



# ACS NEWSLETTER

## Headteacher's Message:



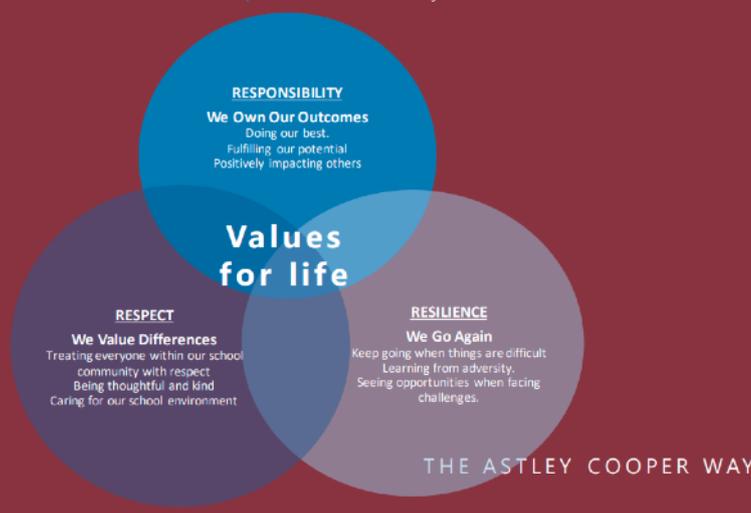
Dear Parents/Carers,

There have been some really good moments at the start of this year in our new building. The Year 7 students have settled in well to their new surroundings. Year 12 have also settled well in the Sixth Form and Year 11 and Year 13 students have started their final exam years with a real sense of purpose which will help them all achieve well next summer. The Year 8 rugby team have hit the ground running with some excellent results and it is lovely to see students who represent the school so well in the building, representing the school so well outside of it.

Some of the key work we have undertaken over the last 6 months includes a review by the governing body of our vision and values. This work, alongside a group of parents, students and staff has helped to formulate a set of values that we all feel will help us move the school forwards. They are three essential elements of a successful individual, whether that is a member of our student community, staff group, parent body or governing body.

### THE ASTLEY COOPER WAY

We encourage personal growth, academic excellence, and character development. We embrace diversity and support one another to create an inclusive environment that builds resilience and empowers every individual to reach their full potential to become responsible and respectful members of society.



## What's On

- Tuesday 7 November - Future Forward Theatre performance (Year 8)
- Thursday 9 November - Year 10 and Year 11 Movie Night
- Monday 13 November - INSET day
- Monday 20 November - White Ribbon Campaign
- Tuesday 21 November - Year 10 Super Speedy Study Skills Workshop
- Friday 24 November - Year 12 Wayfinder Trip to University of Hertfordshire/Chelsea's Story Theatre performance (all year groups)
- Friday 1 December - Occasional day
- Tuesday 12 December - Winter Festival performance
- Tuesday 19 December - Year 7 Rewards Trip
- Wednesday 20 December - School finishes at 12.30pm
- Friday 5 January - INSET day
- Students return to school for 8.30am on Monday 8 January

## Letters Home

Click [HERE](#) to find the most recent letters we have sent home to parents.

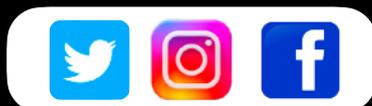
**AlbanTSH**  
Initial Teacher Training

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE of Teaching**

**TRAIN TO TEACH**

Alban TSH is pleased to be delivering courses in partnership with the National Institute of Teaching. Applications for September 2024 Initial Teacher Training courses are now open on DfE Apply.

Visit our website for more information  
[www.albantsh.co.uk/itt-welcome](http://www.albantsh.co.uk/itt-welcome)



As we reflect on the progress we are making as a school, there are some areas that I want to see improve at a faster pace if we are to make the step to being a great school. These areas include equipment, uniform and behaviour and this is something that you can support your children and the school staff with over the coming weeks.

### Equipment

To ensure students can access their learning and importantly not interrupt the learning of others, having the correct equipment is essential. Can you please ensure your child arrives at school with a school bag containing:

- a pencil case
- at least 2 pens and 2 pencils
- a ruler and a rubber
- PE/dance kit on the appropriate day
- their school planner
- a calculator (KS4)

If there is any reason you cannot provide the above equipment, please contact your child's form tutor.

