

APPLIED  
LEARNING

arts colleges



Healthy Schools

Every Child Matters  
Quality Mark GoldARTSMARK  
GOLDSpecialist Schools Trust  
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITYSPORT  
ENGLAND  
SPORTSMARK

December 2010

[www.lordswoodgirls.co.uk](http://www.lordswoodgirls.co.uk)A Specialist Centre for Media Arts and  
Applied Learning

# Lordswood News

## A Letter from the Headteacher

Dear Parents,

We hope that this edition of the Newsletter will give you a flavour of what has happened over the last term. We have also included the newspaper produced by year 11 as part of their Induction Week in September; we hope you enjoy reading it!

Within this newsletter, you will find details of events taking place between now and the end of term, together with the arrangements for the end of term. I hope that you will be able to join us for our annual Christmas Fayre and concert on 9th December.

On 16th December we are holding our annual Certificate Presentation Evening where the guest speaker will be the education consultant and former director of 14-19 education in Wolverhampton, Peter Hawthorn, CBE. It is wonderful to be able to celebrate the achievements of last year's year 11 and 13 students and we hope that current year 11 and sixth form students will be equally successful. Year 11 are involved in mock examinations this week which will help them to practise their examination technique and to identify areas for development. We hope that the exams go well for them. Year 13 have just completed their mock examinations and year 12 will have their exam week in January. Students need to take advantage of these opportunities, revise thoroughly and use the feedback to help them improve and consolidate their learning. We have now had confirmation of our school scores for 2010 and it makes very pleasing reading! The Value Added score and Contextual Value Added

score for Key Stage 4 place us in the top 1% and 7% respectively of schools nationally – a fantastic result! Well done to all students and staff.

I would like to ask for your support in two areas which are causing great concern. You will be aware that I have frequently raised the issue of parking and related traffic issues in Knightlow Road. With the re-surfacing of Knightlow Road, the situation has become extremely dangerous, with the result that two weeks ago a child narrowly avoided being knocked over. Staff do try and supervise the dropping off and the safe arrival of students but in some cases are being completely ignored by a minority of parents. Please do not use the top of Ellesborough Road as a drop off point or to execute a U turn. Similarly, please do not park in front of residents' driveways, mount the pavement, or allow your child to get out of the car into the middle of the road. The police are supporting us in trying to ensure our students arrive and leave safely and I would like to thank those parents who are helping us to address the problem, but I would like to enlist the support of all parents. As a parent, having something terrible happen to your child has to be, I believe, about the worst thing that can happen and I never want to be in the situation where I have to ring a parent to pass on distressing news. Please help me in this matter.

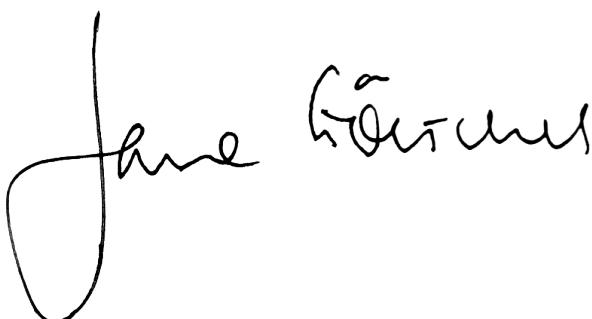
The second matter concerns 'Facebook'. Increasingly, we are having to deal with issues in school which have resulted from offensive or defamatory comments by students about other students. This is not only bullying, it also contravenes a number of laws which I have listed below (source: Becta e-safety Advice Document).

- Computer Misuse Act 1990
- Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998

- Data Protection Act 1998
- Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997 (including harassment, bullying, and cyberstalking)
- Malicious Communications Act 1988 (including harassment, bullying, and cyberstalking)

There have been other cases where students have added 'friends' whom they do not know or pasted picture of themselves / given out information which could put their safety at risk. Students are taught about e-safety at school but frequently seem to forget/ignore what they have been taught. Students cannot access Facebook from school and the school has no powers to stop students pasting such comments but I believe that this is a problem that we can only solve together. Being aware of how your daughter/son is using their Facebook account is important and please do make us aware of any concerns you might have. If your daughter or son is the subject of any bullying via Facebook, please make a screen print and contact the police or alternatively bring the print into school and we will contact the police. Thank you for your support in this.

It seems unbelievable that we are approaching the end of 2010! In the light of budget cuts and a new white paper on education, I am sure that 2011 will bring its own challenges and rewards. In the meantime, I would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year.



Mrs Jane Götschel  
Headteacher

Following the Parent Governor elections, we would like to announce that the parents elected to serve on the governing body were Dr Humara Haq, and Mrs Alicia Zanetto. We would like to express our thanks to the other nominees for their willingness to support the school.

# Parent E-Safety Briefings

*Lordswood's new sessions aimed at keeping students safe online*

New technologies are powerful tools which have become integral to the lives of children and young people in today's society, both within schools and in their lives outside school. In order to help support parents to ensure that their children are safe online, parent e-safety briefings have taken place during the autumn term. The briefings were delivered by Mrs Baxter, a parent herself, who knows the potential risks whilst online. Her lively, interactive sessions gave parents the opportunity to find out about the dangers and what to do to keep their children safe.

So far the briefings have been offered to parents in Year 7, 9, 10 and 11. Don't worry we haven't forgotten about the Year 8 parents. Your session will be during Parents' Evening on 6th January 2011. So make sure you come along to find out what you can do ensure your child's experience online is fun and safe.

Thank you to all parents who have completed the parent e-safety questionnaire. The results are providing us with important information on your awareness of e-safety issues and we hope to use the information to inform future support sessions. If you require more information on the results of the survey you can contact me by phone or e-mail [l.finucane@lordswoodgirls.co.uk](mailto:l.finucane@lordswoodgirls.co.uk)

## CyberMentors Launched

*Introducing our CyberMentor peer support system*

CyberMentors successfully launched on the 1st December 2010 with the help of a dedicated team of Year 10 CyberMentors. After providing training to Year 7 and 8 pupils on how to use the CyberMentor website, the CyberMentors were poised to offer advice and support to those who need it.

Here's a little bit about what the CyberMentors do:

CyberMentors is all about young people helping and supporting each other online. If you're being bullied, or are feeling a bit low, or are troubled by something and you're not sure what to do or who to talk to, then CyberMentors is where you can go for help. It doesn't matter how big or small you think the problem is, or whether you're being targeted online or offline, CyberMentors are here to listen and support you.

If you want to talk about a problem you've got then the CyberMentors are available every Wednesday. To talk to a CyberMentor collect a lunchtime pass before school on Wednesdays. This will allow you access to room F4 at 12:50pm where you can talk to a CyberMentor via the chat room. The website is secure and patrolled by online moderators and counsellors; the room is also supervised by a member of school staff.

So if you need help and want to talk to a CyberMentor, come along on a Wednesday to room F4. If you prefer a face-to-face meeting then the CyberMentors are available for peer support on Tuesday lunchtimes. More details on these sessions will follow shortly. A big thank you goes to all the CyberMentors!



