David Laws MP, Minister of State for Schools in the Department for Education and Minister of State in the Cabinet Office, has praised Ashfield School as '... outstanding.'

Mr Laws visited the school before Christmas to see first-hand the benefits of the Pupil Premium, which was originally his brainchild and which has delivered extra funding to Ashfield School. He was very impressed with what he saw, meeting staff and students during his visit, and said of Ashfield:

"This is a dynamic school that is making a real difference in Ashfield..."
December saw the Little Shop of Horrors set up shop at Ashfield, with students wowing audiences with the most stunning performances.

The week started off with the school treating some local primary schools to a free viewing of the show, and the audiences were buzzing with excitement as they filed out afterwards, many of the students chattering excitedly about coming up to Ashfield in Year 7.

The paying audiences received the show with just as much enthusiasm, and were supremely impressed with the standard of the production, the music, and the talent of the young people who completely bowled them over!
Mr Sluman, who was responsible for putting on the show, and who has worked tirelessly to ensure the quality of the production, said:

"Having co-directed the last two Ashfield School productions, the pressure was on this year to lead the production on my own and achieve the same high standards that were set with Bugsy Malone and Grease. Although there was a little pressure, I knew that everything would be brilliant because I'd be working with the best! I have had the privilege of working with an amazing production team who have all worked so hard to ensure that the students involved had an amazing experience. We have all spent hours after school and at weekends rehearsing with the cast, building the set, making the costumes, equipping the theatre with technical equipment and rehearsing with the band. I was also incredibly fortunate to have an enormously talented cast to direct. They have worked incredibly hard over the last few months and have produced a performance that we are all so proud of! The show this year will certainly stick in my memory for a very long time to come! The whole experience has been enjoyable from start to finish. It is, however, true what they say... all good things must come to an end. But I seriously can't wait to see what the students who were involved in this year's show go on to do in the future!! I can certainly see some names in lights, that's for sure!!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved, cast and team! Also a huge thank you to everyone who supported us this year. We hope that you will do so again in the future!"

Head of Performing Arts, Mrs Parkin, said of the show: “Students and staff at Ashfield School wowed audiences with this incredible show. I was unbelievably proud of the dedication and talent of the cast, backstage crew and set designers. This show will go down in Ashfield School history as being one of the best shows ever seen!"

One thing’s for sure, anyone who saw this stunning show will certainly be in line for tickets for next year’s production!
For the 3rd consecutive year, our talented choir, Ashfield Vocal Ensemble, wowed Christmas shoppers in John Lewis when they opened the Christmas shopping season in November.

As always, the choir drew a large crowd who were very happy to suspend their Christmas shopping to listen to the stunning performance of a selection of Christmas songs, including a spine-tingling rendition of Real Love, the song that accompanied John Lewis’ now famous penguin Christmas advert.

Led, as always, by choir director Mrs Guy, and accompanied by Ashfield’s Leader for Learning for PE and Performing Arts, Mr Atkins, Ashfield Vocal Ensemble have the unique accolade of being the only choir ever to be invited back to John Lewis to perform at this high-profile event. Mr Atkins said: “It is a privilege to work with such talented and hard-working students and staff to bring Christmas cheer to John Lewis and Nottingham shoppers.”

The manageress of Costa Coffee at the East Midlands Designer Outlet went to great lengths to contact Ashfield Vocal Ensemble to invite them to entertain her customers shortly before Christmas, and they didn’t disappoint. With very impressed customers—many of whom stopped to commend the students on their performance—and hot chocolates all round for the singers, we have the feeling that this will be another firm fixture in the choir’s annual Christmas schedule!
Nottinghamshire County Councillor John Peck (pictured left), Chair of the Children and Young People’s Committee, presented awards at the annual P & R Evening, an event which recognises the achievements of the previous year’s Year 11 and Year 13 students. The invited audience was a sea of familiar faces, many of whom are now away studying at university. As you can see from the pictures, the evening is a fabulous opportunity not only to celebrate success and academic achievement, but also to catch up with some old friends!
On Thursday 26th February, almost 500 students turned out to vote for a representative from the Ashfield District to go forward to the Youth Parliament!!! The UK Youth Parliament is a youth organisation in the United Kingdom, consisting of democratically elected members aged between 11 and 18. Students took time out of their lunchtime to come along and vote for a candidate based on the manifestos they had seen in assemblies throughout the week. Once names were ticked off on the school register, students received a ballot slip to fill in and place in the sealed ballot box. Students were making their choices based on issues that affect them as young people, such as the cost of public transport, local facilities, the Living Wage and bullying. It was clear that they made informed decisions!! Chloe Turner, 10HA2, commented that she felt “empowered” by the process.

We now look forward to the mock General Election in May! Ashfield students clearly like to have their say!

Ashfield School has become a member of a new group, the Sutton-in-Ashfield Community Alcohol Partnership (SIACAP), that has been set up to tackle underage drinking and the anti-social behaviour associated with it.

The CAP works by bringing together alcohol retailers, licensees and local service-providers such as the district council, health bodies and the police, as well as schools in the area of which we are one of the main ones.

We have already been visited by senior representatives of the CAP and provided with materials to help us give advice and information to young people about alcohol. For 2014/15, the Ashfield Community Safety Partnership Dragons’ Den-style competition that Year 10 pupils take part in has alcohol as its theme and this will form part of the CAP work.

For the Dragons’ Den-style work, students are being asked to produce and communicate an awareness-raising message for other young people aged 13 to 15, focused on promoting healthy lifestyles and challenging the social acceptability of alcohol. We look forward to seeing what they come up with!

An important part of the CAP’s work is to make sure there are suitable activities for young people in the area and so we hope perhaps to see some new ones developed and favourites extended for students to enjoy.

CAP was piloted by the Retail of Alcohol Standards Group (RASG) in 2007. It has since developed into one of the most significant alcohol industry-funded initiatives tackling underage alcohol misuse with good evidence of effectiveness. Today, more than 82 CAPs have been set up across the UK.
On Wednesday 17th December, we welcomed author of the Keeper of the Realms series of fantasy fiction, Marcus Alexander, who ran a motivational, funny and engaging session for Year 7 students. Marcus shared with the students his love of extreme sports including parkour, snowboarding and sky-diving, and urged them to put themselves outside of their comfort zones to really experience the many amazing things life has to offer. He then went on to share with them how his life experiences had coloured his writing, and set them the task of starting a plan for an idea for a character.

Marcus’ high impact session was followed by an engaging session with comedian and writer Dave Smith who has worked with the likes of Michael McIntyre, Keith Lemon and Peter Kaye. Again, Dave motivated students to explore their creativity and discussed with them the many ways in which they could earn a living by writing. He helped students look at the type of material comedians write about, and set them off writing their own comic piece. The students all joined in the sessions with enthusiasm and were keen to ask questions of both guests.
After Christmas, the student-led Ashfield Charity Leos Club changed their name to the Galaxy Club. The club is run by Olivia Issartel in 8HA2 and takes place every Wednesday. At Christmas, the students visited King’s Mill Hospital’s Children’s Ward to sing Christmas Carols and help deliver presents with Santa.

Since Christmas, the students have been busy organising fundraising events. For Valentine’s Day, the students sold Roses and arranged for them to be delivered, as well as a Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar that raised money in aid of the British Heart Foundation. Collectively, the students worked incredibly hard every break and lunch and managed to raise £76.63 for the British Heart Foundation.

Molly Medcalf in 7CH2 was named as January’s Star of the Month and this month both Georgia Nussey in 8HA2 and Lauren Revill in 8HA2 were awarded Star of the Month for the monumental efforts selling roses.

In a bid to encourage students to explore different kinds of literature, staff dressed up as characters from their favourite books on World Book Day and took the opportunity to talk to students about who they were and why they liked that particular book so much. And as you can see from the photograph, everything from The Hungry Caterpillar to Romeo and Juliet was covered!

Ashfield was also lucky enough to welcome back to school successful author of young adult fiction Paula Rawsthorne to run some inspirational creative writing sessions for Year 7 and 8 students.

Paula encouraged students to read as much as possible, and explained how much this would help them with all of their subjects, not just English. She is seen here reading an excerpt from her highly acclaimed book, The Truth about Celia Frost, to a fascinated audience!
A group of Ashfield Post 16 students recently competed in the Bar National Mock Trial Competition in Nottingham.

