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Lordswood News

A Letter From The Headteacher

The festive season got off to a good start last week with our annual Christmas Fayre which was really well supported. There was a wonderful atmosphere and it was lovely to see so many people supporting the event. This was followed by a very successful Christmas Concert. The number of performers continues to increase and the audience were treated to a very varied programme from students at various stages of their musical studies. What they all had in common was an enthusiasm and enjoyment of music making which was lovely to share.

The week was crowned by the publication of the Department for Education's data (RAISEonline) which, based on last year's results, places Lordswood Girls' School in the top 1% of all schools nationally. It is fantastic to see improvements year on year, in spite of changes to examinations and assessment. Well done to all students and staff and thank you also to parents for all they did to support their daughters.

Improvements are taking place not only on the academic front. We shall be embarking on the window replacement programme at the beginning of January and this will run until April. Portable classrooms are already on site to enable work to start and work will be completed in sections to minimise disruption to teaching and learning. We are hoping for a mild winter so that the temperature in the school building is not adversely affected when parts of the curtain walling are removed! We shall be submitting a further bid to the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund, which is what has funded both the science block extension and window replacement programme, this time to refurbish

and extend the gym. We understand that we are less likely to receive funding for a third year but will try our luck nonetheless!

I would like to take this opportunity to enlist your support for ensuring the safety of pedestrians in Knightlow Road. I am concerned that some parents continue to park or drop off their daughters at inappropriate points; double parking is common and I have been horrified to see parents even driving down the pavement! Residents frequently are unable to get out of their drives and students crossing the road are in danger of not being seen by parents preoccupied with getting as close to the school as possible. Following a particularly dangerous situation when students returned from a school visit, it has been agreed that coaches will now depart from and return to the Lordswood Road entrance. I would request that parents encourage their daughters to walk to school or use public transport where possible; where it is necessary for students to be driven to school it would be helpful if they could be dropped off well away from the entrance. Could I also ask parents to be respectful of residents' driveways and not to try and turn at the junction of Knightlow Road and Ellesborough Road. The police are aware of the situation and the School will be working closely with them to make Knightlow Road a safer place for pedestrians.

The Autumn term ends at 12 noon on 21st December; year 11, 12 and 13 students finish on 20th December. The Spring term starts for all students at the normal time on Monday 7th January. I should like to wish you all a very joyful Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2013.

Mrs Jane Götschel, Headteacher

An Update from the School Council

Miss Lomas reports on a cracking start to the year for the Council

This year's School Council Reps have made an excellent start to their term of office after a frantic start to the year. With elections being held only two weeks into the new term in September, the Council was up and running and busy discussing issues by the end of the first month back. All members of the council then attended the annual training day which was held in school on 17th October. The day proved to be both a valuable and amusing experience for all involved and, for myself and Miss Millward, the highlight of the day was definitely watching the Year Councils attempting to work together to build shelters out of bamboo canes, newspaper and string! I think it's safe to say that most of our School Council Reps need to work on their engineering skills, however the Year 11s must be commended on their work after building a shelter which was even complete with a washing line and 'stones' lining the path to the front door!

At the end of the first half term, the Council successfully organised an amazing non uniform day to raise money for two charities, Breakthrough Breast Cancer and Jeans for Genes. All students and members of staff were asked to wear either their jeans or something pink, or both, to school for the day in return for a £1 donation. Students were also asked to donate home made pink cakes and biscuits for a cake sale which raised an amazing £90 in 15 minutes! The day raised a grand total of £850.87 which was split evenly between both worthy causes.

Following the success of the Jeans for Genes/ Wear it Pink day, on 16th November the school also participated in the annual BBC Children in Need fundraising day by joining in with the Blue Peter pyjama theme for the day. The school was absolutely awash with onesies, pyjamas and dressing gowns and everyone seemed to really enjoy the luxury of not having to get dressed! Again this day was a huge success and resulted in a total of £861.17 being donated to the BBC fund.

All in all, this term alone, the Council has raised a whopping £1712.04 for the three charities and so we would like to say a massive thank you to

everyone for their generosity and for joining in. The Sixth Form Council also donated money to pay for two homeless people to have a Christmas lunch as part of the Crisis at Christmas appeal of which they should be hugely proud.

Year Councils are now busy planning their fundraising activities which are due to take place during the Council fundraising week in July. Each Council selected a charity to support during the training day and their chosen causes are as follows:

Year 7 -	Great Ormond Street
Year 8 -	Invisible Children
Year 9 -	Birmingham Children's Hospital
Year 10 -	Mencap
Year 11 -	St Basil's
Sixth Form -	Save the Children

The Council has also launched its own blog which can be accessed via a link on the school website home page. The blog is updated after every Executive Committee meeting and also contains information on Question Time sessions. Please log on and have a look at what the Council has been up to!

Year 8 Anti-Bullying Poetry SLAM Project

Mrs Colvin-Grieve reports on an amazing day spent by our Year 8s

On Tuesday 11th September all of year 8 were off timetable for the day taking part in a poetry SLAM project. They worked exceptionally hard to create inspiring raps, songs and poems to reinforce our school's anti-bullying policy. There was a fantastic buzz in both workshops led by Spoz and Andy from the Dreadlockalien production team, as the girls wrote fantastic rhymes and practised a variety of performance techniques. The girls were enthusiastic and engaged throughout and were praised by our visitors for their hard work and motivation all day! I was really impressed by everyone's approach to the task and how encouraging everyone was to all other members of the year group, when they stepped up to the front to perform in front of their peers.

The two winning teams were: "My trousers are too high" made up of Sophie Todd, Abigail Higgins, Emily Montgomerie, Annie Brighton, Rebecca Stuart and Simran Sidhu and The Brack-ets who included Fuxian Slowik, Nafisa Ahmed, Sara Zahid, Charmaine Wilding, Zainab Mouflih and Ammaarah Samuel. These teams went forward to a regional final in November, hosted by the Police and Schools Panel at the Central Library theatre. The girls worked with pupils from winning teams from other local schools, including Hillcrest, Four Dwellings and George Dixon, to practise rhyming techniques and go head to head in rapping competitions. In the afternoon they practised their own anti bullying poems and raps with the help and guidance of many former Birmingham Poet Laureates, including Charlie Jordan a BBC radio broadcaster for Heart FM. These master classes helped the girls to improve their poem and enhance the performance of their piece.

Their final performances were judged at an evening at the Central Library Theatre, in front of friends and family of all the schools who took part. Lordswood girls were picked to open and close the poetry SLAM event and they did so with confidence and maturity. The content of their poems and their delivery was very moving and made me feel very proud as I watched from the audience. Unfortunately they did not win first prize, however, they received a runner up trophy in recognition of the praise they received from the panel for their exceptional writing. Their hard work really paid off and will be used to help promote other anti-bullying events that will be run in the West Midlands.

Well done to all the girls who took part; some pictures and video footage taken from the event will be available to view on the good news blog.



Our girls step up to the mic ready to perform

A Word...

News from Mrs Ashford and the library

It seems a long time ago now but during the summer term we again had the opportunity to "shadow" the CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Children's Book Award 2012. As part of their literacy lesson, a group of year 7 pupils shadowed the Kate Greenaway Medal, looking at the short listed books. In particular they looked at the characters, illustrations and genres, producing book reviews and reports on their chosen book. The girls also voted for their favourite book by giving them 1 point for their least favourite up to a maximum of 8 points for their favourite book. All the points for each book were then added together and this resulted in 'Puffin Peter' by Petr Horacek being the group's favourite book.

