



MedSoc

MedSoc has been fortunate to receive two visitors this half term. At the start of the new year, alumnus Alex K returned to Ashmole. Alex is currently studying Medicine at Sheffield University. He joined us to run interview workshops with our Year 13 Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary candidates.

We ran through most commonly asked interview questions, how to approach them, and other MMI scenarios. The students were so grateful to practice their interview responses and get feedback from an expert!



Towards the end of Jan, we welcomed back an Ashmole parent, Ms Alison Bowman, who is a therapeutic radiographer

We had a packed classroom of over 25 students from all three sciences, across Years 11-13. Ms Bowman described her incredibly rewarding career in killing cancerous cells by targeting tumours with radiation, engaging the medics and physicists alike. We even saw patient scans and props used by radiographers during the procedure.



For two years running this talk has led to Ashmole students applying for allied healthcare professions such as radiography - we cannot thank Ms Bowman enough for visiting us again.

Mrs D Shah





Student Voice - Committees

On Tuesday 21st January we had another round of All Member Committee meetings during p5. Students discussed their main projects and had the opportunity to reflect on the successes so far and where adjustments needed to be made. In this second session, many of the committee meetings were led by their student chairperson, with the secretary taking notes to pass back. The goal was to develop the idea of student democracy and allow students to understand the processes which take place when debating issues.

Mr Pearson



Oxford Union Debate Competition

Emily and Eloisa attended their first 'parliamentary style' debate competition at South Hampstead High School recently. It was a fantastic experience and they performed brilliantly in a highly competitive environment almost entirely made up by Independent schools. This format allows students just 15 minutes to prepare their speeches for the motions. Their team work and confidence shone through and they were very proud to have represented our school. We look forward to trying again next year!

Thanks to Mr Sergiou for his enthusiasm and support.
Mr Littleford



ESU MACE debate Round 2

We attended Round 2 of the MACE debate competition where our team of three (Asiya, Zuriel and Maria) were pitted against an array of talent from other north London schools. They were exceptionally well prepared thanks to the work of Mr Sergiou and Mr Halford and each speaker equipped themselves well, ably navigating tricky questions from their opponents. Unfortunately, we weren't successful but all involved thought it was a valuable experience and have kindly offered to lead a Debate Club for KS3 and KS4 students to impart the things they have learnt.

Mr Littleford



Year 7/8 Girls' Interform:

A massive congratulations to all the remarkable young women who took part in our first Girls' Football Interform. The event was an overwhelming success, and it was truly inspiring to witness the enthusiasm and skills on display. Your participation and enjoyment were the highlights of the day. A special commendation to M1 for their outstanding performance! - PE Department



Holocaust Memorial Week

Holocaust Memorial Week was the focus of assembly and tutor time activities last week. Two of our Year 13 History students, Alex and Caitlin, took the lead on shaping how our school community marks and remembers this important part of our recent history.

Alex and Caitlin designed activities for every tutor group in the school to work on, asking students to reflect pre-war Jewish life in Europe. Both students also delivered powerful assemblies to all year groups this week. They spoke brilliantly about their experiences when visiting the Auschwitz Concentration Camp last October.

On Thursday, a special lunchtime event was held in the Library. Around 40 Year 7 and 8 students came to find out more about the impact the visit had on Caitlin and Alex and the sixth formers were able to answer their questions. They were joined by Meta in Year 12, an English student, who gave her time to speak to the group about Anne Frank and her diary.

Thanks to all involved as we took time to reflect and remember.

Mr Ford



Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge: Regional Finals 2025

On Tuesday 14th January, Naima in 10ALB represented Ashmole Academy at the Barnet regional final of Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge. Naima delivered and outstanding speech titled 'Why Stories Matter' and talked passionately about how telling and reading stories is an integral part of our identities.

Her speech was well received and highly praised by the judges. Also representing Ashmole was Anika in 11CHF: Anika was runner up at last year's regional final and thoroughly enjoyed the privilege of being a guest judge at the finals this year.