### Uniform

Wearing the full school uniform is an important part of our school identity and prepares students for working life where they will have to dress appropriately for the jobs they have when they leave school. It can be draining to have the same conversations with students every day about incorrect items of uniform and these conversations distract from learning in the classroom. Can you please ensure that your child leaves for school wearing their full school uniform including blazer, school trousers or skirt, shirt, tie, school jumper and black shoes. Some students are still trying to wear hoodies around the school site which is against school rules and we ask that these are removed at the school gate. Leggings are also not part of the school uniform, either worn on their own or under skirts. Additionally, as the weather is now set to be wet and windy during the Autumn Term, please send your child to school with an appropriate coat to keep them warm and dry from the elements.

### Behaviour

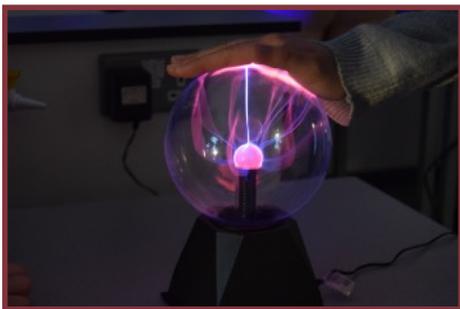
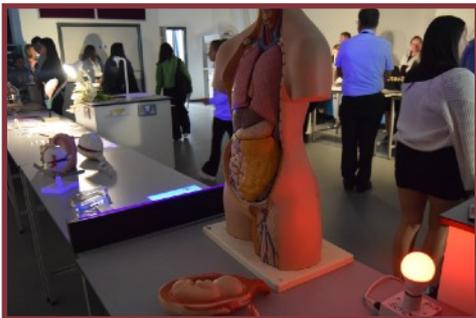
High standards of behaviour are important in any organisation, but especially in a school. Poor behaviour can stop other students from accessing their learning. I would request you speak to your child and ensure they commit to being in their classroom from start to finish and allow all students to access some of the fantastic learning that is taking place in every classroom. We continue to challenge poor behaviour and celebrate good behaviour. Please support us with this when discussing behaviour - both positive and negative - with teachers to bring about change.

### Recruitment

Finally, you will see in the news about the recruitment struggles facing all schools and at The Astley Cooper School, we are no different. We regularly share information on our social media feeds about staffing positions we want to fill and if you can support by sharing this, hopefully we can continue to recruit excellent teachers.

Thank you for taking the time to read the rest of the newsletter. Students at The Astley Cooper School truly are special and deserve the fantastic opportunities being provided to them.

# Open Evening 2023



Follow our social media pages for up-to-date news and information about ACS.



Further information is also available on our website.



Parks	King	Curie	Nightingale	Hawking	Shakespeare
30876	30162	30044	33021	25626	28216



# ACS House System

## ACS Got Talent 17 October 2023

We were very excited to welcome lots of new and unusual talents to the new school hall for our second whole school talent show. We saw impressionists, hula hoopers, singers, dancers, artists and sports men and women to name but a few.

Mrs Harley awarded her Golden Buzzer to the Year 8 dance group who performed the Cha Cha Slide, with Mr Roberts giving his to Emily for her amazing singing.

The whole day was a roaring success with our finalists performing 7 times in total, ensuring that all year groups got to see their talents and cast their votes.

Mrs Harley



## Student Achievement House Points

All students who auditioned received house points for taking part with the finalists accumulating even more for their houses. Well done to everyone involved. We can't wait to see what you will bring next year!

1st place: Jessie, Sorayah, Rosie, Luke and Gracie - Cha Cha Slide

2nd place: Rishi - singing and piano

3rd place: Josh - playing piano

4th place: Emily - singing

5th place: Serah - playing violin

6th place: Samreen - drawings



# Year 11 Berlin Trip

Bright and early on Thursday 19th October, 36 Year 11 students flew to Berlin for a history trip. They have studied the Holocaust, the Cold War, and are about to start studying Nazi Germany, so the trip was designed around visiting important sites relating to these topics.

On the first day of our tour we had a walking tour around the government areas; we saw what remains of Hitler's bunker, where he ended his life, their Parliament building, the Reichstag, the Brandenburg Gate and Checkpoint Charlie, the military crossing between East and West Berlin in the Cold War.

On the second day we took a coach tour and began by visiting the haunting Sachsenhausen Memorial. This was a former concentration camp, and the students could see for themselves the true horrors of the Nazi dictatorship. They saw punishment cells, the infamous gate, and the incinerators. After lunch we went to the Stasi Prison museum for a guided tour. The guide had a direct link to the prison; both of their parents spent five years in the prison, whilst they grew up in an orphanage. The prison was fascinating because it was not a place of physical torture, but psychological stress, where a prisoner was isolated almost all of the time, and only ever saw their guards and interrogators. Many of the students said this was the most interesting visit of the whole trip.

