



APPLIED
LEARNING



arts colleges



Every Child Matters
Quality Mark Gold



Specialist Schools Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



July 2010

www.lordswoodgirls.co.uk

A Specialist Centre for Media Arts and
Applied Learning

Lordswood News

A Letter from the Headteacher

*Mrs Götschel sums up another year
at Lordswood*

Dear Parents,

Another busy year is drawing to a close and the final weeks have certainly seen a great deal of activity. School closes at 12noon on 23rd July and students return on 3rd September. There are different arrangements for each year group and Year 12 interviews take place from the 1st September.

In the light of increasing sixth form numbers, we will be reorganising and developing sixth form facilities over the summer holidays; this includes improving study facilities and completely refurbishing toilets. We are redeveloping the Media Arts area and also refurbishing classrooms and improving the accessibility of the school. Major structural developments will not be taking place this year, partly on account of a reduced budget and partly because we were awaiting confirmation of what would happen to Building Schools of the Future post election. We know now that, as we suspected, it will be down to the school to look to the development of its buildings and to generate funding to support capital projects. This will be an area of priority over the next few years. With regard to Academy status, we are still waiting for more detailed information from the Government. There is a lot of confusion between the 'new' academies which are proposed for successful schools and the 'old' academies where schools have been taken over by a company or organisation. As such, the term 'academy' is not yet seen as a

positive and we have been informed that, if we were to become an academy, there is no requirement to change the name of the school. As it stands, academy status for Lordswood, which is already a Foundation School, would make no real difference to the way in which the school functions. The main difference would appear to be in the funding for the school and the fact that the school would have control over its own destiny. We will keep you informed of developments.

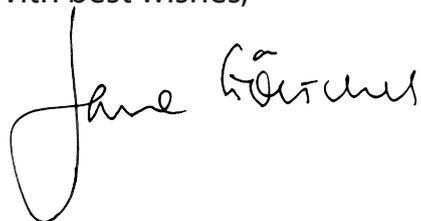
The school has been successful in gaining 'Healthy Schools' status and Katie Brooks, Marcus Hunter and Victory Olaniyi went with Ms Millward and Mrs Richards to the Council House to receive the award. This week we will have our assessment for the Every Child Matters Quality Mark – We will let you know the outcome next term!

Next term parents will be able to access up to date information about their daughter's progress, attendance, punctuality and behaviour via a secure log-in on the school website. Information sessions will be organised for parents during parents' meetings where you will be given your own password and log-in details and shown how the system works. There will also be a weekly bulletin for parents posted on the website to keep you in the picture about events in school. There will still be a newsletter for parents at the end of each term and text alerts will continue for key updates. If you change your mobile number over the summer, please make sure that your daughter passes your new number to the office at the start of next term.

This term we will be saying goodbye to several staff. Mrs Maiden, Mr Lowe, Miss Webb and Mr Barnard are leaving us to take up posts in new schools; Ms Hussain is moving to be with her

husband in Ireland and Ms Cain, Mrs Mayo, Mrs Sartorius and Miss Edwards are retiring after a good number of years at Lordswood. I would like to thank them for all their work and the significant contribution they have made to the life of the school. The Lordswood 'Family Favourites' recipe book is all down to the work and enthusiasm of Mrs Sartorius. In the case of Ms Cain, it is not only generations of linguists that have cause to be grateful to her but also a great many teachers who have become excellent practitioners thanks to her mentoring and support. Many students have also benefited from the guidance of Mrs Mayo in her role as Lead Tutor. We wish all staff leaving us every happiness in the future. Ms Morton, Mrs Waraich, Mrs Sahota and Mrs Wenlock are also leaving us to start their maternity leave and we wish them well and look forward to welcoming them back next year.

Finally, I should like to thank you all for your support over this last year and wish you all a happy and relaxing summer.
With best wishes,



Mrs Jane Götschel
Headteacher

STOP PRESS!! We have just learnt that we have achieved the Every Child Matters Gold Quality Mark! – Well done to all concerned! The assessors were highly complimentary about Lordswood students.

