



Next Two Weeks

5th October	KS3 and KS4 Flu Vaccinations You should receive communication directly from the NHS regarding consents. More information can be found on this letter .
10th October	World Mental Health Day 
15th October	Year 7 CREW Settling Evening – Please read our letter here for details of how to book your appointment.

Pastoral & Safeguarding Updates

Attendance – Punctuality - students should be on the school site by 8.35am and in their CREW rooms at 8.40am please. If students arrive after this time, they will receive a break time detention the same day, unless we have been given prior notification from parents as to why they will be late.

Medication in School – Please read our letter about medication in School [here](#).

Visitors – A reminder that visitors to the school without an appointment cannot be accommodated. Please speak to Reception to arrange the next steps in answering your query.

Empowered to Succeed Revision

Please find our latest Empowered to Succeed Revision Newsletter here: [28th September 2026](#)

Other Key Dates & Events

19th – 23rd October	Half Term
Saturday 31st October	Sixth Form Open Day 12:30-3:00pm
4th November	Sixth Form Subject Open Evening 5-7pm
Thursday 12th November	School Early Finish (2pm)
Saturday 14th November 2026	Sixth Form Open Day 10:00-12:30pm
16th November 2026	Odd Socks Day (marking start of Anti-Bullying Week)
19th November	Year 13 Parents' Evening (Face to Face)
20th November 2026	Children in Need – Non-Uniform Day
27th November	Disaggregated Day – School closed to students
3rd December 2026	Year 11 Parents' Evening (Face to Face)

27-28 Term Dates

Our 27-28 Term dates are available to [view on our website](#), along with our current 26-27 Term Dates and Early Finish Dates.

Careers

Please find our latest Careers Bulletin for September [here](#).

You can also view the [Upcoming Sixth Form Open Days](#).

Reading Updates



An update about Reading - We are currently reviewing our home reading provision and **will no longer be using Sparx Reader for reading homework.**

We will be moving to an exciting new reading platform soon, so please look out for further details over the coming weeks.

In the meantime, please **continue to encourage students to read regularly at home**—developing a love for reading is incredibly beneficial for both their learning and well-being.

Please note that dedicated reading sessions will continue as normal during CREW time, and students are reminded that carrying a **reading book in their bag every day** remains an essential part of their daily school equipment.

Remember to make full use of our wonderful school library, which is fully stocked with a fantastic range of books ready for students to explore and borrow.

Staff Compliments

At Ashby School, we are proud of our dedicated staff and always welcome positive feedback from parents and carers. If you would like to share a compliment or pass on your thanks, please email: compliments@ashbyschool.org.uk.

Exam Updates

EXAM CERTIFICATE COLLECTION DATES:

Collections **10am – 5pm**, for students who have now left Ashby School and Ashby Sixth Form.

Wednesday 16th December 2026

Thursday 7th January 2027

Sixth Form reception, School House, Leicester Road LE65 1DH.

Students must bring photo ID.

IF COLLECTING ON BEHALF OF SOMEONE ELSE, YOU MUST BRING A SIGNED CANDIDATE PERMISSION FORM AND PHOTO ID.

Safeguarding Updates

Rail Safety – Over the next

few weeks all students will watch a Rail Safety aware-

ness video – After just one day of sharing we had already been awarded a Bronze certificate, and now have the Silver as well! We will now be looking to achieve Gold! We would like to share this Parent Postcard with you and the Rail Safe Friendly Programme below:





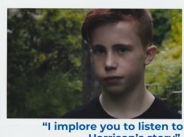
Discover our FREE rail safety videos and keep your children safe by visiting railsafefriendly.com

THE RAIL SAFE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

The Rail Safe Friendly programme has educated over **3 million young people** on the dangers of the railways.



SCAN ME



"I implore you to listen to Harrison's story"
Simon Frazer, Principal, Gullsbrough Academy



DON'T LET YOUR CHILDREN BECOME THE NEXT STATISTIC

According to the **ORR Report** April 23 – March 24 on UK railways:

12 people died in accidents while trespassing	58% were struck by a train or train	42% were electrocuted
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According to **Rail Safe Friendly**, July 25:

120+ companies support the programme	11,000+ schools in the UK have engaged	20,000+ UK schools still need to be reached
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Wellbeing Updates



World Mental Health Day is on 10th October.

The theme for 2026 is "Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change" (World Federation for Mental Health).

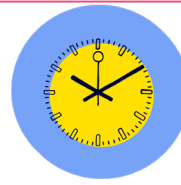
Support starts with being heard

Everyone's mental health journey is different. Whether someone is facing challenges themselves, seeking support for the first time, or supporting a loved one, everyone deserves to feel heard, understood and supported. Yet everyday pressures, life circumstances, stigma and systemic barriers can make it harder for people to reach out, seek support, and get the help they need.

Mental health affects us all, and taking the time to listen is one of the most powerful ways we can all show support and understanding. That's why we're encouraging you to create space for honest conversations where people feel genuinely heard. Because being heard can change lives. This World Mental Health Day, help others feel heard. By sharing your experience, starting a conversation, or taking the time to listen, you could help someone feel understood, less alone, and more confident reaching out for support.