Students also had the opportunity to visit the Carnegie website to learn about the books, their authors and illustrators, post their reviews and find out what other schools thought about them.

At lunchtime on Thursday 21st June the announcement was made as to which book had won the award. The celebrations involved chocolate biscuits and samosas! a quiz, and a prize draw, which was won by Saarah Kauser 7S. All the pupils who took part were also given certificates.



The Year 7 students proudly pose with their certificates

The winner of the Kate Greenaway Award was *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness, which also won the prestigious Carnegie Medal.

All the work produced by the girls is to be displayed in the library.

To find out more about the awards visit the website www.ckg.org.uk/shadowing

Young Person's Question Time

Mrs Colvin-Grieve on a unique experience for some of Lordswood's Year 8 students

Earlier this term Birmingham South Police invited a small cohort of our Year 8 pupils to attend their "Young person's question time". The aim of the day was to canvass the views of young people by asking them to attend the event with their own pre-prepared questions, or questions from their peers within school, and put them to the panel. The panel was made up of several senior officers from the Birmingham South policing unit who were all very impressed by the confidence and enthusiasm of the girls from Lordswood, as well as the other 100 Year 8 pupils that came together from across the city at Tally Ho!



Ready for a grilling - the panel at the Tally Ho

All the young people spent the morning learning about various police roles and powers and took part in workshops that focused on anti-social behaviour, the misuse of alcohol and other drugs, gang culture, cyber bullying, terrorism, robbery and stop and search to name just a few. They then spent the afternoon grilling some of

the most senior officers with questions which included:

"Do you have a say in what happens to people after they have been arrested?" and "How do you feel about all of the police cuts and "will this affect our safety?"

It was an enjoyable and informative day for everyone, and I was impressed by the maturity shown by the girls who attended. Klaudia Boguta, Sara Zahid, Abbie Thompson, Farheen Kadra, Charmaine Wilding and Petrina Williams were once again excellent ambassadors for the school.

An Active Term for the Art Department

Students reflect on various trips this term

First Cut Exhibition in Manchester - Simran Sidhu and Jasmeet Bansel

On the 1st November we went to an exhibition in Manchester called First Cut. Throughout the exhibition we saw amazing art work from different artists. Each image was made out of paper which means it links to our topic which is 'Everyday objects'. From the exhibition we got a lot of inspiration for what we can make in class. This gallery was very useful as it gave us some very nice ideas about things to make in our lessons .



Birds cut from maps, one of the exhibits at First Cut



More intricate cut paper which inspired the students

Year 11 Screen Printing Workshop at Walsall Gallery - Nola James

I really enjoyed the screen printing work shop at Walsall art gallery as we do not have the equipment to do this type of print at school, so it gave us a totally new way to creating an image. All the images produced were very effective and I'm sure the whole class was able to take something away from the work shop. I also really enjoyed looking round the gallery and seeing examples of successful contemporary artists.

Photography GCSE Trip to Birmingham City Centre - Layla Mustafa

On Tuesday 4th December our Photography class left school at 8am to go to town in the freezing cold to take photographs of structures of buildings that looked like letters from the alphabet. This work was in response to David Airey's work and will contribute to our mini project, which is part of our GCSE coursework. It was fun!

News From English

An update on what's been happening in the English Department

It's been a very busy time of the year for the students and staff as many prepare for examinations in January. Year 10s will be sitting the examination element of the English Language GCSE and as part of their preparation there have been weekly revision sessions on

offer, as well as support via the VLE. On Monday 17th December an examiner from AQA will be delivering a two hour session to your daughter on how to succeed in January. Years 11 and 13 will also be sitting their literature and A2 examinations respectively and we wish all students the very best of luck. As a reminder, please note that a member of staff is always available Monday lunchtimes to work with KS4/5 students.

In other news, a huge thank you to those sixth formers who have trained and are working as reading buddies with KS3 students during their library lessons this term. The KS3 students have must appreciated this extra support and enjoyed conversing about their reading with someone other than their class teacher.

At KS3 we will be starting an inter-form spelling bee in the New Year and plan to enter the annual 'Times' spelling competition. We have also been running the 'Around the World in 80 Words' writing competition at KS3 as part of the Young Writers Association. In February we hope to replicate the success of this year by entering a team as part of the English public speaking competition, where we came second in a very talented field of schools. Finally, to reward the hard work and effort in English this year a number of students have been awarded an 'English Star'. Do come and look on the English notice board to see who you are!

Wishes for a Happy Christmas

Mrs Peniket on Christmas wishes from Year 7

Four year 7 students were invited to decorate the school Christmas tree. This year, all Year 7s were asked to write their wish for the world on a label and attach it to a Christmas tree decoration. As a consequence, the tree is full of positive messages of love and best wishes for world peace and harmony this Christmas.

Some of the messages are as follows:
"Everybody's the same, so let them be free."
Jeorgina Middleton 7W

"Peace and goodwill; may it spread around the world."
Simran Minhas and Aman Sunner 7R

"Let there be peace and love at Christmas."

Jaya Sharma 7W



Kenya Clarke, Stephanie Gray, Aman Shoker and Sidra Shafique decorating the Christmas tree.

Year 7 Fair Trade Day

Cerys Feiven from 7W on chocolate and discovering Fair Trade

On PSHEE day the topic for year 7 was 'Fair Trade'. Fair Trade is an organisation which charges more for its products so that the people who produce the products can be paid a fair wage. However, some manufacturers have workers working in poor conditions for a low wage because they want to make more profit from their products. This is wrong because the workers are humans and should be treated like the rest of us and get a fair wage. People are more important than money!

Our focus for the day was chocolate. Chocolate was a good theme because lots of people love chocolate!

After we had found out what Fair Trade is, we looked at a powerpoint which outlined the history of Cadbury's Chocolate. We discovered how they paid their workers a fair wage and provided proper houses for their workers which was an early form of Fair Trade.

We did a lot of activities like a chocolate quiz and a pass the parcel containing chocolate, we also got to taste two different types of chocolate and we had to write down which we thought was the nicest. Afterwards we found out which was the Fair Trade chocolate. Most people liked the Fair Trade chocolate best. We also had to design a poster advertising Fair Trade products and produce a Fair Trade Postcard with a hand drawn picture and a message about Fair Trade on the back.

Fair Trade products also include coffee, wine, sugar flowers, clothes and many more! The day was fun because it was interesting learning about a new topic; it made people think about buying Fair Trade more often, as although it is a bit more expensive, it is kinder to its workers.

An Exciting Day to be in Parliament

An eye opening trip to London, by Francesca lafrati from 10D

On the 5th December, a group of fourteen eager Lordswood Girls' School students took a trip down to parliament to meet our local MP, Gisela Stuart, with Ms Dignon and Mrs O'Shaughnessy (who drove the minibus). After a two hour journey by minibus to the outskirts of London (lovely Ickenham) we all boarded the Metropolitan tube train for a chilly ride to Westminster.

