

ASHLAWN

OCTOBER NEWS 2025



ASHLAWN
SCHOOL

Our best, always



This term we launched our new CCF RAF contingent in partnership with Rugby School

Welcome from the Executive Principal

As we come to the end of an incredible first term, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful students and staff for their energy, enthusiasm and commitment to making the start of the 2025/26 academic year so special.

I am particularly proud of how our new Year 7 and Year 12 students have settled so confidently into life with us. Their positive attitude, curiosity, and engagement have been a joy to see.

As many of you will know, at the heart of everything we do here at Ashlawn are our Student 2030 Ambitions – Academic Achievement, Employability, Place in Community, Personal Character and Creation of Aspiration – the key foundations for ensuring that we give our best, always, for every member of our school family. It has also been wonderful to see this commitment recognised externally, with Ashlawn now ranked in the top 10 secondary schools in Warwickshire for academic performance.

This term has been filled with exciting opportunities for students to broaden their horizons, from our inspiring Careers Fair to the launch of our CCF partnership with Rugby School – both offering valuable experiences in aspiration, leadership and teamwork.

Our student leadership programmes have also continued to thrive, with the student council, peer mentoring and Pay It Forward initiative now an established part of life at Ashlawn.

Paul Brockwell
Executive Principal



SAFEGUARDING WORRYING ABOUT THE HOLIDAYS?

School holidays are different for everyone. You might be excited about a holiday or having time off, or you could be thinking about what might happen or how you'll cope.

You might be worried about:

- Feeling lonely or not going out
- Not seeing people who normally support you
- Problems at home or having to care for your family
- Coping without a routine
- Worrying about your exams next term or the results you might get
- Being hurt or abused

Remember, there are many ways in which you can get support, and you are not alone!

Why not take a look at the agencies and support lines that could help you? Remember, if you are in immediate danger, call 999.

Childline is always available throughout the holidays to support you, whether that's having someone to talk to, giving you ideas of things to do, or helping you get support when you need it.

Why not give them a call? 0800 1111

HELPLINES



Papyrus

Thinking about suicide, please call 0800 068 4141 or TEXT 209697



Bullying UK

0808 800 2222



Coventry CAB

Information/advice on issues facing young people. 02476 252066



NSPCC

If you feel you or someone you know is a victim of abuse. 0808 800 5000



Samaritans

Someone to listen 24/7 free of charge. 116 123 or TEXT 07725 909090



Compass

Support and advice for young people using substances. 0800 121 4043



Stonewall

Support for anyone around issues of sexuality. 0800 0505 2020



Winston's Wish

Helpline to support young people with the death of a loved one. 08088 020 021

APPS

These free apps mean you can access support wherever you are.



Stressheads: Support to lower our stress levels.



Stay Alive: Support to those who may experience suicidal thoughts/feelings.



Self Help Anxiety Management (Samapp): Support and techniques to help manage anxiety and panic.



Moodometer: Created by the NHS. Allows you to track your moods and what has influenced it. Also provides ways to lift your mood.



Calm Harm: Activities to assist in the management of self-harm.



Grief Support for Young People: Information about grief, bereavement and the feelings we may experience when we lose a loved one.



Insight Timer: A large collection of free guided exercises to help relieve stress, improve relaxation and wellbeing.



Calm: A large collection of exercises designed to calm us down.

STAYING SAFE

Top Tips!

- 1 Be careful of who you are talking to online – not everyone is who they say they are.
- 2 Stay away from railway lines. Harrison's story.
- 3 Don't go swimming in lakes and quarries – it's too dangerous.
- 4 Eat, sleep and rest... it is the best way to feel the best you can.

Finally... HAVE FUN!!

ASHLAWN SCHOOL STUDENTS LOOK TO THE FUTURE

This half term, students in Years 9-13 have been considering their futures during the largest ever annual Ashlawn Careers Fair.

More than 35 organisations came together at the school to provide advice, opportunities and inspiration to the young people of our school. Employers, colleges, universities and training providers were on hand to help students think about their next steps and discover new career pathways.

Paul Brockwell, Executive Principal said: “It was wonderful to see our students so engaged and curious about their futures. Events like this give them the chance to explore the possibilities and start thinking about the exciting paths ahead.

“Helping our students feel ready for the next big stage in their lives is essential work and we do our utmost to show them all the possible options out there.”

Students made the most of the event - asking insightful questions, making new connections, and learning about a huge range of industries and routes into work and higher education.

Among those taking part were representatives from Warwickshire County Council, NHS, Royal Marines, Army Careers, West Midlands Police and all local colleges and universities.



