



# ASH MANOR SCHOOL



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Headteacher: A Bailey BSc, PGCE, NPQH

December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of term and the Christmas break, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of the school. This has been an incredibly busy half term and I am very proud of the achievements of our students. Every day I walk the school, making sure that I get into lessons and I am genuinely thrilled at the positive attitudes I see in every room. The students are working so well with the staff; the mutual respect and encouragement are a real pleasure to observe.

We are currently preparing for our end of term assembly and as part of that, we are looking at how many praise points the students are receiving – it is truly stunning with 32,250 points having been given out in 5 weeks making a total of 74,562 this academic year. In addition, 765 students have not had not a single behaviour point this half term. It is such a delight to share this with you and to celebrate the achievements of your children.

This term we have offered a wide range of extra-curricular activities with theatre trips, university visits, House Sports and a huge range of sporting fixtures and clubs. We staged our House Dance competition and as part of that we were privileged to watch the Year 9 and Year 10 Dance students perform – the whole evening was fantastic and once again showed how talented our students are. Our Year 7 boys won the District 5-a-side Football Tournament and brought the trophy in to show me which was another very proud moment. Our Year 9 Tchoukball Team came second in the district championships, beaten only by our Year 10 Team who will go on to the National Finals – another success worth celebrating.

The CCF have had trips to the Naval Dockyard in Portsmouth and several weekend courses and some of the contingent also took part in a flag bearing competition. I was honoured to watch the CCF take part in the Ash Remembrance Day Parade with Cadet M Hatherley carrying the cadet standard for us. Our Head Boy and Head Girl, Will and Sabrina, were also part of the service, doing the reading and laying the wreath from the school and I was delighted to once again be a part of such an important event in the community.

In addition to these events, the Guildford Shakespeare Company visited the school to perform Macbeth for our Year 11 students and then provided workshops for everyone which we know will help Year 11 as they approach their GCSE examinations next year. The Year 11 Recital Evening was lovely to attend with so much talent and hard work on show and Open Mic the following week reinforced just what accomplished performers we have here. I have only mentioned a few things; we have a large number of clubs running every week with staff supporting students to develop in different ways. I am very grateful to the staff for taking this on and also to you as parents for supporting your children in doing more in school.

This year the SSLT have been working on Charity Fundraising and we have just finished a bake sale that ran over 5 days, with each House taking one day and raising as much as they could for their chosen charity. Altogether they raised £515 and other events are now being planned. The PE department also got involved with the annual Fun Run, raising money for the British Heart Foundation.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful group of parent volunteers who come in every week to support some of our students to improve their reading. I am so grateful to them for helping in such a worthwhile way. If there is any parent who would like to get involved in this initiative, please email Mrs McGill ([hmcgill@ashmanorschool.com](mailto:hmcgill@ashmanorschool.com)). We also have a team from the University of Surrey who visit us weekly to support another group of readers with a programme called Rapid Readers and again that is very much appreciated.

As we head into the new term, there are a few small but important adjustments to the equipment requirements. All KS3 students (Years 7 – 9) are expected to show their reading book in tutor time and the equipment also has to be in working order. I am sure that you will agree that an empty glue stick and a pen with no ink left is not

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going to support learning and in fact is contrary to the spirit of the equipment policy. Please encourage your child to stock up over Christmas so that we start the New Year with everything in place.

In the new term we also move Art, Textiles, Photography and Product Design into the new DT building; it looks fantastic and we are very excited to start using it.

As usual, those families in receipt of Free School Meals should receive a Wonde voucher by email on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Please check your email and contact us on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December if you have not received your voucher.

We recently sent out an appeal from Surrey CC who are trying to recruit foster carers. I have been asked to highlight this once again. You can contact Surrey County Council Fostering Service on 0300 123 1620 (this is the General Fostering Duty telephone, please ask for the Supported Lodgings worker, when connected), via email at [supportedlodgings@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:supportedlodgings@surreycc.gov.uk) or by visiting the website; [www.surreycc.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/fostering). You can watch 'Any of Us' via [Any of Us - YouTube](#) and connect with the Fostering Service on social media via [@surreyfostering](#)"

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 4pm – 6:30pm we will be making our pre-loved uniform available in the foyer so please come along and pick up any bits you need. I would also ask that if anyone has outgrown items, they hand them in to reception before that evening so that others can benefit. I am very grateful to the large number of families who are supporting others in this way.

As this is the end of term there are some staffing changes and I wish Miss Palmer, our Dance teacher, every success in her new job as we welcome Mrs Shaw in as her replacement. We also have Ms Wood joining the House Team as Assistant Head of House in Hypatia as well as Miss Allen joining our English department. These changes will mean a few timetable changes so please keep your eye on Satchel One so that your child knows what to expect each day.

We are at the end of a busy term and we are still working hard. Year 11 have completed their first set of Pre-Public Examinations and are about to start Immersion Days, focusing on key subjects and topics to accelerate their progress. Year 10 are starting their first set of Key Stage 4 exams and are approaching them very positively. We have our Christmas Concert coming up and, of course, the anticipation of the final assembly with the prizes and awards that it brings. I would like to once again commend our students for their commitment and thank them for their courtesy and cooperation – it really is a privilege to be the headteacher here in Ash Manor School.

The last day of term in Ash Manor School will be Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December and we finish at 12:30pm. School re-opens for students on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January with a Week 1 timetable.

Please be mindful that the school will be closed from 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 and staff will not be accessing their emails during this time. If you need to contact the school as a matter of urgency then please email the [holiday@ashmanorschool.com](mailto:holiday@ashmanorschool.com). This email will be monitored by senior staff and the safeguarding team.

The staff team in Ash Manor School wish you all a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to welcoming all of our students back in January.

Yours sincerely



Ms A Bailey  
Headteacher