

Parent Bulletin



11th - 15th July 2022

Week 2

Lordswood Girls' School
www.lordswoodgirls.co.uk
0121 429 2838

Upcoming Dates

Date	Event
Friday 15th July	Year 7 Dudley Zoo trip
Monday 18th July	Sports Day
Thursday 21st July	End of school year

Potential school closures

Just a reminder that the school is likely to be closed on Tuesday 12th July, Wednesday 13th July, Thursday 14th July, Tuesday 19th July and Wednesday 20th July. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Work will be set for students to complete at home on these days. It is essential that students log on to their school emails each morning in order to access the work set for the day.

If you do not have access to IT facilities please email w.machin@lordswoodtrust.co.uk who will endeavour to support.

If your child is in receipt of free school meals and you require us to provide a packed lunch on these days (they will have to be collected from the school) please contact n.coggins@lordswoodtrust.co.uk who will arrange for one to be provided.

New Uniform Guide

A few parents have asked us to reshare the new uniform guide. Please find below:

[uniform guide 2022-23.pdf](#)

Please note that we will be strictly enforcing the uniform policy in September so please do not let your child convince you that “others will be wearing stretch skirts/fabric shoes/nose piercings/makeup”.

Accessing EduLink

The EduLink app allows you to access information on your child's achievement, attendance and behaviour. When parents have come in for meetings, quite often we hear that they do not have the app and how useful it would be to be able to know if their child has received any praise or behaviour points each day. If you do not have the app, there is a Google Form for parents to use to request their EduLink details. The link is here -

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjU9z0vn2XpV-gMGkzb_s3cfpuWAZms9G5ggAE2oudx4zo0g/viewform . Alternatively if you email edulink-help@lordswoodtrust.co.uk and include your name, email, student name and year group.

Year 7 Dudley Zoo Trip - Friday 15th July, during school hours

Students should wear their own comfortable clothes and outdoor shoes suitable for walking around outdoors. Students should bring a packed lunch and drink and up to £10 spending money for the shop. Mobile phones can be taken on the trip for taking photographs of the animals only. No other form of use is permitted. Students will return to the Lordswood Road entrance of the school for 3pm.

Please check the weather forecast to judge whether to pack a waterproof jacket.

Careers

During the most recent PSHE day Year 7 and 8 pupils had sessions based upon 'creative' careers which feedback suggests they found really interesting! Despite disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK's creative industries - encompassing advertising, crafts, architecture, film, music and media, museums, publishing, fashion, graphic design and technology - still boast a range of interesting and exciting careers.

Have a look at the website for more information:

[Overview of the UK's creative arts sector | Prospects.ac.uk](#)

Year 8 and 9 HPV Immunisations

Unfortunately the Year 8 and 9 HPV vaccinations that were due to take place on Wednesday 20th July will have to be cancelled due to the proposed industrial action. We will let you know in due course of any rescheduled date in the new school year.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Top Tips for Respect Online: A Digital World for Everyone

Our ability to communicate with anyone in the world, at any time, via the internet has grown at breakneck speed. For teachers and parents, it can feel impossible to keep up. Worrying about

our young people is understandable, and not unjustified: in 2020, for example, one in five 10- to 15-year-olds experienced bullying online. The following tips highlight ways that adults can support young people's positive online behaviours: by adopting and following 'netiquette', we can show them how to avoid getting into difficulty as they learn to negotiate the continually evolving digital landscape.

In the guide, you'll find a number of tips such as protecting yourself, replying wisely and being forgiving.

10 Top Tips for Respect Online: A DIGITAL WORLD FOR EVERYONE

Even before lockdowns inflamed the situation, one in every five 10- to 15-year-olds was experiencing bullying online: abusive messages, having rumours spread about them or being excluded from group chats, for example. Through smartphones and tablets, we're used to being able to communicate from anywhere, at any time – but digital devices became commonplace so quickly that it caused a problem: as a society, we haven't properly adjusted to how different they've made life. Our tips can help you to build positive relationships online and avoid some of the potential issues.

WHAT IS NETIQUETTE?