*CyberMentor Ambassadors (above):- Dasha Ageeva 10R, Amy Bevan 10R, Emily Shaw 10L, Alice Tomlinson 10S*



*CyberMentor team (above):- Ifrah Ahmad 10L,*

*Adelina Banduri 10S, Sophie King 10G, Alero Kpiasi 10S, Emma Markman-Morris 10S, Polly McComb 10L, Jessica McNutt 10R, Charlotte Molnar 10L, Simrun Rupra 10R, Charlotte Trinham 10C, Alice Whitehead 10G, Nia Williams 10G*

For further details on CyberMentors you can visit [www.cybermentors.org.uk](http://www.cybermentors.org.uk) or contact me by phone or e-mail [l.finucane@lordswoodgirls.co.uk](mailto:l.finucane@lordswoodgirls.co.uk)

## *Useful websites for parents*

**<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>**

Guide to internet safety and safe surfing from the 'think u know' team at CEOP – Child Exploitation and Online Protection centre

**<http://www.childnet-int.org/kia/parents/>**

Download the online CD to find out how to keep your children safe whilst online

**<http://parents.vodafone.com/>**

Protecting your family on mobiles and the internet Vodafone parents' guide

## **Art and Design in the Community**

*Miss Tooley's sixth form art students take art to local primary schools*

This term the year 13 A Level Art and Design students have been sharing their artistic skills with children in local primary schools. They helped to produce resources and deliver six weekly sessions based on Aboriginal art at Our Lady of Fatima during which the children learnt about the origins of the art form and created masks which told a story.



*Students from Our Lady of Fatima proudly show off their Aboriginal inspired creations*

All the children thoroughly enjoyed the project and the sixth form students were excellent ambassadors for Lordswood's sixth form centre. We are currently working with a small group of children from Abbey Junior school on a project based on William Morris's printed patterns. Thank-you to all the sixth form students who have helped to make the projects a success.

## Extra Curricular Art

### *Miss Tooley on her hard-working art club students*

This term on Monday lunchtimes a large group of students have been attending art club in order to improve their drawing skills and use of coloured media. All students have made fantastic progress and have managed to produce their latest pieces of work with confidence. I would like to congratulate them all on their commitment to the club.

A small group of students have been attending print making club on Tuesdays after school. They have been shown how to make stencil prints, mono prints and are now experts in using the printing press. All of them have been producing such beautiful work that we have decided to make a calendar of prints for 2011.

There will be opportunities to buy the calendar at the Christmas Fayre and at breaktimes in the last week of term.

## International Links

### *Miss Tooley explains how students have been helping those in Ghana*

A group of sixth form students have been meeting regularly on Wednesday lunchtimes to create teaching resources for the children who attend the Underprivileged Children's' Centre in Ghana. The aim of the project is to help the children learn basic English and Maths and to provide resources to help volunteers deliver helpful sessions.

Another branch of the International Links team has been planning fundraising ideas to help raise money for the centre so look out in the New Year for how you can get involved in some of their events.

# Drama Department Gets Out and About

### *Mrs Swallow reflects on this term's theatre visits and trips*

This term students in GCSE and A-Level Theatre Studies have participated in a range of trips and activities, experiencing a wide range of theatre.

GCSE students enjoyed a trip to see 'Blood Brothers' at the Birmingham Hippodrome. Students are studying the play as part of their controlled assessment and clearly benefitted from the experience of a live theatre production of the play. All students seemed to enjoy themselves and enthusiastically engaged with the performance. It was extremely positive to see how they enjoyed the comic moments and felt the emotion of the piece too. All students behaved in a way that was a credit to themselves and the school.

A-level students enjoyed the chance to see an amateur production of 'Jesus Christ Superstar' at the Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham as well as 'Kneehigh's Red Shoes' at Warwick Arts centre. The contrast in the two performances is something that is required by the course and has certainly provided students with a wider view of theatre.

As well as visits to the theatre students have had the opportunity to participate in two drama workshops, one from The Midland Actors Theatre about the practitioner Bertolt Brecht, based on their play 'The Good Person of Trenchtown', which was held at the school on Tuesday 12th October. Some of our students were even in the community play. The other workshop is a devised workshop by a London based company The Stanislavski Experience. This workshop is taking place in the last week of term.

## Sixth Form Theatre Workshops

### *Year 12 and 13 students get hands on with Les Misérables*

This year it was the turn of Year 12/13 students to participate in a London workshop and theatre visit, based on the west-end musical 'Les

*Misérables'.* The whole event was an exciting one, allowing students to extend and deepen their understanding of this particular genre of theatre and to see live theatre at its best.

**REMINDER:** All payments for the GCSE Drama and Music trip to London must be paid by the beginning of January. There are still many students who have not met all of the payments.

## The Wiz

*An update on our latest production from Mrs Swallow*

The school production will again be a joint venture with Lordswood Boys' School, and the actual shows will be taking place at Lordswood Boys' School.

Shows were initially meant to be on 30th March, 31st March and 1st April 2011. However, the boys school will be undertaking examinations on these dates, so it has been necessary to change the dates for the productions.

These will now be taking place on the following dates:

24th March 2011  
25th March 2011  
26th March 2011

Thank you to all of the students that have auditioned and congratulations to those that have got a role in the show. Rehearsals are progressing well in all areas of singing, dancing and acting and this year's performance promises to be bigger and better than ever. Tickets will be on sale soon in the new year and will be available from Lordswood Boys' School.

## Top Tips for English

*Miss Simms on how tips from the AQA Chief Examiner are quite useful*

At the beginning of the Autumn term, Year eleven and early entry Year ten pupils benefitted from a day's workshop from the Chief Examiner of AQA English, John Nield. The girls valued his expertise and found the session entertaining as well as informative. They were given hints about their forthcoming English examination, which they sat at the start of November, and benefitted from his many years' experience as the Chief Examiner of English AQA.

The day focused on specific skills that the girls had been working on in English, in particular analysing a range of non-fiction, media texts and poetry.

As we have found in previous years, the day was a great success and helped the girls to feel positive about their GCSE examination.

## A Letter From The Queen!

*Mrs Brookes explains Lordswood's royal connection*

Last academic year a number of Year 7 students compiled a book of their creative writing, accompanied by self drawn illustrations. The book, available to borrow from the school library, had been sent to many of the girls' primary schools, whilst one copy was sent to Her Majesty. Not long ago we received a thank you letter from Buckingham Palace, in which The Queen remarks how pleased she is to learn that the work 'is the result of the endeavours of so many enterprising and imaginative young people.'

So, once again, well done to all those involved in the project.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

4th August, 2010

*Dear Dr Fuller,*

I write to thank you for the letter, and the book which you have sent to The Queen on behalf of the thirty young writers who produced it.

Her Majesty was touched that the authors should wish her to have a copy of this interesting collection of stories and poems, and The Queen was pleased to learn that the work, including the illustrations and design, is the result of the endeavours of so many enterprising and imaginative young people.

I am to thank you once again for this special present, which was greatly appreciated, and for remembering Her Majesty at this time.

*Yours sincerely,  
Richard Elton*

Lady-in-Waiting

Dr K Fuller

*The letter on behalf of Her Majesty*

# Bake a Difference!

*Year 9 students Sandeep Shoker and Amelia Wilkinson explain Lordswood's involvement in the nationally run campaign*

For the third year running, National Baking week and Concern Worldwide joined forces to make the 'Bake a Difference' campaign which aims to raise money for families in extremely poor countries. We were very lucky to be part of this fun and creative project whilst helping people.

National Baking week was from 18th- 24th October and girls from years 7-11 volunteered to help Miss Tosh during and after school by participating in baking workshops, advertising and selling as part of the event. We made sparkly biscuits, crunchy cookies and delicious cakes which were sold on various days of the week and at the year 10 parents' evening.

Last year, schools from all over Britain raised over £60,000 for Concern's food programmes and helped over 9 million people living in extreme poverty. The target this year was to raise over £100,000. From every £1 we raised by holding cake sales, 89p was sent directly to education, training, health schemes or agricultural programmes.

We managed to raise £119.28 and the money is helping to bring positive changes to some of the poorest countries in the world.

- £25 could buy a supply of tools and seeds for one family in Angola.
- £50 could buy vegetable seeds for 35 families in Zambia.
- £100 could enable 200 households to nurture their farms.

We would like to say thank you to Miss Tosh for organising the event so that our school could be part of the project and for helping us with all of the baking! Plus, thank you to everyone who baked or who bought a cookie or cake and to those who generously donated money.



