

Lordswood News

A Letter From The Headteacher

Dear Parents,

Another activity-packed term draws to a close and this newsletter will give you a flavour of some of the highlights.

The School Council has continued its successful fundraising activities and in addition, the school supported Sports Relief on 21st March. Great fun was had by all and some impressive sums raised by students in sponsorship; the overall total was a fantastic £2186.32!

The 27th and 28th March saw the annual joint school production of 'Little Shop of Horrors'; the quality of performance was impressive, enhanced by superb set design and props. Well done to all involved in these events.

The school has submitted two bids to the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund; the first to redevelop the gym and the second to build a separate sixth form centre. There are now an increased number of schools who have become academies and we are conscious that we have already benefited considerably from this particular fund; nevertheless, we remain hopeful that the Education Funding Agency will recognise that the original gym is no longer fit for purpose. A bid has also been submitted to Sport England for funding to improve the drainage on the school fields which, even when we are not experiencing torrential rain, can be extremely boggy.

At the end of this term we welcome back Ms McPherson from maternity leave. We also thank Mrs Riley who is relinquishing her role as Co-ordinator of the School Council. Under her leadership, the Council has gone from strength to strength; she has ensured that students have a real voice in the school and that charity fundraising has a high profile. We thank her for all her work in this area. Ms Pearce, will take over this role from Easter.

The term ends for all students on Thursday 10th April (3.00pm) although some students will be attending

revision sessions on Friday 11th April; you will have been notified by letter if your daughter is required to attend school. The summer term starts for all students on Monday 28th April at the normal time.



I should like to wish you all a Happy Easter and a relaxing holiday.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane Götschel'.

Mrs Jane Götschel,
Executive Headteacher

The School Council

News from the School Council from Mrs Riley

The Spring Term has been relatively quiet in terms of Council activities. The Council organised a non-uniform day at the end of the first half term in order to raise money for the school's Health for Life project which is landscaping the grounds at the back of the building. All in all a total of over £500 was raised so watch this space to see what the Health for Life team spend the cash on!

On 21st March, the whole school took part in the Sport Relief Mile challenge. For details on yet another fabulous charity event, see Mr Pearce's report inside the newsletter.

As we approach the Easter holidays, I am sad to say that this will be my last newsletter item written on behalf of the School Council. I am currently in the process of handing the job over to my successor, Mrs Pearce, who will be stepping into the role from the summer term onwards. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as the School Council Coordinator and would like to thank all of the students who have been a part of the Council over the past five years. Working with the students to achieve their aims for the school, as well as on the amazing amount of charity events that the school has organised, has been a real pleasure and I know that Mrs Pearce will love the task as much as I have.

Little Shop Of Horrors!

Director Mrs Ryan reviews the latest joint school production

This year's joint school production once again saw the students of both Lordswood schools working together to create a feast of dancing singing and acting.

The story follows Seymour Krelborn, a nerdy orphan working at Mushnik's, a flower shop in urban Skid Row. Seymour harbours a crush on fellow co-worker Audrey Fulquard and is constantly berated by Mr. Mushnik. One day, as Seymour is seeking a new mysterious plant, he finds an unidentified plant which he calls Audrey II. The plant seems to have a craving for blood and soon begins to sing for his supper. Seymour feeds Audrey's sadistic dentist boyfriend to the plant and later, Mushnik for witnessing the death of Audrey's ex. The question of whether Audrey II would take over the world was brought to life over two nights on the 27th and 28th March.



The cast of Little Shop of Horrors rehearse in front of an audience of students from Chad Vale Primary School

The leading male, Tariq Mclarty had never tackled such a large role before, but rose to the occasion creating laughter amongst the audience with his antics.

The role of Audrey was performed by Daphne Clarke who also had taken a step out of the chorus and captivated the audience with her beautiful singing voice.

The comic roles of Orin and Mr Mushnik were performed by Ben Daly and Leo Van Zeller, both equally as talented at performing such strong characters, although Ben did have the additional help of a scooter and nitrous oxide to make an impact during his entrance.



Choreography sessions with Mr Thatcher

Mrs Riley and Mr Nicholas went into overdrive in order to create an amazing set and props with the presence of Audrey II sure to be felt around school for a while to come.

Mr Slack, Mr Crowther and Mrs Morrall created wonderful music and vocals accompanied by the orchestra, who had worked for months in rehearsal leading up to the production.

I am truly proud of all of the students who took part and am looking forward to working with the cast again on the next big production.



Audrey II ready for her starring role in the joint school production of Little Shop of Horrors

Sport Relief!

Mr Pearce reports on yet another amazing charity effort

On 21st March the Lordswood community took the Sports Relief day as another opportunity to show their generosity and compassionate approach to fund raising for less fortunate people around the world by taking part in the biannual whole school one mile run. Over 700 students and staff completed the course, some rather quicker than others! The enthusiasm and excitement the event generates is tremendous and it is great to see the number of girls who make the effort to buy Sports Relief clothing for the day. The sponsorship money is still coming in but

so far we have raised a grand total of £2186.32! An amazing total which we are sure exceeds previous years by a long way! Congratulations to all students who have contributed to the final total and a special mention to Francesca lafrati in year 11 who leads the field with £180. She also completed 10 laps (5 miles) on the day.

