

The

# Ashbyian

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## Telling the Story of World Book Day...

Alice in Wonderland, Matilda and Where's Wally were just some of the characters to turn up to school for World Book Day.

Year 7 students and staff were invited to come to school dressed as their favourite literary characters to celebrate the joys of reading.

The winning outfits (pictured right) were judged by school librarian Mrs Mullen, who came as Judge Strauss from 'A Series of Unfortunate Events'. She said: "World Book Day is a great way to remind ourselves how important books are to help us learn, keep us entertained and capture our imagination."



## Bringing the Drama

Drama students have been giving their own interpretations of two acclaimed plays for their Year 12 theatre exam.

For their first assessment of the A level course, students were asked to choose an extract from either 'Waiting for Godot' by Samuel Beckett or 'Tusk Tusk' by Polly Stenham.

For more news from Year 12, turn to page 2.

## Lunchtime Careers Sessions for National Careers Week

Lunch time careers sessions will take place in the lecture theatre to mark National Careers Week which runs from 6—11 March.

The talks will focus on construction (Tuesday 6 March), medicine (Wednesday 7 March) and theatre (Thursday 8 March).

More information about National Careers Week, including virtual events and a useful parent guide, can be found on our [website](#).



## Year 10

Year 10 students have settled well into life at Ashby School, earning their fair share of positive points for observing the school's three Rs (respect, responsibility and resilience).

Postcards of congratulation have been sent home to two students from each form who have shown exceptional commitment to the three Rs.

Golden tickets are also awarded to students who uphold the school's values. The winners of the half termly golden ticket draw will be rewarded with a free pizza lunch for themselves and three friends.

### Sporting stars

There were celebrations for the Year 10 basketball team which beat Loughborough Grammar School to secure a place in the semi finals of the Team Leicestershire tournament.

Sport-loving Year 10 students have also signed up to the school's Sports Leaders programme. They will help to organise and run sporting events for other students and visiting schools, developing valuable personal skills, such as team work and time management.

### Speaking up

Year 10 students have been making a key contribution to school decision-making through its Student Council and Student Voice representatives, meeting regularly with staff and other year groups to discuss and influence student issues.

The two charities chosen by Year 10 to benefit from their charity fundraising this year are Rainbows children's hospice and the East Midlands Air Ambulance. Details of charity events will follow.



## Year 7



The importance of resilience—one of the school's three core values—has been at the heart of careers talks for Year 7 students. Employees from local company Pladis have been into school on several occasions to talk to students about their different job roles.

The school is also partnering with Burton Albion Football Club as part of the Year 7 focus on health and wellbeing. Representatives from the club will deliver a 'Mini Minds' programme, discussing mental, physical and emotional health.

Students continue to be rewarded for their achievements at upholding the school's values. A special film afternoon was held for more than 50 students who've shown the greatest commitment to Showing Respect, Accepting Responsibility and Building Resilience this half term.

## Year 12

A busy half term for Year 12 students ended with a week of in-class assessments.

Year 12 Raising Standards Leader George Soszynski is working with Year 12s to ensure they are on track to meet their academic targets, identifying pastoral needs and advising on effective study techniques.

All students are being encouraged to consider their next steps. Forthcoming assemblies will feature visiting speakers from local employers Caterpillar, DHL and Next.

Year 12 students continue to be excellent role models for younger students. About 30 volunteers from Year 12 act as reading buddies for Year 7 students once a week. Others perform prefecting duties in classrooms for other year groups.



## Faculty Focus on...Humanities

**Business** students in Year 10 have been busy designing and producing their own backpacks. They have investigated the costings, revenue and profit involved and conducted their own market research, including identifying a target audience for their product.

Year 11 GCSE business students have been considering ethical behaviour and looking at business case studies of unethical behaviour and its repercussions.

International trading has been the focus for Year 13 students who have studied businesses that have successfully used this strategy to aid expansion.

In **psychology**, Year 10 students have so far explored memory processes and perception and have begun learning about the brain and development.

In Year 11, psychology students have been learning about language development and also non-verbal communication such as eye contact, posture etc. They have discovered how brain scans and neurological damage such as strokes can impact psychological functions. Students are looking forward to learning about mental health in their final topic.