# Creative and Media Diploma

*Mrs Leadbetter reports on a busy term for our diploma students*

This term year 11 students of the Creative and Media Diploma have been working on their Campaign unit and have produced successful campaign materials for a range of causes.

Notably, they have been responsible for putting together marketing materials for the Children's Centre in Ghana and presenting their ideas to the Board of Directors. Other issues students are championing are healthy eating, global warming and internet security. Look out for posters around school.

Students are now beginning work on the Year 7 Performance evening which is based around Kipling's 'Just So Stories'. Diploma students will be helping out with directing, set design, ticket sales, front of house, sound and lighting and backstage. Designs are already underway for the five different sets needed for each Year 7 performance. To help them develop their design skills, students visited the Herbert Museum and Art Gallery to work with local Street Artist Asone.

Year 10 Diploma students continue to visit Shenley Academy each week to work collaboratively with students from Shenley, Bournville School and Hillcrest. To complement their investigation into the creative and media scene in Birmingham students have had a backstage tour of the Birmingham Rep and visited the Ikon Gallery and Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. Later this month they will be taking a trip to the Hippodrome to review the ballet, 'Cinderella'.

# French Theatre Visits Lordswood

*Learning on stage for modern foreign language students!*

In November the Onatti Theatre Company performed a French play entitled "Le Paquet Mystérieux" "The Mysterious Package". Over 100 pupils attended the event and the actors ensured that the pupils not only enjoyed

watching the play but also actively participated. Pupils were called up to the stage to take part in humorous French conversations to help discover the contents of the mysterious package. One pupil commented "It was the best play I've ever seen. Are they coming again?" The play was followed by a French buffet where pupils sampled a range of French delicacies such as pain au chocolat and croissants. This event was a great success! Pupils will be invited to attend a Spanish play performed by the same company in March 2011.

## Music for Youth Schools Prom 2010

*Students perform at the Royal Albert Hall*

### Music for Youth Schools Prom 2010

The 2010 Schools Prom concerts took place on 8, 9 and 10 November, when 3000 talented young musicians performed at the Royal Albert Hall. Audiences were treated on each of the three nights to high quality music making celebrating the diversity and quality of music being performed by many thousands of young people in this country today.

Seven students from Lordswood Girls School were invited to be a part of this amazing experience of singing at the Royal Albert Hall in London. Under the leadership of international musical director, Ken Burton, Birmingham Music Service brought together 400 students from schools all over the city to form the first mass choir.



*A section of the 400 strong choir comprising of students from all over Birmingham*

Although the time was short and they only had one month to prepare, having one rehearsal session a week, the choir successfully learnt a number of songs from memory and in 4 part harmony, something which is quite difficult to achieve.

After a long journey down to London, the students arrived at the Albert Hall, where they were quickly taken into the concert hall for a full dress rehearsal with the Jazz band, a very quick dinner break and straight into the evening concert.



*Everyone joined in for the final celebrations*

The concert experience itself was amazing! Not only did they get the opportunity to sing in the Royal Albert Hall, a venue that was officially opened by Queen Victoria and has hosted international artists such as The Beatles, but they also sang to an audience of 5000 people. Over the evenings, there were a wide range of performances from schools and cities all over the UK. Some of the most memorable performances included a string quartet where all of the instrumentalists played their own part on the cello at the same time, a primary school samba band, whose performance was impeccable and spell bounding, not to mention to overwhelming sound created by the 400 strong Birmingham gospel choir. Towards the end of the concert the gospel choir joined Northamptonshire County Youth Orchestra and Thomas Telford School Choir in a performance of Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen. This performance alone was exceptional as each group had never met before, from all over the country and had only 30 minutes in the dress rehearsal to learn the song! Finally to finish the concert, the 5000 strong audience and all performers came together to sing "Land of Hope and Glory" by the British composer, Edward Elgar. During this song, balloons and fireworks

burst into the air creating a truly celebratory experience for all.

Although it was an extremely long and tiresome day, arriving back in Birmingham at 1.30am the experience was truly memorable and the students involved should be congratulated for their participation and impeccable behaviour.

Congratulations go to: Sophie Neale (year 9), Shelter Atunde (year 10), Bethany Harden (year 10), Isabelle Gessey (year 11), Eleanor Hallam (year 11), Niamh Smyth (year 11), Eleanor Clarke (year 12).

We would also like to thank Mr Gessey for acting as chauffeur to year 11 students involved in examinations on the day.

## **Corps of Army Music Workshops**

### *Army musicians call Lordswood musicians to attention*

On the 21st October the Corps of Army Music came to Lordswood Girls' School to provide a brass and woodwind workshop for instrumentalists, providing valuable ensemble skills and musical tuition.

The Corps of Army Music arrived with a full concert band, made up of instruments such as, saxophones, flutes, clarinets, trumpets, euphoniums and a large percussion section. Sat amongst the Army musicians, our students were able to perform within the band and experience a professional rehearsal session, learning about a career as a musician in the military. Although the music was quite difficult they did manage to perform alongside the musicians, and all students involved enjoyed the experience, expressing their wish to participate in such an event again.

## **CBSO Visits Lordswood Girls'**

### *Miss Hobbs on a truly inspirational day*

On Wednesday 20th October the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's string

section visited Lordswood Girls School to provide a series of short concerts to the school. This was an enjoyable and amazing experience as many students had never seen an orchestra perform before and the CBSO orchestra is internationally known and regularly performs around the world.

The orchestra played three concerts that day and performed a variety of pieces of music that demonstrated the abilities and sounds of the different instruments in the ensemble.

After the concert, it was pleasing to hear how enjoyable students found the experience and to hear that some wanted to go and see the CBSO orchestra perform again was encouraging.

I hope that all students took something away from the concerts, even if it was broadening their musical knowledge, inspiration to play an instrument or simply an enjoyable experience.

## **Meet the RE Team**

### *Mrs Stevens introduces this year's team*

We are delighted to introduce the members of this year's RE Team:

Sara Rostami 7L  
Shania Dixon-Biggs 7L  
Helena Akhlaiq 7I  
Ifzah Khan 7W

Raziah Makanvand 8D  
Miriam Noons 8G

Amelia Wilkinson 9W  
Martha Davis 9L

Charlotte Trinham 10C  
Adelina Banduri 10S  
Ayesha Nazir 10R

Emmanuella Mbatangie 11R

Claudia Carby Year 13  
Madhia Batool Year 13

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all students who applied.

Members of our team look forward to exciting projects including 'Spirited Arts 2011' and making links with Birmingham City Hospital.

They are also keen to provide new opportunities for students in RE and work closer with our sixth form team leaders in raising the profile of student voice in the RE department.

# Inter Faith Week Competition Results

## *RE Department congratulates winners*

This term year 8 students have been invited to enter an 'Inter Faith week' Logo competition.

The winners of this competition are listed below and their logos are on display outside the RE classroom.

Sakina Rajbali  
Phoebe Harris  
Catriona Sharples  
Leah Thompson  
Becky McCarthy  
Lucy Baines  
Francesca Iafrati

Congratulations to our winners!

During 'Inter Faith Week' this year students in all year groups have attended assemblies led by visiting speakers from local faith communities. KS3 students have also had the opportunity to explore a range of religious perspectives on the topics they are studying in specially designed Inter Faith Week lessons.

# Laser Club

## *Year 9's Harriet Wood and Megan Campbell on why they like Laser Club*

During the autumn term we decided to join Laser Club because we have been using the laser cutter in lessons and we enjoyed using it and seeing what it could cut out. The aim of Laser Club is to design and make products which can be sold at the Christmas Fayre. We have designed many products for people all of ages such as Christmas tree decorations, name plaques for children and teenagers and coasters for everyone. We have also been selling personalised products (as well as Christmas

cards) during the last half term at break times.

