



NEWSLETTER

Ashfield Girls' High School

January / February 2024



OPEN NIGHT 2024 - WELCOMING PRIMARY 6 AND PRIMARY 7 PUPILS



"Each Different. Each talented. All valued."



Celebrating Success Assembly



PRINCIPALS AWARD



As part of the school's aim to celebrate success, Mrs Harvey asked all Heads of Department to identify the pupils who had show excellent attainment, great effort or a developing resilience in relation to their learning.

KS3 AWARDS



Pupils then received certificates, vouchers and for a few – the Principals Award at an inspiring Celebrating Success Assembly. Some of the certificates and awards included attendance, academic achievement in the winter examinations, moral character and determination. A number of 'post cards home' were also sent home to many pupils just prior to Christmas to celebrate further success within the classroom. Well done to all pupils who achieved an award.



FOCUS ON LEARNING

Planning for the Future



YEAR 10 OPTIONS AFTERNOON

We were delighted to invite Year 10 pupils and their Parent/Carers to our annual Career Subject Options afternoon on Friday 02 February 2024. Pupils were able to find out valuable information from staff and pupils currently studying the qualifications, to help them make their subject choices for Year 11.

Thank you to all parents and carers that attended and those staff and pupils who made the afternoon a success!



APPRENTICESHIPS TALK

Kicking off a series of talks, Dr Judith Wylie with apprentice, Keeley from the University of Ulster, talking to our Year 13 and Year 14 pupils about higher level apprenticeships in Business Technology. This was the first of four careers talks organised for our Sixth Form to help guide them towards their further and higher education pathways.



FOCUS ON LEARNING



EASTSIDE AWARDS

WINNER
THE EASTSIDE AWARD
FOR YOUNG PERSON
OF THE YEAR
LAURIE BELL

CONGRATULATIONS

On Friday 26th January 2024, Ashfield Girls' High School was represented at the 8th Eastside Awards Ceremony at the Stormont Hotel; to celebrate staff and students who were selected as finalists in this prestigious awards ceremony. Mr McCausland was a finalist for School Hero of the Year; Tara Janssen was a finalist for the Volunteer of the Year category; the school itself was recognised as being The Best Company of Work for and Laurie Bell scooped the Young Person of the Year award.

For the 8th consecutive year, BBC Newsline's Tara Mills presented either the Young Person of the Year or the Volunteer of the Year Award to an Ashfield pupil! Well done, Laurie and thank you to Belfast City Airport and all the other sponsors for hosting such an inspiring and uplifting celebration of success.



FOCUS ON SUCCESS

Growing from Strength to Strength



ARTEMIS FUNDING – A REFURBISHMENT FOR SIXTH FORM STUDY AREA

Following a successful bid for funding from the Artemis Charitiy (previously managed the community use of Ashfield Girls' High School facilities), Mrs Hanvey was delighted to receive a £19,000 grant. The grant money will be used to refurbish the current sixth form common room into a modern and vibrant independent study area. The current Year 14 Senior Leadership Team are engaged in final design adjustments as we await for the appointed contractor to begin planning! It is hoped that the new Study Area will be ready for use in September 2024. We are also thankful that AMEY (Albany), as building owners, are going to repaint and recarpet the area in preparation for the new refurbishment.

NEW QUALIFICATIONS

Our Sixth Form at Ashfield is ever growing and developing. We make it a priority to not only respond to changes in the local employment market but also to place student voice at the core of what we offer. In 2023 we introduced A-Level Environmental Technology as an A-Level option and will again be expanding our curriculum offer to include A-Level Psychology in 2024. Pupil choice is a key part of Post 16 study and we continue to strive to ensure our students have access to the best Sixth Form experience possible.



FOCUS ON SIXTH FORM



LEARN SPARK

Sixth Form Senior Librarians enjoyed a fantastic training day with LEARN SPARK.



ICC

Year 14 students taking part in their first SistersIN planning meeting with ICC Belfast.



Every Little Helps



BELFAST CITY COUNCIL - HARDSHIP FUNDING

Recently, we received hardship funding from the Belfast City Council that allowed us to extend our support, addressing areas of need that might otherwise go unmet. We are immensely grateful for this support as it enabled us to implement initiatives aimed at enhancing the educational experience and wellbeing of our pupils.

Uniform assistance has been a key focus, particularly for families facing financial challenges. This funding allowed us to purchase some items of PE uniform to ensure all pupils have access to necessary kit. Recognising the importance of study skills, we have invested in revision cards to complement our study skills programme. This aimed to empower pupils with effective revision techniques, bolstering their academic success and confidence. Equipping pupils for exams is important and we realise that it can be stressful for pupils. We have purchased exam packs containing essential stationary items, enabling pupils to focus on their exams.

Other purchases included numeracy resources, period dignity supplies, SEN resources, and wellbeing items, all with the aim of supporting every pupil's development and reducing barriers. Music is not just an extracurricular activity but a means of expression and growth for many pupils.

The funding allowed us to purchase musical instruments for loan, ensuring pupils have the opportunity to explore their musical talents.

