

Life at Ashby

17th December 2025



Next Three Weeks

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| 19 th December | End of Term – (Full Day) |
| 5 th January 2026 | INSET Day- closed to Students |
| 6 th January 2026 | School open to Students |
| 6 th January 2026 | Exams Certificate Collection 10am – 5pm from Sixth Form Reception. Students must bring photo ID. To collect for someone else, bring a signed permission form and ID. |

Other Key Dates & Events

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| 9 th January | Ashby Sixth Form Applicant Deadline |
| 13 th January | School Early Finish 2pm |
| 22 nd January | Year 9 Parents' Evening (Face to Face) |
| 28 th – 31 st January 2026 | Les Misérables – Tickets on Sale here . |

Events Updates

Visit our **new** 'Upcoming Events' page on our website [here](#).

Admissions consultation 2027 – 2028

PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS - In line with the Department for Education's statutory School Admissions Code (2021), the Trust, as the Admissions Authority, is required to consult on its academies' admission arrangements when changes are proposed and at least once every seven years. This consultation ensures we meet that statutory duty. We are inviting parents and key stakeholders to take part in a consultation on the proposed admissions arrangements for academies within the Trust for the 2027–2028 academic year.

Consultation Period: 15 December 2025 – 30 January 2026 (closing at 5:00 pm). During this time, you are welcome to share your views and any concerns regarding the proposed arrangements.

In Our Classrooms



Rotations in D&T: Information is also available on Arbor.

Order of rotations: D&T, Engineering, Food, Drama or Visual Communication (Year 9 only), Textiles

Dates we change: 5/1/26, 9/3/26, 18/5/26

Careers

Careers Bulletin – Please read [here](#).

Vacancies

Admin Assistant – Closing Date 5th January 2026

View the draft arrangements and how to reply:

The letter to interested parties which explains the various options for submitting your response is available [here](#) and the draft 2027–2028 admissions arrangements are available [here](#).

Sports Events

Year 8 & 9 Girl's Football - On Tuesday 2nd December, our Year 8 & 9 Girls Football Team attended the Central venue league, hosted at Ivanhoe. We won 4/5 games, losing only to the winners, Castle Rock. They were 11-a-side games, and the first time the year 8 and 9s have played in a team together. Ashby Player of the tournament was Rosie Booth, who was strong and controlled in our defensive line, making multiple clearances and stopping opposition from playing through. Special mentions also to Eva S for her speed and power running up the line, Alarna for her resilience upfront and Ez for her communication on and off the pitch.



WINNING Year 7 Football Team – On Tuesday 2nd December, CVL hosted at Ivanhoe. We won all of our games, with some scores going into double figures (17-0). A special mention to Miss Goodwin who coached the team and rotated players fairly throughout each game. Player of the match was Kiera, for playing well both on and off the ball. A special mention to Lucy, Erin and Macy for demonstrating the 3 Rs consistently over the course of the day. We beat Castle Rock, Ivanhoe, Ibstock and Newbridge to win the tournament and represent NWL at the next round. Information for the next match will come in the New year.

KS4 Girls Football Tournament - Match 1 was against Castle Rock, where unfortunately we lost (3-0). We had a strong left side with excellent pace in the final third. Unfortunately, we couldn't get a goal against a strong Castle Rock. A special mention to Evie P, our rugby player converting to Football for the day and holding her own in the centre.

Match 2 was against Newbridge where we lost (4 - 0). We made a strong start to the second game with Ashby attackers taking multiple shots on target and the defence working hard at the back, making saving sliding tackles and communicating well. Lots of changing of positions to meet the demands of the game but we did well, as a team coming together for the first time. Year 10 player of the match was Millie S and year 11 player of the match was Nancy M.



Sports Events

Year 9 Netball - The year 9 Netball team took on Lutterworth College in the quarter finals of the SSP netball competition on Wednesday 10th December.

Having lost in the final last year the girls were desperate to get there again this year and go one step further. After some fantastic shooting and excellent defending the team beat Lutterworth 20-14.

Well done to all involved and good luck in the semi-final. Players of the match were: Emily W and Emilia C.

