

September 2023

YEAR 8 Newsletter



Hello Parents/Carers!

My name is Tabitha Pargeter and I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Head of Year 8. I have an extensive background working mainly with vulnerable children who for a variety of reasons, might be facing barriers in accessing their education. This means

that I am incredibly committed to, and feel passionate about, ensuring every single student has an equal opportunity to thrive and get the best out of their school experience.

I am a non-teaching Head of Year, so a huge amount of my time will be dedicated to getting to know your children, identifying where different types of support is needed and implementing strategies to help them succeed. As well as this, I will be physically present around school, being a figure that motivates students to do the right thing, uphold school values, and allow them reach out/be reached out to when they are struggling with this.

We have already had a very positive start to the year, I am thoroughly enjoying my time spent with year 8 so far, and I am looking forward to seeing all that we will achieve this year!

Many thanks

Tabitha Pargeter
pargetert@ashlawn.org.uk

Year 7 Form Tutors



8A - Mr Modaresi

I am a teacher of Science. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to arrange a short meeting or phone call to discuss any concerns you or your child may have.

Email: modaresia@ashlawn.org.uk

8B - Mrs Parker

I am a teacher of Science and this is my sixth year at Ashlawn. 8B have impressed me so far and have amassed so many achievement points in the first week. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Email: Parkerh@ashlawn.org.uk



8B - Mrs Holmes

I am the joint form tutor for 8B. I teach biology and I have been teaching at Ashlawn for nine years. I am looking forward to getting to know the students in 8B more over the next few weeks. Email: holmese@ashlawn.org.uk

8C - Miss Kennedy

I will be seeing 8C every day during form time and, under the direction of their Head of Year, will be supporting them in terms of their pastoral care and their academic progress. I am the head of Physics and have been at Ashlawn for 7 years.

Email: Kennedys@ashlawn.org.uk



8D - Miss Horwood

I am a teacher of Science and this is my eleventh year at Ashlawn. I had the pleasure of taking the form from May half term in Year 7. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to arrange a short meeting or phone call to discuss any concerns you or your child may have.

Email: horwoodk@ashlawn.org.uk

8E - Mr Thomson

I have been teaching for over 20 years and this is my 12th year at Ashlawn, I am a teacher of Computer Science and the Head of the new STEM faculty. It has been a while since I was last a KS3 tutor, but I'm already enjoying the change in scenery, and hope 8E enjoy the stability and support I want to give them.

Email: thomsoni@ashlawn.org.uk



8F - Mr Hillman

I am a teacher of Science and this is my second year at Ashlawn. I am aware that having a new form tutor may be daunting, please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to arrange a short meeting or phone call to discuss any concerns you or your child may have. Email: hillmanl@ashlawn.org.uk



8F - Mrs Johnson-Slaney

I am a teacher of Science (mainly biology) and have been teaching at Ashlawn for four years. I'm really looking forward to getting to know 8F better (they already did the best fire drill practice I have ever seen). If you have any queries or concerns please don't hesitate to get in touch.
Email: johnsonslaney@ashlawn.org.uk

8G - Mr Watts

I am a teacher of Science and this is my second year at Ashlawn. I am aware that having a new form tutor may be daunting, please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to arrange a short meeting or phone call to discuss any concerns you or your child may have.
Email: wattsc@ashlawn.org.uk



8H - Mr Hardiman

I teach Physics and Engineering and this is my ninth year at Ashlawn. I am aware that having a new form tutor may be daunting, please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to arrange a short meeting or phone call to discuss any concerns you or your child may have.
Email: hardimani@ashlawn.org.uk

8I - Miss Lodge

I have been a teacher for too many years to mention! 24 of those years at Ashlawn. I am a teacher of science, and also work closely with our Pupil Premium families. Email: lodgek@ashlawn.org.uk



8J - Miss Lum

I teach science (mainly biology) and this is my second year at Ashlawn. I'm really excited to get to know all of my tutees and glad to see some familiar faces too!
Email: lumj@ashlawn.org.uk

Personal Development Programme

Week 1 - Welcome back

Week 2 - See it, Hear it, Report it. How to report

Week 3 - Youth Mental Health day

Week 4 - European Day of Languages

Week 5 - Black History Month

Week 6 - Diwali (12th)

Week 7 - Community (CARE)

Week 8 - Celebration and updates

Sports and clubs

Drama club - DR2 on Fridays 3.20pm to 4.20pm

Netball club - Sign up: Thursday 14th September. Training: Mondays 3.30pm to 4.30pm. Matches: Tuesdays or Thursdays (approximate finish 5.15pm) ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

Badminton club - Sign up: Thursday 14th September. Training: Thursdays 3.30-4.30pm. Matches: Tuesdays (approximate finish 5.30pm) ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

PHSE

Please see below the schedule of topics that are going to be covered in PSHE this term. If you have any concerns over the topics your child will be studying, please do contact the school so a note of this can be made, thank you!

Half Term 1	Year 8 Life Beyond School Proud to be me!
Week 1	Employability and Enterprise Skills
Week 2	Proud to be me
Week 3	Careers and Aspirations
Week 4	Self-Esteem and the media
Week 5	The importance of Happiness
Week 6	What makes me angry?
Week 7	Exploring Careers

Warwickshire Youth Council election 2024

<https://www.childfriendlywarwickshire.co.uk/outcomes/warwickshire-youth-council-elections-2024>

18/09/2023 - Nominations open

20/11/2023 - Nominations close

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
Registration	12.15pm to 12.45pm
Lunch	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. Donations of clean, good quality uniform can be left at school reception or are welcome on the day.

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.

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.**