First, they have to become familiar with a case, and then undertake the roles of the people in the courtroom. Lawyers have to prepare opening and closing speeches, examination in chief and cross examination of witnesses, and witnesses have to learn their statements and understand the case. Students also take on the role of the Court Clerk, assisting the judge and ensuring the smooth running of the case. The Usher escorts the judge to and from the court room, and witnesses to and from the witness box. They then have to battle it out in real courtrooms, in front of real judges. Their performances are judged by Circuit Judges, Recorders and senior barristers.

Whilst the students didn’t win, Miss Fraser, who led the trip, was very proud of them as they represented Ashfield amazingly well and were a credit to themselves and to the school.

Ashfield Transported to the Rain Forest

Shortly before Christmas, Ashfield students welcomed some very unusual visitors into their Geography classroom...a selection of creatures from the Rain Forest!

It was a fabulous opportunity for the students (and some members of staff!) to get up close and personal with some really quite scary animals, and to learn about their natural habitat and how they exist within it.
Road Safety Awareness Day

In November, Ben Ryrie from East Midlands Ambulance Service visited us to raise safety awareness amongst KS3 students, many of whom walk, or ride their bikes, to school and have to cross busy roads.

Each session focused on educating pupils as to the dangers of the roads around them, notably the A38, and the consequences of not being safe. Pupils enjoyed the format of the sessions, with one commenting that “it was also really fun because we did a quiz so we weren’t just sat there being told stuff. He made it fun but also very serious.” (Saffron Lowbridge Yr8)

As well as learning about road safety, pupils also got the opportunity to take a look around a rapid response ambulance. Jack Howlett (Yr8) summed it up perfectly: “It was good to look at the ambulance as we got to see the other side of the story, which was quite an experience.”

The pupils benefited greatly from attending the sessions and really understood the importance of it, with one stating, “since then I have taken my time crossing the road at the A38.” (Ashley Budd Yr8).

As well as delivering road safety awareness sessions to KS3 pupils, Ben also provided a careers session for KS4/5 pupils interested in a career in the medical field. Pupils found the session informative and appreciated being given the opportunity to meet Ben and ask him questions. Alan Law (Yr12) said, “I found the talk from the paramedic very useful as I got more of an overview of the medical field. It has made me think more deeply about the career I want to focus on.”

All pupils involved in the day represented themselves, and Ashfield School, very well; they listened attentively throughout, asked sensible questions and made Ben feel very welcome.

Author Visit

Author of The Skull in the Wood, Sandra Greaves, visited Ashfield in February to talk to Year 7 and 8 students, along with guests from some other schools, about how and why she wrote her first novel.

Students were really interested to hear about the process of writing a novel, and about the inspirations that led Sandra to write this very spooky book set on Dartmoor.

At the end of the session, students asked her lots of great questions and she signed copies of her book for them.
Christmas Food Bank Donation

Shortly before Christmas, we welcomed Kirkby Food Bank in to collect food donated by staff in lieu of sending Christmas cards to their 300 colleagues! As you can see from the photograph, the idea proved very popular and they managed quite a haul!

Should anyone else wish to donate food, the food bank - also known as The Storehouse— has collection points in Morrison’s, most local primary schools and at The Ashwood Centre.

Ashfield Students Commended

Great to see our students making the news...for all the right reasons! Mark and Sarah Miles have been commended for their kindness in clearing snow for elderly neighbours, and Joe Wilkinson made the papers when he shaved his (very long) hair off for charity. Well done to them all!
Some of Ashfield’s Year 12 and 13 students recently battled it out with other local schools in this year’s Young Enterprise Competition. Our students formed a team called Sabrasso and, with going to university probably at the forefront of most of their minds at the moment, came up with the brilliant idea of a cook book specifically aimed at university students: ‘Incredi Cook Book’. It has been styled on the ‘comic’ theme that is currently trending in the market and the students worked really hard, putting in many hours to painstakingly laminate all 750 pages of their book, and assembling it with expert input and assistance from Lorraine in reprographics.

On Saturday 28th February they took part in the Mansfield Young Enterprise Trade Fair in the Four Seasons Shopping Centre in Mansfield, where teams from all of the schools set up their stalls with the aim of making a profit. Sabrasso had a fabulously successful day, selling all of their products and enjoying meeting and befriending the competition!

Sabrasso then had to produce a company report, and the final exciting step will be the Awards and Presentation Evening which will take place later this month. They will be put through their paces in a team interview, judgements will be made on their Trade Fair stall again and then, finally, they will give their presentation - on stage - in front of the other teams, family, friends and the judges.

This is a really exciting - yet daunting – evening, so watch this space for the results!

Go Team Sabrasso!
Language ambassadors run a homework club for Year 7 French every Wednesday lunchtime in L9. Whether students need a computer to complete Vocab Express tasks, don’t understand a task or need to revise for assessments, our language ambassadors can help!

Bianca, a visiting language assistant from Germany, runs German homework support, intervention sessions and controlled assessment practice sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes in L12.

Plans for the Year 7 Boulogne trip are well underway and parents should ensure that all paperwork is returned to Mr Thompson or Miss Sefiane and the final balance is paid by the beginning of May.

We are also excited to be running a new trip to Paris in November for year 8 and 9 students. The total cost of £249 includes accommodation on a half board basis, travel by coach and local use of the coach, short sea Dover/ Calais sailings, group Insurance, cost of the collective passport, a Seine cruise, a Disney 1 day pass and ascent of the Montparnasse Tower. We have just 4 places remaining! See Ms Cairns for further information.

Bonjour Science!

Half term saw 51 triple science pupils take part in a school trip to Disneyland Paris. The purpose of the trip was to link the science being learned in the classroom to real world examples. This ranged from the design and energy transfer of roller coasters to conservation management and recycling. School trips, however, are not just about learning stuff, they are also about having fun and experiencing new cultures, not to mention seeing the characters! I would like to thank both staff and pupils for a very successful and enjoyable few days; we look forward to the next one!
GCSE Drama Trip to Blood Brothers

Our Year 10 students were recently given the exciting opportunity to visit the Lyceum Theatre in Sheffield to see Willie Russell’s classic musical Blood Brothers. This trip allowed students to see what calibre of performance is produced by professional actors and enabled them to write theatrical reviews on their return to school. Students were excellent ambassadors for the school, thoroughly enjoyed the experience and gained a strong understanding of the themes and issues explored on stage. They are now currently performing sections of the play as part of their GCSE Performing Arts course. It was an absolute pleasure to take the students to see such a fantastic production, that we are looking forward to seeing something else later in the year.

Mr Sluman

Year 13 trip to Stratford-Upon-Avon

Year 13 students were offered a fantastic opportunity to travel to Stratford-Upon-Avon to view Christopher Luscombe’s modern day adaptation of William Shakespeare’s Love’s Labour’s Lost. Students and staff alike were amazed by the incredible performance as well as the stunning venue. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a backstage tour prior to the show where they were able to learn about the technical aspects that go into producing a show of such quality. Students made the most of their time prior to the performance by taking in the historic sights of Stratford before all gathering for a whole group meal. It’s safe to say the show was enjoyed by all and that the students took a lot away from the experience which will ultimately help them in their exam. A thrilling night for all and we look forward to our next visit to see the Bard’s work!

Trip to see Bouncers

An amazing experience for our Year 11, 12 and 13 students to not only experience live theatre, but to watch the fabulous Godber play Bouncers, directed by the one and only John Godber himself! Pupils enjoyed the delights of Godber on 17th March 2015 at the Lakeside Arts Centre. This brilliant experience of live theatre enabled them to extend their knowledge on Godber as a theatrical practitioner, but also allowed them to write a critical review of the play which is a crucial element to their written coursework.

This is the seventh theatrical experience we have offered the drama students during the year so far and there are still many more to come…
Year 12 trip to One Man, Two Guvnors

Ever since embarking on their course, Year 12 Drama and Theatre Studies students have been keen to get out and see some professional theatre of their own choosing. They quickly recognised the huge advantages and benefits they would gain from seeing professional performers in carefully crafted performances. They therefore decided to organise their own trip to see One Man, Two Governors at the Theatre Royal in Nottingham. The performance contained larger than life characters, fast-paced comedy and a farcical plot which entertained all the students who attended.

From our perspective, we were so pleased to see the students taking the initiative and seeing live theatre without the need to be prompted. They obviously gained a great deal from the experience and enjoyed spending the evening together as a cohort as well.

We do hope that they will continue to book theatre trips in the future… and just hope they keep inviting us, too!