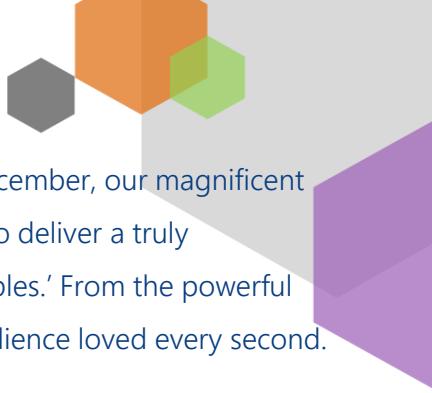


U16 Rugby – Our U16 team beat Leicester Grammar 33 - 21. A fantastic team performance in difficult conditions. The team progress to the semi- finals.

Thank you to Ashby RFC for allowing us to use their pitches.



What's been happening...



Do You Hear the People Sing – A Celebration of Les Misérables - On Monday 1st December, our magnificent cast of our upcoming musical Les Misérables, were joined by Ashby Youth Theatre to deliver a truly unforgettable concert 'Do You Hear the People Sing? – A Celebration of Les Misérables.' From the powerful vocals, to the moving dramatic moments, every performer gave their all and the audience loved every second. Watch our mini video clip of the concert on our Instagram [here](#).

Thank you to all of our performers, everyone that worked so hard to make it happen and to all of the audience for watching. The concert has us even more excited than ever for show week, when our full production of Les Misérables takes to the stage (28th-31st January).

If the concert was anything to go by, this is a performance you won't want to miss! We can't wait to welcome you back and bring the full story to life. **Tickets are on sale now – secure yours today [here](#).**



Applied Science Visitor - This week saw the Applied Science course have the privilege of a guest speaker attend to enhance the students' knowledge of ECGs and the nervous system.

Duncan Stubbs, Chief Cardiac Physiologist at University Hospitals Leicester gave fantastic insight into the varied and complex world of Cardiac Physiology. The students received practical advice about routes into the career and expert advice about how to recognise abnormal ECGs, which will be invaluable to the students' exam performance.



What's been happening...



DT Taster Session - Mrs Sheldon and the DT team organised a GCSE Design & Technology taster session for Year 9 students. Each student selected one DT area they wanted to explore further ahead of choosing their GCSE options next year. The event was a great success, giving students a real insight into the range of skills and creative opportunities within the subject. In Engineering, students designed and constructed foil boats, testing how much weight they could hold before sinking. In Resistant Materials, students learned how to make a wooden joint. Food Technology students prepared dough balls, and in Textiles, students created fashion illustrations using natural objects for inspiration.

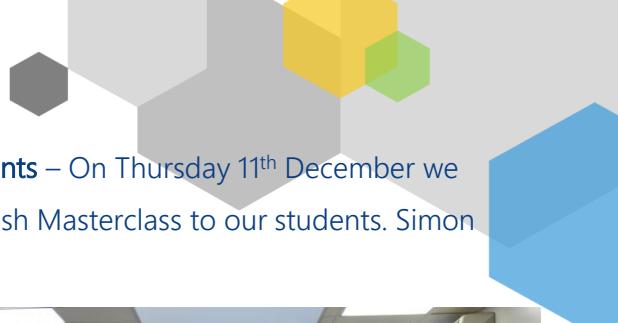
Student feedback was extremely positive, Phoebe said that the session was "very fun" and that seeing the variety of work produced in Textiles has inspired her to potentially choose the subject at GCSE. Erin shared that she enjoyed making the boat in Engineering and is now excited to choose Engineering as her GCSE option. Well done Year 9, we cannot wait to have you all for GCSE next year!



Christmas markets trip for KS4 language students (France, Germany and Belgium) – Our trip took place on the 3rd to the 5th of December. Day 1 was in Lille in France and included shopping and a trip to a French restaurant, day 2 was in Cologne in Germany and included a tour of the Lindt chocolate museum and experiencing the famous Christmas markets including the one in front of the gothic cathedral. Day 3 was in Bruges in Belgium where students visited chocolate shops and ate waffles. We all had an amazing time, and many students practised their French and German skills!



What's been happening...



Fish Masterclasses for Year 11 and Sixth Form Food Technology Students – On Thursday 11th December we welcomed Simon Grey from Fish in Schools Hero Initiative to give a Fish Masterclass to our students. Simon demonstrated and the students then prepared and cooked a fish.



We also welcomed representatives from our LiFE Mat Trust secondary schools last week who also took part in the Fish Heroes Course.