We have enjoyed this experience very much and think it will help us out in our lessons in the future. We also have a great sense of achievement when people come and buy the products we have made. Overall we think that Laser Club is a great club to do and it has helped us develop our skills for the future.

# School Council Away Day

## *Miss Lomas details the council's first ever away day*

On Friday 19th November, the entire Lordswood Girls' School Council took part in the first ever Council Away Day. While the focus of the day was for all students to take part in team building activities, leadership training and planning sessions, the real purpose of the day was to instil a sense of self belief in the students which would better enable them to initiate change here at Lordswood and to work together proactively.

After a bracing walk (which resulted in many rosy cheeks!) to the Martineau Centre in Harborne, myself, Miss Millward and Ms Bacon got straight down to work, leading the students through a series of amusing ice breaker activities, one of which left us tied in knots, literally! Session two began with the students identifying the skills that they believe a good leader should possess before we moved on to some simple tasks aimed towards improving their speaking and listening skills.

Following a very well earned lunch, the afternoon sessions were used by all year group councils to write their first 'action plans'. These documents were to detail the students' plans to raise money for various charities as well as solve year group issues throughout the year. While it was hard work, many of the councillors commented on how useful it was to set themselves deadlines and targets as it helped clarify their focus for the year to come.

We left the Martineau at 3pm, absolutely exhausted but proud of the things we had achieved during the day. Myself, Miss Millward and Ms Bacon were absolutely thrilled with how hard all of the students had worked and would like to praise them all for the dedication and commitment that they demonstrated. We were

astonished at how insightful the students were and absolutely delighted to see students from years 7 - 13 all working together and valuing each other as equals.

We would like to thank all of the council members for their hard work and enthusiasm and believe that, following the success of this first away day and the wonderful comments that we received from the students themselves, we will definitely be putting a School Council Away Day on the calendar for next year.

## 100% Attendance Prize Draw

*Mrs Morgan congratulates students on their attendance records*

Lordswood Girls' School takes pride in its attendance record. Good school attendance is consistently linked to achievement.

As well as awarding certificates to all students with 100% attendance for a whole term, their names are now entered into a prize draw. From a list including iPods, digital cameras and iTunes vouchers, students can choose their preferred prize should they win. Funds are raised from the sale of samosas during break times once a week.

Our first winner, in the Autumn Term of 2009, was Jospheha Paku (now in 8W). Her name was picked from the 93 students who had 100% attendance during that term.

Natasha Faulkner (now in 9L) was the winner at the end of the Spring Term 2010, her name drawn out of the 'hat' by Mr Pearce, Deputy Headteacher, ahead of 136 others.

Verity Clarke (now in 10L) was awarded her choice of prize at the end of the Summer Term 2010, after her name was drawn from a pool of an amazing 168 students with 100% attendance.

A special draw was made for students with 'Gold' attendance – 100% attendance throughout the whole of the academic year 2009-2010, of which there were 27. Quite an achievement! Tresita Browne (now in 10W) was drawn as the winner and was recipient of the prize of her choice.

Congratulations go to all those students who have been included in a Lordswood Girls' School 100% Attendance Prize draw!



*Previous winners (left to right) Natasha Faulkner, Jospheha Paku and Verity Clarke*

## Casefile on Attendance

*Michael Hussain, Lordswood's Educational Social Worker, explains his role in dealing with students with poor attendance*

As the school's Education Social Worker I work with students and parents whose attendance and punctuality are a concern to the school. I see students in school to encourage them to improve.

However, if the student's attendance drops to under 85% the Head Teacher, under the school's attendance policy will not authorise absences without medical evidence. If an ESW (Educational Social Worker) referral is made at this point, then 12 weeks of ESW contact is maintained with parents via phone calls, letters, home visits and meetings before the evidence is presented to the Legal Service to consider legal action.

After a further review, no further action is taken if a student's attendance has improved and is maintained.

## End of Term Treat

*Year 7s look forward*

Year 7 are looking forward to their Christmas theatre trip to the Old Rep, Birmingham, on Thursday 16th December, to see an adaptation of Philip Pullman's 'The Firework Maker's Daughter'.

# New Magazine to Hit Lordswood

*Year 7 editorial team in place to gather gossip!*

Four year 7 students, Kainat Ajaz, Lucy Leese, Suman Dubb Charlotte McCabe and Haliema Akhlaiq form the year 7 newsletter editorial team. To date the girls have taken photographs, interviewed their peers and written news articles for the new newsletter, named by Haliema Akhlaiq as The Year Seven Gossip Girls, which will be available to all year 7 pupils on the last day of term.

## Netball Success

*Ms Peniket congratulates the Year 7 Netball Team on their first win*

Congratulations to the Year 7 Netball team who won their first match against Edgbaston High and went on to beat King Edward's Five Ways.

The team members, who are to be congratulated, are:

Elizabeth Bissell, Mary Holden, Megan Jones, Quanita Riaz, Ruvimbo Tangewa, Priya Malhi, Shirley Manungo, Lily Gul, Salome Atunde and Jasdeep Bhopal.

## Anti-Bullying Month

*Reflections on our Anti Bullying Month*

November was dedicated to anti-bullying month with the students participating in a variety of stimulating activities. Paw Print theatre group performed a thought provoking play about the effects of bullying to years 8 and 9, and our own sixth form produced and performed an anti-bullying play to all year groups.

Key Stage 3 have been involved in designing an anti-bullying logo for the school website, to complement the winning slogan from last year, 'Friends be united, bullies uninvited.' Key Stage 4 students have been asked to create a jingle for the school radio station that re-enforces the school anti-bullying message.

# A Flying Start

*Ms Peniket explains Year 7's great start to the year*

To date our year 7 attendance is the best in the school!

Congratulations to India Purewal, Simran Floyd and Rasharna Martin (year 7) who have all achieved the most praise slips to date, with a total of four each.

## Applied Learning Afternoons

*Miss Gough reflects on another term of fantastic activities*

Applied Learning Afternoon has been successful in allowing girls the opportunity to try out new activities and learn new skills.

### Choir

*"I have built my confidence because I would never sing in front of anyone on my own but now I will".  
**Samantha Wilson-Walker***

### Self Defence

*"Self defence can build your confidence as you meet new people and try new things. At the end of the course you can take an exam, you will receive a belt, a certificate and a grading book so you can feel proud of your achievement".  
**Alisha Alqab***

### Applied learning Reporters

*"I enjoyed the club because I now know what it's like to be a journalist and it's going to help me in the future because I want to be a journalist".  
**Guneet Aneja***

A revised programme of activities will shortly be issued to students and can also be found in the Applied Learning Section of the School website. Please note that some sessions have been rescheduled based on feedback from students and parents.

For information on any of the Applied Learning activities please contact me here at the school on **0121 429 2838** or email me at [e.gough@lordswoodgirls.co.uk](mailto:e.gough@lordswoodgirls.co.uk).

# Chad Vale Primary School Radio Project

## Lordswood students shine in radio project

We are currently running a project with Year 3 pupils from Chad Vale Primary School, using our Radio station to improve literacy skills and give pupils a wider experience of our technologies.

Lordswood students are helping the primary pupils to develop their broadcasting skills and explore interview techniques. Thanks to the following students for their fantastic leadership and enthusiasm; Mary Holden, Daphne Clarke, Emma Markman Morris, Jasmine Palin, Suzan Musa, Amelia Wilkinson, Manpreet Kala and Amy Bevan.

## The Open University at Lordswood Girls' School

### A different way to gain higher education qualifications

The Open University offers a unique method of higher education study which is flexible and accessible to all. For the sixth year running the Open University has been ranked as one of the top three universities for student satisfaction, proving that what we do really works!