Summer Term Achievement Awards

Lordswood celebrates the achievements of its students

At the end of every year we like to recognise the achievements of our students. During the second half of this term Achievement Coordinators identified students who have made good progress throughout the year and have been recognised by departments via the reward

system. Overall, it has been a very positive year and it was encouraging to see how many of our students are recognised with merit stickers, praise slips and postcards home.

The students who have been recognised for their performances throughout the year are:

Year 7:

Shantel Delisser
Madeleine Herbert
Jasmine Palin
Aneeka Sandhu
Catriona Sharples
Amrit Sohal
Laura Thompson
Orpinder Birring
Sophie Bullock
Nayomi Jaison
Sakina Rajabali
Chenika Desch-Bailey
Aaliyah Haq
Phoebe Harris
Francesca Iafrazi
Nancy Inman

Molly Finch
Adelina Banduri

Year 10:

Pavandeep Hayre
Navina Gandhi
Meera Maju
Poonam Mistry
Asmaa Mouflih
Nicole Owen
Aimee Taylor
Simrun Thandi
Sharonjeet Besal
Simran Lallie
Emmanuella Mbatangie

Year 12:

Zara Albright
Heidi Turner
Madhia Batool
Shanaz Ahmad
Nisma Rafiq
Zobia Nisa
Jasbinder Kaur
Sairah Akhtar
Candice Edwards
Josephina Taylor
Alex Hamilton
Rebecca Martin
Delaram Tabatabaie
Shakira Choudhury
Saif Baz

Year 8:

Manreet Johal
Kajol Mehey
Amelia Wilkinson
Priya Rupra
Cheyenne Morris
Milena Majstorovic
Sindoor Jayprakash
Nicola De Waal
Elizabeth Biong
-Komolibus
Jennifer Lawrence
Renee Squire
Kulvir Kaur
Nola James
Jaskeert Birring
Lydia Silverton

Year 9:

Francesca Scarlett
Kirandeep Gill
Shelter Atunde
Polly McComb
Elham Rehman
Emily Shaw
Sophie King
Simranjeet Kaur
Shoughan Dilshad
Eleanor Clarke
Daria Ageeva
Shanzé Shah
Alaina Shafiq

Holiday Provision

Miss Gough outlines activities planned for summer 2010

During the summer holidays Lordswood Girls' School will be hosting various activities. The programme currently includes:

- Induction Days – Year 7 students to take part in taster activities learning core skills and meeting their new class mates. These activity days will run during the first week of the holidays.
- Sports Leaders – Black Belt Academy will be running Sports Leaders courses for various age groups. Please contact Antonio Santorelli on 07818 052978 for further details.
- Intensive Driving Courses – students and staff are welcome to attend our intensive driving courses which will take place from Mondays to Fridays over the holiday. Learners will gain experience in all areas of driving and will be helped to reach the point of taking their test.
- The Challenge – Year 11 students from all over the West Midlands will be involved in three weeks of activities, including a week on a residential visit, team building and problem solving workshops and organising a community event.

For further details on any of the above, please contact Miss Gough on 0121 429 2838 or e.gough@lordswoodgirls.co.uk

Family Activities

Miss Gough with an update on our family activities

Over the Summer Term we have held a number of family activities including our 'build a greenhouse with plastic bottles' project and our jewellery making sessions. We are hoping to finish the greenhouse by the end of term and have an official opening early in the Autumn Term. The jewellery group have been making items to sell at the Summer Fayre, proceeds will go towards our charity link in Ghana.

It has been fantastic to see parents working alongside students to accomplish these tasks. May I thank all those parents who have given their time and enthusiasm to these projects

and would warmly welcome more parents who would like to support the school in similar ways in the new school year.

Many thanks.

Applied Learning

Miss Gough reflects on the first year of our new specialism

The Applied Learning Afternoon has proved to be a success over the course of the year, with around 300 students taking part in a number of activities.

We have had really positive responses from participating students as well as those delivering the sessions.

