

AGS Inquirer



Issue: July 2024

www.ashgreenschool.org.uk

Dear parents and carers,

It has been another busy year at Ash Green. I wanted to write to you, on this, our final day of the school year to thank you for your continued support. The summer term always witnesses a lot of change with our year 11 and 13 cohorts completing their exams and year 10 embarking on their first set of formal mock examinations, but one thing remains consistent and that is my high expectations and aspiration that I have for the students at Ash Green.



The Summer break provides an opportunity for us all to rest and recharge, enjoying time with friends and family for an extended period. When we return in September my message to you will remain consistent; that together we can achieve great success for the young people of Ash Green.

No doubt, you will be preparing for the return to school by purchasing new items of school uniform. Our school policy on school uniform is no different from thousands of schools nationally; we expect students to be dressed for school correctly and ready to learn. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our uniform policy and expectations for students.

As you are already aware from previous messages, attendance to school is a key government priority. As a school we have seen a significant shift in the attendance of students over the last 18 months. Please read carefully the information provided by Ms Toms in this newsletter regarding attendance.

Finally, many of you will know that Mr Steven King retires today after a phenomenal 20 years working at Ash Green; some of you may have indeed been taught PE by Mr King yourself. I am sure you join me in wishing Mr King a well-earned rest and enjoyable retirement.

Parents and carers, thank you once again for all your support.

Have a wonderful summer.

Best wishes,

Mr Choudhury
Principal.



INFORMATION

Start of Term Dates

Please see the table below with the dates for the start of the Autumn term.

| Date | Which students should attend | Notes | Times |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Monday 2 nd September 2024 | No students in school | Teacher Training Day 1 | |
| Tuesday 3 rd September 2024 | No students in school | Teacher Training Day 2 | |
| Wednesday 4 th September | Year 7 | Normal School Day | 8.40am – 3.10pm |
| | Year 11 | Normal School Day | 8.40am – 3.10pm |
| | Year 12 | Limited Day (tutor – period 2) | 8.40am – 11.10am |
| | Year 13 | Limited Day (periods 3 – 5) | 11.30am – 3.10pm |
| Thursday 5 th September | All year groups | Normal School Day | 8.40am – 3.10pm |

On a normal school day, students should arrive to school by 8.30am ready for an 8.40am tutor time as normal. The school day ends at 3.10pm where students will be dismissed from their tutor bases.

2024-25 Timetable

Student timetables for 2024-25 will be available to parents and students midway through the summer holidays and can be accessed through the Arbor app. We will send a communication out to all parents when this is available to review. We are also pleased that we have been able to provide more flexibility with setting in years 7 to 10 and a greater number of groups in year 11. Therefore, there may be some set changes across subject areas to greater support student progression. These will be visible when reviewing the timetable.

WARWICKSHIRE TERM DATES 2024-25:

Autumn term 2024

Starts: Monday 2 September 2024 (Teacher Training Day)

Half term: Monday 28 October 2024 to Friday 1 November 2024

Ends: Friday 20 December 2024

Christmas holiday: Monday 23 December 2024 to Friday 3 January 2025

Spring term 2025

Starts: Monday 6 January 2025 (Teacher Training Day)