On arrival, we went on a tour around the Houses of Parliament with our very own guide. We went to a very large hall at the start which had lots of plaques where famous people, such as Nelson Mandela and Charles II, had stood on various significant occasions throughout our history. We saw the Queen's diamond jubilee stained glass window and the coat of arms of her father George V. Next, we arrived at the other side of the building where we saw the chair upon which Queen Victoria sat during her reign - everyone agreed that it was very old and tatty! There were also many Gothic Tudor rooms including one which was decorated with portraits of every Tudor monarch that we have had. The building is incredibly historic and seemed to cover almost all of our Tudor, Stuart, Victorian and Georgian past. The chamber of the House of Lords, which we got to next in our guided tour, contained an

extremely elaborate throne and of course the famous red seats of the lords. We learnt a lot about parliamentary traditions here such as Black Rod and the role of the Lord Speaker. Our tour then finished off in the central lobby just outside the commons chamber. This was very exciting as we could hear Ed Miliband being cheered during Prime Minister's Question Time.

Then came the highlight of our visit. We sat inside a parliamentary committee room, having prepared questions, when Gisela Stuart entered the room to see us. Gisela Stuart is the MP for Edgbaston and was more than happy for us to fire questions at her. Some examples of our questions were: how did you become an MP?; what is the best way for young people to voice their ideas?; do you think a two state solution is best for Israel and Gaza?; will the new minimum price per unit of alcohol reduce binge drinking? She voiced her opinions on all of our questions and everyone thought she was very honest.



Lordswood students with Gisela Stuart MP inside the Houses of Parliament

Sophie Bullock, who went on the trip said:

"She had some very interesting views and it was pleasing that she was so willing to hear out our views and voice her own."

We also managed to get some gossip about Nadine Dorries – apparently MPs called her 'mad Nad' even before she went to the jungle!

During this time, George Osborne was making his delayed autumn statement to the Commons, which went on for three hours but is a very important time for the MPs in Westminster. Also, we managed to bump into Vince Cable, Jacob Rees-Mogg and Michael Howard in the corridor.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip to

Westminster. Nancy Inman stated: *"The atmosphere in the Houses of Parliament was energetic and exciting and all of the Lordswood students were really enthusiastic about the experience"*

We wish to thank the teachers for organising such a great trip!

A Parliamentary Debut!

Saira Parveen on her first appearance in Parliament

On the 23rd November I, alongside my Youth Parliament colleagues, had the privilege to debate in the House of Commons!

After train journeys from across the country, all the Youth Parliament members arrived at Westminster Palace by 10 a.m. and congregated in the hall to engage in pre-debate discussions. We then made our way to the Commons and, upon entering, I was in complete awe of my surroundings.

After examining the grandeur of the House of Commons, I took my seat on the 3rd bench. To think that MPs sat where I was on a daily basis, effectively ruling the country, amazed me. The live televised debate then began as John Bercow, the Speaker of the House, entered. He greeted us and reminded us of the agenda. We were to debate five issues for young people including marriage for all, cheaper transport and a curriculum for life or for work. The Children's Minister then appeared to deliver a speech about young people and the incredible opportunity we had. After listening to his utterly inspiring speech, we were raring to go

After a long, productive and enlightening 4 hours of debating, we cast our votes on the issues we believed should form the basis of our campaign for the next year. The result was a resounding 'yes' for a 'curriculum to prepare us for life'.

My day in the House of Commons was undoubtedly one of the best and most valuable experiences of my life and reinforced my immense passion for young people and the impact they can have on politics and this country.



Saira sits proudly in the House of Commons

An Obamelection

An early morning for keen followers of the US Presidential Election

Year 13 Government and Politics students marked the US elections in November by joining Ms Dignon and Ms Christian for an elections breakfast. For the event, the students designed their own election t-shirts to show their support for their preferred candidate. The previous night had seen a fair amount of activity on the department's Twitter account but it soon became clear who were the night owls and who needed their beauty sleep as the messages became few and far between after midnight!

Although Obama's re-election had just been confirmed by the time everyone arrived in school at 6.00 a.m. we were all able to watch the victory speech and get to grips with the electoral college system (which even the American themselves find hard to understand...). Other students joined the group in the conservatory as they came into school, interested to see what the breakfast party was all about. No doubt they were lured by Farrah Hussain's homemade election cakes.

The students kept to the theme of the US elections by visiting Aston University the same week for a US Elections special run by academics from the School of Social Sciences. The students all agreed how satisfying it was to attend university style lectures and to understand what was being talked about due to their A level studies.



Farrah with her special election themed cakes

Debate Club - We've Got Issues!

Francesca lafrati on Lordswood's up and coming debating team

The debate club is a group of Year 10 students who gather each Tuesday lunch time with chief debater (Miss Christian). Members include: Nancy Inman, Sophie Bullock, Francesca lafrati, Madeleine Herbert, Chenika Desch-Bailey, Phoebe Harris and Miriam Noons. We choose morally provoking and controversial topics and research them, form teams and (following British parliamentary debate rules) discuss in great depth the issues we uncover. We like to not just brush the edges of the problems in society, government, the legal system and other fundamental aspects of this and other countries, but to delve deep into the underlying causes of the problems and offer possible solutions for the issues we are debating.

We started with motions including whether there should be an organ transplant opt out system. After ten minutes to plan in our teams, we debate the motion, with each person speaking for three minutes. We have now moved on to compete with the Boys' School and we use our time on a Tuesday to research and plan arguments. We have had roughly five debates with Lordswood Boys, only one of which we have

lost! We have gradually got better at debating and become more confident in what we are doing. Some of the skills needed to be a debater are confidence in what you are saying, being able to think on the spot and argue back, an ability to think deeply about social issues and a good sense of team morale. However, if you don't think you have these qualities, then you can develop them at debate club.

So far this year we have done assemblies for upper school and the sixth form about whether we should have a black history month. This was definitely one of our less heated debates! But we are thinking of doing more assembly debates. In school, the debating bug has now caught on and Years 7, 8 and 9 have recently auditioned for their own debate club. In the future, debate club plans to go to national competitions, however we are currently lacking funding.



Phoebe and Nancy prepare for a heated debate

Renaissance Accelerated Reading Scheme

Mrs Ashford with an update on the scheme to get students reading

All of Year 7, 8 & 9 are involved in the Accelerated Reading Scheme a computer programme which has a dedicated website that can be accessed by pupils using their own unique login details. It is designed to help both pupils and teachers keep track of independent reading.

Pupils pick books within the reading levels they have been given by their teacher after they

completed a STAR test, and once they have read their book they can complete a quiz on the website which helps to ensure they have understood what they have just read. Pupils should attempt the quiz no more than 48 hours after reading the book.

Targets are set by their English teacher at the start of each term. Parents who would like to monitor their child's progress can do so using the Home Connect website. The link to which can be found on the school website under the heading "Parents". You will need your child's login details which you should have received recently via your child, if this is not the case you can contact me through the school and I will send them out to you.

Also as part of the scheme pupils are given certificates along with prizes for "milestones" such as completing 10 quizzes and achieving their targets. In the school library we have a Reading Wall of Fame and a Word Millionaire board to celebrate pupils' success.

During the term, Year 7, 8 & 9 pupils have read over 53,252,409 words and 1,166 books! All pupils should be congratulated on their efforts but a special mention should go to our Word Millionaires

Aman Sunner 7R
Emily Parker 8R
Patience Kanjira 9G
Olivia Lissemore 9W
Ifzah Khan 9W

Also congratulations to those pupils who have done exceptionally well on their quizzes

Olivia McComb 100% pass rate
Saarah Nisaa 100% pass rate

Finally well done to the following review groups who have read a staggering 14,177,536 words between them!

7L Ms Millington	4,785,360 words
7G Ms Pickford	4,743,564 words
9W Mr Slack	4,648,609 words

Well done!

