

Lordswood News

A Letter From The Headteacher

Once again the Spring term finishes on a high after another superb joint school production; High School Musical was performed to great acclaim to packed audiences on 19th and 20th March. Congratulations and thanks go to all staff and students who made this such a success.

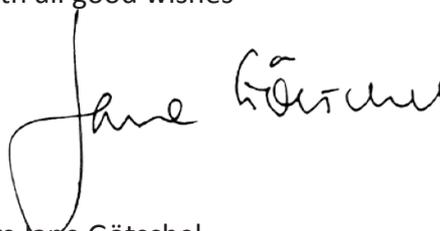
Continuing the theme of success, we were pleased to learn earlier this term that our application to the Priority Schools Building Programme had been successful. This means that at long last the gym and PE facilities will be redeveloped. We anticipate that there will be a new build but will know more after the Department for Education carry out their scoping exercise in April. Watch this space!! We should also hear the outcome of our bid to the Condition Improvement Fund to build a new sixth form centre at the start of next month. As the sixth form continues to expand, fuelled by its own success, a purpose built centre for sixth formers becomes ever more urgent.

The Spring term ends on Friday 27th March; please note that this is a normal school day and that there is no early finish. The Summer term starts on Tuesday 14th April; Monday 13th April is a staff training day although some examination groups may be required in school for revision workshops.

This is a very busy and stressful time of year for year 11,12 and 13 students as they prepare for summer examinations. For some students it is now a case of consolidating learning through a well-structured revision programme; for others there is considerably more work to be done. Whatever the situation, I would urge all students to ensure that they have a sensible revision timetable which enables them to complete the work that is needed whilst also having time to relax and build up the stamina they need for the examination period. Profiles will be sent out at the end of term and please do take the time to go through these with your daughter/son. Teachers have given quite specific guidance on what students still need to do and how they can best prepare. Please encourage your daughter/son to seek help from her/his Review Tutor if necessary if they are struggling with their revision.

I wish you all a happy Easter.

With all good wishes



Mrs Jane Götschel,
Executive Headteacher



Delights in Drama

Mrs Swallow reflects on another successful Lordswood production and other drama news

High School Musical

This year's joint Lordswood Boys' and Girls' School production of *High School Musical* took place on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th March 2015 and was an astounding success.

For the first time in ten years the show was a complete sell out with students queueing to get tickets and leaving disappointed. The audiences on both nights were amazing and really demonstrated their support for the cast and crew, singing and dancing along to the songs from the show. It was a delight to witness the energy of all involved on stage and the talent that we have growing in the school, whether it be in music, drama or dance.

The rehearsals had not been without their difficulties and challenges but the students' dedication and commitment to the rehearsal process certainly paid off in the end. The cast this year whole-heartedly embraced the show creating much of the choreography themselves, giving up plenty of extra hours to perfect the routines and teach each other.

A special thank you to our student choreographers who ranged from Year 9 to sixth form (Salome Atunde, Elle Ireland, Isatou Kamara, Rasharna Martin, Summer Miles, Megan Moloney, Zanele Mosweunyane, Renee Squire and Savannah Young) and of course, as always we could not have done the show without the support of colleagues, parents and students alike.

I look forward to seeing what challenges next year will bring and remember to get your tickets early as you do not want to miss out!!



Cast members enjoying their time on stage

Dance Quest

This year is the final year of the three year Dance Quest project run in association with the Birmingham Hippodrome and the Prince's Foundation for Children and the Arts. Only four schools in Birmingham have

been given this opportunity and we are very grateful for the chances it has offered our students.

The collaboration has been a successful one with the students being able to experience live dance, work with experienced dance practitioners and showcase their own work on the stage at the Patrick Centre, all for free. This year we have been lucky enough to see Matthew's Bourne's Edward Scissor hands and Cirkopolis by Cirque Éloize. We have already begun to work on the final pieces for the sharing event based on the theme of gossip taken from Bourne's production. Rehearsals are taking place during the applied learning time and students are demonstrating commitment and a range of talents. It has been excellent to see some of the Year 9 students who started the project in Year 7 still involved and mentoring the Year 7 students.

