

Lordswood News

A Letter From The Headteacher

At the end of a busy term it is always lovely to receive some good news and we were delighted, when Department for Education data was published last week, to learn that Lordswood Girls' School's valued added score, the measure of progress made by year 11 students, had risen yet again to 1050 placing the school in the top 1% of schools nationally for the second year running. A score of 1000 is roughly the mean score. A score in excess of 1014 means a school is in the top 25% of schools nationally for pupil progress and a score of over 1036 the top 5%. This is a superb result and testament to the hard work of students and the dedication and expertise of staff – well done!

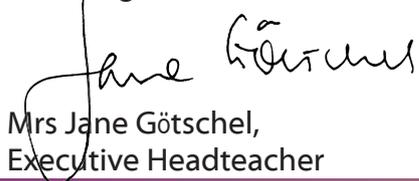
You will probably have seen that we have a new website – www.lordswoodgirls.co.uk – we would be interested in any feedback you might have and would also welcome suggestions for any other information that you would like to see included.

The Autumn term ends for students at 12 noon on Friday 20th December; sixth form and Year 11 students who will have just finished their mock examinations will finish at the end of school on Thursday 19th. The Spring term resumes for all students at the normal time on Monday 6th January.

This term we say farewell to Mr Summerfield and thank him for all his work both in Science and the CCF; we wish him all the best as he takes up a new post at Bartley Green Academy. We also say goodbye to Mr Griffiths, who has been covering for Mrs Morrall during her maternity leave. We are very grateful for his work in the Music Department and wish him well for the future.

I wish you all a happy and relaxing Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous 2014.

With all good wishes,


Mrs Jane Götschel,
Executive Headteacher

The School Council

Mrs Riley on the new Council's first term in office

Another school year brings another fresh bunch of School Council Reps ready to tackle any issues that come their way. After successful elections back in September, the Council was up and running by the start of October with Year Council meetings taking place most weeks. Year group Question Time sessions with the Headteacher and her panel have also been taking place with both students and staff finding the sessions useful and informative.

As well as addressing the usual issues, the Council has also been involved in the opening of the new retirement village on Hagley Road, the construction of which we have all watched from the windows of the school! Together with all the other collaborations between the School and the Village, we are hopeful that this relationship will continue to grow and get stronger.

Fundraising for the year is also well under way with two events already under our belts. On 18th October the Council held the annual 'Wear it Pink' and 'Jeans for Genes' day which raised a grand total of £790.51 thanks to non uniform (with the themes of pink and denim!) and a pink cake sale. Children in Need on 15th November managed to raise a fabulous £826.26 through a pyjama and onesie day alone. So that's £1616.77 for the year already! The next whole school fundraising day will be on 13th February which the Council are going to use to raise money to help further the work of the Health for Life scheme which is responsible for the gardening work currently underway at the back of the school.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to wish everyone a very happy festive period and thank you all for your generosity this term.



How to Become a Globetrotter!

Nia Williams, President of the Lordswood Globetrotters, updates us on the group's progress



This term the Geography department has decided to put the colouring pencils down, stop spinning the globes with such enthusiasm and instead, launch the Lordswood Globetrotters! Globetrotters, which is a club focussed on raising the profile of geography, aims to capture the interest of geographers throughout the school. Mondays will never be viewed with such dread now that "Map Monday" has become a weekly instalment for members/followers of the Globetrotters' Facebook and Twitter pages. The Globetrotters have taken advantage of social media and have opened a Facebook, Twitter and Instagram page! Each week day has a unique theme, for example "News day Tuesday" may provide a brief summary of a current issue being discussed in the news or "Throwback Thursday" may give information on how a political figure, e.g. the late Nelson Mandela, transformed the world we live in today. However, the fun doesn't stop there, the social network pages also provide files, videos, tips and practice questions for students who may be revising for an upcoming assessment or exam. Therefore, the club aims to help students reach their full potential, but also challenge and support those who wish to stretch themselves further. We also figured the Geography Department just does not give enough praise! Therefore, the Globetrotters have introduced the 'Geographer-of-the-Month' award which celebrates the achievement and enthusiasm shown by a geographer each month. The department congratulated Eva Price (8R) as the first ever Geographer-of-the-Month! Eva's hard work has most certainly paid off and she will be succeeded by another inspirational student in December.

What does the future hold for the Globetrotters? We are keen to fundraise for charities in need of financial support and therefore will be devoting a week towards raising funds for Water Aid. This fundraising

week will take place in March 2014 and will require the help of Year 11 geographers! Giving aid is a topic covered in GCSE geography and therefore feeds directly into the issues Year 11s study in the run up to their summer exams.

Next year, students in Year 9 will face the challenging decision of choosing which subjects they desire to study at a higher level. The Globetrotters will be doing all that they can to support and promote the subject of geography at Lordswood, as being one which offers students a wide range of topics to study and provides them with a unique and dynamic learning experience. Similarly, the Globetrotters have been keen to promote AS & A2 Geography! Ambassadors from the Royal Geographical Society joined the Department in promoting the subject at Sixth Form Open Evening. We hope many students will choose to study AS geography and will aspire to join us in becoming Globetrotters too!

Currently the social media groups have reached 60 members! However, our target is to reach at least 100 members by 2014! Please do request to join the Globetrotters Facebook page and/or follow us on Twitter and Instagram. We promise to 'liven up' your weekdays, support you with upcoming assessments and provide a wide range of colouring pencils to make your revision notes a little bit more interesting!



Lordswood's first Geographer of the Month receives her prizes

Dudley Zoo is Always Fun!

Scarlet Powell of 7R and Beccy Birley of 7G report on this year's annual trip

On Friday 6th September, Year 7 went to Dudley Zoological Gardens to help start off Year 7's Art project. The topic was patterns.

We saw many animals including the beautiful big cats, marvellous mini meerkats, outstanding otters,

lovely lemurs and many, many more. Some of the Year 7s had never been to Dudley Zoo before, but for many it was not their first visit. Some people had never seen some of the more exotic animals so for them it was an unforgettable experience. We came close to some animals, when they came and sat by the glass, which was amazing because you wouldn't be able to do that in the wild. Another unforgettable moment was when Tschuna, one of the two female tigers, went in front of the glass and stared at the girls in 7G. As a result of this all the girls screamed!!

Everyone was excited when we had the chance to go to the gift shop and buy souvenirs like small toys and lollipops. We could bring up to £10 to spend on souvenirs and food. The most popular souvenir was the monkeys that had magnets in their hands. There was also a canteen for the people who didn't bring packed lunches so they could buy some food from there such as crisps and drinks.

