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Issue July 2023

www.ashgreenschool.org.uk

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a very busy few months at Ash Green. Overall, I am delighted and extremely encouraged by how the students have responded to new standards and expectations. Equally, both associate staff and teaching staff have responded very well to new systems, processes and expectations too.



As parents, I would also like to express my gratitude for your patience, understanding and support.

If I am honest, I am slightly disappointed that OFSTED have not visited us this side of the summer holidays. Thanks to your continued support and encouragement, and the amazing work undertaken by the staff at Ash Green, we have seen some substantial improvements across key areas. I am by no means implying that we are where we need to be; however, I acknowledge the strong progress that has been made and I am very proud of what the young people of Ash Green school have achieved thus far. I have no doubt OFSTED will be visiting in September/October and they will understand why I am so proud of my students.

Alongside my letter, please find attached a letter from Mr Versey outlining the arrangements for the first week back, and also a letter from Mr Ward the Associate Principal in charge of behaviour with a reminder of uniform and behaviour expectations. I would like to take this opportunity to wish students and parents, a wonderful summer holiday and I look forward to seeing you all when we return in September.

Warmest regards,

Mr F Choudhury



INFORMATION

Key Dates

- A Level Results Day- 17th August 2023
- GCSE Results Day- 24th August 2023

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2023

Tuesday 5th September 2023- Years 7,11 & Sixth Form Return.

Wednesday 6th September 2023 – All students return.

Half term: Monday 30 October 2023 to Friday 3 November 2023

Ends: Friday 22 December 2023

Christmas holiday: Monday 25 December 2023 to Friday 5 January 2024

Spring term 2024

Starts: Monday 8 January 2024 (Teacher Training Day)

Half term: Monday 12 February 2024 to Friday 16 February 2024

Ends: Friday 22 March 2024

Spring (Easter) holiday: Monday 25 March 2024 to Friday 5 April 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Start of Term Dates

Please see the table below with the dates for the start of the Autumn term.

Date of start of term & which students should attend. Tuesday 5th September - Years 7, 11, 12 & 13 only Wednesday 6th September - All year groups

New timings for the school day.

As previously shared, the school day will be extended by 10 minutes in September. Students should arrive to school by 8.30am ready for an 8.40am tutor time as normal. The school day will then end at 3.10pm where students will be dismissed from their tutor bases.

Settings

In addition to the Ofsted key areas of improvement we have been working on further improving the quality of teaching and learning through targeted teacher training, appointing new staff to key roles and investing in more resources. Another key strand of our strategy to improve the educational experience of our students is to reduce groups sizes to offer a more personalised approach in the classroom where possible.

We are pleased to inform you that we have been able to do this in September by increasing the number of classes in each year group. As a direct consequence, there will be a number of set changes which will take place in all subject areas and in tutor time. Subject leaders have reviewed class settings using a combination of teacher guidance and summer assessments to identify the most appropriate groups for your children. These changes will take place over the summer holiday and new timetables will be distributed in the Autumn term.



Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for your continuing support, patience and understanding during, what has been, an extremely busy summer term.

During the summer term we have instigated a number of behavioural policies to reduce truancy, reduce disruption to lessons and improve the quality of learning across the school. Since then, we have seen a dramatic reduction in the number of students being referred to 'Reflection'; a large reduction in the volume of internal truancy and ultimately a significant reduction in the number of suspensions. Teachers have reported improved behaviour and engagement leading to improved progress and attainment.

Alongside our behaviour system changes, we have also introduced a new merit system with a promotion of positive behaviour. We will be developing this further in the autumn term, with an additional emphasis on continuing to build positive relationships in the classroom and beyond, rewards and further improving and developing our systems for reporting bullying and discrimination.

Students in years 7-9 have all restarted line ups in the morning and we will continue with these in September. This is an opportunity to make sure students are well prepared for a positive start to the day and have the correct uniform and equipment to be successful. Students in year 11 and will have academic study sessions during their tutor time.

One area which we will be continuing to work on is student uniform. Uniform plays a key role in promoting pride, self-confidence, and a feeling of belonging within the school. This in turn contributes to students' wellbeing and removes the additional pressures of deciding what to wear. We have made some temporary allowances this term during our drive on standards. However, from September, uniform and appearance must be perfect. If students are not in correct uniform, they will need to attend Reflection until it is resolved. Hair, nails and jewellery must also meet the expectations of the academy Behaviour for Learning Policy.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of the expectations for uniform and appearance in the academy. This is taken directly from the academy Behaviour for Learning Policy:

F) Uniform and appearance

Students are expected to be in full uniform when they attend the academy.