Mr Brockwell added: “A huge thank you must go to all the organisations that came along and inspired our young people to think about their futures – their support made this the biggest and best careers fair at Ashlawn yet!”

ASHLAWN STUDENTS STEP UP AS YOUNG HIGH SHERIFF AND UNDERSHERIFFS

We were delighted to take part in this year’s Young High Sheriff programme, an initiative run by the High Sheriff of Warwickshire.

As part of the project, students participated in a workshop to discuss real issues of concern to them in the local community, giving them the chance to influence community leaders to tackle those issues.

Students were then challenged to complete a series of half-day workshops, turning their ideas into positive action plans.

This culminated in an amazing Young High Sheriff Winners Event, where we announced the appointment of this year’s student High Sheriff and Undersheriffs - an exciting tradition that recognises leadership, responsibility, and community spirit among our students.

In attendance were the High Sheriff of Warwickshire, the Mayor of Rugby, the representative of the MP, along with other dignitaries.

After a thoughtful selection process, Max was named High Sheriff, with Kaiya and Gabriel appointed as Undersheriffs.

Together, they will represent the student body at key events throughout the year, acting as ambassadors for Ashlawn both in school and the wider community.

This exciting initiative offers students the chance to reimagine the historic role of the High Sheriff, focusing on key areas such as crime prevention, community impact, and leadership.

The new appointees will take on responsibilities that include supporting school events, leading by example, and encouraging others to get involved in school life.



GREASE IS THE WORD!

The excitement is building for our whole-school production of Grease - and we need your help to bring it to life!



We're on the lookout for tins of emulsion paint that you no longer need (not gloss or eggshell) in the following colours:

Black	Any shade of pink	White	Grey	Mid/ baby blue	Silver (feature wall metallic)
-------	-------------------	-------	------	----------------	--------------------------------

We're also collecting '50s-style clothing in sizes XS, S, M & L, in colours black, pink, silver, white, mid/baby-blue or black & white patterns. **Think: fitted styles, white T-shirts, neck scarves, cropped trousers, bomber or PU jackets - anything with that retro flair!**

If you can spare any, please drop them off at Reception - thank you!

Finally, we'd love to hear from any seamstresses, seamsters or tailors who could help create or adapt costumes.

We'll provide materials, sketches and measurements - we just need your skills and time.

If you can lend a hand, please email jattas@ashlawn.tlet.org.uk
Any support you can give will be very much appreciated no matter how small.

PEOPLE LIKE ME EVENT

Our inspiring "People Like Me" event, led by our amazing trio - Miss Wells, Miss Patrick and Ms Lodge - was a fantastic success, drawing over 60 attendees!

Nine incredible speakers visited to share their experiences with girls in Years 8 and 9, shining a light on exciting careers for women in STEM. They encouraged our students to break barriers and get involved in fields traditionally dominated by men, inspiring, motivating and empowering our students to consider STEM futures.



UPDATE FROM THE ASHLAWN STUDENT COUNCIL

The newly appointed 2025 Ashlawn Student Council met for the first time this half term. There is a mixture of new and returning students, and it has grown to its largest number yet!

Council members spent time evaluating the first half term back, as well as giving feedback on a range of school issues including careers, social time, lesson behaviour and rewards.

Engagement was high and there was a fantastic sense of community. It was also great to see students of different year groups interacting and sharing ideas so eloquently and thoughtfully.

We look forward to seeing this year's group continue to grow and make the most of this leadership opportunity!



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Throughout October, all year groups have been taking part in assemblies to celebrate Black History Month.

The theme, 'Stand Firm in Power and Pride', has inspired students to learn about some of the incredible individuals who have shaped British history.

From Paul Stephenson, who helped pave the way for the Race Relations Act, to Dianne Abbott, the first Black woman in Parliament, and Olive Morris, a passionate campaigner for equality and education, students have discovered the powerful legacies of those who have stood up for change.

They've also learned about Doreen Lawrence's pursuit of justice and Malorie Blackman's impact as one of the UK's most celebrated children's authors.

What a wealth of inspiration for our students - a reminder that their voices and actions can make a difference in the world.



ASHLAWN'S COMBINED CADET FORCE IN ACTION

This year, we launched our Combined Cadet Force RAF contingent in conjunction with Rugby School.

Students from Years 10, 12 and 13 have taken part in weekly parades and activities over in the Rugby School grounds.

As part of the programme, the cadets have experienced some incredible things in the short time it has been running.



