

Getting 'Stock' in for a Good Cause

A lunchtime of charity challenges helped students and staff to raise £1,289.42 for Rainbows and Comic Relief.

Students took part in a charity basketball challenge and treated themselves to goodies on the cake stall, as well as making a cash donation to throw wet sponges at their favourite members of staff in the stocks. Students from all year groups also made a donation to come to school in 'non uniform' for the day.



F1 Teams Race to Finals

Two teams from Ashby School have qualified for the regional finals of the F1 in Schools competition.

Each team has designed, manufactured and tested its own air-powered car, learning about physics, aerodynamics, design, manufacture, branding, graphics, sponsorship, marketing, leadership/teamwork, media skills and financial strategy, as part of the process.

Students from all year groups - from 7 to 13 - are involved in this year's competition which is designed to enthuse students about STEM subjects.



Uniform: A Reminder

Uniform sets a standard for everyone in the school community and helps to create a constructive learning environment. We're grateful to all parents who support us with this by ensuring the majority of our students are in full and correct uniform. However, a small minority of students are unclear about our uniform expectations. To clarify these:

- Blazers must be worn at all times (permission may be asked to remove blazers when in the classroom. School jumpers are optional and are not a substitute for a blazer.) Hoodies are not permitted in school
- Lanyards must be worn at all times
- Only stud earrings are allowed in ears. Facial piercings are not permitted

A full copy of our uniform policy can be [found here](#).



Year 11



A leavers' festival including live music, inflatables and stalls will be held on Thursday 11 May for all Year 11 students.

The event, which will take place at the Range Road playing fields, is a chance for students to come together to celebrate their time at Ashby School. Tickets are priced at £10 to cover the costs of the day.

More information can be found on our [Letters](#) page. All students must return their completed reply slips to the Year Room and make their payment on Wisepay by today (Friday 31 March).

The Year 11 football team held its own celebrations after reaching the finals of the Leicestershire Schools County Cup. After a valiant campaign, they lost 2-0 to Wigston Academy in the final.

The Year 11 rugby team has also reached the semi finals of the County Cup.

Revision

Tailored revision resources can be found in the [Year 11 revision hub](#) on the school website to help students prepare for their exams.

Rewards

Year 11 students continue to receive awards for 100% attendance, including certificates and chocolate prizes. Two students—Harriett Goodall and Kiki Lewis—were rewarded with a free pizza lunch for themselves and their friends.

There was also a form breakfast for students in form 11N5 whose attendance was the most improved over the last half term.

Form breakfasts for the most positive points went to 11L4 and 11L5.

Year 7

Science club members have been carrying out their own research using telescopes, as part of their current focus on space. A presentation of their space research is now being planned, to include some interesting facts about exo-planets, black holes and the Hubble space telescope!

Year 7 mathematicians have been looking at different representations of operations, from number machines to function notation, and working with different representations to simplify algebraic terms.

In English, students have been exploring character development in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and evaluating the consequences of the love potion, ready to complete their assessment in class this week. For their writing lessons, they've been focusing on descriptive writing based on two images. All Year 7 students will produce two descriptive paragraphs in the first week back after Easter, to allow class teachers to monitor student progress in sentence construction and the crafting of language for effect.

Year 13

Revision sessions and support are now available for all Year 13 students, including a [handy revision tips video](#) recorded by members of the student senior team and [updated revision diaries](#).

As part of the final push before their exams, all Year 13 students attended an assembly on creating and maintaining the study habits and self-discipline they need to succeed.

The tutor time focus has been on the 'science of study' – using scientific studies to help students get the most out of their revision.

Tutor time is also being used to encourage students to reflect on their mock results and set targets.

In two sessions run by Nottingham Trent University on Study Skills, Revision Tips and wellbeing, students learned about coping strategies for exam time stress.

Students have also been preparing for life after Ashby School at a CV workshop and apprenticeship talk led by Leicestershire Education Business Company (LEBC).

Faculty Focus on...The Arts

Ashby School's faculty of The Arts is a thriving hub of creative talent and opportunity. Here we take a quick look at what's been keeping arts students busy this term...

Musicians from all year groups showcased their talents at this year's spring concert. The evening featured the orchestra and jazz band, as well as exam performance pieces by Year 11 and 13 music students, and songs from the



Year 7 choir. Choir members have been rehearsing every Monday before school.