Openings Introductory Courses - A good place to start

- Study at home so it fits around your family, work and other commitments
- Courses in Childcare, Health, Psychology, Management and other subjects
- Courses are twenty weeks long
- Start dates – 1st September, 1st November, 1st March and 1st June
- No previous qualifications required but you will need a good level of literacy

- No exams to take but with your tutor's support you will complete assignments and an End of Course Assessment
- Extra Study Skills tutor support at Lordswood Girls School
- 'Openings' are worth 10 or 15 Open University credit-points which may be counted towards an Open University qualification
- Financial Support may be available for course fees if you have a low household income or receive certain State Benefits.

Find out more about the unique way of learning with the Open University and give yourself the opportunity to try out higher education and achieve! Register in January for the next course in March 2011.

Please ring **0121 627 6425** and ask for Sharon Mapani or Mary Wood or Rani Sharma.

Alternatively, email

**R04-external-activities@open.ac.uk**

The Open University in the West Midlands 66 High Street, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9NB.

Alternatively contact Emily Gough at Lordswood Girls School for more information.

## Body Shop Pampering Party

*Join us for a relaxing evening*

We are going to be holding a Body Shop pampering party here at school on Monday 13th December from 6.30pm-8.00pm.

The evening will give ladies the opportunity to be pampered, have a hand massage or make over and try some of the fantastic products on offer from the Body Shop. Items will be available to order or purchase on the evening.

Tickets will cost £3.00 and need to be ordered in advance for collection on the evening. Cheques need to be made payable to Lordswood Girls' School and can be passed to reception in a sealed envelope. Refreshments including wine and mince pies, will be included in the ticket price.

Should you require further information, please contact Emily Gough at the school on **0121 429 2838** or by email [e.gough@lordswoodgirls.co.uk](mailto:e.gough@lordswoodgirls.co.uk).

# Community Task Force Spreads Christmas Spirit

*Miss Pickford explains how students helped at the Birmingham Missions*

The Community Task Force have really established themselves this year at Lordswood. We have organised many charitable events including the very successful Macmillan coffee morning back in September.

Last week eight members of the Community Task Force went along to Birmingham missions to wrap Christmas presents for the poorest children and families across Birmingham. The presents that we wrapped for them could possibly be the only ones they receive.

We would like to thank everyone for their donations of gifts. We thoroughly enjoyed taking part and helping to give people a happy Christmas.

## Work Experience with Technical Support

*Whitney Donaldson, a Year 11 student from NineStiles School, shares her experiences of spending a week with Lordswood's Technical Support*

From Monday 13th to Friday 17th of September, I was fortunate enough to spend my week's work experience at Lordswood Girls' School. During this time, I executed a range of tasks that not only proved enjoyable but provided me with innovative ideas and skills that can be taken away for life.

I did editing work for the school newspaper, 'Lordswood Times' produced by the new year eleven students (which is attached to the back of this newsletter). This entailed correcting grammatical errors, writing my own horoscope, and then pasting work into Microsoft Publisher

in order to create the layout; this program also made it easier to manipulate the various text/images. In addition, I visited Lordswood's' radio station using Myriad and worked on Adobe Premier Pro, editing a video recorded earlier in the year of visiting West Virginian teachers teaching science to the recent year 8s. Following on from this, I worked on many individual projects, the schools' 'P.E Gifted and Talented Pupil Booklet', sixth form ID badges and Photoshop to name a few.

I enjoyed all tasks given particularly the video editing and visit to the radio station, because they provided me with skills I ordinarily wouldn't have had the opportunity to learn; designing, editing and technology. I feel these skills will be beneficial for me in the future because as an aspiring journalist/ newspaper editor, these skills will be useful to complete tasks on a daily basis. However, it wasn't solely the practical aspect of this placement that liked. I got an insight into what it would be like to work from the first-hand prospective of the technical support team; they gave me tips to follow, I got to see them working hard each day and they told me how their training and qualifications have helped them. I enjoyed working with them; Claire, Nick, Laurence, Will, Lee and Darren were constantly friendly and incredibly helpful.

My impressions of the school were extremely positive. On my tour around, I noticed that everything appeared organised and well presented. Unlike my school, the fact that Lordswood has certain staircases allocated for going up only/going down only was useful; it made moving apparently more orderly.

Overall, I enjoyed my week at Lordswood, although standing in the cold for the fire alarm drill wasn't one of my highlights!



*Whitney enjoyed her time in the radio station*

# A New Approach to Student Presentation of Written Work

*Miss Bufton explains the changes to presentation standards*

As from January 2011 a new, consistent approach to the presentation of written work will be introduced by all teaching staff.

- Students use blue or black ink fountain or gel pens. No biros.
- Students use a green pen when peer and self assessing work.
- Students underline titles and dates with a single ruled line in ink.
- The date is recorded on the left hand side of the page.
- Work should be identified as classwork (cwk) or homework (hwk) in the margin.
- There should be no doodles on or inside the exercise book.

This new approach to presentation provides a straight forward and clear set of expected standards for all students, regardless of which lesson they are in, teacher they have or subjects they study. For some students, deciding which colour pen to use, or how to underline the date can often detract from the quality of learning and many students struggle to produce legible handwriting when using a biro. By bringing the right equipment to each lesson students are demonstrating that they are prepared for and responsible for their own learning.

To help your son or daughter prepare for the new approach to presentation the school library will sell a range of inexpensive ink and gel pens in blue, black and green throughout the year. There will also be a stall selling ink and gel pens at the Christmas Fayre.

# Induction Week

*Miss Bufton discusses this year's Induction Week activities*

There was a busy start to the term this year as all students from Years 7 to 11 took part in Induction Week.

Before starting timetabled lessons students participated in a variety of cross-curricular activities, workshops and challenges that focused on the development of the TRICs (Team learning, Reflective learning, Independent learning and Creative learning). Each year group had a particular theme which permeated throughout the entire week:

Year 7	– Desert Island
Year 8	– Radio Play
Year 9	– Maths and Art
Year 10	– Eco-Town
Year 11	– Media

One of the tasks Year 11 students were challenged with was to create a school newspaper. This required them to plan, research, interview, photograph and report on school issues and events taking place across the school during Induction Week. It seems fitting that a sample of the newspaper is included in this newsletter as it describes, to great effect, just some of activities that took place during Induction Week.

I am sure that you will agree that the standard of work that went into creating the newspaper is a credit to all of our Year 11 students and the staff that helped. This high standard of work was equally evident in all year groups, whatever the challenge. Thank-you to all the staff that helped make Induction Week a success!

## End of Term Arrangements

*Thursday 16th and Friday 17th December 2010*

**Thursday 16th December**

Lessons as Normal

12.20p.m	Year 7 early lunch
1.00p.m	Year 7 theatre trip leaves

<b>Friday 17th December</b>		Year 11 & Sixth Form	-	Break up for Christmas
<b>Year 7</b>				
8.35am	In review groups	Thursday 16th December -		Year 7 Theatre Trip
10.00 – 10.30am	Assembly in the Gym	Friday 17th December -		School finishes at 12 noon
10.30 – 10.45am	Break			
10.45 – 12.00pm	Activity with Review Tutor			
12.00pm	Dismissal			
<b>Year 8 and Year 9</b>		Monday 20th December – Monday 3rd January inclusive	-	Christmas break
8.35am	Activity with Review Tutor	Tuesday 4th January	-	Normal School Day
9.15 – 9.45am	Assembly in the Gym			
9.45 – 11.45am	Karaoke in the Hall			
11.45 – 12.00pm	Review Time	Thursday 6th January	-	Year 8 Parents' Evening
12.00pm	Dismissal	4.00 – 6.30p.m		
<b>Year 10</b>		Thursday 13th January	-	Year 13 Parents' Evening
8.35am	Review Time	4.00 – 6.30p.m		
8.45 – 9.15am	Assembly in the Hall	Thursday 20th January	-	Year 11 Parents' Evening
9.15 – 11-15am	Films	4.00 – 6.30p.m		
11.15 – 11.30am	Break	Monday 24th January	-	Year 9 Careers and SRE Day
11.30 – 12.00pm	Activity with Review Tutor			
12.00pm	Dismissal			
<b>Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13</b>	Not in School	Thursday 3rd February	-	Year 7 Performing Arts Evening
Non Uniform Day for all students except for those students who are not involved in the reward events.		Thursday 17th February	-	Year 9 Options Day