Congratulations to both girls for their outstanding work.

Miss Smith





Ashmole Academy Parkrun

On Saturday 1st February Ashmole Academy hosted its termly Parkrun at Pymmes Park. Out of the 186 runners we had 17 students, 3 staff and 8 parents run with many of our students achieving personal bests. Many of these times put them in contention for a London Mini Marathon place to represent Barnet or Enfield. Well done to all those that represented Ashmole Academy! Some notable achievements below:



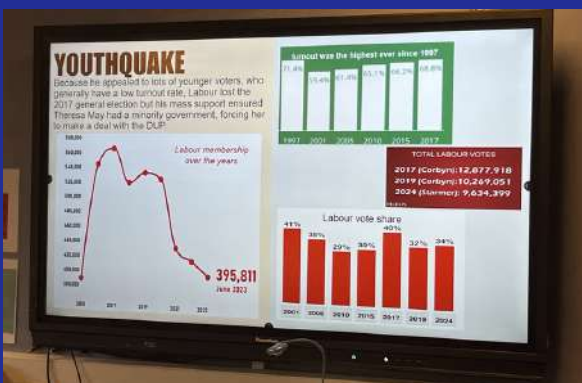
- 3rd - Sam Boucher = 17:50
- 6th - Sam Clements = 18:55
- 7th - Luke Rogers = 19:25
- 15th - Alice Clements = 20:33
- 21st - Ivan Tanev = 21:35
- 22nd - Joe Winterbottom = 21:39

From all of the PE Team



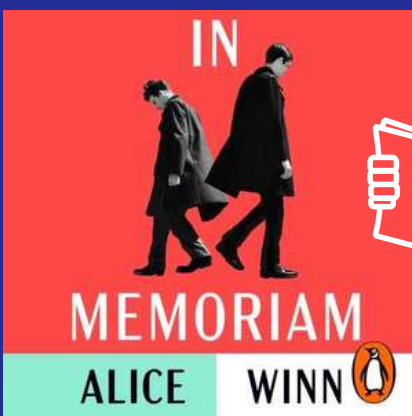
Bar Mock Trial

Year 12 students took part in the highly prestigious 'Young Citizens' Bar Mock Trial over last weekend. They did exceptionally well, competing against a number of Independent and Grammar Schools. Students were allocated the roles of barristers, witnesses, jurors, ushers and clerks, spending several weeks preparing their cases meticulously. Alexandra and Denis documented court proceedings with magnificent sketches. They were a real credit to the school. Mr Halford and Mr Sergiou



Politics Society

Politics Scholar Sienna gave a very well researched presentation to the politics society on the 2017 General Election and the engagement of young people in that campaign. She then expertly answered a range of challenging questions from the audience. Mr Halford



Recommended read

Historical fiction is not usually my chosen genre, but I found In Memoriam by Alice Winn to be gripping and utterly heart-breaking in the most beautiful way. The story focuses on two school boys who leave their traditional boarding school to be officers in the British Army in 1914. It is (of course) tragic, but the basis of the book is deep human connection and sanctuary. I thoroughly recommend. - Ms Gardner



Young Writers' Success

During the Autumn term several students in Year 7 and 8 entered a poetry writing competition run by the organisation Young Writers. They were challenged to enter poems with the title, "The Beautiful Truth"

This invited young people to write poems about themselves and their world in any way they wanted. We are pleased to announce that the following students have had their work accepted for publication, along with other writers from schools nationwide: Anaya A in Year 7 and Florrie W, Josephine B, Tilly W, Malaika B, Chloe M and Demi P, all in Year 8.



Congratulations to these students and we have a copy of the published Poetry anthology on display in our Library for anyone who would like to have a look.



Similar writing competitions are often publicised on Library slides, so look out for the next one and find out how easy it is to enter. Overall winners can even receive prizes !

