



December 2011

www.lordswoodgirls.co.uk

A Specialist Centre for Media Arts and Applied Learning

Lordswood News

A Letter from the Headteacher

Dear Parents,

I hope that you will enjoy reading this Christmas edition of the school newsletter and that it will give you a flavour of some of the different activities and events that have taken place this half term. Students have enjoyed visits to the Natural History Museum, Chester Zoo, Birmingham Hippodrome and master classes at Birmingham University to name but a few.

We started the month with a very successful Christmas Fayre, followed immediately by the Christmas Concert. It was wonderful to see so many students involved, particularly students who have only been at Lordswood since September. The confidence of the performers and the standard of performance were impressive and it is really pleasing to see music in the school going from strength to strength. Well done to all musicians and staff!

Next term sees our fourth joint school production with Lordswood Boys' School, which this year is Grease; before that there is the joint pantomime, Aladdin, on 12th and 13th December involving sixth form performing arts students. I hope that many of you will be able to join us for one of the performances.

You will have noticed if you have been into school that work on the new science block is well underway. We are hoping for a snow-free winter (unlikely, I know!) so that work might finish more or less on schedule at the end of March. On 28th November we launched our Jubilee Sports Development project. The launch was attended by a number of sporting

bodies, architects and builders, as well as Councillor Mike Whitby, Leader of Birmingham City Council. You will find details of the project on the school website. We are aiming to create a centre of sporting excellence which will enable students and members of the local and wider community to participate in and enjoy a range of sports in first-class facilities. We are looking to develop a long-term partnership with sporting organisations to promote their sport, to nurture talent and encourage sporting excellence. Both myself and Mr Hadley-Pryce, Head of Lordswood Boys' School, recognise the immense possibilities for sport offered by a site the size of Lordswood and the Jubilee Sport Development Project is the first part of the two schools' strategic sports developments which we believe will benefit not only our students but also the local community and beyond. Following the launch of Lordswood Community Cricket Club earlier this term, we have also met with Sport4Life International to discuss their plans for an indoor facility which they anticipate will start to be built at the end of 2012.

It has been good to meet parents at the various parent meetings that have taken place this term. You may recall from my last newsletter that we are wanting to expand our current parent forums and to have forums for each of years 7-10 and a parent forum for upper school. I should like to thank those parents who have volunteered to be the rep for years 7, 9 and upper school; it would be lovely if we could also have a rep for years 8 and 10 as well (no pressure!!). There are many changes taking place within education at the moment, particularly with regard to public examinations and schools face a number of challenges in adapting to these changes. We do want to make sure that we keep parents up to date with what has happened and next term we will be running briefing sessions on the new on-line student information section of the

web-site for parents. If there are other topics or areas where you would like us to provide an information session, please do get in touch.

On 7th December all students in years 7-9 will be attending a Christmas Celebration which will highlight the universal message of Christmas. Against the rather depressing economic backcloth of 2011, it is very easy to be cynical. Seeing the enthusiasm and talents of our students as they perform in music and readings helps redress the balance. I should like to thank you all for your support this year and I wish you and your families an enjoyable Christmas and a happy 2012.

With all good wishes



Mrs Jane Götschel
Headteacher

Celebrating Success

News of students' success from the Achievement Coordinator team

This term in our final assemblies of the year, the Achievement Coordinators will be presenting awards to students in every review group, of every year.

We wanted to recognise the range of achievements and success of students both in and out of lessons, so every review tutor nominated two students from their review group in recognition of these.

Those students will be awarded with a variety of prizes and certificates in their assembly, and the names of those students will be posted on our "good news blog" on the website in the New Year.

We are so pleased with all the students this term; they have been working exceptionally hard in their subject areas, as well as being very committed to attending numerous extracurricular events, activities and clubs. All of them helping to make our Lordswood community one to be proud of.

We look forward to celebrating further successes throughout the year, and see the students return in January ready to continue their hard work.

E-Safety Update

Mrs Finucane with help and advice in the run up to Christmas

With Christmas looming ever closer, you may be faced with the task of unravelling the complexities of your son or daughter's request for the latest console or video game.

What is safe? When is the right age to go online and play with others? Which video games should I allow them to play? How can I make sure they are not taking big risks that could harm them?

Looking at a new games console? Most people choose their console based on the games that are available for that platform but few consider the availability of parental controls. For younger gamers, setting parental controls can help.

- limit the amount of time spent online
- manage the content your child can see, including disturbing graphics like bloodshed etc
- limit the age rating of the games they can play
- manage who they can play with online

Some, like the Xbox 360, can set up profiles for different gamers in the family. Many of these setups are password or pin protected which is not entirely suitable nor secure for older players. Discuss some form of agreement that helps you monitor and manage their online time. A great starting point might be the Microsoft PACT website that helps you with setting up an agreement. Visit <http://www.getgamesmart.com/tools/pact/start/> for details.

And what about information on the sorts of video games they might be asking for this Christmas? Well all video games sold in the UK are age and content rated. The system used in the UK and EU is the PEGI rating system; this uses reliable age ranking and content symbols that are easy to understand.

Before you agree to buy that game, make sure you understand the environment your son or daughter is going to be playing in for the next few weeks. Visit <http://www.pegi.info/en/index/>

to get more information to make an informed decision. Sometimes even the most innocent games may have collaborative features that will allow your child to mix with anyone else in the world.

An example information screen from the site looks like this:

18 Call of Duty: Black Ops (Xbox)
Activision Blizzard UK Ltd

The content of this game is suitable for persons aged 18 years and over only.
It contains: Extreme violence - Violence towards defenceless people - Strong language

This game allows the player to interact with other players ONLINE

System: XBox 360
Genre: Action/First Person Shooters
Releasedate: 2010-11-09

Gaming is a great activity that is fun for all the family, especially at Christmas. But be aware that extended periods of individual gaming online is not healthy for young developing bodies and brains. Be prepared as part of your ground rules to check and intervene if you think it is excessive. As your son or daughter demonstrates better online behaviours then you can empower them to the point where they won't need your intervention.

