



9th November 2018

Dear parents,

The first two weeks of this half term are always dominated by the production. This year's production is Beauty and the Beast, and the cast, crew and band of 150 gave their first public performance last night to great acclaim. We never cease to be amazed by both the quality of the performances and the range of those involved. We would particularly like to thank the commitment of all staff involved, especially the drama and music teams. Tickets for the show are still available at <http://tiny.cc/wz88zy>.

A new replacement building for the Supported Learning Centre (SLC)

We are extremely pleased to announce that planning permission has been granted for a new two-storey building to replace the existing demountable that is found close to the exit of Ranmore car park. The building will be used to support a range of activities and the provision includes a central area, smaller areas for literacy and numeracy group work and intervention rooms where external professionals can provide support for children. The development has been funded through a bid to the Education Skills and Funding Agency. We are planning to start the first stages of the work on 17th November and we are hoping the project will be completed by the end of the summer term. In the interim, we are using the demountable B1 near the Croft Avenue gates for both the work of the SLC and the PTA Uniform shop. There should be minimal impact for the school and students, and we will keep you informed of progress on this exciting project.

Remembrance - 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War pupils have been finding out about soldiers who attended Dorking Grammar School (a predecessor of The Ashcombe School) and Dorking town who gave their lives during the war. Pupils also found out through assemblies about John Parr and George Ellison, the first and last soldiers killed during the war, which encouraged students to reflect upon the theme of Remembrance.

To coincide with Armistice Day, pupils from all year groups produced a poppy to lay at the front of the Ranmore building. Messages were designed by each tutor group to give thanks for the sacrifice made in all wars. The final display is an impressive effort from the whole of school as it shows how pupils have taken the time to pause and remember.

Sporting Success

There has been continued success in netball this year. The Year 8 team are currently unbeaten and Year 7 have won their last two games. Year 9 and Year 10 have their first league matches next week so we wish them luck.

Gym and Dance rehearsals will be starting very soon. The announcement on the theme of the evening will be going out in assemblies.

Applications for 6th Form for September 2019

The applications for the 6th Form are being returned by the Year 11's. The applications can be completed online or returned as paper copies. All applications should be submitted by Monday



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12th November. Please contact Mr. Blackband on blackband.ben@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk if you have any questions about the process.

Year 10 and Lower 6th Parents' Evenings

The Year 10, X band Parents' Evening is taking place on Tuesday 13th November and Year 10, Y band Parents' Evening is on Thursday 22nd November, both from 4.30-7.00pm. Please contact the pastoral team if you have any questions about either evening. The Lower 6th Parents' Evening is on Tuesday 27th November.

Year 11 Progress Review

These have been issued today to Year 11 pupils.

Apprenticeship Fair

The planning for the Apprenticeship Fair on Wednesday 21st November is well under way and we have several new volunteer companies to advertise their apprenticeship programme. We are particularly keen to advertise the range of apprenticeships available including the degree apprenticeship courses. We would welcome any companies who are interested in outlining and advertising their apprenticeship programme. Please contact Mr Panting on panting.chris@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk if you are interested in supporting the event. The event will take place during the school day from 2.00-4.00pm.

PTA wine tasting- Friday 23rd November - £5 only!

Majestic Wine is running our wine tasting evening at the school on Friday 23rd November. For the amazingly low price of £5 you will get to taste six choice wines...and walk away with a Majestic voucher! Tickets must be bought in advance via ParentPay. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start.

Mufti Days

We have five mufti days throughout the year to raise money for our school's main charities: Royal Marsden/Cancer Research, a Romanian project for former street children and Build Africa. Parents can pay for all five mufti days being held this year by paying £5.00 on Parent Pay. See below for the first one next week, with the second being on the last day of this term, which has a Christmas theme.

Anti-bullying Week 2018

Anti-bullying Week 2018 is 12th - 16th November and is organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. This year the theme is 'Choose Respect'. Throughout the week, pupils will be taking part in activities in tutor time. The Ashcombe School will be supporting the Anti-Bullying Alliance by taking part in a mufti day on Friday 16th November 2018. Pupils will be able to wear mufti for the day and we are encouraging them to wear a blue item of clothing to show support for this cause. Pupils should donate £1 and this money will be donated to the Anti-Bullying Alliance and school charities.

Staffing

We will be advertising for a part time site team position. If anyone knows someone who might be interested, please contact Maria Stanley: stanley.maria@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk.

Surrey County Council consultations - have your say

This week Surrey County Council has launched five consultations on a range of services. SCC want to hear the views of as many residents, partners, voluntary and community groups as possible by Friday 4th January 2019 to help them shape those services for the future and set a sustainable budget. The consultations cover:

- Family resilience – children’s centres
- Special educational needs and disabilities
- Libraries and cultural services
- Concessionary bus travel
- Community recycling centres

To get more details on what they are proposing, you can find the consultations online at: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/have-your-say/consultations>

Senior Citizens' Party

We are starting the planning for the annual Senior Citizens Party on Tuesday 18th December. The event is led by our pupils, with the 6th Form coordinating arrangements, Year 10 will be cooking, some of Year 8 will be hosting and all pupils fund raising. It is always a memorable and heart-warming event. We are always keen to hear from anyone who would like to attend the event. If you have a relative or neighbour who is keen to participate then please e-mail Mr Woollett on woollett.david@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk.

Carol Service

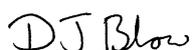
The school’s annual Christmas Service will take place at St Paul’s Church on Monday 3rd December. It is a lovely occasion and offers an opportunity to listen to the range of music performed by the various school groups. The service starts at 7.30pm.

Last day of Term

Will be on Wednesday 19th December at 1.00pm and we return on Thursday 3rd January.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,



D.J. Blow
Executive Headteacher



C.G. Panting



Mrs A.S Reed

Joint Heads of School