The academy uniform expectation is as follows:

Uniform Expectation	Items not permitted
Blazer	Hooded sweatshirts are not permitted. Students found to be wearing these will be asked to hand them in. They will be returned at the end of the school day.
White button up shirt	
Tie	
Black, tailored trousers	Leggings, yoga pants, jeans/denim and sweatpants are not permitted
Black skirt	non-fitted/non stretchy fabric. No shorter than to the knee.
Traditional school shoes which are made of a polishable material such as leather	Trainers are not permitted. This includes black trainers. Brands such as Nike, Adidas, Puma, Reebok, Converse etc are not permitted.

Students are permitted to wear a school jumper if required.

If you are concerned regarding uniform or need support in purchasing missing items, please contact your relevant Pastoral Manager who will be able to support you further.



Hair

Students should not arrive to school with extreme non-natural hair colours. Where a student does attend the academy with dyed hair, it will be at the discretion of the Principal to decide if it is appropriate or not.

Jewellery

Students may wear a necklace which should be worn under uniform and may wear a watch. These will need to be removed during PE lessons.

The following piercings are acceptable:

- A set of plain, ear studs, a maximum of one in each ear.
- A plain stud in the nose.

Any jewellery worn outside of the above will be deemed a uniform infringement and failure to remove it will lead to further sanctions.

Nails

False nails are unacceptable and present a health and safety risk within the academy. Students should not wear any kind of nail varnish whilst attending the academy. If students arrive to the academy with nail varnish or false nails, they will be given an opportunity to rectify the situation. Refusal to remove will be viewed as a uniform infringement and may lead to further sanctions.



With support from Mr Choudhury, we have purchased a number of items of uniform which we will hold in school. If you are in a position where you need support surrounding particular items or need financial support surrounding unform, please contact the school.

Have a fantastic and restful summer break.

Steve Ward

Associate Principal

Uniform shop (Blazers/ties/PE Kit/ school branded skirts)- Cat Ballou: https://www.catballou.co.uk/product-category/schools/ash-green/

Below are some links for affordable items of uniform:

Shoes	Shirts	Skirts	Trousers
Boys shoes-	White Shirts-	Skirts- Matalan	Girls trousers-
<u>Shoezone</u>	ASDA	Skirts- ASDA	<u>Sainsburys</u>
Boys shoes-	White shirts-		Girls trousers-
<u>ASDA</u>	<u>ASDA</u>		<u>Sainsburys</u>
Girls shoes-			Girls trousers-
<u>Shoezone</u>			<u>Sainsburys</u>
Girl shoes-			
<u>Shoezone</u>			
Girls Shoes-			
ASDA			

The attendance team are excited to announce the rewards programme we have planned for students' return in September. This is following our very successful rewards programme that was launched by our new attendance team.

So far this year students have been rewarded in the following ways:

- Fantastic Fridays saw students in each year group win a variety of prizes including sweet treats, queue jump passes, ice creams and more!
- Each week the tutor group with the best attendance were celebrated in assembly with trophies and chocolates
- The top two placing tutor groups in the attendance league table were entered into a prize draw to win Apple iPads. 4 iPads have already been won!
- Students with significantly improved attendance were entered into a prize draw to win a £100 voucher to share with their families. We thank all parents and carers for helping to improve attendance and we are pleased to announce that 4 families have already won the £100 voucher.

September 2023 will see even more fantastic rewards!!

Students can look forward to the following:

- Fantastic Fridays
- Weekly tutor group rewards for the best attendance
- Half termly tutor group prizes for placing at the top of the league table
- Students with 100% attendance will be reward each half term
- Most improved attendance prize draws each half term

NEW TO ASH GREEN SCHOOL – THE SEPTEMBER 100 CLUB

- For all students who are present in school every day in September you will be rewarded with an afternoon movie and treats.
- Student voice students have voted for the return of the Golden ticket it is back!



ATTENDANCE NEWS





BREAKFAST CLUB

Great news the breakfast allowance for our student who receive free school meals has increased from £1 to £1.40.



