9th October 2026

Dear Parents,

I would like to begin by extending my sincere thanks to all the students who supported our Open Evening last night. Whether acting as guides, assisting in departments, performing, or helping visitors find their way around the school, our students were simply outstanding.

I was incredibly proud of the way they conducted themselves throughout the evening. They were welcoming, polite, enthusiastic and, above all, so kind to our prospective students and their families. The student guides were exceptional ambassadors for The Ashcombe, speaking confidently about their experiences and ensuring our visitors felt at ease. They are a real credit to you as families, and we are immensely proud of the young people they are becoming.

Their contribution played a huge part in making the evening such a success, and I would like to thank every student who gave up their time to help showcase all that is special about our school.

Games Day

With Games Day taking place on **Monday 12 October**, I would like to remind students and families about the arrangements for the day. The year groups will take part during the following lesson periods:

- **Lesson 1:** Year 9
- **Lesson 2:** Year 8
- **Lesson 3:** Year 10
- **Lesson 4:** Year 7

Students who are participating should arrive at school wearing their **PE kit**. As some activities might take place outdoors, please ensure they bring suitable footwear and any additional clothing (PE jumpers/hoodies) that may be required for the weather conditions. Games Day is always a fantastic opportunity for students to demonstrate teamwork, sportsmanship and house spirit, and we look forward to an enjoyable day of participation and friendly competition.

Fearless Parental Talk – Monday 12th October

Following this week's powerful presentations from Charlie's Promise, which helped students understand the impact of knife crime on individuals, families and communities, we are continuing our focus on safeguarding and community safety. Over the coming weeks, our Year 10 and Year 11 students will hear from Phil about the work of Fearless and Crimestoppers, helping them to understand how to stay safe and where to seek support if needed. We are also pleased to invite parents and carers to an information evening with Phil on **Monday 12 October at 5.30pm**, where he will discuss the work of Fearless and Crimestoppers, the challenges facing young people today, and how families can help keep children safe. To join the session, please click on the below Teams link:

Join: Fearless Talk

Meeting ID: 374 527 060 610 081 Passcode: XL3r2CW6

Half term

As we approach the end of a busy and successful half term, I would like to thank all students, staff and families for their continued support. The school will close for the half-term break from **Monday 19 October to Friday 30 October**. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on **Monday 2 November** for the start of the new half term.

Non -Uniform Day
On **Friday 29 November**, we will be holding a **Non-Uniform Day** in support of **Anti-Bullying Week**. Students are invited to come to school in non-uniform. This is an opportunity for our school community to come together to promote kindness, respect and inclusion.

Talking Pre-Teens: A New Course for Parents and Carers
We are pleased to be hosting *Talking Pre-Teens*, a four-week course designed to help parents and carers better understand the challenges and opportunities of the pre-teen and teenage years. Led by Fiona Darnell and Anna, the course is aimed at parents of children in Year 5 and above and will explore pre-teen behaviour, communication, relationships and practical strategies to support family life. The course will take place on Wednesday evenings from **7.30pm to 9.30pm** at The Ashcombe School on **4, 11, 18 and 25 November**. Places cost **£15**, including a handbook. For further information or to book a place, please contact Fiona Darnell at darnell.fiona@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk.

Support Our Trips and Events Bursary Fund
A gentle reminder that our Trips and Events Bursary Fund helps ensure that all students can take part in educational visits, residentials and school events, regardless of financial circumstances. If you are able to do so, please consider making a voluntary contribution via the **Arbor School Shop,** where donation amounts start from £5. Every donation helps provide valuable opportunities and experiences for students who may otherwise be unable to participate. Thank you for supporting an inclusive school community where every child can learn, participate and thrive.

Grease Tickets on Sale
Tickets for our school production of **Grease** are now on sale to the general public.
With the help of our parents and carers, we hope to make this our most successful production yet. Please do spread the word among family and friends and encourage them to book early to avoid disappointment.
Tickets can be purchased via: TicketSource - The Ashcombe School

School Production Parent Help Required
We require some support to set up and serve refreshments at the school production. Set up is required both on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th November 5.30pm and some support on Saturday 14th November to ensure we are ready for our two performances that day. Additionally, we would be grateful for some parents to serve refreshments on any of the 4 performances. Please complete this School Production Refreshments support – Fill in form (which gives more details of timings) if you would be able to support us. We suggest you don't support with serving refreshments if you are watching the show as you may miss the first part of the second half of the show.

Grease Fundraiser
A huge thank you to everyone who has already supported our *Grease* costume fundraiser. The fundraiser runs until **Saturday 14th November**, so there's still time to get involved and help us bring the show to life on stage. Grease the Musical Costume Fundraiser! - JustGiving

Dorking Badminton Club
Please find attached a **Dorking Badminton Club** flyer, which is attached. The club offers junior coaching for a range of ages and abilities, including sessions held at The Ashcombe School.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Panting
Headteacher