

# AGS Inquirer



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Issue: March 2024

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Dear parents and carers,

I wanted to write to you, to thank you for your continued support and positivity this term; while it has been a short term in comparison to the Autumn term, it has still been a busy one, especially as we prepare our students in years 11 and 13 for their final exams. In their mock exams, students have demonstrated their aspiration to achieve, with continuous improvements made and clear progress from the mock exams in November.



As I am sure you are aware from national news coverage, 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 15 months. This has been possible thanks to your support and reinforcement of the importance of regular attendance. In the summer term students' attendance to school remains of greatest importance and we will continue to work closely with families to ensure students are in school every day.

The Easter break is a great opportunity to ensure your child has a full set of uniform ready for the summer term. 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. Where we are different is that we try to go above and beyond, providing students who are not properly dressed with temporary loan uniform, giving parents a few days to address the problem.

If students decline the option of accepting spare uniform or we cannot accommodate due to a lack of stock, the student will be placed in reflection. It is not an unreasonable expectation that students attend school in full school uniform and that parents support the school with this. I would like to thank and praise the hundreds of parents and students who are always immaculate dressed and respect our school policy on this.

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

Have a wonderful Easter.

Best wishes,

Mr Choudhury  
Principal.



# INFORMATION

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## KEY DATES SUMMER TERM:

- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March: Last day of Spring term
- **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March: Easter holidays begin (2 weeks)**
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April: Students return to school-summer term begins
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April: Year 10 parents' evening (4:30-7pm)
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April: Year 11 GCSE Exam Period begins
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May-Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May: Year 10 Work Experience
- **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May-Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May: Half-term break (1 week)**
- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June: Teacher Training Day
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July: Last day of summer term
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August: A Level Results Day
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August: GCSE Results Day



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

As we welcomed the new year, you may remember a letter of congratulations from Mr Choudhury regarding our amazing attendance in January. We were achieving daily attendance figures that we had not recorded for some time, what made it even more incredible is that January is nationally recognised as one of the lowest months for attendance. This has continued and we would like to thank parents/carers and families working alongside us in encouraging your children to attend school every day, be punctual and understanding the link between great attendance and great results.

## **Introduction of new attendance monitoring**

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve attendance and outcomes for students, we are introducing a 4-stage monitoring process, which is intended to improve attendance across our school.

We want to support your child to reach their potential therefore we would like to remind you that you can arrange to speak to school about any concerns or support that you may need, at any time.

If you have any questions about the new monitoring process, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Toms (Attendance Improvement Manager) on 02476 366772 or by email

[jennifer.toms@ashgreenschool.org.uk](mailto:jennifer.toms@ashgreenschool.org.uk)

## **Inter Tutor Group Competition**

Student voice has told us that students love the attendance rewards programme and also recognition for good attendance. It was voiced that students would like to see more smaller prizes with a higher chance of winning.

Therefore, we have a new challenge when we return for our summer term.

Tutor groups will now be in competition with one another based on their collective attendance.

There are six leagues and the tutor group with the best attendance as well as the most improved attendance that week will share a treat during tutor time.

## **AGS Attendance Focus Group**

We would like to introduce an attendance focus group to enable us to work alongside students, capture their voice and ideas in moving attendance forward at Ash Green School.

Our vision is that the focus group will help with the following:

- Suggestions for incentives/prizes/competitions
- Raising the profile of attendance
- Social Media Communications
- Promotions within school
- Working alongside Year 6 students from local schools prior to their AGS journey starting in September

Any enthusiastic students with great ideas, who would like to be apart of the AGS Attendance Focus Group, please speak to the attendance team.

# INTER-TUTOR ATTENDANCE COMPETITION

LEAGUE 1	9A	7G	10E	7D		
LEAGUE 2	7E	7F	8G	8D	8C	
LEAGUE 3	10B	7A	10A	8F		
LEAGUE 4	9C	9F	8B	8A		
LEAGUE 5	8E	10G	9E	7C	10C	9G
LEAGUE 6	7B	9B	9D	10D	10F	

THE COMPETITION IS ON...WHO WILL WIN IN YOUR LEAGUE?