GCSE and A Level trip to Midland Academy of Dance and Drama

A small cohort of incredibly talented Year 10 and Year 12 students were invited to MADD to get a taster of what it would be like studying at the college. MADD offers a Diploma in Musical Theatre and many of their graduates go on to work in the professional Performing Arts industry. Our students were put through their paces in singing, drama and dance workshops. All three lecturers (all of whom work in the industry as Musical Directors, Actors and Choreographers for West End Musicals) were amazed at the talent and passion our students displayed. They also explained to us that they were the best students they have ever had in. Enthusiasm, professionalism, and a general willingness to give it their all is what made our students shine. Well done to them all!

Want to sing? Want to dance? Want to act? Want to have a fun time? COME TO DRAMA AND DANCE CLUB!

An hour of fun with your friends whilst learning vital dramatic and dance skills in a fun and friendly environment. Drama and dance club is a chance to find new friends from other year groups, be as creative as possible, learn new skills and techniques and gain an ability to transfer extra knowledge into your lessons.

We are currently putting a showcase of talent together which will go live in June 2015! All parents, teachers and pupils are welcome to an extra exciting evening of dramatic talent!

Want to join? Just pop along at…
Drama Club every Monday in studio one 3.15 – 4.15 with Miss Roach.
Dance Club every Tuesday in the dance studio 3.15 – 4.15 with Miss Holmes.

Looking forward to seeing you there!
Just before half term, this year’s first group of Buddy Readers completed their project which was a huge success. The Buddy Readers Scheme, which has been running for four years now, involves pairing Year 7 students with older mentors to support and guide them with their reading. The buddies meet every week in the library and the mentors set targets for the younger students to aspire to. The Year 7s who completed the project were:

While the whole group participated well and seemed to enjoy themselves, special congratulations must go to Lewis Johnson for being named the most improved reader; Bradley Upchurch-Cowley for maintaining a 100% record in his quizzes; and to Ellis Robinson for completing the most quizzes (a whopping 31 since September).

A big thank you also to the Year 10, 11 and P16 students who generously gave up their time to support the younger students. These were:

The next group of Buddy Readers have just started and we look forward to celebrating their accomplishments in the future.

Mrs Parker and Mrs Ball
Abraham Lincoln said “The best way to predict the future is to create it”. So here at The Ashfield Academy we are doing all we can to provide our students with opportunities that enable them to create the best futures they can.

Information, Advice and Guidance Education

Interviews, interviews, interviews! So far this year, over 350 students have received a one-on-one careers advice and guidance interview from the school’s very own careers office. Year 11 students are constantly walking through the careers office door to gain advice about their options after school, followed closely by Year 10s to discuss their work experience opportunities. The door has opened for Year 9 students to receive guidance and, since half term, over 40 students have had an appointment!

Year 8s' Wednesday dinner time drop-ins are going well, with students using part of their lunch time to visit the careers library and talk to Miss Fryer about their future. Year 7 have been offered their Monday drop-in opportunity too, leaving no room for excuses when it comes to Ashfield students receiving careers advice!

Post 16 are favoured this time of year and are being constantly encouraged to access appointments if they are needed. Post 16 can even email careers@ashfield.notts.sch.uk to book their own appointment!

Planning for the Future

‘Planning for our future’ is a message that has run through the year groups this term. Year 7 received an assembly from Nottingham Trent University, informing them how to raise achievement and aim high for the future. Year 8s have also been encourage to ‘think big’ whilst gaining an insight into planning for their future in the ‘Why thinking big is worth it’ assembly which was delivered this term.

Year 9 careers education is being delivered through the curriculum, where 13 weeks of careers guidance and support is delivered to ensure our Year 9 students are well informed to make those all-important future choices. Year 7 and 8 are due to receive their careers curriculum in the later terms so if you have any questions regarding the content, please contact the careers department.

Kudos, a career planning website, has been circulated throughout the school and log-in details distributed via lessons or through tutor groups. Students are being encouraged and supported to use the programme to discover their options and career choices! If any more information is needed on how your son/daughter can access KUDOS, please email careers@ashfield.notts.sch.uk for more information.

Year 11s gained support during apprenticeship week, meeting with Miss Fryer during their lunch hour to enquire about gaining and securing an apprenticeship opportunity. Due to accessing this information, those Year 11s that attended have even signed up to the DNLC (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicester Chamber of Commerce) to receive further careers-related support and advice about obtaining an apprenticeship!
Work-Related Learning

Year 10 work experience placements are being secured in record timing as more and more of the year group are obtaining placements! More than half the year group have places confirmed and over 80 Year 10s have received a one-on-one guidance interview to receive help securing a setting. If work experience assistance is needed, then you can encourage your sons/daughters to see Miss Fryer in the careers office to access further support.

Year 11 Construction students took part in an exciting opportunity this term whilst visiting Wates Living Space, Flint Avenue at Forest Town. Ashfield School students were given the opportunity to visit and inspect a housing development project in order to support their level two construction qualification. Mr Dodds believes that allowing his students to experience a working site is a fantastic opportunity to embed the learning that is received in the classroom and so has worked with the careers department to make the opportunity happen. This ongoing partnership will allow for Year 10 and Year 11 to visit the site as it develops right up until November.

Last but not least...

Ashfield School Students mustn’t forget to visit the careers library in the school main library! It has been stocked with brand new resources for 2014/2015 and is worth a look for all things relating to future options. The Post 16 Resource Centre also has a ‘Careers Corner’ which has been updated for the year and Mrs Wilcockson, the Post 16 Librarian, is on hand to show students around, so have a look and don’t miss out!

Contact Careers!

If any more information or support is needed, please feel free to contact Miss Fryer in the careers office:

E: careers@ashfield.notts.sch.uk
T: 01623 455 000
Fire Dogs visit Ashfield’s Uniformed Services Students

Students on our Post 16 Uniformed Services programme were delighted recently when they were visited by working Fire Service dogs from Humberside and the East Midlands. Used to sniff out accelerants that may have been used to start suspicious fires, the dogs play a vital role in detecting cases of arson and have an accuracy rate that is astounding.

Dogs Etta and Aston were only too pleased to demonstrate to students their impressive skills, sniffing out the tiniest drop of accelerant that had been hidden. They were later joined by ‘trainee’ Dexter, who was far more interested in playing! No problem, though - at the age of 7 months he still has another 12 months of training before he ‘qualifies’.

Most of the students are hoping to join the armed forces, with some wishing to join the police force and the fire service, so visits like this really help to provide them with practical insight into specialist teams and how they work.

Head of Uniformed Services, Julie Taylor, said of the experience: "It was a privilege to witness the collaborative work between the Police and Fire & Rescue Service in training the fire investigation dogs to such an incredibly high standard. Our students were able to learn about the use of these specialist teams in what are often very challenging circumstances".

Police Fire Arms Visit

Uniformed Services students were lucky enough to visit the Nottinghamshire Police Fire Arms Unit before Christmas to gain an insight into the world of firearms within the civilian police service.

They visited the armoury and learned about the range of weapons and ammunition, together with less lethal options, used by today’s police. The students were able to consider a range of scenarios where firearms teams have been deployed to protect the public, and they also took part in making rapid judgements in a series of safe, simulated situations.
Gun Run with the Army

Students Learn about Police Search for Victims
Ashfield Post 16’s Uniformed Services students recently learned about what is involved in police searches for missing persons courtesy of a Police Victim Recovery Officer and Trainer with the dog-handling team from South Yorkshire Police.

The officer took students through the procedure in dealing with someone reported as missing, from initial inquiries and intelligence gathering through to the search dogs being called in. He then went on to talk about the strategies for searching different types of terrain, and the techniques used to train the search dogs to alert their handlers when they have found something significant.

Both of the dogs that he works with, very successfully, were rescue dogs with very sad stories of their own. The officer and his team helped nurse them back to health and, as they trained them to become police search dogs, realised that both of them had a natural aptitude for the profession which they were entering.

The talk was concluded with a fascinating question and answer session – as many of the students wish to enter the military or the police force, they made the most of having a long-serving expert on-hand to answer all of their questions.

Students Ross Johnson and Paige Bennett said, respectively, after the session: "It was a good experience as we have never attended anything like this before. It was good to have something new as I learned about a different aspect of policing," and "I enjoyed the session and am keen to find out more!"
Moved by a Visit to Beth Shalom

As part of Ashfield Post 16 Centre’s increasingly popular Uniformed Services Programme, students went on a moving visit to the Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre recently. On their return to school, students were asked to write about the experience and the results were both emotive and insightful.

As part of the Uniformed Services programme, students examine every aspect of life in the uniformed services – physical, tactical and moral – and this particular excursion really brought home to them the magnitude and horror of events not only in the Holocaust of World War II, but also the more recent genocides such as Rwanda.