After meeting the team, and learning about the history of the RAF and practised their drills. The cadets were able to experience a unique opportunity that brought the world of aviation to life and gave a taste of what cadet life is really like.

Some of our CCF cadets even experienced flying a Grob, creating unforgettable memories.

This experience really illustrates how we are bringing our 'Ashlawn Student 2030' vision to life, helping to develop personal character and resilience. We couldn't be more proud of the commitment these students have shown.

An incredible set of experiences that helped to build new skills for all involved!



HELLO YELLOW

For World Mental Health Day, our staff proudly wore yellow to show their support for young people and raise awareness of mental health. A small gesture, but one full of care and encouragement.

Looking after the mental health and wellbeing of our students is incredibly important to us at Ashlawn. We have a dedicated Wellbeing and Support Officer, Lauren Hall, that students can access, along with other ways of making sure any worries or concerns are addressed.

Students and families should visit www.ashlawn.org.uk/about-us/wellbeing to find out more.



SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS



We love to celebrate the achievements of our students outside of school just as much as in.

Several of our students have been recognised for their fantastic achievements in sport, winning the U13s and U15s Rugby and District Cricket League for Oakfield and Rowlands Cricket Club. A remarkable feat, especially considering the U13s started the season with just five players in January and 10 at their first match!

Special congratulations go to Z Gohil (U13s) for receiving the Hat Trick Award — taking 3 wickets in 3 balls, a truly rare accomplishment! L Fox earned the U15s Batting Award, M Nessling the U15s Bowling Award, and S Farr the U15s Fielding Award, all supported by their teammates A Booth, G Solomon and H Ashwell.

Well done to all - your hard work, dedication and teamwork have made us incredibly proud!

CELEBRATING ALUMNI SUCCESS

We're always so proud to hear about the achievements of our Ashlawn alumni - and two of our former students have given us plenty to celebrate!

Viv will be continuing her journey with the prestigious Tom Shilcock Mentoring Programme for another year, furthering her training as a talented performer. She has also been awarded a scholarship at the brand-new TS Training Academy in Birmingham, where she will continue to learn alongside her training at the Christine Andersson Theatre School (CATs).

There's a double celebration for Ava, too, who has been cast as one of the princesses in Midland Theatre Ballet's The Twelve Dancing Princesses. Ava has also successfully auditioned for the TS Training Academy in Birmingham, where she will begin her next chapter of training next year.

A huge congratulations to both Viv and Ava - your talent and passion continue to make Ashlawn proud!



YEAR 10 RESIDENTIAL TO DEARNE VALLEY

Our Year 10 students took part in an exciting residential trip filled with challenges and plenty of fun this half term!

They tested their aim in archery, got creative in the 'Scrapheap Challenge', whizzed down zip lines, tackled the climbing wall, and enjoyed all the other great activities that make a PGL visit so memorable.

Even when the rain arrived, spirits stayed high and everyone continued to impress with their fantastic behaviour. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces throughout the trip.

Well done, Year 10 - you represented Ashlawn brilliantly and made some special memories along the way.

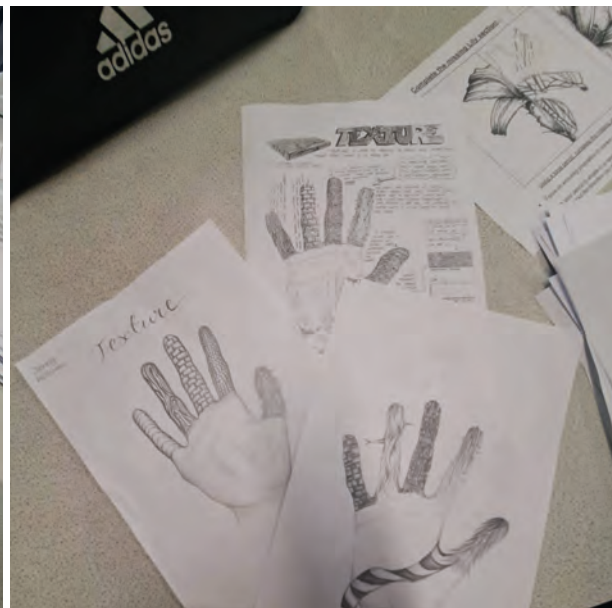
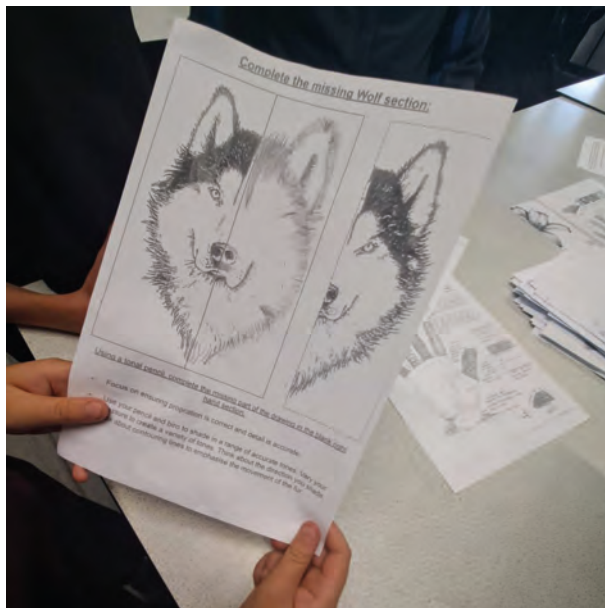