The other highlights of the day were when we went on the chair lift and the train. The chair lift was really good fun even though you were only about five metres off the ground! We also went on the train, which went around parts of the zoo going past some of the animal enclosures. 7R and 7D had the chance to walk through Dudley Castle. There has been a castle there since 1070 and the zoo is on the castle's grounds.

Even though the weather was horrible we still had an amazing time. Everyone had a lot of fun and we're very grateful.

Hectic Textiles!

Miss Clarke reflects on the start of the year in her department

It's been a busy time in Textiles this term. September started with two sewing workshops at the Hagley Road Retirement Village. Students from Years 9 and 10 showed residents how to make lavender bags; both students and residents enjoyed the experience. It was lovely to see the interaction between the young and mature learners.

In September a new club started for Year 8 and 9 students –the Textile Enterprise Club. The club's mission was to design and make textile products for the Christmas Fayre. The club had regular members that attended lunchtime slots to make Christmas stockings. The stockings were a success at the Christmas Fayre. The fabric was donated by Clifton Textiles in Harborne High Street. I would like to thank Mrs Zaman of Clifton Textiles for the donation and all of the girls that attended the club: Sahera Munir 9S, Aneesah Khan 9G, Caila Ryner 8R, Laiba Shah 8G, Ameena Masood 8W, Simran Minhas 8R, Samera Akhtar 7D and Ikra Khan 7G.

Jane Collins (Maisie Robertson's grandmother) came in and showed Year 8 students how to crochet. A few of the girls decided that they wanted to knit their hats for their project so Jane worked with a small group who produced a knitted hat. Here are a few words from two of the girls.

"We are very grateful that Granny Jane (Maisie Robertson's nan) helped us to create our product. She taught us how to knit and crochet. Without her we wouldn't be able to create our hats. Thank you so much Granny Jane for giving us these skills and helping us succeed in this textile project. Thank you!"

Written by Isra Rashid and Imogen Hetherington on behalf of the group.

Thank you, Jane once more for your time, patience and enthusiasm. I would also like to thank Mrs Mumtaz for her kind donation of fabric. If you have any remnant fabric that you no longer need, I will gratefully accept unwanted fabric and haberdashery items. You can contact me by email d.clarke@lordswoodgirls.co.uk



'Granny Jane' working hard with the Year 8s

This Term in RE Has Been Really Exciting!

An update from the RE Team

The RE team is a vibrant, bubbly group of RE enthusiasts with members from year 7 to year 11. Atheist, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and Christian members make our group a varied and colourful bunch. From debating to drawing, there is nothing the RE team can't or won't do; making Thursday lunchtimes in F13 an extravagance of turbulent activity. Some activities we have taken part in this year so far include candle decorating, debating, quiz making and poetry.

This term we have prepared a quiz for the Year 7s about RE and its themes as well as RE in the world. The quiz making is still in progress, with quizzes for other year groups still to come. However when they are all finished they will be uploaded onto the VLE for all to access in the spring term, with exciting special prizes for those who get full marks!

In the RE team we like to discuss and debate various religious and moral issues. In the first meeting we all wrote on a piece of paper what we wanted to debate that term. We put our ideas in a box before picking one out and discussing our views on it. Our first debate was on 'should gay marriage be allowed in holy places?' We all enjoyed sharing our thoughts and opinions on this topic. Debates are useful in the RE team because although the topics are challenging, we learn a lot about different views and we often come to a decision in the end. One member said: "I really enjoy being in the RE team and doing all the fun debates, I enjoy it because I have fun and learn new facts"

Another theme we have looked at this term is art and poetry. In one session we found out a variety of religious uses for candles and why people light them. To do this we got to design and paint our own glass candle design with Mr Grant. Also this term the RE team launched our annual spirited art competition for all year groups to show their creative side. This competition was launched in our recent RE assembly. The five themes that we focussed on were: the golden rule; worship – what's going on?; spiritual journey; heaven – life after death and God: who are you? Our team decided on the pictures, music and video in our assembly and some members also write some poems to inspire you. All entries to the competition will be judged very carefully and we are sure will be brilliant!!

Later on this year we hope to: watch some films; be even more creative; do some more drama and role play and discuss more religious and moral issues

such as abortion and adoption. Good luck with the poems and merry Christmas from the RE team!!

News From the Governing Body

Mrs Van Zeller, Clerk to the Governors, introduces herself

Readers of this newsletter would be forgiven for not knowing much about the Governing Body here! It has indeed kept a fairly low profile. I'm the new Clerk to the Governors so I thought I'd tell you a bit about the Governing Body.

The Governing Body's aim is ensure that the children here are able to achieve to the best of their ability by deciding on the strategic direction, ensuring the school is financially sound and holding the senior leadership to account for performance. They do this within a formal framework some of which is set by the Government, and by Lordswood Academy Trust.

There are currently 14 governors and they meet once or twice a term. There are two sub-committees which look after the interests at this school: Finance and Premises, and Learning and Achievement. In addition, governors may be involved with interviews, appointments, decisions on pay, and discipline committees. Some have a subject "link" and take an interest in a particular area of the curriculum.

You can see who the current governors are on the Lordswood Girls' School website.

All readers of this newsletter are welcome to contact the governors at any time, although please bear in mind that their role is strategic – they do not generally get involved in the day to day issues and the running of the school.

In future we hope to publish more about the governors and their role both here and on the website.

www.lordswoodgirls.co.uk
www.lordswoodtrust.co.uk

Year 7 Team Up with MacMillan Again!

Mrs Peniket reports on good deeds by the Year 7 students

On Monday 23rd September, Year 7 held the Macmillan coffee morning which was well attended by parents, students, staff and local residents. A total of £170 was raised for the charity, and the year 7 girls who brought cakes and assisted with the sale of goods, should be applauded for their service to the school.

Many thanks should also go to all the girls and staff from Lordswood who contributed to the cake sale by baking amazing cakes, and to Mia Howard and Emily Parker who acted as supervisors at the event and guides on the open morning.



Year 7's proud sales women



All ready to sell the fabulously colourful cakes!