If you have any questions regarding e-safety, please contact Mrs L Finucane, Director of e-learning using email:
l.finucane@lordswoodgirls.co.uk

The Parent Portal; an Update

Mrs Finucane on the re-launch of our parental access site

The re-launch of e-portal is coming in the New Year. Parental access to student data will now be available through the 'Learning Gateway' provided by Capita. You will then be able to gain access to personalised data about your son or daughter such as attendance, assessments and achievements. A full roll out programme is being planned for the spring term and more information about this process will follow in due course.

If you have any questions regarding the Learning Gateway, please contact Mrs L Finucane, Director of e-learning using email:
l.finucane@lordswoodgirls.co.uk

School Council Successes

Fundraising, homework and recycling; Miss Lomas describes how this is all in a term's work for the School Council

Having quickly settled into their new roles at the start of the year, members of the School Council have been exceptionally busy during the Autumn term.

At the end of October, the Fundraising working group organised a 'Wear it Pink' day to raise money for Breakthrough Breast Cancer. Everyone in school got into the spirit of things and, in return for a £1 donation, wore pink for the day. When combined with a magnificent £150 raised by a pink cake sale, this non-uniform money meant that we managed to collect just over £800 for the charity!



Sampling the delights from the Bake it Pink stall

The Fundraising working group were busy yet again at the end of November arranging a brilliant themed non-uniform day in aid of Children in Need. With students (and some staff!) dressed as animals, characters from books and films and in their pyjamas, the school was a riot of colour for the day! Yet again students, parents and staff demonstrated their tremendous generosity and helped us to raise just under £1000 for the national appeal.

Everybody on the Council would like to thank everyone for their help and support on these fundraising days. Lordswood Girls' School's

fundraising efforts really do make a difference to the lives of people across the UK and around the world.



Lordsey Bear and Mrs Götschel share a lovely moment during the Children in Need fundraising activities!

The Council have also been busy looking into issues from year groups and have so far managed to resolve issues regarding lockers, homework timetables, recycling throughout school and lunchtime arrangements.

Each year Council is also very busy planning their event for the School Council Fundraising Week to be held in June. Councils have selected CLIC Sargent, Young at Heart, the Teenage Cancer Trust, St. Basil's, Birmingham Children's Hospital, the RSPCA and Kids as their chosen charities.

As always, don't forget to check for news and updates on the School Council website which can be found by logging into the main school website at www.lordswoodgirls.co.uk.

Well done to all Council Reps for their hard work this year and here's to an even more successful and productive 2012!

Gardening Club

Miss Gough reflects on the successes of the Lordswood Gardening Club

The Royal Horticultural Society Campaign for School Gardening aims to encourage and support schools to create and actively use their school garden.

Our School Gardening Club have been awarded Level 1 and 2 certificates from the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and are awaiting confirmation as to whether they have achieved Level 3 also. Level 3 is known as the Alan Titchmarsh Award and will entitle the school to £250.00 vouchers to be spent on new equipment and materials.

The gardening group have made fantastic progress over the last few months and are already planning their clearing, sowing and planting schedule for the New Year.

I would like to thank all of the students involved with the Gardening Club and would also like to thank Maggie Le Mare and Mary Taylor for their continued support with this group. If there are any other parents who feel that they could contribute some time to the group, please contact me on 0121 429 2838 or by emailing e.gough@lordswoodgirls.co.uk

Anti-Bullying Week

The Achievement Coordinator Team discuss how Lordswood approached Anti-Bullying Week

This year the Lordswood continued its support of national Anti bullying week- following the theme "stop and think, words can hurt".

The week started with a lovely thought provoking play written and performed by a group of year 9 students, with the help of Mrs Peniket. They focused on addressing the issues relating to cyber bullying and the effects it can have. The girls performed with confidence and maturity to every year group in the school. Their peers were extremely supportive of their hard work, many commenting it had been their favourite assembly of the year so far.

We would like to say a huge thank you to those students for their excellent effort, they were:

Isatou Kamara
Nayomi Jaison
Madeline Herbert
Haseena Ali
Aaliyah Haq
Sophie Bullock
Monisha Daley

Following this, different year groups were involved in taking part in a range of activities

during their morning registration programme to elicit discussion, in order to help them empathise with how victims of bullying might feel and generate possible solutions for problems relating to bullying. Year 7 made a lovely anti-bullying paper chain, each ring displaying their message for people who chose to be bullies. Year 8 and 9 produced acronyms for the term STOP e.g. Start Telling Other People, to send a clear message to everyone about why bullying is unacceptable and what people can do if they are being bullied. Year 10 wrote their own original poetry, which described how people might feel if they were being bullied and Upper School registration groups produced Problem page articles to offer advice and support on a wide range of bullying relating issues. Some of the work produced is displayed on the school's anti-bullying wall in the ante-hall.

We also took in suggestions from all year groups as to how they thought bullying could be tackled, and we hope to use some of these ideas to update the schools anti-bullying policy in the future.

Thank you and well done to all the students for their hard work and creativity, and to the review tutors for their continued efforts to support the students with these activities. Anti-bullying week was once again a huge success.



Basketball News

News from the Academy from Coach Guppy

It has been an eventful and productive term for the Basketball Academy, as the season is now well underway with good progress being made by the team and all the players. After a difficult start to the Men's League season in a new look Premier Division, the team has now won its last 4 games in league and cup, beating Bromsgrove, TCAT, Wolves CC and Redditch in some hard fought matches. Big contributions from players Tommy MacDonald, Justin Roberts, Jordan Gonzales-Watkins, Jamal Shaw, Josh

Johnson-Hector, Rahai Khan and Craig Thompson, have helped the team to compete against some of the best men's teams in the West Midlands region. There is no doubt that the second half of the season will bring a lot more challenges, both in the men's league and the schools competitions but with the hard work and dedication that the lads will continue to put in on a daily basis, there is no doubt that success will follow them!