What the Centre does brilliantly is convey the fear of the victims engulfed in genocide, and enable visitors to see first-hand how they were forced to live, in reduced circumstances and fearing for their own lives, and those of their loved ones.

Part of the visit involved students meeting Holocaust survivor Yvonne Franklin, who shared with them her own personal, first-hand experiences. To see an elderly woman talking so eloquently about the unimaginable horrors that she and her family endured, to hear her recounting tales of incredible courage and daring, and to see her stop occasionally to wipe away a tear was an incredibly emotional experience for the students, all of whom cited this as the most profound and moving part of the day.

Student Josh Warren, pictured right, wrote: “Overall, I felt rather guilty for Yvonne that she was just a young girl and had to see everything she saw, and do everything she did, just to survive, when I have grown up with no problems, always had enough food to eat and a shelter over my head. I respect her a lot for what she had to go through.

At the Centre, there was a book filled with dots. Each dot represented a life lost, and the book consisted of hundreds of pages. You can’t really imagine the amount of people who lost their lives – each one had people who loved them, cared for them, and they were all different: male, female, old, young, small, tall, each with their own personality.”

The Centre covers all aspects of the Holocaust, not just the death camps, but also the degrading existence that was forced upon the Jews in the ghettos.

Student Josh Lamb, pictured left, sums up that experience: “The Germans placed the Jews in ghettos, which were small towns walled off from any surroundings and thousands of Jews were placed into each ghetto, so living conditions were very cramped. We were told that the Jews were living on less than 300 calories a day, and the average amount you should take per day is 2000, so they were starving to death. Conditions in the ghetto were horrific. One thing that will stick in my mind is the image of 2 young boys lying in the middle of the pavement, dead, and yet nobody even looked at them.”

All of the students who took part in the trip stressed how much they learned from it in so many ways, and how what they learned will stay with them forever.

Mr Thomson, History and Uniformed Services teacher at Ashfield and Retired Army Major, said of the visit: “Beth Shalom acts as an invaluable catalyst to discussion and the ever-diminishing opportunity to hear from “survivors” makes a real impact on the students, as it personalises and humanises what can all too often be seen as just academic concepts.

We must study the Holocaust...because the consequences for the world of forgetting are too horrific to contemplate.”
As part of their constant drive to prepare students for life after Post 16, Post 16’s Hair and Beauty Academy recently welcomed Angela Vickery (pictured right), Recruitment Manager for Steiner, to talk to Level 2 and 3 Hair and Beauty students.

Steiner supply hair and beauty staff for onboard spas on cruise ships, and Angela came to tell students all about life on the ocean wave as a beauty therapist or hair stylist. Having worked on-board ships for 10 years, Angela was happy to share her experiences, good and bad, with students, so they left the presentation with a very realistic idea of what this particular career path could offer them.

A number of students indicated that they would now consider this route, and staff at Ashfield plan to take them down to Southampton at some point to enjoy a tour of a cruise ship courtesy of Steiner.

Annette Radford, Level 3 Tutor in Beauty Therapy, said: “The students found the presentation really interesting and motivating for their course, giving them an insight into what opportunities are out there in the industry.”

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**We’re a National Citizen Service Champion School!**

Ashfield School were very proud recently to be presented with a plaque by representatives from the National Citizen Service recognising their status as a National Citizen Service Champion School for 2013/14 (one of only 2 schools in the area to be honoured in this way).

A substantial number of Ashfield students signed up for the programme last year, many of them studying on the Uniformed Services programme in Ashfield’s Post 16 Centre, and they were commended by the service as being an impressive ‘force to be reckoned with’.

Julie Taylor, Head of Uniformed Services at Ashfield, said of the award: “We are incredibly proud to be awarded NCS Champion School status, and even prouder to hear the fabulous comments made by NCS staff about our students. It’s an incredibly worthwhile programme that students gain so much from, and we would encourage anyone interested to have a go.”

Following on from this, and in recognition of the award, Headteacher Mr Vasey was invited to the House of Commons. He said of the experience: “I was delighted to accept an invitation to a reception in the Speaker’s House at the House of Commons in recognition of the school been awarded ‘Champion School’ status by the National Citizen Service. A number of Post 16 students follow this scheme which involves volunteering in the local community and generally adding value as citizenships within their own community. Students work in teams and experience a wealth of exciting challenges and experiences designed to provide them with life skills that are invaluable to their future.

At the reception we were addressed by John Burrow (Speaker of the House of Commons) and David Blunkett who is on the NCS Board. It was a fantastic occasion and an opportunity to both meet some very interesting people but also have a peak behind the closed doors of a very famous building, even to see Queen Victoria’s bed (pictured)! “

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**Cruising to a Great Future at Ashfield Post 16**

As part of their constant drive to prepare students for life after Post 16, Post 16’s Hair and Beauty Academy recently welcomed Angela Vickery (pictured right), Recruitment Manager for Steiner, to talk to Level 2 and 3 Hair and Beauty students.

Annette Radford, Level 3 Tutor in Beauty Therapy, said: “The students found the presentation really interesting and motivating for their course, giving them an insight into what opportunities are out there in the industry.”
Academy Hosts Greene King Menu Training

Hungry Horse, the pub brand of the UK’s Greene King Brewery based in Bury St Edmunds, recently hosted four days of menu training for their kitchen managers in the Midlands region at the Ashfield Hospitality and Catering Academy. Each day, twelve to eighteen chefs from a different area attended the training and information session for the new Hungry Horse menu launch. They were split into two teams; one team had to produce the dishes to the menu specification, then they had to present it back to the other team to score against the specification, presentation, use of correct products, temperature and taste.

The Academy is looking to engage more employers in the future, both locally and nationally, to use the venue for training and to encourage Ashfield students to participate and gain an understanding of the skills and knowledge employers require to gain employment in the fastest growing sector in the country.

Michael Todd, the Area chef, was impressed with the facilities and finished off the four days by saying: “I’d just like to say thank you from myself and Alex for letting us use the venue over the last 4 days. We’ve delivered some great training sessions and really enjoyed ourselves at the same time”.

Success in Bid for Savoy Educational Trust Grant

“Ashfield School, recently won a grant from the Savoy Educational trust to create a Hospitality IT and Media Hub. The Savoy Educational Trust are a hospitality-based charity and their main aim is “namely the advancement and development of education, training and qualifications within the hospitality industry, they are investing in both the present and future skills needs of the industry”.

With this in mind, an application was put forward to create an IT and Media suite to record students’ work for assessment in the training restaurant and kitchen, have a live demonstration area and create our own training materials.

It means the Hospitality and Catering Academy will now have state-of-the-art facilities for students to complete assessments and their qualifications, with access to 16 PCs / i-pads to record and photograph food and finished dishes, and record and evaluate performance to meet their programme of study.

It also means the Academy can host employers who wish to develop new menus, train staff or develop training materials for their business. In addition, it enables the Academy to host competitions with a live feed into the restaurant for guests to watch competitors in action, such as in the recent Young Rotary Chef Competition. However, the main focus for the grant is to give students the best opportunity to access equipment that will enable them to prepare, achieve and progress in their career of Hospitality, whether it be through employment or education. Commencement of the project is scheduled for April of this year.
Ashfield School Hospitality and Catering Academy recently hosted two cookery competitions for the Young rotary chef of the year competition. This is to promote young people into a career of catering and highlight the cooking skills of students within schools. Ashfield has a fine tradition in this competition; within the last 3 years, Ashfield students have all progressed onto the regional finals, with one winning Intermediate Apprentice of the Year 2013 for the UK!

The local competition was held on the 24th February, with Nathan Kania (pictured above with entrant Corey Goldsbury and their respective menus) eventually announced winner, with his dishes showing great skill and a sound understanding of the cooking processes.

The next step for Nathan was the District Final, on 26th February, when Nathan competed against eight other students from across the East Midlands. Competitors had to set a restaurant table of thier own design and then, in two hours, cook a three course meal for two people. In what was a tense final, where first and last were separated by a mere 6 points, the winner was from Izabella Marshall from Dronfield, and she will now go on to the regional finals.

This competition will be held again next year at the school’s Hospitality Academy and is open to ALL students. If you would like to enter, or learn more about cooking and the hospitality courses we offer at the Academy, then please speak to Craig Harrison at the Academy Café at Ashfield Skills Centre.

