

Dear Parents,

A message from our Headteacher

I cannot believe how quickly this year has gone. It has been a fantastic year at Ashley College with so many highlights. We have ventured out on many trips and have taken part in many activities. It's hard to believe that our Year 11s have already started enjoying their summer break after completing their exams. We all celebrated their successes at the Yr11 Leavers Event on 28th June. We wish them and all our other pupils who are transitioning onto their mainstream school or the next provision every success in the future. It was lovely to see so many parents join us for the celebrations; thank you for your support.

It has been an absolute privilege getting to know them all and watch them grow into the wonderful and resilient young people that they have become, they have worked hard to get where they are. I am sure you will appreciate how our staff have supported every pupil to achieve. Please do keep in touch, we really enjoy seeing our ex-pupils pop in to let us know how they are getting on and share their experiences with our new pupils.

We look forward to seeing those returning to us in September as well as welcoming our newly referred pupils. It just leaves me to say, have a wonderful summer break and recharge your batteries; see you all on **Wednesday 6th September** (Monday and Tuesday are INSET days for staff only). Meanwhile please do remember to keep your children safe over the summer.

Keeping your children safe: online & beyond : It's never easy to know how to keep our children safe when they aren't with us, and sometimes even when they are, if we don't know what's happening in their lives or on their devices! Who are they talking to, what are they doing, are they okay? Don't despair though [follow this link](#) for help.

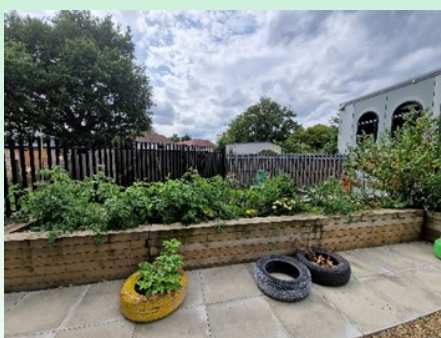
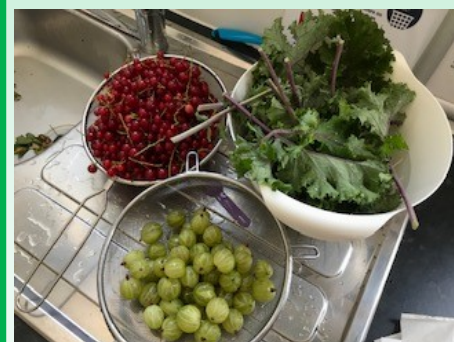
Best wishes
Ranjna Shiyani
Headteacher

What a Crop!



At the start of the term the students cleared out the old growth in the plant beds ready for this year. We all went to the garden centre in Neasden to select our plants for the season. Though many of the students were more amazed by the large fish kept in the aquarium. The students selected their plants as well as different seed potatoes and we returned to the college ready to plant.

The planting area was divided into three areas. This followed the discussion over who owned which plants last year.



This year we put in dividers so that Key Stage 3, Year 10 and Year 11 planted their own areas. Throughout the summer term the beds were watered and weeded as the plants grew. We harvested amazing crops of gooseberries, red currants and kale.

Frank Ofori-Sampong
Activities Lead

In June, we were extremely fortunate to see a fantastic production of the classic play 'Witness for the Prosecution' by the well-known crime writer Agathe Christie, which was set in post-war London when capital punishment was still legal in Britain. It was a pleasure to see the performance staged in the unique courtroom setting of the magnificent London County Hall.

Students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the intensity and drama of this gripping story of justice, passion and betrayal involving a man called Leonard Vole who is accused of murdering a widow to inherit her wealth. Our students were on the edge of their seats and as members of the cast were entering, exiting and walking around you, it was easy to forget we were there to watch a play, and not observe court in progress.

It was fantastic for our students not only to experience live theatre, but also see a play set in post-war Britain, as some of our literature texts are set in a similar time period and one which gives the students a taste of how the legal system works. Some comments from our students about their experience:

Witness for the Prosecution



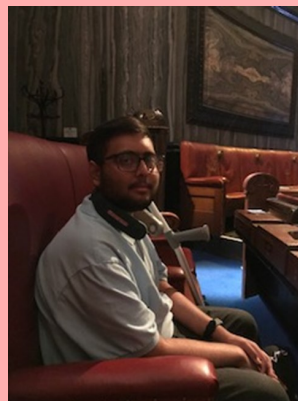
Nicolas- The theatre trip was good. The drive into London was interesting. There were good actors and there was a big twist at the end.