Half term: Monday 17 February 2025 to Friday 21 February 2025

Ends: Friday 11 April 2025

Spring (Easter) holiday: Monday 14 April 2025 to Friday 25 April 2025

Summer term 2025

Starts: Monday 28 April 2025

Half term: Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025

Ends: Monday 21 July 2025

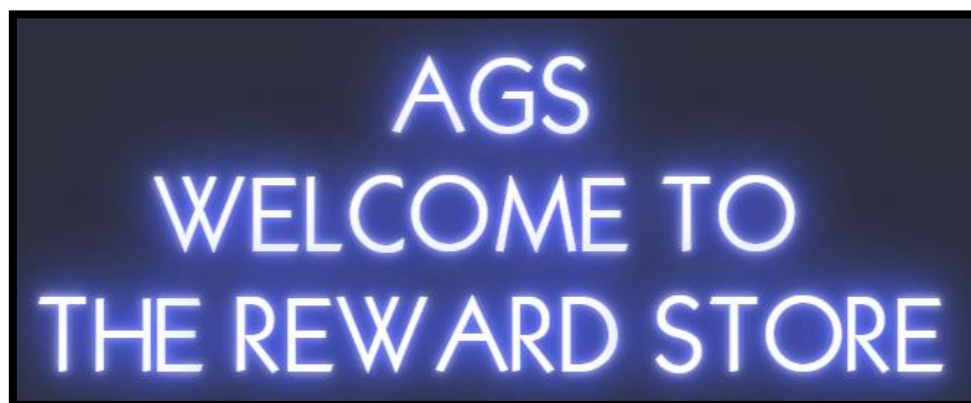
ATTENDANCE MATTERS

This academic year we have celebrated our students with both good and improved attendance more than ever! Several students have received individual rewards as well as celebrating as a collective within their tutor groups. Below is just a few examples of the fantastic prizes our pupils have received:

- Sweet treats
- Movie afternoons
- Trips
- Tickets to theme parks
- Ipads / Airpods / Games Consoles
- Retail Vouchers
- Restaurant and Supermarket vouchers for the whole family
- And many more

A huge thank you to both our students and also to our families who support our vision of improving school attendance.

Coming Soon September 2024



We are always looking at new ways of rewarding and recognising our student's achievements. September 2024 will see the opening of 'The Reward Store' where students will receive positive points for both behaviour and attendance...more information coming soon!!

New Legislation August 2024

In August 2024 the Department of Education are implementing new legislation on school attendance. To ensure you are fully aware of the impact that school absence will have on you and your families, please see our website for details.

Regular school attendance is a key priority for us at Ash Green School, we want to work together with parents and carers to improve attendance of all our students.

Our attendance target is 96% and students attendance is monitored on a daily, weekly, half termly, termly and yearly basis across the whole school and on an individual basis.

Open communication allows barriers to be identified and solutions explored, please reach out to the year team or attendance team if you require support with your child's attendance next academic year.



SIXTH FORM NEWS

It has yet again been a busy term for Sixth form with a variety of events taking place.



Charity Bake Sale and Dress Down Day

On the 26th April, sixth form students joined in with a dress down day and bake sale to help Lucy Culley in Year 13 raise money for Cancer Research UK. Students donated £1 to wear their own clothes for the day, and were treated to delicious treats at break time, baked by Lucy and her family! It was great to see students taking part in fundraising together and we raised a grand total of £239.50. Lucy then ran the Wolf Run with her Dad on the following Sunday, and she was delighted to have raised over £600 in total with the event and the sponsorship for the Wolf Run. Well done to Lucy and to all students involved!



Pizza Lunch and Induction Day

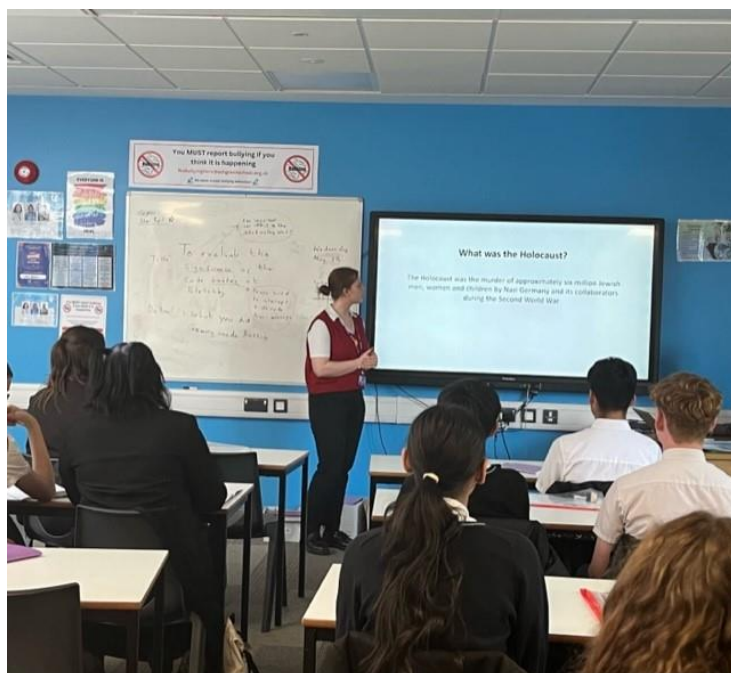
Year 11 students are beginning to make their transition into Sixth Form Life. On the 1st May, all students holding a conditional offer for sixth form were invited for a pizza lunch in the Sixth Form Centre, where students were able to enjoy a slice or two of Domino's and spend time in what will be their space next year. It was great to see the

different year groups chatting to each other and getting to know one another.