It's Breakfast Time

The breakfast allowance for our students who receive free school meals has increased to £1.40

Available between 08:15 and 08:30 each morning



SIXTH FORM

It has been an eventful final half term in Sixth Form.

Firstly, we have welcomed many Year 11 students back on Thursday 6th July for the Year 11 into 12 induction day, where students were able to experience taster lessons in a variety of our A-Level subjects. The day was a great success and we are looking forward to welcoming the new intake of Year 12 in September, wishing all Year 11 students the best of luck with their exam results on the 24th August.

In addition to the induction day, our current Year 12 students carried out their work experience week last week. We had students placed in a variety of work places from primary schools and secondary schools to pharmacies and the National Grid. The feedback we have had from students about their experiences during the week has been overwhelmingly positive and many of the students have had the opportunity to develop essential employability skills during this time.

Finally, the Year 13 prom also took place on Friday 7th July. A wonderful night was enjoyed by all students who all looked fabulous in their formal attire. It was the perfect way to celebrate all their hard work during their time at Ash Green





GOLF FUTURES

This term we were invited to take part in the 'Golf Futures' programme, organised by the European Tour Group.

The event was held in line with the British Masters Golf Tournament that was held at the Belfry Golf Course at the end of June.

There were two parts to the programme. The first aspect involved 20 students from year 10 completing an in school session in



which they learnt about key skills required for working within the Golf Industry and the wide range of careers in the Golf Industry. This was followed up on Friday 30th June, with the group of students invited to attend a 'Behind the scenes' tour of the British Masters event at the Belfry Golf course.

At the event, they had the opportunity to meet with leading industry experts and see how a World renowned sporting event is organized.

As always, our students represented Ash Green superbly. Alec Scott, Sustainability Project Manager from the European Tour Group said "your students were brilliant and represented your school in the best way possible. Their mannerisms and respect for the Tournament and our staff were welcoming. We hope they found the experience insightful, and maybe one day, we might see them working in the golf industry..."





WOODLANDS

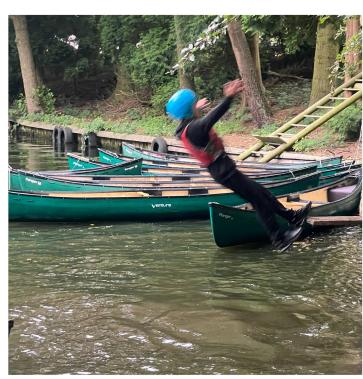
The main summer trip for KS3 that has been enjoyed in July featured our Year 7, 8 & 9 pupils, who headed to the Woodlands camp to take part in their Outward Bound residential!

Our students take part in Woodlands camp every year, and it gives them the opportunity to take part in lots of fun individual and team bonding exercises and activities. On the agenda this year included the infamous 'Zip wire', climbing and abseiling, Canoeing, Bush Crafts, Camp fires, Mr Conway's BBQ and more; our students even found the time to complete Miss Howe famous quiz.

This was a truly fantastic trip, and we look forward to even more amazing trips next year.







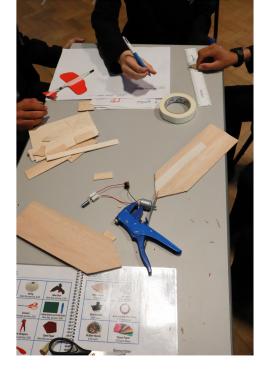


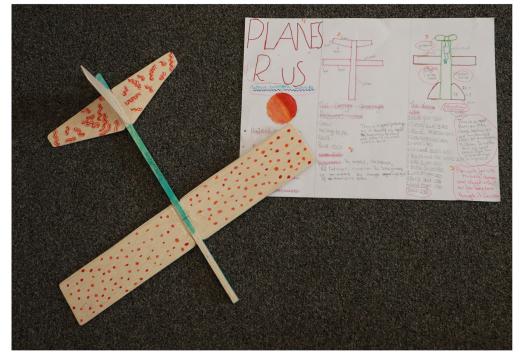
STEM WORKSHOP

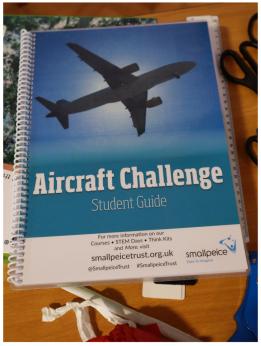
Year 9 were given a fantastic opportunity to work with an amazing company called Smallpiece. They researched, designed, and built their own small aircraft. They all worked in groups of 6 to complete the project. The students had a great time showing their individuality and team work to construct the model Aeroplane.