Lectures in London

News on a rather difficult trip to London for the English Department

In late November, A level English literature students travelled to the London Institute of Education in order to attend lectures on the AQA A2 examination. However, the journey to London was not without drama. Firstly, we attended at a road traffic accident involving two cars, administering first aid until the emergency services arrived, and secondly we were caught up in a delay that resulted in us being late for the lectures. However, we were able to hear well known poet Carol Ann Duffy recite some of her most popular poems and talk about the inspiration behind their creation. Of some amusement (luckily!) to Carol Ann Duffy was when a student's mobile phone sounded during the reading of her poem 'Text'; not one of the Lordswood party I hasten to add! We were also given a whistle stop tour of sonnets and given a flavour of how love can be expressed so very differently, even within this conventional form of poetry. Then it was back on the coach where to everyone's dismay we were caught up in yet more traffic, extending our day trip even further! That said, Miss Jackson and Mrs Brookes were thoroughly impressed with the patience, behaviour and mature attitude shown towards the difficulties faced that day and felt that the experience of attending a real university lecture amongst hundreds of other students, listening to Carol Ann Duffy quash some rather sexist observations from other centres' students as well as being exposed to a host of wider reading sources for the upcoming examination made up for our difficult journey.

Science Club

Hana Khan of 8D and Bushra Maqsood of 8L discuss the extracurricular fun in science

Science club is a place for students to experiment with different items and to quench their curiosity. Science club can help pupils excel in science and take part in a wide range of activities such as making a lava lamp, making slime, playing with fire balls, making methane bubbles and extracting the DNA from a kiwi.

"I love going to science club because we do awesome experiments and I look forward to it every week."
Amina Mekik 8L

"Science club is really fun and I get to do things that I don't do every day."
Hana Khan 8D



No wonder the students love Science Club! One member of the group gets very hands on!

We don't do any writing in science club but we learn about different chemicals (methane). You can become a scientist, optometrist, researcher, doctor and dentist with science. All the students of science club hope to maintain this knowledge and succeed in science and other subjects.



Slime and exploding cola have all been on the agenda at Science Club!

asking them to look into topics such as anti-social behaviour, communication, roles of police officers, stop and search, cyber-bullying and robbery. Their intention was to try and gain a better understanding of how young people think and how the police force can improve the way in which they interact and communicate with young people.

It was an enjoyable and informative day for all involved. The pupils had the opportunity to take part in activities like wearing "beer goggles" and analysing the effect alcohol can have on people's reactions, working in small groups debating topical issues with individuals from nearby schools and putting their questions to the police panel, which included things like "what is a tazor and when would you use it?"; "with knife crime on the increase in Birmingham, how are you going to ensure the safety of people in our area?" and "How have government cuts had an impact on the services you are able to provide us with?"

The girls worked with maturity throughout the day and were excellent ambassadors for Lordswood Girls' School.



Students with an Officer and Mrs Colvin-Grieve

Year 8 Ask the Questions

Mrs Colvin-Grieve reports on our Year 8s quizzing the Police!

On the 22nd October 2013 Birmingham South Police invited a small cohort of year 8 students to attend their 'Young Person's Question Time' at the Tally Ho Sports and Social Club.

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 their expert panel, which included officers from all ranks within the police force. They were canvassing the opinions of students from a variety of schools in the area by



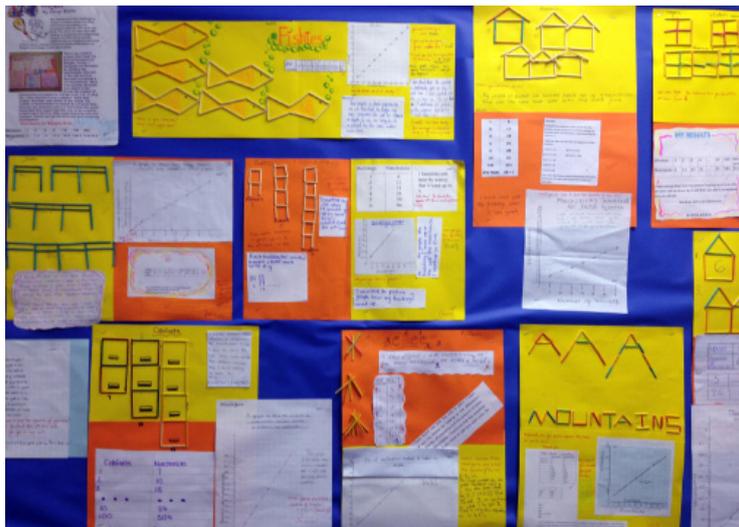
Year 8 proudly display their certificates

Have a Very Mathematically Merry Christmas!

Mr Slack reflects on a busy term in mathematics

Season's greetings from the Mathematics Department! This term has been an exciting and busy one for students and teachers in mathematics. Year 7 have settled down into becoming the next generation of creative mathematicians and Year 10 are settling into their GCSE course.

Most recently Year 7 have been building function machines and designing matchstick and picture patterns which they have learnt to describe using their mathematics. Students have enjoyed their work and are looking forward to more mathematics. After Christmas, Year 7 will be exploring the "Average Student" at Lordswood Girls' School making use of data collection and analysis techniques.



Year 7's matchstick pictures

A dedicated group of Year 7 have also used their Thursday lunchtime to develop their skills following their work at primary school. Making use of our new online interactive resources (available to all students) within the 'Take control of your learning' section of the maths VLE, students have played games and worked on challenges to develop understanding of number. All students can log onto these resources at home using the username: "lordswood" and password: "plate".

Year 8 have worked on various projects this term including: designing boxes to meet the needs of OXO cube manufacturers; making decisions about the best mobile phone company to use; producing ideas to work with numbers and using mathematics to decide whether it is possible to break world records within the classroom. Year 8 will continue after Christmas by considering how objects move and whether this can be described mathematically.



Year 7's function machines

Year 9 have been producing ideas and problem solving in order to develop their understanding of number and algebra. This has included learning how websites use code to protect the data we enter when ordering products or using social media sites. They will continue work after Christmas by considering if a Coca Cola can is currently the best design and whether an alternative design could make the product more profitable.

The new year will also see the launch of a new club, "WHIZZ BANG!" which will focus on the use of STEM, relating work in mathematics and computing, particularly focusing on the use of Arduino technology to write and run computer programmes using mathematical language. For more information see Mr Pearson or Mr Gordon.

As always, additional resources are available on the VLE to support students as well as Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime sessions within the Mathematics Department.

In case your daughter misses maths too much, a problem for you all to ponder over, over the holiday: Mr Slack has given each picture a value. Work out what each picture must be worth to make the sums of each row and column true. See Mr Slack after the holidays to see if your values are correct! Good luck!

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Bits & Bobs in Business

News from Business Studies from Mrs Waraich

Duff Duffin?

After learning about trademarks and protecting business ideas in their business lessons, Mrs Waraich's business class were surprised to learn that Starbucks were being accused of stealing an existing product, the Duffin (a hybrid of a donut and a muffin) from a small cafe, Bea's of Bloomsbury. The Year 13 students had previously studied the impact on small businesses when competing with larger firms in an economic downturn and went to investigate the hype in the papers about the duffin!