Also this term, on the 1st of December, the basketball team took part in a 12-hour basketball marathon in the school gym to help raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital. It was a long and tiring day for all of the players but the support shown from everyone in school and the money that was donated throughout the day helped to keep them going from 7am to 7pm! In total, the team helped to raise over £500 that will go towards refurbishing the A&E department and providing some much needed equipment for the Children's Hospital. Thank you to everyone that supported us on the day!

It would be great to have more people come and support the team for their home games, please check the website for a list of fixtures!

From all of the team, I hope you all have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year!

An Update from the History Department

Miss Dignon fills us in on what's been going on in History

Following on from its success last year, the lower school history film club has continued to run each Thursday lunch time. In democratic style, the students have had the opportunity to choose the titles they would most like to see and these have, so far, included The King's Speech and The Diary of Ann Frank. New members are welcome to join and should speak to Mrs Gillett for more information.

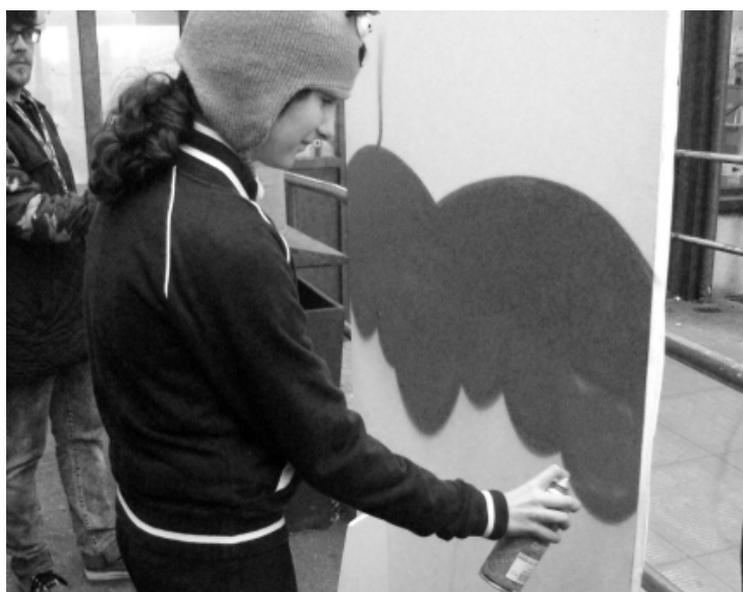
Congratulations to the Year 10 students who delivered several assemblies to mark Remembrance Day in November. The students were inspired by their visit to the Belgian battlefields in May and wanted to share some of their photos of the WWI sites as well as some of the poetry they wrote during the trip.

Finally, news from A level Government and Politics. Saira Parveen has recently signed up to run as a candidate for the UK Youth Parliament. Saira will be attending training sessions on running a political campaign over the coming months and you will no doubt be hearing from her soon as she canvasses for your votes. The rest of the politics class is looking forward to a visit from Gisela Stuart MP at the end of January and will be quizzing her on her job as well as her views on some of the key political issues of the moment.

Applied Learning Afternoons

Our busy Wednesday afternoons continue; an update from Miss Gough

The school continues to be a hive of activity between 2.15pm and 3.00pm every Wednesday.



A student gets to grips with the art of graffiti as part of our Applied Learning afternoons

This term the students have been keeping fit in Zumba and Cardio Tennis and have been learning new skills in Textiles and Jewellery Making, Asian Percussion, Urban Art and Graffiti. Some students have also been experiencing a different culture in Spanish Culture Club. Students have started to produce drama pieces and documentary material for the Lordswood TV Channel and we have some budding Year 7 producers and presenters for Lordswood Radio Station.

The Gardening Club have been braving the cold

weather to maintain the various different plots as well as making items which they sold and raffled at the Christmas Fayre. We also have a group of committed Sixth Formers helping other students with homework.

Many thanks to all of those students who have been committed and attended the sessions - we have seen some fantastic results! Next term students will be trying out Photography, Self Defence, Animation and First Aid.

DEAR Parents and Guardians...

A new literacy initiative explained by Mrs Brookes and the Literacy Policy and Practice Group

Research suggests that just twenty minutes reading a day can accelerate reading growth and with that in mind the school has recently introduced DEAR time for Year 7 students. DEAR stands for 'drop everything and read' and is increasingly used in schools to create a culture of reading, amongst other things. In short, every Year 7 student will have twenty minutes of personal reading time every single day. The period DEAR falls in changes every week and so students will be reading for pleasure not only in English but also in PE, Geography, Art and other subjects.



Mr Slack enjoys the peace and quiet and is engrossed in his own book

As staff we are very aware of the part we have to

play in creating a culture of reading and so we too have been reading our own books during DEAR time, be we a teacher of Science or Media Studies.

So far, Year 7 have been very enthusiastic about the initiative and only the odd student has forgotten their reading book in the first week. Staff too have enjoyed the rare opportunity to



Miss Millward is amongst those staff who join in with the DEAR campaign

put their feet up (not on the desk!) and engage in their own books, hopefully acting as ambassadors for reading.

On another note, if you have any unwanted reading books, the library would be more than grateful for their donation, ready for the second stage of the drive on literacy: the Accelerated Reader programme. The Year 7 and 8 students are in the process of being STAR tested and the programme should be up and running in the New Year. We hope to organise a parents' event to showcase the programme next year.

Print making Club

Miss Tooley reports on the hard work put in by some of her Year 9 students

Sakina, Naomi and Arandeep in year 9 have been working really hard this term to produce a Calendar to raise money for Future Leaders UCC, Ghana. The students have used several different print making techniques to create images for each month of the year. The girls have done a fantastic job and the finished

calendar looks really professional. Calendars were on sale at the Christmas Fayre but if you missed your opportunity to buy one you can purchase one at the start of 2012 for £3. If you wish to buy a calendar please send your daughter to school with £3 on Monday 9th January between 8.15am and 8.30am, the calendar will then be printed off and delivered to your daughter the following week. All money raised will be donated to Future Leaders UCC, Ghana.