### Turning up the Heat in Ashfield’s Kitchen

**NATHAN KANIA**

**Starter**  
Salmon and chili Fishcakes with a balsamic and vinegar glaze

**Main course**  
One pan duck, on a bed of savoy cabbage with a red wine sauce

**Dessert**

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**COREY GOLDSBURY**

**Starter**  
Chinese chicken skewers with basil cous-cous

**Main course**  
Oriental stir fry on golden rice

**Dessert**  
Chocolate Orange flap jacks
SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE
In February, the following students took part in the Senior UK Maths Challenge run by The University of Leeds and achieved either a Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate. Nationally, Bronze winners are in the top 40%, Silver winners are in the top 20% and Gold winners in the top 10%!

A special mention goes to: Michael Howlett
who qualified for the follow-on Senior Kangaroo Maths Challenge and achieved a MERIT – achieved by the top 25% of participants.

These are fantastic results!

GOLD AWARD WINNERS:
Michael Howlett (Year 12)

SILVER AWARD WINNERS:
Sydney Alexander, Emma Pratt, Alexandra Lee, Reece Gallagher (Year 12)
James Lilliman, Jessica Gill, Jonathan Taylor (Year 13)

BRONZE AWARD WINNERS:
Sarah Baird, Emily Clegg, Alexandra Spiby (Year 12)
Christopher Colley, Thomas Williams (Year 13)

INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE
In February, the following students took part in the UK Maths Challenge run by The University of Leeds and achieved either a Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate. Nationally, Bronze winners are in the top 40%, Silver winners are in the top 20% and Gold winners in the top 10%!

Special mentions go to: Sophie Overfield, Andy Wang, Louis Freeman, Cameron Chivers
who qualified for the follow-on Kangaroo Maths Challenge and will now compete against students across Europe.

These are fantastic results!

GOLD AWARD WINNERS:
Sophie Overfield (Year 9), Andy Wang (Year 10),
Cameron Chivers and Louis Freeman (Year 11)

SILVER AWARD WINNERS:
Emily Smith (Year 9), Rebecca Quinton, Sophie Morrell, Rebecca Lee & Katie Grice (Year 10), Chloe Overfield, Hannah Hibbert & Michael Ginever (Year 11)

BRONZE AWARD WINNERS:
Kian Jones, Joseph Dodds, Harry Turton, Adam Dudley & Rebecca Dobb (Year 9), Ella Peacock, Sarah Newcombe & Bethany Gunn (Year 10),
Jake Easom, Liam Smallman, Owen Evans, Akshay Sharma, Luke Denman, Megan Cooper & Josephine Mellor (Year 11)
DUKERIES MATHS CONFERENCE

In December, our Year 12/13 A Level maths students attended a maths conference run by the Dukeries College called ‘Maths and the Making of the Modern World’. Chris Budd, a maths lecturer from the University of Bath, talked about how codebreaking helped us win WW2 and the inner workings of Google. Another great day – made even better by a McDonald’s breakfast!

YEAR 10 TEAM WIN THE 2015 LOUGHBOROUGH TEAM MATHS CHALLENGE!!!!

On the 4th March, the Year 10 Team Maths Challenge was held at Loughborough University. Four of our top Year 10 maths students – Andy Wang, Rebecca Quinton, Sophie Morrell and Zakari Turner were selected and represented Ashfield against 16 other local schools. The theme of this year’s competition was a ‘Maths Feast’, so we were treated to 6 courses of maths delicacies which Ashfield took on with relish! We started with an Amuse-Bouche of algebraic card matching, followed by a round of Hors d’oeuvres proving statements to be true or false. Our Entrée was our winning round with a difficult task based on Set Theory and Venn Diagrams and then we tucked into the mains which involved some longer maths problems. We got our creative tastebuds going in the Dessert round, making Columbus Cubes from origami paper. The finale was the Petit-Fours paired relay round. In the end, we came out victorious and came first out of the 16 schools competing. We will now go on to the regional finals in May to compete against all the other local winners! What a great achievement!

MATHS INSPIRATION – THE CRUCIBLE

On 25th February, a group of Year 12/13 maths students returned to the Crucible in Sheffield for a series of maths talks delivered by some of the UK’s most inspiring maths speakers. The event was hosted by Helen Pilcher, a writer interested in ‘Zoology, Medicine and quirky, off the wall science’! Jen Rogers started off the show with her talk ‘Yeh, but is it significant’ where we learned about Ebola drug testing and statistics. David Acheson was next who talked about his ‘Desert Island Maths’, choosing his favourite mathematical curiosities from over the years, including the maths of how guitar strings work. Steve Mould finished off the show with ‘the mathematical meaning of life’ where he showed how bees use the ‘waggle dance’ to talk to each other about where to find food! Of course, in true Ashfield style, we managed to buy a keepsake from the show….a pool table from the Crucible (as seen below) to furnish our A Level classroom with! A big thank you to Mrs Hill for organising the trip – we all had a great day! Miss Williams
In the run up to Christmas, 59 lucky students were taken to watch Leicester Tigers play a fabulous game against the Barbarians, but that’s not where the excitement ended! Glancing around, Mr Lockhart suddenly realised that they were sitting next to Tigers’ star player, Manu, pictured here with students and a very happy Mr Lockhart. Much to everyone’s delight, Manu was only too happy to chat to students, sign autographs and pose for photographs, which left them all buzzing!

Following on from the success of the visit, Mr Lockhart arranged for 58 students, accompanied by 4 staff, to return to spend the day with the Tigers, and what a day they had! They:

- trained for 90 minutes with academy coaches;
- met a player who ran a question and answer session with them for an hour;
- were given free t-shirts;
- watched the Leicester Tigers v Sale Sharks game;
- had pictures taken on the pitch at half time.

And, to end the day perfectly, Tigers won!

Last year’s winners of the Town Cup, Ashfield (Year 8) are through to the Semi Finals, beating local rivals Quarrydale School by 3-1 to get there!

A great second-half team performance saw the boys overcome a 1 goal deficit. With 2 goals from Henson and a typical Clarke finish we got the deserved win, with a Man of the Match performance coming from Sam Hay. Ashfield will now play Meden, All Saints or QE in the last 4.
In January, the Year 8 Handball team competed in the Nottinghamshire County Finals held at the Nottingham University Sports Centre. The team had qualified comfortably after beating schools such as Selston and National Church of England School but at County level we were prepared to play other schools of a very high standard.

The competition involved 8 teams from schools across the whole of Nottinghamshire and was split into two groups of 4 teams. Our groups consisted of ourselves, Joseph Whittaker, Rushcliffe and Retford Oaks. Ashfield took part in the first game of the tournament against Joseph Whittaker and after a slow start ran out easy 7-1 winners. Our second game was against Rushcliffe School and although they were a better side than Joseph Whittaker a fast paced performance again saw us win 7-1. This meant that going into the final game we would already progress to the semi-final stage either as group winners or runners up. Retford Oaks were a very good side with one or two outstanding players but the boys stuck to their game plan and won the game 6-1 to top the group and progress to a semi-final against Trinity School.

The semi-final was much the same story with Trinity struggling to get the ball from our team and when they did struggling even more to score past Daniel White. Goals from Owen Hannant, Ryan Parry and Harry Ashley sealed an impressive 7-1 win and a final rematch against Retford Oaks from the group stage.

The final was again a one sided game with Joel Harrison scoring two impressive goals cutting in from the left wing to start off the scoring. Retford Oaks struggled to match the quality of the ourselves and the game finished 7-1 to Ashfield. The boys were delighted by the victory and I was delighted by the way they conducted themselves throughout. It was also very pleasing to see parents come along to support the boys on the day.

The next event for the Year 8 team will be the Midland Regional competition. Once we have the details we will let you know. Mr Caunt
On Wednesday 28th January, Ashfield School hosted the Ashfield District Schools Sports Network Handball tournament for Year 8 students.

The tournament for Year 8 was attended by three local schools: Ashfield School, Selston High School and National C of E School. The competition format saw each school play each other twice using the aggregate scoring system to determine the winner. In the first fixture, Ashfield fielded a team of six students who have all been involved with the County team and ran out 8 – 2 winners against Selston High School. This game also allowed the opportunity to integrate some of the newer team players into the squad. The second game for Ashfield was against National C of E School who won their first game with strong attacking play. Ashfield were able to put in a strong and disciplined defensive performance with Ryan Parry, Owen Hannant performing numerous strong blocks to shut out National. This, combined with slick and fast passing, helped Ashfield to a 2 – 0 victory.

