

# Ashfield Girls' High School

## PARENTS' BOOKLET



**“Each different. Each talented. All valued.”**



**Mrs L Hanvey**

Principal  
Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection



**Mr P McClintock**

Vice-Principal (Curriculum)



**Mrs B Cripps**

Vice-Principal (Pastoral)  
Designated Teacher for Child Protection

## Board of Governors



**Mr M Frew**

Chairman of Board of Governors



**Mrs E Bush**

Designated Child Protection Governor

Year 8 Form Tutors 2022 - 2023



**Mr B Carr**  
8V



**Ms L Doherty**  
**Mrs G McClintock**  
8H



**Mrs C Walker**  
8T



**Mrs J McClelland**  
8B

Your form tutor is your first point of contact if you have any concerns about school. They are always happy to provide help.



**Mr J Clements**  
8S

Year 8 Pastoral Leadership Team



**Mr G Patterson**  
Head of Progress for Year 8



**Mrs G McClintock**  
Assistant Head of Progress for Year 8

# Principal's Welcome



Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to Ashfield Girls' High School.

I am delighted that your daughter is being offered a post-primary place in Ashfield Girls' High School, for Year 8, in September 2022.

At Ashfield Girls' High School, our well established Primary 7 to Year 8 Induction Programme encourages pupils to settle into their new school, make new friends and feel comfortable in a new environment.

I would like to provide a little more detail about our Primary 7 to Year 8 Transition Programme.

- *Members of the Year 8 Pastoral Team contacts your daughter's primary school*
- *Welcome letters are sent to parents/carers and pupils*
- *Primary 7 Induction Event into Ashfield Girls' High School, takes place and an opportunity is given to meet the Form Teacher and new Form Class in June*
- *Induction Booklets for parents/carers and pupils*
- *School information available on the school website*
- *Five-day induction programme in August to help your daughter settle into Ashfield (to include team building activities)*
- *Designated Year 8 canteen*
- *Designated Year 8 playground*
- *Designated Year 8 toilet facilities*
- *Meet the Form Tutor and Principal evening on Tuesday 20 September 2022*
- *Year 8 Team Building Day in October*
- *Mentor Programme with Sixth Form students*

Moving to 'big school' can often be a mixture of excitement with a little worry.

Please be assured that the staff at Ashfield Girls' High School will aim to support your daughter in any way that we can.

If you have any queries our pastoral team are happy to try to answer them before the end of term. You can contact us using the 'Contact Us' form on the school website or alternatively by telephoning reception.

Take care, and I look forward to welcoming your daughter to Ashfield Girls' High School on Friday 26 August.

Mrs Louise Harvey

Principal

## **The school expects parents and carers to:**

- send their daughter to school on time every day
- support the school rules
- ensure that their daughter wear the appropriate full indoor and outdoor uniform
- provide a school bag and equipment needed for each school day
- sign homework, the school planner, letters and reports
- encourage respect for personal and school property
- attend parents' meetings and monitor and support their daughter's development and progress
- make early contact with school if they have any worries or concerns
- inform school about absences via Truancy call or the school office
- inform school of any concerns about their daughter

## **The school expects a student to:**

- show respect for themselves and for everyone else in school
- come to school on time every day
- wear full school uniform
- check the planner and carry the necessary equipment every day
- follow the school rules
- work as hard as she can in class and complete homework on time
- take part in a range of school activities
- speak to teachers about any concerns
- help to keep the school clean and litter free

## **Parents, carers and students expect the school to provide:**

- an environment that is welcoming and caring, where each student is respected and valued
- quality teaching and learning opportunities
- opportunities for individual achievement and reward
- regular updates and reports on student progress
- opportunities to enter for appropriate public examinations
- practical advice on careers and further education courses
- opportunities to meet teachers
- moral and spiritual guidance



## School Holidays 2022 – 2023

Friday 26 August 2022 - Year 8 Induction 9.00am - 12.30pm

Monday 29 August 2022 - Bank Holiday - school closed

Tuesday 30 August 2022 - Year 8 Induction 9.00am - 12.30pm

Wednesday 31 August 2022 - Year 8, Year 11 and Year 13 Induction 9.00am - 12.30pm

### Term 1 (Thursday 1 September 2022 - Tuesday 20 December 2022)

Thursday 1 September 2022 - All pupils start Term 1

Thursday 27 October 2022 - Friday 28 October 2022 Staff Development Day  
(school closed to all pupils)

Monday 31 October 2022 - Friday 4 November 2022 - Mid-Term Holidays

Tuesday 20 December 2022 - Last Day of Term 1 (pupils finish at 12.30pm)

Wednesday 21 December 2022 - Staff Development Day (school closed to all pupils)

### Term 2 (Thursday 5 January 2023 - Tuesday 4 April 2023)

Wednesday 4 January 2023 - Staff Development Day (school closed to all pupils)

Thursday 5 January 2023 - All pupils start Term 2

Monday 13 February 2023 - Friday 17 February 2023 - Mid-Term Holidays

Friday 17 March 2023 - St Patrick's Day- (school closed)

Tuesday 4 April 2023 - Last Day of Term 2 - (pupils finish at 12.30pm)

Monday 17 April 2023 - Staff Development Day (school closed to all pupils)

### Term 3 (Tuesday 18 April 2023 - Friday 30 June 2023)

Tuesday 18 April 2023 - All pupils start Term 3

Monday 1 May 2023 - Early May Bank Holiday

Monday 29 May 2023 - Spring Bank Holiday

Friday 30 June 2023 - Last Day of Term 3 (pupils finish at 12.30pm)

## School Uniform (available from official stockists)

**Blazer:** Ashfield blue (woollen cloth) with school badge on pocket. Sixth Form blazer with braid trim.

**Skirt:** Pleated knee length skirt in Ashfield blue colour. The pleated skirt must be worn by all pupils in Years 8 – 14.