How to help someone feel heard

A few simple things can make a mental health conversation feel safer and more supportive. From choosing the right setting to listening without judgement, these tips can help someone feel understood, respected and in control.



Choose the right time and space
Make sure you can give them your full attention, somewhere they feel comfortable and free from distractions.



Listen to understand
Let them share as much or as little as they want, without judgement.

Show you're listening by reflecting back what they've said and checking your understanding.



Ask open questions
Give them space to explore their thoughts and feelings. Try not to rush in with lots of questions or solutions.



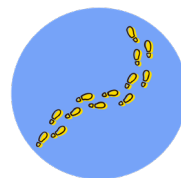
Validate their experience
Avoid assumptions or comparisons. You don't need to

have the answers. Simply acknowledging how they're feeling can help them feel heard and understood.



Show empathy
Focus on understanding their perspective rather than trying to

make things better straight away. Sometimes feeling listened to is more powerful than advice.



Help them find their own next steps.

Listen first, then encourage them to think about what might help. Questions like "What do you think would help right now?" can help them feel in control.

What's been happening...



Food Preparation and Nutrition

Our Year 10 students have been making Bread Plaits and Focaccia in their food preparation and nutrition class.

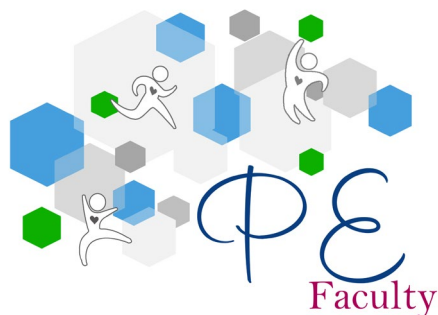


Food Preparation and Nutrition

Our Year 12 students have been completing a Swiss Roll Presentation challenge, making Focaccia and Pate and Floating Islands.



What's been happening...



Year 9 Netball - Our Year 9 netball girls have made a fantastic start to the season, winning all four of their matches and securing their place in the County Cup.

The girls were outstanding throughout the afternoon, showing excellent teamwork, determination and skill to secure four wins!

Results:

- Ashby 11-0 Newbridge
- Ashby 7-1 Ivanhoe A
- Ashby 8-0 Ivanhoe B
- Ashby 10-0 Ibstock

The girls scored an impressive 36 goals across the four games, conceding just one goal. A fantastic achievement and a great reflection of their hard work and commitment.

Well done to all the girls — we look forward to seeing how far they can go in the county cup.



Year 9 Football – Our Year 9 football team produced a great set of performances this week, going unbeaten across all four games and securing qualification for the County Cup.

Ashby started the tournament against Newbridge School and got off to the perfect start with a 1-0 win. In a close game, Blake produced the moment of quality with an outstanding free-kick to give Ashby all three points. Next up was Ivanhoe in a game between two very evenly matched teams. Neither side could find the breakthrough and the game finished 0-0, with Felix making two excellent saves to keep Ashby level.

The third game against Castle Rock saw Ashby go 1-0 down, but the team responded really well. Two goals in the space of five minutes from Blake and Mason completely turned the game around and gave Ashby a 2-1 victory. In the final game against Ibstock, Ashby put in their best attacking performance of the tournament, winning 3-0 thanks to goals from Tyler, Aadav and Mason.

We finished the tournament with three wins and a draw, scoring six goals and conceding just one, meaning we qualified for the county cup. Well done to all the boys for their hard work.





Ison, Prance & Woodcock Awards 2026

Congratulations to former 6th Form students Hazel Jeffery, Harmony Bath and Harry Drew on receiving £200 each for their outstanding achievements at A level.

Ashby de La Zouch Endowed Schools Foundation was pleased to present Hazel, Harmony and Harry with £200 each for their outstanding performance in their A levels.



Hazel received the Prance Award, which recognises a student who has achieved high grades and is progressing to Cambridge. Hazel will be studying Natural Sciences. This money comes from a fund called the Prance Exhibition that was set up in 1942 to help support students who had achieved excellent results and has secured a place at either Oxford or Cambridge University.

Harmony received the Ison Award she will also be studying Natural Sciences at Cambridge. This was formally called the Ison Exhibition and was set up in 1931 and, similarly to Prance, recognises amazing achievements and should be used to help with their future studies.

Harry was awarded the Woodcock Prize and will be moving up to Durham to start his degree in Law. This prize arises from a fund set up in 1960. It was originally called the "Thomas Arnold Woodcock Prize for Greek prose". Although over the years its scope has broadened to student excellence. Its requirement for "for a student who is outstanding in excellence or ability" still stands and Harry certainly fulfilled this.

The Foundation Chair, Charlotte Sutton and Vice Chair Margaret Hawksworth, were pleased to meet the three students and recognised all the arduous work Hazel, Harmony and Harry had undertaken to secure their excellent results; they talked to them about an anticipated enjoyable first term at university. All three students were pleasantly surprised by the value of the cheques they received.

