



ASH MANOR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: A Bailey BSc, PGCE, NPQH



March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the Easter break, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the last half term and the many positives we have here in Ash Manor School.

This half term, the students have been working really hard and their behaviour has been excellent. 67% of our student body have not had a single behaviour point with over 80% having no more than a single point in the half term. Staff have issued 22,716 praise points since February half term, indicating the positive attitude to learning shown in our school. I am sure you are all very proud of your children; I am incredibly proud of them.

This half term has been really busy with a range of different trips, events and activities. Since I last wrote to you prior to the February half term, we have welcomed a lot of Year 5 students to Ash Manor, letting them experience secondary school at this early stage. We also welcomed the Class of 2029 who will start with us in September. Our Year 7 students were tour guides and were absolutely excellent in the role, sharing their experiences of our school with the new students and their parents. We have also had a range of careers talks and events alongside the Business Game, the BAE Roadshow, a visit from the Police and our Personal Development Day. I also have to mention House Music – a great evening with excellent performances and a lot of support and sportsmanship on display. That was followed 5 days later by the Year 11 Drama Exam which was performed to an audience of family, friends and staff. The standard of work was excellent and I was really impressed by the focus and ability of our Year 11 Drama class. The Food department have also been excelling lately with wonderful meals prepared by Year 11 students for their practical examination. We also had a Staff Bake-Off with Mrs Badcock from HR being judged star baker by our current SSLT.

We are currently recruiting for the SSLT (Student Senior Leadership Team) who will take office at Easter and I have been absolutely astounded at the quality of their applications, presentations and interviews. The Class of 2025 are an exceptional group of young people and I know the SSLT will be excellent. I look forward to announcing them to the students at the end of term assembly.

There have also been a range of visits outside school with students taking part in the Rotary Youth Speaks Competition, the Maths Feast, SATRO Problem Solving, SATRO Cyber Challenge and the Fluor Engineers Challenge where our students won the £1000 prize. We have had students at a Mozart Concert, at the theatre to see Blood Brothers, at another theatre trip to Macbeth, at Sadler's Wells to take part in a Dance event and our sports teams have taken part in a range of different competitions. On the PD Day, VolkerFitzPatrick hosted groups of Year 10 students at the site of the new Ash Road Bridge, letting them see a huge project being delivered in the local community. We have also had a range of events, both on and off-site, delivered by the University of Surrey and we are very grateful for the opportunities this has given our students. Our Duke of Edinburgh training expedition was a great success and the students are now preparing for their final expedition while completing their other sections.

Our CCF have been busy with lots of training weekends involving air rifles, military skills, Skill at Arms and first aid. The Royal Navy section visited the Firefighting Unit in Portsmouth and are in the process of completing swimming tests for all cadets as we head into the summer term and look forward to the sailing sessions starting up again. Our cadets also formed the Guard of Honour at the Army and Navy men's and women's football matches as well as taking part in a beautiful service to commemorate the people lost in the IRA bombing of the Officers Mess of 16 Parachute Brigade.

www.ashmanorschool.com



Educational Outcomes Award 2013



Over Easter we have 45 students and 6 staff heading off to Wagrain, Austria for 6 days of skiing. I hope everyone has a wonderful time.

There are so many opportunities available for students in Ash Manor School and it is fantastic to see so many young people accessing such a wide range of provision.

We had some feedback on the information provided as part of Key Stage 3 reports so Mrs McGill, AHT, offered parents of Year 7 students a chance to work with her on redesigning these. The task was completed and we will be moving to the new format. I would like to thank those parents who gave their time and effort to improve the reporting system.

Year 9 have selected their GCSE options following a well-attended Options Evening and we are currently working on the blocks for next year to try to secure all of our students their preferred GCSE courses. Thank you to parents and carers for ensuring that these were returned ahead of the deadline. We now look forward to welcoming Year 8 students and their parents to their Options Evening on Thursday 25th April from 6pm – 8pm.

Our pre-loved uniform will be available in main reception on Tuesday 2nd April, Wednesday 3rd April and Thursday 4th April from 10am – 3pm. Please come along if you need items of uniform. Lost property will also be available at those times prior to us disposing of it. If anyone has a uniform item that they no longer need, please hand it in to reception at any point and we will ensure that it finds a new home. Alternatively, bring it along when you come to select some pre-loved items and put it into the correct area. In that way we can all continue to support each other.

Wonde vouchers for those who are in receipt of free school meals were sent via email on Tuesday 26th March. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have not received these.

I would be grateful if all students could check their timetables on SatchelOne ahead of their return on Monday 15th April. There have been a few staffing changes and these may mean different teachers, different rooms and some changes in the schedule so it is worth checking carefully, remembering to refresh the page.

I ask for your help as parents and carers to ensure that your child has a great start to the summer term. Please support them to have all of their stationery and equipment ready and packed in their school bag, their uniform laid out ahead of the first day of term. Please also ensure that coloured nail polish and acrylic nails, false eyelashes and additional jewellery items are removed before leaving for school. It is worth bearing in mind that additional piercings may not heal in two weeks, but we will still require them to be removed. With your help we can get a really positive start to the new term and I thank you in advance for this.

I hope that you all have a restful and enjoyable Easter break with a chance to spend time with your lovely children. I look forward to seeing them back next term.

Yours sincerely



Ms A Bailey
Headteacher