



July 2011

[www.lordswoodgirls.co.uk](http://www.lordswoodgirls.co.uk)

A Specialist Centre for Media Arts and Applied Learning

# Lordswood News

## A Letter from the Headteacher

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to be able to start this letter to you with some very good news. You will recall that one of the school's key reasons for converting to academy status was that we would be able to apply directly to the DfE for funding for major projects, rather than having to rely on the Local Authority. Before half term, we submitted a bid to the DfE and last week received confirmation that we had been allocated £880,000! This is to enable us to tackle the crumbling concrete panels at the north end of the school and to build a new science block – very good news indeed! The timeline will be tight since monies need to be spent by March 2012 but we are aiming to complete the build by next Easter which means that students will be able to take advantage of the improved facilities quite soon.

Last month we were selected for a subject survey inspection by Ofsted in modern foreign languages. Although this was not a major inspection, inspectors nevertheless look at performance in the same areas as in the main inspection. Two HM inspectors spent two days in school, observing lessons and meeting with staff and students. They were extremely impressed by the standards achieved by students, their clear enjoyment of languages and the enthusiasm and work of the MFL Department. I am pleased to inform you that the department achieved 'outstanding' in all areas! Well done to Mrs Jbili and her department and to the students who, as always, are superb ambassadors for the school.

I was recently, however, extremely disappointed

to receive reports of poor behaviour on the part of a minority of our students on the way home from school. Shopkeepers and members of the public in Bearwood have raised concerns regarding students' behaviour. Students need to be more aware of how they are perceived. Whilst students might not intentionally want to be intimidating, congregating in large groups in shop doorways, or around bus stops, being extremely loud and pushing past members of the public on pavements creates a very negative image. I would urge students to show greater consideration for others and more awareness of how their behaviour impacts on the excellent reputation of Lordswood in the local community.

Nevertheless, I would like to take this opportunity to say 'well done' to the overwhelming majority students of Lordswood; their hard work, their pride in their school and the contribution that they make, not only in lessons but also in other areas e.g fund raising make me very proud to be their Headteacher. There have been a number of trips and visits this year and it is lovely to get positive feedback from staff on return about the behaviour of our students and pleasing comments from members of the public. The School Council play a key role in the life of the school and in shaping school improvements and policy and I should like to thank all members of the School Council and Miss Lomas, Co-ordinator of the School Council, for all their work this year.

This term we say goodbye to several members of staff. Mr Edwards retires after 23 years at the school; we wish him every happiness as he embarks on his 'new life' beyond Lordswood. Miss Simms has gained promotion and is moving to Lighthall School, Solihull, as Head of English. Mr Mills is relocating to Germany to take up a teaching position there. Ms Morgan, Attendance Officer, is also relocating, this time to

Wales. Miss Lyttle and Miss Dingle, our graduate trainee teachers, who have successfully completed their training. Well done to them. I should like to thank all these staff for their significant contribution at Lordswood and wish them all the best for the future. This term we have also welcomed back from maternity leave, Ms Morton, Mrs Sahota and Mrs Brookes. Ms Morton and Mrs Brookes will now be sharing the role of Lead Professional in English.

The term ends for students at 12 noon on 22nd July; arrangements for the last week of term were sent out in a letter last week but can also be found in this newsletter. The autumn term starts for all students on Monday 5th September at the normal time. In the meantime, I should like to thank you for your support over the last year and wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing summer.

With best wishes



Mrs Jane Götschel  
Headteacher

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## E Safety Update

### *Mrs Finucane talks about our recent visit from Facebook*

Back in May, we were privileged to host an event in conjunction with the social networking site, Facebook, regarding the new safety measures on the site and to help make parents more aware of their role in supporting their daughters. Nicky Jackson Colaco from Facebook's policy and safety team flew over from America and joined parents in a lively discussion about online safety. She was able to offer very sound, sensible advice to those who attended, that not only put many parents' minds at rest but also lifted their confidence in dealing with issues that could arise.

As the summer holidays are fast approaching, your daughter will probably spend some of her time connected with her friends using a social networking site such as Facebook.

So now is a good time to remind you about some of the sensible tips recommend by Nicky Jackson

Calaco that you can encourage your daughter to follow so that she can have a fun and rewarding time whilst online in the summer holidays!

## SOCIAL NETWORKING TIPS

### Know how to use the reporting tools



It is important to encourage your daughter to report things that make them feel uncomfortable. Use the "Report" links that appear on almost every page, profile or picture. If you receive an abusive message, you can report it by clicking the "Report" link next to the sender's name as you are reading the message.

### Block and report anyone who sends you unwanted or inappropriate messages



Encourage your daughter to block people who they don't want contact with. You can block people by adding their names to your block list in your privacy settings area, or by checking "Block this person" when you report them. These people will not be notified when you block them.

### Only accept requests from people you know



Tell your daughter to use caution when accepting or sending friend requests, and to keep in mind that it is **always risky** to meet anyone in person whom you don't know through real world friends. If your child is worried that someone will make inappropriate posts or send offensive messages, tell them to block them using the link below their profile image.

