25th September 2026

Dear Parents,

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a positive learning environment, we are writing to inform you of a change to the school's procedures regarding mobile phones.

Following recent government guidance and our review of current practice, students who have their mobile phone confiscated during the school day due to inappropriate use will now receive a detention. This change reinforces our expectation that mobile phones should not be seen, heard, or used during the school day unless specifically authorised by a member of staff.

Mobile phones can be a significant distraction to learning and can also impact students' wellbeing and social interactions. We believe that this revised approach will help ensure that all students remain focused on their learning and contribute to a calm and purposeful school environment.

Any student whose phone is confiscated will receive a **detention** in addition to the phone being confiscated in line with our existing procedures.

We ask for your support in reminding your child that, if they bring a mobile phone to school, it should remain switched off and out of sight throughout the school day. Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain high standards of behaviour and learning at The Ashcombe School.

Saturday 26th September: 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.

Tuesday 29th September: School Photographs for Years 8, 9 and 10
Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 will have their individual school photographs taken on **Tuesday 29th September.** Please ensure that your child arrives at school in full school uniform and looking smart for the occasion. Further information on how to view and purchase photographs will be shared with families once the images are available from the photographer.

Tuesday 29th September 5.30pm: Year 10, 11, 12 & 13 Exams & Assessment Parent Support Evening
Parents are invited to a short virtual parent support evening which will share key exam information and the school's assessment schedule for this academic year. To join the session please log in via this link:
Join: Parent Support Evening
Meeting ID: 326 997 538 308 674
Passcode: 3ZE7GS3Z

Thursday 1st October 4.00pm-7.30pm: **Year 11 Progress Evening – In-person**
An In-person Progress Evening for Year 11 will take place on Thursday 1st October. Also, for a small number of teachers who teach multiple Year 11 classes, or who are not available on 1st October, we are holding an additional Virtual Progress Evening on Monday 5th October 4.00 - 8.00pm. Please refer to our previous emails regarding these events which have been circulated separately.

Leadership Partner School Network

Headteacher: Chris Panting MA
The Ashcombe School, Ashcombe Road,
Dorking, Surrey RH4 1LY
Tel: 01306 886312
www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk
info@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk

LANGUAGE COLLEGES

SESSET

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

Monday 5th –Wednesday 7th October: Charlie's Promise
We are delighted that Martin Cosser from the charity Charlie's Promise (Charlie's Promise | Working to prevent knife crime) will be visiting the school between Monday 5th to Wednesday 7th October to speak to all our students.

Thursday 8th October, early finish:
School will close at **12pm on Thursday 8 October** to allow preparation for Open Evening.

Thursday 8th October 5.00pm to 8.00pm: Open Evening
We would love to invite students to help at our Open Evening on Thursday 8th October. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase our school and assist with giving tours to prospective families. If your child is interested in helping, please complete the attached form Volunteers Fill in form.

Students will need to:

- Wear full school uniform, including school shoes (no trainers).
- Arrive at 4.30pm.
- Follow guidance provided by staff and tutors on how the evening will run.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to welcoming our student helpers.

Friday 9th October: INSET Day
A reminder that Friday 9th October is an INSET Day and the school will be closed to students. Students will return as normal on Monday 12th October.

Friday 9th October: 2026 PTA Quiz Night
The PTA will be holding another Quiz Night on Friday 9th October in the 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.

Detentions
To support students in completing any sanctions promptly, we offer two detention options. If a student receives a detention, they may either attend the scheduled after-school detention or complete their detention during the lunchtime detention session, which takes place from 1.40pm in Room R28.

Train to Teach at Ashcombe
Train to Teach Online Information session. There will be an opportunity to join a Teams call on **Monday 28th September** if you are thinking about training to be a teacher. The login details are as follows:
Join: Train to Teach
Meeting ID: 335 262 031 014 351
Passcode: Ag9jV7jB

Alternatively, you are welcome to attend our **"Getting into Teaching" i**nformation event on **Thursday 1st October from 9.00am to 10.30am.** Please register your interest here: Train to Teach Information Event, Please see attached poster for further information.

Free School Meals (FSM)
The Department for Education has extended the deadline for Free School Meals eligibility checks for this year. If you think your child may be eligible for Free School Meals, please contact the school office as soon as possible and we will be happy to check this for you. Registering for FSM can provide additional support for your child.

Grease Costume Fundraiser

We are delighted that preparations for our upcoming whole-school production of Grease are well underway. To help bring the iconic world of Rydell High to life, we have launched a **JustGiving costume fundraiser**. Contributions will help provide costumes for our talented cast, from the Pink Ladies and T-Birds to the vibrant 1950s prom scenes, ensuring students can perform in authentic style. Every donation, no matter how small, will help us create a memorable and professional production for our students. **Support our campaign here:**

https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/ashcombewegotogether

The Big Future Survey
We have been contacted by the Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, who is encouraging children and young people across the country to take part in *The Big Future* survey. The survey gives young people the opportunity to share their experiences, views and hopes for the future, helping to build a national picture of what matters most to children today. We encourage all students to take a few minutes to complete the survey and make their voices heard. The survey can be accessed here: The Big Future Survey

Dorking Girls' Rugby
Interested in giving rugby a try? Dorking Girls' Rugby is holding a Try Girls' Rugby session on Sunday 27th September. Please see the attached poster for further details.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Panting
Headteacher