

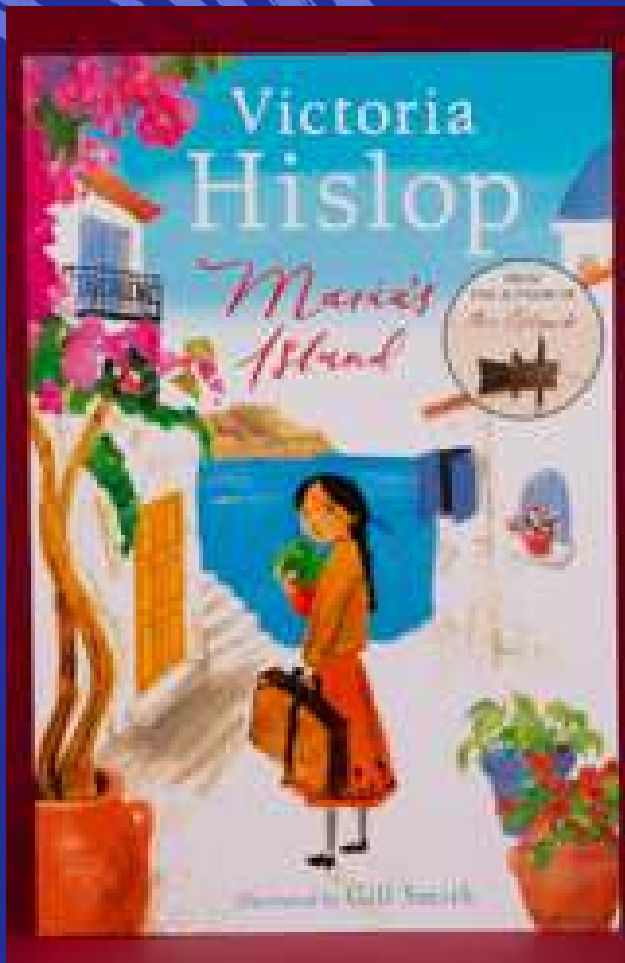
STUDENT LED ROUNDUP



This edition of the Ashmole Roundup is a particularly exciting one, as it has been created in collaboration with our talented Year 8 students for the second year running. Instead of the usual staff contributions, this issue shines a spotlight on student voice, giving our young writers the opportunity to take the lead and share their perspectives with the wider school community. As part of their learning this term, Year 8 students have been developing their skills in “writing like a journalist,” exploring a wide range of styles including arts reviews, sports reports, feature writing, and commentary on current affairs. Through this process, they have learned how to research effectively, structure engaging articles, and write with clarity and purpose for a real audience.

Students have worked incredibly hard to independently research, draft, and refine their articles, focusing on topics that reflect both the world around them and everyday life at Ashmole Academy. This project not only builds key literacy skills but also provides valuable real-world journalism experience, encouraging creativity, critical thinking, and confidence in their own voice. We are extremely proud of the effort, enthusiasm, and maturity they have demonstrated throughout, and we are delighted to showcase their work in this fully student-led edition of the Roundup.

As always, we aim to include as many contributions as possible; however, due to space limitations, not every article could be featured in this issue. For those pieces we couldn't include, please don't worry – all student articles will be published on the Ashmole blog on our website, where you will be able to explore even more of their fantastic work via [this link](#). We hope you enjoy reading this edition as much as we have enjoyed putting it together, and that you join us in celebrating the achievements of our Year 8 students as emerging journalists!



Book Review - Maria's Island

Maria's Island by Victoria Hislop is a moving, easy-to-read story set in Greece. It follows Maria, a girl whose family is affected by leprosy, explaining the illness in a gentle and understandable way while showing the stigma people faced. Many were sent to the island of Spinalonga, where they were unfairly judged and isolated.

Maria is brave as she learns about her family's past. Her mother, Anna, becomes ill and faces prejudice, while her father, Georgiou, protects the family. Her brother, Andreas, is kind and caring, and Dr. Andreas helps those with leprosy. The people of Spinalonga show strength despite the hardship they endure. Overall, Maria's Island is a heartwarming story that explores real history and teaches the importance of hope and resilience. I would recommend it to children and teenagers interested in the past. The illustrations beautifully capture the Greek setting and bring the story to life.