### Check your privacy settings



It is important to be in control of what you share. Encourage your daughter to review their privacy settings as it is easy to restrict access to any content that they post, from status updates to photos.

### Before you post, stop and think about who might see it



Remind your daughter that once something is posted they have lost control of it! Use the friend list tools at [facebook.com/friends](https://facebook.com/friends) and place different groups of people in separate lists - then they can choose who sees what.

With the launch of family safety centre on

Facebook, there is even more information on how you as a parent can establish a safe online environment. It can be tough to keep up with technology so don't be afraid to ask your daughter to explain it to you. If you are not already on Facebook, why not consider joining?! That way you'll understand what it is all about. Create a Facebook group for your family so you will have a private space to share photos and keep in touch. Talk about online safety just like you would talk about crossing the road or playing sports.

Visit [www.facebook.com/safety/](http://www.facebook.com/safety/) for more advice.

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

Useful websites for parents:

<http://old.kidsmart.org.uk/parents/>  
<http://www.ceop.police.uk/>  
<http://www.childnet-int.org/kia/parents/>  
<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>  
<http://www.digizen.org/parents/>

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## Changes to the School Uniform

*Details of where to find our guide to the new school uniform*

From September, the school will be introducing an updated uniform list. The school Leadership Team have worked alongside the School Council and the new specifications will be in place from the start of the Autumn Term.

The updated list will be in all student planners for the new school year, however to view a copy of our School Uniform Guide, please visit the school website at the following address:

<http://www.lordswoodgirls.co.uk/UserFiles/File/guide.pdf>



# Sixth Form Update

*The latest news on the activities of our Year 12 and 13 students*

Every year the Queen Alexandra College in Court Oak Road organises a local 'Sight Village' where different exhibitors come from all over the country to show their technological aids and discuss the services they provide for people with visual impairment. 48 of our sixth form students have volunteered to act as sighted guides at the exhibition held at the New Bingley Hall in July.

Our students undertake a day of training where they are taught how to guide people with very limited or no vision at all, and how to deal with their guide dogs. Our students then spend a further three days at the exhibition guiding people around. Every year the students come back in awe of how well people cope with their disability and the school receives thanks not only from the college but also from grateful members of the public who have benefitted from their help. Several of the volunteers this year are students who took part last year and are happily giving up their time again. QAC recently informed us that one of our previous students is returning for her fifth year this summer. We hope this year will be as successful as previous years.



*One of our students helping during 'Sight Village'*

All our year 12 students have recently had a whole week off their normal academic timetable to take part in a series of seminars and visits to help them prepare for life after Lordswood.

Students visited the UCAS convention at Aston university where Higher Education providers from all over the country were available to

answer students' questions and give valuable advice. They also attended Birmingham University Open Day. Our three day in-school programme involved a series of different workshops provided by our own staff and several outside speakers from local universities and apprenticeship providers. Apart from learning how and what to look for in apprenticeships, the programme was devised to help students prepare for interviews, write a CV or a personal statement for a university application, how to live on a limited budget, apply for student finance and how to use the UCAS website to search for courses of interest and make an online application.

All our current year 12 students are advised to use their time in the summer holidays wisely to do their research about future options and not leave it to the last minute!

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## Homework in Years 7, 8 and 9

### *Miss Bufton discusses revisions made to the current homework system*

Following an extensive review of homework projects several changes have been made for the start of the next academic year. The changes have been made in direct response to parent, student and staff feedback and will be introduced to all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 from September.

- Students will no longer complete 2 projects every 4 weeks instead they will receive 2 projects every half term.
- Homework projects will no longer be set over the holidays.
- Not every subject will set homework projects. Maths, English, modern foreign languages, music and art will set regular reflective homework tasks that consolidate the learning that has taken place in the lesson. The remaining subjects will set at least one homework project each year in addition to reflective homework tasks. In addition to regular reflective homework tasks the mathematics department will set one project for students in years 8 and 9 so that they can apply the mathematical skills that they have developed during the year. The English department will also set a

project in the summer term of Year 9 which will prepare students for KS4. Subject areas have carefully planned the timings of the projects during the year so that they build on or complement the topic that is being studied at the time. Design technology will continue to set a standalone project on mechanisms which would otherwise not be covered in the KS3 curriculum.

- Homework projects will not be set until the second half of the autumn term. This allows students, with the help of their review tutors and subject teachers, to learn and/or practise the skills required to complete the projects successfully.
- Each homework project will still take about 3 hours to complete but there will be more guidance in the task sheets so that students do not spend too much time on each activity.
- Projects may require a small amount of research in addition to looking through class notes in order to complete a range of tasks such as synthesis, application and evaluation.
- Differentiated project task sheets have been written in conjunction with our teaching assistants and will be available for students next year.
- Although your daughter is welcome to use ICT to present her project there will be no requirement to do so in the assessment criteria.

The homework projects provide students with the opportunity to develop the skills and attitudes for successful lifelong learning. We have had some fantastic projects handed in this year which show immense creativity and thought.

All parents of students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will receive a parent guide to homework in September. This document provides a comprehensive overview of the homework your daughter will receive next year, how you can support your daughter, the rationale behind our approach to homework and the changes made to homework this year.

