

Student Voice - Committees

Ashmole has a whole-school commitment to listening to the views, wishes and experiences of all children and young people by placing value on what they tell school staff about their experiences.

There are seven committees which are run by senior staff and have a student chairperson and secretary. They have all committed to one major project this year, to run alongside the smaller projects which aim to improve students' experiences in school.

Extra-Curricular Committee

As members of the Extra-Curricular Committee, we have set up some new clubs for our younger students, such as a Sudoku Club and an Uno Club. These clubs are fun and inclusive, and they not only help build students' confidence but also offer an alternative to being outside at lunchtime.



We have also held a Chess Tournament as part of our project to run one of these each term. The tournament had over 40 students competing in an open competition format, with participation from Y7 to Y13 and from beginner to expert. As members, we helped set it up and are hoping to run the next tournament in the Spring Term with even more competitors.



Being in a committee has allowed us to gain a wider knowledge of the students who come to Ashmole and helped to forge stronger community links between year groups.

Lilian H & Holly L Y12



Catering Committee

The catering committee has met to discuss our three-week menu and present our proposals to the catering team. We fed back that some of the dishes could have a bit more spice in them, and agreed which the popular items were.

We proposed to reduce plastic waste by replacing the sauce sachets with dispensers, which may be trialled in the new year. We would also like to improve the healthy eating in school by re-installing the salad bar for students to use in supplementing their diet, and we hope to trial some options around mini salad and fruit pots next term.



We have also been working with the site committee on the project to increase the number of water stations in the school.

Being in this committee made me gain an insight into the whole school menu, including aspects which did not necessarily affect me.

Evangeline L Y10

Green Committee

In the green committee we have been discussing ways to help with recycling around the school. We plan to purchase large bins for mixed paper recycling which will be placed on each floor. A team of students from the green committee will help to recycle the mixed paper on each floor daily. We have also worked with the Site Committee to plant spring bulbs around the school, which will make the school look vibrant next term.

Erin C Y8



Site Committee

In the site committee we have been looking around the school for places to put water fountains because we have responded to the feedback and requests by many of the Y7 and Y8 forms.



In addition we have been working alongside the green committee in planting spring bulbs. We have weeded and tidied the planters outside the sixth-form building and replanted some of the flowers. We hope that this will encourage new wildlife and biodiversity which will brighten the school environment.

I have enjoyed being on the committee because I can feed back our activities to my form group.

Tilly W Y8

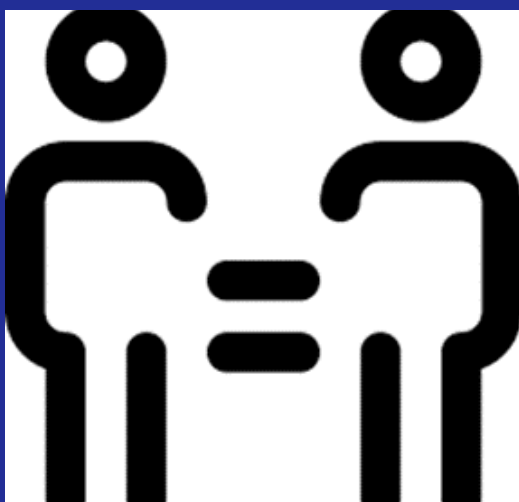


Wellbeing Committee

We are in the process of planning a boys' mental health assembly and providing younger students with a quieter area to encourage wellbeing. We also discussed the pros and cons of setting in classes and how mixed-ability streaming can be helpful.

We have gained valuable insights on the opinions of lower school students and their experiences in school.

Angelia M



Equalities Committee

We have met and discussed how to improve our understanding of neurodiversity in the school community. We hope to include some sessions in the morning and afternoon registration programme and work with the pastoral teams. We hope that committee volunteers can deliver these sessions as part of their engagement with Student Voice

Arisa V Y10



Charities Committee

The Charities committee has already organised a Children in Need Non-uniform day this term which raised over £2000 for that charity. We will also be organising a Christmas Jumper Day before the end of term and plan to organise similar events in the Spring and Summer Terms.