A special mention should also go to two members of staff, Miss Faliveno and Mrs Brookes, who played in the charity netball match on Friday lunchtime, took part in the run in the afternoon, swam 2.5km in the evening, slipped in a Theatre trip with forty year 11 girls on Saturday night and finished with the Coventry half marathon on Sunday!

Community Engagement At Lordswood

Miss Gough bring news of the multitude of things taking place in and around school

The Girls' School continues to be in high demand for community groups. The Pauline Quirk Performing Arts Academy will start to run from June, a new Fitness Zumba class runs on a Wednesday at 6.00pm, and Martial Arts classes continue every evening. Netball training will resume for a local team now that the lighter evenings are upon us and weekend bookings ensure that the school is rarely empty.

The summer holiday programme is promising to be hectic this year. Our Transition Summer School is taking place during the last week of the holiday and this will be open to all new Year 7s.

We are also hosting an 'Enterprising Minds' Summer School, The Black Belt Academy Sports Camp and a substantial number of The Challenge Network projects will also run from the site. All these are available to our students as well as others from the West Midlands. Please do get in touch for more information.

We have been working on a number of new projects to further develop links with our key feeder primary schools. Students from Chad Vale Primary School recently visited us to watch the first performance of our School production. Our Primary Family Learning Festival has also just taken place; Year 4, 5 and 6 students and their families were invited to classes and workshops at both the Girls' and Boys' Schools. In addition to this, Cadbury are helping to deliver some product design workshops with small groups from local schools.

Useful information:

Pauline Quirk Academy www.pqacademy.com
Zumba with Tanya Davidson 07403 435 418
Antonio Santorelli's Black Belt Academy
www.asbba.co.uk

Year 7 Continue To Work With Lepra

Mrs Peniket reports proudly on her Year 7 fundraising

In November, 2013, year 7 students raised an impressive £1,140 for the LEpra charity. The girls raised the money through using their many talents from cake baking, to sponsored silences (a real talent!) and house keeping. Julie Gumbley from LEpra said, 'This has beaten all records for Lordswood; the school always support the charity, but this year the girls have really excelled themselves.' Well done year 7; you have made a difference to the lives of many children who suffer from leprosy.

Julie Gumbley, from LEpra, presented Year 7 student, Tarun Aulakh with a certificate for raising £130, which was the most money raised by an individual student in Year 7.



One of our fabulous fundraisers

News From Product Design

What's been going on in the workshop, from Mrs Faulkner

AS level students have been undergoing machine training, specifically bandsaw training. The machine is only used normally by trained members of staff to saw wood and plastic but it can also be used by students aged 16 and above. All students made a push stick used to help feed materials through the

saw and a number 1 which taught them the use of 'combing' to help cut curves into the materials. Students will still be supervised by staff though when they are using it. All students successfully passed the training!



Getting hands on in the workshop

Year 12 and Year 10 product design students were invited to take part in the Mondelez International Taste of Work Programme at the Cadbury site in Bournville. The day involved the students listening to how chocolate was made, taking part in a health and safety clothing exercise, having a tour of the factory specifically the Dairy Milk bar and the Easter egg production lines, lunch with the Trustees who fund the programme and a couple of design tasks. The design tasks involved solving a real problem on site and the other was for a new package for Cadbury's Crème Egg. The students really enjoyed the visit and could see ways in which a qualification in product design could help them in their chosen future careers in research and development and engineering.



Students on their trip to the home of chocolate

Lordswood Globetrotters Close To A Century!

Mr Sami's group continues to go from strength to strength

The Lordswood Globetrotters have had a successful year so far working on their various projects. They have undertaken intervention with GCSE students to help them with different topics and have presented five Geographer of the Month awards. Winners this term have been Miriam Noons in January, Saleha Bibi in February and Anesuishe Mudene in March; they were all selected by their geography teachers for their hard work and achievement in the subject. Well done girls!

The Globetrotters are nearing their target of 100 members on Facebook (Lordswood Globetrotters) so find us to join up! You can also follow us on Twitter and Instagram using the account names below.

We are also looking to attract younger members from years 7 to 11 to join the group so please speak to any member of the geography department or any of the existing Sixth Form Globetrotters for more information.

On the cards for the coming weeks and months are various field trips. The Year 12 geographers will be heading to Stansfeld in Oxfordshire at the end of the Spring Term and year 10 will visit Lichfield in July. Let's hope the weather is good, particularly as the Year 12s will be spending a significant amount of time standing in a river!

As ever, the geography department strives to involve students in as many ways as possible, both in lessons and extra curricular, so please speak to Mr Sami for information about our projects and about any ideas you may have!

Lordswood
Globetrotters

 LGS Globetrotters

 Lordswood Globetrotters

 Lordswood_Globetrotters

News From The Governing Body

Mrs Van Zeller introduces members of the Lordswood Governors

Following on from the general article about the governing body last time, we thought we would introduce one of the parent governors, in his own words:

Michael Slowik

Role on Local Governing Body

I was elected as parent governor in October 2012 and my link governor responsibility is in the field of Special Educational Needs (SEN). Part of the parent governor role is to attend regular governing body meetings, to sit on the Learning and Achievement committee and to visit the school at regular intervals. I fully support the commitment given by LGS teaching staff to the school and their students in order to excel.