This was followed by Sixth Form Taster Day on Thursday 4th July, where our new students were able to come in and meet staff and their peers, and experience a lesson for each of their subjects. Students also enjoyed a BBQ lunch together! These events are crucial in supporting the students to transition between Year 11 and sixth form life, and we hope the students have found it useful to do so.

Holocaust Education Trust- Next Steps

Following their visit to Poland in March, Year 12 students Brandon Scandrett and Peyton Reid concluded their Holocaust education Trust Programme by sharing the knowledge and insight that they have learnt with students in the school. Brandon and Peyton delivered part of a lesson to a Year 9 class, sharing their experience of visiting a concentration camp, and why it is important that we continue to acknowledge and remember the events of the Holocaust. Well done to Brandon and Peyton for their work on this project over the course of the year.





SIXTH FORM NEWS

Inspire US

We have been delighted with the efforts of our students in Year 12 who have entered the Inspire US competition this year. Inspire US is a competition ran by the Talent Foundry, who ask students to collaborate in teams of 3 or 4 students and run a campaign on a local issue that is important to them. The prize is an 8 day all expenses paid trip to America to join the end of the presidential election campaign trails and watch the election results in America. We have had two teams participate: Project Planet Unity, focusing on sustainability in Bedworth, and the Ash Green Road Safety Organisation, looking at road safety around the school. Both teams have worked hard to engage the local community with surveys, door to door knocking, meeting with key staff in the school and key political figures including former MP Craig Tracey and newly elected MP Rachel Taylor, and hosting events in school and in local groups. It has been inspiring to see our students engage with parents, local residents, younger students and influential members of the community, and both listen to views and present their ideas. Both teams have begun to make an impact in the local area. We are delighted that Project Planet Unity progressed to the Finalist Forum.





SIXTH FORM NEWS

On Friday 12th July, I had the pleasure at attending the Inspire US Finalist Forum with Jaishveer, Dylan and Yuvraj in Year 12. This was the culmination of a 3 month project, in which the students had created a campaign to improve sustainability in Bedworth. The students had worked with local stakeholders, including former MP Craig Tracey, Head of Estates at CET Jon Ward, and received endorsements from the former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. The students had then worked with local scout groups to plant trees and promote recycling in the local area. The team, named Project Planet Unity, had seen off competition from 64 other teams nationally to make it through to the final 10, who were invited to present their campaign at the offices of M&G investments in the heart of the financial district. After an enjoyable train journey down, we caught the tube across London and walked up to the offices, enjoying the view of the Shard and the Gherkin along the way. We then had the pleasure of watching all 10 teams present their campaigns on a variety of issues, from anti-vaping, to the cost of living crisis, to unconscious bias in healthcare. There were some heart warming moments as students shared the success they had achieved along the way. Project Planet Unity presented well, garnering the first laughs of the day from the audience and wowing everyone with their incredible presentation animations and video. After a nervous wait, the 4 teams awarded the final prize of a trip to Washington DC were announced, and while the team didn't win the final prize, they were pleased and proud with their achievements in the campaign and their presentation on the day.

I have been incredibly proud to have watched both Project Plant Unity and the Ash Green Road Safety Organisation as they have campaigned to improve their local area over the course of this scheme, and having seen this replicated in the other 9 teams nationally, I can confidently say that our future is very bright with this generations passion, determination and drive.





SIXTH FORM NEWS

Leavers' Events

We had the joy of celebrating the end of the academic year with Year 13 with two events. We held our annual Leavers event on Friday 24th May, to mark the end of students time in school before the courses started to finish. Students enjoyed pizza together, voted for the awards to be given out at prom, and read the letters to their future selves that they had written on the first day of sixth form. Staff gave speeches and shared memories of the students time together. Despite the grey skies, it was a wonderful time to reminisce on the past two years and how much the students have grown.