Many had used equipment they had not used before. What started in the morning with pencils and paper became a fully working model of a light weight aeroplane made from Balsa wood.

In the afternoon all of the students took their aircrafts to the skies as they tested their design and building skills.







We definitely discovered a few engineers and designers during the day. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

MENTAL HEALTH NEWS

Young Carers

This half term we have met with the young carers to create a young carers charter and discuss the activities they would like to complete next year. Some examples of activities requested by our students are art sessions, various sports, movie afternoons, and games. We offer half termly YC club where we offer enrichment activities during school time. We also work closely with carers trust and Warwickshire young carers to ensure that students can get additional support in place.

Mental Health Support

We have been able to offer a range of mental health support for our students, to help them develop their own strategies to help deal with their mental health and provide opportunity to discuss their thoughts with others in similar situations. We have been able to achieve this through our successful implementation of the KS3 and KS4 Pathways sessions and our Routes sessions in SF2. During this session, the students have engaged in group discussions, watched helpful videos and presentations and have been part of sessions ran by the Mental Health in Schools team (MHST) and Compass.

As a school, we also have mental health ambassadors who have led in delivering the peer education project. This is an initiative from the Mental Health Foundation. In the Autumn term, we will be continuing with their training and widening the support that can be offered to peers. The Mental Health in School Team also delivered two workshops to support parent carers around students' mental health and strategies that could be used in the home. Ash Green School celebrated Mental Health Awareness week with tutor time activities, assemblies and wellbeing strategies for staff.



CRAIG TRACEY MP VISIT

In May some of our students had the opportunity to meet Craig Tracey MP for North Warwickshire and Bedworth.

The students were able to discuss with him ideas for the local area. This included the need for a crossing on Ash Green Lane.

Since then we have had a response from his office to say that he has raised the issues with our local councilor and county council.









STUDENT PARLIAMENT

Our student parliament have been superb this year in actively engaging with the development of the whole school community. Their input is highly valued, with a selection of our student parliament representatives seizing the opportunity to present to the senior leadership team on Monday 17th July. At the meeting, the students shared a summary of the impact they have had in school life this year. This has included organising the winter ball for year 7 and 8 in December, providing student voice on the development of the anti-bullying strategy, working with the leadership team on the school assembly programme, conducting site walks with the leadership team to give feedback on ways to improve the school environment, involvement in wider committees such as the Eco schools and Diversity Committees and working together to produce the road safety campaign that was shared with Craig Tracey MP. The student Parliament representative also informed SLT of the areas of school life they wish to have impact on next year. In addition, they provided SLT with a list of actions they wanted from us, as representative of the student body.



They had some fantastic ideas that we are certainly going to develop next year including the student parliament having termly opportunities to lead assemblies as well as having surgery consultations with students weekly.



DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

This week about 30 pupils from years 7-13 met in the Community Theatre for a meeting of the Diversity Committee. The Diversity Committee is ran by Dr Sumner and Miss Harrison and focuses on raising awareness of diversity and promoting respect for all aspects of diversity in Ash Green and the wider community. In the meeting we started planning for a diversity day for September and the pupils had fantastic ideas including a poetry competition, different food stalls, creating art work and wearing cultural clothing. In addition to this, on the 18th July all lessons had a focus on diversity with pupils learning about people from diverse backgrounds who had an impact in subjects like History, Science, Drama etc. who they might not have heard of before. We are always looking for more members of the Diversity Committee and it would be great to have more pupils join in September to get involved in organising our next diversity day.

If you want any more information then see Dr Sumner or Miss Harrison.





SPORTS DAY

On Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th July 2023, the AGS community came together to take part in the annual AGS School Sports Day. This event has now been an end of year tradition for the past 11 years and continues to be one that the whole school looks forward to.

The two days of competition included a softball and rounders tournament, a tug of war tournament, a penalty shoot tournament and traditional athletic track and field events.

Each form in Years 7, 8 and 9 chose their own teams to represent themselves across all the events on offer, in a battle of form versus form in each Year group.