"I enjoyed it a lot and it was the first club/activity that I was really committed to and really looked forward to attending."
Isra Ahmed, Radio Club

"It was very fun and I liked how we worked with different people as well as my friends"
Becky McCarthy, Drama Club

"The girls are enthusiastic and a pleasure to teach. They have demonstrated excellent listening and ensemble skills and have learnt everything from memory."
Jayne Berry, Teacher of Drumming Club

Special congratulations to Alisha Alqab, Tanveer Hundal and Raziah Makanvand for achieving their yellow belts in the Self Defence Session.

Congratulations also to those students in the Creative Ensemble who took part in the Banded About Project which culminated in a performance at the Town Hall and CBSO Centre this week.

The programme for next year will be issued during the first week of term in September, students will need to decide on which activities they would like to take part in and return their choices to school. The first Applied Learning Afternoon will take place on Wednesday 15th September.

For further details on any of the above, please contact Miss Gough on 0121 429 2838 or e.gough@lordswoodgirls.co.uk

Homework

Miss Bufton explains the changes to homework for Years 7 and 8

As from September the way in which homework is set for students in Years 7 and 8 will change. In response to student and parent feedback about homework the Teaching and Learning Working Group has created a new approach to setting homework tasks.

Subject areas will set two types of homework: Projects and Reflective Study.

Projects

Every four weeks your daughter will be set three projects to complete. The projects are designed to allow your daughter to demonstrate the skills and knowledge that she has learnt. A timetable to show when each subject sets a project and the deadline for its completion will be displayed in your daughter's planner. She should aim to spend about three hours completing each project over the course of four weeks. Subject teachers will set interim deadlines with your daughter during the project to help her manage her time and check progress. Your daughter will be asked to note down the name of each project, its deadline date and any interim tasks or deadlines on the 'Project Organiser' page in her planner. All projects will be available for your daughter to download from the VLE.

Reflective Study

In addition to completing projects, your daughter's subject teachers may ask her to spend time reflecting upon her learning. The purpose of reflective study is to consolidate learning and in the long term, encourage your daughter to become a better independent learner. Reflective study tasks need not be written, they may focus on 'thinking' or 'talking to someone else' or 'doing something'. They will usually be completed for the next lesson and should take no more than 20 minutes to complete. Reflective Study tasks may include:

- Learning... spellings, vocabulary or definitions for a test
- Reflecting... creating a concept map or writing a learning diary entry
- Researching... something for the next lesson
- Practising... a musical instrument, sport, drawing or drama piece
- Reading... a newspaper, fiction or

non-fiction book

- Organising... her exercise book or file

There is no timetable for Reflective Study; it is not set for the sake of it and will be directed by the teacher or your daughter as needed.

All Year 7 and 8 students will be introduced to the new homework structure during Induction Week in September. I hope that you will agree that homework should be a purposeful task that is embedded in skill development and encourages all students to take ownership of their own learning, whilst maintaining a balance with participation in extra-curricular activities and home life.

If you have any questions or feedback about the new homework structure, please contact me by phone or email, k.bufton@lordswoodgirls.co.uk

30 Young Writers

Year 7 students Lucy Leggett and Nancy Inman on their enjoyment of creative writing

Earlier in the year we started a creative writing project with Dr Kay Fuller, a lecturer from the University of Birmingham, who came every Tuesday for five weeks. In these lessons we all created a piece of writing, whether it was long or short, fantasy or adventure, horror or romance; we let our imaginations run wild. We were allowed to work alone or in pairs and write in whatever genre we wanted. We had total freedom! Our pieces of writing were then published into a book!

The whole of Mrs Brookes' English class really, really enjoyed Dr Fuller's visit because it gave us a chance to do something different and have some freedom. It also gave us an opportunity to be creative and have something to give to family and friends to which we had contributed. We also got to read our writing to each other during a writer's café, enjoying muffins and juice whilst doing so.

If you would like to know more about the book we published or would even like to borrow a copy, then it is available to borrow from the school library or the English department.

Thank you Dr Fuller, Mrs Brookes and the English Department for this great opportunity.

