

ASHTON HIGHLIGHTS

ISSUE

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WELCOME BACK



Welcome to our first newsletter of the academic year! I am absolutely delighted to be writing this introduction, since it marks a return to some of the routines that we have missed so much over recent months.

We welcomed students back this week, and I speak for all my colleagues when I say how lovely it was to see faces old and new. Our students – your children – are a credit to you and to themselves. They have returned to school with a new resilience, a new determination and a renewed ambition to be the best version of themselves that they can be. Our year 7 cohort, the newest members of our school family, have already made a positive start, impressing us with how quickly they have settled into the ebb and flow of secondary school life and brightening our day with their positive attitude and enthusiasm for their lessons. Much has been said in the news about the impact of extended school closure on children and we have reassured every student that we are committed to helping them bridge the gaps in their learning. By working together with us and working hard, they will soon catch up and be back on track to achieving the ambitions and dreams they have held so dearly.

So school is back on and it's back on with a bang! We have gone straight into lessons and straight into exciting and challenging learning. Friendships have been re-kindled, relationships have been re-established and routines have been reconstructed so that all members of our Ashton family can thrive knowing they are safe in a school to be proud of.

I hope you enjoy reading this first newsletter as much as we enjoyed making it.

PREPARING THE SCHOOL FOR A SAFE RETURN

Our school site supervisors have worked tirelessly over lockdown and the summer holidays to ensure the school is safe for our staff and students to return.



What has it been like preparing the school for students to return?

We have been busy preparing since June for the day that we could welcome students back into school. It has been hard work and we have definitely had to think outside the box but it feels so rewarding knowing that staff and students alike have returned feeling safe as a result of the jobs we have done!

What different cleaning procedures have you had to put in place?

The cleaning procedures are completely different from before lockdown. We have invested in new technology and have a state of the art machine for fogging and misting large areas. We have a full time member of cleaning staff in school during the day to make

sure all communal areas are cleaned between bubbles and that all high frequency touch points are regularly cleaned.

A huge thanks has to go out to all our cleaners who are doing and have done a fantastic job and continue to do so, with many taking on extra hours to ensure our high expectations of sanitisation are met each and every day.



What sort of jobs have you had to do?

As well as the usual cleaning, painting of corridors and rooms, polishing floors, the general repair and maintenance of the school and looking after numerous amounts of sub-contractors who have been in over the last few months making yet more improvements to our facilities, we have had lots of extra jobs to make sure everyone could return safely.

For example, we have been busy:



Putting up hand sanitisers in every room so all students can sanitise on entry and exit of each lesson.



Marking out floors in the dining hall and corridors to help us all socially distance.



Installing screens in classrooms and offices.

Painting letters on yards to help students line up in forms and making sure we have a single file entry into school.



How has this summer’s work been different to other summers?

Covid-19 has probably doubled our workload with all the work needed to get the school ready, so it is safe for staff and students.



What was the hardest job you have had to do?

Building and fitting screens in the time scale was the hardest jobs as Covid had slowed down the deliveries and the demands were extremely high with many schools and businesses all wanting the same product so stock was low in the area!



BACK TO SCHOOL

When we arrived on our designated yard we lined up in forms and were greeted by staff.



We were led into assembly where Miss Asquith and Mr Clarke welcomed us back and talked to us about our new routines to help us settle in.



We then set off to our lessons in single file around the new one way system.



Break times and lunchtimes are separate from other year groups now so we have plenty of space and the ques are smaller!

But as normal the biggest part of our day is the learning in the classroom!



WORD OF THE WEEK

HOMOPHONE

Homophone - A word that is pronounced the same as another word, but has a different meaning. The words 'hear' and 'here' are homophones.

The words 'root' and 'route' are also homophones.

