

T-Bulletin

The school's Temporary Bulletin

17 July 2020



1. End of Term Message from Mr Shapland

Today brings to a close the most extraordinary of school years. I'm sure, back in September, none of us could have even begun to imagine the events and challenges we have had to face over the past 5 months. However, I cannot stress enough how proud I am of our whole school community for the manner in which everyone has risen to the challenge and I want to say the biggest thank you possible to everyone for the part they have played in keeping Ashlyns going; whether you are a member of staff, a governor, a student or a parent - we just couldn't have achieved all we have without your support and commitment.

It's hard not to look back and take stock of what we have missed this year (summer concert, prom, awards night, exams, school production, sports events) but I'd like to celebrate what's been gained too. The last term has been busy and memorable nonetheless in very different ways and I have been so impressed with our students' resilience, their approach (and parents' support) for successful remote learning, their help in the community and their sense of house spirit and competition - despite not being in school. John F Kennedy once said. *"When written in Chinese, the word 'crisis' is composed of two characters - one represents danger and one represents opportunity."* Whilst we know this crisis is far from over, we owe it to our children to be optimistic and embrace opportunity on their behalf.

Before we look ahead to next year, as well as thanking all our parents and carers for their support, I'd like to take this opportunity to say a few special 'thank yous.'

Firstly, to the ASA - this time last year we were thanking them for the Ashlyns Festival! That seems a lifetime away, but over the course of the year they have been an integral part of our school, putting on social events and raising significant funds as ever. Even during lockdown, they've still provided the school with support; we hope you enjoy the films produced by them with memories of last year's Festival (in their newsletter.)

Secondly, to the Governors for their strategic direction, counsel and support over the last year and especially the last few months.

Thirdly, to the amazing staff I am privileged to lead. Their innovation, creativity and commitment to the children in our care is exceptional and I could think of no finer team to have worked with in this period.

And, of course, to our students - for just being themselves: the young people we are so very proud of. We can't wait to have them back.

This week also brings further good news from past students and I am delighted to report that our alumni are once again celebrating achievements. Sam Beck has received a 1st in English from Birmingham, Daisy Rayner has been awarded a 1st in Forensic Science from Kent and Maisie Wiggs achieved a 1st in Marketing from Lincoln. Well done to them all!

As always, as we approach the end of any school year we have mixed emotions, as friends and colleagues move on to new challenges and opportunities. This year we say farewell to Mrs Annis (Computer Science), Mrs Baykara (RS), Mrs Bowles (Product Design), Mrs Brown (maternity cover Science), Miss Cochran (Spanish), Mrs Dixon (Science), Miss Greig (Sports Development Officer), Mr Layzell (IT Technician) and Mr O'Connor (English and Film Studies). We also say goodbye to Mrs Martin, Assistant Headteacher, who has been with the school for 18 years and we wish her all the best for her retirement in France. Mrs Jones (Deputy Headteacher) will also be retiring at the end of this term and we wish her all the best for the future.

Students of the Week

ENGLISH

Bobby B Y8

GEOGRAPHY

Meg S Y7, Ava A Y12
Lewis H Y12, Amelia M Y12

HISTORY

Zach S Y9

MATHS

Bea L Y9, Noah S Y9
Rose Y Y9, Ben C Y10
Harry L Y10, Ben R Y10

MUSIC

Jessie B Y7, Iris B Y7
Max I Y7, Archie I Y7
Nicola K Y7, Isla L Y7
Nadia P Y7, Rhys W Y7
Charlie D Y8, Max E Y8
Maisie E Y8
Nia H Y8, Beau H Y8
William K Y8, Jenson L Y8
Emily M Y8, Stefan R Y8
Lillie S Y8, Josh T Y8

PE

Phoebe G Y8
Evie P Y8, Bella W Y8

YEAR 8

Hermione H, Charlie H
Freya I, Bella T

YEAR 9

Nat A, Emmy B
Toby C, Jim C,
Lucy C, Matthew H

PE Uniform Orders

Whilst we return to normal full school uniform in September, students who are timetabled practical PE during a school day should travel to and from school in Ashlyns PE uniform - for a reminder of what this comprises, or to order extra sets (or PE hoodies/coats for winter) please [click here](#).

