ASHLEY COLLEGE



Dear Parents and Carers,

A message from our Headteacher

Another year comes to a close and as we approach the summer holiday, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all professionals and families for your continued support in helping us care for, and educate, our pupils.

At Ashley College, we continue to offer our unwavering commitment to a holistic approach to ensure that every pupil thrives academically, socially, and personally. Despite the extreme hot weather we remained open to provide a nurturing environment where pupils feel safe, secure, and are able to build confidence for the future. At the Year 11 leavers event, we were delighted that parents and carers spoke so highly of our provision and the care we provide.

This summer has brought us many sporting highlights, from the Football World Cup and the excitement of Wimbledon tennis – all under glorious sunny skies! Whether your interests are in sports or elsewhere, I hope you are able to enjoy the sunshine and have a restful, enjoyable summer break with your loved ones.

As usual, our newsletter is packed with stories of the amazing opportunities, trips, and events that have taken place this term. I hope you enjoy reading about everything our pupils have achieved.
Staff Changes

As we come to the end of another successful year, we sadly say goodbye to **Frank Ofori-Sampong**, who after 9 years of teaching Science and Physical Activities is retiring. We wish him a well-earned rest and many happy years of playing golf! In September, we will be welcoming two new teachers to our team:

- **Martin Arlington** – Science and Physical Activities
- **Jaren Yeung** – Food Technology and Active Citizenship

We look forward to introducing them to our school community and know they will make valuable contributions to our pupils' learning and development.

Important Information for September:

Pupils return on: Thursday 3rd September at 9:20am

Wishing you a wonderful summer!

Warm regards
Ranjna Shiyani
Headteacher

Inspiring Talk

Pupils recently enjoyed an inspiring session with Nicky, our Chair of Management Committee and a senior leader at NatWest Bank, who spoke about the importance of mathematics in education, careers and everyday life.

Drawing on his own career journey, Nicky explained how resilience and determination helped him overcome setbacks and build a successful career in banking and leadership. He showed pupils that maths is much more than a school subject – it is a valuable life skill that helps people make informed decisions, manage money, solve problems and succeed in a wide range of professions.

Through practical examples, including compound growth, savings and investments, Nicky demonstrated how mathematical thinking is used in everyday situations and careers such as medicine, engineering, business and sport. He also reassured pupils that confidence in maths develops through practice and perseverance, reminding them that "Maths isn't just about numbers; it's about learning how to think, solve problems and make good decisions throughout your life."

The session was highly engaging, with pupils actively discussing their own career aspirations and exploring how maths could support their future goals. Nicky's real-world insights and positive message made a lasting impression, and pupils showed their appreciation with enthusiastic applause.

Pupil Voice
Stanley reflected on the session: "The talk was very helpful because it showed how maths can be used in real-life situations. It gave me a good insight into the importance of maths in everyday life and inspired me to think about the opportunities and career paths I could pursue in the future. Thank you."

We are extremely grateful to Nicky for giving his time and sharing his expertise with our pupils. His visit reminded them that success is not always about taking the perfect path, but about working hard, staying resilient and making the most of every opportunity. We look forward to welcoming him back next academic year for another inspiring session.

Kader Benamara– Maths Lead

Holiday Poetry Competition



Pupils are invited to participate in a poetry competition during the summer holidays.

Have fun writing a "Sensory Montage" poem.

Deadline:
Week beginning
7th September

The Rule: Must include at least three specific sensory descriptions (e.g. the smell of sunscreen, the hum of an electric fan, the crunch of gravel) and be between 8 and 20 lines. Use the example in the text box as a guide. A prompt sheet to support this task can be found on Google Classroom (https://classroom.google.com/c/ODcwNjAzOTczMDc4).

Example Poem: "August, 4:15 PM"

SIGHT/SOUND
A basketball thuds against dry tarmac,
overlapping the distant, tinny siren of an ice cream van.
The sky is a bleached denim jacket,
worn out at the edges by the glare of the sun.

TOUCH/TASTE
Warm Fanta fizzes against the roof of my mouth,
tasting of artificial orange and long, empty afternoons.
Bare ankles get scratched by dry, yellowing grass,
while the pavement radiates heat through the soles of my shoes.