As the Autumn Term ends we have a lot to celebrate!

Year 8 Languages Day

Languages outside the classroom!

On Wednesday 31st October, 15 Year 8 pupils attended a Languages event at Hillcrest School, Birmingham.

Students from a number of different schools in the area were invited to watch *Les Filles* in the morning, a French play performed by the reputable Onatti Theatre Company and attend two language workshops in the afternoon. The play was performed entirely in French and was enjoyed by all!



In the afternoon, students attended two language workshops in which they were given a taste of different languages and cultures across the world. Sessions were fun and interactive and ranged from Arabic, Japanese, and German to Latin, Greek and Russian.

This was a wonderful opportunity for students to experience French outside the classroom and to enhance their listening skills whilst having fun. The company will be visiting Lordswood Girls' School in March 2013 to perform a play in Spanish. Tickets will be on sale in the new year. Don't miss it!!

An Update From the RE Department

Mrs Stevens on what's been going on in RE this term

The RE Team

After a flurry of applications in September, the biggest RE Team ever was formed earlier this

term.

Congratulations to the following students for becoming official members of our team:

Tehrina Siddique, Amrita Kaur, Rekha Choudhry, Asmita Goswami, Guneet Aneja, Monai Laing-Smith, Nyhkiesha St Juste, Tapiwa Kadzviti, Saleha Bibi, Giandeep Sidhu, Tamara Palmer, Katie Lowe, Elisha Kular, Amelia Wilkinson, Prabjot Kaur, Sadiya Iqbal, Sophie Neale, Suwaida Osman, Sebiya Bi and Adeba Alvi.

The department would like to express our thanks to all those who have attended regularly and made such a valuable contribution to the RE activities and events.

Throughout this term, the RE Team have been involved in a range of activities including discussions, debates, RE-related films and preparations for Inter Faith Week 2012. We look forward to more fun activities and events in the future. If you have any questions or feedback for the RE department, please feel free to inform one of our RE Team.

Inter Faith Week 2012

Inter Faith Week 2012 provided a focused time for reflection on the inter faith relationships that can be encouraged in our local community. Visitors from local faith communities were invited to lead assemblies and special inter faith week lessons were designed and delivered for years 7, 8 and 9. The department also launched its annual Inter Faith Week logo competition. Students were asked to design logos that provided an insight into the main aims of Inter Faith Week. Students were also asked to write a rationale to accompany their design. Winners of the competition received certificates, chocolate, stationery and a praise slip. Their logos will be displayed on the first floor corridor in the Spring Term. The department would like to thank everyone who submitted an entry. We were overwhelmed by the response to the competition this year and by the impressive quality of the designs.

Congratulations to the following winners:

Year 7
Ella Grandison-Morris 7S
Aneeqa Hanif 7R
Chelsea Lissemore 7L
Rachel Masiyiwa 7D
Atlanta Regan 7G

Caila Ryner 7R

Year 8

Sana Hussain 8W

Emily Montgomerie 8W

Year 9

Kadesha Brooks 9G

Saleha Bibi 9R

Year 9 Tackle Today's Pressing Issues

Mrs Colvin-Grieve explains what the Year 9s got up to on their recent PSHEE day

Year 9 recently took part in an active citizenship project as part of the school's PSHEE programme. They worked together in small teams within their review groups to devise projects that could be developed and run to enhance their local community. Some of the groups then pitched their ideas to their peers later on during the day, which included ways to tackle boredom of young people, low self-esteem and depression and raising awareness of drugs and drug abuse. It was lovely to see such creativity and passion from the girls; I think we have some budding public speakers within our midst.

Year 10 Get Enterprising

Mrs Waraich on her BTEC students' new business venture

Sprinkles Cup Cakes has been launched this term by four BTEC Business Year 10 students.

Students have taken the initiative to use butter cream icing and various edible decorations to add value to their cupcakes. This opportunity has enhanced their learning of business finance in particular their understanding of purchasing, revenue, overheads and profits in a real life business scenario. Their small business is running successfully and feedback from students is

positive and hopefully sales will continue.



Members of the Sprinkles Cup Cakes team proudly display their cakes

Success in Paris for the Black Belt Academy

Antonio Santorelli, an extended member of the Lordswood family, proudly reports on his recent success in the International Combat Organisation's World Championships

15th November saw five members of Antonio Santorelli's Black Belt Academy join up with the rest of the ICO Team England Squad to go and compete at the ICO World Championships in Paris, France. The event was staged over three days covering numerous disciplines. The event was immense with an excess of 1000 competitors. This was the biggest attendance to date for the short existence of the ICO and the standard of competition was as good as any tournament that we have been to.

Our fighters showed true grit and determination, laying their efforts on the mats, giving their all. As a coach I was honoured to have taught them

and stand by them through thick and thin. Their hard training throughout the year saw their best performances to date.



Mrs Götschel joins Antonio as his team show off their medals

Young Alfie (only seven years old) entered the under 12s section losing in the 2nd round to a much taller and wiser German who went on to win his category. Chantelle who has only been training a little less than two years came up against a tough black belt German who simply had more experience than her. Tina's nemesis was a Scot who kept her at bay with her long legs. We did get on to the podium with Shane Elley winning a bronze in the under 60kg section and a silver in the under 55kg section whilst Sensei Antonio claimed gold in the veterans under 75kg section.

Celebrating Success in Food Technology

Miss Tosh reports on Lordswood's culinary triumphs

It looks like we have some budding chefs in Year 7 this year. Many students have demonstrated maturity and independence in practical lessons and have really cooked up some fantastic products! Not only has the level of making been impressive, but they have shown an open mind to try out new ingredients and have also been willing to try foods even if they were not sure if they would like them. A special congratulations goes to Jasmine Davis 7R; Hana Khan 7D; Caila Ryner 7R; Tegan Moore 7W; Areeba Khan 7R; Megan Cliff 7L; Chelsea Lissemore 7L; Grace Kirkpatrick 7R and Grace Nelson Brewer 7W. These students have each achieved Chef of the

Week by demonstrating outstanding skills and enthusiasm in lessons.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say well done to Benita Kellay in 9W, Priya Malhi in 9S, Melody Overton 11R, Harriet Wood 11D and Simrun Hanif 11L for their outstanding contribution to the subject. I think we should watch out for the next celebrity chef or bakeries and restaurants that could pop up over the next few years!

If you are interested in cooking (baking in particular) there will be a 'British bake off' inspired club running in the spring term, so watch this space and most importantly...keep cooking!

2013 Calendar, a Must Have for Every Home Next Year!

Miss Tooley's Year 9s have been productive!

This term in their art and design lessons, Year 9 have been producing work based on the environment. At the start of the project they were asked to respond to the work of Edward Weston, a photographer famous for his black and white images of natural forms. This beautiful A4 calendar contains 13 of the best photographs taken by our Year 9 students and is a bargain at only £3! If you would like to purchase one of these calendars and can do without one for the first week of January please bring £3 to the ante hall between 8.15am and 8.30am on Wednesday 9th January. Your calendar will be made and delivered to you the following day ready to take home.



Let's Get Men Cooking!

Miss Clarke in the kitchen at Lordswood

Let's Get Cooking has run this term so far for seven weeks as a focused group (men). The group comprises of male members of staff and sixth form students. The sessions began with making flapjacks and talking about the calorific values of food. Other sessions have included chicken fajitas, cottage pie, lamb kofte kebab's, pizza plus many other recipes and nutritional advice on how to eat a balanced diet. A strong emphasis has been placed on using the correct chopping methods, time management and working in a clean environment.

