students 5 minutes to get to their lessons for period 1 beginning at 8.45am.

Any student arriving after 8.40am will enter via the main pedestrian gate at the traffic lights on Ashlawn Road. Students are only considered to be late if they then arrive to their period 1 lesson after 8.45am.

We consider punctuality to be important and ensures a smooth start to lessons. As per last term, there is a 'lates detention' every Friday for students arriving persistently late to lesson throughout the week. All minutes late will be recorded and students will be expected to make up any lost time on a Friday after school, up to a maximum of two hours.

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.

Can I please ask for your 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

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

The next PTA used uniform sale takes place in school on Saturday 30th September from 10am to 11.30am.

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 have:

- 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

Leave of absence during term time update information for parents

We would like to take this opportunity to update parents on changes to attendance and requests for leave of absence.

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 regulations regarding Leave of Absence (The Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) Regulations 2006 as amended by Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.) advise:

- Head teachers **shall not** grant **any** Leave of Absence during term time **unless they consider** there are **exceptional** circumstances relating to the application.

If the leave is granted, Head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

Continued,,,

It is for the Head teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. When making an application for Leave of Absence in advance parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is their 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 ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required 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, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

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 and could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case-by-case basis and on its own merits.

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'. This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice. All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council.

It is important to note, Fixed 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 in the amount of £120 each, totaling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996. Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

**Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority
Warwickshire School pupils recorded 96,366 half day sessions of absence
due to holiday in the Academic year 2021/22.**