Employment Details

I trained as a doctor in Germany and did my postgraduate training in the West Midlands region in Psychiatry. For more than a decade I have been working as a Community Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist in the Black Country which involves seeing and supporting young people who suffer from mental health difficulties.

Further Information

I have lived in Harborne for more than 10 years and I am married to my British wife Jane. We have two daughters who are both students at LGS. My interests are: playing sport, reading books, travelling and spending time with my family.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

The school received two nominations for the parent governor vacancy, so a ballot is being held. Please return your ballot forms to Reception after the holidays.

Help From An Exam Board?!

Emily Shaw and Polly McComb report on a useful A Level English excursion

On the 17th of March the A level English Literature group went on a course held at Carrs Lane in Birmingham City Centre.

The course was run by our exam board, AQA. The aim of the day was to inform us and many other English A level students about the exam we are taking in

June. The lecturers also gave us some really helpful tips about wider reading and how to answer the questions.

We were fortunate enough to listen to a series of lectures from speakers whose expertise spanned 15th to 21st century literature. The breadth of their knowledge in combination with the array of extracts we were introduced to enabled us to develop our understanding of the evolution of the presentation and impact of love in literature since the Middle Ages, which is vital for success in our exam. Listening to a senior examiner also consolidated our understanding of what is and is not expected in the June, which put some uncertainties to rest.

Year 8 Languages Day

Ms Siviter on languages outside the classroom

On Thursday 28th January, 15 year 8 students attended a Languages event at Hillcrest School, Birmingham. Students from a number of different schools in the area were invited to watch "Mon père ne me comprend pas" in the morning, a French play performed by the reputable Onatti Theatre Company and attend two language workshops in the afternoon. The play was performed entirely in French and was enjoyed by all!

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

This was a wonderful opportunity for students to experience French outside the classroom and to enhance their listening skills whilst having fun.



'An Inspector Calls' On A Saturday Night!

The English department take in a show

On Saturday 22nd March some 38 Year 11 students, accompanied by Mrs Brookes, Mr Clark and Miss Faliveno, visited The Crescent Theatre in Birmingham to watch a performance of 'An Inspector Calls' by J. B Priestley.

The play is being studied as a set text for the English literature examination this year and it was felt that students would appreciate the text further if they were able to see it in performance.

The play did not disappoint. Despite being an amateur performance, the play was well received by the audience and there were a number of strong performances, including that of the actress playing the part of Sheila Birling. Although the play was written in the 1940s, its themes and messages are still of relevance in today's society and the words of Mr Birling resonate most poignantly:

"the way some of these cranks talk and write now, you'd think everybody has to look after everybody else, as if we were all mixed up together like bees in a hive—community and all that nonsense."

All in all, this was a pleasant way to spend a Saturday evening.

A Poignant Trip To Auschwitz

Amelia Wilkinson and Asid Khan reflect on a difficult yet valuable visit

In the past month, we have been incredibly privileged to act as ambassadors for the 'Lessons From Auschwitz' project, which aims to educate young people about the history of the Holocaust yet also to 'humanise' a period which cannot be understood from simply reading a chapter in a history book. The project involved a one-day visit to Poland on Wednesday 5th March with around 200 other students from the West Midlands. We travelled to Auschwitz Birkenau, a death and labour camp where an estimated 1.2 million Jews perished under the Nazi regime.

The idea that 'hearing is not like seeing' perhaps sums up our feelings about trip. The horrors we witnessed are unimaginable: rooms filled with human hair at the Auschwitz- Birkenau museum,

thousands of pairs of shoes of victims, the remains of gas chambers where so many were brutally murdered. Whilst these elements of the journey were all extremely horrifying, it was in fact the sheer size of Auschwitz Birkenau that shocked us both, as we began to comprehend the scale of this atrocity.



Inside the Birkenau museum

Prior to our visit, we were fortunate enough to hear the testimony of the inspirational Susan Pollack, a Holocaust survivor who spoke of life for the Jewish community Pre-World War II. Seeing the train track that runs through the centre of the camp reminded us of her account. She spoke of being cramped with hundreds of others in a cattle truck, with the false hope that she was being taken to start a new life. Susan never saw her mother and father again. Hearing Susan's story helped to personalise the trip as we could refer back to her first hand account.



The terrible train tracks

After walking in the bitter cold for hours and taking in so much, we were overwhelmed and exhausted. The tour ended with a service led by a Rabbi where students shared poetry in remembrance of the victims and prayers of hope. This was perhaps the most emotional part of the day as the Rabbi reminded us that this camp represents just a fraction of the regime. He also reinforced that every man, woman and child who died was a unique individual and placed emphasis on the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust. This made

us consider: how are we combating hatred, racism, discrimination and ignorance today? Whilst the trip was incredibly draining, we can both say that it was also a life changing and thought provoking day, that we will never forget.

Busy In PSHEE!