In addition to the sessions, burgers and muffins were prepared in advance for lunch and cooked for some of the sixth formers' teachers. The lunch was well received and enjoyed by members of staff.

I would like to say a BIG well done to the sixth form lads that have taken part; I do feel that your chopping skills and confidence have definitely improved!

What's New in Design & Technology?

Zoos, engineers and careers with Mrs Faulkner

So much has happened so far this year within the department; Year 7 visited Dudley Zoo, Year 9 took part in an engineering show and workshop and we also had three creative visitors in to talk to the Year 9s about their careers. The Christmas Fayre stall was also a success. Coming up next year, Year 8 will have the opportunity to go to the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales and Year 7 will be taking part in a technology show and follow up workshops. Here is some more information about the activities.

Dudley Zoo Year 7

This year's visit to Dudley Zoo was a huge success again. The girls managed to collect lots of research to help them with this year's projects from picnic food and animal patterns to gift shop products and animal sounds. They all had a great time in the sunshine and some even had an ice cream and went on the newly opened chair lift - some more than once! All were well behaved and did the department and school proud, well done!

Tomorrows Engineers Year 9

Year 9s were given the opportunity to take part in an engineering show which detailed ways in which engineering has helped to create the world we live in and how important engineers are. They also found out that it's not all greasy overalls and factory work (which is still unfortunately a stereotypical view of engineering) but a viable future career. To follow up the show, the girls' took part in three workshops - building a solar powered vehicle, an engineering design challenge and a look at how rewarding a career in engineering can be, which they enjoyed very much.

A Creative Chat Year 9

A career within a creative field can be very rewarding and so to highlight this to students we asked three people from a creative career to come in and talk to the girls - an architect, graphic designer and head chef. They talked about what they did, why they chose it as a career, salary, qualifications needed and answered lots of questions.

The Latest From Geography

Mr Sami reports on fieldtrips and a top secret launch in the new year

The Geography Department have continued with their commitment to give all year groups fieldwork experience. The Year 9s travelled to London to visit the Natural History Museum as part of the topic they are studying on Tectonics. They had the challenge to find a theme that interested them and teach it to their peers for their homework project. The Year 11s completed a three day residential fieldtrip to Oxford to prepare for their Fieldwork Focus

assessment. They had to get wet, however, and collect data from the River Windrush in the Cotswolds.



Students getting into the spirit of things!

The fieldtrips don't stop there, with all the other remaining year groups visiting different parts of the UK next year. The department are also in the early stages of setting up a residential fieldtrip to Iceland (not the one on Bearwood Road!) for all A-Level Geographers.

The Geography Department would also like to announce that it aims to set up a club next year, to help promote geographical issues around the school. Unfortunately, the name of the club cannot be revealed until the official launch. Look out for more information in January 2013!

ICT Students Visit BAE Systems

A Level ICT students report on their interesting visit

Lordswood Girls' School A Level pupils, both AS and A2 candidates, went to visit the BAE System (a multinational company) in Telford on the 13th November. Whilst on the visit the A-level group learned about the importance of data protection, the new high technical information technology, and how information communication technology is used within a business. We arrived at the company at 12:00am on the mini bus with a warm welcome after the shock of going through security! As we entered there were refreshments (hot chocolate and biscuits) which we were all very grateful for. The day was set out and organised with several different activities for us to observe and participate in. We appreciate the effort and the time that has been given up to organise the trip and we are all very grateful.

Before we arrived at BAE systems we had to be security cleared to make sure we were allowed to visit. When we arrived in Telford the first thing we had to do was give in our mobile phones and cameras; this was so we couldn't take pictures and share the information; we weren't very happy about it, but once they explained why it happened we understood and finally agreed. During our visit we had to be escorted everywhere and we were not allowed to go off on our own. Throughout the whole of the building there was a lot of security which was kept very secure; this was to help protect all the data which was kept and to keep our country protected.

Archive Drawings is a big part of BAE systems and is an important and massive job to do. The employees had to go through blueprints and then scan them so that digital copies could be archived electronically. The blueprints were up to 70 years old, dating back to around the 1960s – most of the drawings needed to be redrawn since they had been damaged over time. A lot of the ink was running and the paper was turning purple/black. They need to keep the blueprints safe and easy to access in case they ever need to look back at their older models. Once the paper had been scanned it had to be put back into a filing cabinet. There were at least 50 filing

cabinets dedicated to archive drawings and thousands of blueprints that needed to be scanned and archived correctly, a very big job to do.

Whilst being at the BAE systems we went into a special room called the teleconference. We had clear communication with a lady in Washington, England. The room consisted of seats on either side of the room so we sat on one end and on the other side were 3 big screens where we could see the lady appear on the screen. The great thing was that it felt like we were all sitting together around a table even though the lady was many miles away. Talking to her was clear and fast because the quality and sound was exceptional as there was no delay in talking so it felt like she was in the room with us. The teleconference overall has an impact on work life in a positive way because it saves a lot of time and car fuel in terms of having to drive to other places for business purposes and it is more practical as you just need to go into the teleconference room and communication with others is gained instantly. This is also able to save the company thousands of pounds.

The 3D dome was very interesting. To stand there and experience visually the inside of the tank and what the soldiers see when driving the tanks was truly fascinating. The hologram was not only of the tanks but it was also of the battlefields of where the soldiers go to fight. The quality of the hologram was so awesome; you could see the imperfections on the soldier's skins and the small details in the tank itself. After experiencing the 3D dome, we made our way to the CoD type set up. I was lucky enough to have a go at functioning the vehicle which I found absolutely remarkable. The time spent on the design and modelling of the vehicles before actually making them was very important as this reduces mistakes and saves a lot of money as well as time. If there are any faults, the design could just be remodelled.

The factory was very fascinating as we saw many different vehicles being repaired, designed or built. When we entered the factory, we had to put safety glasses on to protect us from any dust entering our eyes. We also had to follow a certain path, because of the many vehicles moving around. These procedures were done for health and safety reasons. We also got to see how many members of the staff worked in one large room. This was very helpful, as we could see how the staff worked all together, and passed information to one another, and the

different communication techniques used to do this. This was very beneficial for our studies, and was also very advantageous to know how a work place is set out.

It was a great experience for our AS and A-level ICT group to attend. We were able to learn many things whilst we were there and enjoyed the involvement we were able to have whilst we were there.

World Marathon Challenge 2012

Mr Guppy on another tremendous fundraising effort

The PE department was extremely pleased to organise and take part in the Save the Children's World Marathon Challenge earlier this term. The school team was made up of a mixture of 40 Year 7 and Year 8 pupils, who would each take it in turns to complete 200m – each helping to complete the full distance of 26.2 miles.



Our marathon fundraisers!

Over 500 schools competed in the event overall and each school could set its own personal target to help motivate the pupils. Whilst we knew the World record time of two hours would be an incredibly difficult challenge, at no point during the run did our baton stop (which was one of our targets!) and the girls were delighted to complete the distance in less than two hours 20 minutes. We were also fortunate enough to raise over £150 to go towards the Save the Children charity, which was greatly appreciated. The school has already been invited to take part next year with the plan being to have more than one team competing across

each of the school years.

An enormous thank you to everybody that took part, supported, sponsored and helped to make the event a success. It really was a tiring but worthwhile day – hopefully we can be aiming to break that record next year!