"The ending was so dramatic. I could never have predicted it. I got it so wrong. I really enjoyed it when the witnesses were being questioned by prosecutor and the defence lawyer."

Lucas - I really enjoyed this trip and especially enjoyed the well-played performance and I found the plot very exciting and interesting. It was a great opportunity to partake in seeing such a well-put-together and acted play and it really drew me in. Also, I found the architecture of the building very beautiful.



Milosz- The theatre trip was long but the play was very entertaining. The play was about a murder mystery court case and I enjoyed it a lot the actors were very talented and did a great job of portraying their characters.



Caroline O'Gara
English Lead

Druv- I enjoyed the trip. It showed how a IRL theatre works and when the actors haven't forgotten their lines. I enjoyed the travel to the theatre as how cool it was inside when it was hot outside. I enjoyed the theatre and it was my first time going to one and want to go to more theatres. I enjoyed the story and the end of the story and how dramatic it was.



Reading For Pleasure

This year one of our main aims was to create an environment which would encourage our students to develop a love for reading and to set aside time each week when they could enjoy books.

It has been very rewarding to see most of our students reading when they arrive the morning, during tutor time or on Friday mornings. Staff have observed students recommending books to each other, trying out books suggested by staff or browsing along the shelves in the school library. These reading sessions provide periods of calm and an opportunity to explore ideas and experiences outside the curriculum, which are crucial for wellbeing.

There is now the expectation that all students will have a book in their bags at all time. The following titles that have been popular with the students: *Animal Farm*, *Sherlock Holmes Collected Works*, *Grimm's Complete Fairy Tales*, *A Darkness of Dragons*, *Look Both ways*, *The Hate You Give*, *The Promised Neverland*, *Heavier Than Heaven*, and *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

This increased time spent reading for pleasure is having an enormous impact: not only has the reading ages of most of our students increased- which has a direct impact on academic success – but there is also a greater realisation amongst them that there is so much enjoyment to be gained from reading.

Creative Writing



Reading and writing are inextricably linked and we understand the reciprocal relationship between these two skills. All of our students have had the opportunity to do some free writing at least once a fortnight which has led to some fantastic creativity from our students.

We are particularly proud of our Year 10 student Kyrie Graham, who has been awarded a prize in a recent competition by Brent Council for her gripping tale “The Stranger in the House”. Kyrie has written many stories which are highly engaging and draw the reader in with such amazing attention to detail and a crisp dialogue. Kyrie’s winning story is attached to this newsletter.

Caroline O’Gara—English Lead

Learning to Budget for the Weekly Shop

This term Year 10 pupils have been producing a range of balanced and nutritious dishes while also learning how to make them in the most economical way. Their knowledge was put into practice on our shopping trip to Asda and Lidl where pupils were shown how to compare prices accurately by looking at the price per weight. While doing this they put their knowledge of food labelling into practice by comparing the nutritional



value of foods. This really will serve as a skill for life, in order for them to ensure they are fulfilling their calorific and their nutritional needs as well as helping them to budget. During their studies of manufactured food, pupils had the opportunity to recreate some popular items such as jammy dodgers, which they made super-sized and gummy bears which were also vegan and sugar free.

They have also been working on perfecting the art of the meringue. They got to put their creative flair into their pavlovas, deciding on a pink meringue and Chantilly cream which students created their own meringue shapes for. They perfected this skill when making lemon meringue tarts which they all executed beautifully.

Lauran Brannigan
Food Technology Lead

Valuable Life Skills



Our Key Stage 3 students have been focusing on transition and preparing for returning to mainstream or new schools in September. We enjoyed a visit from one of our past pupils, Dana, who put together a very helpful presentation with the key tips she has for anybody transitioning back to a mainstream school. Our Key Stage 3 pupils really enjoyed the talk and it was very helpful for them to hear from a peer about their experiences. Dana is one of our past pupils who has done exceptionally well since transitioning back to mainstream, including studying a full set of GCSE's, making lots of new friends and reaching the Brent final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out challenge. We are very proud that she is one of our past pupils and look forward to hearing about more of her achievements. Dana also attended our Yr11 leavers event, when she spoke to our current pupils about her experience at Ashley College and life beyond.



