



Ashlawn News

Transforming Lives through Learning and Leadership

A Half-termly Newsletter December 2012

December 2012

Dear Parent/Carer

I am sure you feel as I do, that the end of term and the Christmas holiday has come upon us at an alarming rate as we now approach the final days of 2012.

I am particularly pleased for our Year 7 students, whose first term has been long but successful and they are now safely settled into Ashlawn. At the other end of the school our senior students are mostly occupied with mock exams and AS/A Level assessment. I wish them all well and remind them of the speed with which holidays and revision days flash by.

This term has had many highlights with an assortment of opportunities including trips abroad as well as some fantastic events, which include the Year 7 Concert, European Day of Languages, trips abroad, Maths Challenge, Dance Performances, the

visit of Lord Faulkner, students hosting of the Children's University graduation ceremony and the Sports Award Evening celebrating sporting accolades bestowed upon many of our students. In this Olympic year it is wonderful to celebrate the many achievements of Ashlawn students.

Sadly at the end of this term we will be wishing fond farewells to Nick Lindstrom, who is going to be working in Northamptonshire and Amy Smith who is moving to Kenya to work.

I would like to wish all our students and their families a very Happy Christmas and every good wish for 2013.

Kind Regards

Lois Reed

Head Teacher

PTA News

The PTA would like to invite you to get involved!

Our next meeting will be on:

15th January 2013 at 6:30pm.

If you would like to know more about what we do and how you can help please email:

golda@ashlawn.org.uk

Dates for your Diary...

December 2012

Wednesday 19th December 7:00pm

Staff Pantomime - tickets available £3:00 students £5:00 Adults

Thursday 20th December

School finishes at 12 noon for Christmas Holiday

January 2013

Tuesday 8th January

School opens to students

Monday 14th January

Year 11 Parental Consultation afternoon - school ends at 1:00pm

Monday 21st January

School Production

February 2013

Tuesday 5th February

Year 12 Parental Consultation afternoon - school ends at 1:00pm

Tuesday 12th February

Year 8 Options evening

Wednesday 13th February

Key Stage 4 Concert

Sporting Excellence

Megan Williams (Year 7) competed in the schools inter-county cross country at Moreton Morrell recently finishing in tenth place. She is Second reserve for the next race. Well done Megan and Good Luck!





Children's University

Ashlawn School supports the Children's University and currently has a group of ten year 8 students following the learning experiences that the CU offers. They experience learning both in and out of school hours and earn stamps in their passports to help them on their way to graduation.

What is Children's University?

Students get together and show each other what they have learnt recently after school, during the weekend and in the holidays.

As evidence of what you have learnt and what place you have recently been to, you could bring photos, leaflets or objects to the meeting.

You get passport stamps for whatever you have done which is interesting or is relevant.

Some students have already given presentations in a few meetings. Ryan Evans has given a presentation on Raptors (birds of prey). Sean Huxley has given us a presentation on science and Kian Saville has given a presentation on swimming.

Ryan Evans

Children's University is an amazing and delightful thing to do. I have learnt and achieved many things - I spoke and hosted an event in Warwickshire!

Georgia Laing

In November, our students were given the opportunity of helping to host the annual graduation ceremony for Coventry and Warwickshire. Five of them took up the challenge and, rather than merely assisting, they asked to plan and host the ceremony themselves!

On the 7th November 2012 we hosted a Graduation Ceremony. Each of us had a job to do during the Graduation. Georgia and I had the job of hosting, Martin and Joseph made a quiz that everyone enjoyed. Martin also was a receptionist and worked with the photographer and Joseph was our Technical Man. Mrs. Woodbridge and Jesse were on door duty and Jesse also helped with the sound and visual checks. At the end we got told by Chief Executive Ger Graus "That was the best performance I have seen in 5 years of running Children's University".

In Children's University I have learnt to be confident with what I have produced in work and extra-curricular activities, and to be able to speak and express my feelings to big groups of people.

Kian Saville

At the graduation Kian Saville and Georgia Laing presented the entire graduation from opening it to closing it. Me and Joseph Morrall and made a quiz and everybody really enjoyed it. Joseph also helped the professional technician with the lights, PowerPoint and movie clips. I was able to assist the photographer and take pictures of the graduates.

