

The

Ashbyian

Empowered to Learn since 1567

## Future Engineers Drive the Change

Engineering students were rewarded for their success in the recent 'F1 in Schools' competition with a visit from a Formula 1 racing car.

The school's Year 7 team picked up three awards in the regional finals, including first place in the Entry Class.

A second team made up of Sixth Formers and Year 11 students entered the Professional Class, coming second overall.

The Aston Martin racing car was driven by Sergio Perez to third place in the 2018 Azerbaijan Grand prix.

The car's visit was arranged by Ashby-based firm Pladis Global, which has sponsored several initiatives at the school.



## Saffron Lane Sports Stars!

Sporting students from Ashby School competed against some of the county's best young athletes to clinch podium positions in a range of track and field events.

In all, 45 students from Years 7 and 10 represented Ashby School for the meet at Leicester's Saffron Lane athletics stadium, alongside competitors from 10 other Leicestershire schools.

Ashby secured success on both track and field, including first places in 100m and 800m races, as well as javelin, high jump, discus and the girls' relay.

PE teacher Ricky Wickwar said: "It was a really successful day for Ashby School against some very strong competition so we're very happy with the results - and for the students whose hard work certainly paid off."



## Mock Interviews Mean Business



Year 10 students have taken part in mock interviews with local business people to prepare them for the next stage of their career journey.

Lots more careers information, including weekly vacancy lists, can be found in the [Careers](#) hub on the school website.





# A Whole Year of Year 7...

It's been almost a year since Year 7 joined us. Here are just some of our favourite bits (and why we're excited about the year ahead!)

Our Year 7 curriculum has been designed to inspire and stimulate students, empowering them to learn and develop the skills they need to succeed.

This ethos has been embedded in all our Year 7 lessons, helping students to develop new confidence and skills—but has also underpinned activities beyond the classroom.

Early in the year, we teamed up with Burton Albion Football Club as part of its **Mini Minds** programme.

Burton players ran a series of sessions for all Year 7 students with a focus on mental and emotional health and building resilience, being kind (to ourselves and others) and dealing with change. These sessions were delivered as part of the health and wellbeing topic included in the bespoke Year 7 **Empowered to Learn (E2L)** curriculum.

Year 7 students have four E2L lessons every two weeks, involving hands-on learning, where possible. These major on aspects like literacy, empowering young learners, personal social development and religious education.

All Year 7 students were also given the chance to spend a day at **Beaumanor Hall** (pictured below), where they took part in a series of physical and mental challenges to nurture team work, leadership and self-motivation.

The King's **Coronation** was an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on our core values of Showing Respect, Accepting Responsibility and Building Resilience.

Year 7 students marked the occasion at their own coronation tea party, complete with party food, games and activities.

They have also demonstrated their resilience on the sports field, taking part in the Leicestershire **athletics** tournament at Saffron Lane sports ground and coming away with some great results.

And we're expecting more great things from our winning '**F1 in Schools**' team which has made it through to the national final of the prestigious STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) competition.

We're also looking forward to more **whole school** events and collaboration between year groups, in which our older students are able to act as mentors and role models for our KS3 students.

Stacy Cooper, Year Team Leader for Year 7, will become Year Team Leader for Year 8 from next term.

She said: "It has been a tremendous honour and a privilege to oversee the arrival and integration of our first Year 7 cohort. Many hours and weeks of planning went into preparing for their arrival and I'm delighted to say that almost everything went to plan and, in many cases, was even better than we could have hoped. We can't wait to embark on Year 8!"



## Faculty Focus on...English

Reading is central to a love of English, as Year 7 students have been discovering in their weekly **reading group** (pictured right). Students have been meeting before school once a week to read aloud from a series of set texts, focusing on issues like fluency, emotion and understanding.

This term, texts have ranged from a passage from 'The Hunger Games' to a non-fiction piece about snot! Each group meets for eight weeks. Sessions are by invitation only.

English teacher Chris Mould said: "The group is all about celebrating reading and helping our readers to get the most out of everything they read."

In class 7S, students were asked to design their own **book covers** for 'The Island at the End of Everything'. Prizes were awarded to Emmie and Isobel for their visual interpretation of the book's themes.

Planning and preparation is already well underway for the Year 8 curriculum when all students will be reading 'The Other Side of Truth' - an emotive story about a refugee family.