Etiquette is a set of rules to help us interact with others: like a code of respect. People follow this code every day (mostly without even thinking about it) and it can help us decide how to act in certain situations. 'Netiquette' (etiquette on the net – we see what they did there!) is the same, except it's designed to help us interact with others online, which is sometimes a whole different ball game.

1 SEE THE OTHER SIDE

Usually when we're online, we can't use the other person's body language or tone of voice to give us clues about what we can say to them, or how to say it. Try to think what the situation might be like for them, how they're feeling and whether we'd say the same thing if they were actually there with us.

2 HIT THE PAUSE BUTTON

Without a person physically there in front of us, it's easy to send something quickly – before we've really thought about whether it's helpful or kind. Just because we can do things quickly doesn't mean we should; it's better to pause for a second and think it through, instead of simply reacting.

3 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

People have invented loads of different ways to communicate online (emojis, abbreviations like LOL, TBH and so on). Some of these can be triggering to other people (such as USING CAPS SO IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE SHOUTING!), so it's important to stay aware of the style of language you're using.

4 BE SURE BEFORE YOU POST

On social networks like Instagram or Facebook, vast numbers of people might see what you've posted. So if that's something negative about a person, it can feel hugely painful for them. If you're ever tempted to post something like that, ask yourself "do I really need to go public with this?"

5 PROTECT YOURSELF

Always think very carefully before sharing any personal information with someone else or in a group. Once something's been put online, the sender loses any control over where it goes and who might see it. If you've got any uncertainty at all, it's a good idea to talk to a trusted adult about this first.

6 KINDNESS IS CATCHING

Negative communication can spread rapidly online, but so can being kind and helpful (this happened quite a lot during lockdowns, for instance). A friendly, positive message can make a big difference to someone as well as helping us feel good about ourselves – so share the love!

7 WAITING CAN BE HARD

When we've sent a message or posted something online, waiting for a reply or for someone to respond can make us anxious. It could be helpful to think whether you really have to message or post right now – or if you could wait until a better time when it will cause you less anxiety.

8 THE NET LOVES ATTENTION

Most apps, games and sites use sophisticated technology that's designed to keep us coming back for more. It's important to keep this in mind when you feel the need to reach for your phone, tablet or console – once we understand this fact, it becomes easier to control how we use our digital devices.

9 REPLY WISELY

Sometimes it's tempting to fire back an instant response to a post or message we don't like. How we respond is important, however – whether we reply privately to the person or on a platform where lots of people will see it, for example, makes a big difference to how whoever is receiving the message will deal with it.

10 FORGIVE AND FORGET

Even though we try to avoid them, mistakes can – and do – happen online. They can sometimes feel like a bigger deal than they actually are. It's important to remember that we're all only human, and sometimes we mess up. Learn to forgive others and – just as importantly – to forgive yourself.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Carole Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who, through her research, specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with businesses and organisations to support positive and effective communication online, often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the mediums.



Source: <https://www.nos.gov.uk/securepublicationsandcommunity/crisisandisolationinthebritishfamilyduringlockdownandwelfareinquiryreport>
<https://www.nos.gov.uk/publications/psychologicalwellbeinginthebritishfamilyduringlockdownandwelfareinquiryreport>



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*together we aspire,
we discover,
we excel*

Girls' School

Lordswood Girls' School

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Headteacher: Mrs. K Cooney, BSC (Hons), MA



Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

HAPPY, SAFE SUMMER – REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

The summer holiday is fast approaching, it is important our students are reminded what we, as a school community, expect of them in terms of behaviour while they are enjoying socialising with friends and family during the break. We also want to ensure they feel confident to keep themselves safe and away from crime and anti-social behaviour. Parents/carers and students should already be aware that as part of our safeguarding arrangements, the school has a two-way information sharing agreement in place with West Midlands Police, and we are active members of the local Police & Schools Panel. This joint approach helps us to intervene early to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour involving our students and provide support and up-to-date safety messages.

