



20 September 2017

Dear parents,

It has been an excellent start to the term with the new Year 7 pupils settling in well. We are also very pleased to welcome several external new students to the 6<sup>th</sup> form from independent and other state schools. One of the key features of the start of term has been the high number of prospective parents on the weekly school tours with a view to choosing Ashcombe for September 2018. Fortunately, the demographic dip in recent years means that we are able to offer places further afield than was the case previously. Our Open Evening for next year's Year 7 takes place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October and the Into the 6<sup>th</sup> evening is on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October. At both events, existing pupils come along to guide prospective parents and pupils and to share their experiences and pride in the school and we are currently asking for volunteers to help.

## Staffing

Following on from my last letter, Ms Sheikh has now had the results of tests which confirm that she has breast cancer, but that it has not spread. She is now embarking on a course of treatment which will last several months, and we will be continuing to support her and her family during this period. Teaching staff have been very helpful and Dr Carter has worked hard to adjust the timetable so that Ms Sheikh's classes will now be taken for the year by experienced staff. Any cards or messages of support can be sent via Mrs Digance in the Ranmore Office ([info@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk)).

## Careers Fair

Thank you to everyone who attended the Careers Fair. The vast array of exhibitors and speakers was remarkable, and our event is actually bigger than many of the regional careers exhibitions. I would like to pay particular thanks to the volunteers. The event could not take place if it was not for the parents and ex-pupils who return to speak about their career choices. Please do get in touch with Mr Panting on [panting.chris@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:panting.chris@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk) if you would like to volunteer for future careers events.

## Trips

Due to unprecedented demand we are hoping to run additional trips to both China and Uganda. The response from pupils who have been on these visits has been extremely positive and this has clearly encouraged others to apply for the next round. The letter outlining the China trip in July 2018 will go out as soon as the pricing is confirmed. In terms of Uganda, the interest in the July 2018 visit was so great that we have now proposed to run a second trip in 2019. Mr Panting will publicise both visits over the next week.

## Sponsored Walk

As outlined in earlier letters, the school is organising a sponsored walk on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September. The aim of this year's walk is to raise money for a new minibus which we hope will benefit



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every pupil at some point whilst they are at Ashcombe. The new bus will cost £25,000 and we are hoping that the walk will offer an opportunity to raise a substantial amount of this money. We are looking for parent volunteers to help with the administration of the day and will be in touch with the parents who have already volunteered over the next few days. Please contact Mr Panting on [panting.chris@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:panting.chris@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk) if you are able to help on the day. Donations for the walk can be made via the sponsor form or online at

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/ashcombe-trust/minibus-appeal>

You can also Text ABUS17 £10 to 70070 or whatever amount you wish. We will be able to buy the minibus if each pupil manages to raise at least £15. We will write with final instructions at the start of next week. We have also attached the sponsor form to the end of this letter.

## **Career Talks**

Jo Carroll, our career adviser, has developed a series of "career months" this year. To accompany this, Jo has arranged talks for pupils to outline career options in a set area. These will take place from 1:25 - 1.45pm in S5. The specific dates are outlined below:

Construction - Tuesday 26th September

Medicine - Tuesday 17th October

Finance - Tuesday 14th November

Law - Tuesday 12th December

## **Extra-curricular Activities**

All pupils in Year 7 should have received an extra-curricular timetable detailing the range of activities available in school. In addition, a copy of the extra-curricular timetable is in each tutor room and it has been emailed home to parents. The sports clubs have been particularly well attended after school, with over 50 pupils attending some of the sessions, notably the girls' netball and basketball sessions. All pupils are welcome to attend and we are confident that there is an activity for every pupil somewhere on the list. The clubs are aimed at all ability ranges. The information can also be found on the website at <http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/04-info/06-Extra-Curricular.shtml>

## **INSET Day and Open Evening**

The school will be closed for pupils on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> October for INSET. The school's Open Evening takes place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October with tours from 6pm and my Address at 7.45pm in the Hall, and we always encourage pupils to volunteer to help with the event. Mr Simmonds and Mr Ketley will be speaking to the pupils about this over the next week.

## **Parents Support Evening for Year 10**

As mentioned in the last letter, there will be a Parents Support Evening for Year 10 parents on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm, finishing by 7.30pm. The session will address a range of issues including the new grading system for GCSEs and the implications of curriculum change. Please contact Mr Ketley on [ketley.stuart@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:ketley.stuart@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk) if you would like to attend.

Yours sincerely,



D.J. Blow  
Headteacher