By Alik M



School Production "My Fair Lady"

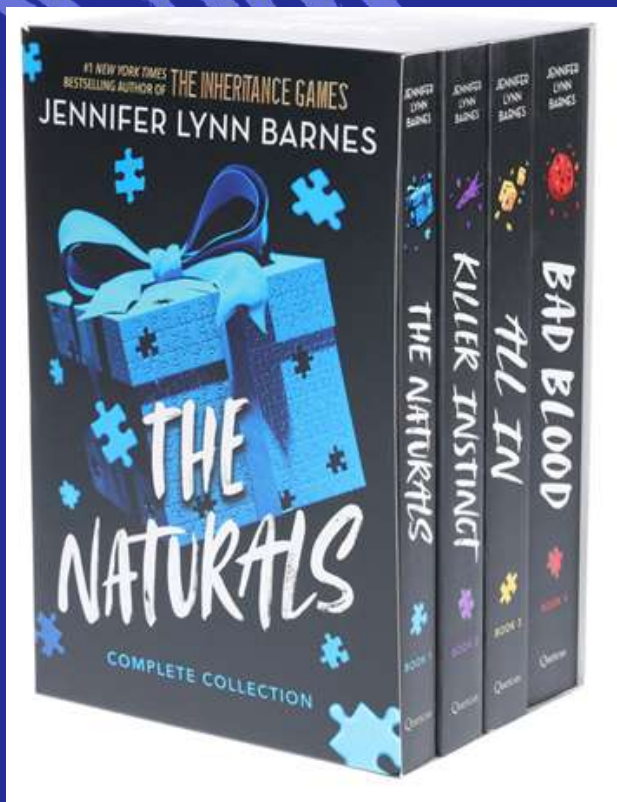
This term, one of the highlights for many students in Year 8 has been the school production. After weeks of rehearsals, the cast finally performed in front of a full audience, and the atmosphere was incredible. The show combined music, comedy and drama, and it was clear how much effort everyone had put in.

Even students who weren't acting played an important role, helping with lighting, sound and backstage organisation. It felt like the whole year group came together to create something special.

What stood out most was the confidence and teamwork shown by the performers. Many students stepped outside their comfort zone, and it paid off. The audience loved every moment, especially the final scene, which earned a huge round of applause. For Year 6 students joining in September, the production is a brilliant example of how many opportunities Ashmole offers to try new things and discover new talents.

By Franek R





Book Review - The Naturals Series

The Naturals' by Jennifer Lynn Barnes is a gripping crime series about a group of teenagers with unusual talents who help the FBI solve cold cases. The main character, Cassie, is recruited because she has a natural ability to profile people based on their behaviours or appearance. Completely unaware of what awaits, she finds herself drawn into a world of danger and mystery that, though full of peril, offers the belonging she has always longed for.

There are four books in the series: 'The Naturals', 'Killer Instinct', 'All In' and 'Bad Blood'. The plot twists are gripping, the dialogue and characters feel natural, and the storylines are unique and different each time, but still feel cohesive and familiar throughout the series. Overall, this series is engaging and well-written, and I recommend it to anyone who likes mystery or thriller books.

By Sophia A



What is lent?

Lent is an important time in the Christian calendar. It lasts for about 40 days and helps Christians prepare for Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, when some Christians receive a cross of ashes on their foreheads as a sign of repentance.

During Lent, many Christians try to grow closer to God by praying, fasting, and giving something up, such as sweets or social media. The 40 days remind Christians of the time Jesus spent fasting in the desert. Lent is a time for reflection, self-discipline, and helping others.

By Levi M



Year 6 Transition to Secondary School

As the spring term continues, many Year 6 students are preparing for their move to secondary school. Moving to Ashmole Academy is an exciting time and moment, but it is normal to feel nervous but also anticipated.

The most important thing to success is getting involved. Whether you enjoy sports, music, or science, joining a club is the fastest way to find friends with similar interests. Be organised, be well behaved and most importantly be curious. We look forward to welcoming you to Ashmole Academy.

By Jamie K



Year 8 Ashmole football team wins 4-0

The Year 8 football team played a great game this week. They won 4-0. It was a fantastic game. The team worked together well from the start. They passed the ball to each other. They were determined to win.



The first goal was scored in the game. This happened after the team made an attack. This goal made the team feel confident. Then they scored another goal. This put the Year 8 football team in a position before the game was half over.



In the half of the game the Year 8 football team kept playing really well. They had the ball most of the time. They defended their goal well. The team scored two great goals. This meant they won the game 4-0. The defence was strong the game. They did not let the other team have chances to score. Overall the Year 8 football team did a great job. They talked to each other. Worked together. They showed skill and sportsmanship. Well done to the Year 8 football team. They played a good game and they won. This was a win, for the Year 8 football team.

