

# The Ashbeian

September 2023

Empowered to Learn since 1567

## It's Good to Talk!

A fun workshop to help Year 7 students develop confident communication skills and build relationships with their peers was one of their first activities of the new term.

Expert trainers from Talk The Talk ran the workshop full of oracy-based activities and strategies to boost students' self esteem and resilience, and support them in a successful transition from primary to secondary school.

Matt Benstead, Year Team Leader for Year 7, said: "The move to secondary school involves changes that are both exciting and potentially unsettling for students.



"This workshop is about supporting students to develop the confidence and self-esteem they need to make a smooth and successful transition from primary school to being a happy and integrated member of the Ashby School community."

For more Year 7 news, turn to page 2.

## Pssst...Heard about PSD?

All students take part in a programme of Personal Social Development, with content tailored to each year group and the skills they need to become successful and active citizens.

Sessions promote equality of opportunity, an inclusive environment and help students to develop the qualities necessary to flourish in society, including the school's core values of respect, responsibility and resilience.

For a breakdown of this term's topics by year group, turn to back page.



Open Evening

Two students, a boy and a girl, are sitting at a table, focused on a project. The boy is using a yellow tool to work on a small object, and the girl is looking on. They are both wearing school uniforms and lanyards.

Thursday 21 September 5 - 7pm

Anything is Possible  
www.ashbyschool.org.uk

*This open evening is for prospective students and their families looking to join us in Year 7 or Year 10 in August 2024. No booking is necessary. Details about parking and what you can expect on the night can be found [here](#).*

# First Term Firsts...

## Year 7 Tops Points Table!

It's been a successful start to the school year for Year 7 students who picked up more positive points than any other year group in the first two weeks of term! (Positive points are awarded for upholding the school's core values of respect, responsibility and resilience, through hard work, good behaviour or positive attitudes).

Their transition has included team building activities and 'ice breaker' sessions in form time to help students settle in, grow in confidence and make new friends. The first competitive form event of the year got a little messy when students were challenged to build towers out of spaghetti and marshmallows! There will be a prize each half term for the winning form.

All Year 7 students have been taking part in weekly literacy and numeracy activities, as part of the E2L (Empowered to



Learn) programme. To encourage a lifelong love of reading, students participate in library sessions once a fortnight and visit the library regularly to choose new books.

## Ready, Set, Year 10...

There's been lots of positive energy in Year 10—and that's not just because of the energy topic in physics lessons (pictured right).

Assessments in core subjects have helped to group Year 10 students effectively for science, as well as English and maths. This enables all students to work at a pace and level that's right for them and means that teaching staff can tailor their lessons to help students reach their full potential.

Year 10 students have now begun their first PE activities of the year, after choosing either a competitive, recreational or leisure pathway. All Year 10 students take part in three hours of core PE a fortnight as part of the school's commitment to encourage a healthy and active lifestyle.

In form time, students have enjoyed the introduction of 'Votes for Schools' - a national initiative to encourage young people to build oracy, confidence and critical thinking skills by debating and voting on topical issues. Recent discussions have included festival security and proposed restrictions on vaping. These debates are part of the school's Personal Social Development curriculum.



