



NEWSLETTER

Ashfield Girls' High School

November/December 2024



SISTERSIN COFFEE MORNING

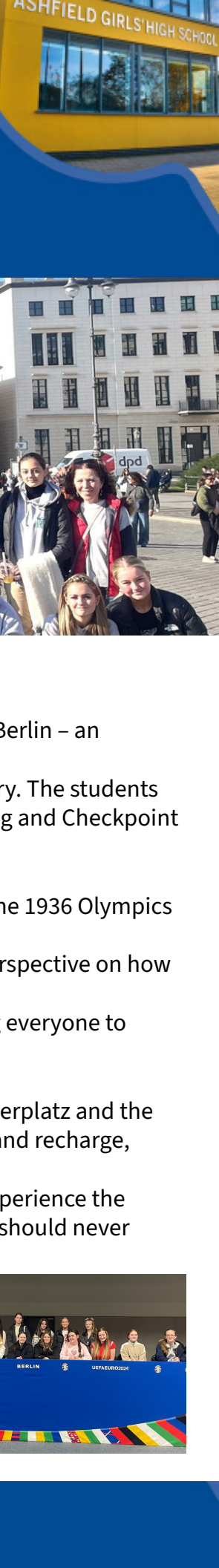


We are once again delighted to be part of the SistersIN initiative and began this year's programme with an opportunity for our Sixth Form Leadership team to meet their mentors. The SistersIN programme seeks to develop leadership skills in girls, raise aspirations and provide mentorship from women at the highest levels in our local community. This year we are supported by A&O Sherman, Fujitsu, the Departmental Solicitor's Office, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Adamson Rice, Display Note Technologies and Queens University, Belfast. Our pupils have been inspired and motivated by both the knowledge and experience shared by their mentors and through gaining opportunities to support the Year 8 students within our own school.



"Each different. Each talented. All valued."





BERLIN

In October, 33 students from this year's GCSE and A Level History classes spent 4 days in Berlin – an unforgettable experience for all those involved.

The trip provided a unique opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-life history. The students were particularly excited to see iconic landmarks like the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag and Checkpoint Charlie, all of which provided insights into key moments in twentieth century history.

One of the standout highlights was the visit to the Olympic Stadium and learning about the 1936 Olympics and its significance in Nazi propaganda.

The students also enjoyed venturing into an underground WWII bunker, gaining a new perspective on how Berliners endured air raids and the final days of the war.

The visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp was a poignant part of the trip, allowing everyone to reflect on the horrors of the Holocaust.

Alongside the history, time was spent exploring modern Berlin, shopping at Alexanderplatz and the Mall of Berlin. The students also enjoyed numerous coffee stops, where they could relax and recharge, making the most of Berlin's café culture.

For everyone involved, the trip was a brilliant opportunity to walk through history and experience the sights, sounds and stories of Berlin. As Vera Lynn said, “We should always remember. We should never forget.”





LONDON

From 15th to 18th October, Year 11/12 students embarked on an unforgettable adventure to London, a city rich in history, culture, and excitement. Over four days, students explored some of the UK's most iconic landmarks, learned about British history, and even stepped into the magical world of Harry Potter!

Among many of the landmarks visited was the Palace of Westminster, home to the UK Parliament. Students were given a guided tour of the grand buildings and chambers where important decisions are made, including the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The tour gave students a fascinating insight into how the British government operates and the history behind this iconic building. The group also had an opportunity to visit Westminster Abbey, one of the most famous religious buildings in the world. The Abbey's stunning architecture and centuries of history left students in awe. One of the student favourites was the magic and adventure of Warner Bros. Studio Tour: The Making of Harry Potter. Students had the chance to walk through the magical sets and props from the Harry Potter films. From the iconic Great Hall to Diagon Alley, the experience truly brought the world of wizardry to life.

After many days of touring, the students were treated to an evening at the theatre, watching the fantastic performance of Mrs. Doubtfire in the West End. Based on the beloved film, the musical was a hit with students, who enjoyed the comedy, catchy tunes, and impressive performances.

Throughout the trip, students exhibited fantastic teamwork, enthusiasm, and curiosity. Whether it was learning about British history at Westminster Abbey or experiencing the magic of Harry Potter, they embraced every part of the adventure with excitement and interest.





ENTWINED FUTURES



MAGILLIGAN



GCSE and ALevel Geography students had a wonderful day completing their river study field work along the Curly Burn river in Limavady. As part of the fieldwork the groups had to measure river depth, width, velocity and sediment compositions. Exact numeracy skills were drawn upon to build a river cross section profile, to assist with controlled assessment portfolios.



Thinking of the future...



