

September 2026

Ref. Y11 2026-2027

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to Year 11 at Ashby School! As your son/daughter settles into the Autumn Term, we would like to draw your attention to some useful information for the year ahead. As you are aware, each student is part of a CREW, which is led their CREW Leader – please contact your son/daughter's CREW Leader with any concerns or queries. In addition, your son/daughter is also supported via their Year Team Leader, Mrs Cooper.

Assessments

During the week commencing 26th October, all y11 students will undertake trial exams out of class for English, Maths, Science and some EBACC subjects and in-class for other subjects. There will be a full suite of out of class trial exams starting the week commencing 1st February 2027 (exact dates to be confirmed in due course.) These give students the opportunity to practise exam skills in a formal setting ahead of the actual GCSE exams, which are scheduled to start around 7th May 2027 (the summer timetable with exact dates will be shared in due course). Please note that some practical exams may take place before the summer exam timetable begins in May 2027.

Empowered to Succeed Parents' Launch

The initial launch of our Empowered to Succeed programme (GCSE preparation programme) took place in June of y10. The recording of this and resources can be found on the website: [GCSE Revision - Ashby School](#)
We will be hosting an additional information evening on 7th January 2027 to highlight the revision programme for the whole suite of GCSE subjects. The evening will also cover information regarding GCSE revision strategies for your son/daughter ahead of their GCSE exams, revision schedules, tutoring and activities that will be undertaken as part of the students' CREW programme.

Parents' Evenings

A subject-specific face-to-face parents' evening will take place on 3rd December, where following reports, this will offer an effective opportunity to discuss your son/daughter's progress in each subject area. Please contact your son/daughter's CREW Leader throughout the year if you have any other questions regarding your child's time in school.

Reports

There will be two reports this academic year regarding your son/daughter's progress. The first in the Autumn Term and the second in the Spring Term. Both of these will outline your son/daughter's Trial Exam grades in each subject, Working at Grades' (WAGs) and demonstration of the '3Rs'. More details about the information will be provided in each report.

Communications

Our main method of communication will be our fortnightly Life at Ashby Newsletter sent via email. This includes important updates and letters you need to be aware of. In addition, most communication will be via the In-app notifications via the Arbor App. You may still receive some emails where there are personalised communications regarding your child, their behaviour, attendance or specific trip information for trips they are attending.

If you don't already have the App, this is available to download free on all smartphones. More information regarding the App for both parents and students can be found here: <https://ashbyschool.org.uk/arbor>

Rewards

At Ashby School, we are committed to creating a learning environment where every student is supported to achieve their full potential. We believe that every young person has the right to feel safe, valued, and confident both in the classroom and throughout the school community. A strong sense of belonging and wellbeing underpins academic success, personal development, and positive relationships.

Central to our approach is a positive school ethos, which promotes and rewards the values we believe are essential for success in school and in life: showing respect, accepting responsibility, and building resilience. These three core values are woven into every aspect of school life—from how we learn in lessons, to how we interact with each other, to how we contribute to the wider school community.

To recognise and celebrate students who consistently demonstrate these values, we operate a positive point reward ladder. Students collect points for their positive actions and attitudes, and at set points, earn exciting rewards. These include our 'anything is possible' pencil, "skip the queue" passes, a treat from the canteen, lapel badges, cinema afternoons and extra-curricular activities. This not only motivates students but also builds a sense of pride in personal progress and character development.

In addition, we award Golden Tickets to students who go above and beyond in displaying our values. These special recognitions are for those who stand out—those who lead by example, support others, or overcome personal challenges with integrity and determination. Every half term, Golden Ticket winners from each year group are invited to a celebratory pizza party, where their efforts are recognised and appreciated.

By celebrating positive behaviour, character, and effort in this way, Ashby School fosters a culture where students are empowered to grow, lead, and thrive—both now and in the future.

Behaviour

To ensure you receive timely and useful information regarding any B2 or B3 (removal from lesson) behaviour points for your son/daughter the Arbor App will display further details of the B2 or B3 (removal from lesson) incident.

You will receive an email to inform you that the behaviour point has been added at which point you can access further details via the App. Whilst it is not necessary to include narrative for positive behaviour points or B1s, teachers may still choose to share additional information with you via the App.

If you don't already have the App, this is available to download free on all smartphones. More information regarding the App for both parents and students can be found here: <https://ashbyschool.org.uk/arbor>

Homework

Homework will be recorded by teachers via Arbor, which will be visible immediately on the App including deadlines. Teachers will monitor submission to encourage completion. Students have the ability to 'submit' the completion of work once completed ahead of deadlines on the Arbor App. Your support in encouraging your son/daughter to complete this will be appreciated. If you have any queries regarding the information, please contact the teachers who have set the homework directly.

Equipment

We advise all students to arrive daily with the required equipment for the day ahead. A reminder of the equipment each student should bring can be found here: <https://www.ashbyschool.org.uk/uniform>.

Planners

All students in Y7 to 11 have been issued with a planner for this academic year and must bring this to school daily. The planner contains lots of useful information for students including a copy of their timetable, their attendance tracking and a weekly diary for homework and important notices. The planner will also be used as part of our CREW activities and PD lessons as we work with students to develop great learning habits. We ask that parents support us in engaging in the use of the planner and to sign it weekly in the parents' comment box to confirm that you have read and reviewed these pages.

Extra-Curricular

There are several extra-curricular activities available to your son/daughter in a range of areas, from drama to sport, languages to science. Full details of our extra-curricular activities can be found on our school website.

If you have any queries either about the information shared in this letter or additional queries, please contact your son/daughter's CREW Leader in the first instance or their Year Team Leader – Mrs Cooper.

We look forward to working with you this academic year.

Yours faithfully,

Miss F McCafferty
Assistant Headteacher