BUDDING CREATORS SHINE IN THE ARTS

Our Arts Faculty have completed their baseline assessments - and what a fantastic response it's been!

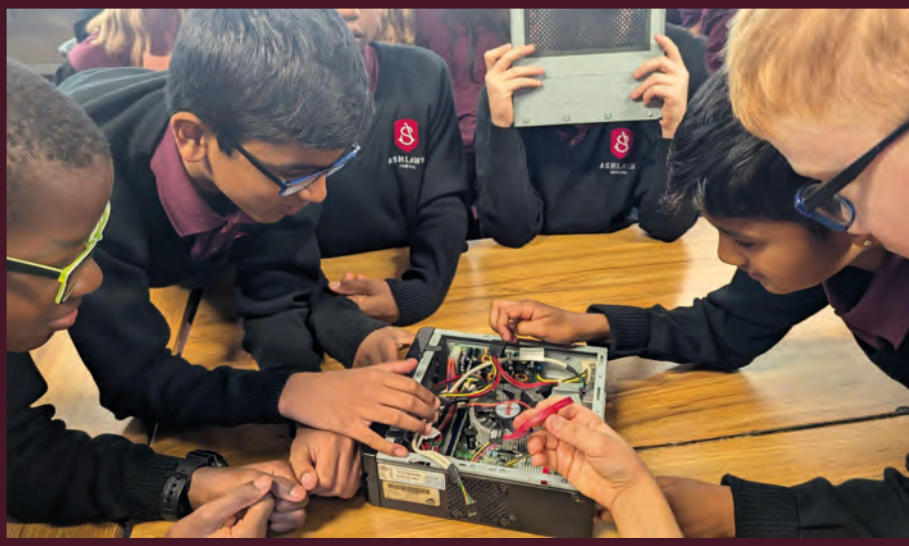
Mrs Cooke, our Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning, was hugely impressed by the enthusiasm, creativity and effort shown by all our students.

It's clear we've got some budding artists, musicians and designers in the making - perhaps the next Van Gogh, Stormzy or James Dyson is right here in our classrooms! We can't wait to see how their talents develop over the year.



