



## Next Two Weeks

17th - 21st February	February Half Term
27th	Year 12 Parents' Evening (Online)

## Pastoral & Safeguarding Updates

**It's Not OK Campaign** - Our next It's Not OK Campaign on ONLINE SAFETY started on Tuesday, which was Safer Internet Day, and will run for 6 weeks, finishing on Friday March 28th. Online Safety is the practice of being aware of and protecting oneself from the risks of using the internet. The National Safer Internet Day focus is on "protecting yourself and others from scams online". Our School focus is on "the responsible use of mobile phones". Responsible phone use is using a phone in a safe and healthy way. If you are worried about anything to do with online safety or responsible phone use, then please remember that you can speak to:

- Your Form Tutor
- Your Year Team Leader
- Press the I Need To Talk button

**Equipment:** A reminder that students should be arriving to school equipped and ready to learn, please remind your child to ensure they have the appropriate equipment with them daily. A reminder of the equipment list can be found [here](#).

**Uniform:** We have noticed an increase in students wearing hooped earrings to school. In line with our school uniform policy, earrings should be studs only. We would appreciate your support in ensuring your child does not wear these to school. If they do, they will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day.

## NEW Parent/Carer Annual Survey

**24th February - 14th March 2025. – We Want to Hear from You!** - express your opinion on parent/carers engagement. [Read more about the survey here](#), and look out for a survey link from us soon.

## Other Key Dates

4th March	<b>Year 9 vaccinations</b> - The School Immunisation Service is coming to Ashby School to offer the teenage booster and MenACWY vaccines on 4th March. More information on the vaccines and how to register your consent can be found <a href="#">here</a> .
6th March	<b>World Book Day</b>
8th March	<b>International Women's Day</b>
10th - 14th March	<b>British Science Week</b>

## In Our Classrooms

**Oracy** - We continue to develop students' oracy skills within the classroom. We are encouraging our students to turn their informal 'messy' talk in discussions with peers, to more formal 'presentational talk'. To support this, teachers are providing scaffolding sentence starters to encourage students to build on ideas of others. Examples such as: "Building on what \_\_\_\_ said about \_\_\_\_, I think ....." "I agree with \_\_\_\_ because....." "I see why you might think that...but in my opinion..." Not only will this develop the purpose and impact of in-class discussion, it will also develop the way in which students can articulate their feelings and opinions outside of the classroom.

**What are we learning Spring Half Term 2** - read more on the links below.

[Year 7](#)

[Year 8](#)

[Year 9](#)

## Other Updates

Mr Williams, a beloved Boarding House master at Ashby, for many years, sadly passed away on 11th December 2024. We would like to acknowledge and remember his contribution to our boarding history and his commitment to supporting Ashby's students in the past. Our condolences go out to his family and friends. A copy of his obituary can be read [here](#).

# What's been happening...



**Ashby School Musical - Shrek Jr.** - In September we embarked on rehearsing our first KS3-5 musical – Shrek Jr. We were all familiar with the story of Shrek, a modern fairytale about the ogre who falls in love with his princess. However, the real narrative is about writing your own story, living your life to be true to who you are. We could not think of a more important message, as it aligns with our drive to instill student agency. From the 29th January to the 1st February, supported by an amazing group of staff, we had over 80 of our students involved in cast and crew. Their commitment, effort and enthusiasm has been unwavering and as individuals within our ensemble everyone thrived. Above all we produced a performance that achieved the success of previous productions, was a complete sell out, and received wonderful feedback. The Ashby School Musical legacy continues.

**F1 in Schools Trip** - The school entered three teams into this years F1 in schools competition. It was a regional final whereby teams across the county come together and race their miniature F1 car that they have designed and manufactured in school. The competition consists of several tasks– A pit display presentation, design and engineering presentation, a verbal presentation and the race itself which is head to head against a competitor school. One team entered the development class event on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> and two teams entered the entry class event on Friday 7<sup>th</sup>. All teams have worked massively hard in all areas in preparation for the event. A special mention to the all girls team who won an award for sponsorship and marketing in all classes.