**Jumper:** Fine v-neck in dark blue, with school colours in neck-band.

**Blouse:** Blue gingham checked, open-necked blouse. For Years 8 - 12 pupils only.

**Shirt:** White long sleeve shirt to be worn by Years 13 and 14 only.

**Sixth Form Tie:** Ashfield tie, available from the school office.

**Coat:** Plain navy waterproof jacket or anorak suitable for wearing over blazer is acceptable.

**Scarf:** Knitted school scarf for Years 8-12 and college style wrap scarf for Years 13 and 14.

**Shoes:** Plain black flat-heeled leather school shoes. No ankle straps, studs or coloured soles. No black canvas or casual style shoes / plimsolls.

**Tights/Socks:** Plain black tights or navy knee length school socks.

**Hair:** Hair must be of a natural colour and no extreme styles are permitted. Hair accessories should be plain blue or black.

**Piercings:** One pair of small studs may be worn in the ears. No facial piercings, ear bars, clear piercings or stretchers are allowed for health and safety reasons. Pupils must be able to remove any piercings when in school.

**Jewellery:** One watch and a plain ring may be worn. No other jewellery is permitted.

**Badges:** No badges, other than school approved badges, are to be worn.

**Nails:** Only natural nails are permitted. Pupils are not allowed to wear nail polish, nail extensions or acrylics.

**Tattoos:** No visible tattoos are permitted.

**Make Up:** This should be natural and appropriate for school.

All items of uniform should be clearly named as they are expensive to replace.

Uniforms may be purchased from the following official stockists.

### WARNOCKS LTD

791/793 Lisburn Road  
Belfast  
BT9 7GX  
Tel: 028 9038 1828  
www.warnocks.co.uk

### C A GOWDY LTD

121 Woodstock Road  
Belfast  
BT6 8AB  
Tel: 028 9045 9052  
www.gowdys.net

### SCHOOL WEAR D CRAWFORD

21 Frances Street  
Newtownards  
BT23 7DW  
Tel: 07801 343 505  
www.uniformstoreni.co.uk

### SCHOOLDAYS NI

434 Newtownards Road  
Belfast  
BT4 1HJ  
Tel: 028 9543 3725  
www.schooldaysltd.co.uk





## PE Uniform

PE is a compulsory part of the statutory curriculum up to the age of 16. Appropriate clothing and footwear are important aspects for safety in PE. A change of clothing for PE is important for reasons of hygiene and comfort during physical activity. Our PE uniform has been chosen with this in mind.

The promotion of participation in physical activity, including PE, is fundamental to the Northern Ireland Executive's drive to halt the rise in obesity and overweight children and young people. Exercise is also proven to help improve mental health.

The PE uniform is only available from Podium Sport.

- Polo Shirt:** Royal blue and navy school polo shirt.
- Leggings or Tracksuit bottoms:** Navy school leggings or navy/ royal blue school tracksuit bottoms only.
- Shoes:** Trainers must be worn (no canvas platform or high top shoes).
- Socks:** White ankle or trainer socks should be worn.

Pupils must have a long sleeved top for outdoor lessons. The following options are available:

**Either:**

**Hooded Jumper:** Royal blue hooded school jumper.

**Or**

**Smock Top:** Navy and royal blue school tracksuit top.

**Or**

**Retro Top:** Navy and royal blue school tracksuit top.

**Skort: (Optional)** Navy and royal blue school skort.

Pupils in Year 8 will take part in hockey during PE lessons. Shin guards and mouth guards are compulsory for these lessons.

**All items of uniform should be clearly named as they are expensive to replace.**

In an exceptional circumstance pupils wear their school uniform if the PE Kit is unavailable.

If your daughter is unable to take part in her PE lesson for a medical reason or through injury, you should write to her PE teacher using the space provided at the back of her planner. Any pupil feeling unwell on the day she has PE must bring her kit to school as she will still take part in the lesson.



**Podium 4 Sport**  
**40 Montgomery Road**  
**Belfast BT6 9HL**  
**Tel 028 9070 1333**  
**[www.podium4sport.com](http://www.podium4sport.com)**

# The School Canteen



In school we operate a cashless system for the canteen. Pupils will be able to place money on their accounts by placing a finger on our bio-metric machines which are located at the school reception and in the canteen. These machines accept both coins and notes. Alternatively parents can top up an account through the ParentPay system. When pupils purchase food or drinks from the canteen, they will be asked to place a finger on the scanner and this will take the correct money from the account.

Our canteen has a range of snacks that can be purchased at lunchtime.