THE CLOSE-UP
Look closer: a ladybird scales a melting asphalt ridge,
a single phone screen flashes with three unread texts,
a melting ice lolly drips, sticky and red,
onto a discarded receipt from the corner shop.

THE FADE OUT
Shadows begin to stretch like lazy cats across the lawn.
The heat slows down, drawing a long, cool breath.
The montage ends, saved to memory.



Submit your poem using either of the following methods.

Upload your poem directly to **Google Classroom**
Send your poem as a Word document or PDF to **(cogara@ashleycollege.brent.sch.uk)** with the subject line *Summer Poetry Competition*.

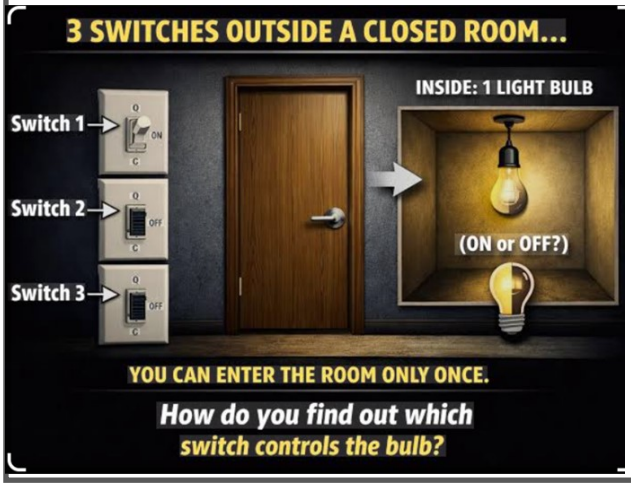
Hand a typed or neatly handwritten copy to your English teacher during the **week beginning 7th September.**

Caroline O'Gara– English Lead

Summer Family Puzzle Challenge

The Challenge:
How can you work out which switch controls the light bulb? This puzzle has puzzled Pupils, parents, and even mathematicians for years. The secret is to think beyond what you can *see* and consider what other clues might be available. Good luck!

Summer Competition
Try solving the puzzle with your family. Write down your solution and bring it back in September. We'll be excited to see the different strategies everyone comes up with!



Can You Solve the Three Switches Mystery?
Looking for a challenge to keep your brain active over the summer holidays? Try this classic logic puzzle and see if your family can solve it together!

Imagine you are standing outside a closed room. Outside the room are **three light switches**. Inside the room is **one light bulb**.

- Only **one switch** controls the bulb.
- The other two switches do nothing.
- You cannot see the bulb from outside.
- You may use the switches however you like.
- You may enter the room **only once**.

Help writing your poem

The Summer Poetry Challenge: The Sensory Montage

A cinematic montage cuts quickly between different images and sounds to capture a mood. Your mission is to do the exact same thing—but using words. Use this worksheet over the summer holidays to film your perfect "Director's Cut" poem.

How to structure your poem



Stanza 1: Sight & Sound (Setting the scene instantly).
Stanza 2: Touch & Taste (Bringing the physical world closer).
Stanza 3: The Close-Up (Focusing on one tiny, specific object or moment).
Stanza 4: The Fade to Black (How the moment ends or transitions into evening).

Example Poem: "August, 4:15 PM"

STEP 1: The Summer Sensory Hunt
Before you write your poem, go outside or sit in your favourite summer spot. Fill this grid with concrete, highly specific details. ***No clichés allowed!*** *(Don't say "the sun was hot"; describe how the sweat feels or the glare on your screen).*

The Sense	What are you experiencing right now? *(Be specific!)*
SIGHT	*e.g., A bright pink strawberry laces wrapper on the pavement; a glare on my phone.*
SOUND	*e.g., The drone of a lawnmower three gardens away; a tinny ice cream van tune.*
TOUCH	*e.g., Hot steering wheel vinyl; dry grass scratching my ankles; cold water splash.*
TASTE / SMELL	*e.g., Salty skin; burnt BBQ charcoal; artificial cherry ice lolly.*

STEP 2: The "Close-Up" Shot
Every great director zooms in on a tiny detail that normal people walk past. Choose ***one small object*** *from your summer day and describe it in intense detail here:*
My Close-Up Object: _____
What it looks/feels like up close: _____

STEP 3: Director's Storyboard (Drafting Your Poem)
Now, arrange your ideas into the official 4-stanza montage structure. Aim for 3–5 lines per stanza.
STANZA 1: Sight & Sound (Set the Scene)
Tip: Start right in the middle of the action. What is happening around you?

