

The

Ashbyian

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Safety Visit Takes the Biscuit

Road safety was the focus for Year 7 students on a visit to Ashby-based firm, Pladis, where they saw the fleet of trucks used to deliver some of the nation's favourite snacks.

Students were given an introduction to the working of the trucks and their safety features, and watched a presentation about road safety.

The students have also been invited to come up with a design for a Pladis truck.

Stacy Cooper, Head of Year 7, said: "We were extremely lucky and grateful to have Pladis work with us again to educate our students about the importance of road safety, while having some fun around their big trucks."

Turn to page two for more news from Year 7.



London Calling...

London was the first stop on an exciting career journey for Year 12 students who attended the launch of an ambitious career programme that will give them access to masterclasses, workplace visits and internships.

The Sixth Formers went along to the Career Ready launch at London's Dominion Theatre before visiting the head office of SEGRO Plc on Regent Street.

The students have since met their industry mentors at Ashby School.

Apply Now to Mary Smith Scholarship Fund

—Closing Date is Friday 24 February

Applications are now open to all students for this year's Mary Smith Scholarship Fund.

Students and former students up to the age of 25 can apply now for funding to support their ambitions in areas like sport, music, training or education-related travel. The fund also helps to cover the costs of preparing to enter a trade or profession which may involve items like tools, text books or work wear.

Find more details and an application form, click [here](#).

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Year 11



Exam preparation and careers are key focuses for Year 11 students this term.

A programme of grade-boosting 'Aim Higher' sessions is now taking place after school in most subjects. Full details can be found on the website.

All Year 11 students have also been given their own hard copy of the Year 11 revision strategies booklet to help them plan their revision effectively.

Students can also access careers support by contacting careers adviser Miss Rayns who is in school three days a week.

Rewards

Rewards for upholding the school's 'three Rs' (Showing Respect, Accepting Responsibility and Building Resilience) continue to incentivise students to embody the positive values they need to succeed beyond school.

Rewards include vouchers for free items from the canteen, Golden Tickets (for a place in the Golden Ticket prize draw), form time breakfasts (pictured above) and lunch time pizza parties.

These values and other important messages are reinforced during weekly assemblies. These focus on issues such as exam preparation, uniform, attendance and the school's high expectations for students in these areas.

Support

For Year 11 students who want to discuss progress or concerns with a member of staff, dedicated student support drop-in sessions are held every break and lunchtime in the lecture theatre—for a total of 55 minutes a day.

Parents can find out more about their child's progress, and how to support them in the run-up to exams, at face-to-face parents' evenings on 2 and 9 March (more details to follow).

Year 7

Health and wellbeing will be at the centre of Year 7 students' latest venture and will culminate in a display for parents.

A new round of rewards breakfasts and pizza parties has been taking place this term for students who have shown improved attendance and picked up the most positive points.

A group of Year 7 students stepped up in a national challenge when they became engineers for a day. The students were asked to research, design and build solutions to real life engineering problems as part of the Faraday Challenge Day run by the Institution of Engineering and Technology's (IET), designed to encourage students to consider careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

All Year 7 students have now sat their progress tests. Results will be sent home soon.

Year 13

A calendar of revision and grade booster sessions and coursework drop-ins is now up and running for Year 13 students.

For those considering university, a student finance presentation by De Montfort University (relevant for students considering all universities) takes place on Thursday 16 February. There will also be an LEBC workshop on Tuesday 28 February for students looking at routes other than university.

Outside of the classroom, sports leaders organised a Year 13 charity dodgeball tournament (pictured below) and a fun after school sports session for Year 7. Year 13 students continue to play an active part in 'whole school' activities, including support and resources for Year 7 tutor groups every Thursday.

A group of Sixth Formers also visited Ivanhoe School to share their Sixth Form experience and to talk about the post-16 opportunities on offer.