Please be aware Ashfield Girls' High School is a nut-aware School.



school food	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Soups</b>	Homemade Vegetable	Homemade Lentil	Homemade Potato & Leek	Homemade Vegetable	Homemade Chicken
<b>Pastries</b>	Flakemeal Biscuit Fresh Fruit Salad	Homemade Carrot Cake	Shortbread/Date Krispie	Homemade Fruit Muffins	Flakemeal Biscuit Fruit Jelly/Fresh Fruit Salad
<b>Salads</b>	Pasta & Tossed Salad/Coleslaw	Pasta & Tossed Salad/Coleslaw	Pasta & Tossed Salad/Coleslaw	Pasta & Tossed Salad/Coleslaw	Pasta & Tossed Salad/Coleslaw
<b>Veg.</b>	Baked Beans / Peas Chips/Baked Potatoes	Sweet corn / Beans/Creamed Potatoes/Baked Potato/Pasta	Broccoli /Baked Beans / Dry Roast, Creamed & Baked Potatoes	Diced Carrots/Beans Baked & Creamed Potatoes	Garden Peas/ Beans Chip/Baked Potatoes
	Oven Baked Sausages Chicken Curry & Boiled Rice,	Chicken Pie Chicken Tikka Massala Boiled Riced & Naan Bread	Baked Gammon Savoury Minced Beef Pie	Chicken Curry & Boiled Rice Shepherd's Pie	Fish Fingers Pasta Bolognaise Hot Dog
	Homemade Breaded Goujons Sweet and Sour Chicken and Rice Cheeseburger in Bap	Chicken Bhuna & Boiled Rice Margherita Pizza	Lasagne Roast Turkey and Gravy	Irish Stew Chicken Curry Boiled Rice & Naan Bread	Chicken Fillet Burger Breaded Fish Homemade Burger in Peeper Sauce
	Chicken Tikka Masala & Boiled Rice Oven Baked Sausages Steakburger/Cheeseburger	Homemade Chicken Goujons with a Dip Chicken Balli & Boiled Rice	Roast Chicken and Gravy Pasta Bolognaise & Crusty Bread	Chicken Pie Irish Stew	Breaded Fish Beef Lasagne Hotdogs
	Steak Burger in a Bap Chicken Curry & Rice, Naan Bread Chicken Burger in Bap	Chicken a la King & Boiled Rice Chicken Pie Margherita Pizza	Beef Casserole Roast Turkey and Gravy	Chicken Tikka Masala & Boiled Rice Beef Lasagne	Breaded Salmon Bites Hot Chicken Wraps Pasta Bolognaise Hotdogs

Available daily: Vegetarian Options, Paninis, Sandwiches, Wraps, Baguettes, Fruit, Yoghurt, Salads, Grated Cheese

(Sample Menu)

## Entrance:

You should enter the school grounds through the pedestrian gate on the Hollywood Road and walk up the front path to the school building.

## By Bus:

Translink  Translink

Bus 1	Belfast - Hollywood - Bangor
Bus 3a	City Centre - Hollywood Road - Knocknagoney
Bus 28	City Centre - Hollywood Road - Hollywood Exchange

The link for Translink is [www.translink.co.uk](http://www.translink.co.uk)

## By Car:

You should be dropped off on the Hollywood Road. **No cars should come up the driveway and into the carpark unless special permission is given by the school.**

## Walking:

We encourage you to walk safely to school and make sure you cross the road at the pedestrian crossing. Please ensure that you use the main entrance on the Hollywood Road unless you are coming from the direction of Ashfield Boys' High School.

## On Bicycle:

There is a bicycle rack in front of school. We encourage you to wear helmets and use reflective items and lights so that you can be seen by road users.



## School begins at 8.40am

### Form Time

Pupils should arrive at school for 8.40am each morning, then proceed to their form rooms. Morning registration will take place at 8.45am.

The form tutor will mark the attendance register and update pupils with daily news.

Subject classes begin at 9.00am each day.

### Break Time

This will last from 10.15am to 10.30am

- you may also bring in your own snack
- snacks **must not contain nuts**
- energy drinks are **not** permitted in school

### Lunch Time

Years 8 and Year 9 will have lunch from 11.50am to 12.25pm

Years 10 - 14 will have lunch from 12.25pm to 1.00pm

At lunch time pupils may:

- buy lunch from the menu in the canteen
- bring a packed lunch

To assist with Year 8 transition, Year 8 pupils will have lunch together in the canteen. There are allocated Year 8 toilets and a Year 8 playground during junior lunch. Pupils in Years 8 are not allowed to leave the school site without permission.

Lunchtime supervisors, senior staff and prefects will be on duty to ensure pupils are supervised during lunch.

Afternoon school will begin after lunch at 1.05pm when form tutors will mark the afternoon attendance register.

### Home Time

Classes end at 3.20pm from Monday to Thursday.

School finishes at 1.30pm on Friday to allow for staff training.

Ashfield Girls' High School **Week - A/B** Timetable 2022-23

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Form Time / Assembly 8.45 - 9.00					
<b>Period 1</b> 1 9.00 - 10.00					
10.00 - 10.15	<b>Senior Break</b>				
10.15 - 10.30	<b>Junior Break</b>				
<b>Period 2</b> 2 10.15 - 11.20					
<b>Period 3</b> 3 11.20 - 12.25					
11.50 - 12.25	<b>Junior Lunch</b>				
12.25 - 1.05	<b>Senior Lunch</b>				
Afternoon Registration 1.05 - 1.10					Afternoon Registration 1.05 - 1.30
<b>Period 4</b> 4 1.10 - 2.15					<b>Finish at 1.30pm</b>
<b>Period 5</b> 5 2.15 - 3.20					



We have a very supportive staff who want your daughter to be happy in school.