# SIXTH FORM NEWS

## Mock Interviews

As part of our careers programme, Year 13 students successfully completed mock interviews with external volunteers from Severn Trent in January. All students engaged well with the process, taking their time to answer questions thoughtful and sell themselves to the volunteers with examples



from their experiences in school, part time work and hobbies. The volunteers were very impressed with the students and the students fed back that the morning was useful, and not as scary as they thought it would be! These students have gained another experience to prepare them for life outside of Ash Green and help them progress well. Year 12 have their mock interview day coming up in June. A big thank you to Severn Trent for their commitment to supporting our careers programme.

## UCAS Update



University offers have been coming in thick and fast, with students in Year 13 holding 138 offers from 59 different providers. Of these, 35 are from Russell Group institutions, the 24 top research led universities in the country. It is so exciting to see students celebrating when they receive the offers from

the universities that they are hoping to attend. Huge well done to all students that have spent considerable time on their applications, interviews and other assessments to reach this point. We are also now starting to receive offers for degree apprenticeships which are highly competitive! We are delighted that students are applying for and being offered places on these aspirational courses and are excited to see what choices they make over the summer.

## NCS

Year 12 students have continued their NCS Experience, this term focusing on skills and qualifications. Students have completed courses in Food Hygiene and Allergies, and are due to complete their First Aid qualifications before moving onto the final section of Social Action. For this element, students will chose a local cause to support, through fundraising or volunteering. It will be great to see the positive impact that students will have on their local area through this project!





# SIXTH FORM NEWS

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## Work Experience

Year 12 students are in the process of sourcing and securing a work experience placement for the 1st-5th July this year. This is an essential experience within the sixth form, allowing students to establish their next steps by trying out an industry or sector before submitting applications in Year 13. Students are working hard to contact relevant employers, attend interviews, and then ensure all necessary paperwork is completed to finalise placements. If you can support this key element of our careers programme by offering a placement to a student, please contact Mrs Boland or Mrs Mahloudji.

## Auschwitz

On the 20<sup>th</sup> March, Mr Green and two year 12 students undertook an interesting visit to Auschwitz with the Holocaust Education Trust. The Lessons from Auschwitz programme selects two students per school to visit Poland in a day trip,



flying early in the morning to have time to tour Auschwitz 1 and Auschwitz-Birkenau before flying home in the same evening. The trip is bookended with seminars to brief the students and ensure their understanding is secure, and then a debrief seminar following the trip to discuss and work through what the students have seen. Upon return, students have to complete an activity to share what they have learnt with the wider school. The programme is an excellent way of ensuring that lessons we have learnt from the Holocaust are not forgotten. Well done to all involved.



## The Orwell Prize

The Orwell Youth Prize was an exciting and invaluable opportunity for our Year 12 English Literature students. Students were involved in lectures, participated in a Q&A session with Richard Blair and took part in Poetry and Feature Journalism workshops. The day culminated with students sharing their work in front of others and receiving feedback from peers. Overall, the day provided an insight into a writer's craft and why we write and identify with what resonates with us.



The SEND department organised a coffee morning and Family Easter event during neurodiversity celebration week. The events were joined by the Mental Health in School's Team, family Information service and MIND.

Below are some useful links to support with understanding neurodiversity.

## Neurodiversity & Autism - Happy Healthy Lives

Spring Term has seen a range of enrichment activities being delivered by the SEND department. Break and lunch time has seen students enjoying table tennis, quizzes, board games, mindfulness and films. After school, cooking club and the dungeons and dragon's club have been very popular. Please look out for the Summer Term schedule. Clubs are open to all students.

The Mental Health in School's Team have delivered several workshops for all year groups within school with a particular focus on anxiety. The workshops have looked at managing exam stress, creating worry boxes and grounding techniques.

The Healthy Lifestyle Team from Rugby have also been delivering sessions to year 7s during PSHE on how nutrition and exercise can support mental health.