Mrs Clarke



Senior Team

The Ashmole Senior Team is made up of elected members of the sixth-form who discuss issues which relate to their life and studies in Years 12 & 13. We have been discussing Period Poverty and the "In the bag" campaign, assisted by Miss Cork in its promotion and facilitating donations from students and staff. Another discussion related to the use of study space in the Sixth Form block, and how we can expand the areas available for quiet study. During the Children in Need non-uniform day, the senior team dressed up in onesies and went round to form rooms collecting cash donations and encouraging students to contribute on Parent Pay. There have been new soap dispensers implemented in the main building toilets through consultation with the School Council.

The Senior Team have been involved in a range of activities this term, such as an assembly on Year 12 January Mock Revision and the Head Students gave speeches on Open Evening.

Morgan D



Assembly performances

A big thank you to Skye T in Year 8, Sebastian P in Year 8, Olivia K in year 12 and our Junior String Group who have all played in recent assemblies. We are super proud of all of them as it takes a lot of courage to perform in front of peers.



Lunchtime Piano Recital

On Wednesday 27th November, Mr Appleton (who is one of our Visiting Music Teachers) held an informal lunchtime recital for his piano students. The recital was the first time some students had performed in front of others. We heard a variety of music including pieces that students will be playing in their forthcoming ABRSM exams, which happened here on 11th December.



Year 7 and 8 Curricular Music

Year 8 had a wonderful time in one of their recent music lessons with Mr Christmas working on their composing. Students learned about the pattern for building major keys, and they worked in pairs to create a melody in the key of D major. They took turns to compose two-bar phrases, and were given a set of rules which helped to ensure their melody made musical sense. Year 7 and 8 have also been having a great time using Christmas music in their lessons - complete with dance routines to 'Last Christmas!'



Ashmole Choirs Christmas Tour!

Our Chamber Choir and KS3 choir are having a wonderful time 'on tour' singing at various community venues. They have all worked really hard and have learnt a lot of new repertoire. They are finding the experience very rewarding and are certainly demonstrating all of our Ashmole values. So far we have visited Ashmole Primary School, The Alzheimer's Society's 'Memory Café' in Arnos Grove, Osidge School, Minchenden Lodge Care Home, and Beaumont House Care Home. We will round off our tour on Thursday 19th December before school with Christmas Carols for all staff and students in the refectory. A very big Thank You to each and every member of our Choirs. A particular well done to Anthea G who sang 'Oh Holy Night' as a solo.



A special shout out to Luke B Year 9 on piano, Kaito B in Year 9 on Bassoon and Isabella P in Year 10 on oboe who were our musicians for 'Brother Heinrich's Christmas' which is a charming Christmas story about a monk and a singing donkey set to music. Also to Bill M who narrated the story. Ms Beacon



Reading Buddies - Primary edition!

Following the success of the Y12 Reading Buddies programme, a group of Y7 students (all Ashmole Primary alumni) have been visiting their old school on Friday mornings to read with Y6 students. The Y7s had a fantastic reception when they arrived for the first time and had lots of stories to share with their primary teachers before settling into their 'old chairs'. One Y6 commented that it was great to see the older students again, hear about life in secondary school and to share their book.

Mr Littleford



Year 13 Physics

On Wednesday 20th November a number of Year 13 Physics students stayed at school late into the evening to take part in two different extracurricular endeavours. A team of 5 students took part in the International Physics Brawl Competition.

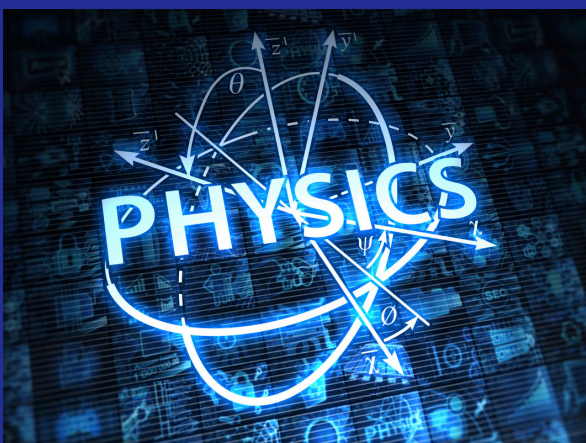


This is a demanding 3 hour long contest in solving physics problems, and our team was up against the best secondary school students from all over the world. The format of the competition is such that there are 7 problems available at the start and as soon as you solve one, you get another problem immediately, and for each solved problem the team is awarded with points. This resulted in an intense period of non-stop effort as the brief moments of elation when the team successfully got a question right quickly faded as work began on the next question. I was hugely impressed by the resilience and teamwork demonstrated by the whole team of Ata, Hokeong, Hal, Theo and Nicole, and while the results are yet to be released, they certainly did the school proud. I also have no doubt they would have done even better if I had a better grasp of time zones...