As always, every form was incredibly well-represented in each event and a strong team spirit and camaraderie was evident amongst all teams and their supporters. The event culminated with the track events and competition finals on Tuesday afternoon, with those competing being spurred on by the rest of the school who were out spectating and cheering on their form's athletes.

A bonus to the afternoon track and final events was seeing some of our AGS staff compete in a selection of events in front of the school.

Over the two days of competition, the standard of competition was extremely high with many close results and outstanding performances being witnessed.





SPORTS DAY

As always, this event shows how the school can come together to support each other and enjoy the role that sport has in our community.

A massive thank you to all the staff that helped out on the days and competed.

An even bigger thank you to the PE staff that organised and ran this huge event over the two days – it could not be dome without your dedication to sport and providing opportunities like this for our school community.

The biggest thank you goes, however, to the pupils. To all the pupils that put themselves forward to compete for their forms, to all the pupils that went out and put in 100% into their performances, to all the pupils that supported their teammates during every event and to all the pupils that watched and shouted their words of encouragement and support to those representing their forms. Sports Day would not be so successfully without all your efforts.



The results were as follows

	<u>Year 7</u>	<u>Points</u>		Year 8	<u>Points</u>		Year 9	<u>Points</u>
1st	7E	63	1st	8F	70	1st	9B	71
2nd	7G	58	2nd	8E	65	2nd	9C	59
3rd	7A	55	3rd	8C	59	2nd	9E	59
4th	7D	47	4th	8A	57	4th	9F	56
4th	7F	47	5th	8G	54	5th	9G	55
6th	7B	42	6th	8D	52	6th	9A	39



HOLOCAUST TALK

In June all Year 9 pupils had the privilege of listening to the testimony of Holocaust survivor Paul Sved. They have spent the Spring Term learning about World War Two and the Holocaust, which has focused on the importance of individual stories in countries affected by the Holocaust. Paul Sved was a young boy living in Hungary during the Nazi invasion and gave a powerful testimony of his experience of persecution and confusion during the latter years of World War Two.

He described the kindness of family and friends helping him and his mother hide from the Nazis and his experience of moving to Britain as a young man.





This was followed by a question and answer session. The Year 9 pupils asked Paul fascinating questions which displayed their in depth knowledge of World War Two and Paul exclaimed how impressed he was with the conduct and knowledge of the Year 9 pupils at Ash Green.



COMMUNITY GARDEN





ART SHOWCASE

On the evening of Tuesday 27th June

The Creative Arts Team hosted the annual 'End of Year Arts Showcase' The evening is designed to celebrate the hard

work of our Students in Key Stage 3,4 and 5.

There was a range of Art and Graphics work on display, tasty sweet treats made by our Catering and Hospitality Students and engaging performances by our Drama, Music and Dance Students.

The evening was a huge success with parents and guardians coming to support our Students. We also had Student Ambassadors supporting and we would like to say a huge thank you to those wonderful Students for helping out.

Thank you to everyone that came along and who have complimented our Student's on their efforts this year, their hard work being acknowledged and celebrated is paramount to us as a Team.









FIELDTRIP TO HUNSTANTON

On Monday 17th July, Year 10 Geography students carried out their first GCSE fieldwork in Hunstanton. After a long journey, we arrived to blue skies, perfect for a day of fieldwork on the beach. The aim of the day was to investigate the coastal processes at action along the Hunstanton coast, and how the coastal defence methods effect these processes. After splitting off into smaller groups, we set off to start our investigation, completing a range of fieldwork techniques including beach profiling, sediment profiling and measuring the height difference on either side of the groynes. Data collection was going well until the blue sky became grey, the wind picked up and rain began.

A quick dash for cover and an early lunch of traditional fish, chips and ice creams, and before we knew it the sky was blue again.





The groups switched around and moved onto another section of the coast to complete a second data collection, looking for similarities and differences in the data they were collecting and giving everyone a go at the different techniques we were using. A successful day, with a wide range of data collected, and a chance to see the coastal processes and defences we've been studying in class first hand. We will be presenting and interpreting the data on our return to school in September, to support students, along with their human geography fieldwork later in the Autumn term, for their Paper 3 examnext summer.





With schools closed over the summer, families may be looking for things to do to keep children busy, healthy and safe.