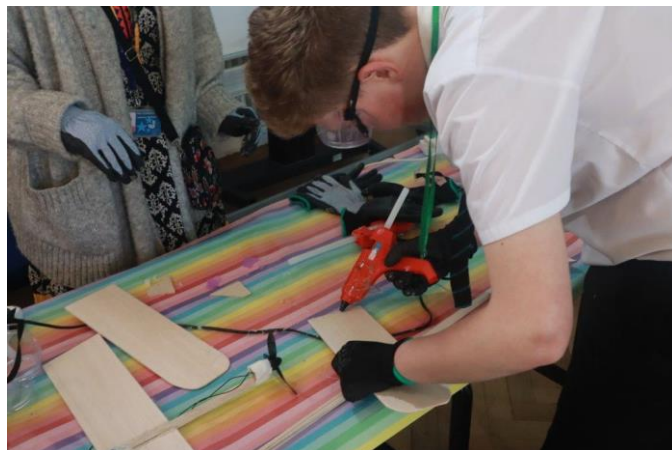




# SEND NEWS

## STEM Workshops

The SEND and Science department worked alongside Smallpeice to support forty Year 8s and 9s students participating in a STEM event on Thursday 21st March. Students were tasked with designing and building a prototype of an aircraft for the Royal International Air Tattoo. Students worked in groups of 6, designing,



budgeting, building, testing and branding the aircraft before presenting their findings to the rest of the groups. Students were able to develop leadership skills and teamwork with very impressive results.





# PASTORAL TEAM NEWS

Throughout the term AGS Pastoral team liaised with Warwickshire Police to proactively offer specialised assemblies to various year groups. These assemblies included talks, interactive sessions, Q&A to support students to develop a positive school ethos and improve discipline across the whole school, which also aim to support greater engagement in learning. Students will then transfer these skills acquired into the wider community.

Sessions included:

Knife Crime-Year 8 & 9

Ant-Social Behaviour-7,8 & 9

County Line-Year 10.



The team continued to collaboratively work with the North Warwickshire Youth Engagement Officers during the spring term.

There was targeted intervention delivered including County lines, 'How to Stay Safe and Self-regulation' sessions. The aim of these targeted sessions is to facilitate the social, personal and physical development of young people within our school community.

There has also been ongoing partnership building with Charities like the 'Reel ROD SQUAD' and the 'Men in Shed'. The aim is to be able to proactively support vulnerable young people's mental health needs on and off site as well as building strong relationships and a strong school ethos within the wider community.

As part of our 'Skills Bootcamp' Session to promote healthy behaviour the mental health team were also invited to deliver a Teen Talk session. This program created a platform where students were able to share opinions and were supported to gain key strategies for maintaining and improving relationships. Parents and Carers were also invited to attend drop-in sessions throughout the course of the day.





# PSHE WORKSHOPS

This term we hosted a team from Collingwood Learning with the project 'Smashed', an empowering and relatable live theatre performance and interactive workshop which addresses underage drinking.

The session, which was for students in Year 7 and Year 8, saw students observing, exploring and reflecting on vital underage drinking themes, including:

- The social and emotional causes of underage drinking
- Its impact on young lives
- Social influence and decision-making
- Where and how to help themselves and others

By participating in the Smashed experience, students learn to recognise social dynamics at play and consider the important role of personal responsibility, decision making and communication in the choices they make around alcohol.





# ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS

Earlier this term, students from our student leadership team attended an Anti-Bullying ambassador training session run by the Diana Award at Shireland Collegiate Academy in Smethwick.

At the event, students aged 11-14 worked together and learnt about how they can change attitudes and behaviours in different situations, including face-to-face and online.

At the end of the training, students made an action plan outlining how to approach bullying issues that may arise at school. Students also committed to their roles as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

The Diana Award benefits from the support of HRH The Prince of Wales and The Duke of Sussex and was founded as a lasting legacy to their mother, Diana, Princess of Wales' belief that young people have the power to change the world. The charity fosters, develops and inspires positive change in the lives of young people through four key programmes which include; a mentoring programme for young people at risk, a youth-led Anti-Bullying Ambassadors campaign, a collaborative Changemakers programme that aims to reimagine mental health support for young people from racialised communities and a prestigious award which publicly recognises young changemakers.

The Diana Award's Anti-Bullying Campaign involves several projects aimed at reducing bullying in schools. One of its main projects is the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors Programme, which has trained over 50,000 young people across the UK to lead on anti-bullying campaigns in their schools.