While this was going on, our top Physics Scholar Raya worked on getting the school telescope operational. Raya is passionate about Astronomy and has spent many hours over the last two years trawling through obscure websites and old manuals to try and find out exactly how to get our discontinued telescope up and running and I am delighted to say that she was successful in her endeavour. At the end of the evening Raya, the Physics Brawl team and I were all able to view the rings of Saturn through the telescope.

Mr Costello

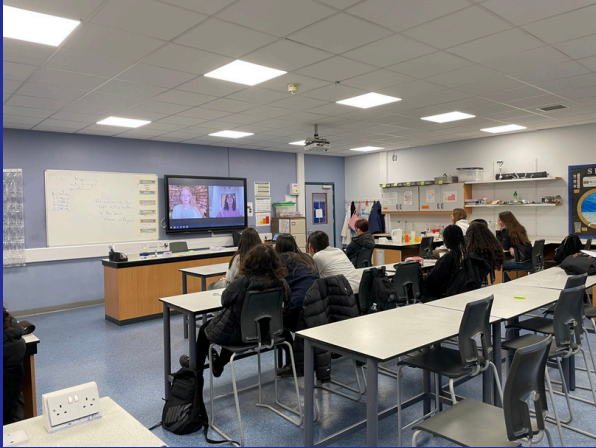




ESU Shakespeare Competition

We held Round One of the ESU Shakespeare Competition on Tuesday December 3rd. They were tasked with performing either a Shakespearean monologue or duologue. All participants were incredible and a real credit to themselves. It was a difficult decision to make, but the two performances put through to Round Two, which takes place in 2025, were Malaika Blankson with Safia Sahli (duologue) and Billy Meechan (monologue). A massive congratulations for their hard work!

Miss Clack



Women in Physics

Last week we hosted a webinar for the book "Women in Physics" in which we explored the historical journey, challenges, and achievements of women in the field of physics, with a focus on English-speaking countries. The session looked into various topics such as the historical role of women in physics, the current statistics on female representation in education and careers, navigating family life and career, and the critical role men play in fostering a supportive environment. The Y11, 12 and 13 female Physicists found it insightful and interesting.

Mr Graham



Scholastic Book Fair

In the first week of December we held a Scholastic Book Fair in the Library. Students enjoyed browsing the shelves of our very own pop-up book shop. They were able to look at an exciting selection of YA fiction, at a range of prices and by taking a wish list home, students and staff were able to make purchases on line.

The fair proved very popular with enough books bought to allow the school to claim back a large number of new books for our own Library shelves. Thanks to all who visited, helped out and supported the Book Fair!

Ms England



We were delighted to join Philosophy/Theology Society with FemSoc for a talk led by Eloisa (a year 12 Advanced Scholar), entitled: 'Eve was innocent, and so am I.' Eloisa discussed how the Bible is interpreted in relation to the role of women and the impact that this has had through history. It was a fascinating talk followed by a thoughtful and nuanced discussion among the 30 or so attendees. Well done Eloisa and all those who contributed! Mr Sanders



Year 13 Theatre Trip

At the beginning of November our year 13 English Literature went to see Jodie Whittaker perform in Zinnie Harris' adaptation of The Duchess (of Malfi) in the West End. Students were impressed by the performance - a modern adaptation of John Webster's classic revenge tragedy - and had plenty to say about it afterwards! The trip has helped them feel prepared to review and discuss the play further in their upcoming examinations. Ms Nelson

English Speaking Union: Public Speaking Competition

Congratulations to Year 10 students Ruby, Rana, Evangeline, Bella and Hayden who competed in the first round of the English Speaking Union's Public Speaking competition at the end of November. They were praised by the judges for their passion, enthusiasm and thorough research. They made it through their first round of discussions against other North London schools and are now working hard to prepare for Round Two in January.

