



Ashbrooke School

Autumn Term Newsletter

Diary Dates – Spring Term

School reopens for students on Tuesday 9th January 2024.

Half Term: 19th-23rd February 2024. Students returning on Monday 26th February.

Easter Holidays: 29th March (Bank holiday) – 12th April. Students returning on Monday 15th April 2024

Termly reports w/c 25th March 2024



Headteacher's Welcome

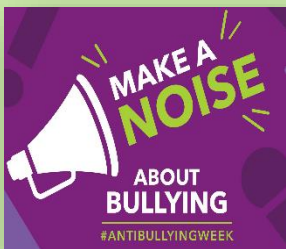
As the sound of sleigh bells gets ever closer, the Christmas festivities have been well and truly embraced by all staff and students at Ashbrooke. From musical performances to Christmas jumper days, Santa's grotto, and Christmas inflatables, to foodbank donations and, of course Christmas lunch, our young people have had a fantastic time.

I am proud to say that students at Ashbrooke have made a superb start to their year; engagement in lessons has been excellent and a focus on the 3Rs- Respect, Responsibility and Resilience has been evident in all aspects of school life.

I do hope that the holidays bring you valued time with family, friends and loved ones. If you do find this time of year a challenge you can contact our office and we will offer support. We look forward to welcoming our students back on Tuesday 9th January.

Thank you for your support and best 2024.

Clare Read



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Anti-Bullying Week

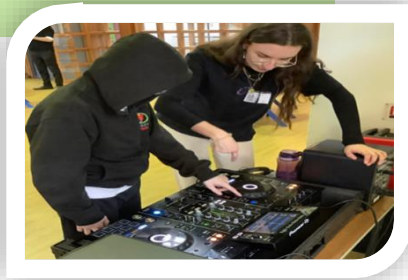


DJ Rebecca Woodcock

Rebecca Woodcock, known for her music events company Music Sphere, her workshops in promoting music skills to women and minority genders and her work as a DJ across Newcastle, visited Ashbrooke students on 15th November 2023.

Students across the year groups were positive and engaged in the sessions... we may even have some budding DJs!

These sessions helped to promote self-expression, creativity, positive peer relationships, teamwork and, of course – having fun!



Anti-Bullying Assemblies

Throughout the week, students took part in assemblies to raise the issue of anti-bullying.

The pastoral team led the assemblies raising students' awareness of how to recognise bullying behaviour; how to report instances of bullying and how students can manage their emotion around interactions with peers.

This was also an opportunity for students to have an open discussion and ask any questions.



Ashbrooke School Council

Some of the hot topics at student council this term has been around the classroom environment with students proposing further resources.

Student Council: Would like a bigger selection of fidget toys/sensory toys in classrooms.

School Response: Great idea! We will source and purchase these in the new term.

Student Council: Would like reading chairs in classroom.

School Response: Good idea to promote reading further. We will look into this so that they are used effectively.

Student Council: Would like more lunch and breaktime clubs.

School Response: Yes, absolutely. Discuss with your class as to what clubs you'd like to see available.



James McCrory – Inspirational Speaker!

On 15th November 2023, YouTube sensation- with a staggering 11 million views- and sports champion, James McCrory stopped by to work with our students on their life choices.

It is important for our students to have 'real life' experiences of the world around them. In this case, James's powerful story of how he turned his life around from a life of crime, addiction and poor mental health, had a profound impact on everyone here in school.

James's message of inspiration, empowerment and engagement is certainly one that has struck a chord with students in school.





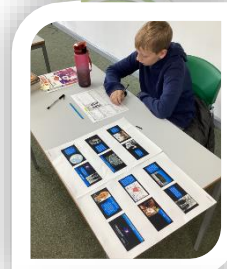
Curriculum News

English

This term, students have studied a wide variety of texts and taken part in some fantastic extra-curricular activities. Students showed their creativity for National Poetry Day by reading and creating poems around the theme of refuge.

Roald Dahl was the theme of the day on 13th September 2023 with students taking part in a variety of activities throughout the day to celebrate this influential writer.

Year 9 students gave us a glimpse of their acting skills by performing roles in the 'Adrian Mole' play script and KS4 students recorded their speaking and listening performances for their exams. A busy term!



Design Technology

Throughout this term we have produced various products from bird boxes to storage boxes. This has involved measuring and marking accurately and following detailed plans for the product. Pupils have also been improving the skills using the various hand tools and machinery. Some fantastic products made!

Science

Students across the school took part in World Space Week in October.

All pupils looked at a timeline of space travel from the very first spaceship to leave the Earth's atmosphere, to the first man on the moon and more recent missions to Mars. We did research into famous astronauts and people involved in space travel over the years. Many of our pupils would love the opportunity to travel into space! And, who knows, this may just be possible in their lifetime!