CALENDAR

2012

Created by year 9 printmaking club
to raise money for Future Leaders
UCC



This year's calendar from the Year 9 print makers

Future Leaders UCC

More amazing fundraising news from Miss Tooley

This term three fundraising teams have been set up to help raise money for Future Leaders UCC, Ghana. Over 80 students from years 10, 11, 12 and 13 have organised and run a series of successful events including cake sales, a raffle, an evening of musical entertainment and have made items to sell at the Christmas Fayre. So far the teams have raised £496 and are already planning their next set of events. All of the students involved have worked with enthusiasm and have been excellent ambassadors for the school and the charity. I would like to offer them all my thanks and gratitude and I look forward to working with them in 2012.

Our next fundraising event will be a Quiz night on Thursday 19th January 2012; more info will follow in the new Year but keep the date free for what will be an excellent evening!

What's on in RE?

Mrs Stevens with an update from the RE department

Spirited Arts Competition Winners

This annual national Spirited Arts Competition has been run each year by National Association of Teachers of Religious Education since 2004. At the end of July 2011, hundreds of students from Lordswood Girls' submitted entries with reflection on one of two themes: festive visions or spiritual words. The winning entries were selected for their thoughtful and original ideas.

The RE department would like to congratulate the following winners:

Ella Knowles
Zara Khan
Juwayriyah Bibi
Tanveer Hundal
Simran Floyd
Adeesa Hussain
Sabrina Rashid
Samantha Wilson-Walker
Aaliyah Haq

Their artwork is displayed in our 'Spirited Arts Gallery' in F15. Winners will also be receiving a certificate and a prize for their hard work. Thank you to everyone who entered this competition and we look forward to launching the 2012 competition in July.

Spirited Poetry Competition Winners

On two previous occasions, NATRE has received thousands of exciting entries that showed the ways RE and poetry can connect. NATRE was pleased to announce a third 'Spirited Poetry' competition, coinciding with National Poetry Day in October 2011. There were five themes to choose from including being human, the promise, reflections, the path of life and where is God?

The RE department decided to combine the Spirited Poetry Competition with an opportunity to provide uplifting poetry for patients at Birmingham City Hospital. Hundreds of students have completed a poem that is entered for both competitions.

Winning entries completed by ten Lordswood Girls' students have already been selected for the

Spirited Poetry competition and will be sent to NATRE to be judged alongside entries from thousands of other schools across the UK. These winners will receive a certificate and a prize and may also have their poetry displayed on the Spirited Poetry website (<http://www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts/poetry.php>).

The RE department would like to congratulate the following winners:

Janita Hussain
Gabrielle Redmond
Harpreet Kaur
Rizza Zahid
Flora Maycock
Jasmine Palin
Salome Atunde
Olivia McComb
Sunaya Parkash
Simran Sidhu

Thank you to everyone who entered this competition and we look forward to announcing entries to be submitted for display at Birmingham City Hospital.

Multi-Faith Discussion group

The RE department has been overwhelmed by the response to our multi-faith discussion group. It has recruited more members than we have ever had attending an RE club and there are students from several year and review groups. The group have already been involved in judging RE competition entries and they look forward to entering into some interesting discussions and debates in the future. Students are still welcome to join our discussion group. Speak to Miss Preston or Mrs Stevens if you are interested in attending. We hope that students will choose topics for discussion so that they are of interest and relevant to the members of the group attending.

A Year 10 Business Venture!

Mrs Waraich describes the activities of a group of budding entrepreneurs

In July 2011, a group of year 10 girls launched their own business called Stabiz. They held a stall at the summer and Christmas fayres and are proving to be very profitable.

They also helped to 'seal a deal' with Winterbourne Gardens and have already planted over 300 daffodil bulbs ready to sell in spring 2012.

The daffodils will be fairly priced and those purchasing them should be proud as the carbon footprint will be a lot less than those sold by the major supermarkets.



Members of the Stabiz business group who are working wonders at Winterbourne Gardens

A Busy Term for the Music Department!

Miss Hobbs brings news of a multitude of recent activities

Christmas Concert

On Thursday 1st December the school held a music Christmas concert where students who have instrumental lessons in school had the opportunity to showcase their talents and perform in front of an audience.

The concert was a huge success! 35 students volunteered to perform with many choosing to perform as a soloist and others performing in an ensemble. Performances featured a wide range of instruments, showcasing the diverse range of instrumental tuition the school has to offer.

The opening performance featured a clarinet trio where Joanna Van Zeller, Sophie Todd and Genevieve Benton-Hawthorn set the standard

for the evening. Letitia Treacy (violin) and Amrit Sohal (French-horn) were quick to follow, giving impressive solo performances. Next to perform was Oliwia Sanak, who has been only playing the guitar and piano for a number of weeks, and her performances were met by a huge round of applause from the audience. Amelia Wilkinson produced a beautiful tone on her oboe, giving a faultless performance which was swiftly followed by a drumkit solo by Weslyana Aziza-Smith, who was unfazed by performing on her own. Next came the second performance of 'Jingle Bells' of the evening by Nashita Haque, Simranjit Dubb and Becky Goold, and as mentioned by Mr Hollingworth "it wouldn't be a Christmas concert without hearing 'Jingle Bells' more than once"! Valentina Zanetto, Gabby Redmond, Emily Parker and Becky Goold all performed solo pieces and although at first they were a little nervous all played with confidence and flair. Helping to showcase the diverse range of instrumental tuition in school was India Purewal who performed a number of drum patterns on the dhol drum and Lucy Price playing the recorder. Radika Ganesan gave a moving performance of 'I Giorni' on the piano, and after the concert a member of the audience commented on the beautiful nature of the piece and how it had moved them greatly, so much so that they asked for the composer of the piece so that they could listen to it at home. Next came the second drummer of the evening, Annie Brighton, who gave a confident and flawless performance on the drumkit.