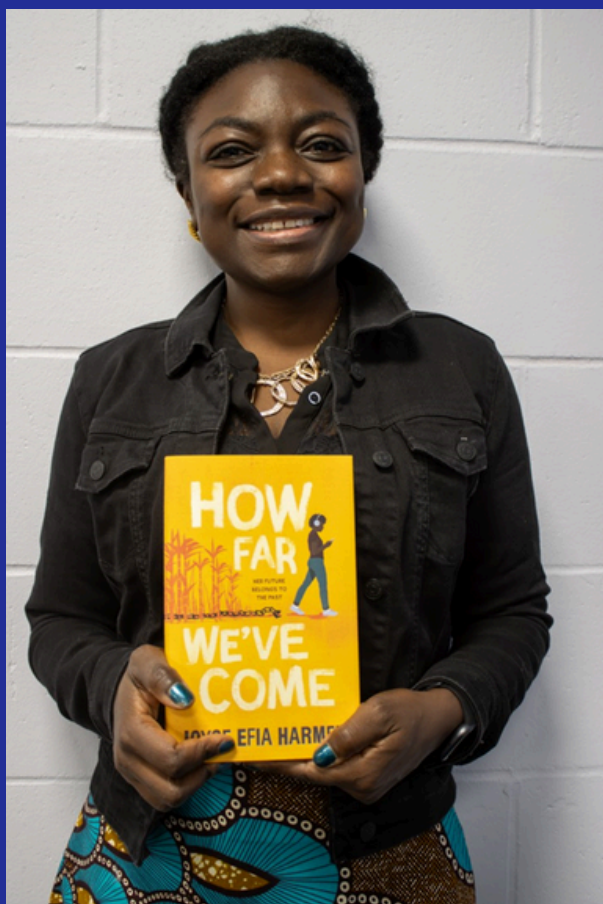
Miss Smith



Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge

On Friday 22nd November, 30 of our Year 10 students participated in a workshop led by the Speaker's Trust to help them develop their oracy skills and prepare to participate in Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge. Students enjoyed a range of fun games and activities before writing and performing their own speeches at the end of the day. Congratulations to our finalists Leah, Naima, Rachel and Aiza, who will now perform their speeches in assembly so that we can choose one of them to represent Ashmole in the Barnet Regional Finals in January. We look forward to updating you with their progress.

Miss Smith



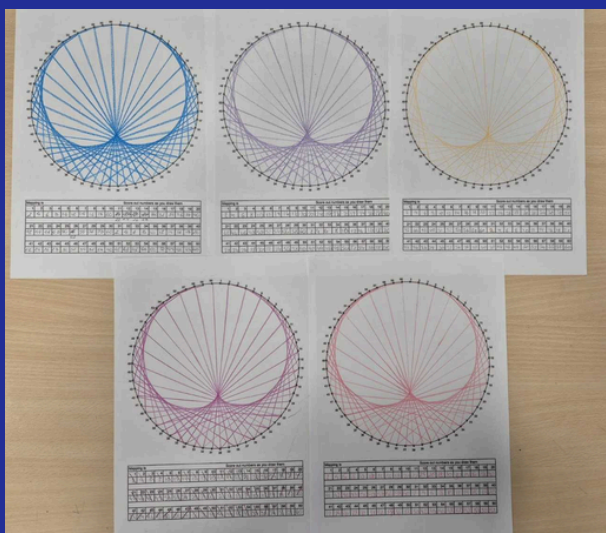
Creative Writing Workshops with Joyce Efia Harmer

In October, acclaimed author and Ashmole community member Joyce Efia Harmer returned to run creative writing workshops for Year 8 and Year 9. She guided students in writing emotively and descriptively, sharing valuable feedback and expertise. Joyce was impressed by their work and provided tips to inspire their creative writing journey. Miss Smith

STEREOTYPES AND MEDIA PORTRAYAL



What do you think of when you hear the words Rugby players?



FemSoc

Ashton (Yr12) gave an extremely thoughtful presentation on women in rugby. We discussed why there was little encouragement or live coverage of women's rugby and what impact this has on the players. We considered gender norms and stereotypes of women's body's that may have an impact on them wanting to play rugby. We considered what we as individuals, schools and institutions can do to support and encourage women's rugby. Ashton filmed their rugby club explaining what they love about rugby and what challenges face them. A brilliant presentation!

