Year 8 Support Evening

7th September 2026

Introduction

- Ben Ravenhill - Head of Lower School
- Mike Malanaphy- Head of Year

Our Mission… (our purpose and reason for being)

- **…is to enable every learner and teacher to achieve their full potential, flourish and be happy by encouraging them to be curious, confident, ambitious and compassionate as they become and act as socially responsible global citizens**

Introduction

- Students have now had a full week back at school
- They have transitioned back into Year 8 incredibly well
- Will now know all of their new teachers
- Are learning the new systems and routines that come with a new school
- Year 8 is such an exciting year!
- Homework discussed later.

What are we all aiming to achieve?

Each student to achieve their potential

This is most impacted in the classroom and in the way students work

To learn you need a calm classroom

Each person also can follow certain key habits that will offer the best chance of success

What are we all aiming to achieve?

To understand all students

- We are proud of our pastoral system at Ashcombe, which puts an emphasis on positive relationships between students and staff
- Creating a culture where students are seen as individuals and know we are here to support them no matter what
- To know the barriers that each student and family may be facing with any issues
- SEND as an important factor.

Our Values: We believe in....

Progress & Achievement
Celebrating growth from every starting point

Inclusivity
Meeting every learner's needs with empathy and high expectations

Caring
Compassion in all interactions

Community
Strengthening local, national & global ties.

How we behave

We will encourage, support and enable every member of the school community to uphold the following principles and demonstrate the following behaviours:

Learning
Every member of the Ashcombe community views themselves as learners who want to develop and grow.

Curiosity
Open-minded learning, stimulating ideas, connections, and thinking beyond the everyday.

Confidence
Confidence builds trust and empowers us to innovate and take the initiative. It also enhances communication, resilience, and credibility.

Ambition
Ambition motivates students and staff to aim high, work diligently, and foster a culture of aspiration and achievement.

Collaboration
Collaboration allows us to learn from each other, strengthen relationships, and create a supportive environment that encourages learning and growth.

What are we all aiming to achieve?

Our core behaviour is:

- To have an inclusive approach to offer kindness, care and support.

This, along with our mental health and wellbeing programme, ensures students and parents know we are here to support and in turn allow students to access school.

New timings!

8.45-9.15	9.20 - 10.30	10.35-11.45	11.45-12.15	12.15-1.25	1.25-2.05	2.05-3.15	3..15
AM REG	P1	P2	BREAK	P3	LUNCH	P4	FINISH

- The school inner gates are locked until 8am
- The school building is locked until 8.30am
- Students can use the canteen as an inside area between 8am and 8.30am
- The inner gates are locked at 8.45am until 3.15pm. Any student who arrives after 8.45am must 'buzz in' using the gate by Ranmore Reception.

New timings!

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AM REG	P1	P2	BREAK	P3	LUNCH	P4	FINISH

- 8.45am is the start of registration. Any student who arrives after 8.45am will be marked late.
- If students arrive after 9.15am they must sign in at Student Services. This will give a U code which will affect overall school attendance.
- For assemblies, students should line up at the beginning of the day on Front Courts (Hall), Rear Courts (Gym) or Bradley Courts (BPA)
- Students go into assembly with coats and bags.

New timings!

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AM REG	P1	P2	BREAK	P3	LUNCH	P4	FINISH

- Students have 5 minutes between the end of a lesson or the end of breaks and their next lesson
- 3 lates in a week will see Arbor automatically setting a detention