## Diary Dates

### Dates for 2010/11

<b>Weeks Commencing 6th December &amp; 13th December</b>	-	Year 11 Mock Examinations		
Thursday 9th December 3.00 – 6.00p.m	-	Christmas Fayre	Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February	Half – term
Thursday 9th December 6.30 – 7.30p.m	-	Christmas Concert	Monday 28th February	Normal School Day
Monday 13th December 6.30 – 8.00p.m	-	Body Shop Evening		
Thursday 16th December -		Year 11 Careers Day		
Thursday 16th December				

# Basketball News

## Lordswood teams enjoy eventful start to the season

It has been an eventful start to the season for the Lordswood Basketball Academy with the team competing in the West Midlands Premier Division for the first time, as well as the beginning of the National Schools Competitions. After a lot of hard work and squad preparation for pre-season the players found it difficult to compete with the size, strength and experience of the players in the Premier Division and lost the first couple of games to Worcester University and Smithswood Sabres. Not to be deterred by this, the players have worked even harder and gelled together as a squad and are currently on a 3-game winning streak going into the Christmas break. There are plenty more difficult games to go in the league after Christmas but as confidence grows and the improvement in performance continues, all of the games will continue to be valuable experience for all of the academy players.

At schools' level, both the Under-17 and Under-19 levels, the team have made excellent starts to the regional rounds of the

English Schools Competition and are on course to progress through to the play-off stages in both age groups. Obviously the further that the team progresses, the tougher the challenges that come up in front of them but with the enthusiasm, work-rate and dedication that all of the players put in, they will be a difficult match for any team in the country. The under-19's had a particularly significant win against local academy rivals, Solihull College. After what has been described as one of the best games to be played in the West Midlands region in the last few years, Lordswood finally managed to win 106-105 after overtime. It was a fantastic reward for all of the hard work that everyone had put in and was an incredible team performance from every player.

On the 1st of January the team will be travelling to Sweden to take part in the prestigious Lundaspelen tournament to test their abilities against some of the top teams in Europe and beyond. Over 320 teams have entered the tournament this year and it is going to be an incredibly busy five days for each of the players but no doubt a very rewarding trip. The team is entered into the Under-20 Men and Under-18 Men competitions – look out for the results of the games and the outcome of the trip early in the new term!

On behalf of everyone at Lordswood Girls' School, we would like to wish you a very

*Merry Christmas and  
A Happy New Year*

# LGS Exam Results: As good as grammar!

By 11C

Earlier this year in June came the worst few weeks of Year 10 and 11 students' lives. Students at Lordswood Girls' School sat their GCSEs at the same time as all other secondary schools in the UK. Just when they thought it was all over, the second most dreaded day of their lives came on 24th August; results day!

However the students at Lordswood Girls' School had nothing to worry about. Why? As 96% of the students achieved 5 A\* - C GCSE grades. That is just as good as grammar school grades, where 97% of the students acquired five A\* - C GCSE grades.

Our reporters asked the new Year 11 if they believed they could live up to the high standard and thirty one people say that it is such a 'big target' that they are worried about reaching it; most pupils want to take at least two retakes in Maths and Science.

The pressure is on for the new Year 11s whose hard work starts now!

Good Luck!



*Students receiving their exam results*

## Uniform Crackdown

By 11C

*'Sort your tie out!', 'Do up your top button!', 'Tuck your shirt in!'*

These are just the beginning of the many comments you will be hearing from the teachers at Lordswood Girls' this year. The school will be cracking down even more on the presentation of all students, with endless uniform checks that will be carried out throughout the academic year.

So unless you want to be sent home for the incorrect uniform, we suggest you refer to the uniform page in your planner.

## Lunchtime Routine

By 11C

With a new year comes a new lunch system. Students in all years have been given badges to distinguish which year each student is in. However, girls in year 11 have been split into two groups to speed up the lunch process. One half of the year has been given a purple badge whereas the other half has been given black. The kitchen staff believe that the badge system has organised dinner times and it is easier to handle problems. However, some of the students have said that they do not like the badges, as they think that they 'label them'. We'll have to see what the pupils think later on in the academic year.



*The new badges*

## IN CLASS...



## RESULTS DAY...



## COMIC STRIP COMIC

# Lordswood Debate

## Should the media be silenced?

Lordswood Girls School experienced its first real debate this term as Year 11 were separated onto two sides, arguing for and against whether the media should be silenced.

On the panel, we had Simrun Lallie as the chairperson, who kept order throughout the whole of the debate. On the panel for the statement, we had Jaspreet Kalsi, Sophie Lewis Starr and Simone Mendez. On the against side, Samantha Davis, Nicole Owen and Victory Olaniyi. The debate was heated throughout, as both sides defended their points. Throughout the discussion, things elevated into the audience as each side rowed at each other and cheered for their arguments being said. Both teams in the audience were determined to win, showing their support by cheering and booing for the opposing team.

Despite Samantha's passion and Nicole and Victory's determination, they failed to win the debate. Instead, Simone's speech, Jaspreet's information and Sophie's additional information managed to persuade judges (Ms Dignon, Ms Simms, Mrs O and Ms Clark) to believe that the media should be silenced.

In amongst the audience, we had new teachers Mrs Blake and Mrs Jackson, experiencing Lordswood girls in action.

Miss Dignon: "Impressed about the amount of confidence and the level of argument. Very articulate."

Ms Jackson: "Really good as Jaspreet was a winner for the debate. All students were passionate and there were some good questions."

## School Badges

By Amy Nijjar

We asked 15 students from each year group and 25 members of staff if they liked the new badges. Nearly every member of staff we asked liked them, "Students are easily identified". Also, "It gives each year group ownership and shows we all belong to Lordswood." What's more, "Get some for staff".

However, the few teachers who did not like the badges said, "They don't know which colour belongs to each year group" and "They look messy and don't match the uniform".

# Advice

## Aunty Sherbert Says...

*"I believe I'm getting too much homework and always end up missing deadlines. My teachers are angry and I'm becoming very stressed. What shall I do?"*

Never be afraid to ask for help. Always tell the teacher if you know you are struggling with the homework before it has to be handed in so they can go through it with you and make sure that you understand the task.

You could also ask another pupil who is in the same class. Its better than getting a detention and an alert slip that could have been avoided. Here are some useful skills that may help you become less stressed.

### **Manage Your Time Wisely:**

It's important to give yourself plenty of time to work on your studies and on your self. Try breaking up your studies into smaller chunks and take regular breaks.

### **Get Organized:**

Make sure you note deadlines in your planner in bold colours so that they cannot be missed. If you know you have an important piece of work that has to be handed in stick up a note in a place where you will always see it to remind you, for example your bedroom mirror.

### **Get Enough Sleep:**

Make sure you get enough sleep so you are more awake and alert for the next day, you will also notice that you will perform better.

*"Most of the girls I hang around with smoke and they all pressure me into trying one. What should I do? And should I try one?"*

Don't do **anything** you don't want to do. Don't let others pressure you to do something you don't want to or make you feel bad because you are not doing what they are doing. Do your own thing as you are your own person. Try to avoid them when they are smoking.

*"A boy kissed me and I don't know what to do. I only knew him for two days and he wants to be in a relationship with me. Is it too early to be in a relationship that my parents do not allow?"*

I understand that boys can be confusing. If you really want to be in a relationship with this boy then you can as long as you feel right about it. You may be feeling confused about whether or not you want to disobey your parents but they are only trying to protect you. If you can, confront your parents about how you feel. The boy who kissed you may not love you more than your parents do, if you are feeling uncertain about it you don't have to be in a relationship.