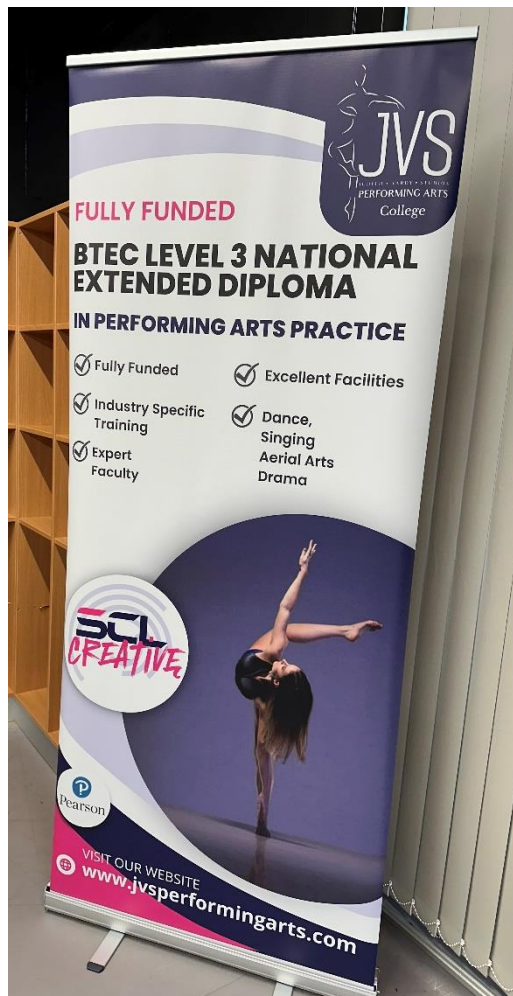






# KEY STAGE 4 DANCE WORKSHOPS

During National Careers Week, our Year 10 and Year 11 BTEC Dance students had the unique opportunity to participate in an inspiring jazz workshop, guided by the principal of the Judith Vardy Studios Performing Arts College. The workshop provided a valuable insight into the realm of professional dance training, coupled with an enlightening discussion about the potential post-16 pathways within the creative arts industry. All students demonstrated exceptional enthusiasm and discipline, truly reflecting the excellence of our Ash Green School pupils.





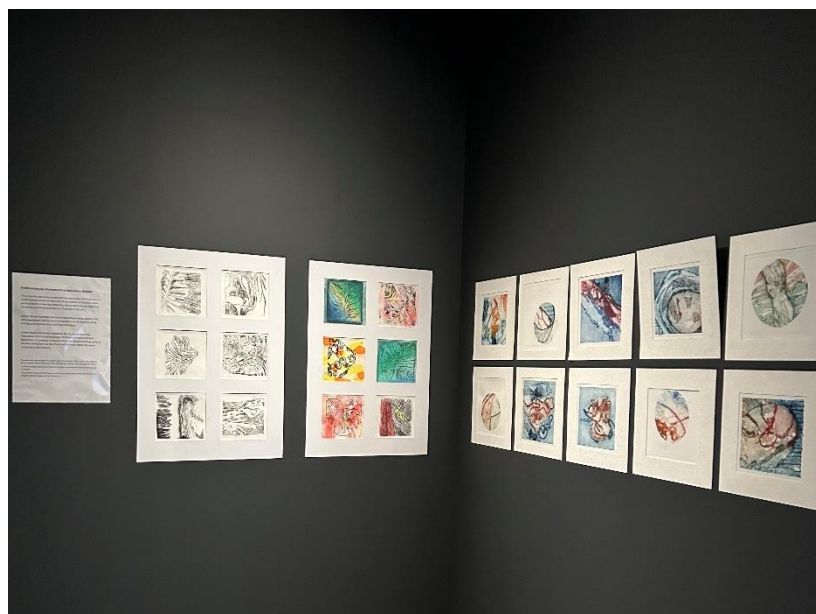


# HERBERT ART GALLERY EXHIBITION

Year 10 GCSE Art and GCSE Textiles students have recently participated in collaboration with the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum in Coventry in a two-day workshop led by artists Stuart Robinson and Anita Zychniewicz.

Using natural forms as inspiration (including insects, plants, fruit and vegetables), the students produced a series of prints using collagraphy and dry-point etching techniques.

Under Stuart and Anita's guidance, the students also took inspiration from the photographs of Edward Weston and Karl Blossfeldt, in addition to pictures from the wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition, on tour from the National History Museum currently at the Herbert.



The project was part of the Museums and Schools programme, funded by Arts Council England and the Department for Education.

This is the second year of working in collaboration with the Herbert Art Gallery and we are incredibly proud of the wonderful work produced by students from Ash Green and now on exhibition at the museum.

Congratulations to year 10 students: Eva, Noah, Jan, Freya, Angelo, Mylie, Lexi, Leah, Bethany, Ryan, Izzabel, Stevie, Anita, Ellie-May, Kyle, Simran, Tianna, Julia, Annabel and Mirabela.