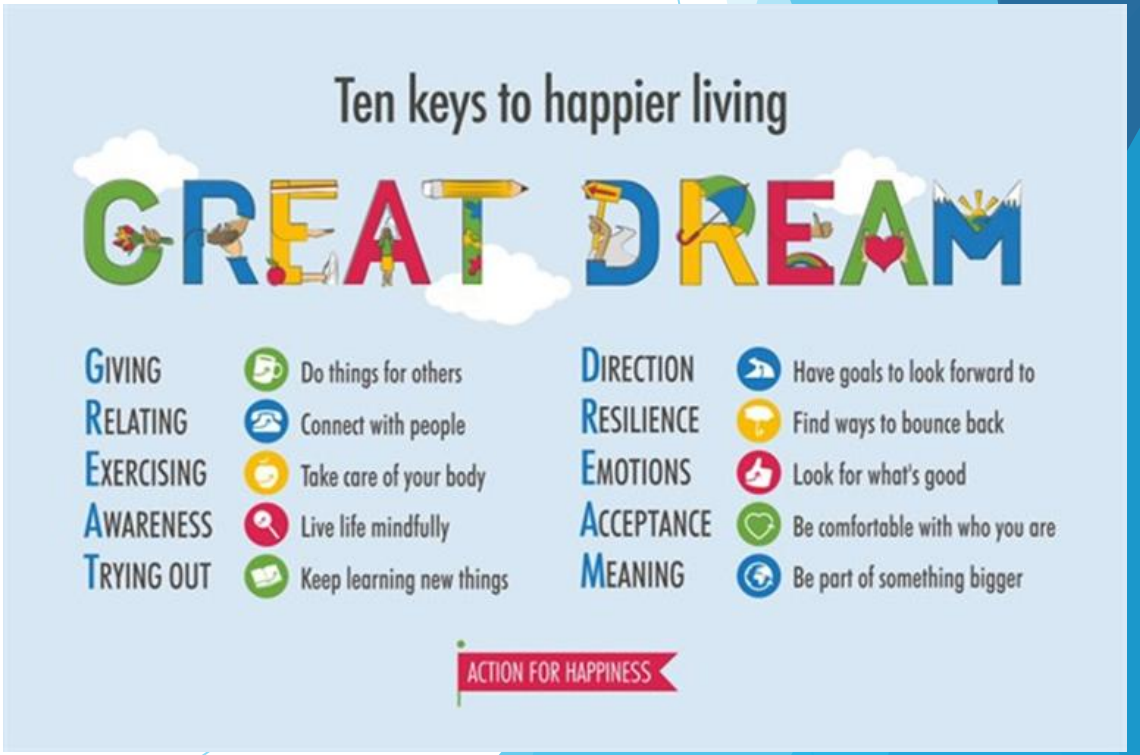
- Clubs start at 3.30pm and end at either 4.30pm or 5pm. Homework Club starts at 3.15pm and finishes at 4.15pm.
- School building is locked from 4pm. Therefore, you will not be able to get re-entry after this time.

Head of Year

- Manages a team of 8 tutors
- Builds a positive year group ethos
- Supports all students
- Monitors standards and progress
- Coordinates the tutorial programme
- Holds weekly year assemblies
- Develops a positive home-school relationship.

Role of the Tutor

- The tutor meets the students every day and is there to support and manage day-to-day issues
- Seeks to develop learning skills, involvement in the community, social skills & self esteem
- Monitors attendance
- Checks uniform and equipment are correct
- Delivers daily activities during tutor time
- Gives pastoral care.



Tutor time and assembly

- The tutor is vital and should be the most important member of staff for students. They can answer most questions and liaise with other staff if issues or problems arise.

- Assemblies will take place in the Hall, Gym and BPA. Assembly rota will be on TV Screen.

Breaks and Lunches

- Break is 30 mins. Lunch is 40 mins.
- Teaching staff will be in both Dining Halls
- The eating area for students will be around the Dining Hall and Ranmore Rear Courts picnic benches. No litter please.
- NO eating in the buildings
- Dining Hall – Students will pay using the finger biometric system.

Extracurricular activities, socials and trips

- Ashcombe is not just about the learning in the classroom
- Huge number of extracurricular activities, from Football to Sewing club and Warhammer
- Extracurricular booklet available on our website
- Socials are extremely important to bring together the year group
- Trips occur throughout time at Ashcombe. Year 8 trips in Activities Week.

