THE ASHCOMBE SCHOOL

11th September 2026

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their continued support of The Ashcombe School. The strong partnership between home and school plays a vital role in ensuring that our students thrive both academically and personally. By working together to uphold our shared expectations, we can continue to provide a positive, purposeful and respectful learning environment in which every student is ready to learn, achieve their potential and contribute positively to the Ashcombe community.

Uniform Reminder

I would like to remind families of our uniform and appearance expectations:

- Students may wear one pair of small, plain stud earrings (one in each earlobe). No other facial or body piercings are permitted. Students arriving with nose piercings will be required to remove them and replace them with a clear spacer, which can be provided by the school.
- School skirts must be either the approved pleated school skirt, worn at or close to knee length, or the approved long pleated skirt, worn at calf length. Plain black tailored trousers may be worn as an alternative.
- Hairstyles should be safe and appropriate for school. Cultural, religious and protective hairstyles are permitted. Extreme patterns, slogans, or unnaturally bright hair colours are not permitted. Long hair is acceptable for all students, but we reserve the right to ask for it to be tied back where appropriate. Any student who currently has hair dyed in a colour that does not comply with our policy must ensure this is rectified before returning to school.
- Students must not have false eyelashes, acrylic nails or gel nails.

We strongly encourage families to consider these expectations before arranging piercings, treatments or purchasing uniform items. Students who arrive at school not meeting our published uniform standards will be expected to rectify the issue immediately.

We would also like to remind you that only black leather or leather-look shoes that can be polished should be worn to school. Fabric trainers are not permitted. In addition, bracelets, rings and necklaces may not be worn unless required for medical purposes.

Allergy Reminder

Any dietary requirements or allergies must be updated via Arbor. If your child has a dietary requirement or allergy, please encourage them to speak to a member of the catering team, who will be able to advise them on suitable food choices and confirm that their selection is safe and appropriate.

Daily Spend Limit

To help manage spending, there is an £11 daily spend limit on student catering accounts. If you would like this limit increased or decreased for your child, please email: info@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk.
Please also ensure that account balances are topped up regularly via Arbor.

Carrington School, Therfield School and The Ashcombe School have formed and are part of South East Surrey Schools Education Trust (SESSET), a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 10479401. The registered address is The Ashcombe School, Ashcombe Road, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1LY

Year 7 Wind Band Scheme
Year 7 students have the exciting opportunity to join the Ashcombe School Year 7 Wind Band. This programme is designed for beginners and gives around 18 students the chance to learn a new instrument, receive weekly small-group lessons, take part in weekly band rehearsals and perform at school events.
Instruments available include flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium and tuba. All instruments are loaned free of charge by the Music Department, helping to keep the overall cost of the programme affordable. Students eligible for Free School Meals may apply for a fully funded place. If you would like your child to be considered for a place on the scheme, please complete this Form by noon on **Friday 19 September 2026.**

Pre-loved Uniform Store
The next pre-loved uniform sale will take place on Saturday 26 September in B1 (the hut in Bradley), from 10.00am to 12.00 noon.

Train to Teach at Ashcombe
Have you ever considered teaching as a career? If so, or if you would simply like to find out more, we would be delighted to hear from you. We encourage anyone interested in teaching to arrange a visit to the school to explore the opportunities available. We proudly work with Xavier Teach SouthEast, the Universities of Brighton and Sussex, and can train people in both primary and secondary settings. Applications will be opening shortly. You may also wish to visit the Surrey Downs Partnership website to find out more www.surreydownspartnership.org.uk. Alternatively, you are welcome to attend our "Getting into Teaching" information event on Thursday 1 October from 9.00am to 10.30am. Please register your interest here: Train to Teach Information Event – Fill in form

PTA Quiz Night – Friday 9 October 2026
As advised in July, the PTA will be holding another Quiz Night on Friday 9 October.
Details are as follows:
Venue:
Bradley Hall, The Ashcombe School
Time: 7.30pm
Cost: £5 per person, payable via Arbor. Tickets can be purchased through the School Shop, which can be found from the main Arbor dashboard. Please feel free to bring your own food and drinks.
This is a wonderful opportunity not only to support the PTA, but also to gather a team of friends and family for an enjoyable evening. If you have any questions, please contact the PTA at: pta@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Panting
Headteacher