

September 2023

# YEAR 13 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to be continuing in my role as Head of Year. I had the privilege of settling in students into Year 12 and supporting them through the initial challenges they have faced. Over the first year I have developed strong working relationships with

the students. I am delighted that I have such a conscientious, talented and ambitious group of students. I am now looking forward to guiding students through the final parts of their education as we prepare students for the start of their working life or continuing their studies in higher education. In addition to my pastoral responsibilities I will continue to teach students in Business, BTEC Business and Economics.

Kind regards  
Martyn Gospel

## The Year 13 Tutor Team

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the tutor team for Year 13. I am delighted to be able to report that we have managed to keep a number of tutors within the team. The Year 12 Form tutors see your child for 30 minutes each day, and, under my direction, will be supporting them in terms of their pastoral care and their academic progress.

If you have any concerns or questions throughout the year, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

Below, is some information about each of the tutors working with the Year 13 tutor groups.

# Year 13 Form Tutors

## **13A - Ms Hobson**



I have been with my current form since they were in Year 12 with the exception of some lovely new additions. I have been teaching at Ashlawn school for over 15 years and I lead on Enrichment, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, as well as teaching PE and Health & Social Care too. I enjoy supporting students in current decision making about their next steps and the process of writing personal statements to give them the best opportunities in securing a placement or job.

Email: [hobsonc@ashlawn.org.uk](mailto:hobsonc@ashlawn.org.uk)

## **13C - Miss Bond & Mr Riley**

I teach Music and Performing Arts here at Ashlawn, I am also Head of The Arts Faculty and Subject Leader for Music. I have worked at Ashlawn for 13 years. My favourite topic to teach is Twentieth Century experimental music as I enjoy challenging students' preconceptions of the differences between classical and popular music. Email: [bonk@ashlawn.org.uk](mailto:bonk@ashlawn.org.uk)



## **13D - Mrs Lea**



This is my seventh year teaching Geography at Ashlawn School, but my first working with a Year 13 tutor group. They are an ambitious group and I am constantly impressed with their commitments, efforts and work. I'm looking forward to working with the tutor group as they work towards their A levels and plan their next steps! Email: [leav@ashlawn.org.uk](mailto:leav@ashlawn.org.uk)

## **13E - Mrs Williams**

I am a teacher of Music and have been at Ashlawn for one year. Email: [williamsm@ashlawn.org.uk](mailto:williamsm@ashlawn.org.uk)



## **13F - Mrs Bharaj**

I am a Business teacher and I have been with Ashlawn for nearly 3 years. Email: [eburnec@ashlawn.org.uk](mailto:eburnec@ashlawn.org.uk)



**13G - Mr Love**

I teach history and I started working at Ashlawn in 2022.  
Email: lovem@ashlawn.org.uk

**13I - Howarth**

I am a teacher of Sociology and Criminology and have been at Ashlawn for 10 years. Email: howarthc@ashlawn.org.uk



**13J - Kenney**

I currently teach Physical Education, Health and Social care and Child Development and have been at Ashlawn for 5 years. I am involved in sport both in and out of school and look forward to helping my tutees find their passion as they begin looking beyond school. Email: kennyr@ashlawn.org.uk

## 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:

<b>Period 1</b>	8.45am to 9.45am
<b>Period 2</b>	9.50am to 10.50am
<b>Break</b>	10.50am to 11.15am
<b>Period 3</b>	11.15am to 12.15pm
<b>Lunch</b>	12.15pm to 12.45pm
<b>Registration</b>	12.45pm to 1.15pm
<b>Period 4</b>	13.15pm to 14.15pm
<b>Period 5</b>	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

Sixth Form students are role models for our younger students in school and need to select clothes which are appropriate to the professional environment of school. Our dress code is business/office wear.

We would be grateful for your support in upholding the 6th form uniform policy outlined below.

## Yes please

- Smart trousers, dress or skirt with smart jacket
- Any tailored dress/skirt of an appropriate length
- Smart shirt / blouse or smart office-style round neck top of a sensible cut
- Any jumper or cardigan should be fine knit
- Trousers should be tailored
- Office shoes, court shoes, dolly shoes, short office-style boots, smart sandals Light subtle make-up
- Hair colour and style must be appropriate for school.
- Clear nose stud only

## No Thank You

- Extreme hairstyles, unnatural hair colour
- Facial piercings, ear stretchers, tongue piercings or visible tattoos
- Denim, sports trousers, short or tight skirts/dresses
- Hoodies, large or offensive logos, sweatshirts, sports tops, casual cardigans Sports shoes, canvas shoes, flip-flops, beach sandals, thigh-high or open boots. High or stiletto heeled shoes
- Tattoos and body art should be covered

# 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.

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.**