The overall conclusion...Starbuck's Duffin was sickly sweet, even for those who enjoy a sweet treat and is rather unattractive! They believe that large businesses need to be stopped from trampling on small business opportunities.

New Birmingham Central Library

Mrs Waraich and her Year 13 class headed down to Birmingham's new library to enjoy the lovely views from its secret garden and look into the range of books available which will help the class investigate China's emerging markets for their unit 4 examination.

Students were in awe of the layout and design of the building and have been back frequently to start their research projects.



Year 13 business studies students bury their noses in books at the new Central Library

The Belfry Welcome Year 11 Business Students

The controlled assessment for GCSE Business is based on the hotel industry and their communication systems.

Mrs Waraich arranged for her class to visit The Belfry in Sutton Coldfield to meet with the managing

director Lynn Hood and the new marketing director in charge of the multi million pound rebranding and launch of the new resort.

Students were treated like guests at the Belfry and on arrival greeted at reception and prior to the meeting offered various hot and cold beverages and a range of pastries; they were then given a tour of the gold resort and were all wowed by the hospitality they received and the vast amount of information they collected for their studies.

Year 12 see business in action

As part of our AS business studies course my peers and I have been learning about the different types of markets and the importance of location for a business. As the festive period is fast approaching we felt it was appropriate to visit Birmingham's Frankfurt markets, that have been running for 12 years, to put our learning into action! The markets were a great opportunity to demonstrate business in the real world and gave us an insight into how a physical market operates in the city centre.
Shanita Purewal

A Busy Time for US12

Mrs Waraich's review group have had a busy few months

Team building skills and celebrations for US12

US12 battled it out in teams at Laser Quest Starcity. The intense game and competitive atmosphere was a great environment for the year 12 and 13 students to get to know each other and spend quality time as a group. The end of term event was a fantastic afternoon for all involved.



Students prepare for battle at Laser Quest!

Bungee

An ex-student finally got round to doing her bungee jump for charity in the summer holidays after it was cancelled in April.

The gorgeous weather and picturesque surroundings at the West Midlands Water Ski Centre made it even more pleasurable for our student who was joined by her family and Mrs Waraich, her review tutor, to support her as she raised over £250 for the QAC in Harborne.



A brave bungee jumper!

Year 9 Book Club

Miss Jackson with news of a club for those who love to read

This year, I am running a book club for high potential year nine students. The club will meet several times throughout the year and explore challenging texts including 'Dracula' by Bram Stoker and 'To Kill a Mockingbird' by Harper Lee. This is an opportunity for students to improve their reading skills by reading a range of texts that they may not otherwise have chosen to read for themselves. As the book club is voluntary and students are not assessed in any way, I also hope that the book group will foster a love of reading in the students that attend.

A Twist in The Tale

Mrs Peniket on an exciting creative writing competition

This term, selected KS3 classes will be taking part in a national creative writing competition, entitled: 'A Twist in the Tale'.

This is an opportunity for students to re-write a famous story and give it an unexpected twist, or for students to create their own 'twisted tales'. The challenge is that students have to write their stories in a hundred words or less! Entries are being submitted on Friday 13th; hopefully this won't prove unlucky for our budding writers!

The English Department will keep parents up to date with any winning entries via the school website.

Food Students in The News

Miss Tosh brings news of her students getting their names in print

Lordswood Girls' School food technology students we recently involved in a project which saw them get a mention in the Birmingham Gazette. Below is the article as it appeared in the paper. Well done girls.



Food technology students visit Mondelez for taste of work day

Food Technology students from Lordswood School visited Mondelez International's Bournville site for an interactive 'Taste of Work' day which aimed to highlight the varied career options found within research and development. Designed to inspire the next generation of culinary engineers, the programme, funded by the Cadbury Foundation, was delivered by scientist Martyn Robinson and a group of enthusiastic colleagues from different functions within R&D. The students were taken through the development process and designed their own products by taking them from the initial concept stage through to commercialisation.

Kelly Farrell, Community Affairs Assistant Manager at the company said: "The Cadbury Foundation has supported this programme for a number of years. It gives us the opportunity to inspire the future workforce of the city, especially those who are looking to get involved in the food industry and may want to work here at Bournville one day."

The Taste of Work programme is a work-related learning, curriculum-led initiative working in Primary, Secondary and Further Education. The most recent addition to the programme is the R&D element, which now and provides students with the opportunity to see research and development come to life through an enterprise focused.

Danielle Tosh, teacher at Lordswood School, added: "Our experience at the Bournville R&D site was fantastic. The Mondelez International team was able to engage with our students in a way that helped them to think about their future careers, while still learning more about what can be achieved from working in the industry. It was a really successful day."

For more information about Mondelez International's community programme, [click here](#).

Christmas Trees!

Imogen Reeves of 8D on a festive trip on behalf of the school

There was a Christmas tree festival at my local church and I asked if we could decorate a tree on behalf of the school. My mum took me and three friends.



Working hard on the festive decorations

When we got there, there were lots of people decorating their trees as well. We were shown where our tree was and we set to work, as we wanted it to be the best tree that the world has ever seen!!!

We started with the topper and worked our way down. First we started with the lights which took the longest as we argued about where to put them,

Lordswood Gallery Christmas 2013

Miss Tooley with an update

Year 7 Art Club

The Art Department were set a challenge by the Health for Life team to design and make cane toppers for the Lordswood garden. A group of 15 Year 7 students have been attending art club on Wednesday lunchtimes since the end of September to create small clay creatures to sit on top of the garden canes to protect people's eyes and to make the raised beds even more interesting to look at. The cane toppers are now finished and are ready to make an appearance in the garden at some point in the spring when the frosts are over.



Art Club cane toppers

In the classroom

Year 7 have been busy creating new patterns based on animal patterns and influenced by Indian and African patterns. So far they have practised drawing and painting these patterns and have made collaged patterns using coloured paper. In the new year, they will be selecting their best patterns to produce as gift cards which will be on show and on sale at the Year 7 performing arts evening.

