

The Ashbeian

Empowered to Learn since 1567

Serving up R-R-Rewards for Respect, Responsibility and Resilience



Showing respect, accepting responsibility and building resilience continue to be rewarded with more free breakfasts for winning form groups!

Form 11N4 was the latest in Year 11 to receive a breakfast of fresh fruit and pastries for observing the school's core values, known as the 'three Rs'.

Form totals are calculated by taking into account students' positive points, correct uniform, good attendance and punctuality, along with scores from quizzes and other form time activities—all underpinned by the 'three Rs'.

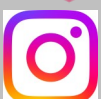
The last few tickets are still available for the school's musical performance of 'We Will Rock You'!

Students will take to the stage for singing, dancing and acting roles in the show which runs for four days from Wednesday 24 January to Saturday 27 January. Evening performances start at 7.30pm with a Saturday matinee at 2pm.

The show is the culmination of months of rehearsals and preparation. Students have been involved in set and costume design as well as providing technical and lighting support for the production.

Tickets are priced £6 for adults and £4 for students. They are available online via Wisepay through the school website or from c-matthews@ashbyschool.org.uk for cash payments.

Remember the Christmas tree of books featured in our last issue? The answer to the number of books used was 375.



Year 12...

There's so much going on that students clearly don't want to miss it! In fact, Year 12 students recorded the highest attendance record of all year groups during the last half term.

Outside of their timetabled lessons and study periods, many have begun their enrichment placements in a range of settings, including local day nurseries, primary schools and care homes.

Others are taking part in enrichment activities in school, including prefecting in lessons with younger students, working on the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and leading weekly reading sessions with KS3 students (pictured right).

Year 12 students involved in the Career Ready programme to help boost their employability skills and experience will attend the launch event later this month.



Year 7...

Year 7 ended 2023 on a high, including a win for form 7S in the Inter-Form League. They were rewarded with a form breakfast.

Students also showed their support for the 'Make A Noise' anti-bullying campaign by gathering outside to shout their opposition! While Year 8 were the loudest year group, forms 7L and 7Y also raised the roof with a decibel reading of 80.6!

There were sweeter sounds when the KS3 choir visited Fernleigh Care Home to give a performance of festive songs and carols.

In sport, the girls' futsal and netball teams have been in action in their first tournament of the year.

The futsal team (pictured below) played two 12 minute games, beating Ivanhoe 5—0 but losing 2-1 in the last minute to Castle Rock. The netball team also suffered defeat but also showed great respect, responsibility and resilience throughout.



Year 10...

At the latest Year 10 awards assembly, it was revealed that a total of 14,561 positive points had been handed out to Year 10 students for upholding the 'three Rs'!

Two students from each form were given special recognition for observing these values. There were also prizes for students with 100% attendance and for the 10 students with the most positive points.

The Year Team Award went to Lola Colburn who demonstrated resilience throughout the term and was praised for her positivity and politeness.

Form 10L4 came out on top in the Inter-Form League with form 10N3 in second place, winning them the title of 'most improved' form. The champions from last half term, 10L1, slipped down to third.

Year Team Leader Mr Cooper was given his own challenge when he was presented with a set of juggling balls by form tutors. He is now working on his juggling skills to prove to Year 10 students that 'Anything Is Possible'. (We'll keep you posted on his progress!).

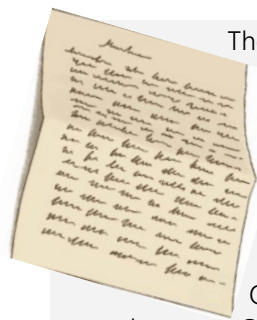
Coming up...

Duke of Edinburgh activities will begin for those students who have signed up.

Year 10s will also sit down for mock careers interviews in February.

An online parents' evening will be held on 8 February.

Faculty Focus on...Modern Languages



The art of letter writing is being revived by Year 8 students who have been corresponding with penpals at a school in Munster. Sixty Year 8 students have written letters to their German counterparts.

Others have been writing to French penpals at College Calypso in Pays de la Loire. The 25, who have all volunteered to take part, have been using their letters to introduce themselves, ask lots of questions about school life in France and talk about their school and where they live.

Lily and Sarah are pictured below with the first letters from their French penfriends.