If you have any questions or concerns about your daughter's homework please contact me.

Miss Bufton ([k.bufton@lordswoodgirls.co.uk](mailto:k.bufton@lordswoodgirls.co.uk))

# Baskerville School Immersive Education Project

*Miss Lomas reflects on a very rewarding project*

During the week of 27th June 2011, Chenika Desch Bailey, Emily Clark, Phoebe Harris, Nancy Inman, Sakina Rajabali and Naveena Varma, all Year 8 students, participated in the Immersive Education project run at Baskerville School in Harborne, a residential school for students with autistic spectrum disorders. The project was being run in conjunction with multi-media company Seeper, who specialise in innovative technologies based around the idea of user interaction and involvement.

The Immersive Education project was designed as a way of developing interactive technology that could be used for expressive therapies and as a way of engaging children with learning and behavioural disabilities in the classroom. The equipment 'stations' were all based around the use of light, sound and touch and were set up to respond to students' movement so that they would become more self-aware through participation. One particular station projected vibrant moving images that responded to the music that the students produced. A movement sensitive camera was also hooked up so that it overlaid images of the students on the visuals as they worked. Our students were based at Baskerville School for three days and helped the Baskerville students build up a story using the technology at their disposal. The hope is that equipment like that used during Immersive Education will eventually be in schools throughout the country and will help students with all types of disabilities learn in a way more suited to their needs and preferences.

The week culminated in a performance, which Lordswood Girls' School was lucky enough to host, and which saw invited guests enjoying the work that the students had produced. It was clear to all those present at the performance, and to those who had worked with the students during its build up, that the students from Baskerville School got an enormous amount out of using the technology and that the Year 8 students from Lordswood really enjoyed working



*Students from Lordswood and Baskerville make the most of the giant interactive video screen*

with the Baskerville pupils.

I would like to congratulate our girls on their behaviour and commitment throughout the week. They all approached the project with maturity and sensitivity and it was a joy to watch them work with the students from Baskerville. Our thanks also go to the staff and pupils from Baskerville School who allowed us to be part of such an exciting and rewarding project.

As Phoebe put it as the project came to an end, "I really hope we can work with Baskerville again in future," a feeling that is shared by all those at Lordswood and Baskerville.

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## Celebrating Success

*Congratulations from our  
Achievement Co-ordinator Team*

This term the Achievement Co-ordinator Team are celebrating the success of students in all subject areas. Students were nominated by curriculum leaders for their achievement, effort and progress since September. We are pleased to announce that the following students have received awards, which will be presented on Thursday 21st July as part of a celebratory awards evening.

Olivia McComb  
Ashley Christie  
Simran Floyd  
Halienna Akhaliq  
Damesha Heath  
Flora Maycock  
Jaylan Mazlum  
KainatAjaz

Maariyaah Shaheen  
Maisie Malcolm  
Chenika Desch-Bailey  
Harjit Panesar  
Phoebe Harris  
Sameena Al-Nisa  
Lucy Leggett  
Jasmine Palin

Polly McComb	Anousha Shaikh
Aneeka Lal	Isatou Kamara
Camille McLean	Sakina Rajabali
Emily Shaw	Amrit Sohal
Naomi Robertson	Amrit Chana
Emma Markman-Morris	Nola James
Jatinderpal Nijjar	Nicola De Waal
Marie Kamara	Lydia Silverton
Abigail Robertson	Laura Ward
Olivia Barfi	Mandeep Kalsi
Edward Silverton	Anastasiya Yemelyanova
Afifah Hussain	Leyla Mustafa
Elizabeth Holder	Shanita Purewal
Priya Jain	Amelia Wilkinson
Saira Parveen	Amanda Jukes
Eleanor Clarke	Joanna Van-Zeller
Varsha Varma	Maariyah Nazir
Emily Merton-Jones	Lucy Bullock

All Key Stage three and four students will receive certificates and a personalised plaque in recognition of their hard work and excellent approach towards their studies and all post 16 students will receive book plates and a book token. Well done to all the students; we really hope that their enthusiasm, motivation and success continue next academic year.

## Bon Voyage!

*The Achievement Co-ordinator Team bid farewell to Year 11*

Earlier in the summer term we said goodbye to all of Year 11, after they had completed their GCSE examinations. There were lots of tears in their leavers' assembly as it dawned on them it was the end of an era!! It was lovely to look back at how much they had progressed since they joined in Year 7. To celebrate the end of their examinations they attended a school prom at the Tally Ho, where the following awards were given out amid screams of delight, rapturous applause and supportive cheering!

### Year 11 Academic Achievement Awards

Emmanuella Mbatangie  
Poonam Mistry  
Angie Lee  
Navina Ghandi  
Hannah Doble  
Asmaa Mouflih  
Aneesah Jawed  
Navneet Kaur  
Ayesha Naz  
Grace Burns

### Year 11 Prefect Awards

Maariyah Ashraf	Navneet Kaur
Sharonjeet Besal	Gurpreet Malhi
Navina Gandhi	Emmanuella Mbatangie
Lucy Jackson	Sandeep Sidhu
Aneesah Jawed	Aemelia Taylor
Sanjidah Kalam	Aimee Taylor
Jaspreet Kalsi	Aiman Velji

We hope they have an enjoyable summer and look forward to celebrating their examination success on 25th August, results day.