Extracurricular activities, socials and trips

- We aim for all students to attend 1 extracurricular club a week
- If students have ideas for additional clubs they would like to be running, they can speak to their tutor and their tutor rep
- A full timetable of extracurricular clubs for all subjects will be sent home by the start of next week
- Information regarding clubs and an up-to-date extracurricular timetable are updated on the website here :
- The Ashcombe School - Extracurricular Activities

Arbor

- To help you monitor attendance and behaviour, we have a system called Arbor. Arbor includes registration attendance figures, positive points, negative incidents and detentions.
- This allows students and parents to log on via phones or computers at home, to help with day-to-day life at school!

Arbor

- Any issues please contact your child's tutor

- passwords@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk

Arbor

- Arbor pay
- Reporting
- Capture this data in our Success Predictors report - comes out on penultimate Wednesday of each half term
- Important parents keep up to date with information on Arbor.

Who do I contact as a parent?

- Tutor (is your main contact) – day-to-day issues, curriculum and pastoral issues, Arbor. All will write to introduce themselves.

- Head of Year – more complex pastoral issues

Malanaphy.Michael@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk

- Head of Department – more complex curriculum issues

- Mr Ravenhill / Mr Ketley – urgent pastoral and safeguarding issues

- Mr Simmonds – urgent curriculum issues or concerns.

THE ASHCOMBE SCHOOL'S

6 HABITS

1. We are kind, calm and considerate
2. We are punctual
3. We are well equipped - prepared to learn
4. We listen respectfully when others speak
5. We learn without distractions
6. We complete our work

The Ashcombe School's

6 BEHAVIOURS

1 97% +

Attendance

2 100%

Punctuality

3 100%

Homework completed on time

4 90%

Positives to Negatives Ratio

5 1

Extra-curricular activity

6 90%

Correct Equipment

Habit 1 - We are kind, calm and considerate

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- “Mental Health is a state of wellbeing in which every individual realises his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.”

(World Health Organisation)

- Very aware of mental health challenges
- Multitude of pressures which mean our young people often perceive their future differently to when we grew up
- Issues of social media
- Looking after our mental health is just as important as looking after our physical health.

nurtureuk

nurtureuk.org

The Six Principles of Nurture

Safety
The classroom offers a safe base

Transitions
The importance of transitions in children's lives

Wellbeing
The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing

Learning
Children's learning is understood developmentally

Language
Language is a vital means of communication

Behaviour
All behaviour is communication

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mental Health Foundation

BullyingUK www.bullying.co.uk

shout 85258 here for you 24/7

Calm

Place2Be's CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Mindworks Surrey

YOUNGMiNDS fighting for young people's mental health

mind for better mental health

kooth

Kooth is a free online service offering emotional and mental health support for children and young people

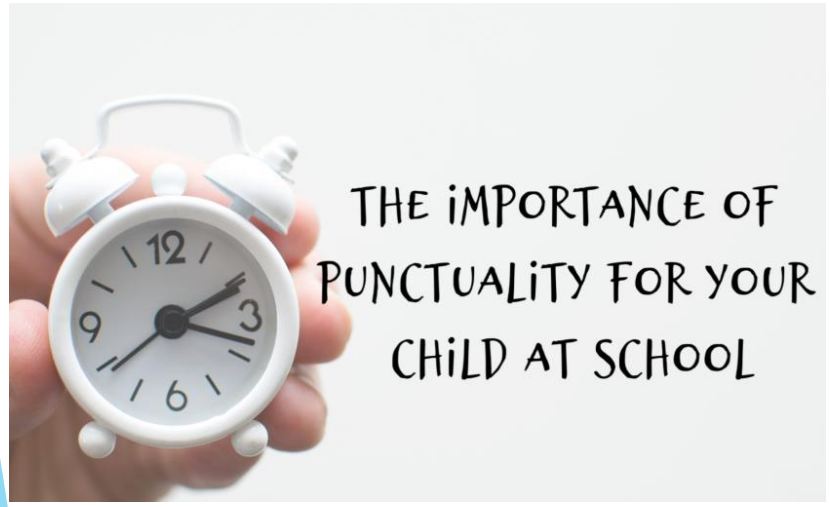
www.kooth.com

THE Lucy Rayner FOUNDATION

Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families

[The Ashcombe School - Wellbeing]

Habit 2 –
We are punctual



Why?