In partnership with the police, we would like to provide some reminders about the following:

- **Personal Safety:**
 - Be aware of your surroundings, take care of friends and family members and keep valuables such as phones out of public view whenever possible.
 - Don't drink alcohol, take illegal drugs or unknown substances; they can have a big impact on your health and safety, behaviour and your ability to do well at school and enjoy other interests and activities. They can also be addictive and have unpredictable side effects, including sudden death! Information is available at www.talktofrank.com
- **Swimming in rivers/reservoirs:** Reservoirs may look inviting, especially on a hot day, but they are extremely dangerous places to swim. If you jump in, you may not be able to get out as the sides are very steep; the water never gets above 11 degrees, and this will affect your ability to breathe and to move. Rivers and reservoirs may contain broken glass and may be deeper than you think.
- **Social Media:** Don't allow your use of social media to put you at risk of grooming, exploitation or regret in future. Use social media positively and avoid being negative about anyone online as comments/actions may be traced back to you and you will be held accountable.
- **Weapons in public places:** Carrying a knife or other weapon will get you a criminal record which can have life-long effects on travel and job prospects. Those who carry knives are also much more likely to be injured by them.
- **Anti-social behaviour:** Think about your actions towards others; a little thought & respect goes a long way.
- **Off-road bikes:** These can only be ridden on private land with the landowner's permission. Don't risk your life and future prospects by illegally riding these on the road.

- **Remember the company you keep:** If your friend breaks the law, you may also be held responsible for that crime – even if you weren't the one directly responsible.

If a student is in a position where they need help, they should talk to an adult they trust. Crimes can be reported directly to the police via 101; alternatively you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org. **If a crime is taking place or a life is in danger, call 999 immediately.**

We wish everyone a happy and safe summer.


Yours faithfully,



Head/Principal Name
Headteacher/Principal
School Name



Mat Shaer
Chief Superintendent - East NPU
West Midlands Police



Richard North
Chief Superintendent - West NPU
West Midlands Police



**A LOVE LETTER
TO BRUM....**

A POEM BY CASEY BAILEY

Dear Brum,

Of course I'm here writing you again
The marrow in my bones, the fire in my pen
You are the music in my accent, the reason that I sing
Placed like the main attraction, the middle of everything
It's so appropriate that we sit in the centre of the land
A place that so many can reach but few can understand
You have to really breathe it in, walk amongst these people
In this so called the second city, we are more than just a sequel
Original in every way the light that never fades
And yes you heard the games are coming, but my city doesn't play
So let the flags stream through, but we've had a preview
In the city that is home to so many day to day
It hasn't always done us proud, home of Enoch's speeches
Rivers couldn't wash the blood, you can't dust or clean it
It's legacy lives on, and we've definitely moved on
But life is not always a beach, in the city of no beaches
We've had our dark Sundays, but Monday brings dawn
So we survive the black sabbaths, where Ozzy was born
Iommi, Ward, and Butler making every song special
Down the road from Iron Bridge, we were forging heavy metal
Where Rowland Hill invented stamps, Where Jaykae makes grime
A place with so much heritage, yet somehow in its prime
Just look at chamberlain square, clock tower rising in the air
And you don't even have to stare for you to see that it's our time

And time is precious, with the beauty and the pain that it delivers
Glass buildings rise around me I'm reflecting in these mirrors
When I think of what I've lost in this city I get shivers
Shivers, I get shivers
But if I'm the town hall roof then the city is it's pillars
The expertise at the QE cannot be overstated if you understand it
There's a reason why Birmingham's the place where Malala landed
When she arrived her life was on the edge let's not understate it
Fought for girls education then in Edgbaston, she was educated
Proud, that's the way my city makes me feel
Loud, about achievements that you won't believe are real
Clouds, can hammer us with rain and make the river swell
But the storm is water off a duck's back on these Brum canals
I am Leon Priestnall's words, Jamelia's superstar
There's an Annotomix Fox spray painted on my heart
The art, just like the people round here, is eclectic
Putting on a show for years, go and check in The Electric
Respect it, the special kind of story that we write
Give it credit and that's by the order of Stephen Knight
Keep running, it's just another lap of Alexander Stadium
Go for gold on the podium,

Be Bold, Be Birmingham.