Some of our strategies for helping pupils settle into school include the Year 8 Induction Programme, Sixth Form Buddies and Lunch Club.

Ashfield Girls' High School expects the highest standard of behaviour from each pupil. One of the aims of the school is to create a learning environment where pupils can achieve their full potential.

We have an excellent pastoral care team. Please contact your daughter's form tutor immediately if you have any concerns.

## **Attendance**

It is vital that your daughter attends school. We want every pupil to do well at school and achieve her full potential. Our Home Liaison Teacher will support parents/carers in overcoming difficulties if required. Excellent attendance will help support your daughter's progress and is key to her success. The Assistant Head of Progress will monitor your daughters attendance and may make contact if your daughter require additional support.

## **Absences**

If your daughter is absent from school, please phone the school office on the first day of absence or provide a response using the schools automated notification system called Truancy call. You will receive a message if your daughter has not arrived by 9.30am Please refer to our Attendance Policy for further guidance.

## **Dental and Medical Appointments**

Where possible, medical appointments should be arranged outside school hours. If essential, please phone reception or provide a note. Pupils should attend school before and after appointments.

## **Lateness**

Your daughter is expected to be punctual to school and to class at all times. Any pupil arriving late to school will be detained for 15 minutes at the end of the school day. If this lateness is persistent, then further sanctions will be given.

Should you have any queries about school, please contact your daughter's form tutor, who will be happy to source and provide the information for you.

## **Wellbeing**

We promote and support pupil wellbeing.

Throughout the school year there are many opportunities for your daughter to learn about how to improve her physical, emotional and social wellbeing. Further details are available on our Pupil Wellbeing Policy on the school website.

If you have any concerns, please contact the school.

## Mobile Phones

We expect parents to be mindful of their daughter's mobile phone use. Mobile phones allow your daughter to be connected to the internet anytime, anywhere. In our experience, an increasing number of the incidents we have had to deal with in school have started online via a mobile phone.

As a school, we cannot deal with incidents that happen outside school, but very often the fallout is brought into school which results in us having to become involved. We want to support you, as parents, to avoid this happening.

**Please note that we do not permit pupils to use their mobile phone during the school day, unless part of a teacher led lesson.**

### Advice for parents

- **Set clear boundaries for your daughter:** Be clear and consistent about the rules you set regarding mobile phones.
- **Set a curfew time for mobile phone use:** The light emitted from a mobile phone can disrupt your daughter's natural wind down to sleep. Making sure your daughter gets the right amount of sleep is crucial to a healthy offline life. Consider charging the phone, at night, in another room.
- **Roll out the apps she is allowed to use one at a time:** It might be a good idea to let your daughter 'cut her teeth' on just one or two apps at a time. Put boundaries in place and rules for using an app and if she can handle that, then add another. One good example is learning how to manage messages before rolling out 'Whats App'. Look at whether her conduct and language have been appropriate in text messages she has sent. Be clear about who she is communicating with on the app.
- **Check what your daughter is using her phone for:** Talk to your daughter about the applications on her phone and what they are for. Find out who she communicates with via the apps. Monitor the amount of time your daughter spends, per day, on her phone.
- **Social Media:** The age of consent for social media is usually 13 years old. If, and when, she does have a social media account:
  - beware of the safety features for each social media app as they vary.
  - talk to your daughter about only accepting people she knows and trusts.
  - encourage her to follow the 'granny rule' before they post – if you would not be happy for your granny to see it, then don't post it!

For more detailed information and support on social media please attend our Online Safety Event in the new term and refer to our Mobile Phone policy.



**Mrs A White**

Pupils should speak to their teacher if they are feeling unwell and want to visit the Pupil Welfare Auxiliary. The teacher will give the pupil a referral slip. Pupils visiting the medical room also need to bring their pupil planners.

Mrs White will listen to the pupil and find out about her ailment or reason for visiting the medical room. Pupil Welfare Auxiliary will decide how to best treat your daughter. In most cases she will send the pupil back to class. If necessary, the Pupil Welfare Auxiliary will make arrangements to send your daughter home by contacting the parent or carer who can then collect her from school.

Please note the following:

- It is vitally important that contact telephone numbers (home, work and mobile) are up to date.
- Pupils should seek help in school from Mrs White or their form teacher. School will contact parents/carers, if necessary.
- School should be notified ASAP of any changes to your daughter's health.
- Please do not make separate arrangements to collect your daughter if she is unwell. Your daughter should visit Mrs White. School will contact you if your daughter is too unwell to remain in school.

## Medical Needs

The Pupil Welfare Auxiliary should be informed of any medical needs. Parents should give written permission and instructions for the administration of essential medication during the school day.

The Pupil Welfare Auxiliary will speak to the form tutor if she is concerned about the frequency of your daughter's visits.

The Pupil Welfare Auxiliary is also responsible for managing Medical Action plans, completing Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans, providing general first aid, managing illnesses in school and assisting in providing medical support.





## Special Educational Needs and Disability Department

The staff in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Department are there to support you daughter with any additional needs.