The final sharing of the work created takes place on Thursday 25th June at the Birmingham Hippodrome.

Examinations

The Year 11 practical examinations take place on Thursday 14th May from 4.00pm onwards followed by the Year 10 mock examinations. It would be great to see the parents of students involved there to support their daughters' work.

News From The Basketball And Cricket Academies

Mr Guppy with a sporting update

Strong Finish for the Basketball Academy Teams!

As the basketball season draws to a close, the players are all determined to continue a recent run of good form in both divisions and end the season on a high.

The Premier team recovered from a slow start to the season by going on a six game winning streak, including some very impressive performances against Wolves CC, MLC and Balts in the WMBL Premier division. Former Basketball Academy students including Ben Fox, Chad Palmer, Tom Owen, Josh Notice, Matt Catlow and Tevan Cohen have all made valuable contributions throughout the year to help the team cement their place in the top division for a fifth successive year. The level of performance of leadership on display is a real credit to the school and the younger players all have fantastic role models to inspire them as their progression continues.

The WMBL Division 3 squad has found victories more difficult to come by, which was always going to be the case in the inaugural year of the development team. Joash Riley and Adil Iqbal have continued to gain experience in the Premier team, as well as being key

leaders for the development squad. Supported by sixth form students Ryan Sangha and Aalyah Malcolm, as well as a number of Lordswood Boys' students from years 10 and 11, the team has grown in each game and the future looks bright for this young team. It has not always been easy balancing academic work and basketball commitments but the determination of the players and the effort that they have continued to produce has really helped make the development team a valuable experience for this year!

Hopefully after a short break, the pre-season training will start again in preparation for the new league season starting in September 2015 and some new faces will join the training sessions, helping the current squad to develop even more.

There has also been a girls only practice during Wednesday lunchtimes which has been attended by over 20 students and is really promising to see. This session will switch to an after-school club in the summer term to give the students more time to play and practice! Hopefully if the commitment and enjoyment of the students continue we can enter a women's team into the local leagues next season too!

The Basketball Academy and all of its students wishes everybody a happy and successful summer – thank you to all that have supported in any way!

If anyone wants any more information about the Basketball Academy, please contact Mr Guppy, sport@lordswoodtrust.co.uk.



Our basketball stars

Bright Start for the Lordswood Cricket Academy!

With the sixth form students being able to begin indoor nets practice sessions at Edgbaston Cricket ground, the best facilities in the midlands region have provided a fantastic opportunity for the Cricket Academy to build a good foundation for the remainder of the season. Edgbaston have also organized an opportunity for a stadium tour and a chance for the students to experience life from the International players point of view. There will also be tickets for one of the twenty-20 matches in the summer term for all of the Cricket Academy students, providing more inspiration for what could lie ahead in the future.

The enthusiasm of the students involved has been really positive and the improvement in all the players is noticeable, even in just the first couple of months. There are a number of indoor and outdoor fixtures in place over the remainder of the school year, giving the players the opportunity to try out their nets practice against some difficult competition against various sixth form colleges across the region.

The Cricket Academy is always open for new students to get involved and anybody who would like further information, please contact Mr Guppy – sport@lordswoodtrust.co.uk.



Lordswood cricketers get some time in the nets

Promotion of everything PE and Sport at Lordswood!!

As you are hopefully aware, this year the physical education department and sporting academies have joined the social media revolution to promote all of the amazing sporting achievements and activities that Lordswood students are involved in throughout the year. Please follow the progress of students, see the results of matches and keep up to date on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. If you search "LordswoodSport" at any of the three sites, you will be able to keep up with the latest news and events!

****Please note that any students will not be "followed-back" or any friend requests made, they are only promotion pages****

The School Council

New initiative and fundraising from Miss Pickford and the School Council

This term the School Council have been busy. There have been some interesting Head teacher's Question times in Years 10 and 11, where some very relevant questions have been answered by the panel.