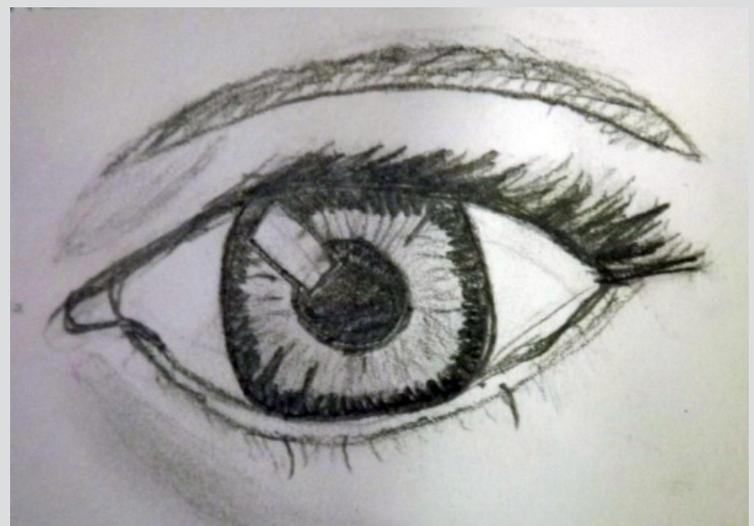


Year 7 work



More fabulous Year 7 artwork

Year 8's project this year has been all about them! They have looked at several different artists and have copied their techniques to produce weird and wonderful self portraits. In the last couple of weeks they have been learning how to draw facial features and after Christmas will progress on to drawing an entire portrait.



Year 8 reflect upon themselves



Year 8 & 9 work



Year 9 respond to the work of Andy Goldsworthy

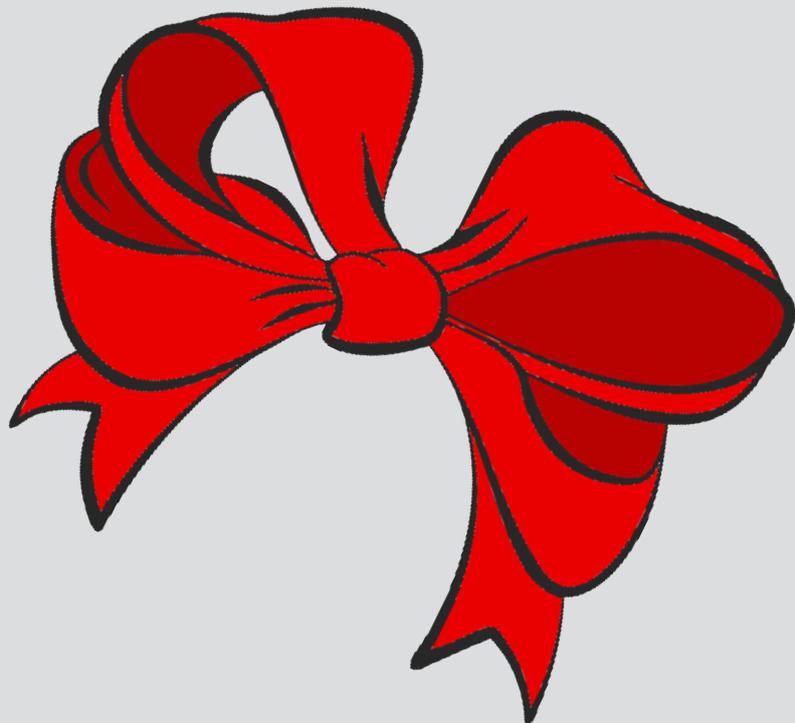


Key stage 4 and 5 students have been working tirelessly on their coursework projects; the art rooms are full every lunchtime and evening and the work being produced is fantastic.

We will share some images of their final pieces with you in the spring when everything is finished.



Year 9's nature inspired work



oops. (We got it right in the end.) Then there were the baubles which my mum bought absolutely LOADS of, so we went in teams of two and did a side each then swapped, so the tree got a good smothering. After that there were gold streamers that you throw all over the tree... as you can imagine it got a little messy but afterwards the tree looked beautiful even if I say so myself.

A few people commented saying "I think that is one of the best trees!!" so I am very proud we did it justice and showed just what this school can do!!!

More Budding Legal Brains

Miss Christian has been busy coaching Lordswood's next group of legal minds

In May this year, students in Key Stage 4 were given the opportunity to participate in the National Bar Mock Trial competition. This competition involved staging two criminal trials at the Crown Court in Birmingham.

After successfully auditioning for a place on the team, we began preparation for the trials. We were allocated different roles, from barristers to court usher, and started to analyse the cases given to us by the Citizenship Foundation. One of the cases involved an assault on a nightclub bouncer and the other concerned fare evasion. Throughout the planning process we developed a variety of skills, for example: analysis, team work, communication and public speaking. This process challenged us however by supporting each other we all really enjoyed the experience.

On the day of the competition we were all nervous but also incredibly excited to face our opponents. We were up against different secondary schools, colleges and sixth forms from the region. Everyone performed to the best of their ability and really got into their roles. Due to our determination, planning and improvisation the Lordswood team came fourth! Overall it was a very rewarding experience which we would highly recommend to other students. We are very proud of ourselves and can't wait to participate next year.

Finally we would like to give a massive thank you to Miss Christian. She spent countless hours helping us; we wouldn't have been able to achieve anything without her.

The Mock Trial Team:

Ainab Maqsood
Livvy McComb
Sophie Bullock

Patience Kanjira
Samantha Wilson-Walker
Ayesha Maqsood
Nandi Ka-Ncube
Francesca lafrati
Maisie Malcolm
Virindavani Dasa
Guneet Aneji
Damiya Butt
Sakina Rajabali
Tapiwa Kadzviti
Benita Kellay

Year 10 Learn Life Saving Skills

Miss Thomas reports on the Young Lifesavers course run by St. John's Ambulance

On Thursday 5th and Friday 6th September 2013, the whole of Year 10 completed a Young Life Savers course that was delivered by St. John Ambulance.

As part of the course, students learned how to administer basic first aid techniques including moving a casualty into the recovery position, dealing with an asthma attack, applying a bandage to a minor cut and performing CPR.

The girls all took the course extremely seriously and demonstrated that they were competent first aiders. As a result, they successfully passed the course and were awarded with the Young Life Savers certificate.

Well done!



Students get to grips with Resusci Annie

PSHEE & Citizenship Update

It's been a busy Autumn term for Miss Preston

During the autumn term all year groups have taken part in two PSHEE days. Students have had the opportunity to take part in activities to develop their knowledge on a range of topics including financial awareness, learning to learn, personal health, active citizenship and work related learning. Both teachers and outside speakers have been extremely impressed with how students have handled discussing sensitive subjects and I would like to take this opportunity to thank students for their enthusiasm during PSHEE days. There will be opportunities during next term to become more involved in PSHEE and citizenship issues including entering competitions and creating citizenship campaigns.

Language & Culture Quiz 2013-14

Congratulations to Lordswood Linguists from Miss Siviter

On Wednesday 4th December 2013, six girls from Year 9 formed a formidable team to represent Lordswood Girls' School in a regional language and culture competition.