Martin Warburton

As a result of their superb hosting of the graduation, Kian and Georgia have been invited to the 5th Anniversary Celebration of the CU at the House of Lords in January. The Chief Executive, Ger Graus, has also said that he would like to come and have lunch with all the students in the New Year.

Children's University has shown me new brilliant opportunities to excel and learn more than just curriculum skills. I have developed social skills as well as abilities in technology and administration.

I think my greatest achievement was creating a quiz to keep the mood heightened during the graduation. It was very pleasing to hear the "Yes's!" murmur around the hall. It even caught out the CE of Children's University when he got one of the answers wrong!

Joseph Morrall

Since hosting the graduation ceremony these students, along with Ryan Evans, have delivered an assembly to the entire year 7 cohort to promote the Children's University. To date, we have 76 students in year 7 wanting to be part of this experience and our year 8s will be working with me to ensure that they make the most of all the learning opportunities available to them - let's hope we see Ashlawn students graduating next year!

Mrs Woodbridge



Sporting Achievements

So far it has been successful start to the sporting season with over 30 boys rugby and football fixtures being played and winning a total of 20 these. 25 netball fixtures have also been played this term, with the girls totaling 20 wins so far! A fantastic start to the 2012-2013 season.

Highlights include:

- The Year 8 and Year 10 football teams reaching the Semi-Finals of the County Cup.
- Year 9 & 10 Rugby teams remain unbeaten with some outstanding performances. Notable performances to date include Year 9 beating Avon Valley 42-0 and Year 10 beating Bilton 40-5.
- Six students in Year 9 and three students in Year 10 have been selected to represent Rugby District U14 and U15.
- U14 Rugby District Students: Tom Bailie (Captain), Liam Smith, Adam Manning, Charlie Whiteside, Sam Lockley, Zach Wright.
- U15 Rugby District Students: Sam Elliot and Liam Deery. Sam has progressed up the ranks and is now a Warwickshire COUNTY player!
- Lyle Sargent (Year 8) was selected to run cross country for Warwickshire in the U14 English schools championships.
- The year 7, 9 and 10 girls finishing in runners up place in the district netball league, with the year 8 and 11 teams winning overall to be district champions!
- The year 9 boys and girls teams, and 11 girls team, have all reached the Warwickshire County finals in badminton, convincingly beating all other district teams including Rugby School and Princethorpe College.
- Year 9 girls football team beat RHS 11-1, to move on to the next round in the U14 county cup.



Aspiring Students

Gifted and Talented Ashlawn students and their parents spent an evening learning about how to apply to the UK's most prestigious universities.

A visiting member of Keble College, Oxford, Ms Borianna Boneva, explained to students why Oxbridge was the ideal destination for them after 6th form. The students were many of Ashlawn's highest attaining Y11s, all predicted to reach between an impressive 5 and 10 A*s and As in their GCSEs.

After a short presentation on the advantages of studying at Oxford or Cambridge, students and parents then practised a range of difficult subject questions in the style of the infamous "Oxbridge Interview"! Ms Boneva helped parents and children with some of the more complex challenges!

Jude Hunton, Ashlawn's lead teacher for G&T said: "It is important to recognise we have so many hard



working, high achieving students who should see Oxbridge and other top universities as the right destination for them after sixth form. Over the last three years Ashlawn has sent more and more young

people from our 6th form to top universities and we will play our part in the community ensuring this continues."

What if it snows?

The seasonal possibility of snow always brings with it the question of school closure. Although this is rare, we need to be prepared for bad weather. If there is a need to close the school there are a number of ways you can check:

- Listen to local radio – Rugby FM (107.1 fm), Mercia (97 fm), and BBC Coventry & Warwickshire (94.8 fm)
- Sign up for free text message alerts at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures
- Check our website for updates: www.ashlawn.org.uk

Christmas Lunch

There will be Christmas lunch available in the canteen on:

18th & 19th December.

The price will be £3:10 to include pudding and a small drink.

There is also a vegetarian choice.