Curriculum News

Food Technology

Students started the term by recapping on food health and safety, healthy eating, and different food groups. They had the opportunity to cook and try a variety of recipes including bruschetta, tomato and basil pasta sauce, layered salads and hearty nutritional stews.

Throughout December students have been creating some festive bakes for those with a sweet tooth! From large dessert cakes to cupcakes and chocolate pastry Christmas trees, there was more than a sprinkling of icing sugar and some Christmas magic!



PE

Students have bounced their way through the term in PE on our new trampoline! They have been working on key techniques and supporting each other through using demonstrations and peer support.

As part of our school sporting community, KS3 and 4 students have taken part in the Wanderers basketball and football tournaments. They represented the school and themselves impeccably and showed just how far they've developed their sporting skills. Well done to all who participated!





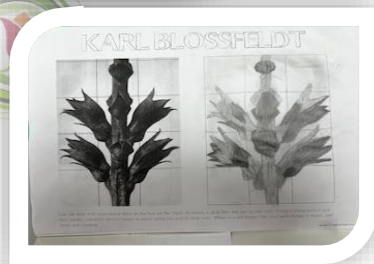
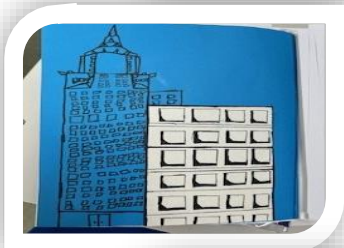
Curriculum News

Art

During the Autumn term, KS3 have been focusing on 'Natural Forms' and 'Architecture'. Within the Natural Forms unit, students have looked at different drawing and shading techniques in order to produce accurately drawn natural forms such as plants and animals. In Architecture, students have worked hard on learning the different type of perspective drawing and perfecting their parallel lines.

All students have investigated various artists linking to the theme and created research pages in their sketchbooks. Students have begun working on their final pieces now they are coming to the end of their unit.

In KS4, pupils have been working towards achieving a certificate in BTEC Art and Design. They have been working on a Texture unit and a Printmaking unit, exploring different artists and ways to recreate texture in artwork, and the different methods of printmaking. In the Texture unit, the artist the students found the most interesting was Alim Yakubov, as they were able to experiment with different materials to recreate texture. In Printmaking, students most successful pieces of artwork were their sustained ink Mono printing. Just look at that tank!

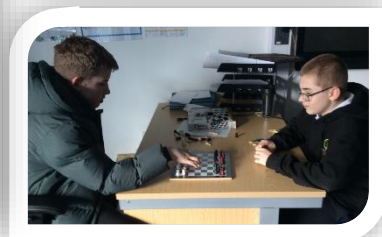
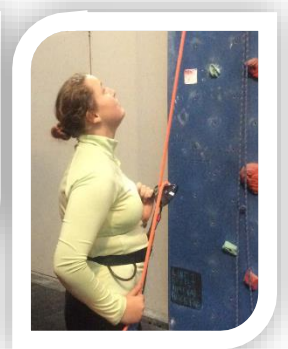


Pupil Led Learning

Once again, students have been able to develop a wide variety of new skills in Friday afternoon's Pupil Led Learning sessions.

This term students have taken part in textiles, arts and crafts, football, sports, ICT, board games, model making and food groups and produced some excellent work.

Students have achieved AQA Unit awards and received certificates for the work they've completed. Excellent learning!



Careers



roadchef

Witherslack Futures

As part of the Witherslack Futures partnership with Roadchef, the services at Durham on the A1, our Btec year 10 food students visited to get a peek behind the scenes.

Students learned about the running and management of key businesses such as Costa, WHSmith and McDonalds. They were able to get some hands-on experience as budding baristas and learned just how skilfully the team at McDonalds work.

Students were an absolute asset to the school and were so enthusiastic about gaining more experience here that they can't wait to go back next term!



Careerwave



Careerwave

Careerwave have worked with groups and individual students across the school this term, offering independent careers advice.

Students have been able to discuss their individual pathway choices and routes into careers they are interested in as well as gaining an understanding of the range of careers within different sectors.

Careerwave will continue to work with our students throughout the year and provide an invaluable insight into the world of work for our students here at Ashbrooke.



School Life



All things Christmas!

On the 7th and 22nd December, students have enjoyed parading their best Christmas jumpers to raise funds for Save the Children.



School Life



All things Christmas!

On 20th December, staff and students tucked into a delicious Christmas lunch with all the trimmings!

The lunch was only to be beaten by the outstanding musical performance of Leo in year 11, accompanied by Mr Lemon and Mr Cornell.



School Uniform

We are a proud team here at Ashbrooke and our uniform serves as a symbol of our community spirit and sense of belonging for our students.

Let's start the new term with everyone representing the school in full uniform! This is black or grey trousers or skirt, black shoes and an Ashbrooke polo shirt, sweatshirt, or hoodie.

All uniform can be purchased online at <https://totalsport.co.uk>

Thank you for your support!