We were also sorry to see our Year 13 students leave this term. They have been working tirelessly in the lead up to their A level examinations and busying themselves to meet deadlines for BTEC courses. There was much hysteria and emotion around school during the last week, and as part of their leavers assembly awards were given to pupils in celebration of their excellent commitment to their studies. We wish them every success as they leave Lordswood Girls' School and embark on their post 18 studies and the world of work. We hope they have an enjoyable summer and look forward to celebrating their examination success on 17th August, results day.

## Lordswood has a new Educational Social Worker

*Introducing Anita Gray who will be working alongside the school, students and parents*

Following the re-organisation of services in Birmingham, we now have a new Education Social Worker. Her name is Anita Gray and she will be working with parents and the school to highlight the importance of regular and punctual school attendance.

You will be aware that one of the concerns we have at Lordswood is to ensure that students' chances of success are not undermined by poor attendance. The link between GCSE success and good attendance is well evidenced and the few year 11 students last year who did not achieve 5 GCSEs at grades A\*- C were students whose attendance was below the school target of 95%.

One of the main causes of poor attendance is holidays taken during term time; holidays during term time are not authorised. In spite of this, students are still in some cases out of school for a significant number of days. From September, therefore, the school will be exercising its legal right to impose fixed penalty fines of up to £100 per parent for unauthorised absence (an unauthorised absence is an absence not agreed by the Headteacher) or unauthorised lates (after close of registration). In addition you may be required to provide medical evidence to cover absences through illness. Should you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact Ms Gray via the school office.

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## Raising Awareness of Leprosy

*Miss Colvin reports on some fantastic fundraising by Years 7 and 8*

During the summer term we were pleased to have a representative from the charity LEPRO attend school to deliver an assembly to all Year 7 and 8 students. The students learnt about what leprosy is, how the disease can affect its sufferers and how it can be spread. They also learnt about how leprosy could be treated in order to improve the quality of people's lives, and what could be done to prevent its spread. As a result of this they began collecting donations to help support the charity and help make a difference. We were delighted with the effort and enthusiasm shown by all the students, and were overwhelmed by the volume of donations they were able to collect. Both year groups collected a staggering amount of money, resulting in an impressive £1604.12, which is enough money to help 76 people suffering with leprosy.

A little healthy competition between review groups went a long way!! The year 8 review group that raised the most money collectively was 8L - with a whopping £260.52, and the Year 7 review group was 7R with a huge £210.95.

We would also like to highlight the efforts of the individuals in each review group who collected the largest donations these are:

### Year 7

Sara Khan £29.28	Daphne Clarke £23.20
Megan Wright £21.21	Benita Kellay £21.75
Rifit Bibi £28.07	Hana Iqbal £23.42

### Year 8

Vrindavani Dasa £53.98	Nareece Kaur £33.40
Megan Shields £45.50	Amrita Phull £23.25
Amina Safer £32.01	Phoebe Harris £25.27

As a thanks for their hard work LEPRO have awarded all students who collected a donation a badge and certificate, and any student who raised in excess of £21 (the amount needed to cure 1 person of the disease) a t-shirt. The school has also been given a plaque, which will be displayed, in the front entrance hall in recognition of the students' support of the charity.

Thank you to everybody who made a donation, and many congratulations to all of Year 7 and 8 for their hard work.

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## Help Contribute to a World Record Attempt!

*Miss Tooley with information on a fantastic artistic opportunity*

The Prince's Foundation for Children and the Arts is launching a huge art project this year in order to try and create the biggest online portraiture exhibition. The aim is to get every child aged 4-16 to create a self-portrait and put all the artwork together to create 'The Face of Britain.'

Submissions need to be uploaded in September so use your summer holiday to be creative! You can create your self-portrait in any media you want e.g. drawing, collage, cartoon, photomontage, digital media or even clay. It can be any size you wish as we will have to photograph all your work to submit it online. Think about what you could show about yourself in a self-portrait and add it into the background using imagery and/or words.

This is a great opportunity to show your work in what will hopefully be the World's biggest online portraiture exhibition ever!!

I look forward to seeing all your work in September.

# The Sweet Smell of Chemistry

*The Year 10 chemists describe a recent visit to the Chemistry Factory at the University of Birmingham*

*On Thursday 30th June the Year 10 GCSE chemistry group went to the University of Birmingham with Ms Bufton and Mrs Farrah. Although we were a little bit disappointed that the rest of the school had a day off due to strike action we were glad that we went by the end of the day! When we arrived we were greeted by a lecturer, Sandy Wilkinson. He introduced the aim of the day which was to create an ester that had a banana fragrance.*

*Kiran, Anneka, Alaina and Amarit*

*Once we arrived at the chemistry lab and were settled we were introduced to our teacher for the day, Dr Wilkinson. We sat on stools around the projector screen and were eager to start. We were bewildered at the sight of some bananas on the screen but soon found out it had to do with esters. When Dr Wilkinson asked us challenging questions about the topic we fired away with answers and blew his head off! (Not literally of course!). We were soon exploding with excitement and ready to do the big and exciting experiment of the day.*