The girls with their competition certificates

The team of six joined schools from across the south west Birmingham area to compete in a six round quiz that tested their knowledge of French grammar and vocabulary, as well as their general European knowledge.

The girls demonstrated wonderful team spirit and successfully worked together to solve puzzles in French, to understand the meanings of

announcements in French, Spanish and German and to identify famous international people. The competition was tough and the girls most definitely rose to the challenge as when the results came in they were awarded third place!!! Well done!!!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team and congratulate them on their hard work and endeavour.

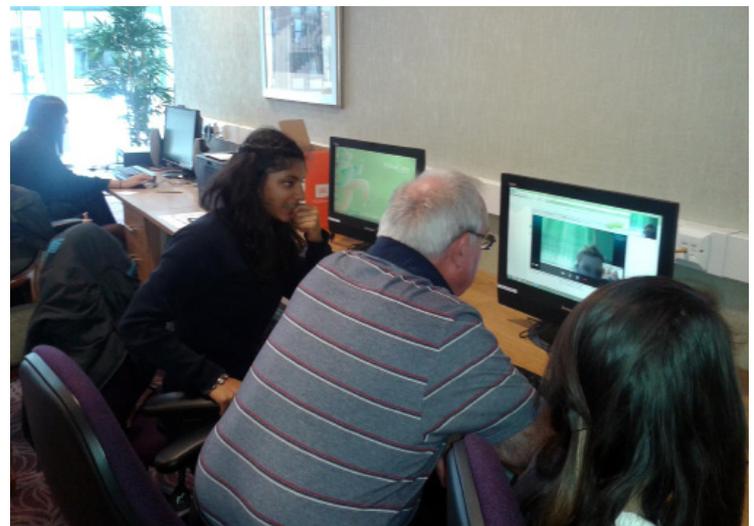
Merci beaucoup!!!

Helping at Hagley Road Village

Mrs Styles explains a recent trip to the new retirement village across the playing fields

On the afternoon of the 26th September, six Year 11 pupils and I went on a visit to the new Retirement Village on the Hagley Road. We were accompanied by Mrs Clarke and several of her Textiles pupils, who were also running an activity at the centre.

We did not really know what to expect, but when we arrived we found they had a lovely, refurbished ICT suite next to the library with brand new computers. There were lots of helpers there restocking and cataloguing many of the books that were going to be placed in the library. The Year 11 pupils were tasked with designing a database system to catalogue all of their library books, as well as helping a few new residents; for example to set-up a new Skype account so that one resident could talk to his niece in Italy – which he successfully managed to do whilst we were there. Afterwards we were invited to have lunch in their restaurant which was a real treat!



Students help one of the residents get to grips with video calling

More Year 7 News

Mrs Peniket's Year group really have been busy

Lepra Cake Sale

7G held a cake sale on Monday 2nd December in aid of the LEpra charity. They raised over £70 as a review group!

All Year 7 students helped to raise money for the LEpra charity and to date we have raised over £1,000, which is a school record for raising money for this particular charity. Well done year 7!

Special congratulations must go to Tarun Aulakh in 7S who raised an impressive £130!!

The Scoop Group

A group of year 7 students have formed a newsletter group and have produced their first edition for December. The students have named themselves 'The Scoop Group' as they report on any events that happen in year 7 throughout the year. The first edition of their newsletter has been distributed to all Year 7 students. Below is a photograph of some of the group decorating the Christmas tree. Becky Lawson-Tidman said, 'It was fun as I had never decorated a tree in school before.' Carys Blake commented, 'This is my first Christmas at Lordswood so I was delighted to be asked to decorate the tree.'



Year 7 students get into the Christmas spirit

Model Students Create Model Cells

Mr Baker brings news of another creative Science project

Over the last month students in Year 7 have been set the annual science homework project for which they need to research different types of cell and then build a 3-dimensional model of their choice of cell.

The science labs are currently awash with colourful, decorative models of all manner of cells in various shapes and sizes.

The science department has been impressed with the creativity and ingenuity displayed and congratulate year 7 for the quality of their cells. Thanks also go to parents for the support you have given in providing materials, offering advice and taking an interest in your daughter's project.



One of the students proudly displays her model cell



An impressive construction!

CIAG Update

Mrs Baker brings news on UCAS applications and a vocational trip

Post 16 applications - UCAS Progress

This year, Year 11 students will be making their Post-16 applications. For the first time, they will be made online at UCASprogress.com.

The deadline for applications is Friday 31st January. Please encourage your son/daughter to complete their profiles and course searches over the holiday. All students have their login details.

Skills Show

On Thursday 14th November, the Year 10 workskills group went to the Skills Show at the NEC. The girls were also invited to take part in a market research project conducted by 'Fresh Minds' on behalf of the Skills Show.

A couple of our girls wore hidden cameras so that the student 'point of view' could be captured. Well done girls for another exemplary trip!



En route to the Skills Show



Some of our PE stars

Year 8	Year 11
Jessica Marku	Frankie lafrati
Sophie Floyd	
Year 9	Year 12
Mia Howard	Travis Christie
Jaskerat Kaur	Joash Riley
Year 10	Year 13
Mary Holden	Lucy Bullock

PE Star of The Month

News of our PE stars from Miss Downes

As you may have noticed, the PE Department have produced a display in the PE corridor which recognises the students who have achieved the following:

- High attendance at extracurricular clubs
- High Level of performance during extracurricular activities including interform
- Maximum Effort during lessons and extracurricular activities
- Awarded player of the match during school fixtures

Students who appear on the board will receive a sports badge for all the sports they participate in to wear on their uniform for the year.

The following students have been recognised as 'Star of the Month' for December.:

Year 7
Chloe Freeman
Eva Tripper
Monique Ewen
Kate Leslie

Gymnastics Success

More news courtesy of 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	Year 8
Grace Nelson Brewer	Fajr Mumtaz
Cerys Feiven	Oliwia Sanak
Amelia Malcolm	Charmaine Wilding
Jeorgina Middleton	Holly Pilling
Megan Cliff	Mia Howard
Ella Gradison Morris	Simran Sidhu
Ebony Burger	Klaudia Boguta
	Jaskirat Kaur

Crackers About The Nutcracker

Ruby Hornsby of 7W reviews the Birmingham performance of the Nutcracker

On Wednesday December 11th, year 7 went to the Birmingham Hippodrome to see a performance of 'The Nutcracker.'

Many people liked the white forest because the dancers were on points (point is a stage of ballet that the performers go on to the top of their toes).

