

The Ashbyian

Empowered to Learn since 1567

October 2023



Join us in August 2024

If you missed our KS3/ KS4 open evening, come and take a tour of the school on Monday 23 October at 3.45pm.

Book your place today at admin@ashbyschool.org.uk

All the Fun of the Fair...

Sixth Form students sported smiles and hi-vis jackets for a morning at Ashby Statutes, where they were accompanying children from special needs schools around the street fair.

The visit, in support of Ashby and Coalville Lions, has become an annual Sixth Form tradition and is just one of the ways in which Ashby School gives back to the local community.

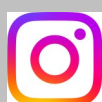
Vikki Rundle-Brown, Head of Sixth Form, said: "The morning at Ashby Statutes is always a special day for Sixth Formers and a great way for them to put school values, like respect and responsibility, into action."



Charity Walk Raises Funds (and Eyebrows...)!

A fancy dress walk around the school grounds raised more than £300 for Ashby Youth for Christ which has been supporting some students through their transition from primary school.

More than 400 students from Years 7 and 8 took part in the walk, along with staff, who brought their own favourite fancy dress outfits. This was the second time the event had been held following the success of last year's inaugural walk. Well done to everyone who took part for their #resilience and for showing Ashby is #AKindSchool.



Year 8... Values Reap Rewards

Rewards for 100% attendance and commitment to the school's 'three Rs' (Showing Respect, Accepting Responsibility and Building Resilience) will be presented to students at a special assembly before half term.

Year 8 students have been showing their respect, resilience and responsibility in lots of ways both inside and beyond the classroom.

On the sports field, the girls' netball team (pictured here with the Year 7 team) showed its resilience in an 8-3 win away at Newbridge.

Year 8 students also competed in a football tournament at Ibstock, displaying respect and resilience when results didn't go their way.

The importance of these school values have been underscored in PSD lessons where students have been



learning about Black History Month and the 'It's Not Ok' campaign.

Looking ahead, preparations are underway for the 'Haunted Hallways' arts event after half term and excitement is building for the residential trip to Osmington Bay in June.

Year 11... Career Focus

Careers are a key focus this term for Year 11 students. Guest speakers have already talked to students about some of the career and training opportunities on offer, from the armed forces to apprenticeships and T levels.

There are also 'opt in' sessions coming up for students interested in finding out more about medicine, engineering, and college pathways. More apprenticeship events will be held in March to coincide with National Apprenticeship Week. Students considering an apprenticeship will get the chance to work on their applications during PSD

lessons.



Additional information about applying for post-16 options, including Ashby Sixth Form, will be sent to parents shortly.

Students can book a one-to-one with the school's careers advisors by email or speak to their form tutors.

Year 11 parents' evenings will take place on 30 November for L forms and 7 December for N forms.

Congratulations to Darcey Wooldridge who has secured a partly funded scholarship to the Joffrey Ballet School in New York in summer 2024. She will be there for two weeks studying Jazz and Contemporary.



Year 13... UCAS and Enrichment

Year 13 students are busy focusing on their next steps, including UCAS applications for those considering university. Students have been given support with their personal statement writing by form tutors and in Personal Social Development sessions.

UCAS deadlines are 23 October for 'Early Bird' applications and 31 January for final applications.

Engineering students got some valuable workplace experience when they paid a hands-on visit to Acres Engineering (pictured left) to mark National Manufacturing Day.

Year 13 geographers have also been learning outside the classroom, carrying out three days of field work in Swanage.

As part of the Sixth Form enrichment programme, Year 13s are currently supporting Year 7 students in form groups once a week. There are also plans to support younger students with reading. Sixth Formers can record these hours on an enrichment log and gain bronze, silver and gold awards.

Faculty Focus on...Design

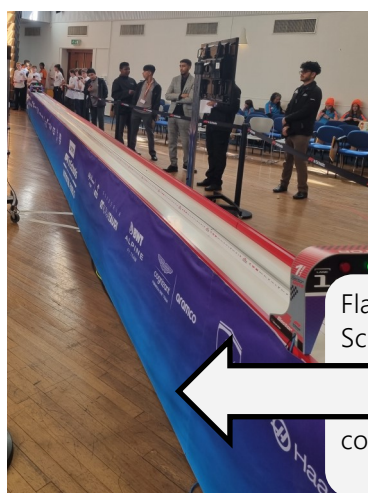


F1 Manufacturing Gets Green Light

Ashby School is set to become a manufacturing centre for schools across the Midlands looking to compete in the F1 in Schools competition.