In lessons, Year 7 are studying their first topic, learning how to gather and communicate information about themselves and others.

They will all try a second language after half term, with lessons in either Spanish or German.

This gives young linguists a taste of the culture of a second country and a chance to experience another language. The aim is to make language learning fun and enjoyable and to highlight the value of language skills in the modern world.

KS3 students were introduced to other European languages during form time to mark this year's European Day of Languages. Students were set fun learning challenges to acquaint them European languages including Polish and Ukrainian.

Year 8 students are currently building their cultural awareness by exploring the differences between school systems in England and France or Germany.

In Year 11, students are now preparing for their speaking exams. More than 300 GCSE linguists will take speaking exams over two weeks from 22 April. Revision sessions will begin this half term.

Year 13 students are also preparing for their speaking exams which will take place after Easter.



When in Bruges...

Languages students visited three countries in three days when they took a whistle stop tour of some of Europe's famous Christmas markets.

Forty linguists from Years 11,12 and 13 made the trip, stopping off at markets in Cologne, Bruges and Lille.

They also visited the Lindt chocolate museum as well as taking in other sights of local interest.

The three day trip was a great way for students to practise their language speaking, immerse themselves in the regional culture and, of course, do a bit of shopping.

"I absolutely loved the trip and would 100% recommend it to other people thinking of going. It was an amazing opportunity to spend time with my friends as well as learning about how different cultures celebrate Christmas. Furthermore, it allowed me to see new countries and make lasting memories. It really helped me practise my French as nearly all of the shops we visited either had French or German speaking cashiers, so it pushed me to use the French I knew and fend for myself."
- Morgan Ward, Year 11

Nick Fitzpatrick, Head of Modern Languages, said: "The trip was great fun and a truly immersive experience in European language and culture for our young linguists. They took the busy schedule in their stride, displaying resilience and acting as great ambassadors for Ashby School."

Plans for a Year 9 trip to France next year are now underway.

Collaboration

Ashby's languages specialists continue to work closely with colleagues across the MAT to develop best practice. As well as sharing their expertise around KS4 teaching, Ashby staff have been drawing on advice and resources from other schools to enhance KS3 language learning.

Dates for your Diary

24—27 January—School musical 'We Will Rock You'

1 February—Revision evening for Year 11 and 13 (students and parents)

5 February—Year 13 trial exams (all week)

8 February—Year 10 online parents' evening

16 Feb—School closes for half term break

Next Steps: Revision and Careers

All parents of students in Years 11 and 13 are invited to attend a **revision preparation evening on Thursday 1 February from 4—7pm.**

The evening will be a chance to meet form tutors and discuss students' progress and exam preparation. It will include advice on revision planning and details of the school's key revision strategies and resources as well as an opportunity to talk to Raising Standards Leaders.

The evening will introduce the 'Ashby Core 4' strategies which are being used and for revision. These include flash cards, mind maps, brain dumps and self quizzing. Students are being taught how to use these in PSD lessons; they will also be used by staff in lessons to help them revise. (Parents will receive packs containing all the information from the evening.)

A programme of in-person revision sessions will begin after half term.

Careers

Students in Years 8, 11, 12 and 13 have all received talks from local employers and providers, to explore some of the careers pathways open to them. Speakers have come from various organisations including the RAF, Rolls Royce, CAT UK Ltd, Culina, Terex and the SMB College Group.

Year 11 and 13 students are also taking advantage of appointments with the school's careers advisers, ensuring they have the right information to support them in making decisions post 16 and 18.

Year 11 students have attended careers sessions focusing on areas including medicine, apprenticeships, colleges and engineering to support with their next steps.

A CV workshop run by Leicester Education Business Company (LEBC) gave Year 13 students a headstart when it comes to applications (pictured below).



Safeguarding Moment: Making the Internet a Safer Place

Online safety will be the theme for the third phase of the 'It's Not OK' safeguarding campaign which is being run across all schools in the LiFE MAT. This follows the two previous phases focusing on Sexual Harassment and Anti-Bullying.

Ashby School will be marking Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 6 February with various activities for students. A parent webinar on online safety led by the Breck Foundation will take place on Wednesday 20 March. More information on how to join will be available nearer the time.

Useful leaflets for parents ((like the one on the right) issued by the National Online Safety campaign can also be found on the school website covering a range of online issues [here](#).

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