Journalism club is now up and running as a result of a request from Patience Kanjira in Year 11. She has now recorded some material for a broadcast which is aired through the school radio station.

Comic relief was a huge success and raised a massive £904 for the charity. There were several activities going on, which included a funny face photo booth. The day was brilliantly coordinated by the School Council. We would like to thank everybody who contributed, and congratulations to Mr Baker who won the raffle.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter!

E-Safety Update

Keep your child safe online with the 'Share Aware' campaign

Parents' concerns about social networking sites popular with children were revealed recently, as the NSPCC launched its Share Aware campaign to get families talking about socialising safely online.

An NSPCC panel of more than 500 parents from Mumsnet reviewed 48 of these sites and said all those aimed at adults and teenagers were too easy for children under 13 to sign-up to. On more than 40 per cent of the sites, the panel struggled to locate privacy, reporting and safety information.

At least three quarters of parents surveyed by the NSPCC found sexual, violent, or other inappropriate content on Sockipedia, Omegle, Deviant Art, and F my Life within half an hour of logging into the sites.

The NSPCC also asked just under 2,000 children and young people which social networking sites they used. Talking to strangers or sexual content were the main concerns mentioned by children. But they also thought the minimum age limit for signing up to many sites should be higher, despite saying they'd used the sites when they were underage.

The NSPCC has used the reviews to create a new online guide to help inform parents about the risks of different social networking sites used by children. This guide can be found on the school website on the e-safety page in parent section.



Peter Wanless, CEO of the NSPCC, said: "Children are taught from an early age that it is good to share but doing so online can be very dangerous. We must all be Share Aware. Many children have a smart phone, a tablet computer, or a games console. So it's the perfect opportunity for parents to have that important conversation with their children about who they are talking to and what they share when they socialise online.

"We know that children do take risks online, sometimes without realising it. And we know some parents feel confused by the internet – out of their depth, and out of control. Our Share Aware campaign gives parents straightforward, no-nonsense advice that will help them to untangle the web and feel confident talking to their children about online safety.

"Keeping children safe online is the biggest child protection challenge of this generation. Parents have a vital role to play but we want social networking sites to respond to parental concerns about their children's safety and privacy. The NSPCC will continue to challenge and work with internet companies and the Government to make the internet a safer place for children."

You can find out more about the NSPCC campaign at www.nspcc.org.uk/shareaware and on the school website on the e-safety page in parent section

Anyone looking for advice about keeping children safe online, or concerned about the safety and welfare of a child, can contact the NSPCC's 24-hour helpline on 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk.

Source: *E-safety Support* www.e-safetysupport.com Feb 2015

Year 7 Fundraising!

Mrs Peniket proudly reports on the activities of her Year 7 fundraisers

Since September 2014, Year 7 students have raised a huge amount of money for two charities: Macmillan and LEPRRA.

At our Macmillan coffee morning in September, the girls raised £164 by making and selling cakes at our open morning. In December, the year group raised £890 for the LEPRRA charity through various initiatives such as sponsored silences, cake sales and car washing. Julie Gumbley from LEPRRA praised our Year 7 students in an assembly, rewarding them for 'the outstanding achievement by Lordswood Girls' School, who support the charity every year through their collections.'

Luka Emmanuel raised £80 for LEPRRA, which was the largest amount raised by an individual student.

In February, Year 7 students also collected food for the Birmingham Food Bank, which was greatly received at

the time of year when contributions are at their lowest. The girls were encouraged to purchase at least one stock cupboard item each when shopping with their family, and we collected a wide variety of pasta, cereal and tinned fruit and vegetables.

Well done, Year 7. You have made a huge difference to the lives of those living in your own city of Birmingham, and to those who are suffering from debilitating diseases around the world.



Year 7 students show their charity certificates as well as items collected for the food bank

The Witches' Spell

Mrs Peniket is inspired by Josephine Sennett of 7S

In their English lessons, Year 7 students were asked to write a spell in the form of a chant, based on 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare. The girls had to use rhyming couplets in their poem, which is quite a challenge! Here, Josephine has managed to rhyme a range of interesting words and create some horrible imagery!