This was then followed by the Annual Sixth Form Prom on the 28th June. This year, it was held at St Mary's Guildhall, which is a beautiful and historic venue in the centre of Coventry. The students looked wonderful, with their individual styles really shining through in their prom outfits. We were delighted that almost every student in the year was able to join us, and we enjoyed a two course meal together. The awards were then given out, with my personal highlight being the winner of "Most Likely to Succeed", where the person with the most votes was "Everyone!". This shows how much this year group has encouraged and supported each other along the way. It was a joy to watch the students flood onto the dance floor and the staff couldn't help but join in with the dancing late into the night. The evening was a wonderful celebration, richly deserved by this year group who have worked so hard towards their final exams, and will be a lovely memory to cherish as students move on from Ash Green.





SIXTH FORM NEWS

Careers Work

Year 12 have begun their exploration and planning for their next steps with a series of events this half term.

Firstly, we held Options at 18 Day on the 11th June, where the students came off timetable to spend the day considering their next steps, and which applications they will make. We looked at university and apprenticeship applications in detail, while also looking at employment, gap years, the armed forces, and other routes in education. Students step up the accounts with UCAS (University and College Admissions Service) and begun the first stages of their UCAS applications. It was insightful to listen to students' questions and see them think about the best routes for themselves moving forwards.

This was then followed with Mock Interviews for Year 12 on the 19th June. As with Year 13's mock interviews, we were kindly supported by Severn Trent, who provided 8 volunteers who gave up their morning to come into school and interview 7 or 8 students each. While nerve wracking for some, students fed back that this experience was really beneficial and has improved their confidence in facing an interview scenario. Students also enjoyed reading their feedback and seeing which areas they performed well in and which areas that they could improve.





SIXTH FORM NEWS



On Tuesday 25th June, all of Year 12 headed out to the NEC for the UCAS Discovery event, where students were able to meet with representatives from different universities and apprenticeship providers, and ask questions about their different options. It is great to have so many representatives from a variety of locations in one place, helping students to see the breadth of the opportunities available to them. This is a good experience in helping students decide on which universities or employers that they may apply for.



Finally, students engaged in a range of activities in Work Experience week, running from 1st-5th July. Many students had sourced a placement, and went out to attend these, while those remaining in school immersed themselves in a mixture of virtual experiences for the first two days. Students accessed experiences through SpringPod, Forage, Unifrog and others to explore careers in more detail. Tasks set included creating a brief for a TV show, and marketing a breakfast meal deal for Tesco! Following this initial experience, students were able to participate in a social action project

ran by NCS, where they volunteered at Bedworth Community Gardens, then planned a fundraiser to raise money for People into Action, who run the activities at the gardens. From this range of experiences, all students have developed a good mix of skills that they will utilise in their future careers, and all will have lots to talk about in future applications and interviews.



SIXTH FORM NEWS

NCS Project -Fundraiser

For the fundraiser for the NCS project, the students decided to organise and run a charity football match, with staff playing sixth form students. After much planning and preparation, the day arrived and the school was buzzing with talk about who might score, who should play in which position, and who would win. It was great to see so many of the students turn out to support the event, and a great atmosphere throughout! Students were thoroughly invested in the match, making plenty of noise to encourage the staff and the students. The staff turned out to be the eventual winners with the final score being 2-1. In total, the donations and bake sale raised £157.60 for People in Action. I am very proud of all involved in the planning and running of the event, and a big thank you goes to all staff who volunteered to play and to support the event! Look out for this next year as an annual event!