Also a massive thank you to everyone who donated a bag this year for the women's refuge Solace. This was the first year that we ran this with staff as well as Fem Soc and the generosity has been overwhelming. These donations were very well received by the refuge and will really make someone's day over the Christmas period
Ms Cork

MedSoc

On Wednesday 11th December, MedSoc were fortunate to hear from a visiting speaker. Dr Devesh Shah, a Geriatrics Consultant from Barnet General Hospital came in to speak to us about his journey through UCL Medical School, and his decision to specialise in geriatrics. He discussed his day-to-day work, the roles of various professionals within the MDT meetings and answered lots of questions from large group of MedSoc students who attended. We are really grateful to Dr Shah for coming in and giving us such invaluable insight into his role.

Mrs D Shah

Maths Club

This half term, KS3 students have explored a range of Mathematics in Maths Club;

- Wonderful, colourful cardioids were drawn
- Suguru puzzles and Gabriel's problem were solved
- Christmas snowflakes were created

The attendees have had a great time problem solving and implementing Maths in an enjoyable and fun environment.

Mrs B Shah and Mr Morley



Staff Wellbeing

November 25-29 at Ashmole Academy was filled with wellness activities and connection as part of our Golden Wellbeing Week for staff.

Designed to prioritise mental and physical health, this year's activities were met with enthusiasm and smiles.

Some of the highlights included Board Games in the staff room, and Artisan Bread Baking, where staff channelled their inner bakers to craft delicious loaves with handmade flavoured butter. The Watercolour Painting Session allowed staff to explore their creative side and provided a calming experience and a chance to unwind through art.

Several staff indulged in a Workplace Massage with a professional therapist, which left many feeling rejuvenated and ready to tackle their tasks with renewed energy.

The positive feedback has been overwhelming, with many colleagues sharing how these activities helped them de-stress and connect with others in a fun, informal setting.

Thank you so much to Ms Goldschneider, Ms Dinmahomed, Mr Rius, Ms Fitzgerald, Mr Christmas and everyone who participated and helped make the week such a success.

A special thank you in particular goes to the catering team: Carla, Polly, Justyna and Cat., who provided us with the cooked Breakfast on the Wednesday morning, giving everyone a hearty and energising start to the day. To add to the festive spirit, delicious seasonal treats were also made available in the staff room during breaktime on Friday, spreading joy and good cheer to all.

"The hot breakfast this morning was absolutely amazing! What a lovely way to start the day. Thank you so much to all the staff involved for their wonderful efforts."
(Ms Georgiades)

"Thanks for organising the breakfast this morning. We all enjoyed it in Technology. It was lovely."
(Mr Mavrommati)

Mr Watton





Christmas Jumper Day

On Tuesday 17th December, the charities committee organised for the school community to take part in Christmas Jumper Day to raise money for Save the Children. We raised £1500 for this fantastic cause to create lasting change for children in the UK and around the world. Thank you to everyone who has donated. Miss Clarke



Chess Tournament

On Tuesday 3rd December there was an incredible Chess Tournament held at Ashmole with over 40 students taking part. Students from Year 7 to Year 13 took part in the competition and the standard was incredible. The final round was particularly competitive and the top match between Ahmet Y (Y12) and Kerem D (Y9) ended in a draw! A huge congratulations to all who took part and thank you to Mr Rius and the Extra-Curricular Committee members for their support in organising the event. Ms Hammond



Jazz Concert at St Martin in the Fields

On Friday 13th December we took a group of Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE music students, along with Year 8 and 9 Music Scholars and committed musicians, to see the Will Harmer Jazz Trio (featuring Gabriella Liandu) at St Martin in the Fields. They played lots of seasonal music along with some Ella Fitzgerald and a version of Herbie Hancock's 'The Maze'. It was great for our musicians to experience live Jazz (a genre that is studied in GCSE music) and to visit a well known music venue. There was an 'equipment malfunction' during the performance - but it was actually a great chance for our musicians to see how professionals handle any situation that may occur. Our students were also fascinated by the church organ and it's incredible number of pipes of varying sizes. A great time was had by all! Ms Beacon



Careers

Recent listings of careers opportunities on Google Classroom

1. Spotlight on Apprenticeships webinar - 12 February 2025
2. A Guide into degree apprenticeships for Year 12 and Year 13
3. National Audit Office (NAO) Graduate Accountancy Scheme
4. Apprenticeship opportunities with Deloitte Year 13s - 4/2/2025
5. Travel Media Awards - Step up scheme - Year 13s for