I especially liked the part with the men from all around the world because it was very funny and very beautiful how they glided across the stage. The outfits were beautiful; I liked the ones worn by the sugar plum fairies. I liked the part where the Christmas tree grew and we got to see the Nutcracker dolls up close. I think the day was thoroughly enjoyed by Year 7 because we got to sit with our friends and in our own clothes. The theatre was lit up with lights and Christmas trees all around and got us into the Christmas spirit.

Nutcracker, Carols & Santa Lucia

Maggie La Mere sings the praises of two talented Lordswood girls

Two sixth form students have performed in some exciting productions in Birmingham this term. When they were seven years old Joanna Van Zeller and Martha Davis started singing with the Junior Academy of the world renowned Birmingham choir, Ex Cathedra. One of their first performances was in the Birmingham Royal Ballet's Nutcracker. If anyone has seen Nutcracker at the Hippodrome they may have heard them singing at the end of the first half. They sing in about 8 performances in each Nutcracker season. Since their first performance 10 years ago, they must have sung in about 70 performances of the 'Nutcracker'.

The girls also sang carols in Victoria Square on the stage in the German Market, with Ex Cathedra, this was attended by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Mike Leddy. This is an annual ceremony marking the presentation of the Christmas Tree, which is a gift from the Swedish company Sandvik (whose links in Birmingham go back to 1871) to the City of Birmingham.

On Monday 9 December Martha and Joanna took part in the atmospheric and moving Santa Lucia service at Birmingham St. Philip's Cathedral. Lucia is a symbol of light in the darkest part of the year. Wearing a crown of flaming candles Lucia leads a candlelit procession down the nave of the Cathedral. This is a traditional Swedish service which echoes the Swedish connection between Ex Cathedra, Sandvik and the City of Birmingham.

If anyone loves singing, check out opportunities on Ex Cathedra's website (Education and Participation): <http://www.excathedra.co.uk>

Renaissance Accelerated Reading Scheme

Celebrations from Mrs Ashford in the Library

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.

Students 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 students' success.

During the term Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils have read over 67,348,757 words and 1,631 books!

All pupils should be congratulated on their efforts but a special mention should go to our Word Millionaires:

Amy Robinson 9R
Ammaarah Samuel 9L
Iman Kamran 8G
Sahar Baburi 8W
Elda Ketena 8D
Sarah Jassim 7R

Also congratulations to Laiba Shah 8G who has done exceptionally well on her quizzes with a pass rate of 100%.

Finally well done to the following review groups who have read 17,245,227 words between them!

8G Mr Wells 6,280,570 words
7L Miss Holmes 5,944,983 words
8D Miss Dhaenans 5,019,674 words

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

Well Done to Our Netballers

Congratulations from Miss Downes

Congratulations to Lordswood Netball teams who have done extremely well this year so far.



Putting their best foot forward, the Lordswood netball teams

Family Reading

Information on how to get involved from Mrs Ashford

“Evidence shows that when parents encourage their children to read for pleasure they help them develop stronger literacy and communication skills.”

www.enjoyingreading.co.uk

Family Reading Boxes are available to all Year 7 and 8 pupils and have been put together by the school library to promote reading for pleasure and encourage students, parents and other family members to read together.

The boxes include 20 titles which range from preschool books, teenage dramas and classics to cookery and fiction for older readers. A full list of titles can be found on the library section of the school website. The whole collection of books will be on loan to each family for up to one month.

In order to borrow a family box, students will need to get a consent slip signed by their parent/guardian and bring their library card with them to the library.

If preferred, parents are welcome to collect the boxes after school on Wednesdays (2.15pm). Boxes can be returned in the same way.

Should you have any enquiries please contact me at the school.

Thanks From The Health For Life Team

Miss Millward with thanks to local businesses

Lordswood Girls' School would like to thank the following businesses for their kind donations to the recent raffle from which we raised over £400 to help with our Health for Life scheme. The money will be used to purchase equipment to support the growing of fruit and vegetables in the school grounds.

Tesco Express in Bearwood
House of Fraser
Miss Molly's Flower Room
The King's Head Pub
Mike Draper Fruits
James Stewart Hair
Thompson Jewellers
Waitrose Harborne
Tamworth Snow Dome
Floral Scents Florist
Old House at Home Pub
Gregg's Bakers Bearwood
Scissor Sisters Hair
Ikon Barbers
Mrs Atkinson Flowers
Marks and Spencer Harborne

Ending Knife Crime in The West Midlands

PC 3591 Tressa Ludlow discusses the ever present issue of knife crime

At this time of year it will be little comfort to know that despite a number of tragic events we are seeing reduced levels of knife crime in the West Midlands. To try to prevent the terrible loss faced by families who are touched by knife crime, we have joined up with two local mothers who are facing their first Christmas without their children.

By doing this we felt we could send an important message to other parents to help prevent the same unimaginable loss happening to them.

We would invite you to reflect on their words of the two mothers, which come from the heart and will hopefully play a part in educating our young people to prevent further tragedy.

Kathleen Harris' daughter Christina Edkins was stabbed to death on a bus in Birmingham in March. Kathleen says: "I can't explain the feeling... It is an emptiness. Christina was my youngest child, she was such a good caring girl.

"If we were out on our own shopping and she saw an old person carrying their own shopping she would say, 'Ah bless, they should have someone helping them.'

"Christina was murdered before her school prom... I thought I would see her going off in her beautiful prom dress. Instead she wore it in her coffin and we cremated her in it."

Alison Cope, mother of Joshua Ribera – who was stabbed to death in Selly Oak, Birmingham in September – says: "That day, the most beautiful son a mum could ask for was taken from me. All who know me know he was my world, my everything.

"I loved him with every bit of my heart and my heart is now broken. He was kind, caring, funny, affectionate, beautiful and talented. My life as I knew it has now ended for me."

Talking to young people there are two main reasons why they feel they need to carry a knife – for "protection" or because they believe it is "fashionable". Knives end lives and the simple fact is that if someone carries a knife in public they are likely to use it to hurt another person or be hurt with it themselves.

We urge you to talk to your child to ensure they understand these messages and at the same time encourage them to confide in you or some other responsible person if they have concerns about someone who they know carries a knife.

In law, it's not just the person carrying the knife who may be punished - those who were present when a crime was committed can also face the same serious charges as the person with the knife.

If you need further support in approaching this issue, please speak with school staff, youth workers or your local police.

For more information on a police campaign about knife crime – including a video of a woman whose brother's life was taken by knife crime – please see our website at www.west-midlands.police.uk. Alternatively, visit the Fearless website, where you can get more information and pass on information about knife crime without giving your name.