Attendance

Michael Hussain explains Lordswood's approach to attendance

My name is Michael Hussain and I am the allocated Education Social Worker for Lordswood. Our service supports the school in promoting good attendance. When a student's attendance falls below 90% a letter is generated by the school office and the student is discussed at our weekly multi-agency meetings.

It is my responsibility to call, write to and visit parents where there are concerns about attendance and punctuality. I contact parents when their daughter's attendance falls to 85% or they have accrued 15 lates or more. Those students who attend school regularly and on time are rewarded by the school. Students who have 100% attendance for any given term receive a certificate and the school is introducing an attendance trophy to reward the best attending review groups each term. 100% attendance means the pupil has not missed any lessons.

Look at the table below to see how your daughter compares:

Attendance during one school year	Equates to this number of days absent	Which is approx. this many weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed
90%	19	4	100
80%	38	8	200
70%	57	11.5	290

Oscars 2010

Mrs Leadbetter reports on the Sixth Annual Oscars Awards

On the 14th July students, staff and guests attended the Sixth Annual Oscars Awards ceremony in the school hall. The Oscars evening was set up to recognise our students' achievements in film. This year, however, to reflect the increasing output of other audio visual products across the school, the categories were broadened to include awards for music technology and radio.

Over 100 students and guests attended the evening and it was fabulous to see representation from a range of departments from across the school including English, Science, Music, Drama, Health and Social Care, and Media and Film Studies. We also had special guests from Newman University College and Birmingham City University to hand out awards. I would like to give a special thank you to the following members of staff who gave out awards: Ms Baddams, Mr Bayliss, Miss Dignon, Mrs Götschel, Miss Hobbs, Mr Pearce, Mrs Price, Mr Sami, Miss Simms, Mrs Swallow and to governor Derek Inman.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to the technical support team who really make the evening the event it is, in particular to Mr Nicholas, Miss Lomas and Mr Riley; to the canteen staff for providing the lovely refreshments and to Miss Gough for helping to organise the evening. The biggest thank you, however, goes to the students, whose impressive achievements are what the Oscars is all about.

Here are this year's winners:

Award	Winner/s
<i>Best Newcomer</i>	Chenika Desch-Bailey
<i>Best Documentary</i>	Health and Social Care Documentary Hayley Thompson, Uzma Bi and Kayleigh Ralphs
<i>Best Radio Programme</i>	Fuel Podcast Govindpreet Kaur and Neeli Katti
<i>Best Graphics</i>	Rebel Street Yanique Moodie and Sophia Kings
<i>Best Presenter</i>	Amandeep Bains
<i>Best Original Music Track</i>	Nathan Gayle
<i>Best Special Effects</i>	Dead Girls Dalvir Buray and Karishma Khatri
<i>Best Original Script</i>	Everything Happens Twice Leigh Brown and Kiran Khan
<i>Best Trailer</i>	Hubert's Holiday Amritpal Bhatti
<i>Best Animation</i>	Mrs Brookes' Year 7 English class

<i>Best Original Soundtrack</i>	Vishant Shyal
<i>Best Music Video</i>	Focus on the Night Alina Iqbal, Sarine Baz and Laura Venum
<i>Best Editing</i>	Super Nerg John Lawrence
<i>Best Cinematography</i>	City Life Billi Hatfield and Chris Green
<i>Best Actor</i>	Chris Green
<i>Best Actress</i>	Mykela Preston
<i>Best Director</i>	Billi Hatfield
<i>Best Film</i>	Finders Keepers Georgina Salt, Olivia Carter and Mykela Preston
<i>The Diane Perry Award</i>	Chris Green

Anisa Mahmood - £20 Tesco voucher
Hayley Thompson - a meal for 4, with a bottle of wine, at The Plough, Harborne
Jayne Bacon - a meal for 4, with a bottle of wine, at The Plough, Harborne
Grace Vanstone-Hallam - a meal for 4, with a bottle of wine, at The Plough, Harborne
Yanique Moody and Deborah Strachan - a meal for 4, with a bottle of wine, at The Plough, Harborne

Many thanks to Tesco, Waitrose and The Plough for providing the prizes!