By Iden C



Let's hear it for the boys!

A surprising hit from the last academic year was BVOX, a traditional, multi-part harmony singing group in the style of barbershop quartets. Led by Mr Christmas and Ms Beacon, after just a few months the choir performed in multiple school events, including the summer concert, where they performed the 1924 hit 'Coney Island Baby'.



BVOX is a fun club on Wednesday lunchtimes where we perform a range of classic barbershop songs as well as some pop songs suited to different voice types - tenor, lead, baritone and bass. So why is it so enjoyable? In BVOX we get to play with harmony and volume and it is open to boys from all years which means you meet new people.

BVOX has become so popular that it has inspired a new group, GVOX, which started in September.

By Jude P



Terrific Table Tennis Competition

Have you ever been surprised by the fact that you got chosen to do something? Have you ever thought that you are not good at something? I usually play table tennis at lunch and break just for fun. And I was informed that I was chosen to go to the North London Table Tennis competition. On the night where it all happened, we went on the school bus and arrived at a North London School. It was a dramatic experience. Although I lost against them, I gained experience and noticed the difference between me and the other players. Have you ever felt excited about losing? You might have not but during this experience I have learnt so much. I also realise that although we really want to win, failure is also important as part of our growth and success.

By Edna C



From Rehearsals to the Stage: My Fair Lady

In February, our school staged *My Fair Lady*, the story of Eliza, a cockney girl who accepts Professor Henry Higgins' offer to transform her into a sophisticated lady. Throughout the show, the audience watched her gradually learn to speak and behave differently.

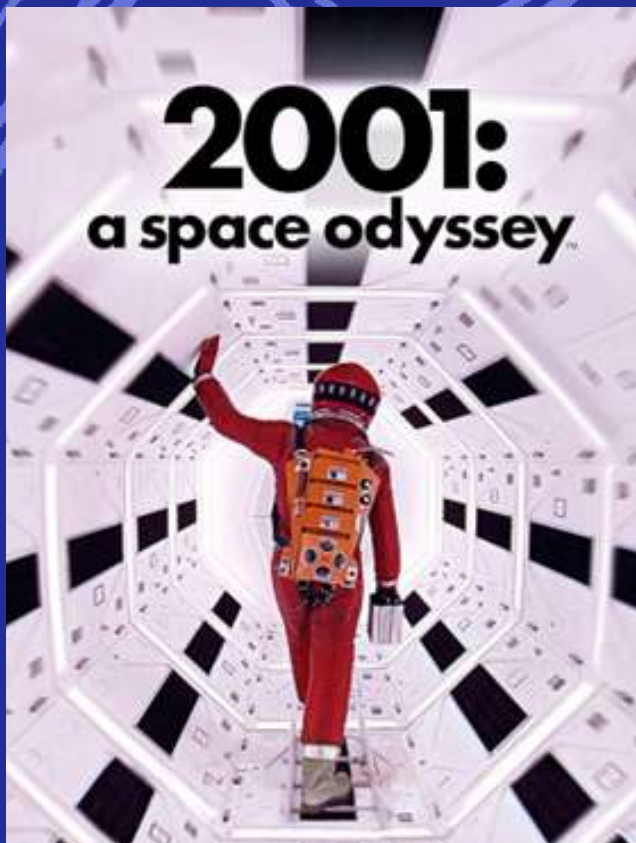
There were many memorable moments, especially the well-known songs such as "Wouldn't It Be Lovely?" and "Get Me to the Church," all performed beautifully. The orchestra, led by Mr Christmas, also played to a very high standard.

All the students worked hard to bring the show to life. The actors learned lines, songs, and choreography, while the backstage and art teams created costumes, scenery, and lighting. The colourful costumes and detailed set made the performance feel lively and realistic. Rehearsals began in November and led up to three fantastic shows in February, supported every step of the way by dedicated teachers.

Overall, the production was a fantastic experience for both performers and crew, showing how teamwork and commitment can create something truly special.

By Elsa W.





2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY - film review

Director Stanley Kubrick's 1968 film

'2001:

A space odyssey' is in my opinion the greatest science fiction film ever made. The film is set in a fictionalised version of 2001 where humanity has advanced in space exploration and computing. The plot follows the horrifying failure of the first mission to Jupiter and the discovery of a mysterious alien monolith that has been guiding humanity for millennia.