_____

_____

STANZA 2: Touch & Taste (The Physical Feeling)
Tip: Describe how your body reacts to the British summer weather.

_____

_____

STANZA 3: The Close-Up (Zooming In)
Tip: Focus entirely on the tiny object you chose in Step 2.

_____

_____

STANZA 4: The Fade out (The End of the Scene)
Tip: How does the day change as evening approaches? How does the moment end?

_____

_____

STEP 4: The Final Edit Checklist
Before you hand your typed or handwritten poem to your English teacher in September, tick off these three boxes:
Did I avoid clichés? (Did I replace basic words like *hot, nice, fun, sunny* with vivid descriptions?)
Did I include a close-up? (Is there a clear moment where the poem zooms in?)
Is it the right length? (Is my poem between 12 and 20 lines long?)

Staying Active!

The pupils took part in a number of activities, visits and events during the summer term. We started the summer term at the Vale Farm gym. This was going to be the last activity that everyone could take part in together before the year 11 pupils time was taken over by exams. Here the pupils warmed up on the treadmills and cycles before completing a programme of exercises on the various activity stations set out around the gym



Later in the term pupils were taken to the indoor climbing wall in Harrow. I wrote to a number of parents and carers to report the fantastic effort made by the students taking part in this activity and the depth of enjoyment they found taking part. Part of the aims of the Friday programme is to introduce our pupils to new activities for them to pursue outside of our curriculum. This is a great example of such an experience. As you can see from the photograph, it is quite challenging but the pupils all conquered their climbs.





The onset of the summer always awakens the gardener in us. So now it was off to the garden centre in Neasden to select our plants for the beds that the pupils had meticulously prepared for planting by removing all of the weeds and breaking up the soil.

No visit to the garden centre is ever complete without a visit to say hello to our favourite giant fish and the Welsh Harp reservoir. This year in the blazing sun the trees provided much needed shade on our journey around the Welsh Harp.







It is always wonderful to see our pupils experience and enjoy the great outdoors!

Frank Ofori-Sampong—Activities Lead

Royal Academy Trip

On Thursday 9th of July we were lucky to get tickets as a school group to see the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy (they don't release many of the free schools tickets).

The exhibition the world's largest open-submission art exhibition and has run every single year since 1769. Anyone can enter, and a committee of professional artists judges the entries.

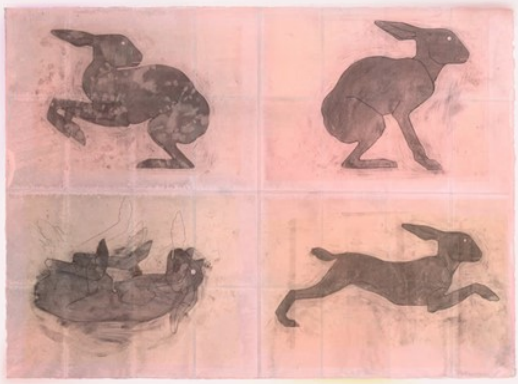
The artwork is famously displayed in a "floor-to-ceiling" style, with hundreds of paintings, sculptures, and architectural models packed tightly into the galleries. It was a pleasure to see the students engaging with the show, deciding what they liked and disliked.

The Royal Academy gave us little catalogues of the artworks and students circled which were their favourites, it was fascinating to contemplate the different prices attributed to the artworks and we found it hard to guess which would be most 'valuable'.

We hope to repeat the trip next year, there really is something for everyone in this unique exhibition.



Heidrun Rathgeb's 'Wild Camping, South Uist' was Molly and Emral's favourite



'I liked most of the Artwork in the Museum, especially the ones with cats in them. There was half a wall with just cat paintings and in some rooms, some paintings were colour coordinated, for example one corner was all one colour and another was another. There were also some very fun and "silly" rooms, like the one with a bottle of water.' Julia

"*It was an interesting, eye opening experience, the exhibition showed a wide amount of artistic understanding and freedom. I particularly liked Cathie Pinkington's artwork of a Rabbit."* D'Andre

'After seeing the art at the show, I think modern/ contemporary art is stupid, there was also a lot of really good traditional art. I liked the ones that were a mix of traditional and modern.' Jurell



George Nesbitt– Art Lead

GCSE Results Day

GCSE results day this year is **Thursday 20th August**.
Please come to school **between 10am and 1pm** to collect your results in person.