The second round of games continued with the scores from the previous games. Selston quickly began to close the score but the re-introduction of Owen Hannant and Harry Ashley to the Ashfield team enabled them to add some quick goals to claim the game 13 – 8 overall. This left one final game for Ashfield to play against National C of E School who they led 2 – 0 from the previous game. Ashfield again began with a mixed team of new players and county players but quickly found themselves trailing 3 – 2 overall. Knowing that they needed to win the game to ensure tournament victory, they decided to introduce the remaining county players into the team…the goals quickly followed! The Ashfield boys moved the ball with pace and precision, attacking very well as a team, and the game finally ended with a comfortable 13 – 3 win for Ashfield.

The Ashfield PE staff were incredibly proud not only of their team’s performance, but also of their fantastic attitude and supreme sportsmanship. **Team**: Harry Ashley, Owen Hannant, Ryan Parry, Josh Dykes, Luke Sidebottom, Joel Harrison, Daniel White, Archie Adams, Dane Dluzewski, Kieran Leivers, Mak Wadsworth.

Recent weekends have seen the climax of the U16 and U18 National Championships, where the top 8 teams in the county have competed for a place in the final of both competitions. A short review for each of our teams involved is below:

**U16 National Championship (featuring year 9 and 10s)**
Our U16 squad had already achieved their target for the season by qualifying for the top 8. Despite losing all 3 group matches, they remained competitive throughout and took a set off the volleyball powerhouse that is Tameside. They can be very proud of finishing 7th in the country, especially when taking into account that over half of the squad are still U14s. The squad featured: Jordan Andrews (10), Paisley Ward (10), Lauren Barnes (10), Hannah Young (10), Emily Smith (9), Mya Sewell (9), Chloe Priestley (9).

**U18 National Championship (featuring year 12s and Emily Smith)**
Our U18 squad qualified for the semi final, having comfortably beating Ashcombe and Newcastle in their group. Unfortunately we were drawn to play LEAF Academy in the semi final, who are a full time volleyball academy, employ professional coaches from abroad, train twice per day and are full of England internationals. Unfazed by this, the girls put up a brilliant fight, producing an amazing spectacle of volleyball. Despite losing, they made LEAF work very hard for their victory, and 3rd in the country isn't too shabby! The squad featured: Alice Kenworthy (12), Chloe Lounds (12), Emily Lounds (12), Megan Worley (12), Paige Nussey (12), Emily Smith (9).

U15s up next....
At the recent East Midlands U15 Volleyball Championships, Ashfield had a total of 3 teams competing.

Our C Team did superbly, despite it being the first competition for many of the squad, and they managed to stay competitive against other clubs. Our A and B Teams finished 1st and 2nd respectively. The only loss suffered by either team was when the A Team beat the B Team!

Both teams now qualify for the England Central Championships where they'll play the top 2 teams from the West Midlands and East regions. This will take place at the National Volleyball Centre in Kettering in March.

The A Team consisted of: Jordan Andrews (10) (captain), Hannah Young (10), Paisley Ward (10), Lauren Barnes (10), Emily Smith (9).

The B Team (all Year 9) consisted of: Chloe Priestley, Sophie Overfield, Mya Sewell, Olivia Coleman, Chelsea Leatherland, Emily Moore, Alex Roe.

Some of our younger volleyball players are looking set to follow in the footsteps of our supremely successful Year 12 players—the following were part of our U16 A squad which qualified into the top 8 of the National Championship:

Year 10: Jordan Andrews (captain), Hannah Young, Lauren Barnes, Paisley Ward
Year 9: Emily Smith, Chloe Priestley

The players have been on a roller-coaster ride to reach this stage, with many ups and downs along the way (and the occasional tear!). However, when it came down to it, they all came together as a team and were utterly brilliant throughout the day. They played every point like their lives depended on it, and held their nerves when beating the Black Country 15-13 in a deciding set, sealing their qualification to the last 8s. What makes their achievement even more impressive is that only one member of the squad is actually an U16. The rest are U15s or U14s!
Sports Hall Athletics Success

In December, girls’ and boys’ teams representing Years 7 and 8 competed in the ADSSN Secondary Sports Hall Athletics Championships held at the National Academy.

The girls did extremely well—they all worked really hard, performed excellently and were an absolute credit to the school.

The Year 7 team was Jenny Bryan, Lily Sheridan, Katie Scruby, Tia Mason & Leah Mason. After a couple of falls they battled hard and came a creditable 4th, just missing bronze medals by a few points.

The Year 8 team was Layla Allsop, Tarina Smith, Jade Wood, Molly Cooper & Katie Hunt. They were exceptional throughout and won numerous events, achieving Silver medals and just missing gold by a couple of points. Well done to all!

Our boys’ teams also enjoyed success at the event with Year 8 claiming the gold and Year 7 the silver!

Cracking stuff from the lads, the Year 8 relay team of Harry Ashley, Kai Hanshaw, Daniel White and Joel Harrison were particularly impressive in their race winning by a large margin. Fantastic effort all round!

Ashfield District’s County Cross Country Results

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year 7 Boys</th>
<th>Year 8/9 Boys</th>
<th>Year 10/11 Boys</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38th Charlie Norman (Ashfield)</td>
<td>13th Harry Ashley (Ashfield)</td>
<td>6th Callum Warrener (Quarrydale)</td>
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<tr>
<td>39th Dylan Marshall (Ashfield)</td>
<td>18th Patrick Watson (Quarrydale)</td>
<td>20th Ben Burnham (Ashfield)</td>
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<tr>
<td>42nd Owen Brooks (Ashfield)</td>
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<td>26th Arron Shaw (Holgate)</td>
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<td>44th George Ginger (National)</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year 7 Girls</th>
<th>Year 8/9 Girls</th>
<th>Year 10/11 Girls</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24th Sophie Taylor (Selston)</td>
<td>1st Libby Coleman (Ashfield)</td>
<td>25th Harriet Thomas Mee (National)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53rd Katie Watson (Quarrydale)</td>
<td>21st Layla Allsop (Ashfield)</td>
<td>29th Grace Stocks (Ashfield)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56th Demi Ellis-Orgill (Sutton)</td>
<td>29th Felicia Miloro (National)</td>
<td>31st Georgina Beighton (Selston)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>30th Martina Thorpe (Selston)</td>
<td>32nd Emma Hutson (National)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>45th Ellie Reed (Ashfield)</td>
<td>35th Leonnie Howell (National)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>50th Krystle Priestly (Quarrydale)</td>
<td>37th Rimini Miloro (National)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>51st Shauna Wainwright (Holgate)</td>
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**Badminton**

In January, the KS3 girls set off for the Ashfield Schools' Partnership Badminton Competition as a newly formed team selected on the basis of their excellent performances in lessons. With brilliant singles and doubles performances throughout the night, the girls finished deserving Champions winning all 15 of their matches! The girls went on to represent the Ashfield Schools' Partnership in the Nottinghamshire County Finals and after finishing 4th in our group we failed to go any further. But, as always, the girls were a credit to the school. Very well done to:

Alex Roe, Emily Smith, Mya Sewell, Katie Holmes,

**Basketball**

The Year 9 Girls' Basketball team (comprised primarily of the netball team!) also qualified to represent Ashfield Schools in the Nottinghamshire County Finals. With only 2 other teams entering the qualifying competition, the girls displayed excellent ball skills and some fantastic defending to win the competition at District level beating Quarrydale 20-4 and National School 34-2!!

Expecting to meet real basketballing opposition this time, the early start (we travelled furthest!) seemed evident in the first game when we were 13-0 down at half time - not looking promising then for the rest of the tournament! However, a firm half time team talk meant that although this turned out to be our worst result of the day, we won the second half by 6 points so the big comeback was underway! The girls' performances improved markedly as the tournament went on as they evolved into a solid basketball team from a group of netballers. The team showed true grit to qualify for the 3rd/4th place play off against Emmanuel School who had narrowly (i.e. scored with the last throw of the game!) beaten us in qualifying. However, this game meant a medal or returning home empty handed. So, in true Ashfield style, the girls were amazing, winning this game by 4 clear points. Third best basketball team in the county and bronze medals all round .... I'll settle for that from a netball team!

The girls below were FANTASTIC!

Chloe Martin, Abigail Hardy, Emily Moore, Emily Smith, Abbie Shirley, Lauren Dobbs.

**Netball**

Hot on the heels of on the achievements of the Badminton and Basketball teams the Year 9 girls added to their toll of trophies by winning the West Notts PE Association District Netball Tournament. A shock defeat in our second game (losing 5-0 to All Saints) meant the best we could finish in our group was as runners up. The other 2 games were won comfortably beating Joseph Whittaker 11-0 and Brunts 7-1 so we went through to play the winners of the other group, Quarrydale, in the semi-final. We brushed them aside with a very comfortable 12-1 (yes, 12-1!) victory, to qualify for the Final and a rematch against All Saints. After a confidence-building talk from Coach Lyons, the game was only ever going to go one way and a resounding 8-1 victory earned us the title!