- All can learn without disruption of latecomers. Prompt and uninterrupted start to every lesson.
- Has maximum amount of time to learn - no wasted learning time

Success

- All engaged from the start
- Calm corridors during lesson time
- Registers completed in first 5 minutes of lesson (for attendance).

Habit 2 – We are punctual

If not:

- Students should be in their tutor room or lining up for assembly by 8.45am. If they arrive after 9.15am, they must sign in at Student Services.
- Mark L on Arbor and mins late/brief note
- Head of Year/Attendance Officer monitoring lateness systematically - contact home at agreed interval
- Detentions set for accumulating 3 lates per week
- All registrations will be taken in silence.

Attendance matters

- Regular attendance is fundamental for academic success and personal growth at Ashcombe.
- It helps students stay engaged, establish routines, and develop responsibility.
- Attendance fosters a positive learning environment and enhances social interaction among peers.
- 50% of students who missed a day in first week of school ended up as attendance concern nationally last year.

96% - 92%

Attendance concern

- The Tutor will have initial discussions with the students about their overall attendance
- Any underlying issues can be discussed and parents involved
- Attendance will be monitored each week through Arbor to ensure that it moves towards the school target of 97%.

92% or below

Unsatisfactory attendance level

- Head of Year involvement with parents directly to assess any issues which are occurring

- Concerns will be discussed to support students and families in finding a positive way forward and to agree actions to improve the student's attendance

- Where there are frequent absences due to illness, the school will request that medical evidence is provided before any further absences are authorised.

Below 90% - Persistent Absence

Persistent Absence

- Significantly below required attendance level
- Serious attendance concern. Students are unlikely to achieve GCSE targets.
- Any student whose attendance is below 90% regardless of the reason, will be considered **persistently absent** by both the school and the government
- Parents will be invited to attend a formal **Attendance Review Meeting** with Head of Year
- Where concerns persist, school is required to complete a formal referral to the local authority's inclusion service.

What can parents do?

- Ensure all concerns are discussed with school regarding attendance. Communication is essential, as every day of attendance to school matters.
- Use class Arbor to monitor attendance percentages.
- Log an absence on the Arbor app or email absence@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk if your child is not able to make it to school
- Clear reason for absence is needed.

What can parents do

- Everyone gets coughs and colds and genuine illness. Please see the government advice about if children are too ill for school:

Is my child too ill for school? - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

- Appointments for the doctor, dentist or other important reasons should be out of school time where possible

- Medical evidence may be required to support attendance.

What can parents do

- If absence is known in advance, need to complete a Leave of Absence Request form
- No holidays should occur during term time. They will not be authorised.
- Days off should not be allowed for birthdays
- Please email absence@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk to request an absence form
- This email address can also be used to advise us of absence for events such as funerals, sporting activities, dance and music exams, and any other full day activities.

Habit 3 - We are well equipped and prepared to learn

Why

- Helps increase chance of success in lesson
- Focus is immediately on learning, not on dealing with lack of equipment
- Encourages life skills of organisation and self-sufficiency.

Success

- Missing equipment noted on Arbor
- Students without equipment will be challenged.

If not

- Teacher notes on Arbor
- We will contact home to check about equipment.