Faculty Focus on...Maths



Steps to create 'a community of mathematicians' are being boosted by the school's relaunched maths prefecting programme. More than 20 Sixth Form maths students are spending time in Year 7 maths classes as prefects to offer additional support.

The Sixth Formers have been given training on how to be proactive in the classroom as well as some basic safeguarding training. Maths staff have also been trained on how to make best use of the prefects in their classes.

Head of Maths Sam Blatherwick said: "We want to establish a maths community where our students are advocates and lovers of maths and feel part of the faculty. Prefecting is very much at the heart of that."

Other measures include a new maths hub on the Sixth Form campus where staff are available to help students with maths concerns.

GCSEs

Exam preparation has begun for Year 11 students ahead of their GCSEs this summer. All students will be given a copy of the revision booklet written by the school's own maths faculty staff which signposts students to the most suitable resources on the Hegarty maths online platform (directing them to more practice questions if they are struggling and to harder questions if they are finding tasks easy).

Year 10 students are continuing their focus on

numbers and algebra before moving on to geometry and statistics next year.

Year 7

In Year 7, students are exploring online learning platform Sparx which tailors homework tasks to each student's individual ability level.

Year 7 students also use the school's 'pink card' system, working through the card together to solve maths problems in groups and improving their oracy skills at the same time by talking about maths.

Challenge Club

A new after school maths club will help students with their applications to study maths at top universities—and to prepare for maths competitions like the Olympiad. The club is currently running for Year 12 students but will be extended to Year 10 and 11.



Meet...Michelle Taylor and Matt Griggs

Michelle Taylor and Matt Griggs are Raising Standards Leaders (RSL) for Year 11.



Mrs Taylor and Mr Griggs use student performance data to identify where Year 11 students need extra support to help them reach their target grades.

This half term, they have invited 80 students to take part in additional study sessions twice a week during form time. These sessions cover the core subjects of English, maths and science. After February half term, another group of students will be invited to take part.

The pair also oversee the Year 11 'Aim Higher' programme which is designed to push students to achieve higher grades. All students are invited to attend the live and interactive online sessions which take place after school. Recordings of the sessions can be found on the school website so that students can revisit these.

Revision sessions for all students will take place in many subjects after February half term. Students are also given advice in form time on revision techniques and positive attitudes to revision, embracing the school's values of resilience and responsibility. Mentoring by Year 12 students is also helping Year 11s to boost their performance.

Mrs Taylor said: "Everything we are doing as Raising Standards Leaders will hopefully enable students to leave us with the exam results they need to progress with their education.

"Our job is to make sure they succeed."

Meet...Matt Benstead

Matt Benstead is Year 11 Year Team Leader. He shares responsibility for Year 11 with fellow Year Team Leader Ricky Wickwar and Assistant Year Team Leader John Cooper.

// My job is to identify any student in need of additional support, and to address any issues relating to students' attendance, behaviour and safeguarding.

I talk to students about any concerns and build a rapport with them so they know they can trust me. I also work closely with parents on any issues.



I signpost students to any support they might need, for problems such as mental health. This might mean a referral to the school's wellbeing team which can help with issues like self esteem, confidence or anger management.

I am also part of the team that offers dedicated pastoral support to Year 11 students every break and lunchtime in the lecture theatre. This is an opportunity for students to discuss anything that is bothering them with a member of staff one-to-one in a safe and quiet environment. From there, we can look at the possible solutions to any concerns they may have.

As a year team, we also oversee rewards for the year group to recognise those students who have observed the 'three Rs' - see page 2.

In this job, you have different challenges every single day. What I like about it is the knowledge that I can have a positive impact on the lives of these young people.

"As a result of one conversation with a student, they may change their opinion or even the course of their life. The job is very purposeful. I genuinely look forward to coming to work everyday."

Mr Benstead can be contacted by email at m-benstead@ashbyschool.org.uk

See the next Ashbeian for a round-up of Year 10 and Year 12 news...