# Internet Safety The five rules

In today's rapidly developing world, the internet has become an ally to the younger generations. It has become a useful item of daily use and, quite sadly, often safety is forgotten. Social networking sites such as 'Facebook', 'MySpace' and 'Formspring' allow communication amongst people, which has many benefits. However this technology also invites some who choose to misuse this. Internet safety has become increasingly important, as 42% of teens have admitted to having posted personal information online. In fact, 22% of teens have stated that they have not been informed of internet safety by their family members, and with cases of online predators and molesters increasing, these rules are designed to protect your privacy:

Rule 1: Don't put inappropriate pictures on your blog because anybody can view them. Predators can get hold of these images and use them explicitly.

Rule 2: Don't display your personal details such as your address, mobile and telephone number. Predators can get hold of your personal information without your knowledge.

Rule 3: Make sure you only accept friends and family who you know and not random strangers, who may misuse your trust. Privatise your account to ensure online safety.

Rule 4: The 'Report Abuse' button is available for download for social networking sites. Use it when you feel threatened or pressurised and don't endure your problems alone.

Rule 5: For Parents: Ensure you are aware of what your child is browsing and whom they are talking to. Ensure that they feel comfortable in sharing any issues which occur with you, rather than suppressing the matter which can lead to stress.



Web  
savvy  
students  
at LGS

# Our first week back!

*Year 11s have been finding out what the rest of the school has been up to during the first week back after the summer holidays...*

## Year 7

*By Hannah, Sophia, Petagay, Kate and Jodie*

It's the beginning of the school year again, and, as always, it brings a collection of new Year 7 pupils to Lordswood. As part of the Year 11 induction week task, we interviewed sixteen Year 7 students to gather information on how they feel about their first week at secondary school.

Their induction consisted of a number of workshops, which included: cooking, orienteering, music, tower making, drumming, dance, manga, mask making and crossing a river! They also sat CAT tests during the week, and on the final day they went on a trip to Dudley Zoo. The Year 7 pupils seemed content with their first week at Lordswood, and most of them seemed comfortable with their new environment. "I enjoyed the crossing the river activity the most, I was happy and it was fun," said one of the pupils. The girls also said that they enjoyed making the Mexican food, as most of them had never made guacamole or salsa before. "This was my favourite activity of the week," said one girl. Not all agreed though... "The room was too hot, so I didn't really enjoy it," complained one. Some girls enjoyed making masks the most, as it was something new and exciting.

A lot of the girls were very happy with the induction week, and said

that they were finding out about different ways to view ideas and learning.

However, there were some girls who thought the week could have been improved by adding other activities such as gymnastics. Their least favourite part of the week was taking their CAT tests, but other than that, most of the girls enjoyed their induction week. "I think Dudley Zoo was the best part of the week, because it was fun to see things with my new classmates that aren't in school."

It wasn't only induction week that was new for them, it was the beginning of a new era at Lordswood Girls' School, and there is a lot to get used to. "I like it here, but I was a bit scared at first, because it's so big," said one girl of her first day. The main worry appeared to be making new friends, as some of the girls didn't know many other people in their year. "I was worried before I started that I wouldn't make any friends, but I was fine!" Some girls also found the size of the school an issue. "I got confused by the north and south stairs at first, and I got lost quite a lot, but it's okay now," said another. Some were more confident, saying, "It's fine here, because I know quite a lot of the girls already, and I know some of the girls in the older years too."

Ultimately, it seems that the new Year 7s are settling in fine, and any problems they had originally have been overcome. Most girls seem happy with Lordswood, and don't miss their primary schools too much. "I like Lordswood, I feel much more grown up now I'm in secondary school," said one girl. "It's much bigger than primary school,

but I like it because I feel more mature now," agreed another.

## Year 8

*By Emma, Holly and Ellie*

Do you remember your Year 8 days? Sitting in a classroom? Listening to the teacher droning on? Well, this week the Year 8s started their year with an exciting radio project!

To do this they have made good use of the new radio station facilities in school. Their task was to create and record their own radio drama series. They started off with background research which entailed listening to radio dramas and analysing the features of a radio play. They then had to create their own storyline along with the theme which the radio play was based on. Trailers were then produced by the pupils to advertise their drama series. Later on in the week the girls created character profiles and wrote their own authentic scripts.



*The bright lights of the radio station*

After recording this they put all their work together to form their final piece. The students were enthusiastic about the whole project and could not wait to listen to everyone's final pieces. One student told us: "It's really fun and interesting to learn about the radio and use the radio station as I have never been in there or used anything like it before."

On the last day of this fun-packed induction week the students took part in Emotional Intelligence Day. This will help them to identify and deal with their emotions and use them in a productive way.

We hope that the Year 8s have enjoyed their first week of a new year!

## Year 9

By Aneeha, Anna, Maariyah and Aisha

Not glad to be back at school? Well, that's not what the Year 9s think! Throughout the first week of school, Year 9s have been taking part in various activities within their form groups, to increase their team building and creative skills.

On Monday, they took part in 6 different activities, such as making up a rap about their form and tutor and the sugar paper game. Then on Tuesday, they were involved in a maths challenge, where they had to make up their own business company and create packaging for ping-pong balls. After that, they had a chance to partake in activities, which involved art and maths on Wednesday. When they looked at different kinds of illusions and then tried to make their own. They also had an opportunity, on Thursday, to create their own activities, involving art and maths for primary school kids. Lastly, on Friday, the primary school pupils came into school so they could try out the games they had organised.

The majority of the year 9s we spoke to said they thought this week had been "Fun and enjoyable".

Overall, the week has been successful with a lot of the year 9s and their newly developed team building skills should help them with the year to come.

## Year 10

By Adeba, Samantha and Hareen

Throughout this week the year 10s have been participating in trying to make the world eco friendlier and collectively build up their team working ability. This gives them many skills and techniques in which they can use in both future work and education.

The Head of year 10, Mrs. O'Shaughnessy planned the students' week thoroughly, taking great care and putting thought into organising events and workshops. As well as assisting them with their work, it has given them an enjoyable first week of the new academic year.

At the beginning of the week we interviewed Mrs. O'Shaughnessy on the workshops she had organised and thoughts about what the school hopes the Year 10s will achieve:

**"What are the Year 10s doing this week throughout their workshops?"** "Well basically, the Year 10s will be taking part in team working activities such as jumping tyres. Together with their form and form tutor they will be going through their new year planners, to learn about organising their homework. They will plan, design then create eco-towns and houses."

**"What are the students going to achieve from these workshops?"** "By working in groups and helping each other they will build up their team working skills. As at the end of the project each group will have to present their eco-towns much like the TV show 'Dragon's Den' in front of the whole year. This will develop their presentation skills and confidence."

**"How will this help with their future careers?"** "On the whole this would help

increase their organisation and the ways to advertise a product or idea to others."

**"How does it help them deal with future stress or anxiety?"**

"Their team working workshops will encourage students to ask for help from peers and teachers."

We also interviewed students from year 10 to find more about the induction week. Many students



Year 10s with their eco house

shared the same thought that "It built up our team working skills and confidence." Individual students enjoyed different parts of the week but found that they needed "more time" to organise themselves and create their eco-towns. All students in year 10 felt that the teachers and members of staff helped them and gave them "advice" with all workshops. However, some felt teachers were not clear with their instructions and therefore were unable to "understand" the task given. During their workshops they focused on the TRICs, such as, team learning, reflective learning, independent learning and creative learning. While doing this they found that it would help them with their exams in year 11 and help them learn in different styles. One student quoted that the week will "improve my skills in science, for example I learnt how electricity is created through environmentally friendly processes."