Ms England

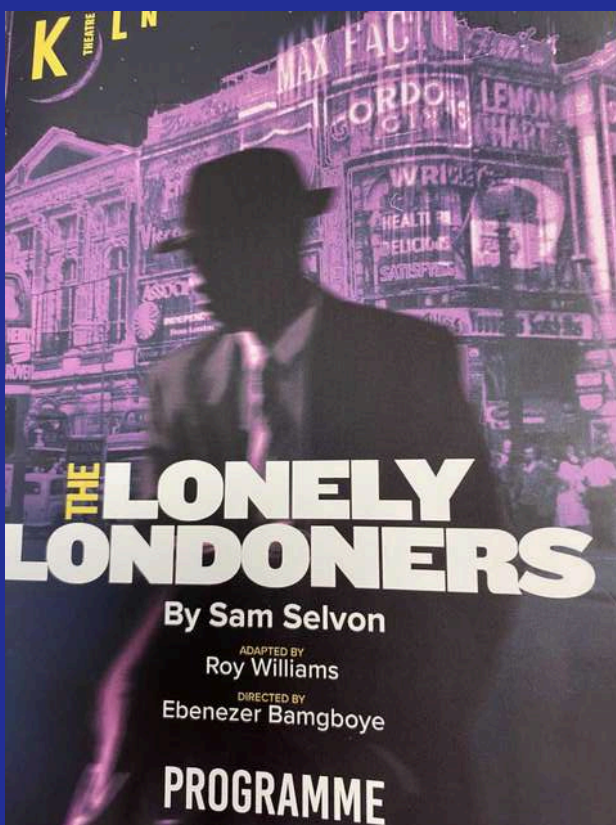
GCSE Drama Trip, 29th January 2025

To ensure that all of our year 11 GCSE Drama students have had the opportunity to see some live theatre, we took them to see a new play; 'The Lonely Londoners' at the Kiln theatre in Kilburn. 'The Lonely Londoners' is a new play based on a book written in 1956 about the lives of people from the Windrush generation.

There were several stories within the play based around seven characters, each story with it's own joy and sadness. The Kiln Theatre is a small and intimate space, which meant we were close to the stage and could really engage with these amazing stories.

GCSE Drama students have to answer a question about a piece of live theatre that they have seen in their written exam, so we were delighted that our students had plenty to discuss (as we heard on the tube on the way home) and will have lots to write about when they take their exam.

Ms Beacon



Writing intervention programme



writing intervention programme

In addition to our reading intervention sessions, we have recently launched a writing intervention programme. A select number of KS3 students have been working brilliantly during their handwriting sessions since returning from the Christmas break. Students have been working with their 6th form buddy to complete a range of tasks to improve legibility of their handwriting, including the tripod-grip, tracing and mastering sentence forms.

'I have found this really useful and it's been good to work with a 6th former. I have definitely started thinking about how clear my handwriting is, particularly when I'm rushing.' Sam F 9GEO
Mrs Georgiades



Curriculum Support Shine Again in Year 7 Bowling Competition!

We are thrilled to share the fantastic achievement of our Year 7 students, who recently participated in an inter-school bowling competition in Finchley. After their previous success, our talented team was invited to compete once again—and they did not disappoint! Demonstrating great skill, teamwork, and determination, our students secured an impressive 2nd place, bringing home another trophy and more medals to celebrate their achievements. Their enthusiasm and sportsmanship were outstanding, and they represented our school with pride.

A huge congratulations to Daniyal, Freya, Harriet, Jack, Karim, and Najib for their hard work and dedication. We couldn't be prouder of them and look forward to even more success in the future!

Miss Colbeck



Post-16 Careers opportunities:

- Into Film and the National Film and Television School
 - Warner Bros: Championing Apprenticeships
 - KPMG Virtual Taster Day
 - Apprenticeships with EY
 - Explore Your Future With Deutsche Bank
 - Step Into The Future With AWE Nuclear Security Technologies
 - Virtual Insight Day with BT
 - Virtual insight day with Tata Consultancy Services
- Mr Louca