The Foundation, later in the year, also supports students in the Annual Awards evening following the school's themes of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.



Events & Community Information...



School Pantry.

We are very lucky to be supported by MCKS charitable foundation which enables us to provide support to staff and students in the form of food and toiletries supplies.

Did you know that you can access our school pantry? If you or someone you know could benefit from help with food costs, please email foodpantry@ashbyschool.org.uk

All pantry visits are discreet and confidential.



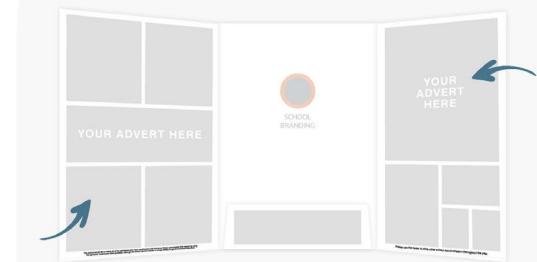
CALLING ALL PARENTS!

We are currently compiling a presentation folder for all of our parents. Inside the folder there will be space to include

ADVERTISEMENTS FOR LOCAL COMPANIES AND BUSINESSES

3,000 FOLDERS WILL BE PRODUCED

and distributed to the parents of all our pupils, teachers and any others who request information about the school. Advertising revenue will generate income to boost school funds.



If you wish to take this opportunity to support the school and promote your business, act now to reserve your spot - *space is limited*. Please register your interest with FSE on 01933 303520.



PARENTS/CARERS SESSIONS

LIVE SAFE

KEEPING YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE FROM KNIFE-RELATED HARM

THIS VIRTUAL WORKSHOP PROVIDES PARENTS AND CARERS WITH AWARENESS AROUND KNIFE-RELATED HARM AND HOW TO KEEP CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE.

FREE ONLINE SESSION DATES

WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2026	6:30PM - 8:00PM
THURSDAY 21ST JANUARY 2027	6:30PM - 8:00PM
THURSDAY 18TH MARCH 2027	6:30PM - 8:00PM

THE WORKSHOPS ARE DELIVERED BY THE VIOLENCE REDUCTION NETWORK AND COVERS THE BELOW TOPICS:

UNDERSTANDING KNIFE-RELATED HARM IN LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE, AND RUTLAND	APPROACHES TO PREVENTING KNIFE-RELATED HARM	THE REASONS WHY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE VULNERABLE TO KNIFE-RELATED HARM
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HOW PARENTS AND CARERS CAN KEEP THEIR CHILDREN SAFE

THE IMPACT OF KNIFE-RELATED HARM ON INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS DURING THE WORKSHOP AS WELL AS HELP AND SUPPORT GUIDANCE.

PARENTS AND CARERS CAN REMAIN ANONYMOUS IF PREFERRED. THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT TO USE YOUR CAMERAS OR MICROPHONES UNLESS DESIRED.

THE VRN ALSO DELIVERS BESPOKE, FACE-TO-FACE WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS. IF YOUR ORGANISATION WOULD LIKE TO HOST A SESSION FOR YOUR PARENTS/CARERS, PLEASE CONTACT VRN@LEICS.PCC.PNN.GOV.UK TO ARRANGE.



SIGN UP HERE



BOYS TALK. LET'S MAKE IT EASIER.

You told us what helps - and what gets in the way.

WHAT GETS IN THE WAY?



69%
FEAR OF JUDGEMENT

69% worry about what others might think or fear being judged.



85%
CONFIDENTIALITY MATTERS MOST

85% said it is very important that support is kept private.



62%
TALKING FEELS AWKWARD

62% said talking about feelings feels awkward or uncomfortable.



38%
DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO

38% said they don't know who to talk to or what support is available.

Base: 13 survey responses from young people in Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland alongside engagement group feedback.

REAL QUOTES FROM YOUNG PEOPLE



WHAT WOULD HELP?



SPORT & ACTIVITY-BASED SUPPORT
Side-by-side conversations feel easier.



GAMING & SHARED INTERESTS
Use what we enjoy to build trust.



ANONYMOUS ONLINE OPTIONS
Support without everyone knowing.



ONE-TO-ONE CONVERSATIONS
Someone to talk to privately when we need it.



MALE & RELATABLE WORKERS
People who get us and understand.



CLEAR CONFIDENTIALITY
Know that what we say stays between us.



THE BIG FINDING

Boys are not lacking awareness of mental health.

The biggest barriers are:

- ✓ Fear of judgement
- ✓ Worries about confidentiality
- ✓ Masculinity expectations
- ✓ Not knowing how support works
- ✓ Being seen accessing support

**IT'S OKAY TO TALK.
IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP.**

SUPPORT IS FOR EVERYONE.

TALK TO SOMEONE YOU TRUST AT SCHOOL OR COLLEGE

VISIT TEEN HEALTH FOR SUPPORT AND INFO

FIND OUT MORE AT www.teenhealth.org.uk