



ASH MANOR SCHOOL

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February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the half term break approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the student body here in Ash Manor for the incredibly positive and focused attitude to learning I see here every day. It is a real privilege for me to visit so many excellent lessons and see your children actively engaging with their learning – I really am very proud of the AMS students.

In particular, I would like to highlight the very mature and responsible approach Year 11 have taken to their final set of pre-public examinations in preparation for the final GCSE examinations in May and June. I have been incredibly impressed by the calm, focused way they have tackled the examinations and I am sure that these young people will achieve excellent results in the summer.

The positive attitude of the vast majority of our students is measurable when we consider that over 28,000 praise points have been awarded since we returned from the Christmas break. In addition, 923 students have maintained a perfect disciplinary record since the Christmas break - 79% of our cohort.

As I am sure you know from previous letters, attendance is the single biggest factor in shaping attainment here at AMS and I am delighted that our attendance figures are better than those reported nationally. However, that is not enough to ensure all of your children make the progress that they deserve and I ask that all of you ensure that your child is in school as often as they possibly can be. If there is an issue at home, please speak to your child's tutor or Head of House so that we can put support in place. This term, 723 students have an attendance rate of 96% or better which is 62% of the student body and I thank you for your support with attendance. The best attending tutor group this half term is 9V2 and they will receive "Skip the Queue" cards for the canteen on the first week back – well done 9V2.

This has been a really busy half term with a vast number of additional events and activities. We have had a host of sporting fixtures and tournaments, UK Maths Challenges, PD Day which included the Year 11 Big Interview, the Media Studies trip, the trip to the Ski Centre and a number of trips and events through our partnership with the University of Surrey. The Winter Show, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, was absolutely fantastic and I congratulate all of the cast members who staged such a professional show. Our AMS Bake Off culminated in a grand finale of Showstopper Bakes this week and it was fabulous – well done to Matthew and Johaan, Year 9 Galileo, who are our AMS Bake Off Champions 2024.

As well as their frequent weekend activities and community events, our CCF held an awards evening this week and it was such a pleasure to be part of an event that celebrates the achievement and progress of our cadets. Many of them are now fully qualified to instruct younger cadets and they are already exceptional leaders as well as many of them now being qualified Radio Users.

Congratulations to (RN) Cadet Chief Petty Officer Tomalin who was confirmed as the most senior cadet in the Navy Section and to (A) Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major Neame who received his promotion this week, the first time an AMS cadet has held this rank.

Our U15 cricket team have qualified for the Regional Indoor Final following their district win and our U14 and U16 Tchoukball teams will be at the national finals in April. I wish these teams well and congratulate them on getting this far. Our Year 8 Boys Basketball team won the district league, going the whole season unbeaten – an achievement to be very proud of. We have also seen individual sporting success and we are so very proud of our elite athletes.

www.ashmanorschool.com



Educational Outcomes Award 2013



Belle in Year 11 has been selected for the England under 16 football team which is a remarkable achievement. This week we had four boys representing Ash Manor at the finals of the National British Shooting Competition in Cannock. Well done to Finley and Alex in Year 7, Ewan in Year 9 and Jack in Year 11; making the final was a great achievement and you then gained commendable placings. I would like to congratulate Kodi in Year 9 who has been selected to play in the British Junior Tour World Championship Golf Tournament in Malaga this month. We also have seven students who have been selected to represent England at the Dance World Cup. Ruby and Sophie in Year 7, Belle, Florrie and Honey in Year 9, and Amelie and Lucy in Year 11 will travel to Prague in June.

Our SSLT have launched a Foodbank collection point in Ash Manor with the items being passed to Ash Villages Food Parcels Project. The box is in main reception and items can be dropped into it at any time – please do support this very worthwhile initiative.

I would also like to remind you that we will take uniform donations at any time, so if you have any preloved AMS uniform items please just hand them in to main reception and we will ensure that they are made available to others. We are very grateful to those who support us in this way.

After half term, we are establishing a Young Carers' Club to be held each week in the Bridge. This is an opportunity for any student who takes responsibility for caring for another family member to meet up. Further details will be issued after half term, or you can contact Ms Bettis, the Bridge, or Mr Whitby for more information.

I am pleased to share that there is an increased rate of borrowing books from our school library with more students reading for pleasure. We do however have a number of books which seem to have been on a long term loan so I would be grateful if you could check for any borrowed books and encourage your child to return them. That means they can borrow a new book to enjoy while sharing the book they currently have with someone else.

As we go into the half term break, it is inevitable that some students will decide to experiment with their appearance. While in school, we expect all students to be compliant with the uniform code as found in the Behaviour for Learning Policy on the website. In particular, coloured nail polish and gel/fake nails are not permitted and students are allowed only one small stud in each ear lobe. No other piercings can be accepted so please be mindful of these restrictions when your child is making decisions in the half term break – these things must all be removed for return on Monday 19th February.

Wonde vouchers have been sent out electronically to any family who qualify for free school meals to cover the half term period; please let us know if you qualify for these and they have not arrived in your email inbox.

I hope that you all have a wonderful half term break and enjoy spending time with your children.

Yours sincerely



Ms A Bailey
Headteacher