Ms T Rossborough  
Learning Support Co-ordinator



Mr G Patterson  
Assistant Learning Support Co-ordinator



Mrs E McLees  
Assistant Learning Support Co-ordinator

### How do we know if your daughter has a Special Education Need or Disability?

All pupils are tested on admission using standardised tests in English and Maths, for the purpose of identifying any learning needs and to provide teachers with baseline information and standardised testing. Primary schools and parents also provide insight into pupils' learning needs. In addition, medical reports, outside agency feedback, psychology reports and information from the Education Authority including statements of Special Educational Needs are also considered.

### How does Ashfield Girls' High School meet the needs of all its learners?

If your child is provided with different work or activities in class from that of her peers, you should not worry. All children are different. Teachers are highly skilled professionals and use a wide range of approaches and strategies to help children learn. Praise your child for her effort and for trying her best in school. This will build her confidence.

### What to do if you are worried that your child may have additional needs?

Children do not all learn at the same rate or pace. Some may have difficulties with aspects of their learning from time to time. If you are worried about your daughter's progress, contact her form tutor who will discuss how she is getting on in school and, if needed, will address any concerns you may have. The form tutor will also advise you on how you can help your daughter at home.

If, after a period of observation, the teacher thinks that additional provision in school is needed for your daughter, you will be informed.

Please be assured that we have clear processes for identifying and assessing children with Special Educational Needs. Staff will strive to ensure that your child's needs are fully met.

### Lots of children will have additional needs from time to time and the school addresses this by:

- grouping pupils for learning new tasks
- the use of ICT
- use of practical resources
- providing training for teachers
- access to the 'The Sanctuary'
- using different learning materials and resources
- small group withdrawal
- providing some small "catch up groups" for various subjects
- time out area

If you have any other queries, please contact Ms Rossborough, Mr Patterson, Mrs McLees or your daughter's form tutor.

## 'Making Words Work'

Ashfield Girls' High School is very proud of its reading culture. We are 'making words work' for all pupils and reading is one of many ways that we support literacy across the school. We listen to pupil interests and continue to invest in new book stock each year. Our impressive library is about to undergo a refurbishment which will provide a quiet,



### Reading: What is Accelerated Reading?

The 'Accelerated Reader' programme is used by all Key Stage 3 pupils. 'Accelerated Reader' is a well-recognised, highly successful reading support programme that helps teachers and parents monitor independent reading practice. Parents will be given a code in order to check their daughter's progress.

### How does it work?

Pupils complete a STAR reading test which will pick a book at an appropriate level, one that is challenging without being frustrating, and read at their own pace. When finished, they will take a short quiz on the computer, and we will receive feedback based on the quiz results. The English teacher and Librarian will then help your daughter to set goals and direct ongoing reading practice. 'Accelerated Reader' supports the theory that reading is the key to success. Prizes are awarded from our prize cabinet in return for points earned for each book that is read.



**Teaches Tier 2 vocabulary**  
Innovative, research-based vocabulary curriculum teaches Tier 2 vocabulary



**Encourages reading**  
Engaging fiction and non-fiction prose introduces words in context, encouraging reading and increasing cultural capital



**Adapts to the student**  
Powerful, intelligent algorithms personalise the way language is taught and reinforced for each student



**Data driven**  
Self-marking activities generate data in real time to track student and class learning

### Vocabulary: What is Bedrock Learning?

**Bedrock Learning** is an innovative vocabulary and literacy improvement tool that helps children to develop their **language skills**, whilst encouraging them to **read a broad range of material on different subjects and topics**. It is **cross-curricular and supports all levels of reading ability**. Parents will be given a code in order to check their daughter's progress.

### How does it work?

Pupils complete a 'Pre-Test' first, then Bedrock will assign your daughter to a suitably challenging reading block [see below for some examples]. The programme introduces new vocabulary and reads to your daughter. It helps pupils learn by seeing the same group of words in different contexts. They complete a 'Post Test' which then gives them an improvement score which allows them to continue to another block or topic.



**BLOCKS 3-6** Bedrock brings reading to life  
bedrock learning® discover more about the world around you and learn new words along the way!



**BLOCKS 7-12** Bedrock brings reading to life  
bedrock learning® discover more about the world around you and learn new words along the way!

## Music Department

As well as studying Music in class every week, pupils can learn to play an instrument. We have teachers for strings (violin viola and cello), woodwind (flute, clarinet and oboe), brass (trumpet, horn and trombone), piano, guitar and singing. Pupils will receive a letter in their first week about the cost of these lessons and all the details of how they work. This information can also be found in the Introduction section of the school website.

Pupils who play instruments here will always develop their skills further by taking part in activities like band, string group or rock band. Even if they already have lessons outside school, they are very welcome to come and join these activities. Of course, we also have a choir which is open for anyone to join – no audition necessary! These groups will perform at major school events like Prize Day or Christmas Services and our Spring Concert.

We hope to encourage girls to enjoy making music and develop skills through performing music that they like, while developing their knowledge of many other styles of music.

If you have any other queries contact Mrs S Lyons.

[slyons542@c2kni.net](mailto:slyons542@c2kni.net)



# Extra-Curricular Activities



Below is a list of some of the extra-curricular activities you could get involved in. These are great ways for you to make new friends and help you feel part of the school. These activities may vary on an annual basis.