Venom of snake, eye of goat;
Blood of a sailor, drowned in a boat.
Skull of shark, tooth of lizard;
Magic power of an evil wizard.
Blade of knife, bladder of pig;
Go to the graveyard tonight and dig.
Corpse of man, corpse of child
Corpse of feral dog gone wild.
Eyes of a mummified, severed head;
Wetted sheets of a young child's bed.
The bark of dog says it's right;
The victim will die in the night.
Double, double, toil and trouble,
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.
To increase the power mix in powdered bone,
And a cursed, crushed up pine cone.
Add mashed potato, but make sure it is diseased,
Beak of a duck, comb of a hen.
Add the ink of a pen.
Yolk of egg of a dodo too,
The joey from the pouch of a kangaroo.

Ashes from a house that burns in flames
And the victim, who won't be seen again.
Chant this song and add a lime;
Now you can go travelling back in time.
Double, double, toil and trouble,
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.

By William Shakespeare and Josephine Sennett.

Applied Learning

Miss Hegarty with an extra curricular update

Students have been applying themselves to various different types of learning activities this term including Zumba, Yoga, stress management, football, textiles and Dhol drumming.

In textiles students' first project was to make a ribbon brooch, whilst their second project has been to produce a stuffed animal, either an elephant, cat or giraffe!

We hope everyone enjoyed Applied Learning this term. New sessions start in the Summer Term on 22nd April and will include tennis, boxing and basketball. Watch this space!



Students get stuck in with some textiles

Another Grand Ghana Fundraising Quiz!

Charitable fun with Miss Tooley

There will be a Quiz evening to raise money for Future Leaders UCC, Ghana, on Thursday 23rd April from 7pm - 9pm at Lordswood Girls' school.

If you would like to take part in this exciting event please get a team together of no more than six people and email k.tooley@lordswoodtrust.co.uk with your team name by Friday 17th April. A team fee of £10 will be collected on the night. We hope to see you all there!

Unforgettable History

Frankie lafrati reports on her 'Lessons from Auschwitz'

On the 15th of February we (Lucy Leggett and Francesca lafrati) began the first stage of a three week programme called "Lessons From Auschwitz", run by the Holocaust Education Trust. This has involved an orientation seminar in which we explored how appropriate it is to visit a concentration camp such as Auschwitz-Birkenau and under which circumstances it can be a useful experience.

We then did a 5am to 10pm day travelling around the town of Osvienčim (the original Polish name for the town surrounding the Auschwitz camps) to see a Jewish graveyard and both Auschwitz camps, with the ultimate aim of re-humanizing the catastrophe and learning about the humans both behind the suffering and those who were victims. In the Jewish graveyard we were shown the Jewish community that had made up the majority of the population of Osvienčim but is now non-existent. Hearing that the Nazis had removed the gravestones and used them as pave stones many of us were shocked at the sheer disregard of human worth. However the thought that these people never saw the Holocaust and were free from its grip on Europe gave some respite. The group then went to Auschwitz One – the first camp to be used by the Nazis. When we arrived we walked under the sinister and ironic infamous gate reading "work makes one free" which would be the last many would see before the death camp. In each block there were multiple exhibitions, including rooms filled with the gnarled shoes, suitcases, hair, children's toys and various other belongings of the victims. There were photos lining each room of people walking unknowingly to their death and arriving at the camp train station, totally unaware of their tragic fate. We also walked past the small, one-metre square rooms where five or more people would be crammed in to starve or suffocate. There was one block dedicated to the experimentation on Jewish women to find methods of sterilization – including filling their wombs with concrete and performing horrific surgeries without anaesthetic. This section was incredibly difficult. It provided some insight into the fact that these people were not so distant from ourselves – they would have been our grandparents. On each suitcase there was a name and date of birth – an acutely distressing glimpse into the individuals who came to the camps - as this individuality can so easily be lost in the incomprehensible figure of "the six million". However on another level, despite being so close to the sites of such unimaginable suffering, it could not have felt less tangible, as the sheer scale of the suffering was surreal.