Year 8 Pop Art

This term in Art our Year 8 students have been studying one of Pop Art's most influential artists, Roy Lichtenstein, as part of their art appreciation module. Students have been inspired to create artwork but also have had the opportunity to practice their creative writing skills. Students were introduced to "Helpless" 1963, a dramatic painting of a girl crying, with an intriguing thought bubble. Students were asked to consider, who this girl was, how old she was, where she was and what her situation might be? It has been incredible to hear all of their creative writing ideas and the stories they constructed from just a painting! It was so hard to select just a couple of examples, as so many students wrote so brilliantly, but we felt that both Connie Stokes and Hugo Woodford deserved a shout out for their brilliant paragraphs!



Christmas Concert & Senior Citizen Carol Concert

On Monday 15th December we held our annual Christmas Concert, a celebration of Music and the Festive Season, and on Tuesday 16th we held our annual Senior Citizens Concert. The concerts featured performances from our Jazz Band, Orchestra, Choir, our Sixth Form Choir and our Year 13 Band. A big thank you to all of our students and staff for their outstanding musicianship, commitment and enthusiasm in making these concerts possible. We would like to thank everyone that came to watch, and we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Poetry Slam Christmas Poems



Christmas Tree Poem by Matilda

A poem about a Christmas Tree.
Twisting and twirling full of green,
The children waiting for presents , they're all keen.
A lavish dinner set on the table.
The autumnal leaves are no longer maple.

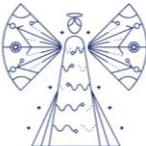


Twinkling light decorated with jewels
Shoveling the thick snow with all sorts of tools.
Wreaths on doors invites carolers to sing.
At the time where we worship the king.

Mince piece set by the fire,
Scrooge hates festivities, he's a liar.
Black inky skies dotted with stars.
Comforting mincemeat set out in jars.

Streets full of happy faces
Trees decorated with ribbons and laces.
Scarfs, gloves and woolly hats.
Everyone is excited, even the cats.

Christmas Angel by E Hunt



At the top of the tree she quietly stands,
An angel of light with outstretched hands.
Her wings hold the hush of a midnight sky,
Where prayers once whispered still linger nearby.

She watches the room in a soft, steady glow,
Over laughter below and embers slow.
Tinsel and stories, both tangled and bright,
Spin through the hours of Christmas night.

She's seen every year come gentle and fast,
Each hope newly born, each sorrow long past.
Yet still she stays, serene and aware,
A promise of peace resting high in the air.

And when the lights dim, the world feels small,
The angel remains—guarding us all



Christmas Poem by a Year 10 Student

Snow hushes the streets, the year takes a breath,
Windows glow warm against winter's soft death.
Calendars loosen their grip on our days,
Time drifts slower in tinsel and haze.

Mornings arrive with the scent of pine,
Lights blink awake like stars in a line.
Mugs cradle cocoa, hands thaw and stay,
While worries politely step out of the way.

Laughter spills easy, old stories return,
Pages of memory quietly turn.
In pauses between the carols and cheer,
We find what we missed the rest of the year.

Christmas holidays—more than a date,
They're moments of rest we didn't know we'd wait for,
A gentle reminder, wrapped simple and true:
The best gift of all is time shared with you.



Life at Ashby Sixth Form



Year 12 St Edmund Hall Visit

Following on from the Oxbridge outreach workshop in October, the Year 12 students that attended were invited to visit St Edmund Hall. 15 students visited on the 8th December. Included in the visit was advice and information on the application process, a Q&A session with student ambassadors, and the great opportunity to take part in another critical thinking exercise to give them practice on the interview style the colleges use. Students were treated to a delicious lunch and then had a tour of some of the key areas of St Edmund Hall including the library and chapel. Following a final workshop on student finance we headed back to Ashby.

We got some great feedback on the student's engagement in the tasks, and they look forward to continuing to work with Ashby Sixth Form in the future.



Christmas

Sixth Form is starting to feel very festive with our huge Christmas Tree going up in the dining room last week. On the 11th December we also had Christmas jumper day, a delicious Christmas dinner, and an after-school Christmas quiz arranged by the student leadership team.

We will be squeezing even more into the last week with an InterCREW dodgeball competition arranged by our prefects, Sixth Formers helping with the Senior Citizen Concert and Year 7 Christmas disco, a candy cane exchange fundraiser, and delivering Christmas cards to the local community.

Merry Christmas to all our Sixth Formers we hope you have a restful and enjoyable break, and we will see you in 2026!