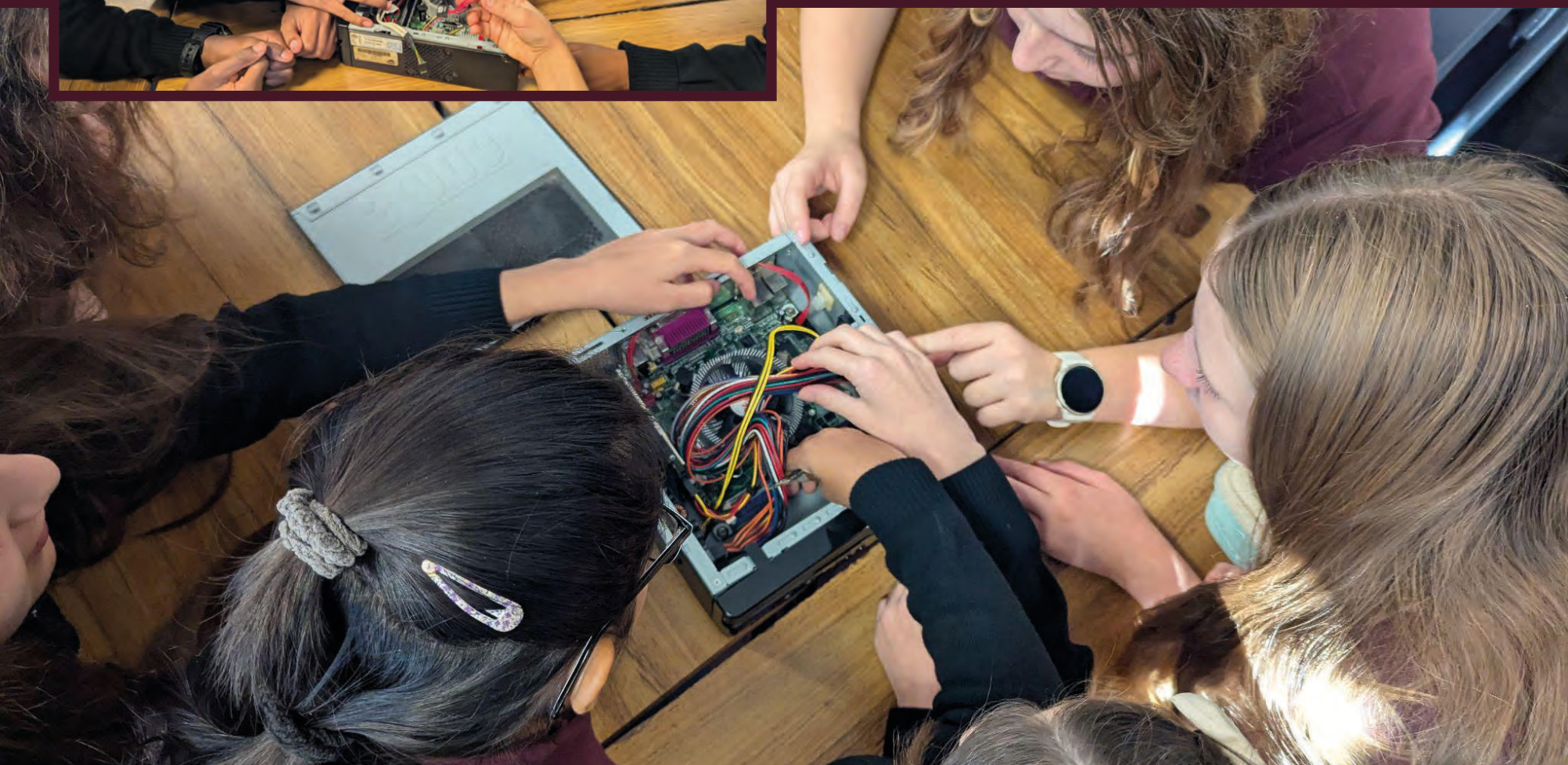
COMPUTER SCIENCE

YEAR 7 UNDERSTANDING COMPUTERS



Year 7 pupils have been learning about the components of a computer in a very hands-on way, by taking them apart in our lessons so far this year - everything from the CPU to the HDMI connectors!

But shhh...I haven't told them that they need to rebuild them yet...



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

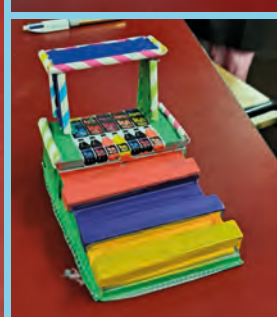
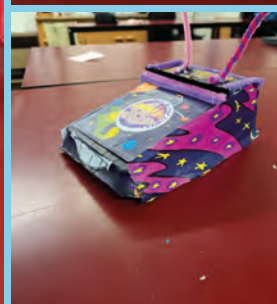
YEAR 9 WACKY RACES

The Year 9s have launched into the new school year with an exciting challenge: the Wacky Races project!

Their mission? To design and build the wildest, most eye-catching car bodies imaginable - while also mastering the art of aerodynamics to speed their way to victory on the racetrack.

It's creativity meets engineering in a thrilling race against the clock!

WACKY RACES



D&T KEY STAGE 4 INTERVENTION REMINDER

Intervention for our D&T KS4 students is on Monday and Thursday after school in ET4.