**Year 9 Dragons Den Careers Event** - LEBC came into our school to offer a Dragon's Den activity morning, to challenge students and encourage them to think practically about the World of Work. Employers from a local design agency, Creative 62, gave the students a short introduction about enterprise skills, and set a challenge to create a new crisp snack. Students were given their target audience and had different considerations to achieve the brief. The employers were on hand to monitor students' ability to work in a successful team and nurture their ideas. Communication was key in this task. Each team was then asked to present their ideas to the Dragons, who could then decide upon a winner. Employers and staff were blown-away at the amazing ideas and also at the professional presentations that followed.



**In the Library** - this week we have "Blind Date with a Book" where students (and staff) can borrow a wrapped book and be surprised by which they get. Some have clues and some are completely blind. A great way to expand your reading experience and try something you might not usually choose. (And a great way to spend Valentines Day!) Each book has a "rate your date" review slip. All slips returned to the library by 28th Feb will be entered into a raffle and the winner will win a book and treats. We also have a Library of Love display where students can write down what they love about the library to be displayed on our "Wall of Love".





Following parent feedback we are excited to bring to all Ashby parents a Sixth Form feature in the Ashby Life which will be present in every other issue. We are looking forward to sharing updates, news and all the wonderful things our Post 16 students get up to whilst studying in our Sixth Form. I often think how incredibly lucky I am to be Head of School (Post 16) and to lead such a great team of staff and such amazing students. It is my belief that every student should be supported and given the opportunity to achieve their full potential and be the best that they can be. I am hoping that this newsletter will show you just how proud we are of our students and everything that they do! - Mrs Rundle Brown

## Post 18 Pathway Update

We are thrilled that 174 UCAS applications were successfully submitted before Christmas in advance of the January 29<sup>th</sup> 2025 deadline. With dedication and perseverance, students have achieved remarkable milestones in shaping their future for their life after Ashby Sixth Form. **Save the date:**

Looking ahead to next steps we have booked DMU to deliver a webinar about student finance. This will be online at 7pm on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. More details to follow. [Read more Here.](#)

## Career Ready

**Year 13 ASK Apprenticeship Workshops** - On Tuesday 14th January, we were fortunate in having ASK Apprenticeships come into our school to deliver Apprenticeship workshops for Year 13 students, which will help them to effectively search and apply for Higher and Degree Apprenticeships. Additionally, students were given an insight into the Mock Assessments and interview practices, which will allow them to be confident about every aspect of the application process. This opportunity was for those students who are not applying to University. The students were split into 2 groups, and attended their session in the Hub in the Library. A link to the programme can be found [here](#).

## Celebrating our Students

Last month one of our Year 12 Students, Edith Stephens, attended the international skating competition in Dresden. Her team were the only British team representing in the competition and they got a silver medal! Congratulations to them all.

## Wellbeing lead focus

For Children's Mental Health week, the wellbeing team planned and organised a weeks' worth of form-time PowerPoints to promote awareness about some of the aspects of wellbeing impacting children and young people to the whole of Ashby School. The PowerPoints involved discussions, videos, informative slides and planning activities. The aim was to engage, educate, reduce stigma and hopefully encourage more positivity into the lives of ourselves and others. They covered topics ranging from positive and every-day, to more serious and difficult subjects. [Parent Letter Here.](#)



## Enrichment Update

Year 12 students have started their Enrichment options that they selected at the start of the year. The purpose of Enrichment is to provide students opportunities to develop further skills and experiences alongside their studies. This will stand them in good stead with their next steps of university/apprenticeships/employment. Therefore, Enrichment is compulsory during Year 12, and students are asked to use the equivalent of two non-contact periods over a fortnight to do this. Read more about our enrichment options [here](#).

## Other Notices

**Sixth Form Applications** -We are accepting late applications to our Sixth Form. Students can apply to Ashby Sixth Form using the PS16 portal [here](#).