

The

Ashbeian

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Awards Evening Celebrates Achievement and Values

Awards for upholding the school's core values of respect, responsibility and resilience were presented at this year's annual awards evening, as well as prizes for outstanding academic achievement.

The event was attended by parents, staff, friends, governors, award sponsors and school supporters. It included a musical interlude and presentations by the School Council and the Student Senior Team.



Festival Farewell to Year 11

Year 11 students were given a send-off to remember with an afternoon of fun inflatables, live music, fairground games and refreshments, including candy floss and an ice cream van.

Ricky Wickwar, Year 11 Year Team Leader, said: "The festival was a lovely way to end the year for the hundreds of Year 11 students who have worked hard and upheld our core values."

Thirty students who had completed the most online revision sessions were rewarded with an extra ice cream voucher.



Back with a Splash!

Almost 100 competitors signed up for the return of the school aquathon, in a bid to break records, have fun and raise valuable funds for charity.

Staff and students signed up as individuals or in teams of two to tackle the 400 metre swim, followed by a (muddy!) three kilometre run around the school playing fields.

Prizes were presented to the top performers at a special aquathon awards ceremony.



Year 10...

Year 10 students have completed their first mock exams in all subjects.

The results of these exams will provide valuable insights to help staff gauge student progress and plan teaching for the year ahead.

The exam period ran smoothly with lots of positive feedback on student behaviour and attitudes.

Starter for 10

Year 10 students will begin thinking about their next steps when they take part in mock interviews in June.

As part of the school's careers programme, students will be interviewed by volunteers from a range of industries who will give advice on their interview technique and their plans for employment or further study.

For those planning to enter Ashby Sixth Form, the Head of Sixth Form delivered an assembly about Sixth Form life and what students can expect from post-16 education.

Rugby 10s

In sport, the boys' Year 10 rugby team reached the semi finals of the County Cup.

Year 10 girls from Ashby School will rub shoulders with inspirational players from the world of women's rugby at a girls' rugby festival at Loughborough University later this month.

10 out of 10

The school's core values continue to play an important part in daily life. More students have been presented with golden tickets, enjoyed free breakfasts and lunchtime pizza parties (*pictured above*) for upholding these values and showing their commitment to standards of positive behaviour and attendance.



Year 12...

A visit to Lincoln University was one of the latest careers initiatives to help students decide on their next steps.

Year 12 psychology and PE students attended a 'Be Inspired' day to find out more about the courses on offer and to get a taste of university life.

Year 12 students will get the chance to explore more careers options at a Post 18 Pathway Day in June, with representatives from De Montfort University, the University of Lincoln and the ASK apprenticeship programme. Students will get expert guidance on application processes and techniques to support them with future career decision making.

The school's annual Skills for Success day will take place over two days in July where students will be joined by representatives from local companies and organisations, as they tackle a series of business-related challenges.



Just the Job...

Weekly careers bulletins and vacancy lists are posted on the school website's [Careers Hub](#) for all students and parents. These include details of employment and apprenticeship opportunities.

Faculty Focus on...Modern Languages

The first languages trip for three years left Ashby School for stop-offs in Cologne and Lille. A coachload of 40 students from Years 11-13 made the journey, using the trip to experience other cultures at first hand and put their language learning into practice (*pictured below*).

Due to popular demand, there are now plans for a slightly longer trip in December 2023, calling at Cologne, Bruges and Lille.

Languages staff also hope to introduce a KS3 trip to France in the next couple of years.

Young Linguists

For Year 7 students, language learning is a great way to gain confidence when expressing opinions—a transferable skill that is useful across a wide range of subjects and outside of school.

The online interactive 'Sentence Builders' learning platform for KS3 students has proved to be hugely successful, helping Year 7 students to develop valuable independent learning skills.

Year 7 students sampled other languages during the European Day of Languages, winning chocolate prizes for tackling language challenges.

Later this month, students will get the chance to grow their language learning with a short introduction to either German or Spanish culture. Initiatives like this will help students to make them informed options choices later in Key Stage 3.

Exam Season

Exam students are completing their speaking exams this month. As well as A level speaking exams, the school will have held approximately 400 GCSE speaking exams by mid May in French, German, Spanish, Italian and Polish. Lessons are being put to good use to help students prepare for their listening and reading exams towards the end of May which make up 50% of the entire GCSE. A range of revision sessions has been running since February, both online and face to face. All have been well attended.

Collaboration with language faculties across the MAT at Ibstock, Ivanhoe, Countesthorpe, Winstanley and Bosworth has enabled all schools to share best practice. This will continue into next year in preparation for the new GCSE in modern languages which will be taught from September 2024.

Pictured right: Year 7 linguists were excited to receive their first letters from their penpals at a school in France.



Meet...Alan Tsang

Alan Tsang is Year Team leader for Year 13.

Alan is a familiar face (and voice) to Year 13 students and parents.

His role includes:

- Supporting students with any pastoral needs
- Working alongside other members of staff, including form tutors, Raising Standards Leads, the SENDCo, Sixth Form team and teachers to ensure students reach their full potential during their time in the Sixth Form
- Supporting students to adhere to Sixth Form expectations including attendance, behaviour, work ethic and dress code
- Helping students to expand their employability and personal social skills
- Safeguarding
- Supporting students with post-18 options, including university (UCAS applications), apprenticeships and careers

He said: "What I love most about my job is helping students to make the most of their time at Ashby School, and being able to listen and support when students are going through difficult times.

"It's really rewarding to see students grow and develop during their time with us."



Meet...Lewis Mason

Lewis Mason, Raising Standards Lead for Year 10, explains how data is supporting students to achieve (and throws down the gauntlet to his teaching colleagues on knowing the most student names!).

// I use student performance and assessment data to look for ways to support Year 10 students academically and pastorally.

In the first term, I focused on working with the Year Team Leaders to help inspire, motivate and engage the students by talking to them in a series of assemblies about the actual, tangible importance of attendance, punctuality and focus. I provide the students with meaningful context to their attendance and punctuality data to help put things in perspective – this helps them better understand what these sometimes complex statistics mean in real terms.

When our Year 11 students leave, resources will be reallocated to Year 10 students to give extra support to those who need it. Initially, this intervention will be offered by maths, English and science faculties to ensure students are supported in these core subjects before moving into Year 11.

Overall, I get a great deal out of this role. Providing tools and data to support colleagues and make their lives easier is something I've always enjoyed and this role allows me to do that. But most importantly, I feel that getting to know students outside the ones I teach is a huge perk of being a middle leader. I like to think I know the most names of any teacher!"



Safeguarding moment

Welcome to our first Safeguarding parent update where we'll provide regular, easy to understand information on how you can work in partnership with us to keep your child safe. Safeguarding children is our highest moral imperative and it is crucial that we have a dedicated team to do this effectively.

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.

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*



I NEED
TO
TALK