FOCUS ON LEARNING



BIG CAREERS ON THE SMALL SCREEN

During the month of November, we welcomed Channel 4 to Ashfield Girls' High School. They delivered a 3 day workshop to over 260 Year 9 and Year 10 pupils. Our Year 10, Year 12 GCSE Moving Image Arts and Sixth Form Media Studies students were involved in a Q&A session hosted by Channel 4's Emily Doherty.

On the interview panel where IntoFilm's, Aimee Magee, Producer and Director of TripleVision, Eamonn Devlin, Head of Production of Little Giant, Robin Morgan and Assistant Director, Scott McCutcheon. This was an unique opportunity that our students thoroughly enjoyed and will undoubtedly assist our Year 10 pupils who are making their GCSE choices later this year and our Senior students who are thinking of potential career paths post-secondary education.



Visit 4schools.co.uk to find out more

4SCHOOLS

WORK INSPIRATION WORKSHOP

Sixth form students attended the Work Inspiration Workshop held by Pinsent Masons Law.



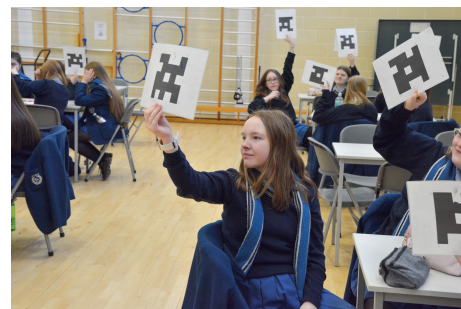
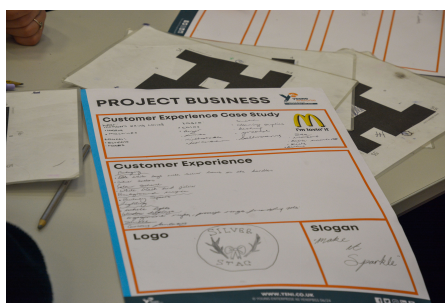


YOUNG ENTERPRISE + PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS SERVICES CLASS

It has been a busy and exciting term for enterprising activities across the school! Year 10 recently completed the Young Enterprise Project Business programme, diving into the world of business with enthusiasm and creativity. The programme provided an opportunity for the students to develop teamwork, problem-solving, and entrepreneurial skills while having lots of fun along the way. They even got a helping hand from our Year 13 and 14 Business students, who stepped into the roles of suppliers and bankers, adding a real-world dimension to the experience.

Meanwhile, Young Enterprise also delivered the Learn to Earn programme to our Year 11 students. This invaluable initiative encouraged the girls to think about their future careers, explore their goals, and understand how their choices can shape their future success. The sessions were not only thought-provoking but also inspiring, equipping the students with tools to make informed decisions about their pathways.

Another fantastic event in December was the Year 8 Movie Morning, organised by our Year 14 A Level Professional Business Services class as part of their course. The Year 14 students demonstrated excellent project management skills, from planning and promotion to ensuring the event ran smoothly. The Movie Morning was a wonderful way for our Year 8 girls to end the term, enjoying some festive fun with friends. The event also had a meaningful purpose, raising funds to support families impacted by the cost-of-living crisis by providing essential uniform items.



Thinking of the future...

ASHFIELD GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL



CHEMISTRY AT WORK EVENT



Year 12 Double Award Science students attended Queens University Belfast for the 'Chemistry at Work' event. They got to dive into hands-on experiments and discovered the wonders of chemistry in action. It was a fantastic opportunity to inspire future scientists.



SOROPTIMIST PUBLIC SPEAKING

Rachael and Sophie took part in this years Soroptimist Public Speaking Competition in Stormont. Both students delivered exceptional speeches. They spoke with eloquence and passion, making an inspirational emotion impact on the audience.



Sixth Form Hub Glow Up



FOCUS ON SIXTH FORM

SIXTH FORM HUB

As a school we were delighted to receive a grant to enable us to refurbish our Sixth Form Area. The new Sixth Form Hub is designed to promote independent learning and replicate an atmosphere akin to university. The majority of the ideas came from our Sixth Form students in terms of the type of seating, work spaces and facilities. Their mood board and colour choices are very modern and foster a positive, upbeat and engaging learning environment.

Forbes Furniture were commissioned to plan, design and fit the refurbishment. Feedback from the Sixth Form indicates that they are enjoying their new kitchen, lockers, booths and breakfast bar in particular.

We couldn't stretch to a 50 inch TV with Netflix subscription ... however, it never hurts to ask!

As always, the students are taking great care of their facilities and utilising them to enhance their learning in preparation for their post-16 destinations.