Miss Preston writes about a busy term in PSHEE, with the help of two keen journalists

During the spring term students have had the opportunity to take part in two Citizenship and PSHEE days. Everyone involved in delivering sessions during these days has been extremely impressed by the level of maturity and enthusiasm that students have displayed during the activities.

Here is a brief overview of the kinds of topics that students have studied this term:

Year 7: Finance and Careers education

Year 8: NHS careers competition and Barclays skills for life

Year 9: Women's rights debate and health education

Year 10: Careers in the charity sector and standing up for human rights

Year 11: Gun and knife crime education and health education

Year 12 and 13: Staying safe in the modern world, health education and peace education

The activities have helped develop their independent research and debating skills and confidence by presenting to an audience and increased their awareness of the world around them. Two budding journalists have written their own newsletter articles outlining the days they experienced:

Year 8:

We took part in an NHS competition where we were allocated a job in the NHS and asked to promote it to children our age. Our job was a dietician and we did a lot of things to promote this job.

The first thing we did was research what a dietician does and how much they earn by doing it. We learnt a lot by doing this. We then allocated each other our roles to each do. We did our poster, mood board, cartoon strip, business cards, script for our advert and our advert. We then put it all together and got it ready to be sent off.

We really enjoyed today and learnt a lot about the roles and jobs in the NHS.

Maisie Robertson

Year 11:

The day began with an introductory assembly from

PC Rob Pedley. He spoke about the increasing figures relating to knife and gun crimes in the UK. He also talked about the consequences of these crimes. The whole talk was very emotional and inspiring as it put across a very strong message of making the right choice.

We also had a guest talk from Marcia Shakespeare, the mother of a young girl who was killed along with another one of her friends. Her speech was very moving as she talked about how these crimes do not only affect the criminal and the victim but also everyone else such as family, friends even the community.

After the assembly each of the five groups were all assigned the same task to inform years 7-10 and 12-13 about the increasing knife and gun crimes in Birmingham. We had to design an assembly, a review time activity and creative resources such as posters, a logo and a web banner. We also had to create a web link which would show details of our campaign. This website included information about gun and knife crimes including shocking statistics.

Overall, the whole day was a very engaging day as we all got involved in making a meaningful campaign come to life and most importantly teach others about the importance of gun and knife crimes and the consequences.

Iqra Naeem

Year 9 Media Day

Sophie Todd and Rebecca Stewart 9W tell us all about the year 9 Media Day

On Thursday 30th January Year 9 students (including ourselves) had the opportunity to take part in a media day in which three workshops were run. We could choose to take part in either a radio station workshop, a music video workshop or a filmed drama workshop. We chose to take part in the filmed drama which involved us taking on designated roles related to filming and drama. These roles included actors, camera operators, directors, hair, costume and make-up specialists.

Throughout the day we were filming scenes all over the school and by the next day it was edited and finished. The script for the drama was a modernised version of Great Expectations and was written by Mrs Leadbetter. The finished product was well edited by our teachers and it was evident that all our efforts had paid off.

At the end of the day we gathered together to watch what we had produced and everything was a success! Over the day we learnt a range of new skills along with having an immense amount of fun! Furthermore, it was a great time for us to experience media outside of lessons - whether we have chosen

to take it for GCSE or not. Overall we had an amazing day and we would like to thank all the teachers who were involved (Mrs Honeybourne, Mrs Hartland, Mr Thatcher and Mrs Leadbetter) for making this day possible!

Lordswood Students Show Their Generosity

Students donate to the food bank to help those less fortunate than themselves

In celebration of harvest, and with the harsh reality of many families in Birmingham struggling to buy food for their families, students of Lordswood Girls' School brought in items to donate to the Birmingham Food Bank in December, 2013.

The staff at the Food Bank were thrilled to receive the abundance of food delivered to them by Lordswood, and sent us a letter of thanks and a certificate to confirm that we had provided meals for seventy five families over Christmas.

We hope to repeat the donation in 2014, and we are very grateful to all parents who helped support the students with their donations. Many thanks to you all.



Students load their donations ready for the delivery

News From Maths

Mr Slack gives us an update from the maths department

Another busy term in the mathematics department has been and gone. Year 11 are now preparing for their up-coming GCSE examinations and have been working hard to work towards their target grades. Following a review of Key Stage 3 mathematics at

the school, the department received some excellent feedback including describing the innovative curriculum as one of the best that has been seen in any mainstream school. Well done to all involved!

This term saw "Pi-Day" 14th March (3.14 using the American date) and next year will be the only time when we will ever see the first five digits of pi in the date (although incorrectly rounded) to 3.1415. It was wonderful to hear so many of year 7 wishing the department a happy Pi-Day!

On Tuesday 11th March, twelve eager year 10 students competed against other Birmingham schools in the University of Birmingham's "Big Maths Quiz" 2014, an excellent opportunity to meet other students and do some challenging maths. Students were placed in the top 50% of the schools who competed from all across the West Midlands. These twelve students have gone onto to share what they learnt about chance in the game of "The Million Pound Drop" with their peers in assemblies at the end of this term. Well done girls!