Adi-Stars Young Ambassadors Conference Birmingham Futsal Arena

Lordswood students promote healthy lifestyles

Three Lordswood students were selected to attend the Young Ambassadors Conference at the Birmingham Futsal Arena in November, as part of the National Scheme run in all schools across the country. Aalyah Malcolm was chosen as a Gold Ambassador to help support a range of schools across the south-west region, whilst Tanveer Hundal and Naveena Varma are now trained Adi-star ambassadors who will be helping to promote school physical activity and healthy lifestyles to all years within Lordswood Girls' School. A big congratulations should be given to these three girls for being selected for these important roles.

It was a tiring but enjoyable day for all three girls who had a range of theory and practical sessions to complete as part of their training process. There were over 100 pupils in attendance from across a range of schools in Birmingham, providing a really good atmosphere for everyone involved.

The girls all got some free equipment, a chance to listen to a Paralympic Silver medallist from London 2012, the opportunity to hold an Olympic torch and a chance to discuss leadership with fellow young leaders made the day a valuable experience for all three girls. Hopefully they will have learnt a number of different ways to promote PE that will benefit everyone at Lordswood.

Any other students interested in finding out more about becoming an Ambassador in school should speak to Mr Guppy.

The Basketball Academy 2012

Coach Guppy Sums up the Year

It has been a positive and exciting time for the Lordswood Basketball Academy with the season now almost half way through already. The team has made a very strong start to the West Midlands Premier season and should be on course for challenging for trophies at the end of the season as it has managed to do over the last few years.

Welcoming back a couple of former students (Dale Samuels, Raphia Gordon and Chad Palmer) into the Men's League team now they have all successfully completed their university education has helped to bring some valuable experience into the team. It has been great to see the further progress that these players have made since leaving Lordswood, both on and off the basketball court. The team has a really good spirit this season and all the players love playing on the same team. We have certainly had a lot of playing highlights already this year and with plenty more to come, I really do hope that as many people as possible get the opportunity to watch the team this season.



Members of the basketball team in their new kit

We start again after Christmas with a home game on the 7th January and really enter the busy time of the season up until May. It is always a challenge for the players to manage their basketball time and education commitments but it is always one of the sacrifices that the players choose each year. I am sure that they will continue to be very successful if they work as hard as they have.

Thanks to everyone that has supported the Basketball Academy so far this year; I look forward to seeing more of you after Christmas.

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year to You All

Lordswood's Christmas Fayre 2012

We cannot believe that Christmas is upon us again, it seems to come around so quickly.

Our annual Christmas Fayre took place on Tuesday 4th December, with over 25 stalls and the introduction of Santa's Grotto. The school and the staff who organised it as part of the Marketing and Enterprise team are thrilled that it was such a great success.

So it is at this point that we would like to say a huge thank you to all the students, families, local residents, stall holders, staff and everyone else who came and supported us. The atmosphere was lovely, with food and gifts being bought aplenty, festive music playing in the background and of course the eagerly awaited Santa's Grotto, which proved to be hugely popular with a wide range of age groups.

The team decided that any funds raised would be split between St Basil's Homeless Charity and school funds, to allow us to put on events like this in the future. The total raised in 90 minutes was £382.90, of which, £288.00 went to St Basil's. This was a fantastic achievement and a very worthwhile cause, I'm sure you will agree.

We hope that you all have wonderful Christmas holidays and wish you a very happy and healthy 2013.



Santa and an excited elf prepare for the opening of the Grotto!

The Skills Show Comes to Birmingham

Mrs Baddams reflects on an inspiring trip to the NEC

Over three amazing days at the NEC, The Skills Show was an event which aimed to inspire all who visited. Skills competitions, awards and activities all aimed to bring skills to life and change the way we think about skills, training and apprenticeships. The performers in the WorldSkills UK competitions kept visitors enthralled with their abilities. Have a Go activities proved extremely popular as students tried their hands at everything from floristry to aircraft marshalling.

Students from the Girls' and Boys' Schools banded together to travel over to the NEC in FIVE COACHES! I am sure that everyone found something that they could have a go at - welding with chocolate, making dental moulds and a scalextric track. Many of our students found the theatrical make up stand and 'inflicted' gashes and bruises on themselves. Our Careers Advice Team, Mrs Hulbert and Mrs Perry were very busy trawling for every piece of information that could get to bring back to stash in the library. The show is set to run for the next few years, so here's looking forward to the Skills Show 2013!!

What's Been Going on in Drama?

Another epic term in the Drama Department

Dance Quest

Lordswood Girls' School and Lordswood Boys' School have been working with Birmingham Hippodrome, on a project designed by The Prince's Foundation for Children & the Arts to offer an exciting opportunity called 'Dancequest'. Only 16 schools have been chosen across the country and only 50 students from each school. The project offers the students tickets to two performances at the Hippodrome, five afternoon sessions with a professional dance instructor and the opportunity to perform with 200 fellow students at the Hippodrome.

So far all students have begun their dance choreography working with two freelance instructors in school and have seen the production *Batsheva Ensemble* at the Hippodrome. The girls really enjoyed the performance and it is great to see so many influences from the production in their own work. In February we will be going to see a production of Matthew Bourne's *'Sleeping Beauty'*, which I am sure will prove just as exciting.



Our girls work on their moves with one of the Dancequest instructors

The benefits of the project will be a lasting relationship between the young people, schools and venues involved, the students being introduced to professional dance, and improvements in their confidence and

aspirations and will continue with Year 7 cohorts for the next three years.

If you require any further information on this nationwide project please visit, www.childrenandarts.org.uk/dancequest

Room 13

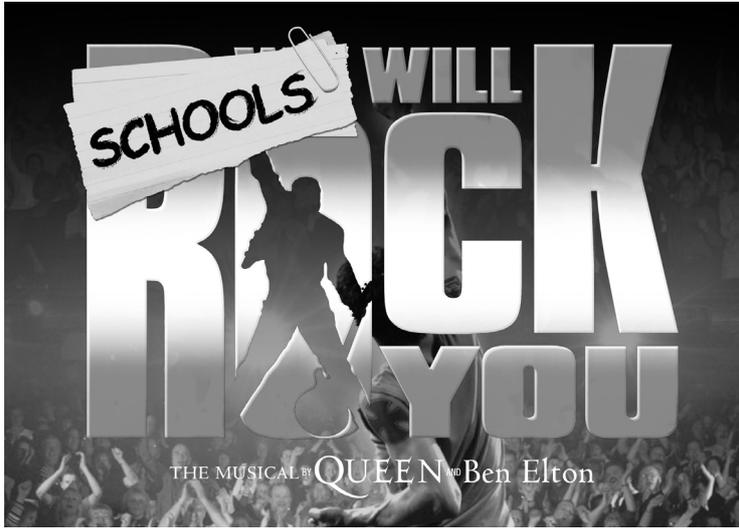
'Room 13' was performed to a full house on Thursday 11th October. The rehearsals for the play 'Room 13' began in earnest in June of this year with Reece Ruddock, Nathaniel Moore, Olivia McComb and Sophie Bullock playing the four main characters. The story tells of a class of students that go on a school trip to Whitby where Dracula resides in the hotel that they happen to be staying in. Olivia McComb produced a strong performance on the night, whilst Sophie's approach to the character of Lisa made the scary moments quite believable. Daphne Clarke produced a dynamic performance as the possessed Ellie May and our 'ghost girls' played by Thea Clifford and Abigail Higgins impressed the audience with their ghostly and atmospheric performances.