*Temi, Shanze, Taybah and Alero*

*We began the experiment by initially adding alcohol and anti bumping granules to the catalyst and carboxylic acid in the round bottomed flask. Although the reflux apparatus was set up for us in the fume cupboard it was a new and exciting experience for all of us involved. It also gave us a chance to work in an undergraduate university lab and ask the student helpers about university life and degree courses.*

*Emily, Lydia, Lucy and Ellie*

*Once we made the ester we had to separate it from the water and alcohol to ensure that we were only left with the ester (what we wanted). To do this we used separating funnels which we had never used before. We felt very privileged that we were allowed to use equipment that is normally only used at A Level. There were a number of stages that we had to perform carefully and accurately, for example making sure that the tap was closed on the separating funnel so that we did not lose our product!*

*Rukhsar, Samina and Fatima*



*Students getting to grips with new equipment in the fume cupboard*

*Once we had separated our ester there were still some impurities in it which needed removing. We added anhydrous magnesium sulphate which dried the ester, and then filtered it. We then needed to distil the ester. We added a few anti bumping granules to the ester and made sure that water was flowing through the condenser. While this was happening we heated the ester. We collected the liquid that boiled at 138°C in a fresh flask.*

*Sharara, Maariyah and Amina*

*After purifying our ester we used a machine called an Infrared Spectrometer which costs £15,000! A small drop of the ester was placed on a small diamond in the machine and an infrared beam shone through it. This provided us with information on how pure the ester was by plotting a graph. Everyone's ester was at least 97% pure which was very impressive!*

*Yin, Simran, Maisha and Ravinder*



*Students intently watch their tutor at work on the Infrared Spectrometer*

*After the experiment Sandy demonstrated some experiments with liquid nitrogen. As we all know liquid nitrogen is very cold and can be used to*

freeze things... which is exactly what we did! To begin with Sandy poured the liquid nitrogen into a kettle. The kettle started to whistle (annoyingly!) as the liquid nitrogen boiled at room temperature. He then used the liquid nitrogen to fry an egg in a frying pan, actually he froze the egg but it looked just like a fried egg! Afterwards he poured liquid nitrogen, yes, liquid nitrogen over a postgraduate's arm! He also froze some flowers in the liquid nitrogen which we were then able to crush! And for the grand finale Sandy poured liquid nitrogen all over the floor! – but we had to put our feet up first!  
Emma, Maryam and Megan

Upon reflection we feel that the day was a complete success. The trip allowed us to experience new techniques, equipment and facilities. It will also help us to make a more educated decision as to whether we would want to study chemistry at university in the future.

Molly and Alice

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## Lordswood's Summer Plans

*What's on at Lordswood this summer? Summer information from Miss Gough*

We have lots happening in school during the summer holidays:

Our Transition Summer School will see over 100 of our new Year 7s take part in activity days which will include sessions on PSHEE, Art and Design, Cookery, Maths, Spanish, English and Media.

*The Challenge* will be running from Lordswood again this year; over 100 Year 11 students from across the West Midlands will be working on community cohesion and social enterprise projects over the coming months.

*Hats Off* Performing Arts Summer School will happen during the first two weeks in August. Please contact Fiona Wallace on 07980399605 or at [hatsoffpa@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hatsoffpa@hotmail.co.uk) for more information.

For information on any of our holiday or out of hours activities, please contact Miss Gough at the school or via [e.gough@lordswoodgirls.co.uk](mailto:e.gough@lordswoodgirls.co.uk)

## Year 10 Theatre in Education Project with Chad Vale and Abbey Primary

*Polly McComb from Year 10 reports on a recent drama project run with two local Primary Schools*

Over the past two terms in drama, we have been working hard on Theatre in Education (T.I.E.) performances. This project allowed us to create performances and activities based around a topic of our choice. Some groups decided to look at the transition from Year 6 to Year 7 and other groups decided to go down a history route, and focus on Henry VIII and WW2.

The key point of the T.I.E. was to make sure that as groups we taught our audience something, as well as ensure they had an enjoyable experience. For this project, our target audience was primary school pupils in year 6 and year 5. Not only did this T.I.E. task benefit the primary school pupils, it also helped us as individuals in our GCSE drama studies. It allowed us to work on our leadership skills, confidence and teamwork, as these pieces of drama and activities were devised and delivered by us.

Personally, it was satisfying to see the performances and activities succeed after we worked so hard on them. It was also a good feeling knowing the children had benefitted from what we had created for them.



*Our Year 10 drama students involved in the Theatre in Education project*

*A big thank you to all the Year 10 Drama students that were involved in the Summer term projects with two of our feeder primary schools, Abbey Juniors and Chad Vale. They did a superb job and it was enjoyed by all involved.*  
Mrs Swallow

*The Lordswood girls did a super job. The session was enjoyed by all.*  
Andy Clark, Deputy Head at Chad Vale Primary School

*Our pupils really enjoyed it and your girls were a credit to Lordswood Girls.*  
Paul Sansom, Year 6 teacher at Chad Vale

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## A Word...