Louise Togher - Deputy Headteacher

On Friday 30th June, all Ashley College students and staff embarked on a day of fun at Thorpe Park. We were very lucky that the sun shined for most of the day and we managed to avoid the rain. The students were exemplary and many of them tried some of the biggest, scariest rides at the park, whilst others stuck to the gentler rides. It was a lovely way to celebrate a wonderful term of achievements and spend the last day with our year 11's.

End of Year Rewards Trip

Tidal Wave is the most visually spectacular ride at Thorpe, and is guaranteed to leave riders drenched. The drop is quite breath-taking and the complete wall of water riders experience at the bottom is even more so. Needless to say, riders come off absolutely soaked. The sheer atmosphere this ride creates (as well as the more than impressive splash) easily makes this one of the most spectacular water rides in the country! You go up and up and up and then suddenly plummet down into a huge pool of water! We got soaked but when the next Tidal Wave riders came down, we stood there and let them soak us! Standing near the soak zone of Tidal Wave and watching the huge wave come so close to us was great fun.

Tasha: *The fast-track tickets were epic. By the time you get to the roller coaster - the safety zone light flashing before you - your heart is already racing. That was what I hated. Saw: The Ride roars and screams, as if it's alive. The Drop delivers completely. As you crest the top of the hill, the track completely disappears before you. You really do get a "freefall" sensation. It's pretty breath-taking and hard to describe. It's an incredible experience that I would ride over and over again.*

Lucas: *I really enjoyed this trip since it was my first time going to Thorpe Park and I wasn't entirely sure what to expect however it was a fun, enjoyable day. I tried to make the most of the day and enjoyed the socialisation aspect of the trip. The journey was relaxing and enjoyable to spend time with others.*

Chris: *The trip was really fun and scary. Later on, we went to the beach just chilling in the water on a warm sunny day. The best ride was the swam, we sat in a big round tube that takes you up and drops you onto the slide also spins you around, and you get splashed by the water. Also, I had ice slush it was mixed red and blue.*

Tia: *I did enjoy the bus ride it was very funny and silly. The social part was great...*

Angela: *I enjoyed the rides at Thorpe Park, on the way It was relaxing and, on the way, back I slept. The time was short yet I had fun and went on some rides that are very scary for me but I still went. Tia helped me get over most of my fears and overall it was fun.*

Milosz: *Thorpe Park was okay just a bit of a long journey I didn't go on any rides but the interactions between my classmates were good and it was fun on the way there. It was funny when someone's phone went flying off the ride and gliding through the air like a majestic eagle.*

Louise Togher - Deputy Headteacher



This summer, centre teachers focused on outdoor learning, teachers noticed that the outdoor activities have boosted learning, increased engagement and improved outcomes. Research has shown that outdoor learning can:

Outdoors Learning

- develop reflective and inquisitive thinking along with problem-solving approaches in 'real' situations
- encourage holistic development of children
- develop resilience and adaptability in occasionally adverse circumstances
- develop self-awareness, confidence and self-esteem
- develop collaborative-working and communication skills
- provide positive health benefits – both physically and mentally – and assist gross and fine-motor development
- develop a lifelong love of the outdoors



These are examples of few examples from different subjects:

Drama The Key Stage 3 and 4 drama group were staging a mini production of a Melodrama. There are different teams - acting, sound and music, make up and costume and research and marketing. The outdoor learning experiment was with the acting team and a member of the sound team using outdoor materials and equipment to create the sounds for the drama piece.

English KS3 worked on descriptive writing.

Lesson 1: The students collected some leaves, plants and flowers from the garden. Each of them took photographs. The pupils were asked to use the 5 senses and record their responses., e.g. bark of trees, smells of flowers, shape. There were discussions about what we already know about the nature in the garden, e.g. oak tree and how we can identify it.