Sara Mohan and Aman Gill brought hilarity to the play with their humorous portrayals of Mo and Jo, whilst we received rave reviews from audience members, who also commented on the superb visual effects, created by Mr Nicholas and Miss Lomas's highly effective stage design.



Dracula gets his comeuppance in the climax of the production of Room 13

We Will Rock You



This year's school production 'We Will Rock You', a joint production with Lordswood Boys' School, is fast approaching. Rehearsals for acting, singing, dancing and the band are well underway and showing some excellent results.

The show made up entirely of the music of Queen and includes such hits as Radio Ga Ga, We Will Rock You and We are the Champions. The show promises to be energetic, with students taking a hand in some of the choreography themselves. Once again it is excellent to see how the students from both schools have been working together to create the show which will take place on 21st and 22nd March.

Tickets will be on sale in February priced at £5 for adults and £3.50 for concessions and booking forms will be available from reception. After the sell out success of Grease last year, you will need to book early to avoid disappointment.

Year 7 Performing Arts Evening

The annual Year 7 Performing Arts Evening will take place on Thursday 14th February 2013 at 7.00pm. Tickets will be on sale after Christmas priced at £2.00.

Lordswood's Christmas Concert

Mrs Morrall reviews the recent festive musical event

On Tuesday 4th December the school held a Christmas concert where students from all year groups in school had the opportunity to

showcase their talents and perform in front of an audience.

The concert was a huge success with around 100 students volunteering to perform as a soloist and others performing in an ensemble. The concert featured a wide range of instruments, showing the diverse range of instrumental tuition and musical activities the school has to offer.

Before the concert began there were a number of performances in the ante hall during the Christmas Fayre from the military drummers from Lordswood Boys' School, African drumming from Key Stage 3 students and dhol drumming. Opening the concert, the school orchestra set the mood by performing a number of Christmas carols. The Gospel choir, newly established this year, gave their first public performance at the concert and the energy and enthusiasm of the group definitely captivated the audience. Other ensembles, such as the cello group, oboe ensemble, clarinet trio and the chamber choir also gave impressive performances which clearly demonstrated how much the groups have developed and progressed since last year's Christmas performances.

The number of students wanting to perform as a soloist at the event was extremely rewarding. For some this was their solo debut, a daunting task with your peers and an audience of 170 parents and friends to perform to, and these students were extremely impressive and they rose to the occasion. Well done!

I would like to thank all the students who performed at the concert and say a big thank you to the parents and friends of the school who supported us and helped make the Christmas concert such a huge success. 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.

If this was one of the first concerts hosted by Lordswood Girls' School that you have attended then I do hope you enjoyed it and will come back to the next musical event and continue to show your support to your own daughter and the other students at the school.

Music in Assembly

The Music Department brings music to our mornings

By now you should have all noticed some form of musical entertainment within assembly, sometimes in the form of music as you enter and exit or when you get to listen to a number of performances throughout the performance assemblies. I hope you 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.

Cells! Cells! Cells!

Mr Bayliss with news of a model homework project

This week year seven pupils have been presenting their model cells project and now the new Lordswood science labs are awash with creative and colourful model cells.

For the last month, pupils in year seven have been researching about various cells and their functions in order to produce a model of any type of cell that they liked.



One of the fabulous cells created by Year 7

The result is an impressive exhibition of work that contains a range of different types from root hair cells and red blood cells to nerve cells and ciliated cells. We even have a model of a severed leg, complete with shoe!

Once again the science department have been impressed with the creativeness and ingenuity of year seven and we hope that year seven can maintain the passion and enthusiasm that they have shown for science during this project.

Congratulations from the PE Department

A round up of recent successes in PE from Miss Downes

Congratulations to the girls who took part in the Birmingham Schools' Gymnastics Competition at Edgbaston High School on the 10th of December.

Year 7
Grace Nelson Brewer
Cerys feiven
Amelia Malcome
Jeorgina Middleton
Megan Cliff
Ella Gradison Morris
Ebony Burger



Our Year 7 gymnastics team

Year 8
Fajr Mumtaz
Oliwia Sanak
Charmaine Wilding
Holly Pilling
Mia Howard
Simran Sidhu
Klaudia Boguta
Jeskirat Kaur



Our Year 8 gymnastics team

Athletics Competition

Congratulations also to the girls who competed in the Birmingham Schools' Athletics Competition on the 12th December.

Year 7

Elda Ketena
Tess Cheslin
Sophie Floyd
Mya Gill
Ayani Jenkins
Rhiann Wilkhu
Grace Nelson Brewer

Year 8

Becky Stewart
Emily Parker
Holly Pilling
Florence Nelson Brewer
Charmaine Wilding
Safia Linton Chambers
Ammaarah Samuel

Family Learning Week

Student reviews of the school's latest community initiative

At the beginning of November the school organised a Family Learning Week during which parents were invited to attend with their daughters to take part in several workshops that were being run at the end of school.

Workshops included textiles, cookery, card making, maths, photography and animation.

Emily Bains 8R

Family Learning Week was great! My mum and I went to the Christmas card making session, run by Miss Tooley. We made lots of cards using things like photography, stencilling and printing. There were lots of examples for inspiration, one of our favourite being using the cameras to take close up shots of the Christmas confetti which we printed off and used to cut shapes out of. There were plenty of things we could use to make our cards, like paint, cameras, stencils, coloured card, and many more. Miss Tooley explained how she made her cards and gave us lots of great tips to make our own. We really enjoyed it and we now have lots of really nice Christmas cards to give to our friends and family! It was really good and I would definitely do it again next year!

Emily Parker 8R

During Family Learning Week I went to the after school club, with my dad, run by Mr Slack. At the club we built a tetrahedron (which is a 3D shape that looks a lot like a pyramid, however unlike a pyramid the base is a triangle not a square) out of modelling balloons. My dad and I built a four level tetrahedron and then we started to work out the Maths behind it. We had to work out how many balloons it would take to make a tetrahedron that has 1000 levels, if it was six balloons to build one tetrahedron. We started off by trying to work out an equation to calculate how many individual tetrahedrons were on each level. We are still in the process of working out the final answer, as it involves lots of equations and sequences!

Both my dad and I enjoyed this Maths Club and would definitely recommend it to people who have patience and enjoy doing maths sequences and puzzles.

Ameena Masood 7W

What do you think when you hold up a digital camera to take a photograph? If you're like me, you don't think much and just click a button. Well, this all changed after I attended the photography session at Family Learning Week with my sister and my dad. The session was absolutely fascinating and enjoyable too. I learnt there are many aspects to capturing an image like the aperture, shutter speed and ISO

and much more. These terms were explained by the teacher who described and showed us the different styles of picture produced from the camera. Later in the session, based on these interesting facts, we took our own images using the cameras/phones. I loved experimenting with my friends and family. After this session, I felt I'd learnt so much more about cameras and pictures in a non-confusing way. I'll never be Ansel Adams or Yousuf Karsh (famous photographers!) but the session was so inspiring that I've started to use my camera to capture the beauty around me in a more meaningful way.

Tigerlili Lewis-Evans 7G

During Family Learning Week, there were a variety of interesting activities to take part in. Parents and children were given the opportunity to work together in a workshop and spend time together. The workshops were run by members of staff from the school who kindly gave their time.

