

Lordswood News

A Letter From The Headteacher



Dear Parents,

I cannot believe that it is nearly Christmas! I have been at Lordswood Girls' School for a whole term, and what a term it has been!

The removal of 'bubbles' has enabled students to move around the school again - this has been welcomed by all members of the school community. It has been lovely to see extra curricular activities return to the school, as well as breakfast club and school trips. The relaxing of measures has meant that we have been able to host two successful open evenings, a school play, two PSHE days, a post 16 taster day, numerous trips and so much more.

Although some normality has resumed, sadly COVID is still very much affecting the day to day functioning of the school. As you will be aware, masks have been reintroduced in communal areas of the school and we are still seeing numerous positive COVID cases each week. I have been very proud of how students have handled these challenges.

As you will be aware, we are unfortunately having to stagger the start of the Spring Term to allow all students to undertake a Lateral Flow Test before allowing year groups to mix. Please check the table below for your daughters' return date:

Monday 3rd January	Bank holiday
Tuesday 4th January	Year 11 and Year 13 students return to school
Wednesday 5th January	Year 10 and Year 12 students return to school
Thursday 6th January	Year 8 and Year 9 students return to school
Friday 7th January	Year 7 students return to school


We do not want students' education to be adversely affected by this staggered start to the term and as such will expect all students to engage with online learning during this week. More information can be found on the parental bulletin.

As our thoughts turn to the new year, we would like to wish Miss Millward, Miss Rafique, Mr Dickinson, Mrs Ling and Ms Johal all the best in their new roles when they leave the academy at the end of term. We would also like to welcome Dr Tattersall to the school - she joined the Health and Social Care team at the start of December and has already made a fantastic impression on our students..

I would like to thank the parents and local residents who contributed to the consultation on the proposed merger with the King Edward VI Trust. The responses were overwhelmingly positive and hope that the proposal is accepted by the Headteachers' board in the near future. I am meeting with the trust on a regular basis and will share information as it becomes available.

I would like to thank the staff, students and parents for making me feel so welcome this term and look forward to working with more of you in the future.

Your sincerely,


Mrs Kerry Cooney
Headteacher

School Council

The School Council certainly started the year as they mean to go on wasting no time in getting to work on issues raised by their peers!

In November all members of the Council met with Nigel, our head chef, and Aisha, from the catering company Aspens, who provide the canteen provision. Reps came well prepared with questions gathered from their review groups and they grilled Nigel and Aisha on all aspects of the canteen and food. Both Nigel and Aisha left the meeting with pages of notes and have agreed to come back in the spring term to let the Reps know what actions have been taken in response to the Council members' questions.

In light of the news that Lordswood might be joining the King Edward VI Foundation Trust, Council Reps were asked to speak to their classmates about the possibility of a change to the school uniform. Reps compiled lists full of suggestions from students about what their ideal uniform would look like; there were some very imaginative ideas including hats and a new Lordswood tartan! There will be more to follow on this in the new year.

Yet again, fundraising has demonstrated the true generosity and kindness of the school community and the Council has hosted three very successful events. On 22nd October, £874.09 was raised for Breast Cancer Now's Wear It Pink campaign. 19th November saw Children in Need day and the school community came together yet again to raise £753.79. Finally, on 10th December the Council hosted a Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children and a magnificent £539.97 brought the autumn term fundraising total to £2167.85! This total is utterly fantastic and the Council would like to thank everyone who donated to any of the causes for their generosity in these very challenging times.

Looking forward to the spring term, the Council is going to focus on green and eco projects. The recycling scheme which was successful in pre-Covid times will be reinstated and Reps would also like to start a drive to encourage staff and students to try and reduce energy wastage by turning off equipment and lights after use. They would also like to see a reduction in unnecessary printing and photocopying.

Over the course of the autumn term, each year group had their first Headteacher's Question Time session. All sorts of questions were put to Mrs Cooney and her panel, such as how the school promotes and celebrates the LGBTQ+ community and questions regarding GCSE options. Quite a few of the questions were for Mrs Cooney as students get to know their new Headteacher! The sessions went very well and both students and staff enjoyed them and found them useful. The next session will be for Year 11 on Tuesday 18th January. If you would like to read more, notes from these sessions can be found at <http://lordswoodgirls.co.uk/question-time-minutes>.

In summary it has been a pretty jam packed autumn term! The Council would like to thank all parents and carers for supporting their work and, in particular, for their generosity on charity fundraising days.

From the School Council, we wish you a very happy holiday!

Mrs Riley

Year 7

I would like to congratulate all of our Year 7 students for settling in so well at Lordswood since September. Our new Year 7s have excelled both in their academic studies and in developing as mature, organised and independent young people. I hope you all have a good rest and enjoy spending time with your families over the festive period. A very Happy Christmas to you all."