Lesson 2: Stick the plants, etc onto sugar paper. Use iPad and encyclopaedia to identify the proper nouns for the trees etc. Make notes describing them – words, phrases on sugar paper. Revisit the outdoor area for brief period to check details, e.g. how the bark of the oak trees differs from the beech tree.

Lesson 3: The photos had been printed out. The students selected photos of their choice and wrote a description of the scene.

Maths The outdoors activity was about a group of 12 pupils who were comparing whether they received homework from Maths. The task involved reading several statements and then sorting information provided and placing in the correct Venn diagram which was drawn onto the playground with chalk.

Science The aim of the lesson was to introduce the idea of “no parallax” to show the positions of distant objects and how this can be used to observe and judge the distance of stars. Using simple demonstrations and asking the students to move while observing two distant posts and see how they seem to change position. Linking with this is the position of the eyes of predators and prey.

What the pupils thought about their outdoor learning experiences

“Today’s lesson was interesting and I enjoyed it” “I found it slightly challenging but I enjoyed the lesson”

“I liked the outdoor exercise” “I think today’s lesson was very fun I enjoyed going outside and problem solve”

'It made us interact with the environment.' *'The scene is livelier now - it was feeling a bit dead in the canteen'*

'It is so funny how the Villain is now hiding behind the tree. Just changing our environment added a whole new layer as well as dramatic irony - the audience can see him but the Hero and Heroine can't!'

'I enjoyed working outside a lot more'

Kader Benamara

Work Experience

Key Stage 3 and Year 10 students had a unique opportunity to take part in a

short work experience via the voluntary community project at the Rugby Club in Kilburn. Students worked outdoors and built a new outdoor area including benches, tables and bird boxes. They also painted the external walls.

The feedback from the Team Leaders about Ashley College students was very positive. Students cooperated, interacted well and followed all instructions precisely. This was particularly important as we were on a construction site. Students were proud of their practical outcomes and clearly enjoyed using the machinery and tools. However, the white all in one protective suits we had to wear were not very flattering and they really made us all laugh!



Student feedback:

"This was actually really good fun"

"I really enjoyed it"

"When can we do something like this again?"

"Best 3 days"

"I liked learning outdoors"

We are also delighted to announce that 6 students gained an Entry Level 3 City and Guilds qualification in site carpentry skills. Congratulations!

Anne-Marie Mika –Deputy Headteacher

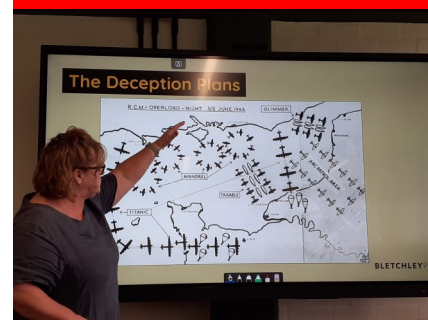


Bletchley Park was a unique experience for our students as it gave them the opportunity to discover the incredible achievements of Britain's World War Two Codebreakers, in the place where it happened.

Once the top-secret home of the World War Two Codebreakers, Bletchley Park is now a vibrant heritage attraction and we were very fortunate to take part in this rich experience.

Ashley College students had the opportunities to engage with Bletchley Park's story which has wider relevance to contemporary history and our own lives today.

DECODING



An interactive workshop session , in which students used practical problem-solving and team working skills as they began to understand the scale of the task faced by Bletchley Park's codebreakers during World War Two.

We then had a guided tour around the outside of the buildings, providing opportunity for students to delve deeper into the story of Bletchley Park and the process of sending, intercepting and decrypting coded messages.



We were then given time to explore the Mansion, museums, huts (and of course the shop!) at our leisure.

Our students were very engaged with the activities and enjoyed the experience. Blake and Andi were particularly impressive in the complex codebreakers problem solving tasks which was noted by the facilitator. What the pupils said about the learning experience:

"It was fun" "I wish that we could have similar trips in the future"

"Interesting stories that I didn't know about" "It is more history and maths"

"I enjoy the code breaking activity because it was challenging"

"Can we do more of these activities in the classroom?"