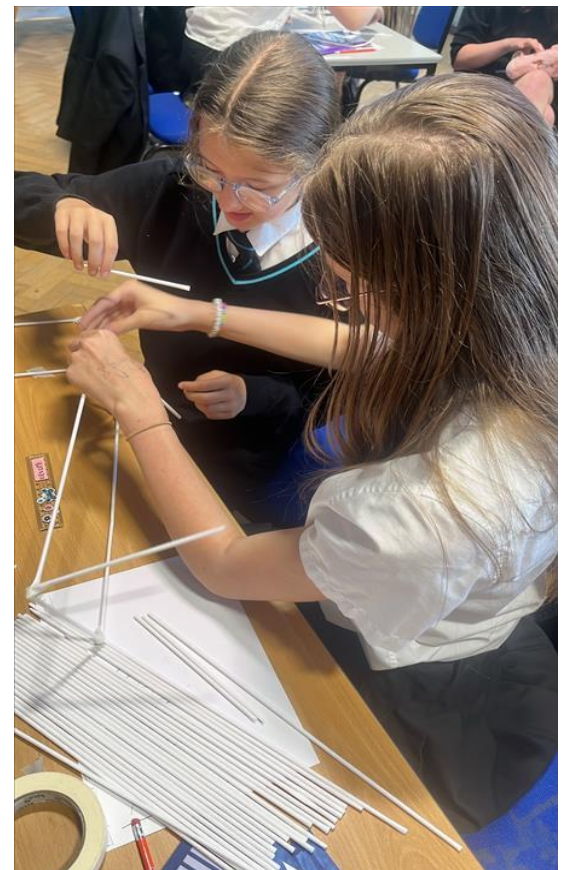


STEM WORKSHOPS

STEM Workshops

In June we welcomed The Smallpiece Trust to Ash Green School. They delivered their HS2 EPIC Engineers STEP Workshop to 60 year 7 girls. Students thought about the facilities that a future railway station should have, designed their station, and then presented their ideas. They also designed a tunnel and tested the weight that it could hold."

In July four year 9 students represented Ash Green School in the Creative Education Trust's STEM competition at the National Space Centre in Leicester. They competed in quizzes in science and mathematics, built and fired a rocket, and met alumni of the CET who now pursue STEM careers.





ARMY WORKSHOPS



This term we have been working closely with the army who have provided two sets of careers sessions for students in years 9 and 10. These included a careers workshop, problem solving team skills and logical thinking development tasks.





GOLF FUTURES

This year, Year 12 students had the chance to opt into the Golf Futures programme, ran by Careers in Golf. The students had a 3 hour in school session, looking at the various careers available in the Golf industry and considering why they could be an option in the future.

We were then able to go and visit the Belfry in Birmingham, where we were treated to tours of the different sectors, including the golf course, the PGA facilities and the hotel, and met with different teams, from hospitality to horticulture. The day was beautifully sunny and we thoroughly enjoyed exploring the vast venue.





GOLF FUTURES



Finally, students who have participated have the option to attend a behind the scenes tour of the British Masters in august. It has been a wonderful experience for the students, and we would like to thank Jack at Golf Futures and Craig Tracey (MP) for their work in bringing this opportunity to Ash Green School.