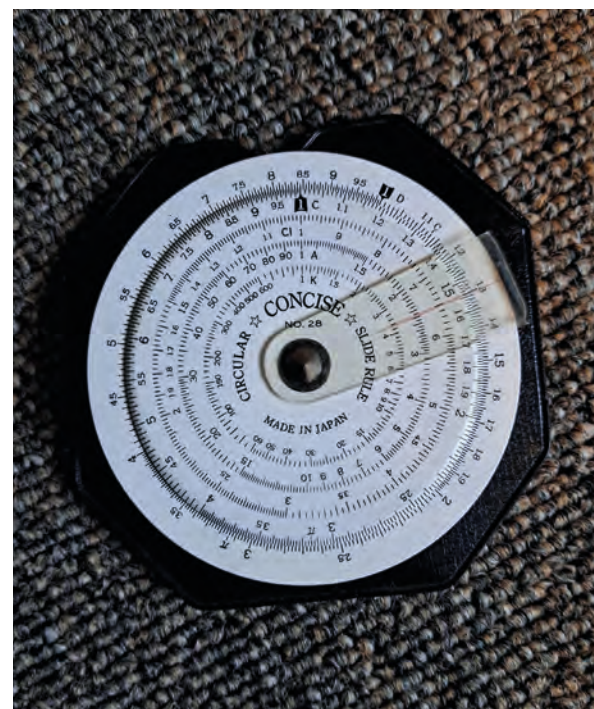
D&T CLUB

D&T Club for Key Stage 3 has started back up again - bring an idea of what you'd like to make with you!

All abilities welcome (even if you aren't doing D&T yet this year!).

GUESS THE TOOL

Can you work out what this tool set was used for? It's nearly 100 years old!





PERCIVAL GUILDHOUSE CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION WINNER!

Huge congratulations to Parnika in Year 8, who won third prize in her age category in the Percival Guildhouse Creative Writing Competition!

Students from Ashlawn's Creative Writing Club were tasked with writing a 500-word story to mark 100 years of the Percival Guildhouse as a centre for adult education in Rugby.

Along with Miss Mikkides, Parnika attended the Centenary Event at Rugby School where she was awarded her prize. As well as this, Parnika's story has been published in a booklet with the other prize winners, including illustrations by a renowned local artist, Jim Watson.

Well done, Parnika!

ENGINEERING

YEAR 11 ENGINEERS R40 COURSEWORK

The Year 11 Engineers have officially stepped into the hands-on phase of their R40 coursework - and things are getting bright!

This term, they're designing and crafting their very own miniature garden lamps, combining creativity with practical skills to light up outdoor spaces in style.



FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

ART ON A PLATE

Our Year 8 students have been getting creative in the kitchen, producing some truly impressive art on a plate!

Using fantastic knife skills, they've designed and prepared their own Buddha bowls - vibrant, healthy dishes that are as beautiful as they are delicious.

A Buddha bowl is a vegetarian meal served in a single bowl or on a high-rimmed plate. It features small portions of different foods, all served cold and arranged artfully rather than mixed together.

Well done, Year 8 - your creativity and presentation skills have been outstanding!



HISTORY

YEAR 11 HISTORIANS EXPLORE WWI HISTORY HANDS-ON

Year 11 historians had an amazing visit from the Frontline History Company to support them in their revision for the World War I topic on injuries and treatment, a section of their Medicine GCSE Paper.

Frontline Living History was set up in 2014, the idea of experienced teacher and living historian David Allton. From the beginning, the aim was to deliver in-school First World War education experiences which were high quality, authentically resourced, researched in detail and curriculum-linked.

The session was hands-on and interactive - students got to hold real WWI artefacts, memorabilia and even try on some helmets! The students were a credit to the school and themselves, showing fantastic curiosity, asking thoughtful questions, and fully engaging with the experience. What excellent preparation for their exams at the end of this year!



MATHS

MATHS CHALLENGE!

Since the start of the academic year, we have had two successful maths challenges for our Y11-13 students. In September, 21 girls across the three year groups participated in the Mathematical Competition for Girls.

This challenge tested a range of non-calculator mathematical skills, as well as answering questions in unique ways.

Congratulations to Abbie J (Y11), Harriet F (Y12) and Emily W (Y13), who scored the highest mark in each of their year groups.

In October, we also held the Senior Maths Challenge for Y11-13. We had 95 students take part in this non-calculator multiple-choice challenge, which tests mathematical skills and logic from KS4 and above.

Congratulations to Cezary K (Y11), Chanu P (Y12) and Emily W (Y13), who scored the highest mark in each of their year groups. Cezary also qualified for the next round, taking place in November.

$$y = f(x) = \sqrt{x}$$

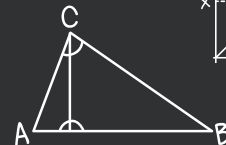
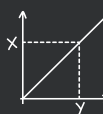
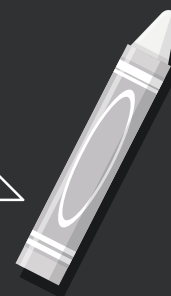
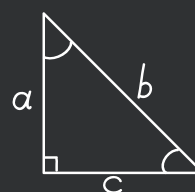
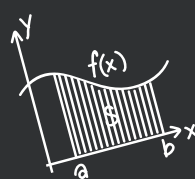
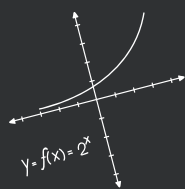
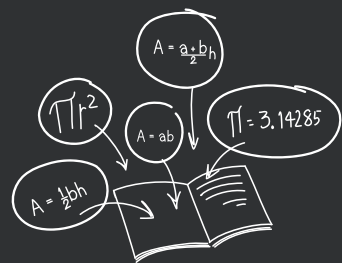


MATHS

$$x = A \cos(\omega t)$$

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$$



WORK WITH ALGEBRA

Miss Marson's Year 11 class have been working really hard on their algebra skills in preparation for their mock exams in November.