The introduction of a KS4 electronic textbook has proved to be a useful revision tool. There will be a workshop on 31 March to offer students exam tips and advice in preparation for their exams. After school revision sessions run every Monday in H10.

Year 12 psychology students have enjoyed learning about childhood attachments, the causes and treatments for mental health disorders and exploring the topic of social influence. Seven psychology students will attend an enrichment day at the University of Lincoln to find out more about psychology at degree level.

In Year 13, students have learnt about human aggression, romantic relationships and schizophrenia. To prepare for their exams, they are creating revision resources and completing exam questions regularly. A revision workshop on 31 March will be led by Ali Abbas who has worked for the psychology exam board and has lots of advice to offer. Students have also been attending revision sessions every Wednesday (week 1) lunchtime in B13.



Geography students visited Swanage

In **philosophy and ethics**, Year 7 have been learning about religion, beliefs and values within the new E2L course. This has been taken up with enthusiasm and hopefully will inspire students to study this subject further in the future.

Year 10 students have been studying two major world religions, making connections between these beliefs and practices and evaluating their impact on the world today.

Year 11 students are enjoying getting to grips with ethical issues regarding life, war and peace, crime and punishment, wealth and poverty, and human rights and social justice.

Year 12 and 13 have been studying key philosophical and ethical topics from the Ancient Greeks up to the present day.

In **geography**, Year 11 and 13 students are busy preparing for their final exams. More than 40 students attended GCSE geography 'Aim High' revision sessions online to work with Mr Cornell (Head of Geography) on exam technique and case study knowledge.

Meanwhile, all 35 Year 13 A Level students completed their NEA (coursework) to a superb standard. This will be marked and moderated over the coming weeks.

The department is also planning a trip to Iceland in spring 2024 and a Year 10 GCSE fieldwork trip to Birmingham to give students experience of planning coursework in preparation for paper 3 of their GCSE exam.

*For history round-up, turn to back page...*

## Meet...Alice Clapton

*Alice Clapton is Year Team leader for Year 12.  
She's also a staff governor.*

**//** My main role is to support students with any pastoral needs and work alongside other members of staff, including form tutors, the raising standards leader, SENCO, Sixth Form team and teachers to ensure students reach their full potential during their time in the Sixth Form.



I also support students to make sure they meet our Sixth Form expectations in terms of attendance, behaviour, work ethic and dress code.

I help them to expand their employability and personal social skills, too.

There's no such thing as a typical day! In a single day, I might be supporting tutors during form time, attending pastoral meetings with students and picking up pastoral needs as they arise, and liaising with parents, as well as addressing any safeguarding queries.

What I love most about my job is that everyday is different.

I enjoy being able to share the Sixth Form journey with students – the good, bad, stressful, happy, sad and everything in between—and helping them to realise and reach their potential."

## Humanities (cont'd)

Year 7 students have now completed their second humanities unit on 'Awesome Africa.' Year 10 GCSE **history** students have settled in well and demonstrated a real interest and enthusiasm for the new topic of Russian History, Tsardom and Communism.

Year 13 history students have been working really hard on completing their final Non-Examined Assessments, which are worth 20% of their final grade. They will also shortly be visiting Bosworth Battlefield as part of their study of late Medieval History. Mr Clewett, who joined the history department this year, will be attending the Historical Associations' Annual Conference—where the keynote speaker is renowned historian Mary Beard—to gain new insight into curriculum innovation, diversity issues, literacy and Special Educational Needs.

## Meet...Jo Warriner and Caroline Harvey

*(...and if you contact Reception, there's a good chance that you will).*



*Jo and Caroline share Reception duties*

Caroline said: "My main responsibilities are meeting and greeting visitors to the school, answering calls and receiving and distributing post and parcels.

"However, there are many more aspects to the job which makes it varied and interesting. The day flies by!

"What I love most about the job is speaking to and getting to know all the people who come into the reception area."

Jo said: "We're the first person visitors meet when they arrive at school so we like to give a good first impression.

"As well as welcoming visitors, we ensure students are safe and approval has been given when they need to leave the site for appointments.

"I enjoy meeting new people, not just parents but other visitors to the school including student teachers, MAT employees, governors and people from a range of organisations."

*See the next Ashbeian for a round-up of Year 11 and Year 13 news...*