Even if you're registered for digital updates, **it's important that you come into school** so we can:

- Give you your actual certificates
- Celebrate your achievements with you

Provide support and guidance for your next steps, whatever your results

Careers support available
A careers advisor from Connections will be here on the day to help you plan your future. Whether you're moving on to sixth form, college, an apprenticeship, or exploring other options, we'll make sure you have the support you need.

We're here for you
Whatever your results, we're here to support you in taking the next step in your journey. Coming in allows us to:

- Discuss your options face-to-face
- Answer any questions you might have
- Help you feel confident about your future plans

We understand results day can feel nerve-wracking, but remember – we're proud of you and we want to help you succeed, no matter what.

We're looking forward to seeing you on Thursday 20th August between 10am and 1pm!

Trip to Horsenden Hill



A Day of Fun, Laughter and Friendly Competition

On a glorious sunny day, students from Ashley College embarked on an unforgettable adventure to Horsenden Hill in Sudbury. The trip combined foot golf, a peaceful nature walk, breath-taking views, and the highlight for many – delicious ice cream!

Foot Golf Mayhem



The foot golf competition brought out everyone's competitive spirit – perhaps a little too much! Stanley has quite a kick on him. The game was filled with hilarious moments and questionable scorekeeping with Sachin claiming an impressive score of 76! Despite the confusion over who actually won (spoiler: everyone thought they did), the consensus was clear and summed up eloquently by Jurell: "*It doesn't matter what the score was, we still won!*"

Jeanne's competitive edge led to some cheeky rule-bending, whilst Richard found himself on the receiving end of good-natured teasing from the entire group throughout the day.

Comedy Tumbles



The hill proved to be quite the challenge for our adventurers! Poor Nisha took an unexpected tumble down the slope, providing entertainment for all, Molly also had a mishap when she fell over and reached out to lean on Emral for support – only for Emral to step aside at the crucial moment! Luckily there were no injuries !

The drama reached its peak when Morgan performed a (self-confessed) over the top fainting action, in spectacular fashion, but thankfully was caught just in time by the heroic D'Andre.



Nature's Beauty

Between the laughter and tumbles, students enjoyed a wonderful nature walk, taking in the splendid panoramic views from the top of Horsenden Hill. The beautiful photograph captured at the summit will serve as a lasting memory of this special day.

The Ice Cream Finale

No school trip would be complete without treats, and the ice cream at Horsenden Hill did not disappoint. It was the perfect way to cool down and celebrate a fantastic day out.

A Trip to Remember

This trip to Horsenden Hill was a wonderful reminder that the best school trips aren't always about perfect execution – they're about shared experiences, laughter, and making memories together. From questionable scorekeeping to dramatic falls (all safely managed!), every moment contributed to a day that Ashley College students won't forget anytime soon.

Thank you to all staff who supervised and ensured everyone's safety throughout this memorable adventure!

Anne Marie Mika– Deputy Headteacher



Summer Fun Festival 2026

Summer of fun, fact and fiction. Whether you love reading, find books a bit dull, or struggle with words on a page, Brent Libraries' Summer Fun Festival has something for every child. Each week features exciting themes such as adventure, fantasy, STEM and sport, alongside a variety of activities including robotics, storytelling, arts and crafts, and capoeira.

As part of the National Year of Reading, we aim to inspire a love of books through fun and creative sessions. Join the Summer Fun Festival from 1 July to 5 September, read six books to earn rewards, and become a reading ambassador.

The dates for each theme will vary by library, so please check in advance for the dates at your local library. CLICK

PLACES KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2026

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

ANGUS STEAKHOUSE
Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm

ASDA
Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend

ASK ITALIAN
2 Kids eat free every day until Sept 6th 2026

BELLA ITALIA
Children eat free Sunday - Thursday

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE
2 Kids Eat Free Breakfast with 1 paying adult

BILLS
Kids Eat Free weekdays until September 1st 2026

BREWDOG
1 Kid eats free with 1 adult, 19th July - 31st August

CAFE ROUGE
Kids Eat FREE 12-4pm every day of the week

CHIQUITO
Kids eat free during all school holidays

COCONUT TREE
Kids eat free Mon 13th July - Sun 6th Sept

DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES
Kids eat for £1 with an adult meal purchase