Last year, two teams from Ashby School were successful in the regional heats of the competition to build and race a model F1 car. The challenge tests students' skills in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths), as well as their teamworking, presentation and organisational abilities. The 'Professional Class' team of KS4 and Sixth Form students will compete in the national final in early 2024.

Now the school has secured funding from local businesses to buy the equipment needed to make and test future F1 cars on site. This includes a milling machine for manufacturing the vehicles and a track for testing them.



These facilities will be available for use by other schools across the region to make and test their F1 entries.

Flashback to the F1 in Schools regional final which shows what the Ashby School F1 track could look like!

Local companies which have pledged their support so far include DSV, Pladis, Bott and Acres Engineering.

Anyone who would like to sponsor or support the school's F1 in Schools programme can contact Head of Design and Technology Ed Cooper at e-cooper@ashbyschool.org.uk

Students from all year groups meet every Monday night after school to work on their entries. Anyone interested in taking part is welcome to come along or speak to Mr Bagley.

Designs on Success

The successful design curriculum launched for new Year 7 students last year is now being rolled out to the current Year 7s— and has been extended and developed for Year 8 students. All KS3 students experience a carousel of design subjects in five rotations, focusing on engineering, food, textiles, systems and control, and design and technology (making 3D objects as an introduction to resistant materials).

In Years 10 and 12, textiles students are embarking on a new course that places greater emphasis on design and creativity. The 'art and design textiles' course is assessed entirely on coursework with no exam and replaces the previous, more technical GCSE and A level qualifications.

In Year 11, students in all five subjects—resistant materials, graphics, textiles, food and engineering—are now focusing on coursework. The deadline for this is February half term which will allow students to spend more time on revision and exam preparation.

Meet... Ali Jackson - Leading Teacher Recruitment

I believe that teaching is a vocation, where you craft your practice throughout your career. This is also the vision behind 'Teach For LiFE'—the training and recruitment arm of LiFE MAT.

As the Trust's Lead for Initial Teaching Training and Early Career Teachers (ECT), I am working with colleagues across the MAT to ensure a creative and innovative programme to recruit and coach new teachers.

Our provision places the professional at the centre of the experience. It allows individuals to acquire and apply their knowledge and understanding with space to think. By working collaboratively across all MAT schools, we can coach individuals to ensure potential.

For me, the role comes at a challenging time for teacher recruitment and retention. We have an extensive marketing drive with 'Teach Meets' and taster days and we are proactively working with university providers to ensure schools and teachers are represented in decision making. Please get in touch at traintoteach@lifemultiacademytrust.org.uk if you would like to know more or are interested in this work.

I am delighted that this work will be driven out of Ashby School. We have 32 ECTs within the trust and I am confident that, with the right encouragement and support in those early years, our Teach For LiFE participants will indeed teach for life.
Ali Jackson, Trust Lead ITT/ECT



Meet... Lyndsey Hill Early Careers Teacher

When I was a student at Ashby School in the mid 90s, I wanted to become a secondary English teacher but ended up on a different path after my English degree.

Years later, I decided to return to my original goal to work in education so I trained as a TA at Donisthorpe Primary School. Then, after the pandemic, I applied to be an English Tutor at Ashby School.

I'd never heard of the 'assessment only' (AO) route to teaching and thought that taking a year off from earning to do a PGCE was the only option. Colleagues helped me to understand that my years of experience in the classroom meant I was more ready to teach than I realised. They agreed to sponsor me through the AO programme at Derby University so, after six months leading GCSE intervention groups as a tutor, I took on my own full classes as an English teacher and form tutor.

With Assessment Only, you get straight on with the job of being a teacher. You have a mentor in school who supports you and a university mentor. It's an intense way to start the career, but I have reassurance, advice and guidance every step of the way.

I turned 45 in the same month I got my Qualified Teacher Status, so it took a little longer than I originally planned back in the 90s but, in the words of Shakespeare, 'Age is opportunity no less than youth itself'. (Henry V)



Safeguarding Moment

We are excited to be working alongside schools across the LiFE MAT for our 'It's Not OK' campaign.

This half term, our safeguarding focus is on sexual harassment and abuse in schools. More information can be found in our recent letter to parents. Please look out for further updates.

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

DSL@ashbyschool.org.uk

**It's
Not
OK.**