Yours faithfully,

Tressa

PC 3591 Tressa Ludlow
Young Persons Officer
Partnership Team
Birmingham South Local Policing Unit
Bournville Police Station
341 Bournville Lane
Birmingham
B30 1QX

Hagley Road/Lordswood Road Junction Improvement Scheme

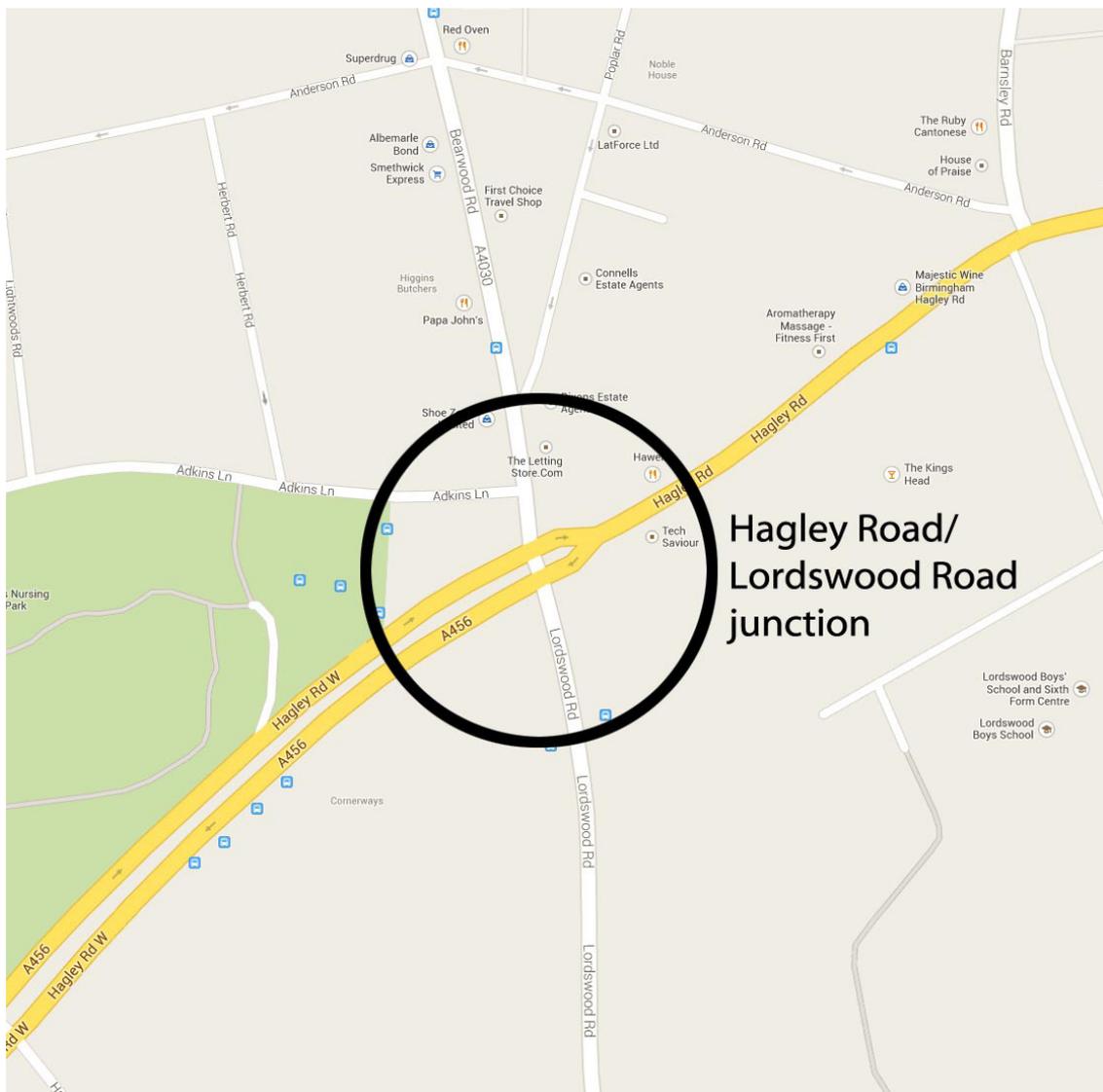
Major junction improvements aimed at improving accessibility and provisions for pedestrians are due to take place at the above junction shortly.

The works will include the infill of existing pedestrian subway, creation of new controlled pedestrian crossings on all arms of the junction, carriageway widening, new street lighting and new signage.

Works will commence on 6th January 2014 for a period of approximately seven months.

Access to frontages will be maintained at all times, however please expect delays during the course of the works.

Please email transport.projects@birmingham.gov.uk or call the Project Manager, Philip Santos on 0121 675 4414 should you have any queries.



Diary Dates

Thurs 19th December	-	Christmas Concert 7.00-8.00pm
Fri 20th December	-	School breaks for Christmas 12noon
Mon 6th January 2014	-	School open for term normal school day
W/C 6th January	-	Year 12 Mock Exams
Thurs 23rd January	-	Year 11 Parents' Evening 4.00-6.00pm Post 16 IAG Meetings 4.00-6.00pm
Fri 24th January	-	Whole school PSHEE day
Thurs 30th January	-	Year 9 Media Day
Tues 4th February	-	Year 13 Maudsley Hospital trip
Thurs 6th February	-	Year 7 Performing Arts Evening
Fri 7th February	-	Year 8 RAF Cosforth trip 4.00 – 6.30pm
W/C 10th February	-	Year 13 Mock Exams
Thurs 13th February	-	Year 9 Parents' & Options Evening 4.00-6.00pm Year 9 Taster Day
Fri 14th February	-	INSET day school closed to students

Spring Half Term

Mon 17th February to Fri 21st February

Mon 24th February	-	Year 9 Options Review with Parents
Thurs 27th February	-	Year 8 Immunisations
Fri 28th February	-	KS5 CERN Geneva trip
Mon 3rd March	-	Year 9 Options Deadline Year 12 Reviews & IEP updates
Fri 7th to Fri 14th March	-	Year 8 Ski trip
Weds 19th March	-	Whole School PSHEE day
Thurs 20th March	-	Year 8 Parents' Evening 4.00-6.00pm
Fri 21st March	-	Sport Relief
Thurs 27th & Fri 28th March	-	School Production
Mon 31st March	-	Year 9 Forward Thinking Easter Event
Thurs 3rd April	-	Heart of Lordswood Evening
Fri 4th April	-	Year 9, 10 & Sixth Form Warner Studios trip Year 12 Dublin trip
Thurs 10th April	-	KS3 & KS4 Eco day
Fri 10th April	-	School breaks up for students 3.00pm normal school day
Fri 11th April	-	INSET day school closed to students
Mon 28th April	-	School open for term normal school day