Students from all year groups have been learning about the art of **screenwriting** and working on their own short film, at an after school screenwriting club run by English teacher Jordan Smith.

The budding film makers began developing individual short screenplay projects earlier this year, before choosing one of the plays to produce. They have since been assigned roles including director, cinematographer, producer, assistant-director, costume and props, and editor.

During the project, students have learned a range of film making skills, including how to record sound on a boom mic, how to frame a shot, how to block a scene and direct actors.

The finished short film—called 'Places for People Like You' by Ruben Winterton - will be shown at the final club session at the end of term.

In Year 10, students are working on their **speaking and listening assessment**. For this, all Year 10 students are asked to deliver a presentation on a subject of their choice.

In Year 12, the current focus is on coursework. Language students are writing articles on a topic of their own choice while literature students are carrying out a comparison of poetry and a text, 'The God of Small Things'.



## Food Pantry Now Open

A food pantry service for families of Ashby School students is now running every Tuesday during term time.

Food, toiletries and sanitary products are available for collection on Tuesday from 2 – 4pm from the pantry at Range Road. (This can be found in the semi-detached house opposite the gates at the bottom of Range Road.) Opening times during school holidays will vary.

Deputy Headteacher Vikki Rundle-Brown said: "Like many people across the country, the families of students at Ashby School are feeling the effects of rising energy bills and food prices. In response to this, we have set up a weekly food pantry service with support from the MCKS charitable foundation to help those who need it to get access to food and other essential items."

For access to this support, please email Mrs. Lane at [l-lane@ashbyschool.org.uk](mailto:l-lane@ashbyschool.org.uk)





## Meet...Stacy Cooper

Stacy Cooper is Year Team Leader for Year 7

### My main responsibilities are:

To ensure that the needs of all 222 Year 7s are being met. My team and I ensure that all aspects outside of the classroom including safeguarding are dealt with and that the students know we're here to help.

I also create form time activities for students, produce and deliver assemblies, work with external organisations to source opportunities, and organise events like the coronation tea party and Year 7 disco.

I work closely with the Student Council to support the school's charities and in collaboration with the SENDCo and faculty staff.

### In a typical day...

No day is typical! However, I do conduct the morning welcome where I see all students and ensure there are no uniform or other issues. I visit form groups during form time, and get involved with any interesting activities, as well as replying to any parental enquiries, attending meetings and getting to grips with all of my other responsibilities (see above!).

I love the diversity of the role and am passionate about caring for, and supporting, my students.

### What people may not know about me...

I was in the Army for 13 years and completed six operational tours, which included travelling in boats, tanks and helicopters—all very fun!



## Meet...Matt Newton

Matt Newton is a science teacher and Year 7 form tutor.

// I enjoy designing and delivering lessons which stimulate the curiosity of students from Year 7 right through to post 16. As a biology specialist with a passion for sports science and performance, I often draw on previous experiences such as working with professional and amateur sporting teams to ground science in real-world applications.

Being a Year 7 form tutor is challenging but rewarding. I appreciate the level of trust placed in me by parents to nurture their children through what is a period of huge adjustment in their lives.

Working with our first cohort of Year 7 students, I support and run E2L (Empower to Learn) sessions which cover everything from personal development to religious beliefs. This part of the curriculum enables students to evaluate themselves and develop both as learners and individuals, and helps them to become active listeners and orators.

Without doubt, the best part of my job is the joy that comes from connecting with students. It is a real privilege to be a teacher although we may never fully know the impact we have on students.

Outside of Ashby School, I am a WO2 (class 2 Warrant Officer) in the Army Cadet force as an adult volunteer and I am a keen triathlete."



## Safeguarding moment

Fact-filled flyers to help students stay safe online can now be found on our website.

Compiled by National Online Safety, the leaflets cover topics like the safe use of Whatsapp, TikTok and YouTube

As the school's DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead), I could not do my job without my dedicated team of 15 Deputy DSLs. If you ever need to raise a Safeguarding concern, you can do so by emailing [DSL@ashbyschool.org.uk](mailto:DSL@ashbyschool.org.uk).

Students are able to raise concerns by speaking to any member of our staff team or by clicking the 'I need to talk' button on their portal page.

*Vikki Rundle-Brown, Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead*