# WORLD BOOK DAY 2024

In this year's super charged World Book Day Quiz tutors were given the ultimate task "Who wore it first?" (Cape edition)

The two biggest comic book rivals will finally settle the score. Each round consisted of 3 categories: Comic, Animated and Live Action.

Tutors voted who they thought first appeared in each media genre. If all three were answered correctly for the round a BONUS point was awarded!

To settle the final showdown between the two characters Tutors were also asked to pick who their favorite was in the comic multiverse.

Congratulations to the Winners of this year's Ash Green School World Book Day 2024 Quiz

YOU ARE THE MIGHTIEST!!!



## WHO WORE IT FIRST?



## RESULTS!

#1 9D

#2 9A

	Total Points Scored
YEAR 7	140
YEAR 8	59
YEAR 9	239
YEAR 10	71
YEAR 11	60
SIXTH FORM	65
BONUS POINTS	88

## TUTOR FAVOURITE WINNERS!

- Round 1 - Hawkeye
- Round 2 - Flash
- Round 3 - Batman
- Round 4 - Thanos
- Round 5 - Aquaman
- Round 6 - Catwoman
- Round 7 - Dr Strange
- Round 8 - Vision
- Round 9 - Red Hood
- Round 10 - Antman
- Round 11 - Green Lantern Corps
- Round 12 - Deadpool
- Round 13 - The Avengers
- Round 14 - Wasp
- Round 15 - Ultron
- Round 16 - Plastic Man
- Round 17 - Dr Doom
- Round 18 - Captain Marvel x2 (Tie)

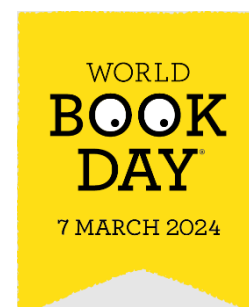
Yes, yes, marvelous suit, darling!



To celebrate World Book Day our Library also put on a special showcase of new arrivals that were available 7 March.

Some of the titles included were promoted by bookmarks that were provided to promote the new books from well known published authors with many titles under their writing belt.

- Anthony Horowitz
- Sarah Crossman
- Jeff Zentner
- Susin Nielsen
- Cassandra Clare
- Kiran Millwood Hargrave
- Matt Killeen
- Brian Conaghan
- Katya Balen



"Everyone is a reader, some just haven't found their favourite book yet."





# SPRING TERM SPORTS NEWS

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The short spring term included important football fixtures for our squads as they tried to make it through to the play-off stages in their respective league competitions.

Two squads were successful in doing this, making their way into the semi-final stages. The Year 10 squad were drawn against a strong Higham Lane team and played out a 2-2 draw, which meant the tie went into a penalty shoot out. Strong nerves and inspired goalkeeping meant that the Ash Green School Year 10 squad won 4-3 on penalties. An excellent result which means that they go through to the final against George Eliot school.



The Year 7 squad in their first year of AGS football also made it through to the semi-final play off stages. They were also against Higham Lane School. Despite a superb second half performance, the squad were beaten 3-1, but the performance meant that every player could hold their head up high and with pride.





The Year 7 squad do have another chance however to reach a final this year. They were entered for the U12s WCSFA Cup, which includes schools from the whole of Warwickshire. In their quarter final tie, they came from behind to beat Kenilworth school 4-3, with a penalty save and a last second winner taking them through. They are due to play Stratford Upon Avon School in the semi-finals.

As always, a big thank you to every student who has represented the school with pride and enthusiasm – without them, school sport would not survive. We must also say thank you to every parent/guardian who has travelled to matches to support their sons and daughters – it is very much appreciated by the PE Department and your sons and daughters.

Mr S King – teacher i/c football  
PE Department



# SPORTS NEWS

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You may recall that in our last newsletter we celebrated Maisie in year 9 for her achievements playing for both Coventry and Sheffield Ice Hockey. We are delighted to inform you that Maisie successfully trialled for England under 15s in December and will now be representing England in Lithuania in the summer.

Maisie is so proud of her achievement as are we: "I'm excited to be going to Lithuania. I feel like my hard work has paid off. I'm looking forward to training with girls from different teams and to experience playing alongside others from different countries."

This is an incredible achievement. Well done Maisie!