Art Competition

Birmingham City Council and the Mark Speight Foundation launch City of Culture Competition

Birmingham City Council and the Mark Speight (the late Smart presenter) Foundation are launching a competition based on Birmingham, City of Culture.

You are being asked to produce a piece of artwork in any media you wish which depicts your idea of what our city has to offer in terms of culture.

A few starting points have been listed below to help you:

- High culture (dance, literature, classical music)
- Pop culture (street dance, graffiti)
- Cultural heroes (pop stars, film stars, writers)
- Costume and decoration
- Architecture and cultural spaces
- Art forms and artists
- Craft
- Global culture in your street
- Festivals, parades and carnivals
- Urban and rural culture
- Food
- Shops

There are prizes on offer for winners in each age category; 11-14 years and 15-24 years and a prize for the school that sends the most impressive range of artworks so it would be great to showcase all of the talent we have at Lordswood. You will need to hand your entries in to Miss Tooley by Friday 24th September. Get creative and good luck!

Lordswood Family Favourites

Lordswood's first cookery book!

Our first, very own and 'home-grown' Lordswood Girls' School recipe book, 'Lordswood Family Favourites' will be on sale at the Lordswood Summer Fayre on Thursday 22nd July. This book would make a lovely memento of Lordswood or a perfect gift for a friend or relative. (After 22nd July 2010, copies will be available from Mrs Baddams).

Back in May, when we began gathering recipes for the 'Family Favourites' competition, we had no idea we would attract so many high-quality entries of recipes and illustrations. But we did - which was great, and much appreciated - but it did mean we had to narrow down our final choices to those which best convey the unique memories most of us have in relation to certain foods.

We have included as many as possible in the Family Favourites book and have awarded prizes to the most evocative entries but many, many thanks to all those of you who contributed in any way to this project. Enjoy the book!

Prizewinners and prizes:

Salina Baz - £10 Tesco voucher
Isobel Herbert - £10 Waitrose voucher
Salsabila Putri - £20 Tesco voucher

Year 10 GCSE Drama Evening

Mrs Swallow explains how students completed their practical examinations during a successful evening at Lordswood

As an end to their Year 10 studies and in preparation for Year 11, all GCSE Drama students completed their practical examinations on Thursday 15th July 2010.

The evening was a great success and all of the students performed their pieces to a very high standard. It was an excellent way to share the students' achievements over the last year and a valuable experience for them to perform in front of a live audience, rather than just their peers.

It was clear from the way the performances were received by parents, friends and staff that we have a talented cohort for next year and we look forward to seeing their further developments and successes in the future. There was a feel good factor that was infectious and we believe that everyone learnt so much about live theatre from their participation.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that helped us to produce such an entertaining evening, and congratulate all of the girls again on their performances.

You have made us both very proud. Well done!



Students from Year 10 thoroughly enjoying their evening in the spotlight

Congratulations Year 9!

Miss Tooley's pride in her Year 9s

I would just like to tell a small group of year 9 students how proud I am of their motivation and commitment this year.

Earlier this year a group of 28 students worked tirelessly two evenings a week to complete their GCSE short course in Art and Design. I was extremely impressed with the quality of work produced and astounded by the mature manner in which these students approached their first GCSE.

I will be waiting in anticipation for their grades in August, as I am sure they will be too. Good luck to those girls and well done for all of your hard work.

Year 9 Visit Paris

Isobel Herbert on tourist attractions, dinner and hypermarkets!

We visited many tourist attractions on the Thursday, such as Notre Dame, the Louvre Pyramid, Sacré Coeur and most memorably the Eiffel Tower. I went up the Eiffel Tower with all my friends and the views from the top were amazing; you could see the whole city and the Seine that weaved through the city.

We went shopping in Montmartre where nearly everyone on the trip bought an 'I Love Paris' t-shirt and where we also had a paddle in the nearby fountain (something we seemed to do regularly on this trip). At the end of the day we went to a Bistro Restaurant and had a dinner of chicken, chips, gravy and chocolate mousse, and then we went back to the hotel, tired but very excited after a long day out in Paris and having fun with our friends.