- |                             |                          |                                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Art Club (Junior)           | Duke of Edinburgh        | Photography Club                   |
| Art Master Classes (senior) | Eco Club                 | Project Lunch Club (Junior School) |
| Badminton Club              | Film Club                | Project Lunch Club (Senior School) |
| Band                        | Fitness Suite Activities | Reading Gang                       |
| Buddy Reading Scheme        | Football Club            | Rebel Readers                      |
| Choir                       | Hockey Club              | Rugby Club                         |
| Cook-e-Club                 | Love Our Library         | Scripture Union                    |
| Drama Club                  | Lunch Time Craft Club    | String ensemble                    |
| Dress Making Club           | Netball Junior           | Tennis Club                        |
| Drone Academy               | Netball Senior           | Trampolining Club                  |



## Who are we?

We are the Parent Teacher Association of Ashfield Girls' High School

## When do we meet?

We meet approximately once a month in the Boardroom.

A provisional calendar is outlined below.

## What do we aim to do?

Our aims are to:

- give support to the pupils and staff of Ashfield Girls' High School in whatever way we can for the benefit of everyone at the school
- put the 'fun' into fundraising for the school
- organise activities for the pupils with parenting, life skills and social events for parents and teachers

## Previous fundraising events include:

- Quiz evenings
- Christmas fairs
- Social events for Parents & Friends of Ashfield

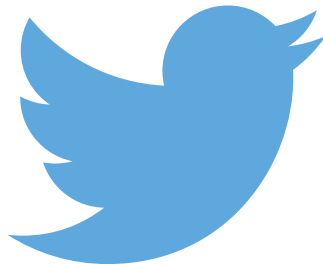
Further details of any of these events will be available from the school office, on our school website or from any member of Parents & Friends.



Date	Event
Tuesday 20 September 2022	Meet the form Tutor and Principal (Year 8) 7.00pm - 8.00pm
Wednesday 5 October 2022	Meeting (AGM)
Wednesday 7 December 2022	Meeting
Wednesday 1 March 2023	Meeting
Wednesday 3 May 2023	Meeting
Friday 16 June 2023	P7 Induction Day



Follow us on  
Twitter and Instagram  
[@ashfield\\_girls](#)



Check out our website  
[www.ashfieldgirls.org.uk](http://www.ashfieldgirls.org.uk)



ParentPay

Parent App School Gateway



## Ashfield Girls' High School October 2021 Issue 1 Results

Congratulations to our Year 12 and Year 14 students on their outstanding results. Our students have displayed high levels of academic resilience in how they approached their assessment, while showing determination through lockdowns and courage in returning to face-to-face teaching. It was not easy and we are incredibly proud of their engagement with online learning, their ability to become more independent learners, their ability to manage the ever-changing assessment requirements and their drive for success.

We are delighted at the outstanding results achieved by our Year 12s, with 86.7% achieving five GCSE (or equivalent) A\*-C grades and 97.1% achieving five GCSE (or equivalent) A\*-E grades. Year 12 students have transitioned well into our Sixth Form, after further educational providers, apprenticeships or employment. We are proud to welcome 60 Year 12 students back into our growing Sixth Form.

The fantastic results achieved by our Year 14s, with 72.3% achieving three GCSE (or equivalent) A\*-C grades and 95.7% achieving three GCSE (or equivalent) A\*-E grades, provided evidence by our results day that we have approximately 65% of our Year 14 students progressing to university and 35% moving on to further of higher education, apprenticeships or employment. There are clear and well-walked pathways to success at Ashfield Girls' High School.

Below: Year 13 enjoying the re-introduction of the extensive induction programme that supports the transition from Year 12 into Year 13.



## Head Girl, Deputy Head Girls and Study Area for Sixth Form

Year 13 working hard at one of our new Sixth Form study areas. This specialist staff design for this area was the idea of our previous Sixth Form Senior Council Members. They engaged Forbes County Members. They engaged Forbes County Members. They engaged Forbes County Members.

Senior Librarians trying out the new Literacy Hub. A newly refurbished classroom (part of the library) that has been designed by the Library Team to provide a welcoming and homely space for one-to-one or small group literacy support and our sixth form 'Reading Buddy' programme.

Sixth Form taking a well-deserved break in our newly refurbished social and study space on the top floor. This space was created after the request for a more functional space for sixth form to socialise and study. The social area accommodates 24 students and the break out study tables accommodate a further 28 students.

We are working with the current Sixth Form Senior Leadership Team to re-design the Sixth Form Common Room. We hope that this will be designed and refurbished over the summer break, enabling the staff to leave a lasting legacy. The installed growth in Sixth Form and the students' desire for more flexible social and study spaces has resulted in a significant investment over the past two years.

## New Beginnings and Letters to the Principal



When I started Ashfield, I was very nervous because it was something different. A bigger school with new people. I didn't know what to expect. I have met a lot of really nice people and the teachers are great. I have joined Cookery Club and have made some delicious dishes. I am really enjoying Ashfield and my first term has been great.

At first I was very scared coming into the new environment, but, as the days went on I was welcomed with open arms. A lot of my friends came from my form class. I have also met new people at Hockey Club too. Ashfield Girls is a very positive environment. I would also like to add that I enjoy the challenges of learning new subjects.

When I first started Ashfield I was very nervous but excited too. I have joined Film Club, Cookery Club and Project Lunch Club. I really enjoy these clubs as they are really good fun. I have made lots of new friends and I am really happy with all the friends that I have made. Ashfield Girls is a very welcoming school to go to.