Well done to the following students for excelling in their academic studies in the autumn term:

Phoebe 7D	Esme 7R
Tia 7D	Sonia 7R
Alina 7G	Anna 7S
Boveeva 7G	Kim 7S
Favan 7L	Catherine 7W
Hannah 7L	Amber 7W

Mrs Peniket

Years 8 & 9

It has been such a busy term, I can't believe it is already Christmas. I am really pleased to see that within Year 8 and 9, attendance is high and that many of you have taken an active role in extra curricular activities such as the football club, netball club and the school play. Some of you have had to isolate and work from home, taking it in your stride to ensure you don't fall behind; you should be congratulated for your dedication to your education.

When we return to school, Year 9 will be starting options conversations and Year 9 assessments. Year 8 will be setting targets in order to improve their previous assessment results.

I hope that you take some time to relax and enjoy time with friends and family this holiday, making sure you keep yourself safe. Have a wonderful Christmas, eat lots of chocolate and watch the odd Christmas film. Christmas blessings, Ms Briggs.

Our achievement awards go to:

Sara and Sehasa 8D
Favour and Sophie 8G
Urwa and Una 8L
Breanna and Isabella 8R
Bella and Emily 8S
Tea and Annmaria 8W

Kardi and Hannah 9D
Norabel and Maria 9G
Narjes and Georgina 9L
Niamh and Rianna 9R
Tayliah and Connie 9S
Ruby and Jasmin 9W

Miss Briggs

Years 10 & 11

Year 10

I am proud of the way that you have approached their first term as Year 10 students. As I said in the first assembly back in September, the harder students work this year, the easier it will be when they sit their GCSEs in Year 11 – and almost all of them have taken this advice on board.

It has been great to see so many Year 10 students getting involved in various extra-curricular clubs and activities: several of them are key players for our school football and netball teams, some of them have produced brilliant writing for the 'Loudspeaker' magazine and others were involved in the school production. I have been so impressed by their attitude and I hope they enjoy a well-deserved rest over the next few weeks. Have a lovely holiday, and I look forward to welcoming Year 10 all back in January, refreshed and ready to go!

Year 11

Well, what a crazy term it has been for Year 11! But amidst the chaos, they have been wonderful role models for the younger students in our school. They are an amazing year group. I've been so impressed by how full the study room has been every lunchtime, although I hope that students rest and relax over the next few weeks – remember, that's just as important as hard work! Not only am I proud of their excellent attitude this term, but I have also found it very pleasing to see so many Year 11 students getting involved in extra-curricular activities, with many of them featuring in the school's sports teams and publishing work in our 'Loudspeaker' magazine. Mock exams are over, and they handled that stress with remarkable calmness and maturity – well done. Huge congratulations, too, must go to our Head Girl, Rose, and Deputy Head Girls, Aliyyah and Molly. Have a wonderful holiday and enjoy some well-earned rest!

Mr Goetschel

Drama Roundup

Students would like to share some experiences from drama this term.

Key Stage 3 Lessons

In my drama lessons we've been studying Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman. I especially enjoy the classes where the teacher gives us a section of the script from the play which we get to act out, as this tests my acting skills and shows me where I need to improve. It also allows me to recognise my strong points which I can then build on.

Mei

In Drama this year we have been focusing on the 'Woman in Black' a gothic novel written by Susan Hill; it was first published in the 1980s and based around a lawyer Mr Kipps, who travels to Crythin Gifford to deal with the files of a deceased client. While organising the files in the house of the deceased client he finds himself being followed by a mysterious figure. In Drama we have been focusing on climax and anti-climax situations, climax being a build up of suspense to a moment where a large/ surprising event occurs and anti-climax being a build up of suspense that then flows back to the story without a large event to surprise the audience; this was through a practical piece, in which we focused on the behaviour of the toys in Nathaniel's nursery. We have also attempted a movement sequence, which is a series of movements usually without any dialogue between the actors. We haven't only focused on practical side of drama but also the design side of Drama, we had to design a set in which was practical but also intricate. My favourite activity we have completed in Drama is the anti-climax and climax activity in which we had to create a scene in which the toys in Nathaniel's nursery turn to life. I enjoyed exploring the ways to portray toys and then adapting them to suit the scene in Nathaniel's nursery.

Jaiya

Recently in drama we have been learning about The Women in Black which is a stage play adapted from the novel written by Susan Hills. The Woman in Black is set in 1900s and is a gothic horror novel. The plot is about a man named Arthur Kipps, a solicitor who goes to a small town of Crythin Gifford to attend Alice Drablows funeral. My favourite lesson was where we had to rehearse our performances for playing a child's toy and creating the movement of a child's toy. This was my favourite lesson because I liked having to make the toy I played scary for Mr. Kipps when he entered the nursery to create lots of tension. However I didn't like recording them!

Laila

Year 11 GCSE Drama Component 1 Examination

Despite all of the challenges we have faced during their GCSE course so far, Year 11 Drama students have performed their component 1 devised pieces in front of a small audience in their class.

Asiyah has shared her thoughts below:

I enjoyed performing in front of a live audience and it was an unusual feeling because we hadn't done it in so long. It went quite well as a whole but there were just some struggles with the costume and some scenes could have been smoother if we had rehearsed more. Overall I'm happy with the result and I believe the audience enjoyed it as we had a lot of positive feedback. Hearing people liking that scene was really reassuring.

