

September 2023

YEAR 7 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well. Now that we are two weeks into term, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Mrs Linnell and I am head of year 7. I have been fortunate enough to have met, emailed and conversed with many of you over the last week or so as well as at the end of the last academic year. I have worked at Ashlawn for nearly 7 years now and have always worked in non teaching roles. I have been part of the pastoral team for the past 4 years. I am very much looking forward to working alongside yourselves to support our year 7 cohort in being the best that they can be.

I would also like to use this newsletter to introduce the year 7 tutor team. Form tutors see your child/ren for 30 minutes each day and under my direction, will be supporting them in terms of their pastoral care and academic progress. If you have any concerns or questions throughout the year, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

I would like to thank you for all of your support so far with maintaining our high standards. Year 7 have made an absolutely fantastic start to the year and together we can ensure this continues.

Many thanks

Mrs Linnell

linnelf@ashlawn.org.uk

Year 7 Form Tutors



7A - Mrs Sánchez

I am a teacher of Spanish and have been at Ashlawn for 3 years. I am pleased to see such an excellent start 7A and I am excited to see your great achievements in the year ahead. Email: sancheza@ashlawn.org.uk

7B - Mrs Morton

I am a teacher of German and French and, having just started myself, am looking forward to beginning my journey at Ashlawn alongside my year 7 form. Email: mortonl@ashlawn.org.uk



7C - Mr Woolley

I am a teacher of German and Spanish and have been at Ashlawn for 4 years. I also lead the Ashlawn school council. Let's have a great year, be the best you can! Email: woolleyj@ashlawn.org.uk

7D - Mrs Dubois

I am Head of French and also a teacher of Spanish and have been at Ashlawn for 9 years. I am very much looking forward to supporting all students in 7D, they have made an incredible start to the year. Email: dubois@ashlawn.org.uk



7E - Mrs Goodland

I am Head of German and have been at Ashlawn for 12 years. I have enjoyed getting to know 7E so far and look forward to seeing their achievements in the year ahead. Email: goodlands@ashlawn.org.uk



7F - Ms Summers

I am a Head of Design and Technology and teacher of Engineering and have been at Ashlawn for four years. I am already proud of the pupils in 7F and look forward to our time together as a form group.

Email: summerst@ashlawn.org.uk

7G - Mrs Goddard

I am a teacher of German & French and have been working at Ashlawn periodically since 2006. I will be co-tutoring with Mr Moore, who is a teacher of German & French. Mr Moore will be in school Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and I will be in school on Wednesday & Friday. I had the pleasure of being with 7G all this week and last week. They have made an incredible start to this academic year. which I have every confidence that they will continue.

Email: goddardr@ashlawn.org.uk



7H - Mrs Wells

I am a teacher of Design and Technology, Food, Engineering and Art and have been at Ashlawn for 9 years. Email: wellsk@ashlawn.org.uk

7I - Mr Massey

I am Head of Languages and PSHE and a teacher of Spanish and have been at Ashlawn for 10 years. I have really enjoyed getting to know the students in 7I and look forward to working with them over the next year.

Email: masseys@ashlawn.org.uk



Please contact form tutors initially with any queries or concerns. We also welcome you to share good news with form tutors so that we can celebrate this as part of our school community. Form tutors will be able to liaise directly with relevant staff if needed. This also allows form tutors to be aware of any issues arising. You can email your child's form tutor directly using the email address below or through Edulink.

The year 7 Journey so far

July Induction Day

On the 10th of July we welcomed our new year 7 cohort for the first time. The students met their form tutors and spent the day in their form groups. They participated in ice breakers, sports games and had their very first taster lessons. It was a great day where students began to make new friends and start to find their way around the school site.



Summer School



In August we welcomed a large number of our year 7 students into school for two days of summer school, and what a brilliant two days they were. Summer school gave students another taste of lessons at Ashlawn, along with a chance to try arts and crafts and on the final day enjoy the inflatable obstacle course. The students had a chance to meet other year 7 students and begin to forge those all important friendships.

September

Year 7 have made a fantastic start to the new term at Ashlawn, their first day was an induction day where they spent the day in their form groups with their form tutors. The students had tours of the school, got to know each other, received their timetables, planners and maps of the school, so that they were well prepared for lessons to start.



PSHE

PSHE is a really important part of the curriculum at Ashlawn School. During their PSHE lessons year 7 students will learn about a variety of different topics. Please see the timetable below for the topics that will be covered across the first term. If you do not wish for your child/ren to participate in any of the topics below, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Half Term 1	Year 7 Life Beyond School Managing Change	Half Term 2	Year 7 Health and Wellbeing Puberty and Body Development
Week 1	What is PSHE?	Week 1	Introduction to puberty
Week 2	Getting to know people	Week 2	Girls puberty and periods
Week 3	What is a community?	Week 3	Boys puberty
Week 4	Careers and your future	Week 4	Personal Hygiene
Week 5	Sleep and relaxation	Week 5	Growing Up
Week 6	Financial Education	Week 6	Self-Esteem
Week 7	Transition points in your life	Week 7	Tooth Decay and Dental Health

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.**