The girls were, as always, a credit to the school. Congratulations go to: Chloe Martin (capt), Emily Moore, Lauren Dobbs, Chelbi Gsatsby-Salmon, Abbey Shirley, Megan Woodhouse, Sophie Overfield, Andie Woodhouse.
GB sprinter, Martyn Rooney, travelled down all the way from Scotland and the Sports personality of the Year Awards just to present prizes to our newly-appointed House Captains!

All year groups have been busy choosing a year group focus charity that they will support throughout their time at Ashfield School. Through the Year Councils and Student Management Teams, year groups have chosen to support the following charities.

**Year 7:** Cancer Research UK  
**Year 8:** Make a Wish  
**Year 9:** MacMillan Cancer Research  
**Year 10:** The Beacon Project Mansfield

**Year 11:** can choose any of the above

For the first time, students have been given the opportunity to donate their “A” point value to their year group charity. It has been wonderful to see so many students already donating their “A” points instead of using them to purchase something for themselves. So far, students have donated £400 to the year group charities! They will have the opportunity to do this again later in the year.

**Coming up…….**

Student Management Teams are busy coming up with more ideas to help fundraise for their charities. Watch this space!!
It has been another half term full of House activities with lots of students representing Byron with distinction. The Inter House activities have come thick and fast with lots of students taking part and giving their best for the house. This half term has seen the Winter Games competitions come to a close with all years having now competed. The annual Spelling Bee was held at the end of January and we have just completed the Ashfield Talent Show. It was pleasing to see so many students taking part and from my point of view it was fantastic getting to know more students form Byron.

The Year 9 Winter Games were fiercely contested with a very close result seeing Byron finish in third place to keep up our fantastic run this academic year. The Year 7 students in their first ever competition battled bravely and managed to record a fifth place finish and the house finished a disappointing sixth in the spelling bee.

The events do not stop there. The next events will be the annual Swimming Galas, the first competition will be for Year 7 quickly followed by Year 8 & 9 the next week. We are hoping to field full teams for this and all PE staff have been keeping a close eye on students during lessons. I will let you know how we get on in the next newsletter.

Finally, the most pleasing part of the year so far has been the election of Byron’s ten House Captains. Students were asked to apply if they wanted to take on a leadership role in school and help with the running of the House Competitions. I was inundated with applications from so many wonderful candidates but in the end I was able to narrow it down to 10. The successful students were invited to a presentation lunch with Mr Vasey and Olympian Martin Rooney and presented with certificates and badges that they now wear with pride. The House Captains for this year are:

Year 7 – Finlay Batty & Ella Chambers
Year 8 – Megan Yorke & Dane Dluzewski
Year 9 – Brandon Cantrill & Emily Moore
Year 10 – Beth Young & Nathan Wilson

Congratulations to all the students for another great half term.

Mr Caunt
Byron House Co-ordinator
This year has seen the introduction of House Captains, with students taking on more of a leadership role and supporting the House Co-ordinator in organising the teams for the many events. Congratulations to the following students who were successful in being appointed to the role: Year 7 - James Linacre and Danielle Roe; Year 8 - Niall Peeters-Ween and Millie Hardy; Year 9 - Kered Armstrong and Lauren Dobbs; Year 10 - Joe West and Mia Roberts.

We have had another exciting term including several more inter-house events including both the Year 7 and Year 9 Winter Games and the Talent Show, which Chesterfield have proven to be very successful in.

In the Year 9 Winter Games we finished joint fourth, but the boys’ football team put in a convincing performance to finish top in their competition. Last week in the Year 7 competition, the Chesterfield girls’ football team (Lily West, Chloe Philips, Tania Short, Danielle Roe, Paige Hardwick, Olivia Sears and Nealeigh Tryner, pictured), the boys’ football team and the boys’ basketball team all finished top, resulting in a win for Chesterfield overall.

In the talent show, Chesterfield came in second overall with Rebecca Moore’s dance performance winning the Year 9 competition.

In the next few weeks we have both the Year 7 and Year 8/9 Swimming Galas so I am hoping for some more great performances.

Suzanne Guest
Chesterfield House Co-ordinator
It’s been an incredibly busy few months from a House Championship perspective; with the invaluable assistance of the newly instated House Captains, we’ve had numerous Winter Games competitions, as well as the chess competition, spelling bee and talent show.

Despite a low Thoroton turn out for the chess competition, Beth Boswell-Holmes flew the flag high, finishing as the overall champion of Year 10. Mr Raine, meanwhile, held firm in the staff competition to take 3 victories over his competitors, however it wasn’t enough to undo the damage done by a low turn-out for the pupils’ events.

The first house competition of 2015 was the spelling bee, an event where Thoroton have historically been successful; thankfully, this trend continued. With the Year 10s leading by example, (Sid Chaterubedi was an inspiration as he waltzed effortlessly to victory, whilst all of the Year 10 girls made it to the final few in the girls’ competition) Thoroton fought hard to strive for victory, but ultimately came up short as the consistency of Chesterfield proved to be just too much to beat.

The talent show, on the other hand, was an altogether different story: with representatives from all but one year group, we were automatically on track to earn a good amount of points just for taking part. This, coupled with the musical exploits of our Year 8 girls and the guitar skills of Beth Adams on show (despite Beth almost taking the phrase “break a leg” rather too literally), ensured that Thoroton finished in a very respectable third place.

With Year 10 the only year group to have their Winter Games before Christmas, it’s been a busy term of sporting events, and with the assistance of the House Captains these have all been a great success. The most notable successes were a couple of second place finishes for Years 8 (whose girls finished as champions in the football) and 11 (where the boys just lost out to overall champions Byron in most of the events).

With so many events still to come towards the end of the year, it really is all to play for in this year’s house championship, and until it’s mathematically impossible for Thoroton to win, we will continue to believe we can be victorious once again.

Let’s go, Thoroton!

Mr R Taylor
Thoroton House Co-ordinator
It has been an eventful first term for me (Miss Broadley) with Hargreaves which I have thoroughly enjoyed. We have seen the Year 9s win the Winter Games overall, which was a great success and a real credit to the year team!

Year 7 also showed good effort in their first winter games (see the pictures below)!

The talent show was great fun, with exceptional talent. Georgia Nussey won overall for Year 8 and she later performed in the Year 8 assembly with her winning song by Ellie Goulding.

Will Trigger also won the Year 10 category with his amazing dance moves. A great term!

Miss C. Broadley
Hargreaves House Co-ordinator
This year’s House Championships are promising to be very successful due to the very strong start by all years in the events so far. After combining all the scores from the events so far, this year Trent currently lead the way with a very impressive score! This is down to the dedication and motivation shown by all the students who have taken part in the events this year.

A particular highlight for Trent this year has been the amount of A points students have been receiving for their excellent effort in lessons and around school; students in Trent currently earn an average of 36 A points each which is a very impressive total.

Trent performed extremely well in this year’s Chess championship; Zak Orrell was particularly impressive in this event, beating all his opponents and leading the way for the boys. Jodi James and Logan Stocks also performed well in this event, only losing one of their matches. Another impressive Chess player this year was Sam Greatorex, who again beat all his opponents and scored maximum points for Trent.

Another event which has taken place this term is the Ashfield School Spelling Bee. Once again, I was very impressed with the level of participation for Trent; we managed to turn out full teams which always puts us in a good position to do well. Overall, Trent finished in a very respectable 3rd place, which I was delighted with! Year 11 Trent students, including Alana Curry, Lewis Phillips, Cameron Chivers and Loren Mason, performed extremely well and as a team managed to finish in 1st place!

This term has also seen a very competitive and close battle between Year 8s for the year’s winter games. It is always a pleasure for me to see so many students taking winter games seriously and performing to the best of their ability for their house. This was a particularly close event, with 4 houses finishing in joint 2nd place with 24 points. Trent were included in this after a really good performance by all the students involved.

The upcoming events for this half term are: Year 7 winter games, Year 7,8 & 9 Swimming Gala and this year’s Talent Show.

I am hoping for Trent to carry on with the positivity they have shown this year. It is very pleasing to see and I am a very proud house co-ordinator!

Mr L Greasley
Trent House Co-ordinator
The staff and students continue to be busy taking part in a variety of events including the Chess Championship, the Spelling Bee, the Talent Show and several Winter Games.