Year 12's project with Network Rail will shortly be coming to a close, after their work on developing an intelligent safety system to prevent accidents at railway crossings, using Arduino technology. They will be submitting their final report shortly, along with presenting their findings to a panel of judges at the regional awards event on 1st May. We wish them luck and more details of their work will follow in next term's magazine. A small number of Year 8 have now been selected to continue work with Network Rail over the summer term and experience the world of engineering.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all students, in particular years 9 and 11, that revision materials are available on the VLE in preparation for your up-coming examinations. However, for some light relief over the Easter break, the puzzle below will get you thinking. Can you fill in numbers so that every row and column produces the correct result? Is there only one way of doing this? The best results will win a prize – submit to Mr Slack by the end of the first week back after Easter.

	X		+		11
-		-		+	
	+		+		15
X		-		-	
	-		X		-47
-54		-4		-4	

RE Stars!

Miss Preston congratulates her students

The RE department has been highly impressed with the quality of work from students across all year groups this term. In order to celebrate this success, the following students have been nominated as RE Stars for their excellent level of effort and enthusiasm. We hope you continue to impress us to earn further rewards in the summer term!

Year 7
Lotti Slowik
Scarlet Powell
Esha Ali
Sharmarne Patterson
Imogen Palin
Jasmine Gille
Simran Hira
Minna Nasserri

Year 8
Leonie Carnegie
Eva Price
Sophia Floyd
Aman Sunner
Sahar Baburi
Rudina Roach
Hanna Said
Ayani Jenkins

Year 9
Deanna Woodhouse-Hawkins
Sadiya Aftab
Simitra Chand
Taybah Faisal
Rekha Choudhry
Zoya Ahmed
Florence Nelson-Brewer
Tia Nelson

Year 10
Fatimah Hanif
Emmani Abdullah
Chantel Westall
Abbie West
Habeebah Kauser
Charlotte Robbins
Zainab Mohamed
Olivia Ulpiani

Year 11
Damiya Butt
Isharsimran Kaur
Kiranveer Sharma
Sarish Alam
Munashe Chieza
Shantel Delisser
Rachel Lau
Kirandeep Mandair
Vrindavani Dasa
Khaliphia Foster

Year 12
Aneeka Shezad
Leah Watts
Nola James
Sandeep Kalsi

Year 13
Abuhuzulfah Abdullah
Shoughan Dilshad
Anum Ishfaq
Samina Yasmeen

book they can complete a quiz on the website which helps to ensure they have understood what they have just read. Students 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 students 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 student's success.

Since the start of September 2013, Years 7, 8 & 9 students have read over 162,873,054 words and 3,844 books!

All students should be congratulated on their efforts but a special mention should go to the following students:

Most words read

Taya Shervington-Powell 7R 3,119,200

Most quizzes taken and passed

Amy Robinson 9R - 28

Salma Mahmood 9S - 26

Mariam Naseem 7G - 25

Zara Wasim 7L & Maisie Robertson 8D - 24

Finally well done to the following KS3 review groups who have read a staggering 39,690,545 words between them (so far!!)

7L J Holmes 14,359,390 words

7R S Rasool 13,176,074 words

7G K Tooley 12,155,081 words

Well done!

Accelerated Reading Competition
Honours List

The competition began at the end of the Autumn term when any KS3 students who were interested in taking part had to register their interest with Mrs Ashford in the library.

Students have to:

Read, pass Reading Practice quizzes and accumulate 100 points for books on a list of challenging literature. For each book they read (and pass the quiz at least 90%), they will be awarded 10 points. When they reach 100 points, ie read at least 10 books and passed the quizzes, they will be put into a draw to win a prize. The Honours reading list is available in

Accelerated Reading

Mrs Ashford on the achievements of our young readers

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

Students pick books within the reading levels they have been given by their teacher after they have completed a STAR test, and once they have read their

the library and also on the VLE. The competition will run until Friday 23rd May 2014. The winners will be announced during June 2014. There are two prizes of a £50 Book token

The current leaders are:

1st	Salma Mahmood 9S	90
2nd	Mariam Naseem 7G	70
3rd	Sarah Jassim 7R	60

Business And Fun!

Mrs Waraich reports from Alton Towers

76 students from Lordswood Girls' and Boys' schools including those in the Sixth Form spent a day at Alton Towers investigating how the theme park is running as a profitable business. The students took part in a discussion with staff at the resort and were able to ask questions about the theme park and the Merlin organisation. The students were able to learn about how a successful business communicates and can use this information for various aspects of their studies. It was a great day and students had a lovely time!



Alton Towers - a profitable business and perfect place to carry out an investigation!

Classroom Medics

Mrs Farrah reports on Year 10 becoming classroom doctors!

Year 10 students were given the chance to take part in a workshop with the classroom medics team. www.classroommedics.co.uk

During the hour long session students were able to take blood from 'Andy' the prosthetic arm and practise their keyhole surgery techniques. The portable ultrasound machine gave some students the chance to see their bones or their arteries in action and enjoyed having their own ECG trace printed! iPhones literally lived up to their name, being used to photograph the girls' retinas and some

were lucky enough to use a camera to see along the length of Colin - the colon! A fantastic morning was had by all, thanks to Sarah and Nick from Classroom Medics.



One of the students takes blood, or fruit squash!