FARMHOUSE INNS
2 Kids eat FREE this summer holidays

FLAMING GRILL PUBS
Kids eat for 88p this summer holidays

FRANKIE & BENNYS
Kids eat FREE during school holidays

FRANCO MANCIA
Kids eat FREE school holidays Mon-Thurs

FUTURE INNS
Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS
Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day

HARVESTER
Kids eat for £1 every day until Sept 1st 2026

HUNGRY HORSE
Kids eat for 88p this summer holidays

IKEA
Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

LAS IGUANAS
Kids under 12 eat FREE via the App

MARCO PIERRE WHITE
Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend

MORRISONS
Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM
Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day

PIZZA HUT
Kids Eat Free Every Day after 3pm

PREMIER INN
2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

PRETO
Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult

PREZZO
Kids up to age 12 eat for £1 during half terms

PUREZZA
Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal

SA BRAINS PUBS
Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

SIZZLING PUBS
Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm

TABLE TABLE
2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult

TESCO
Kids eat free every day this summer with a 65p spend

TGI FRIDAYS
Kids Eat Free until 6th September (Via App)

THE REAL GREEK
Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

TRAVELODGE
2 kids eat for £1 with 1 adult breakfast

TOBY CARVERY
Kids eat for £1 every day until Sept 1st 2026

TURTLE BAY
Kids eat free with every £15 adult spend via app

VILLAGE HOTELS
Kids eat free 20th July - 4th Sept via the village app

WHITBREAD INNS
2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

YO! SUSHI
Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays

ZIZZI
Kids eat free via app during school holidays

Copyright of MONEY SAVING CENTRAL



Link:
https://kiddoadventures.com/2026/06/07/50-fun-things-to-do-in-london-with-kids-this-summer-2026-free-budget-friendly-days-out/

Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Who can attend

To be eligible for a free place, children and young people must currently be:

- in Reception to Year 11 (inclusive); and
- a resident in Brent and/or attending a Brent school; and
- receiving benefits-related free school meals (FSM) or have had their eligibility confirmed by a professional.

Please note that benefits-related free school meals are separate to the universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) scheme, which provides children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 with free school meals. Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 who receive free school meals must also be **eligible for benefits-related free school meals** in order to access a free place on the HAF programme.

There are currently universal free school meals for all primary school children in state-funded schools for the 2025/26 academic year. This is funded through the Mayor of London and has been extended until 2028.

Proof of eligibility

When booking a place, you will be asked to confirm your eligibility by:

- showing a copy of your school holiday supermarket voucher email (vouchers are emailed from your school)
- quoting your supermarket voucher eCode; or
- providing a confirmation of eligibility (such as an email, letter, or code) from your school, social worker, youth worker or other professional.

If you believe your child is eligible for the HAF programme but do not have proof of eligibility, please speak to the relevant holiday club provider when booking a place, and they will be able to assist you.

Siblings

Siblings of children who meet the above criteria may also be able to access Brent HAF programme places, please speak to the relevant holiday club provider and they will be able to assist you. Find out more at:
https://www.brent.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/childcare-and-early-education/holiday-activities-and-food-programme#Summer2026HAFprogramme

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE AUTUMN TERM 2026

Term Starts : Thursday 3rd September— All pupils return (Staff INSET on 1st and 2nd September)

Parents Evening: Wednesday 16th September—Parent/Carer Progress Review and Target Setting @ 3.10pm – 7.00pm.

HALF TERM : MONDAY 28th October - FRIDAY 30th October 2026

Term Ends: Friday 18th December 2026

Checkout Brent's summer holiday activities on page 7

BRENT HUBS

In need of urgent support?

Our hubs, located across the borough, provide emergency support for residents in urgent need, including food and fuel vouchers

Visit Brent Hubs ->

ChildLine 0800 1111

NSPCC HELPLINE 0808 800 5000 help@nspcc.org.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**

BOAT

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



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

Brent foodbank

info@brentfoodbank.org.uk Tel: 0203 7455 972

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

WAS ncb Wellbeing Award for Schools 2019-2022

HEALTHY SCHOOLS LONDON

HEALTHY SCHOOLS LONDON BRONZE AWARD

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

MUSIC MARK SCHOOL