### *Library news from Mrs Ashford and Mrs Hulbert*

This term we have been reading for the CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Children's Book Award 2011. As part of their literacy lesson, a group of eight Year 7 pupils shadowed the Kate Greenaway Medal, looking at the short listed books. In particular they looked at the characters, illustrations and genres, producing book reviews and reports on their chosen book. The girls also voted for their favourite book by giving them one point for their least favourite 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 'April Underhill' by Bob Graham being the groups' favourite book.



*Our Year 7 students celebrate their involvement in the books awards event*

Students 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 23rd June the announcement was made as to which book had won the award. The celebrations involved chocolate biscuits(!) a quiz, and a prize draw, which was won by Kadesha Brooks 7G. All the pupils who took part were also given certificates.



*Winner of the prize draw; Kadesha Brooks from 7G*

The winner of the Kate Greenaway Award was 'FARThER' by Graham Baker-Smith, while 'Monster of Men' by Patrick Ness 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](http://www.ckg.org.uk/shadowing).

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## 101 Reasons to Read a Book...

### *Mrs Ashford with news of an exciting new library competition*

Borrow a fiction book from the library and you could win a prize! 101 mystery books have been randomly chosen. If you borrow one of the mystery books, you will receive a reward point. Each reward point is worth one Dalmatian puppy! Start a collection of Dalmatian Puppies with your name on all around the LRC. See how many you can collect!

Once all 101 Dalmatians have been found, all the lucky winners will have their names entered into a draw for the star prize.

# C2C Book Club

## *A thank you from the Library*

Thank you to all our pupils and parents who purchased books from the Library C2C book leaflet during the year.

As a result you have raised a total of £152 towards the purchase of new books for the library.

Well done and keep reading!!

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## Key Stage 3 Reading Buddies

*Parents - we'd love you to get involved!*

Do you love reading? Would you like to share this passion with KS3 students? We are searching for enthusiastic parents who would be interested in listening to individual students reading. You will help to develop students' reading skills, social skills and self-confidence, as well as give them access to a wide range of places and people which only books can do! We plan for these sessions to take place both before and after school. If you are interested, please contact Ms Morton, Mrs Götschel or Mrs Peniket by e-mail.

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## An Update from the RE Department

*Mrs Stevens with the latest news*

### **'Spirited Arts' competition**

After several 'Spirited Arts' competition assemblies and planning time in RE lessons, lots of very impressive entries have been submitted. Thank you to everyone who has worked hard to produce a thoughtful piece of artwork. The RE Team will choose ten finalists before the end of the year and these winners will be announced in the autumn newsletter. The top ten entries will be sent to the 'Spirited Arts' competition organisers and they may be chosen to be presented on the website.

Go to: <http://www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts/> to view the galleries from previous years.

### **A Multi-faith discussion group**

The department is aware of interest in a multi-faith discussion group and we have decided to launch this programme from September 2011. Students are keen to lead the group and introduce new topics each week in order to prompt interesting discussions. This club will welcome all students especially those who like discussing their views and learning from others. If you are interested, please inform an RE teacher.

### **Special thanks**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the RE Team for all of their hard work this year with particular thanks to Sara Rostami 7L, Helena Akhlaq 7L, Ifzah Khan 7W, Raziah Makanvand 8D, Amelia Wilkinson 9W, Martha Davis 9L, Ayesha Nazir 10R, Emmanuella Mbatangie 11R and Madhia Batool Year 13.

These students have demonstrated true dedication and worked as an excellent team.

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## History Trip to Belgium and Paris

*Some of our GCSE History students fill us in on the annual trip to the Battlefields*

For the second year running, the History Department gave several year 9 pupils the fantastic opportunity to visit the World War I Battlefields in Belgium. For those of us who have chosen to do GCSE History it was a particularly relevant trip as it links to one of the units we will be studying in future months.

On our first day, we departed from Lordswood to Dover where we then took the ferry to Calais. On route to our accommodation in Belgium we stopped at Essex Farm, a World War I cemetery where 1,199 soldiers (mostly British) are buried. We were all moved to discover that one of the British soldiers buried there was Joe Strudwick who died at the extremely young age of 15.



*One of the World War I cemeteries visited during the Battlefields trip*

This was not the only cemetery we had the chance to visit on the trip. On the second day we went to Tyne Cot British Cemetery and Langemark German Cemetery. Over 44,000 people are buried at Langemark Cemetery and 3,000 of them were school students who were killed during the Battle of Ypres in 1914. All of us who went on the trip had carried out research into a soldier buried at Tyne Cot beforehand and when we got there we searched for our soldier. Tyne Cot has almost 12,000 burials and the research made the experience more personal and emphasised to us the ways in which the War impacted upon hundreds and thousands of families.



*Poignant tributes left at the grave of a soldier*

During the trip we also visited two World War museums and at one we were able to experience what it might have been like to be in the mud and misery of the trenches. After a tour of Ypres we had free time for shopping and many of us could not resist spending money at the Belgian chocolate shops. The last two days of our trip were spent in Paris where we went on a river cruise, visited the Sacré-Coeur and went up the

Eiffel Tower. The trip was an incredible experience that none of us who went will ever forget. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Mills, Mrs Gillett and Miss Pickford who organised and accompanied us on the trip.



