

September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to Year 7 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 Mr Benstead.

Transition

Students will engage in a workshop this Friday, 4th September, as part of their transition to Ashby School to develop these skills, as well as engage in meaningful transition activities with their CREW Leader where they can put them into practice.

Talk the Talk is a fantastic opportunity to build the skills of Oracy. The skill of Oracy is learning *to* talk, using frameworks and techniques to help students build confidence and presentation skills. This enables them to learn *through* talk, where they can engage in debate, have purposeful discussion, as well as present their own points of view.

Curriculum

We will share what your son/daughter is learning in their subject areas each half term via our newsletter which is published fortnightly – 'Life at Ashby'.

Assessments

There will be initial online baseline testing taking place for your son/daughter in some subject areas including a reading test to identify their reading age and to determine if there are any areas of support required. The information from these will aid teachers in supporting students to make appropriate progress throughout the year. There will be additional assessments throughout the year to monitor progress which will be communicated in due course.

Parents' Evenings

There will be an initial online 'settling in' evening on 15th October, which will provide an opportunity for you to discuss and review your son/daughter's initial few weeks at Ashby School with their CREW leader and identify any areas to focus on throughout this academic year.

A subject specific online parents' evening will take place on 29th April, which 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

In Autumn Term, we will report how your son/daughter has settled into Ashby School, ahead of the online 'settling in' evening. This will show how your son/daughter has demonstrated our '3Rs' of respect, responsibility and resilience.

In the Summer Term, you will receive a report outlining your son/daughter's Target Academic Profile (TAP), Current Academic Profile (CAP) based on progress in subject areas as well as their attitude to learning which can be seen through their demonstration of the '3Rs'. More details about the information will be provided in the 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.

Homework

Homework will be recorded by teachers via Arbor, which will be visible immediately on the App including deadlines. Students have the ability to 'submit' the completion of work once completed ahead of deadlines on the Arbor App. Teachers will monitor submission to encourage completion. 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 is a wealth of 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 – Mr Benstead.

We look forward to working with you this academic year.

Yours faithfully,

Miss F McCafferty
Assistant Headteacher