Taking a photo of the retina and putting the eye into iPhone!

In other news...

The Key Stage 3 Science Club students continue to spend Thursday evenings carrying out a wide variety of spectacular experiments, both inside and outside the classroom.

Activities this term have included making elephant toothpaste, lava lamps, density columns and one session was spent outside launching water rockets and exploding film canisters.

Future sessions are set to include colour changing milk and bouncing bubbles! There are still a few spaces left – please see Mrs Farrah if you would like to join.

The science department are offering a Key Stage 4 support session on Thursday lunchtimes. Passes are available from reception on a Thursday morning.

Rowing Lessons In PE

Miss Thomas on some of our budding Steve Redgraves

This term Year 8 and Year 9 students were given the opportunity to take part in some indoor rowing within their PE lessons. A British Rowing coach, who is responsible for the B-Row initiative in Birmingham has been working with the girls to develop their rowing technique and overall fitness levels. For many of the girls, this has been their first experience of rowing and they have thoroughly enjoyed it. So much so, an extracurricular club has started on a Monday after school and the girls will soon be moving from the indoor rowing machines on to the water at Edgbaston reservoir. The coach has identified some real talent within the groups that she has worked with and hopes to enter a team into the School Games next year!



Students get into a rhythm on the machines



Receiving tuition from the British Rowing Coach

If you are interested in joining the rowing club or would like more information about how to get involved with rowing, please see Miss Thomas.

Natural Horn Lessons In Music

Amrit Sohal talks about a rare opportunity for the music department

On the 11th of March, Elle and I thought that we were going to have a normal instrumental lesson. Instead of a normal lesson, we had a great opportunity to play on some natural horns that dated back to the 19th Century. This was a fantastic opportunity, both as a horn player and as an aspiring musician, because it was an extremely unique experience. Natural horns are not common to see nowadays, so being able to play one was a great privilege.

We learnt about the rich heritage of the horn and its origins. This really helped me to appreciate the instrument even more than I previously did and gave me a new found respect for the instrument and those who play it.



The beautiful 19th Century natural horns

Natural horns are the ancestor of the modern day horn but don't have valves to change the pitch of the notes. In order to change the pitch of the note you have to change your lip and mouth shape, as you do with the modern day horn. However, with natural horns you also have to change the length of the crook to change the key of the instrument and change the position of your hand in the bell of the horn, hand-stopping. It was a real surprise as to the amount of physical work required to play the natural horn. I found it challenging to play and to find specific notes as a result of the hand-stopping and having to change the crooks. This is because when a crook was changed you had to retain your ear to find the correct pitch and just as you got used to it, the crook was changed again and so was the key.

Learning about the natural horn helped make me understand the origins of the instrument and horn music which has made me more appreciative of the horn and how it has developed as an instrument over

the centuries. It was an unforgettable experience which I will never forget and will help develop my playing and my perspective of playing the horn.



Elle and Amrit play the antique horns during their instrumental lesson

Goings On In ICT

Miss Venn reports on the various projects that have taken place in ICT

This term two third year Computing Students from the University of Birmingham have been working with the ICT and Computing Department. They have worked with small groups of students to encourage their passion in computing and taken lessons where they have been able to bring in their own experience of computing.

Key Stage 3 students have had the opportunity to learn to programme using Python and develop the skills that will provides them with vital digital literacy skills. In using Python they have been able to develop the problem solving skills that can be applied in other subjects and other areas of life.

ICT and Computing students are able to attend extra sessions and clubs to boost them in any areas they feel they need extra support. At Lordswood Girls' School we have a lunchtime club for KS3 students running on a Monday in F1. Key Stage 4 and 5 students are able to attend on a Tuesday or Thursday.

World War I Centenary Project

Ms Dignon introduces Sana Hussain and Tia Nelson from 9W who report on an exciting project

We were delighted to be asked to participate in a pilot tour to the World War I battlefields as part of the government initiative to send two students and one

teacher from every school in England to mark the centenary of World War I.

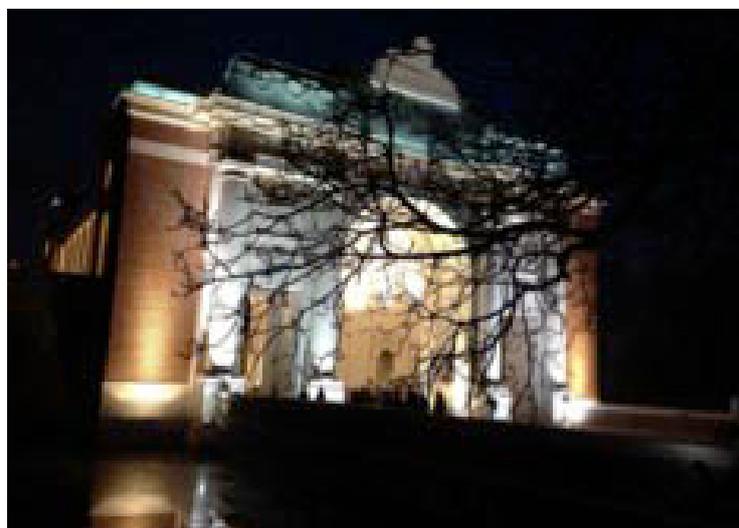
The Institute of Education in London is responsible for delivering this programme and their staff has been running several 'practice' tours before the programme officially starts later this year. Sana Hussain and Tia Nelson were selected to take part due to their excellent assessment work on the Battle of the Somme. The trip took place over four busy yet interesting days and provided us all with plenty to think about. Here are their reports of the trip:

Myself and Tia were given the opportunity to travel to Belgium and Northern France to visit and commemorate the soldiers who gave their lives during the Great War. The four day trip was a fascinating and exciting experience which complemented studies which we had completed about trench warfare, allowing us to put our classroom based learning into context.