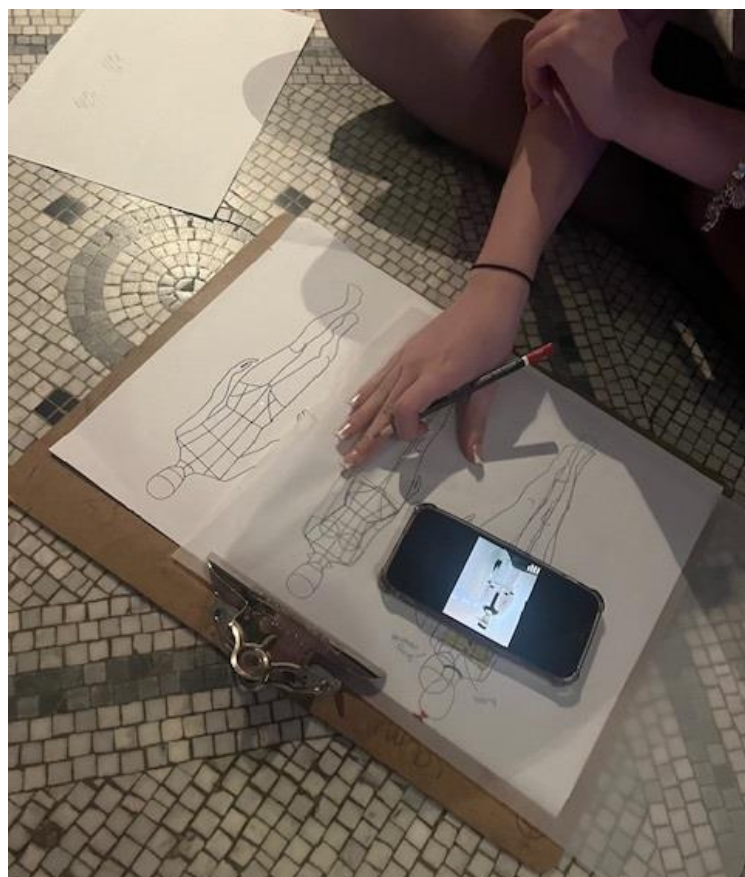




ART PROJECT

A selection of year 10 Arts students visited the V&A in London to take part in a Fashion Design workshop. Students produced illustrations taking inspiration from objects in the museum. Students were also given a guided tour around some of the exhibitions in the V&A museum giving them opportunity to get ideas and inspiration for their coursework.

Well done year 10, the Arts team look forward to how you are going to develop your ideas and skills learnt into your coursework projects.





SCHOOL PRODUCTION 2024: OLIVER JR!

On Thursday 4th July, Ash Green School students presented their version of Oliver Jr to a large audience of friends and family from the local community.

The cast had been working on the performance since February attending rehearsals twice a week, some lasting until 5pm. This small but dedicated cast have worked extremely hard in preparing their production. This year we have had a young cast, mostly from KS3, however this did not hinder the performance. Instead, having such a young and committed cast with a range of talent meant our final show was met with multitude of applause and cheers from the audience. The audience clearly respected and admired their talent and hard work.

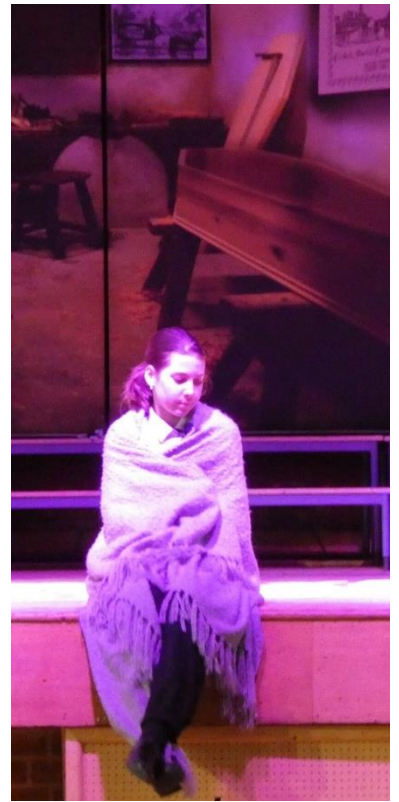
It was great this year to see a team of students supporting backstage with costumes, props, staging and sound. These students worked hard to ensure the backstage elements of the performance were prepared and functioned on the night of the performance. Although the audience may not have seen these students on stage, their work was just as admirable as the cast performing on the night.

As staff, we were extremely proud and impressed with the final performance. Students have grown in confidence and talent throughout the last few months and presented a fantastic final production. Well done to everyone involved in Oliver Jr 2024.



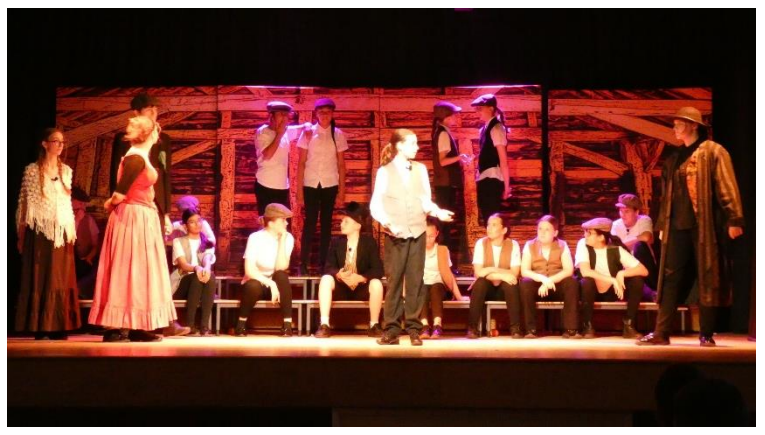


SCHOOL PRODUCTION 2024: OLIVER JR!