Though the synopsis might sound like your standard sci-fi film it is much more than that, it touches on ideas about AI, mortality and what makes us human. It has a perfectly eerie soundtrack that adds to the dark atmosphere of the film. The visual effects are also stunning, better than any other film from that era I have seen. Overall I think that it is a timeless but current masterpiece that everyone should see.

By Arun



Best top tips for starting year 7 at ashmole academy!

Starting at a secondary school can be really daunting but Ashmole Academy is a great school to be at. I know how you feel because I was in your position once. So what can you do?

First you should try to do lots of things like: Go to various different clubs like drama, create, femsoc, table tennis (etc). Try out for sports teams like basketball and football. Or join junior scholars. You should also make sure you stay on top of your work. Write things down in your planner every day so you do not forget when things are due. Also, visiting the library is a nice way to spend your lunch time, because of the large collection of books, world book day and the Ashmolean great big book swap.

Finally do not be afraid to ask for help when you need it at Ashmole Academy. If you get lost or do not understand something in math the teachers can always help you.

We are looking forward to meeting you at Ashmole Academy in September 2026!

By Emre T





Ramadan: A Journey of Faith and Gratitude

This year, the month of Ramadan has been a significant and memorable time for many students and families in our community. Ramadan is a special time where Muslims fast from dawn till sunset, pray more and try to connect with God on a deeper level.

During Ramadan, people try to be kinder towards each other and they give more charity to help the poor and needy. Throughout the month, people often focus on gratitude, discipline and helping others.

During Ramadan, many people (and students) fast. They show great patience and self-discipline by trying their best (in school or at work) whilst working on an empty stomach.

Also in Ramadan, the community often comes together. One of the main ways Muslims do this is by having Iftar (the meal Muslims have to break their fasts with) together. Many mosques offer Iftar and people invite friends and family home.

Additionally, in Ramadan, many mosques hold special nightly Taraweeh prayers, where the Imams (Leaders of the prayer) aim to finish the whole Quran by the end of the month, allowing worshippers to reflect and listen to the words of God. In school, we get a bigger room to pray Jumma (Friday prayer), since lots of students come to worship and listen to the lecture.

After thirty days of fasting, Muslims celebrate Eid. They collectively go to Eid prayers wearing their best clothes, and celebrate with family and friends. People share gifts with each other, and the best part is getting some money from your relatives at the mosque.

Overall, Ramadan is a very meaningful time filled with reflection, kindness and community spirit. It reminds Muslims to be grateful for everything they have and to always help others. By Muhsina H

Year 8 Assessments

Back in February, Year 8 students were busy with their synoptic assessments. These tests help teachers see how much the students have learned so far this year.

Hard Work: Students sat tests in subjects like English, Maths, and Science.

Staying Calm: The school helped everyone prepare so they wouldn't feel too stressed.

Good Results: Many students did a great job and showed how much they have improved since the start of the year.

By Edward M



A Simple Guide to Starting Secondary School

Secondary school is a bit of a jump from Primary, so if you're feeling excited and slightly stressed, that's totally normal.

It's important to be organised so pack your bag the night before - books, PE kit (if you've got it) and enough stationery. If you get lost moving from one classroom to another, just ask; a student or teacher will always help.

Embrace the ABC of Excellence: Achievement, Behaviour, and Community. Demonstrating endeavour and maintaining a professional attitude will earn you merit points and prestigious reward badges.

Don't worry if your friendship group changes. Get involved! Whether it's sports, music or Drama Club, participation in extracurricular activities is the most effective way to forge new friendships.

Don't hesitate to ask for help; the Ashmole community is here to support your every need.

Good luck and we look forward to seeing you soon!

By Zach L



Lent and Easter - WHY DO WE EAT CHOCOLATE EGGS?

On Easter, everyone enjoys eating chocolate eggs. But, why do we eat them? Well, they are eggs because eggs are a sign of new birth and spring. Most of them are also hollow to represent how on Easter Sunday, Jesus' tomb was found hollow, empty with only an angel.



The day before the start of lent is called Shrove Tuesday, but is more commonly known as Pancake day. On this day, many enjoy pancakes for lots of meals. But, why pancakes? In the 16th Century many people in a town used all the unhealthy ingredients that they were giving up for lent and made pancakes, and now, it has still become a common tradition.

By Anya P