(During the rest of this first half term we will be investigating and learning about some of the most commonly mixed up homophones)

hair hare
wait weight
write right
whole hole

SENIOR STUDENT LEADERS 2020



We are delighted to introduce to you our new Senior Student Leadership Team. During last half term a vigorous application and interview process took place to fulfil the most highest-ranking student roles within the school. Sam and Selin have been appointed to the positions of Head Boy and Head Girl, with Olivia, Holly, Trinity, Tianne, Melissa, Jack, Finlay, Joe, Tristan and Patryk supporting them as their deputies. We also appointed thirty Senior Student Leaders from Year 11 who will assist at whole school events, develop links between students and staff and ensure the school community is a safe and welcoming environment for all. The Senior Student Leaders have already completed a Leadership Induction Programme with further training to be received this half term. We wish them well in their new positions and we look forward to following the next steps of their leadership journey.

Meet our Head Boy and Girl

Selin

Applying for Head Girl amidst the pandemic has been a whole new experience in itself! From being interviewed online rather than face-to-face, to learning about the Student Leadership positions via a video chat. However, despite having to acclimate to all these changes it has been rather exciting and challenging in a positive sense. We are all aware that the upcoming school year is going to be very different to previous years therefore, I would like to make this year as enjoyable and as cheerful as it possibly can be and to offer support for the other students. By taking up this role, I hope it can lead me closer to my aspirations for the future which includes attending one of the Russel Group universities and securing myself a successful career. Furthermore, I would also like to leave a mark as my family members, who came to this school in the past, have done.



Sam

Applying for Head Boy was something I knew I always wanted to do but doing so through a laptop screen was something I never envisioned. Despite an unknown, strange year ahead, I hope to set a good example for fellow pupils and welcome new students to our community as best I can because year 7 is worrisome enough without a global pandemic. I feel optimistic and excited about the year ahead and the challenges that as a school we may face. From the roles and responsibilities that I will take up as head boy, I hope to acquire new skills and develop ones that I already possess. Furthermore, I aspire to make Ashton as good a place as possible for both teachers and pupils and be able to leave with the knowledge that I did all I could and more.



HOMework CLUB

Homework club is run by Mr Martin in the Library. It is open each afternoon after school but for the meantime is split up into separate year groups.

Year 7	Monday
Year 8	Tuesday
Year 9	Wednesday
Year 10	Thursday
Year 11	Friday



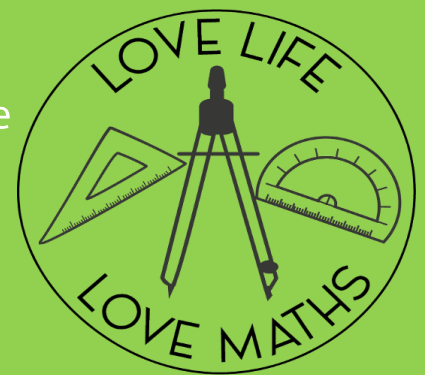
Homework club is open from **3pm until 4pm** leaving ample time for the cleaners to deep clean the library in preparation for the next day. Homework club is a facility for silent study and completion of work which you may struggle to do at home or not have the resources for.



MATHS CHALLENGE

John is going to visit Aunt Mary. Her house number is a two-digit square number that is also a cube number. What number house does she live at?

Think you know? Take your answer to Mr Fern in room 25 for a smiley!



SCAMPS

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer any extra-curricular activities at the moment. Our priority is to ensure that students are settled back into the school routine and focused on teaching and learning in the classroom. Moving forwards, we will aim to provide some SCAMPS activities as soon as it is safe and possible to do so. In the meantime, we have asked all students to complete a questionnaire to establish what activities they would like to take part in. We are especially interested in ideas of activities which can take place remotely. The SCAMPS questionnaire can be completed by following the link below.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2xX2uHNoKUCI8k_Wa0xCjH_6-BiZM-RNqJipCIG0Wo1UMjl2N0tPT1c5RjlxNVlIV1dXNENMRUs4UC4u



LUNCHTIME PROVISION

On entry to the dining hall please queue up on the red lines in single file. The right line is for cold food and the line on the left is for hot food. Biscuits and drinks are available at both sides.