On the third day we took public transportation to the Allied Museum, in the old buildings that were part of an airport - now an expensive housing estate. There was a plane used in the Berlin Airlift that the students got to go inside, as well as a museum about the role of British, American and French people during the Cold War.

We then took the bus back into central Berlin to the Palace of Tears, a museum in the old building where East Germans who were visiting the West had to go home without knowing when they could return. The name comes from the tearful farewells between family members divided by the Berlin Wall.

We finished the day at the DDR Museum (Deutsche Demokratische Republik - German Democratic Republic or East Germany). This was about life in East Germany, and had lots of hands-on exhibits, including getting an East German car (a Trabant), and an East German house, with East German TV programs on the telly. This was another highlight of the trip.

On the final day we took public transport again out to the Olympiastadion Berlin - the Olympic stadium built by Hitler for the 1936 Olympics. This was where African American athlete Jesse Owens won two gold medals, and Hitler made excuses to leave early to avoid giving him his medals. We were very lucky to get an upgraded tour, where we got to the side of the pitch, the VIP zones, media areas, and the running track under the pitch. On this day we also visited the last remaining section of the Berlin Wall, complete with dead-zone and watch tower.

One of the most moving parts of the trip was our visit to the Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery near the Olympiastadion. Almost all of the graves were for bomber crew in the Second World War. We visited the grave of Brian Slade. In 1940, Brian was sixteen, lived in Boxmoor, and went to The Hemel Hempstead School. After finishing his exams in the summer, he lied about his age to join the Royal Air Force. After nine months of training, he qualified as a pilot in Lancaster bombers, and began combat missions, at seventeen years old. He flew his thirty missions, when he could have stopped and become a trainer, however, he volunteered to do another thirty missions. On his 59th mission, his plane was hit and exploded, killing the entire crew. He is buried with his crew next to him. We took a moment to pay our respects, before making our way home.



# Careers Fair

On Wednesday, September 27 our Year 11 and Year 12 students were invited to the Dacorum Careers Fair. The school provided coaches for our students and staff to attend the fair at Shendish Manor in Apsley where almost forty organisations exhibited. The fair was very busy with one other school also attending during our one-hour slot. The exhibitors represented some of the many organisations found in Hertfordshire and included:





## Sixth Form News

Welcome to the new academic year in the Sixth Form. Our new Year 12 students have made a fantastic start to life as a sixth form student and we welcome back our Year 13 students for their final year who are fully involved with their UCAS university applications. We have also welcomed two new Heads of Year: Miss Hunt, Head of Year 12 and Miss Smith, Head of Year 13.

I am pleased to announce our student team for this academic year is:

Head Girl – P Cooper

Head Boy – A Christie

Deputy Head Girl – J White

Deputy Head Boy – H Ashpole

School Council Student Leader – C Rushton

Wellbeing Student Leader – S Tavares

Diversity Student Leader – S Graham

Literacy Student Leader – A Matei

We look forward to working with these students this year in their roles.

There are still roles to be allocated including House Captains and we look forward to interviewing these students to hear their ideas.

### Wellbeing Day

Our student leader for wellbeing, and the wellbeing team, organised for staff and Sixth Form students to wear green on 10 October to raise awareness for mental health.

### The Howl, Mead Open Farm

This term also saw our leadership team organise a trip to The Howl Scare Fest at Mead Open Farm. A fantastic and fun event where 40 students attended. Thank you to the students who organised this with Miss Smith.

### Year 13 Exam Practice Week

To ensure our Year 13 students are prepared for their summer exams this year, we are now holding an exam practice week on the first week of every month. Resources have been put into folders in the seminar room and students will use this week to attempt a practice paper, practice questions or complete other exam materials during their study periods. This will not happen in November due to the mock exam period.

### Staff v Sixth Form Basketball Match

On Friday 13 October, Year 12 Work Skills students organised and led an ACS Teachers v Sixth Form basketball match in our new sports hall as part of their unit of work. They organised a fantastic match where the Sixth Form student team came away winners, 24-20, and held off a late comeback from the teacher team. Well done to all involved.

## Year 12 Home study

Year 12 will start home study after half term and will be given a personalised timetable as to when their home study will be. This will be removed should students have low attendance, are consistently late to school, are missing deadlines or not working during their study periods in school.

A few reminders of our expectations as we go into a new half term.

**Uniform** - Students should be wearing smart business wear, no hoodies, trainers (including Air Max) or leggings. Students will be sent home to change if they are not in the correct dress code.

**Absence from school** - If students are not going to be in school, we need to be informed of the reason why by 8:45am. Truancy calls will be sent out for any students who we can not account for in school.