Overall, the induction week was interesting and supportive for the pupil's education.

# Year 11

By Alexandria, Angie, Yin, Navneet, Aneesa and Sanjidah

Year 11s have been given the task to write a newspaper article on the activities given to each year group. We asked students if they enjoy the activities and interviewed the head tutor of each year. During an interview with Mrs O'Shaughnessy, the head of Year 11, we asked her:

## "Why do we have the task to write newspaper articles?"

She explained that it is because this task links with English coursework and encourages the Year 11s to develop their teamwork skills, makes them think about their own strengths and also helps them to learn to meet deadlines.

Although all of the Year 11s are working on newspaper articles,

different review groups have different tasks to complete by the end of Friday. On Monday and Friday, 11C had to create a front page for the newspaper. 11D wrote about the activities that years 7 to 11 did during the first week. 11G wrote about home and travel, 11L wrote about artwork and celebs. 11R wrote a section on advice and 11S wrote an article about sports at Lordswood. On Tuesday, all of the review groups participated in an English workshop held by an examiner. On Wednesday, Year 11 participated in a SRE day and attended workshops to improve their study skills.

Finally, on Thursday, Year 11 had a debate on whether the media should be silenced. We questioned some of the year 11s if they enjoyed the activities which have taken place over the week. Some really enjoyed it as they got to meet their friends again and work with them; they also found it very

interesting. However, others found it quite boring as it was not what they would have chosen to do. We also asked them what they would have done instead if they were given the choice. Some of the things that they would like to have done are activities that involve the whole year's participation, such as revision, normal lessons and games such as dodge ball.

One of the things which Year 11 students enjoyed the most was the debate in the hall as they liked watching people in the year group presenting their argument. On the other hand, Year 11 thought that writing the newspaper could have been made more interesting by doing it about something else apart from school. The students have asked if they could do more drama, role play and teamwork in future.

# New teachers at LGS!



Mrs Blake joins Lordswood as a Lead Professional in ICT. Mrs Blake is married and has four children and one stepchild. Mrs Blake went to

Morocco and the Isle of Man and her favourite activity is taking her children to their favourite activities. Mrs Blake was an ICT teacher before she came to Lordswood and she came to Lordswood because of a promotion.



Ms Jackson has also just joined the English Department. Ms Jackson is not married and has no children. Ms

Jackson relaxed and went away for her summer holidays and her favourite activities are cooking, reading and spending time with family and friends. Ms Jackson was a teacher in Selly Park School and she came to Lordswood because it is a good school and is close to home.



Mrs Gillett has just joined the History Department. Mrs Gillett is married and has three children. Mrs Gillett went to Ireland for her summer holidays and her favourite activity is swimming and watching films. Mrs Gillett finished a masters degree before coming to Lordswood and

she came to Lordswood because she thought it is a great school.



Ms Peniket has joined Lordswood as Achievement Co-ordinator of Year 7. Ms Peniket is married and has two children. Ms Peniket went to London, the Peak District and Manchester over the holidays. Her favourite hobby is walking and reading. Ms Peniket worked at Aldridge School before she came to Lordswood and she came to Lordswood because it was an opportunity to develop her career.

# Health and Beauty



*What are looks without personality?*

*What is personality without looks?*

*Here is our beauty tip of the week  
to help you feel and look  
great this autumn!*



Daisy Lowe claims she “wouldn’t have gotten through Glastonbury if it wasn’t for James Brown London, Hair Reviving Dry Shampoo.”

*This dry shampoo allows you to have that fresh hair look between washes as demonstrated by Daisy Lowe. It can also be used*

*for styling, in particular to give your hair volume. It also smells amazingly fresh and fragrant! The current price for the ‘James Brown Hair reviving shampoo’ is £5.99 RRP for a 150ml bottle. However if you would prefer to have a cheaper alternative which is just as great, try the ‘Batiste Dry Shampoo’ range which can be found in stores such as ‘Boots’, ‘Superdrug’. The price of this product is £2.30 for 150ml.*



## *What lies beneath the Maybelline?*

We had conducted interviews with several year groups trying to find out what girls of all ages feel towards their body image and what influences this.

Year 7- age 12:

*Are you comfortable with your body image?* No, because I feel as if other girls look better than me. Also I was bullied because of my spots when I was in primary school.

*What do you like about yourself?* My eyes and personality.

Year 10- Age 14:

*What makes you feel uncomfortable during school with your image?*

The fact that we cannot wear make-up and we have to have a specific look, and we are not allowed to have any sense of individuality.

*What factors make you feel insecure about your looks?* My braces make me feel insecure so I don’t like smiling much, even though my smile is one of my best features because I have dimples.



# Lordswood Sport

## Talk Sport

By 11S

We interviewed three teachers at Lordswood Girls' school about their past, present and future sport activities. We discovered from the three interviews that teachers at Lordswood Girls' school have done or are doing a range of sports activities in their daily lives. The three interviews are described below:

- a) Mr Guppy (a)
- b) Mr Baker (b)
- c) Mrs Sihre (c)

*Did you do many sport activities in your school days? (If yes what?)*

- a) Yes, any sport that was taking place in school I would participate in, I did netball, basketball and cricket and much more.
- b) I did a lot of running, hockey and rugby whilst in school.
- c) Yes, badminton, running (100 metres), gymnastics and swimming.

*Did you attend any sport activities outside of school? (If yes what?)*

- a) Yes I did a range of sports activities outside of school these included football, basketball and at the age of 16 I started going to the gym.
- b) Outside of school I did a lot of swimming. I used to do up to 10 hours a week going swimming before and after school.
- c) Cricket and badminton with my brothers.

*Do you participate in any sport related activities now? (If yes what?)*

- a) As well as teaching PE in school, I play basketball and cricket as well as attend the gym in my free time.
- b) I go to the gym regularly and also run, cycle, skiing and play golf.
- c) Badminton and swimming.

*Have you ever won anything from a sports activity?*

- a) You would need a page bigger than this to list them all! I have a whole box of awards! The awards are mainly for basketball.
- b) Yes! I have a box of trophies and medals for swimming.
- c) No, apart from some at school. However I will soon be taking part in a charity run for Acorns and St Mary hospice for which I will receive a medal.

*Are there any sports that you would have liked to do?*

- a) Yes I would have liked to play lacrosse.
- b) I would have liked to start skiing and cycling at a younger age rather than just taking it up now.
- c) Perhaps table tennis and some crazy golf.

discovered the reasons behind the dislike towards sport and also what the school could do to improve the students' attitude to sport.

When asked if it was by choice or force that they participate in school sport activities, many replied that it was by force, simply because it is on the curriculum. When asked why they didn't like sport, the two main answers were that after school clubs



*A dejected sports fan at LGS*

were on too late and that the facilities are of poor quality. The majority of the students said that if the school had better facilities and better equipment then they would enjoy sport more and be more willing to join a club. Many pupils also asked for more of a variety of sports, rather than the same ones every year. A few suggestions for after school clubs included a running/jogging club and even a playground games club. With the amount of interest expressed for certain clubs, it would suggest that if the school are able to run them, then they will be a huge success!

We'd like to thank all of the pupils that we interviewed and we hope that in the near future there will be a more positive attitude towards sport and that new clubs will be up and running.

## School Sports Upset

By Meera Maju, Niamh Smyth & Kelly Thompson

Not everyone is the biggest fan of sport... 2010 has been a great sporting year, with the Winter Olympics, the World Cup, Tour De France, the London Marathon and many more. Despite all the exciting sport events, many people wouldn't have paid any interest whatsoever. We have set out to explore why they have this lack of interest towards sport. To do this, we specifically interviewed year 11 students from Lordswood Girls School, because after five years of attending the school, they were familiar with all the sport related activities. Through these interviews, we then