Dear Mrs Murray,  
When I first found out that I was going to Ashfield, I was really nervous, but when I started to go to school, I realised that the teachers here were very nice and that when I was in primary school, I was in a little group with the little girls in my group. I really like this, as I can be a little more independent. My school is a very nice school, and I really like the new subjects. I am really enjoying my first term at Ashfield. I am really enjoying my first term at Ashfield. I am really enjoying my first term at Ashfield.

Dear Mrs Murray,  
I am excited about starting Ashfield Girls' High School. I am really looking forward to meeting new friends and learning new subjects. I am really enjoying my first term at Ashfield. I am really enjoying my first term at Ashfield. I am really enjoying my first term at Ashfield.

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## New Beginnings and Making Friends



The move to a post-primary school is always a big transition. Our Year 8s are settling into the new routines and managing their timetables well. Having their own dedicated canteen area, outdoor play area and early release for lunch/end of day, has supported the transition process.

Our focus is on building and maintaining positive friendships. Our pastoral care system is built on RESPECT. Respect yourself, respect each other and respect your school community.

It was good to have such positive engagement with parents /carers at the Meet the Form Tutor and Principal Webinar in September. It provided a digital opportunity to connect.

The first point of contact in school if you have any queries is your daughter's form tutor.

- ### Extended School Programme
- Art Club (Junior)
  - Art Master Classes (Senior)
  - Athletics Club
  - Badminton Club
  - Band
  - Book Reading Scheme
  - Choir
  - Cookery Club
  - Drama Club
  - Dress Making Club
  - Duke of Edinburgh
  - Eco-Schools
  - Film Club
  - Fitness Suite Activities
  - Football Club
  - Hockey Club
  - Love Our Library
  - Lunch Time Craft Club
  - Netball Junior
  - Netball Senior
  - Photography Club
  - Project Lunch Club (Junior School)
  - Project Lunch Club (Senior School)
  - Rugby Club
  - Rebel Readers
  - Rugby Union
  - Scripture Union
  - String Ensemble
  - Tennis Club
  - Trampoline Club

## Developing Skills



Year 12 Amazing Brains  
Year 12 pupils attended a study skills workshop facilitated by the very popular company, Amazing Brains (Inspire Education). The workshop focused on effective study techniques and how the brain processes information in the working memory (in this class and the necessary work that is required information into long-term memory (learning). Pupils reported that they found the session very informative and that the 'Connections' revision strategy that was provided would be very helpful with independent study. We are developing a whole school strategy to support effective study skills - more on this in the next issue.

@YE NI  
Year 10 pupils enjoyed the 'Learn to Earn' workshop facilitated by Young Enterprise. Pupils were able to learn about employability skills, labour market information and salary ranges for many career options. The workshop will hopefully focus Year 10 pupils on the option choice process that begins in term two.

Year 12 Magilligan Trip  
As part of the Year 12 GCSE Geography course, pupils complete a detailed river study at Magilligan. This fieldwork aims to develop a greater understanding of the processes involved in the work of a river and develops numeracy and recording equipment. Best wishes to our geographers as they use the data collected to complete their controlled assessment back in the classroom.

## The Recovery Curriculum

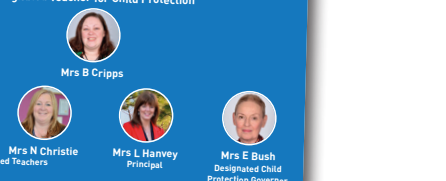


Literacy and Numeracy  
As part of the Recovery Curriculum we have developed a comprehensive strategy to support pupils in Year 8 in the development of their literacy and numeracy skills. The photograph above shows Mr Burns working with his class on developing their literacy skills and showing how these skills can improve extended writing in History. Our Literacy Co-ordinator and Numeracy Co-ordinator will be sending a Literacy and Numeracy booklet home with all Year 8 pupils to allow them to further develop their skills with the support of their parents /carers.

Library  
Our library was refurbished over the summer break using funding from Belfast City Council (medium grant application) and school funds. The new seating and 'open' feel adds to the relaxing ambience making the library a perfect place to develop our pupils' love of reading. We have also created a 'Literacy Hub' where pupils can avail of one to one or small group literacy support through the Department of Education Engage Programme. Our 'Numeracy Room' is currently under construction (being refurbished) and we hope it will be included in our Newsletter once completed.

East Side Learning  
We are grateful for our link with Eastside Partnership. They have provided funding for a programme of revision classes for pupils in Year 12 so that they can avail of specialist support and guidance with effective revision strategies. There are forty pupils availing of this funded programme in Mathematics and English. We also have a comprehensive revision programme for Science classes in Year 12. We wish all our Year 12 pupils well as they prepare for their English, Mathematics and Science modules in November 2021.

## Safeguarding Team



Congratulations  
The Board of Governors have passed their congratulations to all staff, pupils and parents /carers in recognition of the achievement of the Schools of Sanctuary Award.

The Board of Governors have passed their congratulations to all staff, pupils and parents /carers in recognition of the achievement of the School Mental Health Award (Gold), (more information to come in the next issue).

Policies and Procedures  
To all new parents and carers, school policies can be accessed on our school website. All policies are ratified by the Board of Governors and are reviewed in line with Department of Education guidance and best practice.