**Study Periods** - It is the expectation that students are working during their study periods in either the silent study room G44, group work room G45, in the library or the canteen which are also quiet spaces. Year 13 students have the Seminar Room to work in as a silent space. Students will have work given to them by their teachers, but should also be using this time to revise using the strategies given in form time, consolidate notes, use the reading list to find books to read or research into their topic area.

We have the following events taking place next term that you should be aware of:

**Year 13 Mock examination period** – Monday 13 November to Thursday 30 November

**Year 12 Wayfinder Day** - University of Hertfordshire - Friday 24 November

**Christmas Trip** - December TBC

Mrs Ollerenshaw-East  
Head of Sixth Form

Miss Hunt  
Head of Year 12

Miss Smith  
Head of Year 13

## Jeans for Genes Day 2023

On Friday 22 September, The Astley Cooper School joined thousands of schools up and down the country, coming together to wear denim and raise money for Jeans for Genes.

Jeans for Genes is the UK's only awareness and raising event which supports 1 in 10 families across the UK affected by a genetic condition. 1 in every 25 children have a genetic condition. Some are well known, some are invisible, and others are incredibly rare with life altering consequences. All have their challenges and need specialised help, support and services.

Students and staff wore jeans instead of their usual school trousers or skirt and made a donation of £1. Students learned in form time more about genetic conditions that affect over 4 million people in the UK and in Science a bit more about the Biological reasoning behind these genetic conditions.

We raised over £150 as a school - thank you for your support!

# Family Support

As the school family support worker, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the wide range of support services that are on offer.

First and foremost, we are here to provide emotional support to both students and their families. Whether it is the pressures of school, personal challenges, or difficulties at home, our Family Support Worker is trained to lend a listening ear and offer guidance. We firmly believe that a strong support system is crucial for the well-being and success of our students.

Additionally, we offer practical assistance for families who may be facing financial hardship. Through various partnerships and resources, we can help provide essentials such as clothing, food, and school supplies, ensuring that every child has the necessary tools for their education.

Lastly, our Family Support Worker is well-equipped to provide referrals to external agencies and organisations. If your family is in need of specialised support, whether it be for counselling, legal advice, or health-related concerns, we can connect you with the appropriate services in our community.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you are in need of support. We are here to help and are committed to providing the best possible care for our school community.

Deborah Collins  
Family Support Worker



## Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA) Parent/ Carers Group

Practical Online Workshop for Parent/Carers to create a  
Personalise Pupil Profile

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
10 - 11.30am

Do you feel your child's voice needs to be heard at school?

Would you like support to create a 1 page document personal to your child?

Jo will be hosting an online session to talk you through how to create this with your child. Jo will talk you through the steps and there will be time for you to practise creating it. There will be an opportunity to share online with the group, so we can support each other.

You will need to have access to Microsoft documents such as PDF or Word, which you can edit. You will be sent a blank document prior to the session beginning.

Booking is required and numbers for this session will be limited. You will receive the online link closer to the session starting.

Booking Link: <https://ebsagroup08112023.eventbrite.co.uk>

Fully funded by DSPL8 for Dacorum families



## FREE Workshops For all parents/carers\*

Sessions will be held either online via  
MS Teams or face to face at Hobbs Hill  
Wood Primary School HP3 8ER

Lite Bite	Date	Time & Location
Family Life on a Budget	Wed 18th October 2023	10:30 to 12:00 pm Online
Helping your Child to Manage Anger	Wed 15th November 2023	9:30 to 11:00 am Hobbs Hill Wood
Anxiety & Attendance	Tues 9th January 2024	10:00 to 11:30 am Online
Parent & Carer Wellbeing	Wed 28th February 2024	9:30 to 11:00 am Hobbs Hill Wood
Managing Worries & Anxiety	Wed 15th May 2024	10:00 to 11:30 am Online
Moving onto Secondary School	Thurs 20th June 2024	10:00 to 11:30 am Online

To book your place, please contact

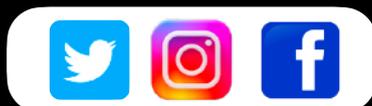
Jan Nethercoat on:

[jnethercoat@hobbshillwood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:jnethercoat@hobbshillwood.herts.sch.uk)

Tel: 01442 401222 Ext: 5 (Term time only)

Please include contact details and name of child's school when booking

\*at present sessions can only be offered to parents/carers of those children/YP who attend a DFS North & East Partnership School






## Getting Started with Excel Course

This course will teach the basics of using Microsoft Excel for work or home projects, it will cover things such as How to open a spreadsheet, how to enter data, managing your worksheets & basic formatting & calculations.

