

September 2023

# YEAR 9 Newsletter



Hello Parents/Carers!

A warm welcome back to the start of a new school year. I am Mr Attwell and I will be Head of Year for year 9 in the absence of Miss Webster during her maternity leave and I am sure you will all be with me in wishing her best wishes over the next few months.

Over the past few years I have been Head of Year for year 11 and year 7. This year we continue in the efforts started before the summer in driving forward the schools expectations and direction to ensure that year 9 has the most successful and productive year.

Year 9 is a very important part of our students learning where they get the opportunity to pick their option subjects. This is not something the students should take lightly and I would hope that they are already considering options and chatting with their teachers about them. More details will come out on this in due course. This is also the year of graduation from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 and following on from our very successful CARE awards evening, year 9 will have their own graduation day at the end of the summer term.

I will take this opportunity to wish all of year 9 good luck, work hard and together lets make this year the best it can be for everyone.

Many thanks

Mr Attwell  
[attwella@ashlawn.org.uk](mailto:attwella@ashlawn.org.uk)

# Year 9 Form Tutors



## **9A - Miss Howells**

I teach Religious Studies and have been at Ashlawn for 2 years. I was a Welfare Lead before teaching and really enjoy the pastoral side of being a form tutor. I already think my form are fantastic and can't wait to get to know them all better!

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

## **9B - Mrs McHale**

I have been with my current form since they were in year 7. I was with them on their first, face mask filled, day of Ashlawn and it has been a pleasure to see them every single day of their time here. I have been at Ashlawn school for nearly 10 years and I lead on Health and social care, Child Development and teach PE too. Being a form tutor is one of my favourite things about teaching, as I get to help make my tutees' time at school as successful and exciting as it can be for them. Email: [mchaleh@ashlawn.org.uk](mailto:mchaleh@ashlawn.org.uk)



## **9C - Mr Rai**

This is my third year at Ashlawn teaching Geography. I'm an advocate of mindful and inclusive approaches to classroom management and pastoral support. I strive to empower students with knowledge of the world around them, experience making the right choice for themselves and those around them and experts of their own learning.

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



## **9D - Mrs Garrow**

I teach History and Religious Studies. I am in my third year of teaching at Ashlawn. I have been lucky enough to be the tutor for 9D since they were in Year 7 and I officially started my teaching career. It is a real privilege to have seen how much they have grown over the last two years and look forward to supporting them through year 9. Email: [garrown@ashlawn.org.uk](mailto:garrown@ashlawn.org.uk)



**9E - Miss Scullion**

I have been working at Ashlawn since January 2023. I have the pleasure of having 9E, who in my humble opinion, are the most incredible bunch of humans. I teach PSHE (personal, social, health, economics - education) and absolutely love the diversity of topics and helping our young people, discuss, explore and prepare for life outside of school.

Email: scullionb@ashlawn.org.uk



**9F - Mrs Smith**

I teach geography and have been working at Ashlawn since 2020. Email: smitha@ashlawn.org.uk

**9G - Mrs Carter**

I teach geography and have been working at Ashlawn for 23 years  
Email: carterc@ashlawn.org.uk



**9H - Mr Moss**

This will be my 4th year at Ashlawn and I am currently head of Religious Studies though I have also taught Geography and History here in past years.  
Email: mossd@ashlawn.org.uk

**9I - Mrs Taylor**

I teach food & nutrition and have been at Ashlawn for 19 years  
Email: taylorl@ashlawn.org.uk



**9I - Mrs Blunkett**

I am a teacher of Food and Nutrition and have been at Ashlawn for 11 years.  
Email: blunkett@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

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.**