Asiyah

'Blood Brothers' at the Birmingham Hippodrome

Drama students in years 10 and 11 had their first trip to the theatre since Covid. As part of their course they are required to watch and write about live theatre. A trip to see 'Blood Brothers' is always special, but even more so when it's been something we haven't been able to do for such a long time. Below are some students' reflections on the evening:

Seeing 'Blood Brothers' in theatre was incredible. It was so moving to be back in the theatre and seeing 'Blood Brother' made it even more sensational. What I enjoyed the most was seeing Mickey and Eddie as children because the actors portrayed them in a very comedic way. The childlike energy created a light atmosphere for the audience and when Mickey and Eddie grew up to become adults, it made me feel like I was growing with them. It was an excellent production and I couldn't have asked for a better performance to watch as I returned to the theatre.

Molly

I liked how they portrayed the themes of class in the play, especially how the difference between the main characters became more prominent as they grew up. Also, I felt more involved in the show with it being live and in person. Being back in the theatre made the experience more engaging being in the audience watching the performance was better than watching something on a screen by myself.

Evie

GCSE 'Blood Brothers' workshop with the Birmingham Conservatoire

Being part of the Birmingham Hippodrome Education network, we were lucky enough to have some students from the Birmingham Conservatoire come in to deliver a practical workshop. The workshop was based on the students recent visit to see the musical 'Blood Brothers.' Students had a lot of fun working alongside the practitioners exploring character motivation to aid them in their final Summer Examinations.

The entire experience of the "Blood Brothers" workshop was incredibly exciting, especially because of how long it had been since I had last watched a piece of live theatre in person. Because of how little I knew about the plot of "Blood Brothers" it made watching the piece feel more engaging as throughout the piece I could feel myself analysing every moment in order to predict how the story would unfold. One of my favourite moments was the scene where the two characters (Mickey and Eddie) meet for the first time after being separated at birth. The entire scene was filled with comedic moments and genuine chemistry between the two actors which had set a nice tone for the play and also allowed myself and presumably the other members of the audience to relax slightly as the play moved to a more sinister tone.

The workshop was not just fun but also made me reflect on how I would devise pieces of drama in the future. It reminded me of how important smaller details are when devising a piece of drama as those small details, in my opinion, really brings a piece to life. Overall, I felt that the workshop was a really positive experience in both entertainment and reminding me of aspects of drama (like motifs) that I could incorporate into my own work.

Tiffany

I enjoyed interpreting the script in many ways and the way we were instructed to read the script differently each time. I also enjoyed the game we played, as it helped us with our concentration skills and to work together.

Lily

Mrs Swallow and I are so proud of the cast and crew of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. They have all been fantastic. What started off as over 150 students who signed up to be involved, we ended the performance on Friday 10th December with a brilliant group of students who have been dedicating their free time to the creation of the play since October. A massive well done to all those behind the scene making and sourcing set and costume, and the front of house who make tickets and programmes. A huge shout out to our main cast who did an awesome job, in particular Neve who covered the part of Lucy at the last minute and smashed it! We all hope that our original Lucy is feeling better and we missed you greatly. Thank you to all the staff who helped and supported the students, especially Miss Delaney who worked with the costume and set departments each week.

We hope you all enjoyed the process and made some new friends along the way.



'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'

It has been an amazing experience playing one of the main roles (Edmund) because when I first saw my name on the board, I was ecstatic. It has also helped me overcome my anxiety and boost my confidence. Not only has it been great playing the role of Edmund, but I have also been able to socialise with other people in different year groups. It has been amazing seeing the cast perform, as well as sharing laughs with them. They are all so lovely, funny and amazing at drama. It has been a hell of a ride, especially for Ms Briggs! Overall it has all been worth it and if I could do it again I would.

Maya

Goings On in Science

Year 8 Practical Day

In September the Science Department ran a very successful practical day for Year 8 students. We ran four different practical activities to build on their previous learning which were:

- Lighting a Bunsen burner and heating water
- Making red cabbage indicator and testing pH of solutions
- Microscopes - Making an onion cell slide and using the bioviewers
- Testing the friction of different types of surfaces

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by the science staff and most importantly the Year 8 students.

Salter's Online Chemistry Club

Salter's Online Chemistry Club was launched in September with Years 7-9. We have had a really good uptake from students who can access weekly chemistry videos, fact files and quizzes. Check your science google classroom for the link to join.

A-level Physics Challenge

Our Year 13 physicists battled with the very challenging Physics Olympiad. Our entries have been submitted to the examiners for marking and if our students make it through to the next round then they have a chance to win some pretty amazing prizes including a fully paid trip abroad.

A-level Psychology Trip

Year 13 psychology students were involved in a University Masterclass on the topic of Gender and Crime. They were tasked with specifically creating a programme for year 9 boys to tackle the rising level of sexual harassment and violence against women. This session developed their critical thinking skills in discussing the objectives and focus for the programme. They then had to debate the key issues and formulate a programme which could be delivered in schools in the West Midlands. Students worked alongside university lecturers and students from other schools to share their ideas. The students were praised by the university as being exceptional.

