



Dear Parents and Carers,



I am writing to share some important updates and information regarding changes from September 2026. This includes changes to the timings of the school day, building work, new mobile phone rules, new classes and details about a phased return to school in September.

Building work

I am delighted to inform you that the construction work for our new school extension is progressing exactly on schedule. The project is moving forward smoothly, and we are incredibly excited about the modern learning spaces being created for our pupils. In approximately three weeks, we hope to share an update with you featuring photographs of the new classroom.



As the building work enters its final stages, we are preparing to close our offsite provision on Friday 19th June 2026. Our pupils currently attending the offsite provision will be returning to the main Ashley site full-time from **Monday, 22nd June**.



Over the coming months our staff will be working incredibly hard to set up, resource, and prepare the new classrooms. Our priority is to ensure everything is ready for a smooth, seamless start to the new academic year in September.

Restructuring of timings of the school day

After a period of consultation with staff, we have made the decision to restructure the timings of our school day, moving from five to six lessons per day. Central to this change is a shift to 45-minute lessons, which research suggests better supports pupils with complex needs by improving engagement and reducing cognitive overload. This adjustment allows us to increase dedicated teaching time for English and Maths, ensuring better curriculum coverage and higher-quality instruction. Furthermore, "Lesson 4" will be redesignated as "Enrichment," a session overseen by our Leadership Team to focus on personal development, life skills, and wellbeing, maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum for every pupil.

To support these academic changes, we are also refining our pastoral care and daily transitions. While daily pastoral time at the start of the day will be slightly reduced, we are maintaining consistent morning registrations and introducing two dedicated, high-impact pastoral sessions each week. To ensure a calm and organised departure, we are introducing a new 10-minute form session at the end of the day. This provides a structured opportunity for pupils to decompress, address any concerns with staff, and prepare for their journey home, fostering a more positive transition between school and family life.



Success in Partnership

It is important to note that there will be no other changes to our curriculum offer and that the changes that have been made will not impact the start of finishing times of the school day, which will remain at 8:50am start and 3pm finish.

I have attached a copy of the new school day timings to this letter to provide you with a clear, visual breakdown of how these changes will look in practice. We recognise that many of our pupils thrive on predictability and routine, so having the exact start and end times for each lesson will allow you to discuss the new structure with your child and help them prepare for the transition. We will also spend time over the coming months supporting pupils with these changes so that they are fully prepared when they return in September.

Mobile Phones

From September 2026, our school will be transitioning to a mobile-phone-free environment during the school day, in direct alignment with updated government guidance (Mobile Phones in Schools 2026 and KCSIE 2025/26). This policy change is rooted in our commitment to fostering a calm, safe, and focused learning atmosphere.

To facilitate this, secure locked boxes will be provided in every classroom. It is the expectation that any pupil who brings a phone into school must place it in these designated boxes at the beginning of the school day. Devices will remain secure throughout the day and can be collected when students return to their form rooms at the end of the day.

Please note that these updated regulations will apply to all year groups, including 6th Form students, ensuring a consistent standard across the entire school community. We understand that this transition involves logistical changes, particularly regarding pupils who may leave the site during the day. The school will send further communication prior to September to explain exactly how this will be managed for 6th Form pupils during break and lunchtimes.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please do not hesitate to contact the school office who will direct your query to the relevant member of staff.

Phased Return to School in September

As we look forward and begin to plan the new academic year, I am writing to outline the arrangements for our phased return in September. To ensure a smooth transition and allow our newest pupils time to settle into their new routines, we will be staggering the start dates for different year groups.

The schedule for the return to school is as follows:

- **Thursday 3rd September:** Year 7 pupils only
- **Friday 4th September:** Year 7, Year 8, and Year 9 pupils
- **Monday 7th September:** All year groups (Whole School)

This approach is designed to provide our Year 7 students with a dedicated induction period, while allowing staff to support each key stage as they reintegrate into the school environment and become familiar with the new part of the building that will be open from September 2026.

We believe this phased transition will help reduce any potential anxiety and ensure all pupils feel confident and prepared for the year ahead.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to ensure a smooth and successful transition for all our pupils. Your partnership is invaluable in helping them feel settled and prepared for the exciting new opportunities ahead in September.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Diane" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Wilson".

Diane Wilson
Headteacher

Ashley High School - Important Changes from September 2026

New School Building

Construction of our new school extension is on schedule, with modern learning spaces being created for pupils. The offsite provision will close on Friday 19th June 2026, with pupils returning to the main Ashley site full-time from Monday 22nd June.

New School Day Structure

From September, we're moving from five to six lessons per day, with 45-minute lessons. This change will increase teaching time for English and Maths and introduce a new "Enrichment" session focusing on personal development, life skills, and wellbeing.

Important: School times remain unchanged - 8:50am start and 3pm finish. Important Updates There will also be two dedicated pastoral sessions each week and a new 10-minute form session at the end of each day to help pupils prepare for their journey

Mobile Phone Policy

From September 2026, Ashley High School will be mobile-phone-free during the school day. Pupils who bring phones must place them in secure locked boxes in classrooms at the start of the day and collect them at the end of the day. This applies to all year groups, including 6th Form.

Important: Further details about 6th Form arrangements during break and lunch will follow before September.

New Classes

Most pupils will remain in their current class groups. If your child is moving to a different class, their class teacher will contact you directly by telephone. If you don't receive a call, your child is staying in their current class

Phased Return in September

To support a smooth transition:

- **Thursday 3rd September:** Year 7 only
- **Friday 4th September:** Years 7, 8, and 9
- **Monday 7th September:** All year groups return

Ashley High School - The School Day Timings

Time	Period	Duration
8:50 - 9:10	Registration	20 minutes
9:10 - 9:55	Lesson 1	45 minutes
9:55 - 10:35	Lesson 2	40 minutes
10:35 - 10:50	Break	15 minutes
10:50 - 11:35	Lesson 3	45 minutes
11:35 - 12:20	Lesson 4	45 minutes
12:20 - 12:55	Lunch	35 minutes
12:55 - 1:00	Registration	5 minutes
1:00 - 1:20	Enrichment	20 minutes
1:20 - 2:05	Lesson 5	45 minutes
2:05 - 2:50	Lesson 6	45 minutes
2:50 - 3:00	Form Time	10 minutes