The students have been practising solving equations and expanding brackets, which is a key skill needed for their non-calculator and calculator papers at GCSE. They also had a visit from Ms Cooke in one lesson, who was very impressed with their hard work and enthusiasm.

$$1. 3(g+8) = 33$$

$$\begin{array}{r|l} 3 & 3g+24 \\ \hline 3 & 3g \\ & 24 \end{array} = 3g+24$$

$$3g+24=33$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \rightarrow g \rightarrow \times 3 \rightarrow +24 \rightarrow = 33 \\ 3 = \leftarrow \div 3 \leftarrow -24 \leftarrow 33 \\ \underline{g=3} \end{array}$$

$$2. 5(f+2) = 40$$

$$\begin{array}{r|l} 5 & 5f+10 \\ \hline 5 & 5f \\ & 10 \end{array}$$

$$5f+10=40$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \rightarrow f \rightarrow \times 5 \rightarrow +10 \rightarrow = 40 \\ 6 \leftarrow \div 5 \leftarrow -10 \leftarrow 40 \\ \underline{f=6} \end{array}$$

$$1. 5(y+3) = 5y+15$$

$$\begin{array}{r|l} 5 & 5y+15 \\ \hline 5 & 5y \\ & 15 \end{array}$$

$$2. 4(a+2) = 4a+8$$

$$3. 8(w+10) = 8w+80$$

$$4. 3(x-7) = 3x-21$$

$$5. 9(s-1) = 9s-9$$

$$6. 20(6a+5c) = 120a+100c$$

$$\begin{array}{r|l} 20 & 120a+100c \\ \hline 20 & 120a \\ & 100c \end{array}$$

MODERN LANGUAGES

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

On Friday 26th September we celebrated the European Day of Languages under the inspiring theme 'Open Hearts, Open Minds' - a wonderful opportunity to embrace the diverse cultures and languages that surround us.

Mr Massey, along with a group of our Year 10 and 11 students, visited Hillmorton Primary School to share their languages and cultures. They delivered amazing lessons in Portuguese and Polish, showing primary school pupils how fun and meaningful it can be to learn another language and delve into different cultures.

Our students showed exceptional leadership in teaching and presenting the fantastic resources they had produced. We are so proud of the way they represented our school and celebrated the power of language.



FRENCH

FRENCH ADVENTURES

What an incredible experience our French adventurers had during their recent visit to France! From the moment they set off, they acted with maturity and enthusiasm and represented Ashlawn brilliantly throughout the trip.

Their excellent timekeeping in Paris even meant they were able to fit in an extra stop at the Musée du Louvre after visiting the iconic La Tour Eiffel.

They enjoyed delicious French cuisine (which was quickly demolished!) and embraced every part of the experience. One of the highlights was visiting a French school to meet their pen pals in person for the first time. It was wonderful to see them chatting, laughing and practising their French while comparing life in French and English classrooms.

The group also explored the stunning cathedral in Reims before beginning their journey home – tired but happy and with some lifelong memories of a special trip.