We then went to the larger camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau. The iconic train track and watch tower, which we went to the top of, was a symbol of the Nazi's control as the identical barracks which it over looked were so able to strip the situation of suffering - so systematic it looked

– just as the Nazis were so able to distance themselves from the victims in order to commit such atrocities. The long barracks, which were originally made for horses, in the winter would have been freezing cold (it hit -41 Celsius in this area) and overcrowded, and no better in the summer. We heard tales of the regularity of people dying in the night and how their clothes would be taken by other inmates for warmth. Also about the physical and verbal abuse they were subjected to and the relentless fight for survival that became a life style in the camps. We then went onto the gas chambers. At the end of the war, the Nazis had attempted to destroy the camp to hide their regime, surely a sign of guilt, and therefore much of the camp had been destroyed. However we were able to enter a chamber itself and this proved, by the grim silence that fell over us all, to be the zenith of the horrors of the day. There were claw marks on the walls and a haunted feel to the chamber – one could not help but picture the utter terror and excruciating agony of the people who had their lives viciously ripped from them - in the very place in which we stood - with no justification but pure hatred and bigotry. Directly opposite and just a few feet away from the gas chamber was the Nazi's 'social club' and bar where the soldiers would meet in the evening. Also, just fifty metres from the gas chamber stood the residence of the camp commandant where he lived with his wife and five children. The final place of visit for us was a building called the "Sauna building" which was filled with the photos of the lives of the people who perished in the camps, before the war. This was the ultimate act of re-humanizing the massive scale of people lost and the opportunity we had to look at the photos, many of which were whimsical and full of character, acted as both a celebration that these people lived and had a life outside the camps (as their legacies are associated only with the Holocaust) and a tragic and upsetting reminder of their fate and of what little time they had left to live after these photos were taken.

At the end of our day Rabbi Shaw led a commemorative service including the reading of prayers and poems from those affected by the camps. This was perhaps the part that most struck us because Rabbi Shaw voiced his concerns about the rise of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in our society today. The catastrophe of the Holocaust no longer felt limited to the 1940s in Eastern Europe or distant from us. It serves as a reminder of the capacity of humans to do terrible things, though we may not want to face up to it. For us, lighting candles to place along the iconic railway track in Auschwitz-Birkenau was both an act of paying our respects to those who suffered in the past and a promise to our present and future society that we must prevent any such thing happening again.

The purpose of the programme is for the participants to go away and share a different perspective on the Holocaust that prevents Holocaust denial, dehumanisation and inspires the community to do what they can to prevent such atrocities occurring ever again; our final seminar was on how we, as Lordswood Sixth

Form students, might do something for our community. One of the things we drew from this experience was the importance of voting - Rabbi Shaw quoted a famous poem by Martin Niemöller: "First, they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out, for I was not a socialist. Then, they came for the Trade Unionists and I did not speak out, for I was not a trade unionist. Then, they came for the Jews and I did not speak out, for I was not a Jew. And then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak for me." This is very powerful as it warns us against standing by as others suffer, and being active in taking responsibility for the people around us. We also will be active in encouraging and promoting the project to the next lower sixths to keep the spark alive, and to help share the harrowing importance of the experience we are incredibly grateful and humbled to have had.

Art Department Update

Miss Westmore reports on the achievements and activities of Lordswood's talented students

Well done to all the Key Stage 3 students who entered the national 'Design a Dress Competition'. Entries have now been sent for judging, fingers crossed one of them might win. The Art Department did, however, want to give some prizes of their own. So well done to the following students for their effort and fantastic entries:

Ameena Masood in 9W

Jasleen Sihra in 8R

Mehak Kohli in 7D



A number of students have also recently entered the BBC's 'Little Painting Challenge'. If you would like to get involved in future art competitions make sure you check the 'Art Competition' page when you login to your school account.

A Level Art students have recently entered some of their excellent artwork into the Saatchi School Art Prize. Visit www.saatchigallery.com/portfolio/ and search 'Lordswood' to see a selection of their work.