Kader Benamara

Maths Lead

Table Tennis

Following a very wet Friday the previous week where we were

all forced to stay inside for the afternoon we decided to have a staff v student Table Tennis tournament. Both the staff and student groups had a round robin tournament to decide upon a champion. For the staff Calvin slightly squeezed past Frank to win the staff place and Andi won the student league. The battle of the champions was on. After a hard-fought contest, Calvin won the tournament for the staff side.

Rounders

On the Monday this competitive edge was carried on in Preston Park where the staff took on the students at rounders. The staff batted first and ran up a total of five rounders. In the student's innings they could only manage 3 rounders. In the second innings the staff ran away victors as most of the students ran out of energy and had to retire. In spite of the Headteacher batting for the students side and valiant effort by some of the students,



they were still unable to challenge the might of the staff effort and the staff came in victors at nine rounders to six. Until the next time!

Students feedback:

Angela- Rounders was fun and exciting. It was quite hot though but overall nice.

Nicolas - It was fun. I did the batting and the staff members ran for me because of my leg.

Andi - Sports day was fun as I got to be the bowler and have a laugh. Next time I would like to play table tennis, so that I can beat Calvin again!

Lucas - I really enjoyed this event surprisingly since I was pretty worried about the scheduling but as soon as I was organised I had plenty of fun as to the surprise of myself. I enjoyed the relaxed feel of the activity as it was taken seriously to a certain extent however it wasn't too much pressure.

Milosz - The rounders game was so amazing I loved it and it was enjoyable the fresh air on a Monday was a nice experience for a change and I finally got to touch grass on a school day it was really cool to be able to do something sporty and productive.

Dhruv- I enjoyed the sports day I thought for me it was going to be boring as I was just sitting but I got to participate as I was in the staff team and I got to bowl the ball and hit the bat and didn't have to run which was good as when in mainstream sports day I just had to sit the whole day without doing anything but here I got to participate and enjoyed it. I want to go to more sports where I don't have to run.

Frank Ofori –Sampong
Activities Lead



Our Year 11s



We are extremely proud of the Year 11 cohort this year. Students have already banked London Institute of Banking and Finance Qualifications, Esky Food Hygiene Certificates, Horse Grooming Awards and Functional Skills qualifications.

All students sat all their GCSE examinations and we very much look forward to results day. See you at **10am on 24th August!**

We wish you all the very best for your futures.

Anne-Marie Mika—Deputy Headteacher

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE AUTUMN TERM 2023

Term Starts : Wednesday 6th September— All pupils return (Staff INSET on 4th and 5th September)
 Parent Evening: Wednesday 13th September—Parent/Carer Progress Review and Target Setting
 @ 3.30pm – 7.00pm.

HALF TERM : MONDAY 23rd October - FRIDAY 27th October 2023

Term Ends: Thursday 21st December

Checkout all the Brent summer holiday activities in the attached leaflet

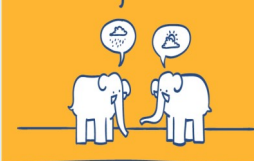


Elefriends (part of MIND UK)

A supportive online community where you can be yourself. We all know what it's like to struggle sometimes, but now there's a safe place to listen, share and be heard. Whether you're feeling good right now, or really low, it's a safe place to share experiences and listen to others. Elefriends is moderated daily by the Ele handler team from 10am-midnight.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/support->

Whenever you need to talk



Hub of Hope

The Hub of Hope is the UK's leading mental health support database. It is provided by national mental health charity, Chasing the Stigma, and brings local, national, peer, community, charity, private and NHS mental health support and services together in one place for the first time. <https://hubofhope.co.uk>

For Activities over the holidays and outside of school hours for pupils with ASD please visit the BOAT website: www.brent.gov.uk/boat

Or contact them : boat@brent.gov.uk



Kooth Parent Helpline:

0808 802 5544

Monday to Friday 9.30am – 4pm



ASHLEY COLLEGE

ASHLEY GARDENS

WEMBLEY HA9 8NP

Tel: 020 8937 3330

Email: admin@ashleycollege.brent.sch.uk



info@brentfoodbank.org.uk

Tel: 0203 7455 972

<https://brent.foodbank.org.uk/get-help>



2019-2022



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