

ASHLYNS SCHOOL



07 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back from all of us at Ashlyns - to the start of a school term like no other.

I hope that you had a good summer and, like us, were looking forward to full school reopening again. Following the induction day for Year 7 and 12 last week it was fantastic to see the return of all remaining year groups today. The school was buzzing once more - and our students showed they are quickly getting used to the additional protocols in place. More importantly, they seemed genuinely pleased to be back together at school again. We are delighted to have them all back and, as well as welcoming back students in Years 8 to 13, I would like to extend a special welcome to our new Year 7 students and those joining us for the first time in the Sixth Form; we wish them a very happy and successful time as part of our school community.

Usually in my 'welcome back' letter in September, I'd update you on changes and improvements, which have taken place over the summer and also share key headlines from the examination results. As with so much, this year is a little different. We have already shared lots of information regarding the additional safety measures implemented, but these measures have not prevented us from our usual 'refresh' and refurbishments to our site to make sure the school looks its best.

In terms of the exam results, I am sure you saw the unfolding situation in the news and the final outcome of students being awarded either their centre-assessed grades or their moderated grades if they were higher. Whatever the political situation, we need to remember that our students, alongside their teachers, worked incredibly hard over their exam courses and experienced significant challenges under extraordinary circumstances in the final weeks. Many of them, I'm sure, would have preferred to have taken the examinations and proved themselves but, as a school, we are confident that the excellent results so many of them received are a true reflection of their attainment - and they earned their grades through their own endeavours. We are delighted that more of them than ever before secured their preferred places at university and are very proud of them all. We are also pleased that the exceptional attainment of our Year 11 students was recognised and they now form one of our biggest Sixth Form cohorts. I am sure you will join me in wishing them every success and hope that the next stage in their academic journey will be slightly less 'eventful.'

Over the past few months, there have been numerous communications for you to digest. Now we are all back at school, we return to our weekly e-Bulletin rather than the T(temporary) bulletin; this will provide you with updates and outline key events for the term. Please remember to update us with any changes to your contact details to ensure you receive these regular communications. You'll notice our website has also had a makeover but you can still find all our recent communications and information sent during the summer using the ticker line on the landing page.

Chesham Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire HP4 3AH
T: 01442 863605
E: admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

Head Teacher: James Shapland BSc, MSc

As in any new year, we have some new teachers and members of support staff joining us and I am sure you will join me in welcoming our new members of staff; their details can be found in this week's e-Bulletin.

Of course, some things do not change with a new school year, even following a national lockdown – and this is particularly the case with our high expectations of students. This is arguably more important than ever this year and I would like to remind students about our high expectations, especially maintaining all the safety protocols we have put in place. As we move forward, we know that some things will necessarily be different but we are hoping we can make school as normal an experience as possible for all our students. The protocols and guidance will be kept under constant review as we respond to both national and local guidance.

We are committed to ensuring our students receive the very best care and guidance and our staff are always here to deal with concerns. However, if you do have a query, please remember the first point of contact should be either your child's form tutor or subject teacher, or alternatively email in to admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk, which will help us address and resolve questions when staff are teaching and unavailable. Our guidance on school communication can be found [here](#).

Finally, although our usual range of parental events will be delivered digitally this term, I am looking forward to working with you as we refocus on learning in the classroom rather than at the kitchen table.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shapland', written in a cursive style.

James Shapland
Headteacher