

E2L Day is Sporting Ad-Venture

Climate action was the focus of an E2L Venture Day of activities for Year 7 students.

Each form group was asked to come up with its own creative presentation to demonstrate the importance of water. Presentations were extremely varied and included a stop motion animation, stomp rockets, a plant structure and even a musical!

Working in form groups, students then designed and planted their own gardens, using plastic bottles to make some eye-catching floral creations.

The climate activities were followed by sports afternoon



Getting Skilled for Success

The annual 'Skills for Success' conference was the culmination of a series of events to help Year 12 students prepare for their next steps.

Experts from a range of local businesses and organisations joined students in school for the two-day conference, to work on a range of challenges designed to hone vital employability skills, including team building (pictured right).

Sixth Formers have also attended a number of careers events including a UCAS fair and industry and university visits, as well as taking on mentoring roles at main school events, including induction days for new students and the primary science fair.



Girls Get the Engineering Bug at Caterpillar



Female engineering students got a taste of life in industry when they paid a visit to Caterpillar's factory.

The visit was held to coincide with International Women in Engineering Day.

The Year 10 girls were given a tour of the factory and learnt about safety at Caterpillar as well as the different engineering roles available. They also tried out virtual reality headsets and took part in a hands-on engineering task.





It's the end of another year in which we've welcomed our first Year 7s and celebrated lots more incredible milestones and achievements.

Welcome to the last Ashbeian of the year! We hope you've liked receiving a shorter, more frequent newsletter. We also hope that you are following us on our various social media platforms; if not, the QR codes to join us are below.

As ever, the last few weeks of school have been busy and lots of fun. Year 7 have enjoyed trips to Beaumanor Hall for a team building event and to Warwick Castle to reinforce their learning on castles. Year 10 have completed geography field work trips alongside their speaking exams and Year 12 have taken part in a range of events to help them prepare for life beyond Sixth Form, including our amazing 'Skills for Success' conference. All year groups have also had reward trips and it is great to see so many of our students displaying the 3Rs consistently and accessing these opportunities. Trips are a really important part of students' whole school experience but are also complex and time-consuming to run so I would like to thank all the staff who give their time and energy to make these happen for our students and to help make some great memories of school.

Finally, all our students have enjoyed being part of our sports days. We celebrate all our participants alongside those who have represented our school in external sporting competitions, as well as in music, food and design.

Inevitably, at this time of year, we say farewell to a number of teaching and support staff; we wish them well in their future careers. Similarly, we are delighted to be welcoming a number of new staff to our school and to be fully staffed for the coming academic year in such a challenging recruitment crisis. It is a testament to the reputation of our school that we have been able to achieve this.

We also see some changes to our Senior Team with Mr Skervin returning from secondment at Countesthorpe, Miss McCafferty promoted to Assistant Headteacher and Mrs Rundle-Brown taking up the role of KS5 Head of School as we reposition our Sixth Form to welcome students from Ibstock and Ivanhoe alongside Ashby in 12 months' time. Finally, we are delighted that Mrs Jackson will be leading on Early Careers Teachers across the LiFE Multi Academy Trust for the foreseeable future; Mrs McMahon will be joining us from Ibstock for this period of time.

We would also like to thank you all for your support during the year and wish our whole community a pleasant and safe summer break. We have spoken to all our students about keeping themselves safe over the last few weeks through both face-to-face and online assemblies and you can find lots more information about keeping safe on our website.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming you back in August when school starts for new Year 7, 10 and 13 students on Tuesday 29 August with Year 8 & 11 students returning on Wednesday 30 August. Year 12 induction begins the following Monday 4 September 2023.

Dr Jude Mellor, Headteacher



Twitter



Instagram



Sixth Form Instagram

Faculty Focus on...PE



Ashby School now holds the Silver Award in the School Games Mark scheme. The School Games Mark is a government-led initiative that rewards schools for their commitment to the development of competition across the school and in the community.

After earning the Bronze Award last year, the school's PE faculty has worked hard to achieve Silver by providing competitive and leadership opportunities in sport for all students.

Here are just some of the highlights...

As part of our sports leadership programme, Year 10 and 12 leaders have been busy this year supporting the North West Leicestershire School Sport Partnership (SSP) at a number of School Games events including the Primary Best Festival, Quad Kids, bee netball, dodgeball and indoor athletics. The leaders have taken up a number of roles from leading small skill-based stations to officiating games. These leadership experiences have helped to support their studies including the Level 3 CTEC Sport course and Level 2 Sport Leaders qualification, as well as providing valuable skills for the future.