After some name dropping by Amelia Wilkinson to her oboe teacher, Mrs Watley discovered that I play the bassoon and she swiftly acted upon this information to draft me in to create an oboe and bassoon ensemble with Eleanor Clarke, Amelia Wilkinson and Jenny Perkins to perform the well known carol of 'We Three Kings'. A number of soloists carried on the evening with Libby Hall-Annison, Maisie Malcolm, Sophie Todd all confidently taking to the stage and performing pieces learnt in their instrumental lessons. Lucy Price returned once again but this time to play the oboe, demonstrating her versatility and musical ability. Moving into the final few performances of the evening, Sophie Caprioli, Mary Holden, Leesa Ali, Valentina Zanetto and Maisie Malcolm (in a duet) continued to maintain the high standard of performances for the evening. Finally the choir gave their performance of 'Carol of the Children' by Rutter. Shelter Atunde, Bethany Harden, Sophie Neale, Geneva Beckford, Lydia Silvertown, Georgina Hamilton and Laura Silk sang

in two-part harmony giving a confident and convincing performance to end the evening.

I would like to thank all the students who performed and the parents who supported the Christmas concert. As many teachers and parents commented, the standard of the performers this year was impressive and it was extremely pleasing to see so many of our young musicians eager to perform in front of an audience. Overall, an extremely rewarding and successful concert.

Christmas Celebration

On Wednesday 7th December the school held a Christmas Celebration concert at St. Faith and St. Laurence Church where all students in years 7-9 were invited to join in the celebration.

After a brisk walk to the venue all students were greeted by musical entertainment performed on the pipe organ by Mr Slack, which set the mood for the celebrations. As more and more students kept coming in through the front doors Miss Hobbs began to get a little worried that everyone wasn't going to fit inside, but after some squeezing in and the teachers offering to stand for the concert everyone was in, all 400 people!

During the celebrations there were a number of performances and readings. Three students, Harpreet Kaur 7L, Salome Atunde 8W and Jasmin Palin 9G read out the poems they had written for a competition in R.E. The choir sang 'A Winter's Tale' and 'Happy Xmas (War is Over)' accompanied by Mr Slack on the organ, and there were a number of performances from the guitar students accompanied by Mr Hollingworth.

At the start and end of the celebrations there was an opportunity for everyone to celebrate together by singing songs which captured the universal theme of Christmas.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the students who performed, doing a fantastic job yet again and also every student who came to the celebration concert for helping to make it a success. Well done.

Music in Assembly

By now students should all have noticed some form of musical entertainment within assembly, sometimes in the form of music as they enter

and exit or when they get to listen to a number of performances throughout the performance assemblies. I hope they have enjoyed the performances so far and I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has performed.

Watch out for some performing arts assemblies after the Christmas holidays, where there will be some drama performances, dancing and more music. Very exciting!

D & T Department visit the Design Museum

Sightseeing and lunch, a fabulous trip for Ms Clarke and her students

Year 9 and year 10 GCSE Product design students had the opportunity to take part in a study trip to London. We visited the Design Museum, Belgo Centraal and Covent Garden. The Design Museum is a leading centre of excellence for all areas of Product Design. The students took part in a 'Mystery Product' workshop that involved analysing objects and improving their design/function. We then looked around two exhibitions 'The way we live now exploring the design legacy of Sir Terence Conran' and 'This is Design', an exhibition based on some of the museum's collection of acquisitions.



Discovering that design really is everywhere

Lunch was eaten at Belgo Centraal, a Belgian restaurant in the heart of Covent Garden followed by sightseeing and shopping in Covent Garden.



Students explore some of the classic designs in a workshop

Here are some comments the girls made:

"I thought the Design Museum trip was really interesting. I learnt about the design process from the workshop and I really enjoyed the exhibition. If this trip was happening next year I would like to go again."

Lucy Baines 9D

"The DT trip was excellent! We all enjoyed it very much and were very sad to leave London after a really cool day. Even the journey was interesting as we went over the Thames and saw many sights. We got to see and explore the Design Museum seeing many exhibitions. At Belgo Centraal we had an amazing lunch and after that we got to go exploring London. I would recommend this trip to everyone and would definitely go on this trip again." Letitia Treacy 9L

"The London trip was a real experience as well as being a really inspiring trip. I enjoyed the Design Museum, especially the workshop which will definitely come in handy in the future, as well as being really enjoyable. Also, the exhibitions were really interesting and are linked to some of the things that we have learnt not just in DT but also in art so it was really convenient."

I also enjoyed the meal that we had at Belgo Centraal which was a Belgian themed restaurant. The food was really nice, especially the chicken and it was a real change, especially the sauce that came with it. Also Covent Garden was really fun as we got to do a bit of shopping while at the same time got to go into different kinds of shops, such as high street and designer. It was also interesting to see

the different sights such as the Thames and also go over Tower Bridge and Waterloo Bridge."

Katie Lowe 10C

The Design and Technology department is now looking forward to running another visit to the Design Museum, so look out for information current year eights!

Year 9 Explore the Natural History Museum

An account of the recent Geography trip from Aneeka Sandhu and Hollie Preston

Earlier on this term we went on a school trip to the Natural History Museum in South Kensington, London. Whilst we were in the museum we looked around two floors and got to take part in a range of activities such as filling in a booklet and getting to experience an earthquake room in the red zone.



