

Update from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer

I had hoped that when we moved back to the E-Bulletin in September, the T-Bulletin would be consigned to things we had left behind for good - but here we are again. For new parents and carers, our T-Bulletin replaces our weekly E-Bulletin during periods of lockdown and partial school closure and focuses on providing you with the key information you need to know while normal school-life is suspended.

This week has been one of 'announcements' where we have had to move swiftly from the planned staggered start - to at least six weeks' provision of remote learning - plus the half-term break. It seems everyone remains unsure whether we will be able to open up the school more widely during the second half term and therefore the good habits built this week will be really important in the weeks ahead. I'd like to take this opportunity to express how very impressed I have been at how well staff and students have risen to the challenge of remote learning. I am also very mindful of the impact of remote learning on home life and would like to thank you for your encouragement and monitoring of your children.

Of course, the announcement also brought the news that the summer 2021 series of A levels and GCSEs would not go ahead as planned. On Wednesday we heard from the Secretary of State for Education that there will be some kind of school based assessment process and then on Thursday, we heard from Ofqual that there will be a consultation about exactly what the 'assessment' might comprise with final arrangements communicated in February. We know that the news about the exam series will have triggered a range of emotions in students and we are all too aware of the disrupted experience of the students on these examination courses. However, our expectation is that we will continue to teach the course and set and assess work until we know more. The best thing we can do is make sure students are confident and we are all well prepared for whatever we are asked to do to ensure students get the grades they deserve. There was also some confusion reported in the press regarding vocational exams due to take place this week. All affected students have received a letter to outline options and we wish those who choose to sit them next Wednesday all the best of luck!

Next week will also see the initial rollout of voluntary Lateral Flow Testing for staff and students in the Hub. This will be excellent practice for when we prepare to test much larger groups on wider reopening and I am grateful to the staff who have invested so much time this week and over the Christmas holiday to be able to put this in place.

And finally, whilst this may not have been the start to 2021 we had all hoped for, I remain grateful for your understanding and cooperation. Wishing you a good weekend.

James Shapland

Hub Provision

If you are a key worker or have a vulnerable child and would like a place for them at school in our Hub please contact

admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk.

All spaces must be pre-booked to ensure we have adequate, safe levels of provision.

Attendance

Forms with the highest attendance week ending 18 December:

7H1 99%
8B2 97.7%
9H1 93.1%
10R1 95%
11B2 96.1%

Y11 Trial Exam Results

Students will receive their trial results and forecast grades on Monday P5: instructions will appear on the HoY google classroom page during registration

House Point Update



Current house points

Bourne	Coram	Handel	Raven
18259	18085	17586	17355
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th

08/01/2021

Letters this week

- Letter to parents 4 January
- Remote Learning Information
- Y11 Enterprise Exam
- Y12 Exams

Remote Learning

A huge well done to our students for engaging so successfully with our remote learning curriculum. We have been so impressed with the excellent start they have made and their hard work in lessons. There will, inevitably, be technical difficulties at times, and we are appreciative of students' patience when this happens. A reminder also that work set (including any live section of the lesson and then tasks set) will usually last around 45 minutes; this is to allow for screen time breaks. Students should endeavour to take a break from screens where possible in this time and take the opportunity to move around.

The Student Virtual Learning Code of Conduct was sent out last week, and [can be found here](#). Please ensure students have read this and know that, for the benefit of all, they must adhere to it. In particular, students should remember that they must not share Google Meet links with anyone; they must not access Google Meets to which they have not been invited via Google Classroom; their cameras and microphones must be off; they must never record or screen-grab any section of a Meet, and they must only use the Chat function and their microphones when specifically directed to do so by their teacher, and only for work related content.

Student Wellbeing

Those of you who have already subscribed to [Tooled Up Education](#) will have received details about the improvements to the website. It is now even easier to navigate and find the resource that you need. This includes some extremely useful resources about supporting your child with Remote Learning so please do spend a few minutes having a look. If you haven't yet signed up for a Tooled Up account, click [here](#) to enter your email and choose your password. PIN number 4989.

It is clear how much students have enjoyed being present in live lessons with their peers and interacting with their teachers. We know how important it is to maintain good social networks as well as trying to keep things as 'normal' as possible. Understandably, though some students may still be experiencing anxieties about the current circumstances and associated uncertainties. The chart below gives some useful practical advice about how to respond to your child's feelings.



SEND

Please find an update from DSPL which focuses on the transition to [remote learning](#).

ASA News

Congratulations to the winners of the December **ASA 100** draw:

1st prize - S Stroud
2nd prize - F Ripley
3rd prize - J Rollit

Thank you very much to all the new supporters who have signed up recently.

As

we still cannot run our usual events the ASA 100 draw is a valuable source of regular funds. The more members we have, the more we raise for Ashlyns. Sign up today!

ASA100CLUB@gmail.com

NHS Volunteer Responders

[Please click here for a leaflet regarding support that is available in the community](#)

Safeguarding

Now that students are spending so much time online, this is a golden opportunity to remind young people of actions they can take should they be concerned about harmful content they see or receive. [Reportharmfulcontent.com](https://www.reportharmfulcontent.com) is a simple-to-navigate, user-friendly website which clearly signposts when and how to report online content, whether on social media, youtube or another platform.



Please note that, if you are concerned about the safety of someone in our school community, or the wellbeing of your child, our school safeguarding and pastoral teams remain on hand and can be contacted in the usual way.

The morning self-check-in that your child completes at 0835 is a vital part of our procedures to monitor students - please thank them for continuing to do this each day.

Free School Meals

We understand that in the current economic climate families might be experiencing financial difficulties. Can we please reiterate that if parents' circumstances have changed and they believe they may now qualify for free school meals that they contact Mrs Hallahan (whallahan@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk) who will be able to provide further advice and assistance.