Netball has proved popular after school on Mondays. The Year 11 netball team were league winners while the Year 7 and 10 teams both took the runners up spot in their leagues.

In football, the Year 10 boys were league runners up while Year 11 made it to the final of the County Cup.

The Year 10 basketball team also reached the semi final of the county tournament.

The Year 11 rugby team was named joint winners of this year's County Cup after their opponents in the final were unable to play the match.

There was success for Year 7s in indoor athletics. In a cross-school event at Castle Rock, they took part in a number of activities including relay races, vertical/ triple/ long jump, speed bounce and shot putt, coming third in the team competition. Athletes from all years also picked up podium finishes on track and field at this year's Saffron Lane schools athletics meet against some of the best in the county.

The Year 7 swimming team won the local Level 2 School Games event after a fantastic performance against students from Years 7,8 and 9. The swim squad proceeded to the Level 3 county competition at Uppingham School although this event was unfortunately cancelled. They're looking forward to the challenge again in Year 8!

In other near misses, the U18 hockey team battled through several rounds of the Tier 3 English Schools Hockey competition before sadly losing out to Bradford Grammar School who scored in the last 30 seconds of the game!



Meet...David Clewett

David Clewett is an Early Career Teacher who teaches history to all year groups

What is ECT?

ECT is short for 'Early Career Teacher'. It's a two-year programme for teachers at the start of their career. As a result, they're given a bit more support than more experienced teachers, including a named mentor and a bit of extra time for planning and preparation.



What have you enjoyed most about your time at Ashby so far?

While teaching enthusiastic and engaged students is obviously a highlight, teaching is ultimately a job that involves working with fellow teachers. The Humanities faculty has welcomed me with open arms and I can honestly say that I look forward to coming to the office every day, because my colleagues make it a fantastic place to be.

Why did you choose to teach history?

It's so difficult to sum up in a few short sentences! I suppose it boils down to a few reasons. I love a story; and history is the story of *us* – everyone – and so it's perhaps the most relatable and relevant story there is. I really want to expose people to that idea, because there are infinite ways in which history influences our modern lives. Also, I really enjoy the opportunities that studying history provides for us to *think*, and to think in ways which we can't or don't in other disciplines. Weighing ideas, constructing arguments, and challenging existing concepts are just a few of the historical skills that are so valuable.

And lastly, sometimes history can just be really *cool*, and having the chance to share that passion with other people every day is amazing.

Meet...Housekeepers Donna Walmsley and Lizzie Cope

// Our role as KS3 housekeepers is to look after the health and safety of our KS3 students and make sure our Year 7 areas are clean and tidy. We also help in the dining area during break and lunch. Most importantly, we're a familiar face for our Year 7s (and our Year 8s, from next year) to support any needs they may have as well as helping with first aid duties.

Being a housekeeper is very rewarding. It's great to be a valued part of the fantastic Year 7 team. Working with Mrs Cooper, Mr Taylor, Mrs Brown and Mrs Boden has been a real highlight and we're already looking forward to working with new Year 7 Year Team Leader, Mr Benstead.

In a typical day, Mrs Walmsley is the first face our students see in the morning at breakfast club. Miss Cope then helps to set up for break.

After break, we go round the whole of the Year 7 area to make sure all the areas are clean and tidy ready for lunch! In between lessons, we might be litter picking, helping the year room staff or looking after any needs students may have.

Our highlights this year have been helping on the Warwick Castle trip and supporting the sports day. Being involved in the King Charles coronation celebrations was also a fantastic day. There are so many more highlights we could mention! Our advice to the new Year 7 students joining us in August would be 'don't be afraid to come to us for anything. We are here to help and very happy to do so!'



Safeguarding moment

All students will receive a 'Summer Safeguarding' assembly before the end of term, focusing on three key areas: water safety, online safety and personal safety.

The personal safety element will include information to raise awareness of gangs, county lines, drugs and alcohol, domestic violence and railway dangers to help students stay safe over the long summer holiday.

All members of the school community have also been advised to download using the 'What3Words' app (scan QR code below). This system uses three unique words to identify a specific location, enabling emergency services to locate people to the nearest three metres.

If you ever need to raise a Safeguarding concern in school time, you can do so by emailing DSL@ashbyschool.org.uk. Have a safe and happy summer!

Vikki Rundle-Brown, Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead



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the free app**