What have students been studying this half term?

Year 7 students completed their induction to science and have had fun learning about Cells and Movement, Light and Sound and Elements and Mixtures.

Year 8 students have enjoyed learning about Breathing and Digestion, Gravity and the Earth and Properties of Waves and their Effects.

Year 9 students have started their GCSE content with Cells, Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table and The Particle Model of Matter.

Year 10 students have studied Quantitative Chemistry, Energy, Bioenergetics and Chemical Changes.

Year 11 students had some time to catch up on their practical skills at the start of the year and then have studied the topics Atmosphere and Ecology before revising for their mock examinations.

Sharing Good Practice in PSHEe

As coordinator of PSHEe, I was delighted to be involved in filming some training material for future teachers of PSHEe with the NSPCC recently. This involved being interviewed about the PSHE programme, how it is delivered in our school and advice for those delivering sensitive topics.

Mrs Yorke



Fabulous Football

Years 7-8 Football

I joined the football club when I started Lordswood in year 7. I have made lots of progress since, which has helped me have some amazing opportunities to play matches and learn lots of new things.

The coaches from West Bromwich Albion as well as the sixth form students, Natasha and Nour, have helped me and the team improve a lot more since we started. Playing for the team has opened so many opportunities for us all to be a lot more active and social after school. The coaches have taught us a lot of skills including spacing, shooting, passing and dribbling which has helped us improve a lot. These skills have helped us to develop in matches also.

In our first match we didn't have a great result with a 12-1 loss against Bishop Challoner in the league and an 8-0 loss to Stratford School in the English Schools FA Cup but after applying these skills to matches we have been getting much better scores with a 6-0 win against Balaam Wood in the league and a 4-3 win against Archbishop Ilsley also in the league.

The football club is open to everyone, no matter your ability and there have been 20 different players from years 7 and 8 who have played in our matches this year, so if you want to join in then come along!

Caitlin

Years 9-11 Football

Our football club has been successful this term with our matches both home and away. At the time of writing, Lordswood Girls' School is second in the Kings Norton and South Birmingham Under 15s Girls Premier A League. This is a massive accomplishment for our team and also the school.

Our league campaign opened with a closely contested and competitive match against Bishop Challoner which resulted in a 5-4 loss. The following league match was another close match ending in a 3-2 victory against Archbishop Ilsley. We are looking forward to our next league match against Queensbridge School where a win would see Lordswood go to the top of the table.

In the English Schools FA Cup our campaign started with a stunning victory of 11-0 against Selly Park Girls and ended with a close loss to Thomas Telford with a score of 1-0 in a match affected by absences. Goals so far this year have come from a variety of players including Isla, Zariah, Jessica, Lauren, Zainab and Raiyat. Nevertheless, this has been a learning curve as it has taught us about cooperation and teamwork. Having these achievements and lessons learnt we hope for the future to be more victories for Lordswood Girls School.

Our practices are held on a Monday after school on our new state of the art pitch. The atmosphere is amazing, it gives you a new experience of football and working with a team and how you demonstrate your listening skills and patience. Our practices run by starting off with some drills that work on our different skills such as passing, pressing, receiving the ball, dribbling and shooting. These drills are important as we try to demonstrate these in our game performance and then to finish off we have a match and split the teams. This is key practice as it helps with improving our skills as a team. I enjoy these practices because it gives you a chance to work with the team and have a time of enjoyment for football and relaxation. Football isn't just about winning in Lordswood Girls School but it's about participating with each other, experiencing each win and loss, bringing everyone together and feeling like a team. Practices are open to everyone in years 9 to 11, no matter your ability, so come along. Matches have also seen a lot of players make their debuts in the team this year, such as Gabby, Abibat and Lauren. Also, thank you to our coaches Mr Dickinson and Dr Hughes for always bringing the excitement to every game and practice.

Aliyyah



Art in Action

Art in Action is a day when a variety of artists, including photographers, sculptors, ceramicists, painters, and others, gather to discuss their work, the methods they used to attain their goals, and the various experiences that led them on their path to being a successful artist. Kate Malone, a ceramicist, was one of the artists involved. She creates sculptures ranging from egg cups to seven-story high building facades, as well as decorative and public art. Stuart Pearson Wright, who is not only entertaining but also a portrait painter, who talked about his inspiration behind his paintings as well as the techniques and processes. Cathie Pilkington, a figurative sculpture, reflected on the growth of her complicated profession. Finally, there's Simon Norfolk, a photographer who utilises his camera lens to investigate life's major questions. I appreciated witnessing this art in action since it was an eye-opening experience to see how other artists approach their work and learn new ideas that I may possibly implement into my own work, as well as gain more inspiration from them.

Gursharon



Marvellous Maths

We would like to start by saying a huge well done to all the students in years 11 and 12 that participated in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge in November. The Senior Maths Challenge is a national competition where students are tested on their ability to apply their maths skills to 'non-standard', challenging questions – such as this question taken from this year's paper (feel free to discuss this question with your son or daughter and submit any answers to me via ma.pearce@lordswoodtrust.co.uk):

Alison has a set of fridge magnets showing the integers from 0 to 9 inclusive.