On the last day after packing our bags (and experiencing a fire drill) we set off back to Birmingham, stopping off only at a huge hypermarket to go shopping for an hour, where many people bought croissants and other 'Frenchy' purchases. We then carried on home and arrived back at school at 10pm. We were exhausted after the trip, but also smiling as it was such a wonderful trip.

Year 9 Visit the Cemeteries of Belgium

Emma Markman Morris reflects on an emotional trip to Europe

When we first went to Belgium, we were all really excited. We were in Belgium! It was the first time I had been to Belgium and the first time I had been abroad without my family.

The ferry ride wasn't too bad, but we had a very long journey to Belgium and to Ypres. But before we got to the youth hostel where we would be staying, we stopped off at a World War I grave yard where asked to find a soldier called Private Strudwick. In this grave yard, he was the youngest at 15 years old. This really hit us hard and showed us how much young men actually wanted to go to war.

The hostel was fantastic and the food was very filling. The next day we visited many grave yards, but the one that stood out the most was Langemark. This was the Germans' grave yard. Whereas before the British soldiers had individual, marble white and tall grave stones, these men had grey mass burials like slabs on the ground. Although it was a German cemetery, we all felt a lot more emotional there.

Our time in Belgium was a lot of fun, but also quite emotional. I think everyone agrees when I say RIP to all soldiers of the Great War.



Lydia Duffy searching the graveyard for the burial site of a soldier whom she had researched

Silence

A poem by Joanna Van Zeller

Let silence ring out among the graves,
Let the brave men sleep at last,
The shells have stopped; the battle is won,
Let them stop re-living their past.

Let the hell that they lived in dance in our hearts,
Let it be seen in our every tear,
The endless dark; the torrent of lice,
Every little boy's fears.

Let the horror, the hatred, be laid to rest,
Let the allies and entente combine,
Let the soldiers sleep forever. Ever more.
Let their names, their legacy, never die.

Let's Get Cooking

A word from Miss Clarke about this year's cookery club

Let's Get Cooking has been running since September and members have cooked a variety of healthy dishes from muffins to pizza.

The members' age range has been broad but in particular years 7 and 8 have dominated the sessions. Events such as the Christmas Fayre and Fame have been community events that the club have participated in and the forthcoming Summer Fayre will be the last event of the year.

On behalf of the members, I would like to thank Ms Underhill, Mrs Stiles, Mrs Sartorius, Mrs Jheeta and Mrs Waraich for their continued help and support.

Chef of the Week

Miss Tosh congratulates her students on their cookery accomplishments

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved Chef of the Week this Summer Term in their food technology studies:

Lehear South-Davis 7G
Isabelle Roseblade 7R
Ebony Ricketts 7R
Sharanjeet Kaur 7R
Bhavika Chohan 7G
Isatou Kamara 7G
Lucy Leggett 7R

Sophie Bullock 7G
Zobia Zabair 7G

To achieve Chef of the Week, students demonstrate excellent organisation; a range of practical food preparation and cooking techniques and health and safety knowledge resulting in a product of outstanding quality.

Song Contest of the Birds and the Beasts

Martha Davis from Year 8 on a very unique contest

The project is a collaboration between Welsh National Opera; Ex Cathedra Junior Academy (JA) (for details of how join visit www.excathedra.co.uk); Rookery, Hamilton, Chivenor and The Pines primary schools. In all over 100 children were involved along with their teachers and vocal tutors.

The show is all about a singing contest between the birds and beasts, which is judged by a jury of owls. The four schools split up into two even groups - the Birds and the Beasts; the sixteen junior academy members became the Owls. The competition is made up of three rounds full of commotion and at the end of those rounds the owls are left to figure out the score which is not so easy.

The rehearsals took place over a period of 7 months, many during weekdays, requiring us to create our headdresses, with the help of designer Anna Lewis, and learn music and stage directions for an hour-long performance. A few of the rehearsals took place at Rookery School in Handsworth.

During the experience we got to work with professional soloists, the WNO orchestra and their production team.