We travelled alongside several schools including Holly Lodge and George Dixon Academy which enabled us to socialise with students who we would never have encountered were it not for this trip. As we visited several monuments and memorials we began to realise that different ethnic backgrounds took part in the war and fought for Britain.

Overall, the trip was a delightful and memorable experience and it was a privilege to be part of such a great opportunity.

Sana Hussain



The Menin Gate in Ypres where a ceremony to commemorate the fallen soldiers of World War I is held every night at 8.00pm

I was recently chosen to experience an all expenses paid trip to Belgium and France, supported by the 'First World War Centenary Programme'. I was very privileged and appreciative of this opportunity.

On the first day we completed team building activities in our accommodation near London so I was able to get to know everyone that I was travelling with and become good friends with them.

We also explored the ancestry.co.uk website to research soldiers of World War I before visiting the battlefields.

Sana, Ms Dignon and I visited cemeteries and memorials of those who fought bravely in the war. I had the chance to lay the wreath, representing my school, in a famous ceremony called the Menin Gate ceremony. In addition to this we visited interactive museums that helped give a picture of what it was like for World War I soldiers. We had a tour guide at each site we visited and I found this very helpful as they were able to answer any queries we had and they explained the sites in great depth.



Students prepare for the honour of laying the wreath at the Menin Gate ceremony



The students were interested to locate the gravestone of one of only two women who are buried in the battlefield cemeteries. This was the gravestone of Staff Nurse Nellie Spindler who was serving in a casualty clearing station for the wounded. She was killed by German shelling while sleeping in August 1917



The students left a commemorative remembrance cross at Tyne Cot cemetery for a soldier, Leo Summerfield, from Harborne who we researched using the Commonwealth War Graves Commission site and census information from Ancestry.co.uk.

I liked that we got to talk to a soldier who is currently serving in the army because I was able to compare his involvement to my understanding of life for soldiers in World War I.

This trip has taught me many things and has been a great way to learn about World War I and, also, to meet new people.

Tia Nelson

Year 12 Fundraise Through Envision

Members of the Envision groups report on their recent activities

On Friday 14th February a group of Year 12's went to the main Library in order to join the Envision Programme. Envision is an organisation which encourages teenagers to become more involved in the wider community.

We carried out many activities at the envision launch and those who went from Lordswood Sixth Form Centre were put into two groups. The groups we formed are The Avengers and Depth.

The Avengers is made up of 11 students in Year 12. We are fundraising money for Freshwinds, a charity which provides people with life threatening and life limiting conditions with a fully integrated model of care within a caring, safe and secure environment.

So far we have carried out a Tip Top sale, Cake Sale and Penny Collection. Next, we have organised another Cake Sale and a Wear Something Pink Day so we hope we can raise enough money to beat our aims and objectives.

The Avengers is made up of Leesa Ali, Aishah Rehman, Sandeep Shoker, Simrun Hanif, Manraj Gill, Qasim Mohammed, Jemma Mahey, Mandeep Kalsi, Sandeep Kalsi, Noman Ahmedi and Asan Asghar. As a part of the Envision programme, which helps and encourages young people to take up issues that affect their community, we raise awareness of our chosen charity, Aquarius. Our project started from meeting at the New Birmingham Library where we were introduced to the programme and formed our team, Depth. From there we met on a weekly basis and collectively as a team we planned new ideas for fundraising events for our charity, Aquarius.

Aquarius is a charity that advises and supports vulnerable people who face alcohol, gambling and drug related issues, to rebuild their lives, as well as helping the families affected by this. We chose to support this charity because Aquarius carry out amazing work to raise awareness of these underlying or forgotten issues that our society seems to turn a

blind eye to. We will be raising more awareness and holding fundraising events at the school as well as out and about in the city, this will be commencing the week of 7th-10th April and will include cake sales, tip-top sales, 'teacher feature', Easter egg sales and more!!! We are on Facebook (DEPTH-Envision), Instagram (depth_envision) and Twitter (@Envision_DEPTH). We hope to reach as many people as possible and if you are interested then please help us and support our cause!

High Hopes For Talented Students

Mrs Peniket has great expectations of her Year 9 English group

Four students excelled themselves in their recent assessment on the novel, *Great Expectations*, by Charles Dickens. The students were awarded prizes for their excellent essays, which explored how the writer presented and developed a character in the novel. The four girls were able to demonstrate sound understanding of how the novel was structured, by linking scenes and using their inferential reading skills to identify the writer's purpose when creating their chosen character.