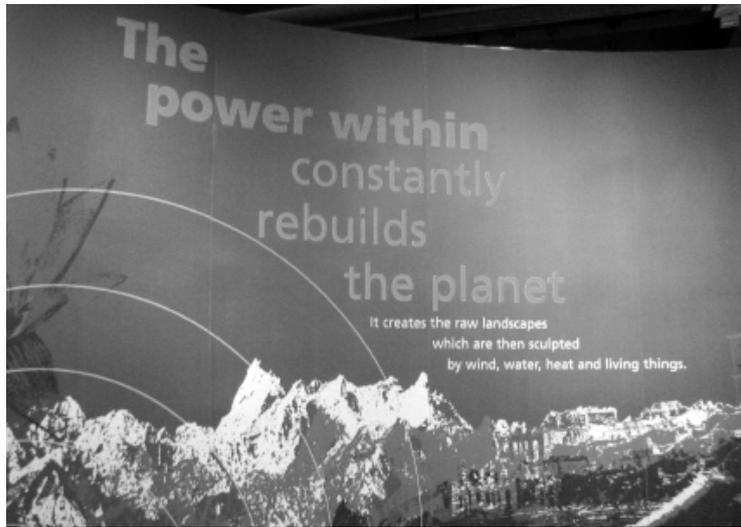
Students enjoy getting down to work

It was a very useful trip as we got to look around and get some inspiration for our geography project which we were just starting.

Whilst we were looking around we were given the freedom to pick whatever we wanted to do for our project which was really open to us. Our project was to produce a 10 minute lesson about a topic that we discovered at the museum. We could use whatever resources and whatever

method we wanted.

This project gave us a feeling of what teaching is like and it was fun to come up with the creative resources. It taught us time management and control over teaching others. It was also fun to learn what other people had done for their project.



Inspiring stuff at the Natural History Museum

Family Learning Week at LGS

Miss Gough explains how we got families into the classroom

Back at the end of October, activities were put on during the evenings to encourage students and parents to learn new skills together and socialise with other family members and students. We had 99 attendees throughout the week, which was a fantastic turn out. Students and family members worked together making jewellery and textiles, cooking corn chowder and making bread and doing Zumba Classes. Those leading the activities demonstrated the skills to participants and then worked their way around the group showing participants helpful tips and techniques.

Feedback was really positive overall. All participants felt that they achieved what they had set out to achieve and most would like to continue with the activities in the future.

"I felt it was just right and extremely good – I really enjoyed it!"

"Seeing so many parents has certainly encouraged

me to come again."

Many thanks to all of the students, parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters and aunties who came along and helped to make Family Learning Week a great success.



Proudly displaying the fruits of their labour, a Lordswood family getting the most out of Family Learning Week

Magnificent Models!

Congratulations to Year 7 from Miss Colvin and the Science department

The science department have literally been bowled over by the creativity and attention to detail shown by Year 7, while completing their homework projects this term. All students had a challenge to make a 3D model of a cell of their choice, and they did not disappoint us!

They was a lovely buzz around school this week as model cells were carried in, carefully boxed and wrapped to prevent any damage being done before they were due to be unveiled. The girls were hugely excited to show off their efforts and see the success of others. They came in a variety of different shapes and sizes, some being bigger than some of the girls themselves!!

They made a huge range of cell types including sperm and egg cells, guard and palisade cells, ciliated cells, nerve cells and many more. They used endless paper maché, clay, pipe cleaners, plastic, play dough, beads and glitter (to name just a few materials!) all to represent cell

structures brilliantly.

Year 7 should be so proud of the effort they have put in. We will be taking photos of some of the best models and displaying these on the "good news blog" on the school website. Well done everyone keep up your hard work!

Robot Rampage!

Mrs Blake on some technological team work

On the afternoon of Wednesday 9th November 2011 ten excited students in Year 10 set off in the minibus for an afternoon with Mrs Blake at the University of Birmingham for a master class on how to build a robot. The girls joined students from two other schools who went for the two hour session run by three computer science students in their 3rd Year at the University.

The session started with a short lecture during which they looked at how robots are developing today, particularly at some of the design problems that have to be overcome – for example they were shown videos of robots playing football and having trouble negotiating stairs! If robots are to feature in our lives in future it is an essential skill they must have.



Students show off the product of a hard day's work

They were then given the opportunity to build their own robot. Our students were split into three groups and were given a box of bits and had to work in their groups to assemble their robot. They also had to program their robots – a new experience for all the girls. The students tested their robots in a maze to check that the sensors worked and the robots functioned

correctly.

As the session drew to a close some of the girls had become quite attached to their robots and did not want to break them up, some had even named their robots. Sadly all the robots ended up in bits back in their boxes!

This was a productive afternoon which the girls thoroughly enjoyed, gaining an insight into technology that will undoubtedly continue to have an impact on our lives. With another master class scheduled for next year we are looking forward to developing the links between the ICT Department at Lordswood Girls' School and the Computer Science Faculty at Birmingham University.

Year 8 Languages Day

Language workshops for our students, a report from Mrs Jbili

On Friday 14th October, 15 year 8 students attended a Languages event at Hillcrest School, Birmingham. Students from a number of different schools in the area were invited to watch *Les Garçons* in the morning, a French play performed by the reputable Onatti Theatre Company and attend two language workshops in the afternoon.



*Members of the Onatti Theatre Company perform *Les Garçons* for our year 8 students*

The play was performed entirely in French and was enjoyed by all!

Workshops ranged from language taster sessions in Arabic and Russian to sessions run by University students about the importance of continuing to study a language. This was a wonderful opportunity for students to experience French outside the classroom and to enhance their listening skills whilst having fun.

Update from the Drama Department

Mrs Swallow with news from her department

Grease

Next year's school production is Grease, a joint production with Lordswood Boys' School. Grease is an ever popular musical including such songs as 'You're the One that I Want, Summer Nights and We go to Together, to name but a few. Rehearsals have begun and will continue in January on a Tuesday and Thursday evening. Everyone involved will be given a list of rehearsals they need to attend.