I've been in Ex Cathedra junior academy for nearly eight years and out of all of the amazing projects I've been involved in this has been a totally different experience which I will remember for a long time. Throughout the process our Ex Cathedra vocal tutors helped us to prepare our voices and gave us advice for the performance.

Project Timeline	
Sunday 31st January	JA rehearsal - This is where it all started! In this rehearsal we were given our scores and then heard the music for the first time.
Saturday 13th February	JA rehearsal - This was another rehearsal where we went through the score and learnt different parts.
Saturday 20th February	JA rehearsal - In this rehearsal again we looked through the score, learned and memorised different parts.
Monday 22nd February	WNO ensemble day - First day with all of the schools. Director Karen helped us to get to know everyone including the production team. Started to work out stage directions.
Thursday 18th March	WNO ensemble day - Continued stage work & singing. Owls create group identity and work on individual characters.
Saturday 17th April	JA rehearsal - During this rehearsal, as well as singing we were given the task of making the main structure of our headdresses.
Saturday 26th April	WNO ensemble day - This was another day when we were joined with the schools and blocked more of the show.
Saturday 9th May	JA rehearsal - Worked on clarity and diction with vocal tutor Pippa Buxton and conductor Jeffrey Skidmore. Given practice CD.
Sunday 6th June	JA rehearsal - Run through whole score. Complete hats and ensure they are ready for the show.
Wednesday 16th June	WNO ensemble day - Complete run through with Director and refine production details.
Friday 2nd July	WNO ensemble day - Run through twice then pick out sections in need of special attention.

Monday 5th July	WNO ensemble day – We rehearsed in one of the Birmingham Royal Ballet studios in the Hippodrome and we rehearsed with the WNO orchestra.
Wednesday 7th July	WNO ensemble day - Only one day to go - stress showing. Concentrate on polishing all details of the performance.
Thursday 8th July	Performance Day – the big day. Ran through whole show four times on stage. Performing the final show that evening felt amazing.



Martha and her feathered friends enjoying their time working on the show

Music for *Song Contest for the Bird and Beasts* by Mervyn Burtch, words by Simon Rees.

World premier 8th July 2010 Birmingham Hippodrome with WNO soloists and orchestra.

Summer Reads

Mrs Ashford and Mrs Hulbert with some books to keep you busy during the holidays

The long holidays are an ideal time to build on good reading habits, and foster a real life-long love of books away from the classroom...

So before you pack your suitcases or stuff the family car, remember that physical books can be taken anywhere in the world, they don't need batteries, and they don't mind the odd dropped blob of ice cream... perfect.

Million Dollar Mates by Cathy Hopkins

Jess Hall's dad is the new general manager at Porchester Park, and is moving Jess, her brother and pet cat into a staff apartment there. Jess is dreading the move, until she learns the apartments are strictly A-list only and soon to be populated by actors, musicians, models and millionaires...But fraternising with the stars isn't all it's cracked up to be, and soon Jess is wishing for a return to real-life - but can she admit to her friends that the gilded cage isn't quite as golden as she'd anticipated?

Threads: Beads, Boys and Bangles by Sophia Bennett

Crow is in designer heaven; Nonie's caught the eye of a gorgeous boy; Jenny has a new play. But poor Edie's in trouble ...the rumours are that slave children in India have been making their high-street collection. It's up to the girls to save their fashion dream.

My Love Lies Bleeding by Alyxandra Harvey

The Blakes are rather different to your usual neighbours. They are vampires and some of the members of the family date back to the twelfth century. One of the children, Solange, is the only born female vampire known and, as such, she poses a direct threat to the vampire queen. Her best friend Lucy is human, and when Solange is kidnapped Lucy and Solange's brother, Nicholas, set out to save her. Lucy soon discovers that she would like to be more than just friends with Nicholas. But how does one go about dating a vampire? Meanwhile, Solange finds an unlikely ally in Kieran, a vampire slayer on the hunt for his father's killer.

