



26th November 2018

Dear parents,

Christmas Events

The first of the Christmas events start this week on Tuesday and Wednesday with the Bazaars, where each tutor group runs a stall in the Hall. The money raised by the pupils funds the school's Senior Citizens' Party on Tuesday 18th December. The party is led by our pupils, with 6th form students coordinating arrangements, Year 10 pupils doing the cooking and the table hosts coming from Year 8. It is 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 and join in the singing of carols. The service starts at 7.30pm.

Awards Evening

The annual awards evening takes place on Monday 17th December. We are really pleased to be able to welcome back Greg Cackett, an ex-Ashcombe pupil. Greg has had a wonderfully varied sporting career since he left the school in 2008, competing as a sprinter in events across Europe. He then transferred sports to become part of the British Olympic Bobsleigh team. He is currently in the process of a further change into sprint cycling. We are sure that pupils will be both interested and inspired by his story. The awards evening is a celebration of the last academic year's achievements. We would love to give awards to many more pupils that are deserving, but can only select approximately 10% from each year group due to the amount of money available for awards. We do emphasize throughout the evening that we are celebrating and recognizing the achievements of all. Pupils who have been nominated for an award will receive a letter in the post.

Gym and Dance Performance

Preparations for the annual gym and dance performance are now well under way. Rehearsals and preparations are off to a flying start, with pupils from all year groups getting involved. General rehearsals for all are Friday lunchtime. The performance will take place on Thursday 24th January.

Online reporting

We have had helpful feedback from both pupils and parents about Online Reporting and how it can be used to empower you and your children in establishing and supporting good working habits in school. In responding to suggestions, you may notice two changes to the system, which I hope you find helpful. Firstly, pupils are now being given their own username and password to use Online Reporting. Previously, pupils had to share the parents' logins (with siblings also) and therefore may have lacked some sense of ownership of their own records. While the rates of parental uptake of the Online Reporting system have been very encouraging this year, we anticipate that this will make it easier for pupils to access their records daily, in particular their homework feed. I should reiterate that the Student Planner is still to be used as the pupil's working record of what homework is set, to encourage them to take a responsibility for their homework, and also as occasionally the planned homework as recorded online is unable to be set. The Online Reporting homework feed will often, however, be able to provide more detail around homework tasks (including, for example, hyperlinks to homework documents on SharePoint



Executive Headteacher: D. J. Blow, M.A.
Ashcombe Road, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1LY
Tel: 01306 886312
www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk
info@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk



or other internet resources) which would be difficult to record accurately in the planner. The second change is relating to the information that you, as a parent, get when your child has received a detention. Notices of detentions are sent to your email account as well as a hard copy sent through the tutor registers. Parents indicated that it would be useful to receive some indication as to the reason that a detention had been given, so that support could be given in the right direction. This was indicated on the letter, but not in the email. This is now happening so that every email notification of detention, which lists any detentions currently in the system for that pupil, will include brief reasons for those detentions. We hope you find both of these improvements helpful.

PTA

The PTA is registered with The Giving Machine, which is a very easy way to shop online and raise funds for the school at no cost to you. The Giving Machine is a charity that has relationships with over 2,000 retailers from John Lewis to Amazon, eBay and Apple, whereby a small percentage of what you spend goes to up to four charities of your choice. We are hoping that you choose The Ashcombe PTA as one of them. Register by going to <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/sign-up/> Shop by going onto the site or app and then clicking a retailer's logo. We hope you make good use of it for Christmas!

Applications for 6th Form for Sept 2019

The applications for the 6th form have been returned by many Year 11 pupils already. The applications can be completed online and can also be returned as paper copies. Please contact Mr. Blackband on blackband.ben@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk if you have any questions about the process. Mr Blackband will be starting to interview all Year 11 pupils about their post-16 choices as part of our wider careers package in January.

Year 11 Mock exams

All Year 11 parents have been written to outlining the mock process. Please contact Mr Prior or Mrs Gray if you have any questions about the process.

Lower 6th Parents' Evening

The Lower 6th Parents' evening is on Tuesday 27th November. Please contact Mr. Blackband if you are unable to attend.

Apprenticeship Fair

We would like to thank all the volunteers who supported the recent Apprenticeship Fair. The event was a great success with over 500 pupils attending the fair. The companies and education providers who attended were incredibly impressed with the maturity displayed by our pupils. There was considerable interest in the apprenticeship pathway, both at 16 and 18. There are a number of helpful websites, including:

- the government's apprenticeship website lists all active apprenticeships and is a useful starting point to see what is available. <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
- the apprenticeship guide keeps a comprehensive overview of all aspects of the process <http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/>

Ashcombe Humanitarian Society

The Ashcombe Humanitarian Society – a student led group of 6th formers from The Ashcombe School striving to help people around the world when they require it most, but they need your help! As we move into the winter months, they are collecting vital items of clothing and shelter for refugees in Calais. These items could be anything from a pair of socks to a second-hand winter coat. They are also helping a charity called 'School Bus Project', also based in areas such as Calais with little access to education.

They aim is to collect resources which will aid in this provision. Please bring any donations to the MFL office where we will be collecting until Wednesday 12th December 2018.

End of term

The school will finish for Christmas on Wednesday 19th December at 1.00pm. We will re-open on Thursday 3rd January 2019.

Yours sincerely,



D.J. Blow
Executive Headteacher



C.G. Panting



Mrs A.S Reed

Joint Heads of School