We remain committed to fostering a culture of support, inclusion, and empowerment and recognise the benefits brought by this funding



FOCUS ON WELLBEING

Fuelling the Day



CLUB BREAKFAST

We are delighted that the James Kane Foundation has generously provided over £5000 in funding to continue to support our free breakfast programme for pupils. This initiative aims to ensure that every pupil, who requires a nutritious meal to kickstart their day and enhance their learning experience.

Research has shown that a healthy breakfast is essential for preparing young people for the day ahead, empowering pupils to thrive in the classroom. This initiative sets the stage for a productive school day by ensuring that pupils are well-nourished and ready to learn. A nutritious breakfast can improve concentration, memory, and mood, ultimately leading to better educational outcomes. Thanks to our pupils who helped stock up the canteen.

Through the generosity of the James Kane Foundation, countless pupils had the opportunity to start their day on the right foot, equipped with the fuel they need to succeed. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the foundation for their commitment to supporting the well-being and academic achievement of our pupils, it has been very much appreciated.



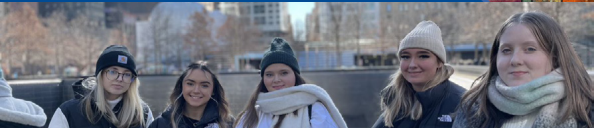
INVESTORS IN PUPILS

INVESTORS IN PUPILS AWARD

We are currently working towards the 'Investors in Pupils' Award, this is a programme that provides a unique pupil participation framework for schools and education settings. It allows pupils to become more involved in decision making and developing responsibility and leadership in relation to their learning, behaviour, attendance, classroom management and induction. The award builds on the principles of Investors in People; to empower all pupils, increase motivation and contribute to raising achievement across the Key Stages. Pupils in our school will start their work towards achieving this Award in September 2024.

FOCUS ON WELLBEING

Start Spreading the News...



NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Our recent school trip to New York City was an exhilarating experience filled with many unforgettable moments. Students from Year 13 and 14 departed Dublin in early February and ventured into the heart of the bustling metropolis, where they were greeted by the iconic sights and sounds that make New York City truly unique. From the towering skyscrapers of Manhattan to the vibrant streets of Chelsea, every corner turned offered a new adventure to be explored.

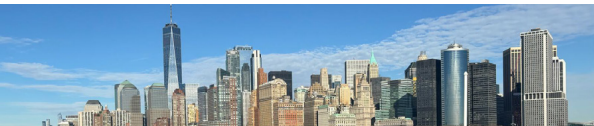
Many visits, were made during our visit to the 'Big Apple'; the majestic Statue of Liberty, where the ferry ride to Liberty Island offered panoramic views of the city skyline. Central Park provided a welcome respite from the city hustle, with its sprawling greenery and peaceful pathways. Students enjoyed a leisurely stroll, taking in the beauty while listening to the sound of John Lennon's Imagine being played at the iconic Strawberry Fields.

No visit to New York would be complete without a trip to the top of Empire State Building. From the observation deck, all marveled at the breathtaking views of the city below, feeling on top of the world. One of the highlights of the trip was attending a Broadway show, and being mesmerised by the talent on stage in Disney's Aladdin.

Of course, a bit of shopping was in order, and we spent a few afternoons were spent browsing the shops along Fifth Avenue and in Soho, indulging in a bit of retail therapy and picking up souvenirs. As we bid farewell to the city that never sleeps, the students carried home with them, memories that will last a lifetime. Our trip to New York City was a perfect blend of culture, adventure and fun!



FOCUS ON OUTDOOR LEARNING



Items for your diary



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Ashfield Girls' High School
Key Dates for Term 3 - 2024

Monday 8 April 2024	Staff Development Day - school closed to all pupils
Tuesday 9 April 2024	Start of Term 3 - for all pupils
Monday 6 May 2024	Early May Bank Holiday - for all staff and pupils
Monday 20 May 2024 - Friday 24 May 2024	KS3 Summer Examination Week KS3 Pupils finish at 1.10pm
Monday 27 May 2024	Spring Bank Holiday - for all staff and pupils
Tuesday 11 June 2024	Sports Day
Friday 14 June 2024	Primary 7 Induction - Pupils finish at 1.10pm
Tuesday 18 June 2024 - Friday 21 June 2024	Year 11 Work Experience
Friday 21 June 2024	Year 14 Formal (TBC)
Tuesday 25 June 2024	Junior Prize Day - 1.45pm Pupils finish at 1.10pm
Friday 28 June 2024	Last Day of Term 3 - Pupils finish at 12.30pm

Holiday Staff Development Day

POLICY UPDATES

- Behaviour for Learning and Positive Behaviour Policy - in the process of being reviewed.
- Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Policy - at the early consultation stage.
- Sixth Form Policy - in the process of being reviewed.

Safeguarding Team

In Ashfield we are

"Each different. Each talented. All valued."
If you are unhappy or if you know someone who needs help you should report to

Designated Teacher for Child Protection



Mrs B Cripps

Deputy Designated Teachers



Mr G Patterson



Mrs N Christie



Mrs E Lemon
Pastoral Support
upil Welfare Auxiliary



Mrs L Hanvey
Principal



Mrs E Bush
Designated Governor
for Child Protection



Our policies can be found on the school website and are regularly updated in line with new legislation, guidance and good practice.



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