The Adoration of Jenna Fox by Mary E. Pearson

This is a chilling, page-turning psychological thriller set in a clinical future that may be closer than we think. A seventeen-year-old girl wakes from a year-long coma and is told her name is Jenna Fox. She doesn't remember the accident; she doesn't remember her life; she doesn't remember herself. Her parents show her home movies of her past, but is she really the same girl she sees on the screen? When the memories start to come, they come with questions - questions no one wants to answer. How did the accident happen? Why does her own grandmother hate her so? And why does she feel her parents are hiding her away? Who is Jenna Fox?

Beswitched by Kate Saunders

When Flora Fox's parents send their daughter off to boarding school, they have no idea that the train will take her back to 1935. On the journey Flora has a strange dream. She wakes up without her laptop or her phone, wearing a hideous uniform with ridiculous bloomers underneath. She is a new girl at St Winifred's, where the rules are mad, the food horrible, and the hairiness of the teachers unbelievable. Her 21st century manners will not be tolerated at strict St Win's - how will she ever survive and find her way back to her own time? But there is a special reason why Flora has been summoned to the past. It involves the tempestuous girl who becomes her best friend, and will one day become her grandmother...

Beswitched is a wonderfully funny, classic story from a popular and very talented children's author.

Send My Friend

Amrina Hussain and Shannon Grocott from Year 7 on children who don't go to school and a very, very long scarf

In our citizenship lessons we have been investigating why approximately 75 million children around the world do not go to school. We made a football supporters' scarf to coincide with the World Cup in South Africa which is one country where not all children go to school.

We sent our scarf to the Prime Minister, David Cameron, so he can take our petition to the G20 summit in September where world leaders will discuss education.

We each made our own designs and then made them into one giant scarf with the help of Year 10 students. We also asked other students, from different classes, and staff to sign our petition for the Send My Friend charity.



Year 7 students with the scarf which they later sent off to Downing Street

A Word...

News from the Library

This term we have been reading for the CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Children's Book Award 2010.

As part of their literacy lesson, a group of 13 Year 7 pupils shadowed the Kate Greenaway Medal, looking at the shortlisted 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 one point for their least favourite and up to a maximum of eight points for their favourite book. All the points for each book were then added together and this resulted in 'The Dunderheads' by Paul Fleischman being the group's favourite book. They also had the opportunity to visit the Carnegie website to learn about the books, their authors and illustrators and find out what other schools thought about them.

At lunchtime on Thursday 24th June we found out which books had won the awards. All the pupils were given certificates, and one pupil, Orpinder Biring from 7L, won the prize draw.



Some of the Year 7 students celebrating their participation in the library activities

The winner of the Kate Greenaway Award was 'Harry & Hopper' by Margaret Wild, while 'The Graveyard Book' by Neil Gaiman 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.

Teacher's Got Talent

Jasmine Palin from Year 7 reports on an amusing way to raise money

V.S.O. came to Lordswood to talk to us about what they do and to raise money so they can pay to send volunteers to developing countries and share their skills with others who are not as fortunate as us. To raise money we took part in Teacher's Got Talent, where Year 7 students could share their skills with teachers and become the teacher.

All of Year 7 came to watch them perform their skills. It was very funny and some teachers had hidden talents that we really didn't know about.

We would like to thank the teachers who took part and the students that taught them.

V.S.O. is a development charity that works by sending skilled professionals to developing countries to share their knowledge and experiences with others in their field. For more information go to: www.vso.org.uk

Arrangements for the start of Autumn Term 2010

Arrangements for the start of term are as follows:

Year 7

Normal School Day - Registration at 8.35 am, day end at 3.00 pm.

Year 8, Year 9, Year 10

Individual letters will be sent home with appointment times for target setting interviews (15 Minutes long).

Year 11

Students will be taking part in a workshop run by *Positively Mad* which is aimed at increasing levels of motivation for the forthcoming year. Individual letters will be sent home with appointment times for target setting interviews (15 minutes long).



Memorable performances from Mr Bayliss and Mrs Stevens entertained Year 7

Basketball Academy



Our high flying Basketball Academy teams are looking for a kit sponsor for next season. The boys will be competing in the West Midlands Mens League Premier Division for the first time! Please see the separate letter from our coach Mr Guppy if you are interested.