SCHOOL PRODUCTION 2024: OLIVER JR!





THE REEL ROD SQUAD

We have been really incredibly pleased to have been the first school to collaborate with the Reel Rod Squad this term. The Reel Rod Squad is a local group in the community giving children and families the chance to take up fishing as a hobby. The Reel Rod Squad was created in the hope to attract some youngsters, give them something to focus on, while being outdoors with nature rather than videos games, street gangs and being at the risk of peer pressure in the streets. This sport has not only proven to have a massive impact on the mental health of our students but it also a chance to give them head space to get away from the rush of the real world.



For more information about the Reel Rod Squad you can visit their website: <https://www.reelrodsquad.co.uk/>





PHYSICAL EDUCATION UPDATE

I am writing to firstly introduce myself. My name is Sam Calcott and from September 2024 I will be the new head of Physical Education at Ash Green School. I have been a teacher for 19 years and have held many roles previously including Head of Physical Education in schools in Coventry and South Warwickshire. This is a role that I am extremely passionate about and look forward to getting started and raising the profile of the department through success, both academically and via Extra-curricular activities. My ethos for the department will be to develop lifelong learning through enjoyment and education in all lessons. I am looking forward to engaging the students at Ash Green School and ensuring that we as a department can provide education and sporting opportunities for all students to be enthused by the subject in a variety of performance and leadership roles.

As part of the developments for the department we have employed two new teachers along with me, Mr Barnwell and Miss Barnett. As a fresh department, we will be reinvigorating the departmental offer, both developing the current offer and adding new activities for our students to learn. For extracurricular provision we will offer a range of sporting clubs based upon the needs of the students and look to develop school/sport club links with the local community. To facilitate this student dialogue I will be setting up a School Sports Council, which will be chaired by Sixth Form Students, who will help develop the curriculum and ensure that students across the school have a voice within the department.

To increase the Physical Education offer at Ash Green we have been working with Mr Choudhury to add additional facilities for the department. For September 2024 we will have the following new facilities:

Golf Driving Range with additional club links to develop student links with a local golf course.



Cricket Practice Nets with additional club links to develop student links with local cricket clubs.

Long Jump pit to add to the Athletics facilities already available at Ash Green School.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION UPDATE

As part of the departmental update can I take this opportunity to inform you of the expectations of the department regarding the lessons for the new academic year.

PE Kit Policy

From Tuesday 3rd September 2024 all students in PE are required to bring full PE kit and change for their PE lessons. This will include students who have a note as to why they are unable to fully participate in lessons due to injury, illness or personal reasons (exceptions can be made for students where the reason for non-participation will make it difficult for your child to change. The staff in the PE department will make this decision).

It is our aim to integrate all students into their lessons as much as possible, and in many cases, non-participating students can be catered for within the lesson. Students for whom it is not possible to participate physically in lessons will be involved with coaching or officiating tasks, this role is better fulfilled whilst wearing appropriate PE kit.

A final consideration is the students comfort. Students are expected to remain with their class, if there is poor weather then their uniform maybe potentially damp and shoes muddy. This may cause them discomfort and distraction for the rest of the school day. For students who are unable to participate practically it is important that they bring appropriate clothing to wear over their PE kit if it is cold and/or wet.

If your child for any reason cannot participate fully in PE, we ask that you write a note for them explaining the reason that they are unable to participate. If you forget to write a letter for your child, please ring the school reception so that an email is sent to us. Please do not ask your child to get the teacher to ring home or text your child's phone with the reason for non-participation.

Forgotten Kit

On occasion, students may forget their kit. On these occasions, we will lend kit and log this as an equipment log on their behavior record. This spare kit is washed daily to ensure that it is clean and suitable for students to use.

If your child does not comply with the kit policy, we will be using the escalating behavior policy to ensure that there is a consequence for their actions. The behaviour policy is as follows:

- 1st Offence = Neutral behaviour log on Arbor
- 2nd Offence = Level Two behaviour log on Arbor, a reminder text message will be sent home. The consequence of this will be a breaktime detention.
- 3rd Offence = Level Two behaviour log on Arbor, a reminder text message will be sent home. The consequence of this will be a lunchtime detention.
- 4th Offence = Level Two behaviour log on Arbor, your child's PE teacher will call home. The consequence of this will be a lunchtime detention.
- 5th Offence = Level Three behaviour log on Arbor, your child's Year team will call home. The consequence of this will be an afterschool detention.