The show takes place on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd December 2012. Tickets will be on sale in the New Year priced at £5 for adults and £3.50 for concessions

Offstage choices

Fifteen students in Year 9 were lucky enough to attend an offstage choices event at the Birmingham Hippodrome in November. The day involved students working with theatre professionals to experience a taster of careers in the performing arts industry that do not involve being on stage. A range of activities were on offer from creating a radio advert for the theatre's forthcoming production, a backstage tour of the theatre and a directing workshop. It was an excellent opportunity for students to extend their theatre skills and explore the jobs available before picking their options early in the New Year. All students were a credit to the school and it was a very enjoyable day for all involved.

BTEC Performing Arts

It has been a very busy term for the BTEC Performing Arts students. Not only is it the first time that the course has been run in school but they have also mounted a full-scale production

of the pantomime Aladdin, performed in assemblies, participated in dance workshops and visited the Alexandra Theatre to see a production of 'The Producers'. Students have demonstrated a huge commitment to the course and given up much of their free time to complete practical work. They should be proud of their achievements and I hope their hard work continues into next year.

Library Reading Challenge

An update from Mrs Ashford and Mrs Hulbert in the Library

101 Reasons to Read a Book

The Facts!!

Started September 2011

Books Read = 56

Year 7 have read a total of 30 books with 7W in the lead!

Year 10 have read the least!

Star Students:

Fatima Kenewa US5, Aaliyah Haq 9C, Kiran Ahmed 9D, Tapiwa Kadzviti 8R, Kiran Ahmed 7R and Sophia Taylor 7W!

Don't forget if you borrow one of the mystery books, you will receive a reward point. Once all 101 books have been read, the student who has read the most books will get the prize. In the event of a tie, names will be entered into a draw to decide who the winner is.

Are You Ready for Something BIG?!

Mrs Leadbetter introduces an event held by her Creative and Media Diploma students

This term the year 11 Creative and Media Diploma students have been working on their Festival unit. To complete this unit the students have to organise and run a festival. They have decided to organise a youth performing arts

festival which will be taking place on Saturday 14th January in the school hall from 2pm – 5pm. The students have come up with the name BIG fest for the festival, which means Birmingham's Inspired Generation's festival.

The diploma involves students from four different schools: Shenley Academy, Bournville School, Hillcrest School and Lordswood Girls' School. The festival will therefore include acts from all of these schools. It promises to be an exciting event with plenty of variety so please come along and join us. Tickets will be on sale the first week back after the holidays priced at £1 for adults and 50p for under 11s. For further information you can talk to the diploma students, Skye Firkins, Alishah Ahmad, Kiren Riyat and Harriet McQuitty.

We hope to see lots of you there.



Chef of the Week

Our latest culinary geniuses, from Miss Tosh

Well done to the budding chefs of year 7 who have worked really hard to achieve some excellent results this term. They have demonstrated fantastic organisation and time management skills and always strive for perfection!

The girls are currently designing and making a healthy picnic snack as part of the Dudley Zoo design and technology theme that is studied in year 7.

Well done to the following girls:

Rahmina Zabin 7R
Emily Baines 7R
Emily Parker 7R

Thea Clifford 7R
Harsimran Dulai 7R
Tia Lawrence 7L
Leah Batty 7L
Fuxian Slowik 7L
Mia Howard 7L

Year 7 News

Mrs Peniket describes the recent activities of a group of year 7 students

A working group of year 7 students have had a fun-filled term of activities, beginning with a Halloween Party on October 31st. The group, consisting of Elise Russon, Saria Jabeen, Saarah Kauser, Michaela Maher, Hajra Mahmood and Deanna Woodhouse-Hawkins have worked with Mrs Peniket and Ms Mills to produce a Year 7 newsletter, called The Bluebells, which is to be distributed to all year 7 students. The girls also decorated the school Christmas tree and made a year 7 Christmas postbox.



Mrs Peniket's group of year 7s start the festivities by decorating the tree and making their postbox

Year 7 Ghost Story Competition

Congratulations to Emily Montgomerie, Sophie Todd and Ammaarah Samuel who all won prizes for the Year 7 'Ghost story' writing competition. Fuxion Slowik, Klaudia Boguta and Asmita Goswami won prizes for their projects on 'Witch-craft' and each received a Macbeth rubber and chocolate cat.

Dudley Zoo 2011

The annual year 7 trip to Dudley Zoo was as successful as ever writes Mrs Faulkner

As part of the Design and Technology department's project work, all of the year 7 girls visited Dudley Zoo to carry out research into the animals living at the zoo, picnic food that could be eaten at the zoo and what gifts were sold at the zoo gift shop. As well as the research carried out for the design and technology projects, students also carried out research to help them with their art, music and drama projects which will culminate in a performance which will be held early next year.

All of the girls enjoyed themselves and found the visit extremely useful. The weather stayed dry for us and lots of the animals were pleased to see us!



Year 7 students enjoying their trip to the zoo

Trampolining and Tumbling World Championships 2011

News on an inspirational trip from the PE department

On Friday 17th November 2011, the school gymnastics team attended the Trampoline and

Tumbling World Championships which took place at the NIA.

From their front row seats, the girls were able to witness the elite level performances and show their support for gymnasts from countries including Canada, South Africa, China and the USA. They were also able to show their support for the GB athletes who may even qualify for the 2012 Olympics.

The event was extremely enjoyable and has hopefully provided the girls with the motivation and inspiration they may need during their own inter-school competitions over the coming months.

Good luck!!

Time Capsules at the Botanical Gardens

Congratulations from Mrs Peniket to some fabulous year 7 students

On Thursday 17th November, two of our year 7 girls, Klaudia Boguta and Amy Robinson, attended a 'Time Capsule' ceremony at the Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, supported by the ExtraCare Charitable Trust, which provides superior housing for the elderly.