*Students from Lordswood laid a wreath in memory of those about whom they had learnt*

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## A Battlefields Poem

*Melody Overton - Year 9*

It was for our freedom, that brought  
Them to hell on earth, it was the hope  
Which kept them alive, the hope for  
Victory, our happiness, and with this  
They died. Earth brings them no more  
Pain. Earth brings them the honour  
They deserve, the earth mourns their  
deaths, remembering each one, with or  
without names, with or without graves,  
with or without bodies. For the freedom  
they fought for, for the freedom they  
brought, for our loss, for our gain, their  
lives shall eternally continue, if not  
in Heaven, then in our hearts.

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## Family Reading

*Information 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](http://www.enjoyingreading.co.uk)

Family Reading Boxes are available to all Year 7 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 pre-school 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.

Letters will be sent out to parents at the beginning of the Autumn Term.

In order to loan a family box, students will need to bring their library card with them to the library along with the attached consent slip; 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 Mrs Ashford.

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## Let's Get Cooking!

*Ms Clarke reflects on another great year of students cooking*

Let's Get Cooking once again has had a successful year. The last session took place on Wednesday 13th July with Mrs Sihre demonstrating how to make vegetable pakoras. The club has held two community events so far; at the GCSE Performance Evening, Elder flower and Apple fizz was served with sandwiches by members of the group. At the New year 7 Intake evening members demonstrated chopping skills and created fruit kebabs with chocolate sauce for new year 7 students, parents, siblings and staff. Both events received a great response. The next community event will be the Summer Fayre where members will make Fruit Smoothies. If you are interested in joining the club next year look out for information in registers.

*Let's Get Cooking is a really fun club. I enjoy it because we use a range of skills. Also I like it because we improve our confidence, I also like it as pupils from all year groups come and we also make new friends.*

Jade Broomes - Collins 8R

*Let's Get Cooking is an after school Club held on a Wednesday. This club is funded by the National Lottery. Let's Get Cooking has a range of recipes from different cultures. Different people from different year groups have joined this club. This club is a chance to learn new cooking skills and new recipes. I enjoy this group because we get a*

*chance to cook and learn new skills such as the bridge or the claw. You are able to meet new people and make new friends.*

Miah Carby 8G

I would like to thank Mrs Grehan and Ms Underhill for all of their support this year.

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## Year 8 are Aiming High!

*Miss Colvin with details of a hands on trip to Aston University*

On the 7th July Miss Clarke and I took a group of Year 8 students who are interested in pursuing a career in science on a visit to Aston University.

The students were invited to take a tour of the promotional stands, asking questions to further their understanding of the career opportunities and courses they were promoting and try out the "hands on" activities and demonstrations on offer.

The girls really enjoyed the interactive nature of the event and were enthusiastic throughout. They had the opportunity to take part in the following activities as well as many more:

- Blood sample analysis and examining crime scene photographs for Forensic Science
- Examining images of their own eye for Optometry
- Helping to take dental impressions for Dental technology
- Making antibiotics and other drugs for Pharmacy
- Taking blood samples for Phlebotomy
- Taking the pulse of a baby and monitoring medical equipment, as well as practising resuscitation techniques on a model for Midwifery
- Examining blood agar plates under UV light to detect bacterial growth for Food hygiene
- Getting active on a balance board and the Wii fit sport for Sports science
- Learning how to improve their performance in a competitive situation by racing on exercise bikes.

The girls' were actively engaged throughout the sessions and it was really encouraging to hear

them talk so positively about the experience and how it had helped to confirm their aspirations to pursue a career in science. They were excellent ambassadors for the school - well done Year 8!

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## Year 10 Charity Cake Bake

### *Another fundraising success at Lordswood*

Miss Millington's Year 10 Health and Social Care group planned and completed their own cake bake and subsequent sale on 13 May 2011 and raised £100 in 15 minutes for the Katie Pipe Foundation Charity. This is a charity that the group have studied throughout the year as part of their Health and Social Care course and one which the group felt passionate about supporting.

All girls exceeded expectations in terms of effort and maturity and were extremely responsible in both the cake bake and sale.

Well done to all involved!



*Miss Millington and her proud Year 10 group*

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## For All of the TV Foodies Out There!

### *Miss Tosh with news of a new cooking initiative*

This year, Year 8 food technology students have embarked upon a new project within the creative arts department. Hollie Preston, Phoebe

Harris, Aneeka Sandhu, Haseena Ali and Alex Stanley Ahmed have been working hard after school directing and filming their very own Lordswood Girls' School Cooking show!

With help from Mr. Nicholas, they have produced some fantastic 'how to' video clips for the Year 7s to watch, to give them some inspiration and help for when they come to make that product themselves! Next year, we are hoping to complete phase two of the project and produce some clips for the year 8 products too.

I would like to say a big 'Thank you' to all of the above girls who have been involved, for their hard work. The clips are available in the Year 7 section of the VLE and watch this space for more clips next year - including more areas of creative arts...not just food!

