



29th March 2018

Dear parents,

I have appreciated the positive response from parents, staff and pupils to the management changes that will be taking place in September, mentioning both the resulting continuity and the opportunities for staff to gain experience. Following on from Mrs Reed and Mr Panting assuming the Joint Head roles, further appointments will be made as part of the annual Professional Development Opportunities process, which is currently underway.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mr Bathgate for all his contributions to the school. He is moving to work in a special needs school in West Sussex and we would like to wish him well for the future. We are pleased to have appointed Mrs Gillespie, an experienced Science teacher, who will be joining the department immediately after the break, enabling Mr Bathgate's timetable to be fully covered by permanent Science staff. We were delighted to hear that Ms Sheikh is making a good recovery after her course of chemotherapy and an operation, and is looking forward to returning to school when she has fully recovered.

PE successes

I would like to congratulate the Year 9 netball team. They have only lost 1 league match all season and narrowly missed out on the semi-finals of the Surrey school games county competition on goal difference.

The new summer term extracurricular timetable will be released at the end of term, ready to begin as soon as we return after Easter.

Polo Shirts and Upper School ties

Please note that White Polo Shirts are available to order from PTA Uniform. This can be done by using the paper order form available from Pupil Services Desk or online from the uniform webpage on the school website. Wearing a white Ashcombe logo polo shirt in the summer term is an optional alternative to the usual white shirt and tie.

Upper School ties are now available to buy. Year 9 can wear these ties once Year 11 leave.

Apprenticeship Fair

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who supported the Apprenticeship Fair. We had around 30 exhibitors who offered advice and opportunities to a number of our pupils. The event was extremely successful and we are planning to repeat it next year.

We are starting to plan two further careers themed events. The annual Careers Fair will be taking place on Monday 17th September from 6pm and we are always interested in hearing from parents who would be willing to take part. We are also planning a careers "speed-dating" event in July for Year 10. The aim is to give pupils information about a variety of professions in a short space of time. Please contact Mr Panting on panting.chris@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk if you are interested in taking part.



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SESSET

Visit from Oxford University

The Oxford University admissions team are visiting the school on 25th April to talk to pupils from Year 10 through to Year 12 who are interested in applying to either Oxford or Cambridge. Further details about the talk will be sent out after Easter.

We have had a long tradition of sending pupils to both Oxford and Cambridge and you may have seen in the local and national press that Beth Bridgeman was in the Oxford University crew for the women's boat race last Saturday.

Music

There is a free come and try session on orchestral instruments being held during the Easter Holidays on Thursday 5th April at Gatton Park in Reigate. It is free and all are welcome. For more details please see the website www.surreymusicclub.com or call 01483 519290.

End of term

School will finish for Easter on Thursday 29th March at 3.30pm. We will return on 16th April at 8.55am. May I wish you a happy Easter holiday.

Yours sincerely,



D.J. Blow
Headteacher