## Year 12s Take Transition in their Stride

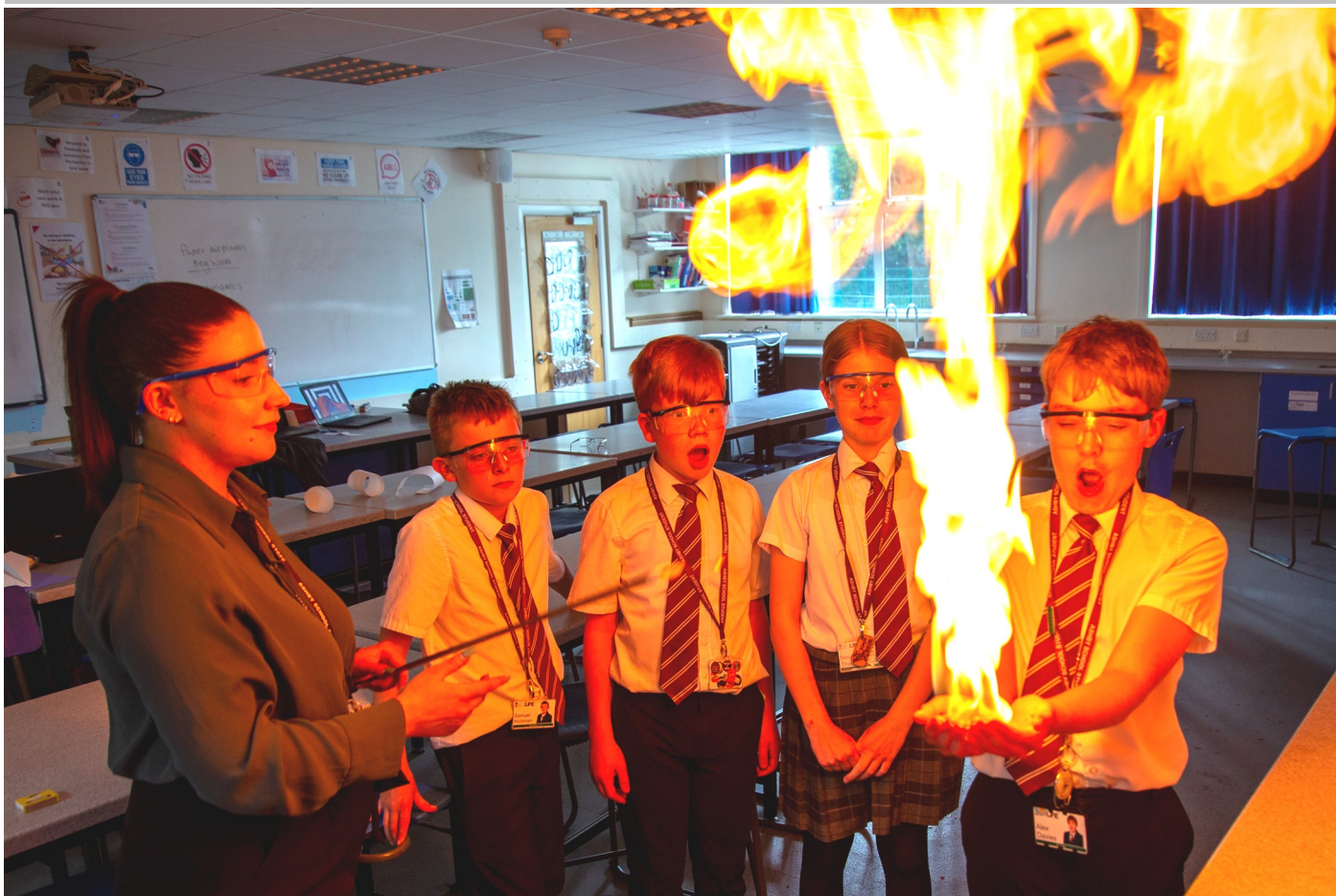
Year 12 students have hit the ground running as Sixth Formers, taking advantage of even more opportunities to embrace the school's core values of respect, responsibility and resilience.

Launching later this month, the Sixth Form enrichment programme will give students the chance to take up mentoring and prefecting roles with younger students and to sign up for a range of other activities and qualifications, including the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and core maths.

For those who have questions or concerns about their post-16 subject choices, support is available. The first point of contact is Year Team Leader Alan Tsang who works closely with students and their parents to help them arrive at the right outcome. Students can also speak to the school's on site careers advisers.



## Faculty Focus on...Science



It's all happening in science!

The school's popular after-school **Science Club** for Year 7 students (pictured above) has fired up for the new term!