**TUESDAYS**  
**31ST OCTOBER – 05TH DECEMBER 2023**  
**10:00AM – 12:00PM**  
**THE SOUTH HILL CENTRE, CEMETERY HILL, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD. HP1 1JF**  
**THIS COURSE IS FREE OF CHARGE**

**You will learn to:**

- Create a workbook and worksheets
- Enter data and format it
- Calculate totals
- Use cell references to perform calculations
- Create simple charts
- Link sheets together

**REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW**

For further information about this or any of our other courses please contact us.  
[www.communityactiondacorum.org/traininganddevelopment](http://www.communityactiondacorum.org/traininganddevelopment)  
[Learning@communityactiondacorum.org.uk](mailto:Learning@communityactiondacorum.org.uk)  
 01442 253 935




PREPARE FOR SUCCESS IN HERTS




## Healthy Cooking on a Budget

Are you tired of cooking the same old meals, and want to learn some new skills in the Kitchen? Are you finding it hard to keep to a budget and want to learn to make your money go further?

**WEDNESDAYS**  
**NOVEMBER 2023 (DATES TBC)**  
**18:30PM – 20:30PM**  
**THE COLLETT SCHOOL, LOCKERS PARK LANE, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD. HERTS. HP1 1TQ**

**You will learn to:**

- Basic food handling
- Safe storage of food
- Understand the benefits of meal planning
- How to make your money go further in challenging times
- Design healthy cost effective meals
- How to shop smartly with limited funds

**REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW**

For further information about this or any of our other courses please contact us.  
[Learning@communityactiondacorum.org.uk](mailto:Learning@communityactiondacorum.org.uk)  
[www.creative-learning.org.uk](http://www.creative-learning.org.uk)  
 01442 253 935




PREPARE FOR SUCCESS IN HERTS




## KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH TABLETS & SMART PHONES

Do you live in Hertfordshire and want to get more out of your tablet or smartphone? Join our six week course to help you navigate with confidence.

**TUESDAYS**  
**31ST OCTOBER – 05TH DECEMBER 2023**  
**13:30AM – 15:30PM**  
**ST. MARYS CHURCH HALL, HIGH STREET, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD. HP1 3AF**  
**THIS COURSE IS FREE OF CHARGE**

**You will learn to:**

- By the end of the course you will be able to access different apps, from banking to the NHS, along with how to keep safe online and much more
- We will help you to keep up-to-date with family and friends Via calls, texts and various apps, and help you to get started with mini projects such as researching local history

**REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW**

For further information about this or any of our other courses please contact us.  
[www.communityactiondacorum.org/traininganddevelopment](http://www.communityactiondacorum.org/traininganddevelopment)  
[Learning@communityactiondacorum.org.uk](mailto:Learning@communityactiondacorum.org.uk)  
 01442 253 935




PREPARE FOR SUCCESS IN HERTS




## Get more from your money Course

From soaring rent prices to increasing grocery bills, the rising cost of living can often feel overwhelming. Managing your finances has never been more crucial. This free, 10-hour course teaches the essential skills and knowledge needed to take control of your finances and make your money work for you.

**DAY: WEDNESDAYS**  
**DATES: 15TH NOVEMBER – 13TH DECEMBER**  
**TIMES: 10:15AM-12:15PM**  
**VENUE: COMMUNITY ACTION DACORUM, 48 HIGH STREET, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD HP1 3AF.**

**You will learn to:**

- Understand Budgeting Fundamentals like income tracking and expense categorisation. Have Set Financial Goals and a plan to achieve them
- Know how to Manage Debt Effectively: Explore strategies for managing and reducing debt, such as credit cards and loans.
- Understand how to Save wisely and implement a plan including starting an emergency fund.
- Develop Smart Spending Habits: Identify and eliminate unnecessary expenses to optimize your budget.
- Understand the emotional triggers around spending and identify next steps to overcome the triggers personal to you.

By the end of this course, you will have the knowledge and confidence to navigate the complex landscape of personal finance, ensuring that you not only survive but thrive in the face of rising living costs. Get ready to take charge of your financial future and secure a more stable and prosperous life.

**REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW**

For further information about this or any of our other courses please contact us.  
[www.communityactiondacorum.org/traininganddevelopment](http://www.communityactiondacorum.org/traininganddevelopment)  
[Learning@communityactiondacorum.org.uk](mailto:Learning@communityactiondacorum.org.uk)  
 01442 253 935




PREPARE FOR SUCCESS IN HERTS