

# The Ashbeian

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Apply to join  
Ashby Sixth Form  
in September 2024!

Application closing date:  
Friday 19th January 2024

Ashby  
**Sixth Form**

Anything is Possible



## Lights, Camera, Spotlight!

Film and media students showcased their work at the latest in a series of lunchtime 'Arts Spotlights' events.

Previous lunchtime 'spotlights' focused on music, drama (pictured below), art and photography and gave students a chance to perform and/ or exhibit their work to the wider school community.

Teacher Tom Allcroft said: "The students' work on display is a great inspiration for others and also shows that what they have produced is being enjoyed and celebrated."

A fresh cycle of lunchtime arts events to share and celebrate The Arts at Ashby School will begin next term.



## What's Green (and Read All Over)?

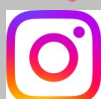
Answer: Ashby School's Christmas tree! This tree-mendous seasonal showstopper has been built entirely from books by Sixth Form library prefects. The festive fir was then decorated by Year 7 and 8 student librarians.

The Christmas tree outside the school's main reception is also going green this year—thanks to a donation of environmentally friendly festive lights from local company Pladis. Christmas elves from the snack company delivered six LED floodlights to illuminate the tree. The energy-saving lights—which have replaced traditional bulbs—are operated by remote control

and can be programmed to flash and display different colours.

This is the latest in a series of collaborations between the school and the snack giant.

*Can you guess how many books are in the tree?  
(Answer in the New Year!)*



## Year 11... The Countdown is On

A revision programme for all Year 11 students will start after Christmas. All students will also learn about core revision techniques during their PSD lessons.

Raising Standards Leaders for Year 11 will use progress data from the recent trial exams to put targeted form time tutoring in place for students who need a little extra support to reach their goals in maths and English.

Trial exams were followed by face-to-face parents' evenings to raise any concerns and discuss plans for the next few months.

Year 11 students continue to be rewarded for observing the school's core values of respect, responsibility and resilience. Golden ticket winners Marie

Eline Charles and Karina Gavan were both treated to a free

A tutor evening for Year 11 and 13 students and their parents/ carers on Thursday 1 February will offer advice and information on how to support young people during revision.

pizza lunch for themselves and their friends when their names were drawn out of the hat.



Outside of the classroom,

the boys' Year 11 basketball team recorded an emphatic victory, winning 40-8 against Newbridge and 32-13 against Ibstock to progress to the next round of the County Cup.

Year 11 students will also be taking part in the ski trip at February half term (see story below).

## Year 13... It's All Downhill!

Snow-loving Year 13 students have joined practice sessions on the slopes in preparation for next year's ski trip. About 80 students, including Sixth Formers and Year 11s, have been practising their skiing and snowboarding skills at Swadlincote Snowsports Centre. The ski trip to Italy will take place during February half term and is part of the school's programme of extra curricular and enrichment activities.

Back in school, financial experts ran free workshops for more than 250 Year 13 students to help them develop key financial skills for life after school. Sessions were run by ThinCats, an alternative finance provider with its head office in Ashby, using quizzes and other activities to highlight the basic financial skills students need to take their next steps with confidence.

Vikki Rundle-Brown, Head of School for Ashby Sixth Form, said: "We're delighted to work with ThinCats on this

## Year 8...Get Results!

It's never too early to start thinking about careers! Ashby School's rolling programme of careers activities included a visit by speakers from Rolls Royce and Caterpillar UK who came to talk to Year 8 students about apprenticeships and other potential career pathways at the two companies.

Careers Coordinator Ellen Rayns said: "It's important that students know about the range of opportunities that are available in education, employment and training when they reach the age of 16. Visits like this help them to understand more about these opportunities and to realise that, with a little hard work, anything is possible!"

Slam dunk! The Year 8 basketball team has lifted the trophy in its first tournament of the year (pictured right without team member Martha Baker).



The team won its final game 11 - 2 to clinch the title at Castle Rock School. PE teacher Alex Watt said: "It was a well-deserved win for the whole team which showed real team spirit and resilience."

Year 8 students also got active for a sponsored walk in support of chosen charity, Ashby Youth for Christ.

Members of the KS3 choir will be doing their bit to bring seasonal cheer to the local community when they visit Fernleigh Crae Home for the Elderly to give a performance of festive songs.

Everyone in Year 8 is looking forward to showing off their festive knits next Thursday (21 December) to mark Christmas Jumper Day.



workshop which has helped our students to understand the financial skills they need for life after Ashby School. This is just one of the many ways in which we support students to develop lifelong skills and values to ensure they go on to become responsible, resilient and successful citizens."

All UCAS applications have now been submitted for students considering university.



## Faculty Focus on...Humanities



Year 10 **psychologists** have made a fantastic start to the course learning about memory and why people see the world differently in their current topic of 'Perception'. Year 11 students have finished their psychological problems topic looking at mental health while Year 12 psychologists have enjoyed creating their own egg babies (pictured bottom right) while thinking about the concepts around carer/infant attachment. Year 13 students achieved some excellent trial exam results with lots of students applying to psychology degree courses at university. A number of Year 12 students are prefecting in Year 10 lessons and all students have been given an opportunity to do online psychological work experience through Springpod.