Just some of the work produced by Lordswood's students

In February GCSE and A Level Art students got up early to board a coach to London. We spent the day exploring the vast array of art on display at the Tate Modern and the Saatchi Galleries. It was a great day and students were able to find fresh inspiration for their examination projects. Students seemed to particularly like the Saatchi's 'Post Pop: East Meets West' exhibition, which explored Pop Art's legacy and its influence on current art practice.

Are You Interested In Teaching?

Miss Bufton with an opportunity for those with a degree in mathematics or physics

If 'YES' we would love to hear from you! Since 2013, Lordswood Girls' School has worked in partnership with the University of Wolverhampton to deliver the School Direct programme. School Direct is an alternative route to the traditional university led PGCE course. For September 2015, we are offering places on the School Direct PGCE Tuition programme in mathematics and physics. As a trainee you will spend some days at the University of Wolverhampton (Walsall campus) but most training will take place at Lordswood

Girls' School. You could also be eligible for a training bursary up to £25,000.

Further information on School Direct and the application process can be found on the 'train to teach' page of the school website, alternatively email Karen Bufton (k.bufton@lordswoodtrust.co.uk)

Spring Term Award Winners

Mrs Peniket, Mr Baker and Mrs Uffindall with end of term congratulations

Mrs Peniket, Mr Baker and Mrs Uffindall would like to congratulate the following KS 3 and KS 4 students who received awards during the end of spring term assembly for excellent attendance and good organisational skills. Good attendance and organisational skills are an essential requirement for any successful student who is looking to enter further education, so well done girls!

Year 7
Aneesa Akram 7L
Keshef Maqsood 7L
Shaynie Byrne, 7D
Nikitha Raghunathan, 7D
Habibah Shah, 7G
Jodie Keight, 7G
Kiren Kaur, 7S
Sophia Shaheen, 7S
Harmony Olaniyi, 7R
Camerun Jagpal, 7R
Victoria Babajide, 7W
Haifa Hussain 7W

Year 8
Nayab Wahid 8D
Angharad Pearce 8D
Mariam Naseem 8G
Ikra Khan 8G
Adena Raynor 8L
Assiatou Jemmah 8L
Jasmine Gill 8R
Tarun Aulakh 8S
Zahra Hussain 8S
Riya Kaur 8W
Iqrah Chaudhury 8W



Mrs Peniket's Year 7 award winners with their eggs

Year 9
Harmeet Johal 9D
Imogen Reeves 9D
Annie Casey 9G
Alyssia Samra 9G
Courtney Hall 9L
Maaria Khan 9L
Eva Price 9R
Lilly Daffon 9R
Seerah Abdullah 9S
Tanvir Kaur 9S

Year 10
Zahra Ahmed 10D
Candece Rutherford 10D
Faiza Hassan 10G
Sukhman Kaur 10G
Zoya Ahmed 10L
Charmaine Wilding 10L
Emily Parker 10R
Heather Byrne 10R
Lily Atchison 10S
Arezoe Wahid 10S

Amelia Palin 9W
Phoebe Couch 9W

Sana Hussian 10W
Mahdiyyah Sajjad 10W

Year 11
Guneet Aneja 11D
Ayesha Maqsood 11D
Paige Smallman 11G
Haleema Javed 11G
Naaz Kadir 11L
Emma Watson 11L
Fatimah Hanif 11R
Jasdeep Johal 11R
Bushra Akhtar 11S
Hana Iqbal 11S
Emmani Abdullah 11W
Lucy Price 11W

Busy In English!

News from the English Department

'Withering Heights'

This term Year 9 students have been studying pre 20th century novels. 9En1 explored 'Wuthering Heights' and used the 1994 ITV film version to support their learning. However, as they soon found out, this adaptation was less than impressive! They then examined the conventions of film reviews and wrote some rather scathing reviews, some extracts of which are below:

Have you ever read a book that was beyond your expectations? Did you therefore have high expectations for the film too? Well, allow me to warn you of a film that devastated my hopes. Its name is 'Wuthering Heights'. The acting is unconvincing and the plot-wait-the plot doesn't even resemble the story as I had expected. Finally, the "music" was simply a few 'la-las' repeated throughout (Is that what Warren Bennet calls music?) You'll be squandering 113 minutes of your life watching this so called 'romantic classic'. Is this what you want? - I didn't think so! No wonder it didn't win any Oscars...