Mrs Peniket's talented students with their prizes

Emily Montgomerie received a biography on Charles Dickens and Sophie Todd, Rebecca Stewart and Salma Mahmood received picture postcards from the Charles Dickens Museum.

A Trip To London

Melody Overton and Nola James of Year 12 talk about their recent excursion to the capital

During early February, members of the Year 12 history and government and politics classes took an educational two day trip to London. This experience

included a visit to the House of Lords, where we were able to observe an official meeting in the House itself, where important current affairs were discussed to do with the themes of race and British engagement in foreign politics. This enabled us to further our understanding of the policy making process, and allowed us to observe the heritage and tradition evident in our political system.

Following this illuminating experience, we had the privilege to be able to discuss pressing issues, relevant to our studies, with the Lord of Kings Heath (Lord Hunt) in a select committee room. Lord Hunt provided us with an expert's insight to our questions, his role in the policy making process and possible future policies.

The following day, we had the opportunity to visit the supreme court, where we were able to appreciate the modern build during the guided tour, in which we were encouraged to observe the careful planning and symbolism involved in the court rooms. Not only were we able to sit in a court case led by the only female court justice (Lady Justice Hale), but we were also able to discuss past and present cases, and the role of the supreme court in our justice system.

We then went on to battle the elements, during a four hour historic political walking tour, led by our soon to become friend; Gary. This tour led us around Westminster Abbey and private school, the Parliament building, as well as Whitehall and the many monuments and statues on the way. This was both informative and enjoyable; a great way to conclude our trip!

Many thanks to Ms Dignon and Ms Christian for organising the trip and helping us to battle tube strikes!



The historic chamber in the House of Lords

Competition

Winners In Art

Miss Tooley with congratulations

In February this year a competition was launched to Key Stage 3 students to design a poster about Climate change. The competition was open to all schools in the Midlands and we are very proud to say that two of the winners were from Lordswood Girls' School! Well done to Tia Nelson and Laura Coley whose art work you can see below. Their posters were displayed throughout the Climate Challenge Conference which took place in March at Millennium Point in Birmingham.

Year 9 Environment, Key Stage 4 Photography, A Level Photography & A Level Art



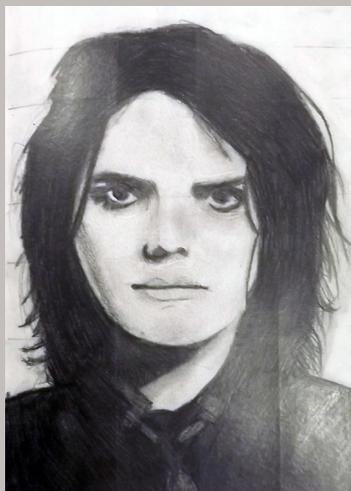
Tia Nelson and Laura Coley's winning designs



Spring Term Work

Examples of work produced by the students this term based around various topics

Year 7 Patterns & Year 8 Portraits



Diary Dates

- Thurs 10th April** - **School breaks for Easter 3.00pm**
- Fri 11th April** - **INSET day school closed to students**

Easter Holidays

Fri 11th April to Fri 25th April

- Mon 28th April** - **School open for term normal school day**
- Weds 30th April - Non-uniform day
- Thurs 1st May - Year 7 Parents' Evening 4.00-6.00pm
- Fri 2nd- Fri 9th May - Year 9 Exams
- Mon 5th May** - **May Bank Holiday**
- W/C Mon 19th May - Year 7 & 8 Exams
Year 10 SLA Fundraising Week
- Fri 23rd May - Non-uniform day
School breaks up for half term

Summer Half Term

Mon 26th May to Fri 30th May

- Mon 2nd June - Year 9 start KS4 options
- Mon 9th June - Whole School PSHEE day
Year 10 reviews and IEP updates
- Fri 20th - Non-uniform day
- W/C Mon 23rd June - Year 10 Primary Festival
Year 12 Post 18 Week
- Tues 24th June - Year 9 Multi Faith Experience
- Thurs 26th June - Oscars Evening & Digital Arts Festival 7.00pm
- Fri 27th June - Year 11 Prom

- W/C Mon 30th June - Year 9 & 10 Battlefields Trip
Year 11 Post 16 Focus Week
Year 12 Work Experience Week
- Tues 1st July - Year 8 Centre for Alternative Technologies Trip
- Weds 2nd July - New Intake Induction Day
New Intake Evening 3.00-7.00pm
- Thurs 3rd July - Year 10 Chester Zoo trip
- Thurs 3rd- Fri 4th July - Year 10 Amsterdam trip
- Fri 4th July - Year 8 MFL Trip
- Mon 7th July** - **INSET day school closed to students**
- W/C Tues 8th July - Year 11 Post 16 Focus Week
Year 12 Work Experience Week
KS3 Reviews and IEP updates
School Council Fundraising Week
- Tues 15th July - Sports Day
- Weds 16th July - Summer Fayre
Whole School Enterprise Day
- Thurs 17th July - Celebrating Success Evening 7.00-8.00pm
- Fri 18th July** - **School breaks up for students 12noon**
- Mon 21st July** - **INSET day school closed to students**