You will be called forward to the service area to purchase your food; no more than 5 students will be called forward to ensure that the area does not become overcrowded. Remember the saying... "5 in the line!"

You can then remove your mask to eat your food in the dining hall.

Please remember to put on your mask once you have finished eating/drinking and before you enter the corridor.



OUR CURRENT REDUCED MENU

Burger	£1.35
Panini	£1.95
Baguette	£1.95
Wraps	£1.95
Sausage Roll	£1.00
Chicken Poppers	£2.00

SANDWICH MEAL DEALS £2.20

Regular Range Plus 3 of the extras (1 Drink only)	Egg Mayo, Tuna Mayo, Plain Cheese or Ham Sandwich
Premium Range Plus 2 of the extras (1 Drink only)	All of the regular range with salad , chicken fillings, marinated meats and prawn sandwiches.
Hot/Cold Speciality Plus 1 of the extras	A range of homemade baguettes, paninis, wraps and ciabattas.
Extras	Small bottled water, aqua juice carton, milk, cookie, piece of fruit, yogurt, mixed salad.



OUR NEW SCHOOL DAY

			lesson 1 9.00-10.00	lesson 2 10.00-11.15	lesson 3 11.15-12.15	lesson 4 12.15-13.45	lesson 5 13.45-14.45	
year 7	8.20-8.30 arrival – line up quiet yard	8.30 entry via door 4 (+form teacher)	form time	<div>break 10.30-10.40</div>	<div>break 10.30-10.40</div>	<div>lunch 12.15-12.45 (food 12.15-12.25)</div>	departure 2.40	
year 8		8.30-8.40 arrival – line up science yard	8.40 entry via door 2 (+form teacher)	<div>break 10.50-11.00</div>		<div>lunch 1.15-1.45 (food 1.30-1.40)</div>	departure 2.45	
year 9			8.35-8.45 arrival – line up tennis courts	<div>break 10.00-10.10</div>		<div>lunch 12.45-1.15 (food 12.45-12.55)</div>		form time 15.00 departure
year 10			8.50-9.00 arrival – line up quiet yard	<div>break 10.15-10.25</div>		<div>lunch 12.15-12.45 (food 12.30-12.40)</div>		form time 15.05 departure
year 11		8.50-9.00 arrival – line up science yard	9.00 entry via door 2 (+ class teacher)	<div>break 11.05-11.15</div>		<div>lunch 1.15-1.45 (food 1.15-1.25)</div>		form time 15.10-16.00 catch up sessions

DOES ATTENDANCE MATTER?

OVER A SCHOOL YEAR THIS IS WHAT ABSENCE AND LATES MEAN.....

100%	0 Days Off	0 Lessons Missed
99%	1 Day Off	5 Lessons Missed
98%	3 Days Off	15 Lessons Missed
97%	1 Week Off	25 Lessons Missed
96%	1.5 Weeks Off	35 Lessons Missed
94%	2 Weeks Off	50 Lessons Missed
93%	2.5 Weeks Off	65 Lessons Missed
92%	3 Weeks Off	75 Lessons Missed
90%	3.5 Weeks Off	90 Lessons Missed

LOST LEARNING

5 MINUTES LATE EACH DAY = 3 DAYS LOST
10 MINUTES LATE EACH DAY = 6.5 DAYS LOST
15 MINUTES LATE EACH DAY = 10 DAYS LOST
20 MINUTES LATE EACH DAY = 13 DAYS LOST
30 MINUTES LATE EACH DAY = 19 DAYS LOST

MAXIMISE YOUR POTENTIAL

CORONAVIRUS

Let's protect each other and our communities

Take extra care and follow the information on this leaflet to keep you and those around you safe.



With or without symptoms, get tested



Call NHS 119 to book



Let's protect each other and our communities



Do not have
visitors in your
home or garden



Wear face coverings
in enclosed places



Wash hands
regularly



Give each
other space



With or without
symptoms, get
tested