Dilawaiz Jahangir

A paragraph talking about the ending of the plot:

Now this very comfortably brings me to the plot-wait-which plot? I am afraid to say this disastrous film doesn't follow the book's plot at all! This 90 minute film just includes bizarre scenes which further complicate the story line. The film starts with young Heathcliff and young Catherine running around the moors like wild cats. How absurd! Furthermore, the first half of this film revolves around 'betrayal' and the second half, 'revenge'. Where's the love?

Sana Shahzad

DebateMate

On Thursday 12 March, four year 10 students (Sana Hussain, Salma Mahmood, Mahdiyyah Sajjad and myself) along with students from the Boys' School, had

the opportunity to take part in the prestigious Debate Mate competition. There were two rounds that we had to compete in: the first round was called the 'prepared motion', in which we had to argue in opposition to the motion: "This house would introduce a quota for racial and ethnic minorities". After winning this, our second round was an 'impromptu debate'. Unlike the first round, in which we were able to prepare our arguments in advance, the motion for the impromptu debate wasn't known until the day of the competition. This time, we had to argue in support of the motion that "This house would punish football clubs for the behaviour of their fans" and again we managed to win! Overall the day was highly competitive and intensive, however it was also extremely enjoyable.

Asmita Goswami

The judges at the Urban Debate League were extremely impressed by the Lordswood team and there is a chance that they may be included in the top 16 teams nationwide. If they do then they will have the opportunity to compete at the national final in London! The team will also be taking part in the Debate Mate Cup, which begins in April. The students have excelled throughout and represented the school brilliantly.

Year 7 Creative Writing

The following 'Grim Tale' was produced by Iqra Naseem in Mrs Peniket's Year 7 English class, for her entry in a creative writing competition. The challenge for the competition was to write a short story, based on a well-known classic with a twist in the tale, using only one hundred words!

'Drip..drip...drip. The sound of rain ricocheting off the ground. The cloaked figure scaled the roof of the cottage she had just come from. Or, rather, she had stolen from. Darkness surrounded her. She ran, not caring if anyone would see her. Long, gold locks adorned her head. Lassoing her hair on a hook at the top, she climbed. The hook gave way. She swayed like a leaf in the wind and gravity took its toll. THUD! Her limp body met the ground. Her face lay motionless, lips tinted with blue. Darkness had enveloped her. Her gift was her downfall.'

Cells, Breakfast And Revision

All in a day's work for the science department

Year 7 Cells project

One again the science department has been blown away with the 3D cells produced by year 7. There were some fantastic models handed in, with excellent explanations. A wide range of materials was used to create the models, ranging from shoeboxes to jelly!

A big well done from the science department for your first science homework project.



One of the fabulous Year 7 cell models

Science breakfast club

The breakfast club continues to run for KS4 every Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Attendance has been noticeably reduced since the mock exams but with the GCSE science exams fast approaching this club is the perfect place to get extra support, complete past papers and start revising. The additional and separate science exams will take place on the 12th, 14th and 20th of May, before the half term break.

Year 11 Revision

Science revision sessions are taking place at lunchtimes and after school. The timetable can be found in all the science laboratories and has been shared with all of Year 11.

RE News

Miss Shipley fills us in on what the RE department have been up to

The Next Step

The RE department are busy preparing Year 11, 12 and 13 for their summer examinations. If you need extra support in RE there are revision sessions taking place at lunch times or after school and you could speak to your teacher about all the other things we can do to help you.