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## Chef of the Week!

### *Miss Tosh congratulates our budding culinary geniuses*

I would like to say congratulations to the following students for their excellent achievement in Food Technology this term. The girls have achieved chef of the week for one (or more) of the following reasons: making creative products; excellent independence; fantastic making skills or a huge improvement throughout the project:

Rhea Merrell 7W

Avneet Dhani 7W

Sana Aftab 7W

Maariyah Shaheen 7W

Rebecca Gould 7W

Halienna Akhaliq 7L

Simran Floyd 7L

Isobel Hinton 7L

Emma Watson 7L

Sara Khan 7L

Aneeka Hussain 7L

Shania Dixon Biggs 7L

Thiraj Sharma 7L

Well done to you all!

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## Inter-Form Sport

### *Miss Downes with news of this year's competitions*

Well done to all the girls who took part in inter-form this year. Every form had a team and competed.

The events consisted of Hockey, Dodgeball and Cricket.



**As seen on ITV1!**

No audition and no requirement to read music. All welcome!

Starting in Birmingham at Lordswood Girls' School on

**Wednesday 21st September 2011  
from  
8:15pm-9:45pm**

*Pop, Gospel and Motown singing  
for everyone!*

[www.rockchoir.com](http://www.rockchoir.com)

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B17 9LL

Switchboard: 0345 113 5000\*  
Please Ask For:  
Station & Tel. Ext. 03451135000  
Direct Telephone No:  
Facsimile:  
Email: [Roberta.cooper@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Roberta.cooper@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111  
Our Reference:  
Your Reference:

Date: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**Re: MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOL**

We have recently encountered problems at Lordswood Girls School with regard to increased use of mobile telephones. Pupils are fully aware of School policy in relation to phones. I would like to remind parents that school policy is clear and mobile telephones should not be used whilst on school premises.

There is an increasing problem of bullying by way of mobile phone usage and the use of social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Blackberry Messenger.

Your daughter will have been advised of the dangers by school staff and by Police Officers at recent school assemblies. Such bullying activities will be treated robustly and a zero tolerance policy will be adopted.

Numerous thefts and losses of mobile phones have been reported. Despite the fact that modern telephones are expensive items, it causes the Police and staff a great deal of time and effort in investigating these matters. Should your daughter have to bring any expensive items to school, we suggest they are handed in to reception for safe keeping during the school day. All items should be security marked so that in the event of the item being recovered by staff or Police, it is identifiable to the owner. Security marker pens will be left at reception in order to do this. Staff are available to assist the pupils.

I also suggest that all valuable items are registered [www.registermythings.com](http://www.registermythings.com). This is totally free and can be used for your items at home.

West Midlands Police and Lordswood Girls School are working in partnership to create a safe and happy environment for pupils and staff alike.

Yours sincerely

PC 1489 Roberta Cooper  
Harborne East Neighbourhood Policing Team

# Diary Dates

		Fri 21st October	Non uniform fund raising day
Thurs 21st July 7 - 8pm	Certificate Presentation Evening Years 7 to 10 & 12	Fri 21st October	School Breaks up for Half-Term
		Mon 24th October - Fri 28th October	Half-Term
Fri 22nd July	School Breaks up for Summer Holidays students finish 12noon	Mon 31st October	Normal School Day
Mon 25th July - Fri 29th July	Transition Summer School	Tues 1st November	School Council away day
		7th - 14th November inclusive	Year 10 external examinations
Thurs 1st September	6th Form Interviews Year 13 target setting day	Tues 15th November	Year 8 Immunisations
Fri 2nd September	INSET day – School closed to students	Tues 15th November - Fri 18th November	Year 11 Reviews with Parents
Mon 5th September	Induction week for all students	Thurs 17th November 4 - 6.30 pm	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Fri 16th September	Year 11 Art Trip	Mon 21st November - Fri 25th November	Year 13 Reviews with Parents
Mon 19th September - Weds 21st September	Year 10 Spanish Orals	Thurs 24th November 5 - 7pm	6th Form Open Evening
Thurs 22nd September	INSET day – School closed to students	Fri 25th November	Year 9 Design Museum Trip
Thurs 22nd September 6 - 8pm	Open Evening	Thurs 1st December 6 - 7.30pm	Christmas Fayre Christmas Concert
Fri 23rd September 9 - 12 noon	Open Morning	Mon 5th December - Weds 14th December	Year 11 mock examinations
Mon 26th September all week	Year 12 Course Suitability meetings	Thurs 8th December 4 - 6.30pm	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Mon 26th September	Year 8 immunisations	Thurs 15th December	Year 7 Theatre Trip
Tues 4th October	Year 11 Geography Trip	Fri 16th December	School Breaks up for Christmas Holidays 1.10pm
Thurs 6th October 4 - 6pm	Year 7 Parents Evening	Mon 19th December - Tues 3rd January	Christmas Holidays
Mon 10th October	New Year 7 timetable starts	Weds 3rd January	Normal School day
Tues 11th October	Year 11 Work Related Careers Day		
Tues 18th October	Year 9 Geography Trip		