In **philosophy and ethics**, the new Year 8 RE course explores what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live. This enables students to gain the knowledge, understanding and skills to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living. At GCSE and A level, Year 11 and Year 13 classes will have lots of time in the summer term to devote to important recap and revision sessions in preparation for the final exams.

Year 10 **business** students have settled in well, studying entrepreneurs and how business ideas come about. They have researched large businesses such as Gymshark and Coca Cola to see how these operate in highly competitive environments. Year 12 and Year 13 Applied Business students are preparing and revising for their formal January exams. Entering their final year of business, Year 11 and Year 13 students have been focusing on exam technique and preparation to ensure they are confident for their trial exams in February. They will also be attending a revision conference.

In **geography**, Year 7 students have looked at how we know the earth's climate has changed over the last 450,000 years and the natural and human causes of this climate change, as well as how this may affect people over the next 50 years. Year 8 students have completed their first unit of work on natural disasters, looking at events like earthquakes, tropical storms and tornadoes. Year 8 students

have also considered how future climate change may make the impact of these natural hazards worse. Year 10 students have learnt how to use mind-mapping and flashcards in preparation for their upcoming assessment. Students have been using GCSEPod on a weekly basis to help embed knowledge and understanding. Year 11 students have completed a recent formal 'in-class assessment' and will be supported to improve their expected outcomes through structured lesson intervention and revision lessons that proved so successful last year. Year 12 A level students (all 78 of them!) are developing a superb level of understanding of a range of complex geographical topics and issues. The students are studying how climate change has affected the formation of coastal landforms and how government strategies are designed to reduce inequalities in a range of countries and settings. Year 13 A level students are completing their NEA following their highly successful visit to Swanage (pictured above). Students have completed a mini-dissertation of over 10,000 words.

Fifty students from Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will visit **Iceland** next year to see a range of tectonic and geomorphic landforms. They will also see the world famous Blue Lagoon.

In **history**, Year 8 students have recently been investigating the lives of the Black Tudors, John Blanke, Dederi Jacquoah, Reasonable Blackman the Silk Weaver and Cattelena of Almondsbury. Year 10 history students have adapted well to the GCSE course and have almost completed the first GCSE Unit 'Conflict and Tension 1896-1918.' A number of Year 12 history students have volunteered to become history prefects for younger students and are also preparing to enter the Historical Association's national competition – The Great Debate.



## Dates for your Diary

18 December—Christmas concert, 7pm  
 19 December—Senior citizens' concert, 2pm  
 21 December—Christmas jumper day (rescheduled—non uniform)  
 22 December—School closes at 1pm for all students  
 8 January—Spring term begins—school re-opens to all students at normal time  
 11 January 2024—Year 13 parents' evening (face-to-face)  
 19 January—Closing date for Sixth Form applications  
 1 February 2024—Year 11 & 13 exam preparation evening



*A reminder that our friendly food pantry is open every Monday in term time from 2—4pm*

## Sixth Form snippets...

Sixth Former Izzy Aston has proved that 'Anything is Possible' by setting up her own Year 12 **netball team** (pictured below)!



Izzy said: "I decided to set this up to contribute my own time to Ashby School and give back after everything that has been done to support me. I'm very passionate about netball and I have already created wonderful friendships and memories in this short space of time with my team! We train every Tuesday and we all work immensely hard; our session consists of drills and finishes with a couple of games. All the netball girls really enjoy our sessions, and we are making so much progress already! A few of us play or used to play outside of school so we all learn from each other.

"A big thank you to everyone who has helped me get this going especially Mr Tsang and Miss Shields who give up their time after school to attend and oversee our sessions and Mrs Hamilton-Cooper and Mr Tsang who gave me the courage and confidence to go ahead with this."



Other students have been finding enrichment through the **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)**. A group of Year 12 EPQ students paid a visit to the University of Derby for an EPQ workshop (pictured right) including sessions on 'evaluating resources' and 'referencing and plagiarism'. Students were also given a campus tour and spent valuable time in the library accessing resources and articles to support the research for their EPQ projects.



The Student Council and Senior Team have now been joined by a team of six new senior prefects. At the time of writing, they are working together to select a Sixth Form charity, planning sports events and putting the finishing touches to plans for their first social event of the academic year—a Christmas quiz—to end the term on a ho-ho-high.

## Safeguarding Moment: It's Not Ok—Anti Bullying

Bullying has been experienced by 40% of young people in the last 12 months—and 84% of this happens through devices. This half term, Ashby School is taking its own steps to tackle these startling statistics by running a campaign to raise awareness of the issue and where to go for help. This is being done through student surveys, discussion groups and activities, a letter to parents, posters and additional training for staff. As always, students are urged to contact their form tutor, their year team leader or press the 'I Need to Talk' button if they have concerns about their own wellbeing or that of others.

Vikki Rundle-Brown,  
 Head of School (KS5) &  
 Designated Safeguarding  
 Lead

**PARENTS!** Please make sure school emails have not gone into your 'junk' folder!