Book of the Month

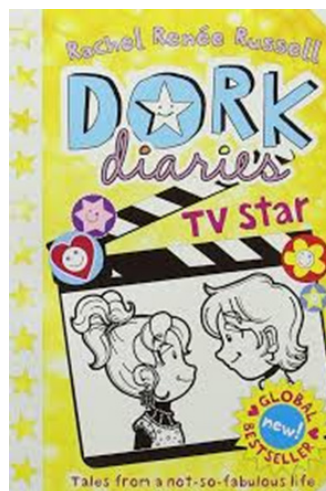


DORK DIARIES: TV STAR BY RACHEL RENEE RUSSELL

Nikki and her friends were spotted at their school talent show, and now a reality TV crew is following her as she heads for pop stardom. SQUEEE!

But having cameras wherever she goes isn't always fun, especially when it's making things awkward with Brandon and Mackenzie keeps trying to steal the limelight...

Is TV star one step too far for Queen of the Dorks?



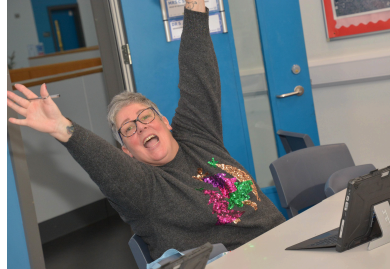
Review by Evie Long, 9T:

"I really enjoyed this book as I love all the Dork Diaries and find them so relatable. I love that the books are all so different. I found this book interesting because she had to pretend to be the famous "Dance Divas". My favourite part was when the main character was so happy that her crush Brandon finally spoke to her after a long time of waiting! This was a fun book to read."

Spreading Christmas Cheer



CHRISTMAS QUIZ & SECRET SANTA



FOCUS ON COMMUNITY



Hall of Fame



FOCUS ON SUCCESS



Congratulations to Kayleigh who competed in NI Gymnastics Championships. Kayleigh placed 4th in Bars, 3rd in Beam and Floor and 2nd overall NI Champion.



Congratulations to Leona who competed in NI Gymnastics Championships. Leona placed 2nd in Vault and Floor and 4th in Bars.



Congratulations to Tammy who achieved two bronze medals while competing in Scotland's Professor Chang Ung Cup for NI Taekwondo.



Items for your diary



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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
Pupil Welfare Auxiliary



Mrs L Hanvey
Principal



Mrs E Bush
Designated Governor
for Child Protection

Ashfield Girls' High School Key Dates for Term 2 - 2025

Friday 3 January 2025	Staff Development Day - school closed to all pupils
Monday 6 January 2025	Start of Term 2 - for all pupils
Tuesday 21 January 2025	Open Night - 6.30pm - 9.00pm
Wednesday 22 February 2025	Staff Development Day - school closed to all pupils
Friday 31 January 2025	Year 10 Options and Parent Consultation 12.45pm - 3.30pm (In Person) Pupils finish at 12.30pm except Year 10
Sunday 2 - Sunday 9 February 2025	Ski Trip
Monday 10 February 2025 - Friday 14 February 2025	Mid-Term Holidays - for all teaching staff and pupils
Thursday 20 February 2025	Year 13 Parent Consultation - 1.30pm - 3.30pm Pupils finish at 1.10pm
Wednesday 26 February 2025	Year 8 Parent Consultation - 1.30pm - 3.30pm (In Person) Pupils finish at 1.10pm
Wednesday 26 February 2025 - Friday 28 February 2025	February External Examination Series
Thursday 27 February 2025	Year 12 Option Fair - Period 5 2.10pm - 3.10pm (In Person)
Monday 10 March 2025 - Friday 14 March 2025	Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Examinations
Monday 17 March 2025	St Patrick's Day Holiday - for all staff and pupils
Tuesday 18 March 2025	Year 9 Parent Consultation - 1.30pm - 3.30pm Pupils finish at 1.10pm
Tuesday 16 April 2025	Last Day of Term 2 - pupils finish at 12.30pm
Wednesday 16 April 2025	Staff Development Day - school closed to all pupils
Thursday 17 April 2025 - Friday 25 April 2025	Easter Holidays

Holiday

Staff Development Day

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING UPDATE

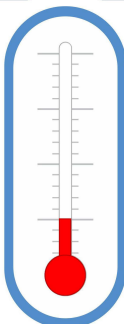
Fundraising 2024 - 25

£1055.86

Macmillan Cancer
(staff event)
£297.76

Hope & Light
(staff event)
40 pairs of glasses

Project Lunch Club
Sweet Sale
£92



Cash for Kids
Mission Christmas
£514.05

Crohn's & Colitis NI
10B Bake sale
£87.25

Trussell Trust
Foodbank
197.9 kilos

Royal British Legion
Poppy Appeal
£156.80



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.