In how many different ways can she split the set into five pairs so that the sum of each pair is a multiple of 5?

A. 1 B. 2 C. 3 D. 4 E. 5

There were some fantastic scores in all year groups but a particular well done to Emily, Shuayb, Aadil, Amir, Samia and Manvir for achieving a bronze certificate of achievement and to Erin, Mohammed, Aleyaan, Gurmeet, Sukhraj and Sanya for achieving a silver certificate.

Year 7 Progress

Our Year 7s have settled in nicely to their new maths groups and have demonstrated this through excellent performance in recent assessments, increased 'Numeracy Ninja' scores and fantastic progress through the NCETM's 'Ready to Progress' programme of study. Well done Year 7.

The Maths Department would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr Pearce



**United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust**

Bringing Nations Together in MFL!

This year, the department is taking part in the Connecting Classrooms Project in French. Our year 8 French students have been working hard with Mrs. Southerton on an exciting project which is a virtual exchange program organised by the company Forum by Prometour. The project encourages students to create a series of videos about their daily life and then share them with a partner school in France (Collège Robert Doisneau in Montrouge, in the south west of Paris). Students then, in turn, receive videos from the partner school. In the videos, students follow a range of themes that are in line with the French curriculum studied at Lordswood. In November, students created videos to introduce themselves in French. Students really enjoyed taking part in the videos and were extremely excited to receive the equivalent videos from the partner school. In the spring term, students will create videos to share their daily school routine, giving a tour of the school, and explaining the education system in England. Whilst in the summer term, students will create videos showcasing the hometown or region. Our students have embraced this intercultural exchange and have taken it one step further by agreeing to exchange letters (Christmas, Easter and end of year) to enable students in both countries to experience and appreciate the cultural differences.

The project is proving to be a wonderful opportunity for students to experience French outside the classroom.

Ms Siviter

RE Review

Interfaith Week

This term the Religious Education department has celebrated Interfaith Week. November 14th-21st marked an annual reflection and celebration of faith in the form of Interfaith Week. This week is about focusing on the power of uniting people, be they of faith or otherwise, to come together to achieve great things.

Religious Art Seminar

Year 12 and 13 visited Newman University to participate in a seminar about religious art. One student reflected on her experience:

I enjoyed the trip to Newman University, and the very interesting lecture on contrasting and similar features of interpretations of biblical stories through art in different faiths.

The specific biblical story that the lecturer discussed was of Joseph and his interpretations of Pharaoh's dreams of cows and grain. It was very thought provoking to investigate possible differences and similarities between the presentations of this story by different faiths; such as Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The way the different faiths presented this story visually made evident the different priorities the religions had, as well as what they took as the most significant part of the story.

I find it fascinating that these pictures from hundreds of years ago can, alone, demonstrate the values and teachings of a religion. These can also be compared to more modern interpretations to help better understand how these religions have developed over time.

Samantha

The following students have really impressed us this half term and have received RE star praise cards in the post! Well done and keep up the hard work!

Year 7
Izzy, Mya, Mak and Fahria

Year 11
Nicole, Esha, Eeman and Simran

Year 8
Saariyah, Emily, Emily, Maddiya, Alisha and Amelie

Year 12
Natasha

Year 9
Ruby, Connie and Isabelle

Year 13
Samantha

Year 10
Noku, Leeya, Naomi and Isobel

On behalf of the RE Department, we would like to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas holiday.

Food and Cookery Returns!

This term has seen a welcomed return to the practical elements of food and cookery. Year 7 started the year off excellently making a wide range of dishes from apple and sultana crumble to gingerbread. Year 8 have been continuing to practice their cooking skills especially in the cooking of pasta and Year 9 have been making some delightful desserts like Victoria sponge cake and chocolate tart. I hope you all enjoyed eating them at home!

In Key stage 4 Hospitality and Catering Year 10 students have been keeping busy by honing their practical skills through focusing on making their very own pasta, a range of pastries and sides and salads. Year 11 have had the unenviable task of completing their controlled assessment which resulted in some fabulous products.

Mrs Faulkner



Never Judge a Book by Its Cover

When I first started reading 'Jane Eyre', it seemed boring because I don't usually like reading old books. However, I started to love it after a few chapters. The narrative is heart-breaking, romantic and unexpected. The character of Jane is very inspiring as the book conveys her independence and maturity despite all the barriers she has to overcome.

Hiral

My first impressions of 'Jane Eyre' was that it was just a novel telling a fictional story. However, this novel of Charlotte Bronte also explores many themes of the Victorian era such as class, religion and gender. **Jaismeen**

'Jane Eyre' has helped me to think about the writer's view, e.g. why have they structured the novel in that way?

Aminah

The plot is very interesting because nobody really expected it. I thought it was going to be another cliché romance story. The plot is very unique and I am really enjoying it right now.

Isra

Renaissance Accelerated Reading

All Key Stage 3 students are involved in the Accelerated Reading Scheme. Students pick books within the reading levels they are given by their teacher after they have completed a STAR reading test, and once they have read their book, they complete a quiz on the website which helps to ensure they understand what they have just read. Students need to attempt the quiz no more than 48 hours after reading the book.

As part of the scheme students are given certificates along with prizes for 'milestones' such as completing 10 quizzes and achieving their targets. In the school library we have a Reading Wall of Fame and a Word Millionaire board to celebrate students' success. Since the start of September 2021, Year 7, 8 and 9 students have read over 900 books that's over 48,966,636 words!

As the autumn term ends all students should be congratulated on their efforts but a special mention should go to those students who have achieved some impressive milestones! Four students have become word millionaires reading over 6,123,054 words between them. And one student has read over 25 books passing all her quizzes!

Congratulations and well done to you all.

Mrs Ashford

Autumn Term in PE

Sports Clubs

We have had a tremendous uptake to extra curricular clubs so far this academic year, with the following number of students attending each club:

Netball Club: 96 participants

Basketball Club: 63 participants

Gymnastics Club: 25 participants

Dance Club: 20 participants

Sports Fixtures

We have entered two teams (U13 & U15) into the Kings Norton Netball League. Our U15s team have been performing extremely well and are currently holding the top position on the league board, after gaining the following results:

Opponent	LGS Result	Score
St Thomas Aquinas	Win	41-0
University of Birmingham School	Win	19-11
Swanshurst School	Win	9-5
King Edward Five Ways	Draw	17-17

In January our U13s team will be picked, and after a period of intense training at Netball club, where all participants have shown hard work and true dedication, we want to wish everyone the best of luck!

Interform

This recently started tournament is starting to pick up heat, with all forms competing in their year group for the top form spot. We will have term ones results in very shortly, which we can't wait to share with you at the start of the new year!

Lordswood Levels Up

Our new PE 'Lordswood Level-Up' fitness challenges, were launched at the start of this term. The challenges have been met with real grit and determination by students, many showcasing their outstanding fitness levels and ability to excel in the wide range of components of fitness being tested. The challenges included: Cardiovascular Fitness, Agility, Muscular Endurance, Coordination and Flexibility. We look forward to seeing how you all get on in round two of the challenges, later this academic year, and being able to follow your fitness journey.

Key Stage 4

A particularly huge well done to our Key Stage 4 GCSE PE groups. Our year 10 group has had an extremely positive start to the course and have been a pleasure to teach. Our Year 11 groups have recently completed their GCSE PE mock exams and have experienced practical moderation for the first time, it's been quite an experience.

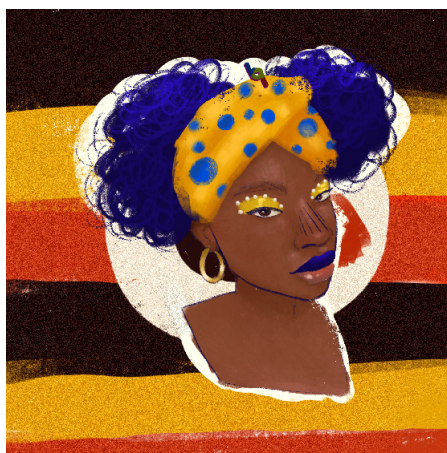
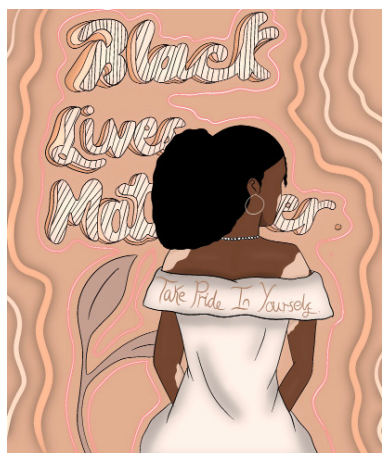
With the Christmas break in sight, the PE department would like to wish everyone a fun filled season, a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Black History Month

The History Department held assemblies for Black History Month this term with the assistance of students. Students spoke about their interpretations of black history and the importance of it. From the work vital role black people have played in the NHS to their contribution to our identity and culture in Britain. Students were encouraged to create a piece of artwork or writing on the theme of "Proud To Be...". We received a fantastic range of work!

Miss Rahim



Diary Dates

- Monday 4th January - Bank holiday
- Tuesday 4th January - Year 11 and Year 13 students return to school
- Wednesday 5th January - Year 10 and Year 12 students return to school
- Thursday 6th January - Year 8 and Year 9 students return to school
- Friday 7th January - Year 7 students return to school.

Students should arrive at school by 8.35am and will follow their normal Week 1 timetable.

- W/C 10th January - Year 13 mock examinations
- Thursday 13th January - Year 11 Parents' Evening
- Friday 14th January - KS4 & 5 drama trip
- W/C 17th January - Year 9 examinations
- Friday 21st January - **INSET school closed to students**
- Tuesday 25th January - Onatti Spanish Theatre Company performance
- Thursday 3rd February - Year 9 Parents' Evening
- Monday 7th February - Whole school PSHE day
- Tuesday 15th February - Year 9 options deadline

Monday 21st - Friday 25th February - **Half term holiday**

- W/C 28th February - Year 11 mock examinations
- W/C 7th March - Year 11 mock examinations
- Friday 11th March - Year 9 immunisations
- W/C 21st March - Year 13 mock examinations
- Thursday 24th March - Whole school PSHE day
- Thursday 31st March - Year 10 & 11 drama trip
- Monday 4th April - End of teaching for Year 11
- Friday 8th April - **INSET school closed to students**

Monday 11th April - Friday 22nd April - **Easter holidays**

Busy in Sixth Form!

Movie Night

We raised £75 from movie night hosted 19th October - Money raised went to St Mary's Hospice and Mind. The Halloween movie night set up at Lordswood was genuinely a night to remember. The atmosphere created by sixth form teachers and student leadership was without a doubt enjoyable. Everything was organised very well and went really smoothly as expected. Everyone there was able to come together and have a laugh whilst watching the movie 'The Conjuring'. Bringing together students after a stressful first half term where people had to work hard for their subjects was an amazing way to end it. The fact that we were able to raise money for St Mary's Hospice and Mind while making memories and jokes with our friends and classmates makes the whole experience even better. I would definitely go to another event like this if organised again.

Sanya & Rehma

Bowling

Bowling was an amazing experience. I got to spend time with my old friends and also get to know my new friends. It was funny seeing everyone get competitive and try their best to beat the other teams. Social events like bowling helps students to feel part of the school, feel included and get involved, especially the external students that might not know anyone at Lordswood and feel excluded. The bowling event is also a good chance for external students to socialise, meet new people and feel welcome to Lordswood Girls Sixth Form. It was a day filled with excitement and joy. I made many memories and spent the entire time laughing with my friends. In terms of the venue, it was very easy and accessible to get there. It was a beautiful place and very close to town if you wanted to go after with your classmates. Overall it was a phenomenal experience and I would recommend going to all future social events to have a great time.

Sadaf

Clothing Donation to British Heart Foundation

In an aim to contribute to my local community, I organised a clothing donation fundraiser within the sixth form for the British Heart Foundation. The charity event had been planned since year 12, however Covid restrictions made it difficult to organise safely. Thankfully this year, with the donations of both staff and students, we collectively managed to donate over 15 bags for this charity. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Mona



Sixth Form Student Council - Food Bank Collection

During the pandemic majority of people experienced extremely difficult situations, one of the most affected groups had to use emergency food donation packages due to:

- Problems with the benefits system (delays, inadequacy and reductions)
- Challenging life experiences or ill-health
- Lack of informal or formal support that hit many homes harshly
- Many became redundant and unable to supply enough income to feed their families

Statists from the Trussels Trust have shown that between 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 food banks distributed :

- 2.5 million emergency food parcels to people in crisis, a 33% increase from the previous year
- 980,000 of these went to children, this is a shocking increase compared to five years ago
- The need and usage of food banks increased by 128%

Therefore it is crucial for us to help our local community in as many ways as we can. Thank you for your contribution to the food bank collection.

Bano

Lord Mayors Quiz

On Thursday 25th December Mrs Leadbetter and six post 16 students went to the Great Hall at the University of Birmingham to take part in the Lord Mayor's Quiz. The quiz consisted of 100 questions over 10 rounds covering topics such as sport, computing and IT, film and history. The winning team was from King Edward's School (who won for the third year running!). Our team of Anvir, Amraj, Elliott, Komalpreet, Sana and Tara performed valiantly. Their top scoring round was maths and they played their joker on the social media round, doubling their points! Here's a question from each round - see how you would have done!

1. Maths - What does the B mean in BODMAS?
2. Geography - Which country's flag is red with a black double headed eagle in the centre?
3. Music - Which puzzling title is given to Elgar's Opus 36?
4. English Language - What is the name of a 4 line biographical poem form invented by Edmund Bentley?
5. Natural World/Human Body - What is removed in a cholecystectomy?
6. History - how many astronauts manned each Apollo flight?
7. Sport - Which Japanese city hosted the 2002 Fifa World Cup and the 2019 Rugby World Cup?
8. TV and Film - Which of the ITV Chasers has won Mastermind?
9. Computing and IT - Which procedural programming language released in 1970 honours the name of a physicist and philosopher?
10. Social Media - Sometimes referred to as Facebook for grown ups- 41% of all millionaires use which social media platform?

Sixth Form Football Club

Football is for everyone, regardless of colour, race, religion and gender. Everyone should feel welcome and comfortable when participating in the sport they love and that sport for me is football. Lordswood Sixth Form Centre football club ensures that everyone can take part, with the evidence being that both girls and boys play together, same team and at the same time which is a rare sight to see in modern day football. This highlights the fact that not only is everyone welcome but everyone is welcome to play together. This is what makes LSFC unique from the rest of the schools across Birmingham in my opinion

Sessions run every week on a Monday where we take part in a warm-up and training drill followed by a much anticipated match where we can show off what we have learnt but also our skills. With football it's not just about the skills you have with the ball it's also the skills you have on the pitch such as communication and leadership. These are vital skills that we need to learn and develop in our everyday lives and football helps us with that. By communicating with our team members we grow closer to them, understand each other and our style of play and become more and more successful and confident.