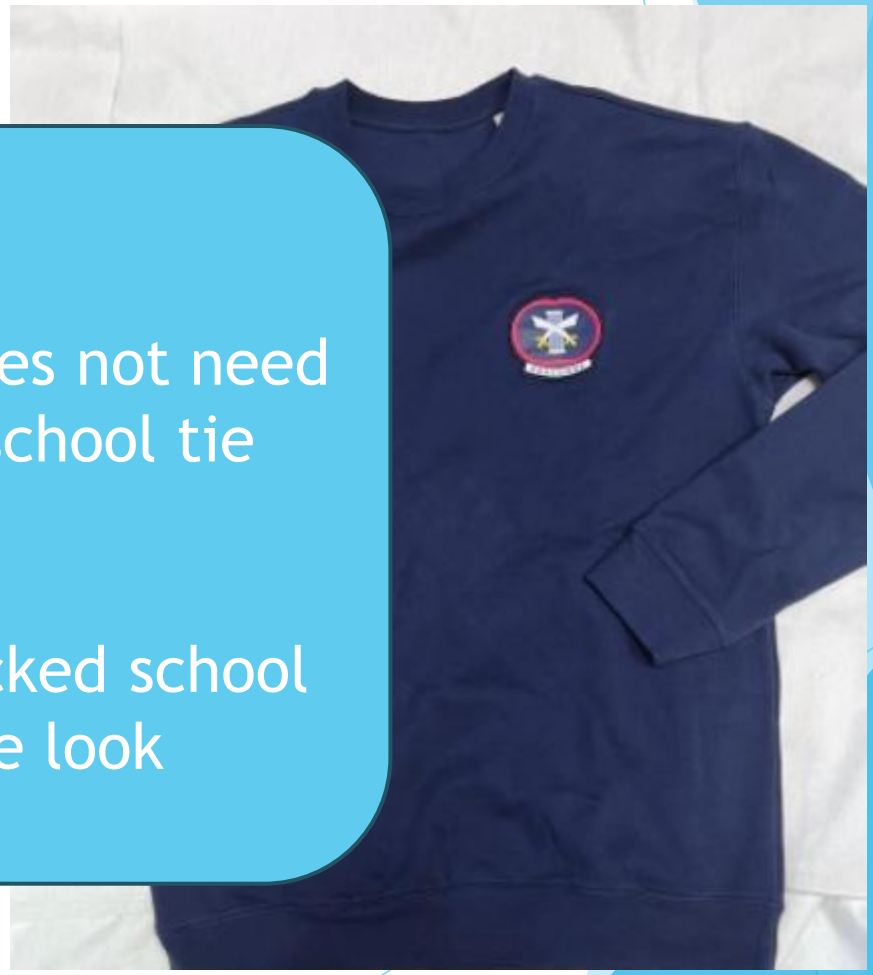
Uniform – top half

LOVE YOUR LOGO
SHOP ONLINE OR IN STORE

Your choice:

Students **must have** either a white polo (does not need tucking in) or a white collared shirt and school tie (shirt must be tucked in)

Students **can have** a school blazer or V-necked school jumper if you want to complement the look



Uniform – bottom half

Your choice:

Students **must have** either

1) Black trousers (not chinos, jeans or leggings)
2) Pleated school skirt worn on the knee
3) Pleated school skirt worn on the calf.

Uniform - other

- Jewellery – 1 plain gold or silver stud earring in the lower part of the ear and a non-expensive wristwatch. Any other studs are NOT permitted e.g. nose, lip or eyebrow. No rings or bracelets (unless for medical reasons).
- Hair colour – Haircuts, styles and colour must be sensible and appropriate. Holiday-type braiding, shaved hair or brightly coloured hair is not permitted.
- Make up and nails – Make-up is not allowed in Years 7 and 8. For Years 9 –11 it must be discreet. Nail varnish, acrylic nails or similar are not permitted
- Hoodies - Year 11 students will receive their Leavers' Hoodies in the Autumn term, so no other hoodie is expected to be seen in school.
- Shoes - Plain black leather/leather-type sensible shoes that could be polished without ruining them - not trainers, DM boots, shoes with logos or canvas.

Habit 4 - We listen respectfully when others speak

- All students are entitled to disruption-free learning - silence is vital in ensuring the clarity of teacher explanation
- When a student is speaking, we respect that they are thinking, and we learn from their thinking
- Vital life skill for post-Ashcombe, helping to engender a respect for other views
- Regular monitoring of core behaviours. If repeat offender HoD/HoY will contact home.