Looking ahead to September, we know that it won't feel quite the same as usual - but we are working hard to make it as normal as possible. Development and improvement work continues as normal - and the school will look great for our students' full return. We will even have a new-look website for you.

Last week I promised more detail on our planning for the September return; our Draft Risk Assessment can be [viewed here](#). You will also find further guidance by clicking [this link](#). Please also update the school on any changes to your child's medical conditions or circumstances since 20 March 2020.

I am mindful that as guidance is updated, we will continue to review our risk assessment arrangements over the summer. To this end it is possible we will need to update you further on the practicalities of school return during August. INSET days will be held on Wednesday 2 September and Thursday 3 September. Friday 4 September is the first day of term for Years 7 and 12 only. The week beginning Monday 7 September will see the return of all student year groups.

For now though - it is important for students, staff and parents to have a rest so that we are all ready to face whatever September throws at us.



And finally, I hope your child has had the opportunity to view the end of year assembly today. This communicates just how much we have missed all our students, some of their achievements - and also that perhaps I need to get the staff dress code back on track!

Wishing you all a safe and restful summer.




James Shapland

End of year assembly - [Link to the video is here](#) - please feel welcome to go straight to the slideshow at 3.35 minutes in!

2. House Update - Coram are the House Champions!

 Final house points 

Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
36009	40164	36238	37024
4 th	1 st	3 rd	4 nd

Many congratulations to all students in Coram for their outstanding participation throughout the year.

With a huge score for merits in the final half term, Raven have bounced back from their disappointing Sports Day result and rocketed from 4th to 2nd place.

Handel were nudged down into 3rd and Bourne, despite their initial promise, slipped into 4th. Better luck next year!

3. Summer Reading Challenge

Please click below for full details:



The DFE has also published [10 tips for parents to encourage children to read](#).

ASA News



Good-As-New Uniform Sale takes place on Thursday 23 July. You will also be able to collect lost property at this time. [Please click here for full details.](#)

ASA Newsletter
[Please click here for the ASA's End of Year Newsletter](#)

ASA 100 Club July Winners:

1st : J Rollit
2nd : N Gaitskell
3rd : C Taylor

Music Lessons Next Year

Herts Music Service are planning to resume face-to-face lessons from September 2020 where this is possible.

Does your child want to start or continue music lessons at school in September? Hertfordshire Music Service are managing enrolment and billing directly with parents. Please visit <http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/registeronline> for more information and details on how to enrol for lessons.

Letters sent out this week

- Results day letters for Year 11 and Year 13

4. SEND

DSPL8 Communications for Parents over the summer holidays, including useful course information can be accessed [via their website here](#).

5. Student Well-being

Short surveys for young people and parents

To help the Herts Public Health team evaluate how they use social media to share important mental health information with young people and parents - please would students and parents complete the short surveys below:

[Young Person survey](#)

[Parent Survey](#)

6. Safeguarding during the summer break

Information on safeguarding during the summer break can be found in our [child protection policy](#) online, including contact numbers for Children's Services should support be needed when school is closed. Students also have access to the following self-help contacts on their year group google classroom page:

Children and young people can access free confidential support anytime from Government-backed voluntary and community sector organisations by:

- texting SHOUT to 85258
- calling Childline on 0800 1111
- calling The Mix on 0808 808 4994

Children and young people can also find online information on COVID-19 and mental health on the [Young Minds](#) website.

The [Think Ninja app](#) (freely available and adapted for COVID-19) educates 10-18 year olds about mental health, emotional wellbeing and provides skills young people can use to build resilience and stay well.

The [Rise Above](#) website (adapted for COVID-19) aims to build resilience and support good mental health in young people aged 10 to 16.

[Kooth](#) is a British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) accredited digital mental health support service. It gives children and young people easy access to an online community of peers and a team of experienced counsellors. Access is free of the typical barriers to support.

'Know, Look, Act' - new campaign to spot signs of child abuse

In a new joint campaign by [The Children's Society](#) and National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC), neighbours and professionals are being urged to look out for signs a child may be being abused at home amid fears that vulnerable children are hidden from view during the lockdown. Their 'Know, Look, Act' campaign comes as students enter the summer break.

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/csae-poster.pdf>