All ready to bury their capsule, Klaudia and Amy dressed properly for the occasion

The girls spoke with great confidence about our school, and placed a Lordswood Girls' School tie

and year 7 badge into the time capsule. Nick Abbey, Chief Executive of the ExtraCare Charitable Trust said that the girls were “delightful and a credit to the school.” I was extremely proud of the girls, who spoke with confidence and clarity at the ceremony. Many of the guests at the ceremony applauded the girls for their outstanding performance, including Councillor John Lines, Cabinet Member for Housing from Birmingham City Council. The girls were presented with a silver time capsule, dedicated to Lordswood Girls’ School and inscribed with the school name and date of the ceremony; and even better, the girls were presented with a large tin of chocolates each!



Our girls prepare for their big moment at the Time Capsule ceremony

Students Represent Lordswood at Young People’s Question Time

Nandi Ka Ncube describes her experience of attending the event

Going to the Young People’s Question Time was a brilliant experience. I got to meet different police officers who told me about how the police work. Meeting different young people was exciting as well because I got to hear their opinions of the law which was very interesting



Patience Kanjira, Yasamin Rostami and Nandi Ka-Ncube proudly show off their certificates from the Young People’s Question Time

because I learnt a lot of new things. This experience has been amazing for me and I’m happy and proud to represent Lordswood Girls’ School.

New Media Venture at Lordswood

Miss Lomas with news of a business set up to benefit our students

Recently established FrameRate Creative is a design agency based at Lordswood Girls’ School specialising in print work, graphic design and video and film making. Since 2009, the FrameRate team has completed numerous projects for local schools and businesses and has built up a large portfolio of happy clients. With all proceeds from the business being used to buy media equipment to benefit the students at Lordswood, this really is self sufficiency for the 21st century!

Involvement in the Immersive Education Project with Baskerville School enabled the team to work alongside media company Seeper on developing technology to engage students with behavioural disabilities in the classroom. Other completed projects include the production of a fitness video for a local dance instructor, creating regular newsletters and magazines for various local businesses and charities, including the Harborne branch of the NCT, and filming the recent ‘Edgbaston’s Got Talent’ event and producing a DVD of the show.

If you'd like any information about FrameRate Creative or would like to get a quote for a project, please contact Emily Gough on e.gough@frameratecreative.co.uk or 0121 429 2838. Alternatively visit www.frameratecreative.co.uk for a full list of products and services.

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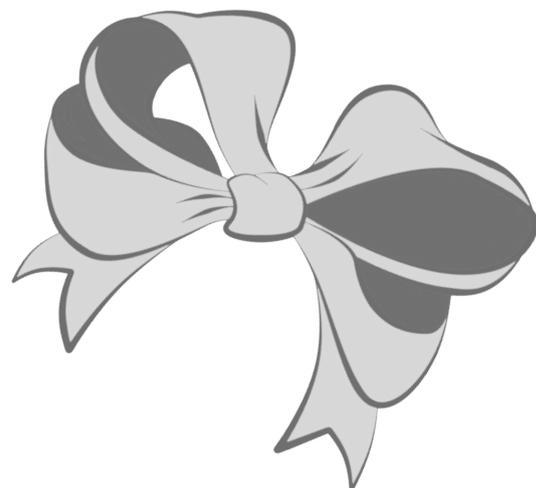
www.frameratecreative.co.uk
0121 429 2838

Fleet Street Calls for Lordswood Alumni!

Mrs Richards reports on an ex student who is now a successful fashion columnist for the De Montfort University newspaper

Congratulations to Aneela Aziz who has gone on to study at De Montfort University and now regularly writes for the university newspaper. In issue 83 published in November, Aneela took on Trinny and Suzannah with her selection of this season's best coats.

Look out for more from our budding fashionista in future!



On behalf of everyone at Lordswood Girls' School and the Sixth Form Centre, we would like to wish you a very

*Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year*

Lordswood **News**

Diary Dates

Fri 16th December	School breaks up at 1.10p.m
Mon 19th December - Tuesday 3rd January	Christmas holidays
Weds 4th January	Normal School day
Week commencing 9th January	Year 12 mock exams all week
Week commencing 9th January	Year 10, 11, 12 & 13 modules start
Tues 31st January	Year 10, 11, 12 & 13 modules end
Mon 9th & Tues 10th January	Year 7 Geography Field Trip
Thurs 12th January	Year 11 Parents' Evening 4 - 6.30p.m
Week commencing 16th January	Year 13 RAG week
Week commencing 23rd January	Year 7 Sea Life Centre all week
Thurs 26th January	Year 7 Performing Arts Evening
Fri 27th January	Year 10 Immunisations
Week commencing 30th January	Year 11 IAG Reviews
Thurs 2nd February	Year 9 Taster day
Thurs 2nd February	Year 9 Options & Parents' Evening 4 - 6.30pm
Weds 8th February	Year 10 Work Related Learning Day

Thurs 9th February	Year 7 Healthy Day
Fri 10th February	INSET Day school closed to students
Mon 13th February - Fri 17th February	Half Term
Week commencing 20th February	Year 13 Mock Exams all week
Week Commencing 27th February	Year 9 Reviews with parents all week
Thurs 1st March	Year 8 Parents' Evening 4 - 6.30p.m
Thurs 1st March Fri 9th March	Year 10 & Year 11 External Examinations
Week Commencing 5th March	Year 12 Reviews with Parents all week
Thurs 8th March	Year 13 Parents' Evening 4 - 6.30p.m
Fri 9th March - Fri 16th March	Year 8 Ski Trip
Fri 9th March	Year 9 France Trip
Thurs 29th March	Year 7 Parents' Evening 4 - 6.30p.m
Fri 30th March	School breaks up 1.10p.m
Mon 2nd April - Fri 13th April	Easter Holidays
Mon 16th April	INSET Day school closed to students
Tues 17th April	Normal School Day

GREASE

Thursday 22nd and
Friday 23rd March

Punk
Ladies



BIRDS

@ Lordswood Girls' School