Jewellery and Hair








In lessons, all long hair must be tied back, and jewellery removed; this is a health and safety requirement to prevent injury to the individual or another student. When removing is not possible the item must be taped. It is the responsibility to bring their own tape and/or hair band. We recommend that new piercings are carried out at the start of the summer holiday so that they can be removed in time for the start of school in September.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION UPDATE

PE Kit Expectations

Can I please take this opportunity to remind you of the PE kit expectations. All kit that is to be worn for PE must carry the school logo. Additional layers are acceptable to be worn underneath, although this must be underneath a logoed item of PE kit.

| Compulsory PE Kit | |
|---|--|
| Boys PE Kit | Girls PE Kit |
|  |  |
| AGS T-Shirt | AGS T-Shirt |
|  |  |
| AGS PE ¼ Zip Top | AGS PE ¼ Zip Top |
|  |  |
| AGS Navy Shorts | AGS Navy Shorts / Navy Skort |
|  |  |
| AGS Navy Tracksuit bottoms | AGS Navy Tracksuit bottoms or Navy Leggings |
| Navy Football socks or white ankle socks | Navy Football socks or white ankle socks |
| Trainers with non-marking soles (worn for PE only) | Trainers with non-marking soles (worn for PE only) |
| Football Boots and Shin Pads | Football Boots and Shin Pads (Year 7 & 8 students only) |

All of the school PE kit can be purchased at our school supplier Cat Ballou.

If you have any questions regarding this kit policy please can you email Sam.calcott@ashgreenschool.org.uk in the first instance and then we can arrange either a telephone or face to face meeting as required.

I look forward to meeting you in September.

Kind regards

Sam Calcott

Head of Physical Education



INFORMATION AND SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Information and support for families during the school holidays

Coventry & Warwickshire RISE

Support with mental health, wellbeing and the Dimensions tool which can be used to signpost to the relevant support depending on need.

[Home | CAMHS \(cwrise.com\)](https://www.camhs.org.uk/)

RISE CRISIS Team

08081 966798 (select Option 2). This is a 24 hour service.

Coventry & Warwickshire MIND Service.

They offer support for self-harm, anxiety and low mood. Further information can be accessed via: www.cwmind.org.uk. Information about wellbeing groups can be accessed using this link: <https://cwmind.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Rise-EWB-Groups-Leaflet.pdf>

Samaritans

24 hour helpline Telephone Number: 116 123 and Website: <https://www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help/>

Coventry and Warwickshire Family Information Service

Provides support for families, parents, finances, mental health and SEND

[Children and families – Warwickshire County Council](https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-and-families)

Family Support Helpline 01926 412412. Mon - Fri 9-4pm.

The Mix

A free helpline for young people where Young People can talk to trained supporters about any issue that's troubling them.

<http://www.themix.org.uk/> and Telephone Number: 0808 808 4994

PAPYRUS

Support for people dealing with suicide, depression or emotional distress.

Telephone Number: 0800 068 41 41 and Website: <https://www.papyrus-uk.org/>

Additional support can also be accessed through the Safeguarding Hub on the Ash Green Website
[Safeguarding - Ash Green School](#)



HAF PROGRAMME

As we approach the summer holidays, you may want to consider activities available to families over the summer holidays.

If your child is eligible for benefits-tested free school meals you can apply for their unique HAF (Holidays and Food Programme) code using this link and find out further information about what is on offer this summer.

<https://searchout.warwickshire.gov.uk/holidays-activities-food-haf>

Department for Education

HAF

Warwickshire

Summer HAF!

ACTIVITY LISTINGS

Monday 22nd July -
Friday 30th August 2024

ENRICHING ACTIVITIES, DELICIOUS
MEALS, LIFELONG MEMORIES

WWW.WARWICKSHIRE.GOV.UK/HAF

CHILD FRIENDLY
WARWICKSHIRE

Warwickshire
County Council