PSHE

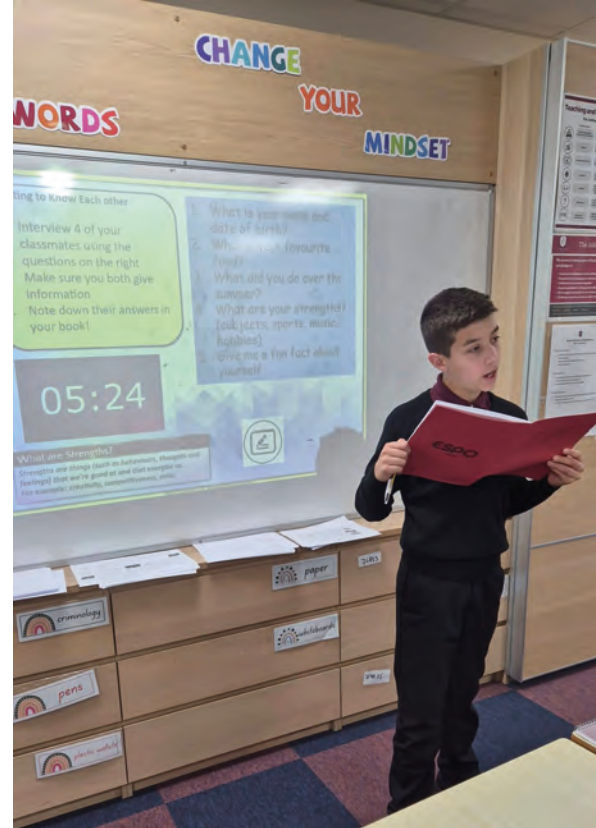
LIFE SKILLS AND FRIENDSHIP IN PSHE

This half term in PSHE, our Year 9 students have been learning vital life-saving skills, practising CPR and the recovery position.

Students worked with focus and maturity to take on board these essential skills that could one day make all the difference to someone's life.

Our Year 7s have also been shining in their PSHE lessons. They've been interviewing one another, making new friends, and sharing what they've learned with confidence and enthusiasm. It's wonderful to see them building such strong connections and growing in self-assurance during their first few weeks at Ashlawn.

What a fantastic cohort - we're so proud of their teamwork, positivity and effort!



SIXTH FORM NEWS

YEAR 13 MOCK INTERVIEWS

Year 13 students have taken part in mock interviews - a fantastic opportunity to develop essential employability skills and prepare for life beyond school.

Where possible, students were matched with interviewers from industries linked to their future aspirations, including HR, biomedical science, pharmaceuticals, business, teaching, engineering, and more.

This gave them invaluable experience of speaking with professionals and gaining real-world insight into the careers they're aiming for. It was a brilliant day of preparation for the future!

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who gave up their time to support our students.



A LEVEL FIELDWORK

Our A Level Geography students have been busy bringing their classroom learning to life through a series of fieldwork experiences.

Year 12 geographers began their studies on urban sustainability with a visit to the Houlton development, where they took part in a walking tour and a masterclass in urban design. They saw first-hand how planning and design concepts contribute to creating sustainable and liveable spaces - a perfect example of placemaking right on our doorstep.

We are very thankful to Urban and Civic for sharing their expertise and inspiring our students to explore geography-related career pathways.

Meanwhile, Year 13 students travelled to Shrewsbury to deepen their understanding of both physical and human geography. They observed natural landscapes, conducted pilot studies for their NEA investigations, visited waterfalls, and developed their independent research titles.

These trips offered plenty of opportunities for hands-on learning beyond the classroom. The students were a credit to Ashlawn on both occasions, representing the school exceptionally well.



BUSINESS STUDIES GUEST SPEAKER

Year 12 and Year 13 Business students had the fantastic opportunity to hear from a guest speaker from CUBE Accounting. The speaker, who owns the firm, shared valuable insights into the accountancy profession, including the qualifications, skills, and mindset needed to pursue a successful career in the field.

Students were fully engaged throughout the session, finding the advice both realistic and inspiring. The speaker's passion for their work came through clearly, making the talk not only informative but motivational.

It was an excellent chance for our students to gain a deeper understanding of the accountancy pathway and explore future career possibilities with clarity and confidence.





At Ashlawn we...

CARE

COMMUNITY

We value every member of the Ashlawn family and treat each other with kindness and compassion.

ASPIRATION

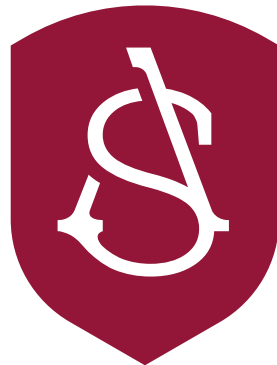
We work hard and make the most of exciting and challenging learning experiences, in order to open up the world around us and achieve our dreams.

RESPECT

We respect each other and our differences. We respect our learning environment and appreciate everyone's right to the best possible experience at Ashlawn.

EXCELLENCE

We are committed to trying our best and achieving the highest standards in our love of learning, so that we can be the best versions of ourselves.



ASHLAWN
SCHOOL

Our best, always

Ashlawn School
Ashlawn Road, Hillmorton, Rugby, CV22 5ET

Telephone: 01788 573425
Email: info@ashlawn.tlet.org.uk
www.ashlawn.org.uk

 [@ashlawnschoolrugby](https://www.facebook.com/ashlawnschoolrugby)