Habit 5 – We learn without distractions

Why

- No distractions to learning

Success

- No phones!

- Any phone seen will be confiscated and will not be returned until 3.15pm. Any issues with handing in a phone will result in a sanction.

Habit 6 - We complete our work

Why

- Central to student achievement
- Everyone is entitled to learn - no excuses
- Early indicator of underachievement that allows intervention.

Success

- All students with work completed to a high standard both in class and at home - consistency.

Homework assignments on Teams

- Homework has moved from Arbor to Microsoft Teams.
- Students can now tick off their work as done and manage their list.
- Successful students complete homework
- Completion of homework allows for consolidation of knowledge and lets staff see gaps in understanding
- Detentions will be set for regularly missing homework.
- If work is done and approved by staff **before** the detention date it will be cancelled.

Homework

- Check and complete all homework which is now set on Microsoft Teams.
- Download the Teams app on your phone at home.
- You can log in to Teams using the username and password you use in school.
- Homework will be set as Team's assignments.
- You can submit assignments as you complete them on Teams.
- Most homework tasks will be completed in exercise books and ticked off on Teams.
- The more homework you complete, the higher your grades will be.
- Homework is the difference between watching someone score a goal and being able to score one.

Homework

- The feedback on written tasks should allow students to see where they are making progress and how to develop further
- Students are rewarded for homework completion – Positive Points on Arbor
- Other homework will give opportunities for revision, reflection and research
- Homework will be recorded on **TEAMS**: completed, submitted late or incomplete
- Homework club every day after school. But also at lunchtime in R8.

Come along to

Homework Club!

Every day 3:15 – 4:15

In the Library (all year groups allowed upstairs & downstairs).

Come use the computers, printers and resources.

Get help with anything you're unsure about.

Open to **EVERYONE**!

Detentions (R28/R29)

- Missing Homework
- Poor behaviour
- 3 x lates in a week
- 3 x poor uniform in a week
- Teachers can delete homework detentions if the work is done before the detention date.
- All detentions can be completed at lunchtime as well as afterschool in R28 from 1.40pm to 2.00pm.
- Missed detentions are escalated and then to Head's Detention if detention is unresolved.
- Missing Head's Detention will lead to suspension.

Our new House names epitomise humanity at its best and they are local

Teaching Groups

- Last year students were taught in tutor groups and in two separate bands:
  - X band – XS, XT, XW, XY
  - Y band – YS, YT, YW, YY
- They were set for Maths within these bands last academic year and this setting continues
- There has been further setting for English and Modern Languages this year.

Teaching Groups

- Further to this setting, we have moved to Teaching Groups for Year 8
- This means students will no longer be ***taught*** in their tutor groups for any lessons.
- The tutor groups will still exist, and students will keep the same tutor (unless the tutor moves from school) throughout their time
- The tutor is essential at understanding students at an individual level, and they will continue to see students twice a day

Teaching Groups

- However, they are now taught in a Teaching Group and students have been mixed up into new classes
- These classes have been very carefully considered to ensure there is a balance of ability, gender, existing tutor group numbers and other dynamics.
- These teaching groups will be named R,A,N,M,B,D,L,Y
- A large amount of work has gone into these, and they will not be able to change
- There will be new Teaching Groups at the beginning of Year 9, where mixing occurs across the bands.

Key events and dates this half term for whole school

- 8th October - School will close at 12:00 for Open Evening
- 8th October- October Open Evening. Will be asking for student volunteers
- 9th October - INSET day
- 16th October- 2nd November – Half term

Work Together

- We will be available for support throughout the whole year
- Please come to the attendance presentation which we will advertise in a couple of weeks
- Contact Tutors and Heads of Year.

ravenhill.ben@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk as Head of Lower School

malanaphy.michael@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk as Head of Year

simmonds.jay@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk for curriculum matters

info@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk for general enquiries.

Thank you again for the ongoing support

Thank you for coming

www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk