

# Lordswood News

## A Letter From The Headteacher



Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of the spring term, the lighter mornings and longer evenings bring a new lease of life into school. This combined with the easing of COVID measures is allowing more activities to take place within school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at Lordswood Girls' School for the fantastic array of opportunities that they organise for the students. It may not be common knowledge but teachers are not paid for the extra-curricular opportunities that are provided. Teachers and support staff willingly give up their lunch breaks, time after school, holidays and weekends to ensure that Lordswood Girls' School provides more than just an education within the classroom. There have been over 60 extra-curricular activities offered each week this term within school. There have also been numerous off-site learning opportunities including a successful Duke of Edinburgh expedition, theatre trips, a trip to London, vocational trips to local businesses, university visits, a rock climbing course and a wide range of inter school competitions.

Although COVID measures have now been relaxed, I thank students and parents for continuing to be understanding. Staff absence due to COVID continues to be a challenge across the city, cover teachers are in short supply and numerous schools have had to partially close due to this. I am pleased that we have not had to resort to this measure. This is due to the willingness of staff to cover lessons and the sensible behaviour of the students when asked to move classrooms etc.

As we go into the summer term, Year 11 and Year 13 are in the final stages of preparing for their final examinations. We know that this can be a challenging time for students, but I know that they will be using their time wisely to prepare. As a school we will continue to offer lessons in the school day, after school and in the holidays to support the students. We hope that they will continue to take advantage of this provision.

The summer term will also see further planning for the merger with the King Edward VI Academy Trust. The uniform has been agreed by governors and over the next half term we will be getting students to try on blazers so we can get them ordered ready for distribution before the end of July. The legal aspects of the merger are now well underway and we are currently looking at signage as well as designing the new website. Teachers are starting to work with other teachers within the trust to share ideas and best practice. It is all very exciting!

I wish you all a very safe (and hopefully relaxing) Easter holiday.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kerry Cooney'.

Mrs Kerry Cooney  
Headteacher

# Year 7

I would like to congratulate the following Year 7 students on achieving an impressive amount of praise slips in the spring term, for service to the school community and outstanding performance in subject areas. I hope all of our Year 7 students have a wonderful Easter holiday and a good rest. You will be entering your final term in Year 7 when you return at the end of April, and I hope you continue to be the enthusiastic, positive students you have been so far. Well done everyone!

7D Tegroop	7R Anaya
7D Dhiaan	7R Fatima
7G Samira	7S Annabelle
7G Bernice	7S Amelie
7L Uranus	7W Indeya
7L Alina	7W Mya

*Mrs Peniket*

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# Years 8 & 9

## Year 8

Congratulations to the 28 students who received their Bronze Attendance award for being in school every day in the Spring term- I challenge you to try and obtain the Silver Award for 100% attendance in the Summer term. A massive congratulations to the 18 students who received their Silver Attendance Award; 100% attendance for both the Autumn and Spring term. What a fantastic achievement! I wonder if you can make it a hat trick in the Summer term!

There are so many things to congratulate you all on; overall your attitude and behaviour is excellent. I love that you all smile and say hello to me and the other teachers in the corridor, as well as taking care of each other if there is ever a problem. You have embraced the news review time quiz and the competition is on to see who will win the next half term prize! Well done to 8W who won this half term. You have tackled the PSHE topics of Consent, Self Esteem, Addiction and Honour based violence with maturity and integrity and were able to gain knowledge to empower yourselves for the future. I hope that you take time over the Easter holiday to spend time with those you care about and enjoy the freedom of not being in lessons for two weeks!

## Year 9

A huge congratulations to the 26 students who received their Bronze Attendance Award for getting 100% attendance for the Spring term and the 14 for receiving the Silver Attendance Award for 100% attendance

I am really impressed with your continued improvement over this last term. You have made pleasing improvements in your academic results which will prove as a good grounding for when you start your option subjects later on in the Summer term. You have also started to take more responsibility for your actions and behaviour, resulting in fewer detentions and an increased number of positive interactions with teachers and your peers. Keep striving to be the best version of yourself. It was fantastic to have so many of you involved with the extra curricular activities; long may that continue. Congratulations to 9S for winning the news review time quiz competition, I'm sure the other year 9 review groups will do their best to try and beat you next term. I am proud of all the students who have shown themselves as good friends and peers and who have supported each other through this past term. Well done. I really hope you have a restful holiday and appreciate spending time with your loved ones.

*Ms Briggs*

# Years 10 & 11

## Year 10

I have been really impressed by your continued hard work this term. In preparation for Year 10 mock examinations after the holiday, you have demonstrated real positivity and enthusiasm, and I have been really pleased by the maturity with which you conduct yourselves. So many of you continue to maintain your involvement in extra-curricular activities, and this is another reason that I am proud of your year group. To the netballers, the Loudspeaker contributors, the musicians... you are absolute superstars. Have a well-deserved rest over the next couple of weeks!

## Year 11

As you approach your final term here at Lordswood, I just want to thank you for all of your hard work this term. Good luck with the rest of your preparation for your GCSE exams. This half term is a very important one for you, you have continued to make me laugh and smile, and I will really miss this – and you – when you leave. For now, though, you're still here, and you have a couple of months left to work as hard as you possibly can to make sure that you get the results you deserve in the summer. I know how committed you all are, and how desperately you all want to do well – I've seen how busy the G6 study club gets at lunchtime! – and I'm already proud of you. Use the holiday, of course, to revise – but more importantly to rest, refresh and recharge your batteries so that you can come back on 25th April ready to fulfil your tremendous potential.

*Mr Goetschel*

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# School Council

The spring term has been another busy one for the School Council. Reps have been working hard to get the paper and cardboard recycling back up and running and they now work on a rota system to collect recycling bins and take the contents to the larger bins ready for collection. I have been so impressed by the Reps' enthusiasm for this activity, even when it has meant braving the cold to take the bins outside!

The school once again demonstrated its community spirit and enormous generosity in March when the Council arranged a fundraising day to raise money for Comic Relief. It was also decided that, due to the situation in the Ukraine, any money raised would be split between Comic Relief and the Disasters Emergency Committee's Humanitarian Appeal. Staff and students came together wonderfully and raised an amazing £801.43 and the School Council would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated, the warmth of spirit and generosity of the school as a whole never fails to make us all very proud.

One large change introduced during the spring term was for the School Council and Sixth Form Council to join together to form a one large group. It is hoped that this will enable students from all years to gain a better understanding of what goes on in both the main school and sixth form and to create a sense of unity between both parts of the school as we all work together. Looking forward, it is hoped that the Council will move towards being run more by students with the sixth form Head Student presiding over meetings. This should greatly improve students' leadership skills and ensure that student voice reflects the opinions and ideas of every member of the student body.

Headteacher's Question Time has continued throughout the term and years 7-10 all have one session left in the summer term to put staff in the hot seat! Next year, we are considering a slight change to the sessions with a view to holding one event per term for all year groups together. I will keep you updated!

In the meantime, on behalf of the Council, I would like to say thank you to everyone for your fundraising efforts and to wish you all a restful holiday.

*Mrs Riley*

# Drama Roundup

## London trip January 2022 “Hakuna Matata- it means no worries”

A coach full of creative arts students headed to ‘The big smoke’ to enjoy a weekend packed full of performing arts culture. We first stopped off at Warner Bros. Studio Tour London - The Making of Harry Potter and marvelled at the intricate detail of costumes, sets and props all created for and used in the eight Harry Potter films . Students also had the opportunity to explore the use of the studio’s green screen activities, try butterbeer and buy magical artefacts in the spellbinding gift shop!

Our next theatrical experience was watching Disney’s *The Lion King* at The Lyceum- a spectacular visual treat, wowing us all with the amazing puppetry and elaborate designs. Singing along with the well known lyrics was voted the highlight of the weekend.

Covent Gardens allowed us to shop till we dropped, and we watched an entertaining array of street performers including magicians and circus entertainers. Footloose and fancy free, students enjoyed eating out with friends and navigating themselves through the market; seeing the sights of London was also a tough act to follow.

The final showstopper was the haunting production of *The Woman In Black* at The Fortune Theatre. Terrifying audiences for over 30 years, we certainly jumped out of our seats a few times during the evening. This weekend allowed students to soak up ideas, learn from professions in the field and prepare for their GCSE examination Live theatre question; It is safe to say that everyone loved this learning adventure.

## The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time

As part of our ongoing partnership with the Birmingham Hippodrome, GCSE Drama students went to see The National Theatre’s production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*. As well as getting to see the show, students attended a page to stage session with the company manager to gain an insight into what it is like to work on a professional production. The non-naturalistic production design will give students lots of scope to explore technical theatre, especially the way lighting is used, for their final GCSE examinations.

“I really enjoyed the play because of its creative way of story telling that kept me engaged throughout the whole performance. You could feel involved with Christopher’s world with the unique staging and technical design.”

**Evie Year 10**

“The lighting for the play was extremely creative and developed. I found the play eye opening and had never seen a story presented in this way before.”

**Gracie Year 11**

“The set used was spectacular and the lighting used helped to portray life through the eyes of a person with autism. However I did feel that, at times, the lighting and sound was overwhelming and it detracted from the story.”

**Anna Year 11**

Miss Briggs and Mrs Swallow



# Year 11 Study Skills Workshop

In February 2022, Year 11 students took part in a study skills workshop delivered by Learning Performance, one of the UK's leading learning study skills companies. The workshop covered a range of really useful strategies that students can use to improve memory such as colour coding, using mnemonics, condensing, making links and reviewing. The students really enjoyed the session.

The feedback from the students was overwhelmingly positive, with 81% of the year group rating the ideas and strategies featured as very helpful.

Let's hope the students will make good use of the strategies they have learnt when revising over the next few weeks!

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## Read for Refugees Sunflower Challenge

We are inviting pupils to participate in the Read for Refugees Sunflower Challenge, organised by librarians across the UK with support from the School Library Association.

After ten million Ukrainians have had to leave their homes, we are asking students to raise money for the United Nations Refugee Agency by getting sponsored to read as much they can. The overall aim is to keep children reading during the Easter break when they're not in school and to do something positive in the face of tragedy.

Students could ask for donations from friends and family per page, chapter, or book read; by hours spent reading; or simply for a flat donation to support their involvement. All sponsors can donate directly on the project's JustGiving page (and, should they wish, leave messages of encouragement!).

For more information please visit the Read for Refugees website: <https://www.sla.org.uk/read-for-refugees>  
A special competition featuring 15 brilliant children's writers will be launching soon. This will also be available to enter on the website.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.  
Thank you for your support.

*Mrs Ashford*



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## Attendance Winners

Congratulations to the following students who have won the prize draw for their year group for 100% attendance during the Spring Term:

Indeya 7R  
Ana Lou 8S  
Amila 9W  
Ria 10G  
Anuloluwa 11R

*Mrs Rossiter*



# Well Done From Maths

The Maths Department would like to congratulate all students that took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge this term. All students involved demonstrated excellent problem solving skills and all have received a certificate of participation. A number of our students received recognition for excellent performance; the following students received bronze certificates: Chloe, Isobel, Lily, Isabelle, Esha and Lovleen and the following students received a silver certificate: Lucy, Kate, Naomi, Muslima and Simran.

We would like to say a particular well done to Emily and Erin, who received a gold certificate and qualified for the follow on 'Pink Kangaroo' round of the competition - a fantastic achievement!

*Mr Pearce*

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## Year 8 Celebrity Portraits

This term, Year 8 students have been working on their drawing skills. They began by learning how to draw facial features and use tonal shading to make them look realistic. Having practised these skills, the students then chose a celebrity to draw. The art department are very impressed with the quality of the portraits that the students created, well done everyone!

We have photographed some of the portraits to show you. Year 8, can you find your work?

Year 7 students have been working on creating prints using polytile, each student has created their own patterns using geometric shapes, repetition, symmetry and cultural inspiration. Here are some pictures of the prints they have created this week! Can you see yours?

*Miss Tooley*



# RE News

## Disposition – Being Imaginative and Explorative

As part of developing the disposition on creativity, the RE department is excited to announce the re-launch of the annual national Spirited Arts Competition. Hundreds of UK schools get involved, and all pupils are welcome to enter in their artwork, photography and poetry. Each year there are different themes to choose from and this year Spirited Arts have partnered with the Jo Cox Foundation for “We have far more in common with each other than that which divides us.” theme.

Below are some of the themes you can select and base your entry on:

### ***“We have far more in common with each other than that which divides us.”***

The quote from Jo Cox MP introduces this theme which is about the question: are we one human race, despite our differences and divisions? We are all different, and all religions are different – but are we all the same too? Can we all be united? What holds humanity together? Is it faith? Hope? Love? Music? What threatens to tear us apart? How can we overcome the divisions that affect us? Use some specific religious ideas and quotes in this. Make a work of art that shows what unites us, brings us together, joins humans as one people and expresses our harmony. Use the disciplines of theology, but also of psychology and sociology to explore the questions and create your responses.

### ***God’s good earth?***

(“Beautiful World, wonderful God?”)

Are we spoiling God’s good earth? Does the Earth belong to God? Should we be thankful for it? Can we save it in time from the threats of climate change? The beauty of the earth is celebrated in many religions, but the human spoiling of the earth is a danger and a coming crisis. In this theme, learners are invited to explore ideas and beliefs about the natural world, human responsibility for the earth and ways of praying about climate justice. Great work will show some originality: the globe in God’s hands won’t win!

### ***Searching for God***

Pupils who are atheists, agnostics and believers in God can all respond to this theme. We invite expressions of their sense of the search for God. Where’s God? In your heart? In prayer? In the temple or the universe? Or is she hiding? Is he not there at all? Unreal? Imaginary? Looking for God, searching for him or her, matters to many, but how are we doing in finding God? Would you search with google or a ‘god-detector’? Is God on Instagram, TikTok or WhatsApp? Can God be found by prayer or by looking among the world’s suffering people? This popular theme produces great work where pupils use ideas from religions clearly: The Jewish Psalms 42 and 43 are where it starts – there are parallels in many scriptures. Use theological reflection as well as philosophical argument to make great work.

### ***A view of the world***

Our subject is increasingly called ‘Religion and Worldviews’ This theme invites pupils to express their own world view. That might include beliefs and values, identities and truths as you see them. A religion is one kind of world view and so are Humanism, atheism and being spiritual but not religious.

### ***Celebrations: big days and big ideas***

This theme enables you to create work about religious festivals from Divali and Eid to Wesak or Vaisakhi, Easter or Shabbat, Christmas and Remembrance. Festivals can be annual – or weekly, celebrated in places of worship or on the streets. Encourage learners to connect their vision of today’s festivities to stories and memories from long ago, and to use scripture and other holy words in their work. Pieces of work might look at one festival, but some will be up for the challenge of looking at more than one celebration and noticing what’s similar and different, how excitement, memory, love and community are drawn together by big days and big ideas.

In your RE lessons, your teacher will be sharing more details on the competition including the many amazing prizes to be won, how to enter and the closing date. We look forward to seeing your original and thought-provoking entries!

### **Praise**

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!

Diana 7D	Hannah 8L	Amila 9W	Aleema 10L	Kizzi 10S	Ina 11L
Mariam 7S	Sehasa 8D	Rozena 9G	Ayesha 10W	Keeley 10D	Rose 11L
Isha 7L		Neha 9R	Ella 10G	Kiran 11D	Grace 11R
		Halima 9D	Iffah 10S		Sana 11D
		Oreoluwa 9L	Priya 10W		Keeleigh Louise 11G
<i>Mrs Stanley &amp; Mrs Ghalib</i>			Naomi 10G		Isha 11G



# Hospitality & Catering

Cooking is a great life skill to learn, enjoy and develop. It can also help to de-stress and cooking together is a fun activity. Key stage three students cook a wide variety of dishes which enables them to learn a wide range of skills and this half term has seen them cook cookies, goujons, pancakes, meatballs, spring rolls, and cottage pie to name a few.

With hospitality and catering being the third largest sector in the UK it offers students not only great life skills but fabulous opportunities for their future careers whether that be within catering or hospitality management, the list is endless! Students in year 11 have been creating their own final examination dishes for which they have made some amazing dishes. Here are a few photographs.

*Mrs Faulkner*



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# British Science Week

British Science Week is a 10 day celebration of science, technology and engineering and maths. It takes place every year and this year it was from 11th-20th March. There were lots of fun and educational activities taking place in the science department:

Year 7 enjoyed getting to grips with electricity and constructing series and parallel circuits. They were also learning about different types of reactions such as neutralisation, combustion and thermal decomposition.

Year 8 had so much fun and embraced the wonder of science in so many different ways, making volcanoes from acid-base reactions, making slime and looking at the properties of the slime and looking at energy changes and the endothermic reaction of barium hydroxide and ammonium chloride to freeze water were just a few.

Year 9 have been studying the biology topic Organisation in lessons which involved learning about different organ systems including the heart. Students carried out a heart dissection to learn more about the heart and to study the blood vessels in the heart. The students were very mature and careful. Well done Year 9!

Year 10 and Year 11 took part in a live stream with Severn Trent called 'Wonderful Water'. This taught students about how our water is cleaned to make it safe and how our sewage is treated to bring clean drinking water to our homes. Students found the session very informative and interactive and enjoyed competing against each other in the quiz. This session linked to a chemistry topic called Using Resources and also helped to develop our STEM links with local companies.

*Mrs Healey*





# MFL Theatre

Earlier this term, the Department of Modern Foreign Languages welcomed students from three local secondary schools to join our year 10 GCSE Spanish students in watching a live theatre performance in Spanish. Students gathered together in the school hall to watch “El Campamento”, a Spanish play performed by the reputable Onatti Theatre Company about a camping trip, entirely in Spanish. The actors were fantastic, they not only encouraged students to use the target language to participate in the play, they also interpreted the story line in an accessible manner enabling students to develop and enhance their listening skills whilst having fun.

This was a wonderful opportunity for students to experience languages outside the classroom and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

*Ms Siviter*

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## Reviewing Macbeth in English

*On the 25th March, all students in Year 11 were given the fantastic opportunity to view a live performance of one of Shakespeare’s best known plays, Macbeth. This performance was delivered to us by the sensational Katch 22, who had taken a slightly different approach to the ‘traditional’ sort of play you might expect. Unusually, despite there being numerous characters throughout Shakespeare’s traditional play, the production we had watched consisted of just three actors, who would switch between roles, on stage. For many of us watching, this was a completely new approach to the portrayal of Macbeth, and yet arguably, it was the most intriguing to watch.*

*After spending nearly a year studying Macbeth, through purely reading the play and answering questions based on what we have read, I believe that having the experience of seeing people act it out before your eyes, provides you with the ability to view the characters in a different limelight. We had walked into the performance viewing the characters in a certain way, but seeing a real life depiction of these characters creates a completely different attitude towards them. The emotion that the actors had displayed throughout the play was phenomenal and certainly conveyed the meaning of Shakespeare’s play, through the use of a more modern approach. However, most importantly, when it comes to learning quotes, Shakespeare can really give us a hard time! But it is mystifying how we can hear words emerging from someone else’s mouth and suddenly, they are permanently ingrained in our brains. This play had most definitely done that for me. Frequently, I would find myself mouthing along the lines of the play alongside the characters, allowing me to test my own knowledge and understanding towards the play. Having heard the actors speak their lines in a particular tone, to match the emotions of the character that they were playing, allowed me to remember the lines almost subconsciously and I was shocked to have returned home and to have discovered that I had remembered much more than I had expected!*

*Katch 22’s portrayal of Shakespeare’s Macbeth was astonishing, not just for me, but for the entirety of the year group, and even teachers! Whenever you can, I would highly recommend taking out the time to watch a live performance of a play, particularly so if you know you will need to know key quotations and events that take place, just like we did with Macbeth. You would be startled by the amount of information you can actually learn and absorb in doing so!*

**Simran Year 11**

*William Shakespeare’s Macbeth is arguably one of the most well known plays to ever have been written in English literature. Recently, year 11 were privileged enough to watch a live performance of the play right here in our own school. The performance was enticing and emotional. After watching the flawless performance delivered by Katch 22, we see certain aspects of the characters that we have perhaps tended to overlook. For instance, Lady Macbeth’s love for Macbeth and similarly, Macbeth’s adoration of Duncan. Seeing the play being performed right in front of us not only clarifies certain aspects of the script but also shows how different people can have different interpretations of the characters.*

*The performance itself was fantastic, with lots of emotion and thought carefully put behind each piece of dialogue. However, I truly stand by the belief that the question and answer segment of the show was the most beneficial of all. We were able to ask questions about the motives behind the actions of the characters and it was intriguing to see how the actors were able to get into the mindset of the characters they had to play, offering alternative interpretations of the characters’ mindset. Katch 22’s interpretation and performance of William Shakespeare’s, ‘Macbeth’ is truly a performance I will remember with the play not only being entertaining for the audience, but also a helpful insight on further understanding of the motives of the characters and the different perspectives and ways this literary masterpiece can be interpreted.*

**Shavi Year 11**

# Netball News

## **Kings Norton Netball League**

The PE department is thrilled to share with you the netball results from this term. After a series of intense matches, Lordswood's senior team have won the Kings Norton Netball League, beating the likes of Edgbaston High School, King Edwards Five Ways and other local schools. They have all played incredibly well together and have shown real flare and determination throughout.

Our Year 7 and 8 combined team, many of whom are new to playing netball, along with playing as a team, have worked extremely hard at training and secured fifth place in their league.

## **Kings Norton netball league Tournament results:**

Year 10 netball tournament - Made it through to the semi finals.

Year 8 netball tournament - Made it through to the semi finals.

Year 7 netball tournament - Made it through to the semi finals.

*Mrs Vine*

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# Netball Match Report

As it was our first match, against Queensbridge, our team was all getting used to playing together and getting to know how the other team played. We didn't get the gist of it until the second quarter where we won our first goal and we gained confidence and started to get the ball more. The other team [miss hart please insert school name] played very well as they were the top of the tournament but they were at a huge advantage as it was their last match of the season and our first. Their player of the match was the C as she was very quick and was constantly marking and getting the ball from us. Our player of the match was our Sub WA (Ivy) because she didn't miss any centre passes and was always in front of the person marking her, ready to get the ball in case she was passed to.

Overall, our match went very well considering our circumstances and hopefully we will learn from it and do better next time.

***Mei Year 8***

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# Rocking at Rock Climbing!

Over the past six weeks, some of the Year 11 GCSE PE students including ourselves were given the fantastic opportunity of attending a rock climbing course, at Red Point climbing centre, which will contribute towards our overall GCSE grade. We thoroughly enjoyed this experience, improving on several qualities such as team building, clear communication and perseverance and learning new skills including, tying different knots, belaying, bouldering and most importantly ensuring the safety of our fellow peers. We are incredibly grateful for this opportunity and would like to thank Mrs Vine and Mr Fox for their time and effort over the six week course. Finally, we highly recommend this to anyone, GCSE PE student or not, to embark on this challenge!

***Aniah & Molly Year 11***



# Self Defence Club

These past few sessions of self-defence have been really useful and have taught me things that could help me if I was ever in a bad situation in the future. One of these things that I have learnt is, how to fall properly. Max taught us that if we were ever in a situation where we are about to fall is to always tuck in our chins and to slap our hands on the ground to prevent any injuries. Another thing Max taught us was, how to throw someone properly (this was my favourite session). In this session, we had to use crash matts and throw our teammates onto it. This was really useful and fun to do. I have had so much fun in these past few sessions and I'm really glad I signed up.

*Maya Year 9*

During the self defence lessons I have learnt how to pull myself out of someone else's grasp, this was the first lesson we learnt. We also learnt how to react to getting mugged, by holding the item close to our chest and pulling away to the opposite direction they tried to reach, as this gave the person approaching a harder time. Max taught us worthwhile information to defend ourselves, as these will help in the future. I enjoyed these lessons very much and I am grateful I signed up.

*Aimee Year 9*

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# Accelerated Readers

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 2,138 books, that's 117,560,917 words!

As the Spring 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!

Three students have become word multi-millionaires reading over 73,811,770 words between them.

Twelve students have become word millionaires reading over 18,742,293 words between them.

And four students have read over 25 books passing all their quizzes!

Congratulations and well done to you all.

*Mrs Ashford*

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# Health Studies

What a busy term it has been for the various subjects within the Health Studies department. Year 10 BTEC Tech Award have submitted their first piece of coursework about development across three life stages. They are currently learning about life events and the support needed to adapt to change. They have found out about a range of charitable/voluntary organisations that provide support for example Prince's Trust, Home Start and Citizens Advice Bureau.

Year 11 BTEC Tech Award students are eagerly awaiting their external examination results. They have learnt about physiological measures and can create a health plan for a specific individual. We hope their confidence in answering practice questions will pay off. All of the students should be congratulated on their care values role play - they did an excellent job showing a range of skills including anti-discriminatory practice, effective communication and the importance of a duty of care and safeguarding.

*Mrs Muggleton*



# Connecting Classrooms in French

This academic year, I enrolled two Year 8 classes studying French to take part in an exciting project called Connecting Classrooms. It is a virtual exchange programme organised by the company Forum by Prometour.

The Year 8 students involved in the project have been asked to create a series of three short videos about their daily life which they share with our partner school in France (Collège Robert Doisneau in Montrouge, in the south west of Paris) and, in turn, they receive videos from our partner school. The themes covered in the videos enable the students to use French outside the classroom.

ACTIVITY 1. Introduce Yourself (November – December) video introducing yourself.

ACTIVITY 2. School Life (February – March) video sharing daily school routine, giving a tour of the school, and explaining the education system in the country.

ACTIVITY 3. Hometown Tour & Regional Culture (April – May) video showcasing the hometown or region.

The students have taken this 'virtual' project a step further and decided to create and send 'real' post in the form of Christmas cards, New Year's cards and Easter cards which enables students to experience the cultural differences in both countries.

What do our students think of this project?

*Personally, I think the penpal video project has really boosted my confidence in speaking French.*

**Sara**

*I love learning new languages and discovering new cultures. When I learn a new language, it is like opening a gateway to a new world and this project enables me to see people like me!*

**Cali**

*Being able to hear our penpals speak shows us that it is as challenging for them to learn English as it is for us to learn another language and that, in spite of errors being made, we can still understand each other.*

**Bo**

*Mrs Southerton*



# Sixth Form News

## Farewell to our Study Abroad Students

As part of our link with Study Abroad UK, each year the sixth form hosts students from across the world to study with us. This term we welcomed Isais, Yeruti and Maria from Paraguay. They joined us in October and were fully integrated into sixth form life, joining our review groups, following their own timetables and helping out with lower school Spanish lessons. The students thoroughly enjoyed their time with us and made lots of friends. They returned to Paraguay in March. In their place we have welcomed Danilo from Chile, Mateo from Mexico and Renan from Brazil.



## Year 13 Exams

Well done to the year 13 cohort who sat 2 sets of mock examinations this term. This is the cohort that unfortunately didn't get to complete GCSE's due to the pandemic. The mock exams showed the resilience of our students and hopefully prepared them for exams in the summer.

## Lessons from Auschwitz

Nine students, Aliyah, Tara, Aman, Farah, Namirah, Maham, Ambreen, Yeabsira and Aya from year 12 have been involved with the lessons for the Auschwitz scheme. Students commit to learning about WWII, allies with Germany and the impact on citizens throughout Europe, primarily those who were Jewish. Students take part in discussions, read various articles and follow up their learning with a project. Lordswood have been part of the scheme for many years and it's fantastic so many 6th form students are getting involved.

## Review Group Assemblies

All 6th form review groups will present to their peers about subjects they are passionate about. The students have created some fantastic presentations ranging from topics about taking a gap, happiness, fake news and the impact of social media on mental health to keeping women safe.

## NCS Clothing collection

Bano from 12.4, in partnership with NCS, organised a clothing collection for the homeless. Bano's NCS group helped to organise clothing items into 'clothing packages' to be given out to homeless people in Digbeth, Birmingham.

*Mrs Leadbetter*

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# Recruitment & Selection

Year 13 BTEC students studying unit 8 recruitment and selection underwent an assessment which required them to be the interviewee and interviewer, the student completed application forms, created CVs and ensured they were dressed smartly for the occasion. The process for the assessment gives students the opportunity to apply for existing vacancies when they leave 6th form and also the experience of how tough interview experiences can be.

Meanwhile, Year 12 investigated motivation theories, analysing why people go to work other than for financial rewards and also the costs incurred by businesses to motivate staff. Students had the opportunity to review recruitment and selection processes and pay close attention to hierarchical structures and job roles and responsibilities.

*Mrs Waraich*

# Health Studies & T Levels

The Year 12 OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care students sat their unit 2 and unit 3 external examinations in January. The results are encouraging. Similarly the year 13 students sat their anatomy and physiology examination. We are very pleased with their results. Now the focus is completing coursework tasks.

The Year 12 T Level in Education and Childcare students are working hard towards their Core Examinations and Employer Set Project. Students are enjoying putting theoretical knowledge into practice on their industrial placement. It is lovely to see their confidence grow and read their reflections of their own personal development journey. Feedback from placements has been excellent. Similarly the Transfer to the T Level students have been using their soft skills whilst on industrial placement. They have been able to incorporate their experiences into their coursework.

Our first cohort of T Level in Education and Childcare students are doing really well and we are very proud of them. Currently they are being frequently observed in placement by a staff assessor and exam board moderator. The activities they have planned for the children are engaging and effectively delivered. They are articulate in the professional discussions held about a range of topics. They have a busy few months ahead with various assignments and examinations to be completed; but they still find the time to be excellent role models and mentors for the year 12.

*Mrs Muggleton*

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## Lessons from Auschwitz

Through history we see how historical events have shaped our world today. Fortunately, I was given the opportunity to attend the lessons from Auschwitz online Lessons which is an interactive, in depth programme by the department of education that highlights the importance of how the events of the tragic holocaust should never be forgotten but remembered so that we can learn from each individual's story of struggle, resilience and hope.

We must all learn about the Holocaust as it's part of world history but is also an opportunity to learn lessons from it so we can prevent such calamities repeating. Which begs the question how do we stop such things? The answer is the same as Holocaust survivor "Steven Frank" who says the key is education.

Like all of us, we are taught about the tragedies that occurred at Auschwitz and other camps and the 6 million Jews that perished due to inhumane treatment, but we aren't taught the importance of listening to survivors of these events or learning about the individual lives affected by it. However, the Lessons from Auschwitz introduced me to a new way of thinking about this large section of History that's so close yet so distant. In the lessons we weren't just given numerical figures of the millions that died, this is because by seeing the statistics and broad facts we cannot understand the complexity of the holocaust it can't tell us about the human experience of anguish and fear that millions felt. In turn, I want to introduce a case study:

This photograph was taken in 1930 on the Island of Corfu, Greece. It shows Jacob Mordo with his three children. Jews had lived in Greece for more than two thousand years. The Jewish population of Greece was approximately 1% of the total population before the Occupation of Germany. Corfu was occupied by the Germans in September 1943. In 1944 Jews were rounded up and sent on boats to the Greek mainland, before being put on trains to Auschwitz. The Nazis murdered more than 90% of the Jews of Greece, including Jacob Mordo and his son, on the left of the picture.

Through learning about those affected by the Nazi regime we are better able to understand the individuals and in turn, ensuring their stories do not die keeping their names alive. Which is why we must listen to those that have survived and have bear witnessed to the tragedies that occurred. "The witness has forced himself to testify. For the youth of today, for the children who will be born tomorrow. He does not want his past to become their future" – E.W.

There are many misconceptions about the events of the holocaust, and I want to clear some up. Many people think all Jews were murdered in concentration





camps, but the reality is half died in cramped unsanitary ghettos and shooting sites where before being shot Jews were forced to dig their own graves. Jews weren't just murdered in Nazi Germany but throughout Nazi occupied countries such as France, Italy, Poland, Bulgaria, Croatia and many more. You might be wondering why I haven't mentioned Hitler, this is because it wasn't just one man that helped lead to the events of the holocaust but also thousands of collaborators that helped the hunting of Jews.

Through all this the Jews across Europe didn't lose their hope there was a group of Jews in Auschwitz that had the most horrifying tasks. This group was called the SonderKommando. They were forced to accompany Jews towards the gas chamber and assist them as the Nazis told them they were heading to the showers. Once the children, women, and the old were gassed they had to clear the chamber and dispose of the bodies to be burned in the crematoria. To have to take people- small children, mothers and the weak to the gas chambers knowing what really awaited them was death is incomprehensible, they had witnessed the depths of human cruelty. However, they still had hope some in the Kommando wrote diary entries and records of the number of people killed in the crematoria. The list records: the date; how many people; whether they were men, women, or children and the place from which they came so that future generations would understand and try to make out the terrifying accounts that took place this evidence was buried around the camp that would later prove the genocide of millions. These people did this whilst knowing if they were found they will succumb to the same death. It is important to remember and learn what happened across Nazi occupied Europe to prevent other forms of persecution. To commemorate those lost in the Holocaust, forgotten, because their family died with them, they have no living relatives or neighbours to remember them. The events of the holocaust hold contemporary relevance to this day. Across the world there is still genocide, such as the Uighur Muslims, where women are forcibly sterilised, thousands forced into camps where they are subjected to violence and torture, they're unable to practice their religion and forced to consume alcohol and pork. Uyghur activists say they fear that the group's culture is under threat of erasure.

To learn more about the real-life experiences you can read "Night" by Ellie Wiesel an Auschwitz survivor, the book "provides rare insight into the darkest side of human nature. It is also a beacon for the enduring power of hope". We wouldn't be able to understand what happened at camps like Auschwitz without the survivors, through their words we are able to comprehend it.

*Maham Year 12*

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## Politics & Sociology

This term, the politics and sociology students have continued to apply their work in lessons to the outside world. In Year 13 politics the students have been particularly engaged with the issues surrounding the conflict in Ukraine. We have discussed the impact of the conflict for the global political ideas and applied theories of international relations to the conflict.

Similarly, in Year 12 politics we have sought to apply debates surrounding the premiership of Boris Johnson to theories around voting behaviour and executive power.

Finally, in sociology we have continued to engage in issues surrounding the race in education and the media. We have looked at the different factors affecting achievement and controversies related to the recent report on racial inequality. Overall, our students are being given numerous opportunities to articulate their views and understand their position within society.

*Mr Wells*

# Diary Dates

W/C 25th April	-	Year 13 practical examinations
Thursday 28th April	-	Year 12 Parents' Evening 4pm - 6.30pm
Monday 2nd May	-	<b>Bank holiday</b>
Thursday 12th May	-	Year 7 Parents' Evening 4pm - 6.30pm
W/C 16th May	-	Year 8 examinations
W/C 23rd May	-	Year 12 work experience week
23rd-25th May	-	Pioneer Centre Trip

Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June - **Half term holiday**

W/C 6th June	-	Year 7 examinations
Thursday 9th June	-	Year 10 history trip
Tuesday 14th June	-	Whole School PSHE Day
Friday 17th June	-	Parent Forum 8-9am
W/C 20th & 27th June	-	Year 10 examinations
Friday 24th June	-	Year 11 Prom
27th & 28th June	-	New Year 12 welcome days
Monday 4th July	-	<b>INSET school closed to students</b>
Wednesday 20th July	-	Celebration evening
Thursday 21st July	-	<b>End of school year</b>

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*From everyone at  
Lordswood Girls' School  
and Sixth Form Centre, we  
wish you all a very safe and  
relaxing Easter holiday!*