In timetabled **music** lessons, Year 7 students have been creating their own compositions based on 'The Carnival of the Animals' and learning to play the ukelele.

Year 10 musicians have been perfecting their group performances, preparing for the ensemble playing element of their GCSE course while Year 11 and 13 are now preparing for their final exams.

In **art**, Year 7s have been creating sea-inspired sculptures using recycled materials, as part of their focus on the environment.

Year 10 artists have been perfecting their 3D drawing skills while Year 11s are working on their exam project, choosing from titles set by the exam board. The project is worth 40% of their final mark.

In Year 12, artists have been working on a mock project based on the real Year 13 exam. Year 13 students are preparing to sit the three day exam after Easter.

Year 12 photographers are working on their first solo **photography** project, concentrating on elements such as lighting and composition.

Year 13 photographers held an exhibition for parents on the day of their final coursework deadline, marking the culmination of two years of hard work. They will sit their three day photography exam after Easter.

In **media**, Year 10 students are working on their magazine project. Year 11 media students have been staying after school to perfect their final projects, making DVD covers and film posters, which are due at Easter. Year 13s are also working on their final projects, which include designing a website.

Year 10 **drama** students are preparing a devised performance piece. In Year 11 drama, students have now performed their final GCSE performance to an external examiner, opting to be assessed as either performers or designers (responsible for aspects such as stage and set or lighting and sound). They must now produce an evaluation of their performance and complete a written exam.

Year 12 students have been preparing for their exams next year by supporting Year 11 and 13 students in non-assessed roles in their final exam pieces. They have also been developing their skills by exploring set texts.

In Year 13 drama, students have now done their final performances, staging two pieces in one day—one devised piece using a stimulus and a second scripted piece. They prepared for this with a performance to parents and friends of the school and invited constructive feedback from the audience.

It's a busy time for **film** students, too, who are all developing coursework ideas or completing final coursework projects. For Year 11, this includes writing the screenplay for the opening of a horror film while Year 13 students have been making their own short films.

Dear Parents/Carers,

As Spring approaches, there is lots to reflect on from the last half term and even more to look forward to!

Rewards

We continue to find creative ways to reward students. Our Golden Tickets have been presented to more students than ever, for embodying our school values of Showing Respect, Accepting Responsibility and Building Resilience. In addition, a number of students have attended our reward breakfasts, including these Year 10 students (pictured right), for demonstrating exemplary behaviour and attendance and engaging in active citizenship. It's also great to see so many students working through our rewards pathway with lots of students having now earned their bronze and silver certificates and badges.

Food Pantry

With support from MCKS charitable foundation, we have launched a food pantry service for families of students at our school. Food, toiletries and sanitary products will be available for collection every Tuesday from 2.15 – 4.15pm during term time from our base at Range Road. (This semi-detached house is opposite the gates at the bottom of Range Road.) Times during holidays will vary.

For access to this support, please email Mrs. Lane at l-lane@ashbyschool.org.uk

Parents' evenings

It was lovely to see the return of face-to-face parents' evenings for students preparing for exams in Years 11 and 13.

These are being followed by tailored revision support, including revision sessions during the Easter holiday and further sessions after Easter, both online and in person. Pre exam sessions are also being planned to include breakfast revision slots and top tips before exams.

The final GCSE exam at Ashby School will be 21 June 2023. The final A level exam will be 26 June 2023. Students should also be available for the contingency dates of 8 June, 15 June and 28 June—these allow for the rescheduling of exams, if necessary. GCSE exam results will be released on 24 August; A level results will be released on 17 August. Full details will follow during the summer term.

Term dates

School will close for the Easter holiday at the normal time of 3.05pm on Friday 31 March and will reopen to all students on Monday 17 April 2023.

Wishing you all a very pleasant Easter break.

Dr Jude Mellor
Headteacher



Tell us what you think...

We've recently updated our Relationships and Sex Education policy and would like to hear the thoughts of our parent community. The new policy can be found on our website under the policy section. Feedback can be provided on the link attached [RSE Policy Feedback link](#). The deadline for providing feedback is Friday 7 April.

See the next Ashbeian for a round-up of Year 10 and Year 12 news...