



18th October 2018

Dear parents,

This is our final letter of a very successful half term. The new pupils who arrived in September are now fully settled, although we are aware many of them are very tired and ready for a break. We have outlined the key events and information relating to school either side of the half term.

Open Evening

We would like to thank all the many pupils who helped at last week's Open Evening for prospective pupils and parents. We had a record number of visitors and the recurring comment from the people who looked round was unanimous praise for the way our young people conducted themselves. We were all exceptionally proud and touched by the manner in which they articulated their view of life at Ashcombe.

School Production

Rehearsals for 'Beauty & the Beast' are going fantastically well and all the cast and crew are excited about the upcoming production, and are looking forward to seeing you there! Tickets will be on sale shortly, so please keep checking the school website for updates.

Sporting Achievements

The PE department have had a really busy and successful first half term in relation to extra-curricular clubs. The numbers attending have been at record levels. There have been a number of notable successes in competitions including:

- both Year 7 and 8 netball teams recently beat Rosebery
- Year 11 football team into next round of English schools, as are both girls' football teams
- all rugby teams have had success at the local Esher rugby tournaments
- Felix Vaughan won the inter boys race at the English schools' cross-country cup county round

We have made a few minor changes to the extra-curricular timetable for next half term to add time for the start of Gym & Dance rehearsals. This will be on the website and posted via our Instagram pages shortly.

Year 7 Parents' Information Evening

There is an opportunity on Tuesday 30th October for Year 7 parents to come in, meet the tutors of the year group and listen to a number of curriculum-focussed talks. Specific details have been sent out regarding the event to all Year 7 parents. Please contact Mr Ravenhill if you have any questions relating to this event.

'Into the 6th Evening'

Mr. Blackband hosted a really successful event for pupils of Year 11 with many pupils attending from other local schools and colleges. A copy of the Sixth Form prospectus and application form can be found online and the deadline for applying is 12th November. If you were unable to attend or have any further questions, please contact Mr Blackband directly.

Message from "Friends of Dorking"

For the second year running, the Friends of Dorking are delighted to announce for this half term holiday - 'Dorker's Spooktacular Halloween Hunt!'

They would like to invite children and their families to take part in this FREE Event throughout the town, starting from Saturday 20th October until Sunday 28th October. The competition is fun for all ages and they hope everyone will enjoy taking part.

Holocaust Trust visit

The Holocaust Trust has an annual programme that supports two 6th form students in schools to go to Auschwitz. The visit is seen as a way of preserving the legacy and memories of all who experienced this catastrophe. The interview process took place and we would like to congratulate Ethan Columbell and Ella White for impressing in interview. They will feedback to the school about their experiences. We had three other fantastic applicants and we are hoping they may also be able to secure a place.

First World War Centenary

As part of the WW1 centenary, there will be assemblies led by the History Department, coinciding with the anniversary. We also intend to prepare poppy memorials within tutor groups, with a member of each tutor group researching an individual; these projects will culminate in a larger school memorial created at the front of school.

Uniform

The uniform store is relocating to alternative accommodation. During the next few months, it will not be possible to offer our usual service so please check the school calendar for further information. Online orders may be delayed initially while we pack, move and restock the shop. Please therefore order uniform over the half term for fulfilment, including jumpers and fleeces for the colder weather to avoid delay. Uniform orders can be collected as usual from the Bradley Office and you will be informed when it is ready to collect. Please note the October uniform sale has been cancelled. From November, until further notice the monthly sale will be appointment only. For all queries, please contact the uniform team on uniform@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk

Apprenticeship Fair

We are staging our second Apprenticeship Fair on Wednesday 21st November. The planning for the apprenticeship fair 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 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

Friends of Ashcombe

Over the past 18 months, we have set up an alumni group called Friends of Ashcombe. This is designed for anyone who has a link to the school, including ex-students, parents and staff. The group has three main aims. First, to keep people informed about the school. Second, to arrange future reunions. Third, the group helps to support with the various careers-based volunteering that helps enrich our current pupil group. The group already has over 200 members. The link for joining the mailing list can be found at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc76DEalp3Zg9Xjkh-FPtE2wlbrWS4TajD1Z6yduhtlif5Hzw/viewform>

Half term

The school will break up on Friday 19th October at 3.30pm and will restart on Monday 29th October at 8.55am.

We would like to thank you for the support you have given us over the past half term.

Yours sincerely,



D.J. Blow
Executive Headteacher



C.G. Panting



Mrs A.S. Reed

Joint Heads of School