I attended both Design Technology with my mum and Digital Technology classes with my dad. In Design Technology, Miss Clarke showed us how to create our own cushions with pictures of ourselves on them. We got to sew and iron the fabric together as well as use the sewing machines and get our photo taken for the cushions. It was really great, especially working with my family. In Digital Technology we were shown how to create awesome animations on the computer which was really fun. My dad and I managed to achieve two comic slide shows on snowmen/winter. After that we were shown how to make music videos which was very interesting. It was brilliant and I think we should do more things like it as I managed to learn more skills!

Hanna Said 7L

Me and my mum arrived at the cooking class on Thursday 8th November. I didn't think we would catch up with the other groups as we arrived a little late but with the help of Miss Tosh the steps were so easy to follow! We made Moroccan Chicken tagine alongside couscous and traditional caramelised apricots with cream. We thoroughly enjoyed the session and certainly learned new things! I will be looking forward to more sessions!

Everyone involved in Family Learning Week would like to thank the staff who kindly gave up their time to lead the session; thanks to Miss Tosh, Miss Clarke,

Mr Murtagh, Mr Slack, Mrs Blake and Miss Tooley.

PSHEE Health Focus

An update on recent PSHEE days

On Tuesday 20th November students in Years 8, 10 and 11 took part in a range of health related activities. After an initial launch assembly on the theme of emotional health, Year 10 students worked in groups preparing their entries to the regional 'Time to Change' competition. Students' work included PowerPoint Presentations, digital photography and posters aimed at stamping out discrimination.

Students in Year 8 took part in a carousel of workshops including self-esteem, fitness, alcohol awareness, and smoking. From students' feedback the active Zumba session, which was led by Natalie Fisher, was particularly popular. Natalie also leads Zumba sessions on a Wednesday as part of our applied learning programme.

The programme for Year 11 students included workshops on relationships, emotional health, fitness and drug awareness.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the outside agencies that supported our PSHEE event. With thanks to PCSO Marc Pearson, Natalie, Emma Cashmore, Pam Rutter and her staff at the Samaritans, Aquarius, Ranstad Education and Brook Birmingham.

A Fayre-Old Success

Reflections on the Christmas Fayre

The Marketing Policy and Practice group would like to thank everyone involved in attending, organising and donating items to the Christmas Fayre this year. All items in the raffle were donated by local businesses, the marketing team, parents and staff. A special thank you to Mr and Mrs Colvin, Mrs Colvin-Grieve, Miss Atkinson, Mr Gordon, Mrs Hassall and Ms Shields for their donations. In addition, Halesowen Golf Club for the loan of the Santa outfit.

As a gesture of our gratitude we ask local residents, parents, staff and students to continue to support the businesses who donated to our school. Merry Christmas and happy shopping!

<p>Sophie of oobabybaby</p> 	<p>oobabybaby is a handmade nappycake and gift set company for new babies and yummy mummies. Using baby friendly, practical products and donating money from each gift to Tommy's charity which funds research into miscarriage, stillbirth and premature babies, oobabybaby offers an alternative gift for the new arrival in your life. Please visit www.facebook.co.uk/oobabybabyshop for pictures and product information or email oobabybaby@hotmail.co.uk.</p>
<p>Sheer Bliss Beauty</p>	<p>offering treatments for health, beauty and well being in the comfort of your own home (including Indian Head massage, baby massage, manicures and pedicures and Rekhi) contact Sandra Colvin at the following email address sandra.colvin28@gmail.com</p>
<p>Sweet-Ocolate</p>	<p>Kamilla Woodburn tel 07798 731175</p>
<p>Simply Local</p>	<p>Simply Local 61a St. Paul's Square The Jewellery Quarter Birmingham B3 1QS</p>
<p>Cupcakes by Dee Dee</p>	<p>Beautifully decorated cakes for all occasions. Contact Dominga Devitt on 07772 447275</p>
<p>THE REP Birmingham Repertory Theatre</p>	<p>We are delighted to tell you about the forthcoming Christmas production of the enchanting children's tale, The Wind in the Willows, at The Crescent Theatre from 28 November to 19 January. The REP is also staging the world premiere of Philip Pullman's magical tale I Was A Rat in February 2013 as part of The REP's 100th Birthday celebrations.</p> <p>Tickets for both shows cost from £9, with concessions available. To book or reserve tickets please contact The REP's Box Office, The BOX on 0121 236 4455 or online at birmingham-rep.co.uk.</p>
<p>Waitrose</p>	<p>210 High Street Harborne, Birmingham B17 9PP 0121 428 4044</p>
	<p>183 High Street Harborne, Birmingham, West Midlands B17 9QE 0121 428 4228</p>
	<p>Leisure Island River Drive, Tamworth, Staffordshire B79 7ND 0844 800 0011</p>
	<p>Spring Grove Bewdley DY12 1LF 01299 402114</p>
	<p>Star City 100 Watson Road, Nechells, Birmingham, West Midlands B7 5SA 0121 328 1235</p>
<p>Scizzor Sisters Unisex Salon</p>	<p>Scizzor Sisters Unisex Salon 586 Bristol Road Selly Oak Birmingham B29 6BE Tel No: 0121 472 8149</p>
	<p>Blue Ice Plaza Hob's Moat Road, Solihull, West Midlands B92 8JN 0121 742 5561</p>
	<p>Corporation Street Birmingham, West Midlands B2 5JS 0844 800 3707</p>
	<p>Cadbury World, Linden Rd, Bournville, Birmingham B30 2LU</p>

Diary Dates

Thurs 20th December	Year 7 Theatre Trip
Fri 21st December	School breaks up. Students finish at 12 noon
Mon 24th December - Fri 4th January	Christmas Holidays
Mon 7th January	Normal School Day
Thurs 17th January	Year 11 Parents' Evening (to collect mock results) 4.00 - 6.30pm
Mon 21st January	Year 12 & Year 13 Work Related Learning Day
Thurs 31st January	Follow Up Post 16 Evening and Reviews 5.00 - 7.00pm
Thurs 7th February	Year 9 Taster Day
Thurs 7th February	Year 9 Parents' Evening & Options Evening 4.00 - 6.30pm
Weds 13th February	Whole School PSHEE Day
Thurs 14th February	Year 7 Performing Arts Evening 7.00pm
Fri 15th February	School Breaks up 3.00pm
Mon 18th February - Fri 22nd February	Half-Term
Week Commencing 25th February	Year 13 Mock Exams Week & Year 9 Reviews with Parents all week
Mon 25th February	Year 11 ISA Day (Science)

Fri 1st March	Year 10 immunisations
Mon 4th March	Year 9 Options Form Deadlines
Thurs 7th March	Year 8 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 6.30pm
Thurs 7th March	World Maths Day, Whole School
Fri 8th March & Week commencing 11th March	Year 8 Ski Trip
Fri 8th March	Year 8 immunisations
Mon 11th March	Year 10 ISA Day (Science)
Tues 12th March	Year 12 ISA Biology Day (Science)
Thurs 14th March	Year 13 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 6.30pm
Thurs 21st March & Fri 22nd March	School Production
Fri 22nd March	Year 13 ISA Biology day (Science)
Mon 25th March	Year 11 profiles to go out to Parents this week
Tues 26th , Weds 27th & Thurs 28th March	Year 12 Stansfeld Trip
Tues 26th March	Year 7 Medieval Re-enactment Day History
Thurs 28th March	School Breaks up
Fri 29th March - Fri 12th April	Easter Holidays
Mon 15th April	Normal School Day