This Warwickshire County Council guide offers advice along with information about getting ready to go back to school.

Family Information Service

For activities, financial support, and more, get in touch 0800 408 1558

warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies

Stay up to date with the latest news to help you and your family warwickshire.gov.uk/parentupdates

Early help

For specific parenting support, call 01926 412412



Free food and activities for benefits eligible families warwickshire.gov.uk/haf













BE HEALTH





Food and drink

To support childhood development, healthy eating should start as early as possible to help create a long-lasting positive approach to nutritious foods.

Try cooking together and include the following tips through the week:

- Aim to eat at least five portions of a variety of fruit and veg each day. Fresh, frozen, tinned, dried or juiced all count.
- Choose higher fibre or wholegrain foods. such as wholewheat pasta and brown rice, or leave the skins on potatoes.
- Include beans, pulses, fish, eggs and meat as they are sources of protein, vitamins and minerals.
- · Milk, cheese, plain yoghurt and dairy alternatives offer protein, some vitamins and calcium, to keep our bones healthy.

School meals

- Healthy and convenient for families.
- Free for children up to Year 2.
- Always free for eligible families.

Check and apply at warwickshire.gov.uk/fsm

Keep kids safe online

To help keep children safe online, know what they are looking at, talk to them about what they do online and block inappropriate content.



warwickshire.gov.uk/cybersafety

Keep active

Physical activity each day is good for your child's health and wellbeing and may reduce risk of health problems later in life.

Outdoor activity ideas:

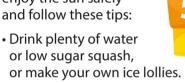
- Visit a Warwickshire Country Park and go on a nature hunt.
- Set an obstacle course outside or in the garden, see if you can beat your own time.
- Go for a walk and collect items for a homemade potion, such as leaves, sticks and grass.
- Check out local holiday clubs warwickshire.gov.uk/ childrenandfamilies



BE SAFE SIMMER TIMES

Sun safety

Long sunny days can be great fun and a good excuse to play outside. Make sure you enjoy the sun safely and follow these tips:



- Make sure sunscreen is at least factor 30, not past its expiry date and applied regularly when outdoors.
- Avoid physical exertion and being in direct sunlight in the hottest parts of the day.
- Take lots of water with you if you are travelling.
- Never leave children or animals alone in a closed, parked vehicle.

Stay cool indoors:

Close curtains on rooms that face the sun to keep indoor spaces cooler.



Water safety

If you're heading to the beach, the pool, or will be around water, be aware of potential risks and keep you and your family safe:

- Visit a lifeguard beach stay between the red-and-yellow flags.
 A plain red flag means it is too dangerous to go into the water.
- Stay away from cliff edges to avoid falls and in case they collapse. Keep all dogs on leads and stick to marked footpaths.
- An inflatable toy or airbed can be easily swept out to sea by the current or wind. Keep them for the pool, not the beach.

 Open bodies of water are colder than you think and the shock can affect your ability to swim to safety so take extreme care.

 Be water safe at home by emptying paddling pools after use and make sure children can't access water without parental quidance.

BE SEPTEMBER



Advice to help prepare for the new school year, or a new school:

• Get ready as early as possible. Pick up new or used uniform and equipment and know where to go and what to expect to make it easier on the first day of term. If your child will be moving schools or will be old enough to get to school by themselves make sure you've practised a safe route and know how long it takes to get there.



- If your child has talked about feeling anxious about going to school, take time over the summer to talk through their worries or concerns, focus on things they like about school and make a plan for September.
- If you or your child need any further help, support, advice or guidance contact school and make an appointment with a member of staff as soon as you can.
- Ensure your child's vaccinations are up to date ahead of the new school year warwickshire.gov.uk/vaccinations

Information to help prepare to start or move schools is online at warwickshire.gov.uk/transitions

Get the best out of education Regular attendance is important. warwickshire.gov.uk/ attendingschool

Special Educational Needs and/ or Disabilities (SEND) support

Lots of local information and support for families and young people aged 0-25 with SEND can be found at warwickshire.gov.uk/send

Looking out for others

The young and the old and those with underlying health conditions are more vulnerable in hot weather. Keep an eye on loved ones and neighbours by:

- Checking in on them regularly.
- Making sure they are staying hydrated with plenty of fluids.
- Supporting them to keep their house as cool as possible.
- Making sure you share contact details, in case of emergency.