The Wednesday night club runs fun, hands-on science sessions to enthuse young scientists and explore the science behind everyday activities.

Eight primary schools competed in our **annual Science Fair** at the end of last term in the hope of winning the coveted Golden Bunsen.

During their visit to Ashby School, the pupils took part in practical science workshops, supported by Sixth Form science students, and got the chance to showcase their own exhibits to staff, parents and students before a winner was chosen.

The event is part of Ashby School's close working relationship with local primary schools. Golden Bunsen winner Esme is now in Year 7 at Ashby School!

New **Head of Physics** Luke Wills is the latest addition to the science faculty. Mr Wills, who has a degree in physics with planetary science and space physics, has been teaching for eight years.

He said: "I am really looking forward to being part of the science team here at Ashby and helping students prosper and come to love the challenges that the many aspects of physics have to offer."

A visit by **paramedics** from East Midlands Ambulance Service (pictured below) gave students an insight into medical careers and an opportunity to practise some basic first aid. They even got the chance to take a tour of the ambulance and find out more about the equipment on board.

The visit was particularly useful for Sixth Formers considering careers in medicine who were able to speak to the ambulance crew about possible career pathways.

**Mock interviews** for students looking to pursue a career in medicine will be held later this year—with the help of drama students who will play the part of patients in medical scenarios. The simulated interviews are based on the Multi Mini Interviews (MMIs) used by many medical schools as part of the selection process for new medical students.



## Meet...Librarians Ruth Foster & Nicola Honeyborne



### What do you like about working in the library?

The school library is an all-inclusive space where there's a book for everyone and a safe place for all students.

It feels like the centre of the school where students can meet. The atmosphere is friendly and welcoming with student librarians helping other students. There's a real team spirit.



### Why visit?

The library supports students and staff with many resources including books, laptops, reference books and the school's interactive learning hub. We help users to find information, as well as supporting library lessons and encouraging reading.

The library is open before and after school for study and clubs and at break and lunchtime.

We are looking forward to introducing new clubs and events throughout the coming year.

### What is your favourite book?

Between us, we have lots of favourite books—including 'Oliver Twist' by Charles Dickens, the Harry Potter series (especially 'Escape from Azkaban'), the 'His Dark Materials' trilogy by Philip Pullman, 'Life after Life' by Kate Atkinson and 'Jenny' by Paul Gallico—but there are books for all tastes in the library.

## Safeguarding Moment

Ashby School is part of Operation Encompass to support students affected by domestic violence.

All staff are trained to understand the purpose of Operation Encompass and what to do if a call or email is received about a student.

“Operation Encompass means that our school will be told, prior to the start of the next school day, when police have attended an incident of domestic abuse where there is a child or young person who attends our school who is related to any of those involved in the incident”

To help keep students safe while out and about, Leicestershire Neighbourhood Watch has produced a range of items, including safety alarms and hi vis accessories.

You can find more details about these items and how to purchase them here: <https://www.ashbyschool.org.uk/safeguarding>

If you ever need to raise a Safeguarding concern in school time, you can do so by emailing [DSL@ashbyschool.org.uk](mailto:DSL@ashbyschool.org.uk).

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



## Open Day Events

- Saturday 23th September 09:30-12:30
- Saturday 7th October 11:00-15:00

Come and view our campus, see our amazing facilities and meet the Sixth Form Team.

For more information, please email us: [sixthform@ashbyschool.org.uk](mailto:sixthform@ashbyschool.org.uk)



## PSD (from page one...)

This term, year groups will focus on the following PSD topics:

- Year 7—Transition to secondary school and personal safety
- Year 8 - Drugs and alcohol, including the law and the impact of peer pressure
- Year 10 - E-Safety & health, including physical and mental wellbeing
- Year 11 - Citizenship, equality and diversity, including immigration and extremism
- Year 12- Health and wellbeing, including managing mental and emotional wellbeing
- Year 13 - Next steps, incorporating application processes