We have had 4 winter games. The Year 8s were amazing coming = 2nd, with particular success for the boys’ basketball team who came 1st. Year 9 came 4th with the Boccia team coming first and Year 11 tried their hardest but could only manage 6th, although the netball team came 2nd. On Friday, the Year 7s experienced their first Winter Games at Ashfield. The sun shone and the atmosphere and team spirit were brilliant. They came 2nd, with wins for the netball and Boccia teams. The rugby team also had success coming 2nd and for the boys’ basketball the whole event came down to the last match. The team played with great determination but unfortunately they were beaten into 2nd place by Chesterfield – a fantastic match and I was proud to cheer them on.

The second House event was Chess. The Year 7s again showed they are a force to be reckoned with coming 2nd. Year 10 continued their success by also coming 2nd and overall Coates came 4th for both staff and students. The Spelling Bee gave the opportunity for the staff to shine. Not only did we have the most staff take part, our staff ended up in the top 3 places with Mrs Lyons being crowned champion for the 2nd time. The students came 5th overall with the Year 11s coming 2nd and both Years 7 and 8 coming 3rd. Lois Lafon Anthony, Heritage Afodubi and Emma Storey represented Coates in the Talent Show. Lois came 2nd overall and Emma and Heritage cam 3rd in year 7. All 3 girls were amazing and so brave to take part.

I continue to be proud of all our teams. I really hope we are able to get at least one trophy by the end of the year and I’m looking forward to cheering them on in the next few events...swimming galas for Years 7, 8 and 9, House Challenge and finally Sports Day.

Go Coates Go!

Mrs F Ball
Highly-qualified staff. Term time places. For children 0-8 years.
Wrap-around care with local pick-ups & drop-offs.
Freshly prepared, nutritious meals.

Open Monday – Friday
7.30am - 6.00pm
51 weeks per year

Our mission is to provide the very best all-round care for your child, leaving you secure in the knowledge that they will be having a great time playing and learning whilst they are with us.

For more information please contact Laura Eaton on Tel: 01623 455003.
Email: nursery@ashfield.notts.sch.uk
Ashfield Plaza Day Nursery, to the rear of Ashfield School, Sutton Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Notts. NG17 8HP
Your local leisure centre, very competitive prices, open to the public 6 days a week.

3G Floodlit All Weather Pitch * Netball Courts * Floodlit Athletics Track
Full/Mini Size Football Pitches * Fitness Suite * Swimming Pool
Sprung Floor Dance Studio * Sports Hall * 3 Gyms * Theatre

For more information or to book facilities, contact Alison on:
Tel: 01623 402209
Email: alison.broadbelt@ashfield.notts.sch.uk
Did you know that the school can access extra money to support your child through their education? This funding is called the “Pupil Premium”.

The Pupil Premium is designed to support the progress and raise the attainment of disadvantaged students up to Year 11.

At Ashfield, we use the Pupil Premium to provide a wide range of additional support to students and to ensure that all students maximise their progress. A detailed report on how we spend the money and the impact it has had on achievement is available on the school website.

The funding per pupil for 2014-2015 is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium</th>
<th>Pupil Premium per pupil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pupils in Year 7 to 11 recorded as receiving free school meals in the past 6 years</td>
<td>£935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looked After Children (LAC)</td>
<td>£1,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children adopted from care under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and children who have left care under a Special Guardianship or Residence Order (see below)</td>
<td>£1,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service children</td>
<td>£300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### How to apply for Free School Meals

If you receive any of the following support payments your child may be entitled to receive free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

If you believe your child may be entitled to receive free school meals, you simply need to fill in an application form supplied by your local council. The council will then inform the school, and provide the funding.

At Ashfield, students receiving free school meals are anonymous as a daily payment is made directly to a student’s account and all students ‘pay’ for their food using the cashless ‘finger’ system.

If you would like to apply for Free School Meals from Nottinghamshire County Council, please visit: [https://secure.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learningandwork/free-school-meals/fsm-apply/](https://secure.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learningandwork/free-school-meals/fsm-apply/)

### Information on extra funding for LAC/Post-LAC/Service children

Pupil Premium money received by schools has now been extended to include any child adopted from care or who left care under a Special Guardianship Order on or after 30 December 2005. Schools can also claim the Pupil Premium for children who left care under a Residence Order on or after 14 October 1991.
To enable Ashfield School to claim this element of Pupil Premium funding, you will need to inform the school about your child’s circumstances and provide supporting evidence, for example, show the school the original Adoption (Court) Order. For further information, visit the following web link: http://www.adoptionuk.org/education/pupil-premium.

If you would like support in self certificating for this additional funding, please contact Louise Alexander (LAC Welfare Officer) at Louise.Alexander@ashfield.notts.sch.uk.

**Pupil Premium: Children of Service Personnel**

If you are a Service parent and your child qualifies to receive the service premium, please contact the school and let us know so that we can apply for the additional funding.

John Maher (Deputy Head Teacher)

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**Reminder for Parents**

**CONTACT DETAILS**

Please remember to notify the school office if you change your address, telephone number or email address. It’s vital that we have up-to-date contact information in case of emergency, and in order for you to receive important notifications regarding your child such as availability of school reports. You can either send a note into school via your child or email to admin@ashfield.notts.sch.uk or phone us on 01623 455000.

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**Attendance Matters**

Amendments to legislation surrounding holidays in term time came in to effect from 1st September 2013, and made it clear that Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. This means that holidays taken during term time will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances surrounding them.

To bring Ashfield School in line with other schools in Nottinghamshire, Governors have agreed that we will follow the Nottinghamshire County Council Code of Conduct for the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices for unauthorised holidays in term time.

This will take effect from Monday 20th April 2015. Further information will be sent to parents/carers in due course.

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**Changes to the Timings of the School Day**

Due to the public examinations taking place 11/05/15 – 23/06/15, the timings of the school day will be altered; this is to ensure all examination start and end times fall within the school day.

For this 6 week period only, the school day timings will be:

- **Tutor** – 8.40 / 9.00
- **Lesson 1** – 9.00 / 10.00
- **Lesson 2** – 10.00 / 11.00
- **Break** – 11.00 / 11.20
- **Lesson 3** – 11.20 / 12.20
- **Lunch** 12.20 / 1.05
- **Lesson 4** – 1.05 / 2.05
- **Lesson 5** – 2.05 / 3.05

The beginning and end of the school day are unaffected.
Parental / carer awareness of support available on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

This is a topic which you may have seen or heard about through the national and local media, and which has featured in storylines on television dramas such as Eastenders and Casualty.

The numbers of children we are aware of nationally as being either at risk of, or actually being, sexually exploited, are relatively small. However, we do want to be proactive in helping parents and carers to be aware of the risks that their children may meet, either face to face or virtually through social media and the internet.

The Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board has therefore asked schools and academies to contact all parents and carers to alert them to a free on-line learning course which has been designed specifically for them. The course is free, online and easy to access. If you would like further details please visit the school website under downloads or contact the school direct on 01623 455000.

Tackling Domestic Abuse (Encompass Project)

The Encompass Nottinghamshire project has begun which will allow for the sharing of information between Nottinghamshire Police and schools. The project aims to support children who are affected by domestic abuse. For Ashfield School, Sally Marsh will be the school’s point of contact.

If you would like further details of the support available, contact the school direct on 01623 455000. Information is also available on the County Council Website at http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/caring/protecting-and-safeguarding/nscb/informationprofessionals/encompass/

Students walking to and from school

We would welcome your support in reminding your child to concentrate on road safety and behave appropriately when near traffic. As we live and work near some of the busiest roads in the country, students may lose the sense of danger and road awareness that keeps them safe.

We do all that we can in school to give road safety a high profile but would ask that you talk to your child about road safety and the dangers of crossing at inappropriate points.

In addition, we would ask that, when driving near to school, you adhere to the following at all times:

- Drive safely, adhering to the speed limits and driving in accordance with the Highway Code.
- Do not stop or park on the yellow “School - Keep – Clear” and “zig-zag” markings during the times indicated on the yellow “No Stopping” signs outside the school
- Do not park on any double yellow lines.
- Avoid parking in a way that would block or cause an obstruction to the school entrance/exit, residents’ driveways and/or junctions.
- Do not mount the pavement when stopping or parking, allowing pedestrians to be able to walk on pavements and space for prams to pass.
- Park so that your child is able to enter or leave the vehicle on the pavement side away from any conflict with traffic.
- Pay particular attention to other children at the side and rear of the vehicle when parking, dropping off or setting off.

Avoid double parking so as not to adversely affect the flow of traffic or access for emergency vehicles.

We appreciate your support in ensuring that Ashfield students remain safe when walking to and from school.