Starting A level courses is a huge step from GCSE and can be stressful for me at times so football was not only a great distraction it was also a chance to make new friends away from studying. Playing football at Lordswood Girls' School and Lordswood Sixth Form Centre makes me really proud to represent my school and allows me to have a positive mindset as well as influence on the younger years when I coach with my friend and teammate Natasha on a Friday. We can both agree that LSFC lies on the richness of its aspirations, the commitment of its learners and the quality of the relationships within and beyond the school building.

Nour

University Masterclass

The T-level Education and Childcare students enjoyed a university masterclass at Newman University, they had two sessions on the topic of the importance of storytelling and developing teamwork. Firstly students looked at children's stories from various time periods and talked about what they liked and didn't like, and it was from here they explored what made a good story. The students worked with the lecturers and students from other schools to use objects such as a little wooden horse or a plastic dinosaur and their imagination to make a story which had the ingredients of what made a good story, we had some very creative suggestions! The team building task was to build a bridge using the resources given (paper and sellotape) which could hold a mobile phone for 15 seconds. Following the activity, which they were very successful at, they reflected on the roles they played in their teams from Belbin's (1981) theory of team roles such as the specialist, the finisher, the implementor or the investigator.

- Quiz answers:
1. Brackets
 2. Albania
 3. Enigma Variations
 4. Clerihew
 5. Gall Bladder
 6. 3
 7. Yokohama
 8. Shaun Wallace
 9. Pascal
 10. LinkedIn

English Literature A Level - How It Works

English Literature is one of the few subjects at A-level that encourages imagination and creativity in your writing. There isn't really a distinct right or wrong answer when it comes to studying it, giving you leeway to explore themes and key concepts in your essays in a lot more depth. Another good thing about the subject is that you explore an assortment of texts across an extended time period. While you can't escape Shakespeare at A-level, you still have the opportunity to study texts written by a more diverse spectrum of authors i.e. people of colour and women. Though to be fair, there are a lot of interesting messages about the role of race and patriarchy in society that we learn about in Shakespeare's 'Othello.'

In studying literature at A-level, you will find there are several benefits and skills for you to learn and refine. One of the main ones is mastering the art of essay writing - a pretty crucial skill that applies to almost any A-level you might choose. As it is an essay-based subject, you're able to learn to be coherent and succinct, while also discovering the best-suited style of writing for you. Other skills that you will pick up on include critical thinking and perceptive analysis, all of which will develop through your analysis of different texts. Part of your study of English literature involves looking at social, political and religious philosophies and ideologies, as a means to better understand the context of what's being read. Therefore, choosing it as one of your subjects would complement any others you wish to study, especially A-levels like: history, government and politics and philosophy and ethics. I do history and psychology alongside English, and have found that my essay writing skills, as well as contextual research, are transferable to them. This has been pretty helpful when it came to improving my approach to answering exam questions.

Lesson formats vary on a day-to-day basis. But, generally speaking, the lessons involve a lot of verbal communication in the classroom between the teacher and your peers, as opposed to just sitting there and copying notes off the board. This is probably one of the best parts of studying English. With verbal communication as the main form of learning, there are always interesting conversations to be had during class, especially in regards to the social issues and movements that are studied in relation to the set texts e.g. patriarchy and feminism. Furthermore, certain tasks in lessons require you to work in groups and, on occasion, deliver presentations. This is, once again, a critical skill for you to hone in preparation for higher education. The overall atmosphere in lessons is quite positive, and you'll probably find yourself enjoying lessons, as well as enhancing and expanding your own knowledge as you contribute and listen to the contributions of your peers.


Some advice I'd give to students considering studying English Literature at A-level is to stay on top of things and do your reading BEFORE the lessons (I totally did this when I started Year 12...). This will allow you to engage in discussions, and honestly, make your learning experience feel a lot more fun and fulfilling. A-level English literature does require a willingness to study outside of the classroom and reading beyond the allocated texts, but if you go in with the fixed mindset of working hard, you'll find English to be one of the most enjoyable and refreshing subjects available to you.

Syeda

Parliament Talk

This term, Year 12 Politics students took part in a live seminar on how the general election works in the UK. The seminar was delivered by UK Parliament Education and involved looking at how the First Past the Post voting system works; assessing both its strengths and weaknesses. There was also an opportunity for the students to ask questions to Preet Gill MP for the last ten minutes of the session. The students were able to use their knowledge of politics to ask relevant questions on issues such as climate change and the voting system. Such opportunities ensure that students can fully develop their curriculum knowledge and examine the views of politicians on relevant political debates.

In Sociology, we have continued to work on applying our understanding to a range of relevant examples in both media and education. Recently, we evaluated the claim by one MP that there were now a lack of role models for men in the media. We have also continued to have debates around the reasons for differing rates of achievement amongst different genders, ethnic groups and social classes in education.



*From everyone at
Lordswood,
we wish you a very*

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING
YOU BACK IN JANUARY!**