### Key Dates for your Diary

Monday 1 November 2021	School Development Day - school closed to all pupils
Friday 5 November 2021	Year 14 Parent Consultation 1.00pm - 3.00pm
Wednesday 10 December 2021	Year 11 Parent Consultation 3.30pm - 6.30pm
Monday 6 December 2021	KS3, KS4, KS5 Winter Examination Week
Monday 20 December 2021	School Development Day - school closed to all pupils
Monday 3 January 2022	Christmas Holidays - for all teaching staff and pupils
Tuesday 4 January 2022	School Development Day - school closed to all pupils
Monday 18 January 2022	Open Night 7.00pm - 9.00pm
Thursday 27 January 2022	Year 13 Parent Consultation 3.00pm - 5.00pm
Friday 4 February 2022	Year 10 Options and Parent Consultation 1.15pm - 3.30pm
Monday 14 February 2022	Half Term Holidays - for all teaching staff and pupils
Friday 18 February 2022	Half Term Holidays - for all teaching staff and pupils

"Each different. Each talented. All valued."

## Community Connections



Be Daring for Dylan  
Thank you to all our staff who ran as part of the relay team in the Belfast Marathon. Thank you to all staff, parents, pupils and our local community who contributed to the fundraising efforts. The Marathon raised over £2000 for the charity, Be Daring for Dylan. Thank you to Mr Crawford (from Crawford Uniforms) for his generous offer to source and fund staff t-shirts for the marathon endeavour.

School Fund - Outdoor Learning Base  
We are using our school fund contributions this year to part-fund a state of the art Outdoor Learning Base. The purchase of this base will support our whole school Well-being Strategy. School Council and pupil groups told us that they wanted to have outdoor learning opportunities to take advantage of the beautiful grounds that our school is set within.

The Governor's Finance Committee previously approved a proportion of the school funds to purchase the outdoor benches and picnic tables that have been placed across the school site. The purchase of the Outdoor Learning Base will complement this and create a truly outdoor learning experience.

Ashfield Girls' High School - Parents and Friends Association  
We are delighted that our Parents and Friends Association will be returning. The first meeting was on Thursday 21 October 2021. Please catch up with all the work of the association through their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/ashfieldgirls](http://www.facebook.com/ashfieldgirls). We thank Parents and Friends for their £400 donation to purchase new books for our school library.

# A Typical Day in the Life of a Year 8 Pupil in Ashfield



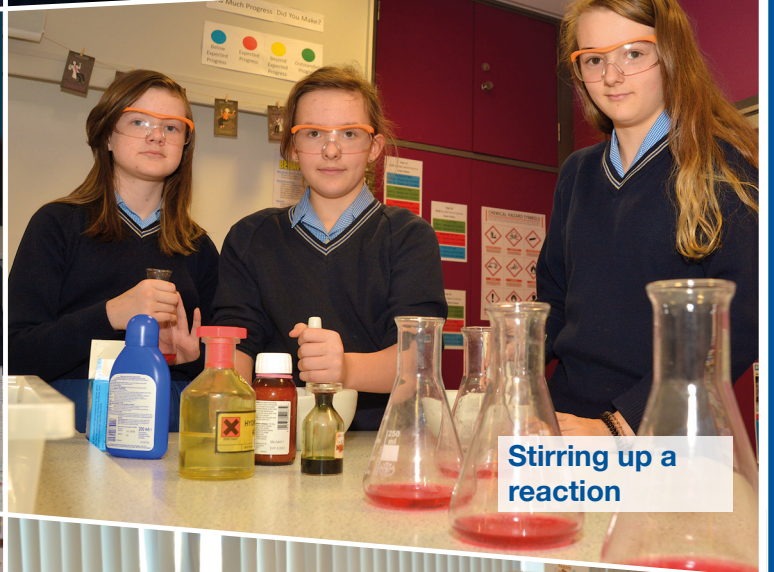
**Brushing up on IT skills**



**Unleashing our musical talents**



**Orientating our learning**



**Stirring up a reaction**



**Reading in form time**



**Making a healthy meal**

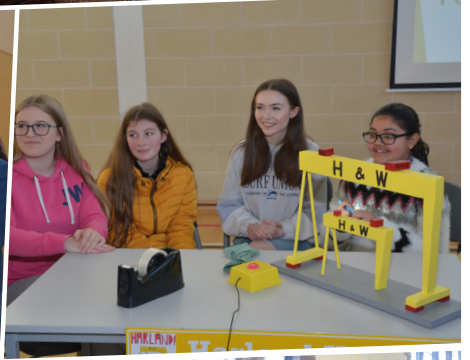
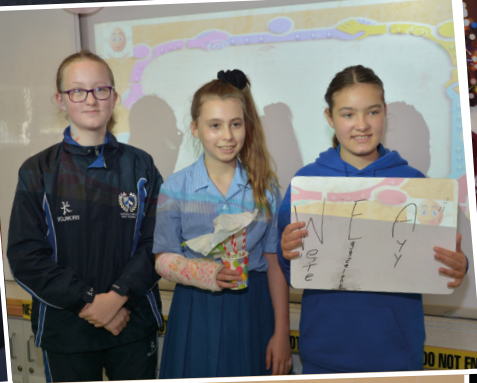


**Getting to know each other**





# Challenging girls today; creating women of value in the future



# A Day in Ashfield...



**"Each different. Each talented. All valued."**



# ***Challenging girls today; creating women of value in the future***



**Principal: Mrs Louise Hanvey BSc (Hons) PGCE, PQHNI, PGDH**

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