RE Conference

A selection of year twelve students studying Islam and religion and ethics recently attended a conference at the University of Birmingham on RE. Here's what they thought:

"A couple of weeks ago a groups of us that study AS level religious studies were offered an amazing opportunity to visit a conference at the University of Birmingham. When we got there we greeted by a number of tutors and even a head examiner from OCR

who gave us some great tips on how to defeat our exam papers. Throughout the day we took part in workshops with other schools and were taught about our topics in more depth. The best part for me was when we were given a speech about why we should study theology in university, it was really good to hear what you could do with the subject after studying it."

Alisha Francis

"The RE conference at the University of Birmingham was very useful, as we got some more information on the themes we have been studying and help on how to write good exam answers. I feel the workshops really helped me understand the subjects better, and provided different viewpoints. Seeing the university was also interesting, since that was new to me!"

Helmi Soinihvaard



Lordswood students get to work at Birmingham University

4. Complete your homework pack fully, making use of mathswatch to support any areas of work you know you are having a problem with.

5. Make use of passports which show the things you must be able to do; collect evidence through your revision of you applying these skills and bring this back to show your teacher after the holidays.

A special mention needs to be made to the following year 11s who have worked continuously hard over the term, to complete and make progress in weekly homework tasks:

Kainat Ajaz
 Amanpreet Bhopal
 Sharish Chaudhary
 Nayyab Ishfaq
 Jasdeep Johal
 Jasmin Kang
 Kiran Kaur
 Alisha Kauser
 Habeebah Kauser
 Olivia Lissemore
 Mia Majstorovic
 Jessie Mann
 Sameena Mohammed
 India Purewal
 Nyhkiesha St Juste
 Emma Watson
 Meghan Wright

Well done for your effort and this will surely show in your mock examination result!

Year 10 must also continue to work hard over the Easter break as they too will have an important mock examination after the holiday. Make sure you also make use of resources available to you, including Nimbl (online app) and ensure that any problems you have had with previous examinations are corrected so the same mistakes are not repeated.

This half term has also seen the most accurate Pi Day we will see. On Saturday 14th March (using the American date) was 3.14.15 at 9:26:53 we saw the most digits of Pi. When will this happen again?

Whilst you think about that, here are some more puzzles to keep you reviewing important skills, for all years, over the break.



- | across | down |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1) $n - 8 = 3$ | 2) $2n - 7 = 17$ |
| 3) $n + 7 = 20$ | 3) $n - 3.5 = 6.5$ |
| 4) $4n = 1000$ | 5) $2n = 100$ |
| 8) $2n - 3 = 39$ | 6) $4n = 48$ |
| 10) $2n + 4 = 24$ | 7) $\frac{1}{2}n = 50$ |
| 11) $n - 6 = 8$ | 9) $n + 29 = 40$ |

Maths Top Tips

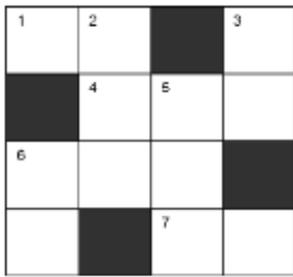
Mr Slack with help for Year 11 students as exam season approaches

After what feels like a very quick term, Year 11 are sitting their final mock examinations as I write this article. With little time remaining until final examinations start, it is important that they make effective use of the time they have left, in particular over the Easter break. To help them out here are my top tips for maths revision:

1. If you're not doing maths, you're not revising maths. Basically 'reading it' is not enough, you need to apply your work to questions, particularly examination questions, which can be found on the VLE.

2. Don't waste time doing what you can do. If you are spending time answering 'easy' questions which you get right time after time, then you are not using your time effectively. You will be far better spending your time working on the things you find difficult!

3. Make use of the resources made available to you. This includes www.mathsworkout.co.uk (Username: Lordswoodgs, Password: odd57); www.mathswatchvle.com (Centre ID: lordswoodboys, Username and Password: Same as school log in); and your CGP workbook.



across

1) $20 - n = 8$

4) $\frac{1}{2}n = 28$

6) $2n - 102 = 204$

7) $3n - 38 = 22$

down

2) $\frac{n}{5} - 21 = 22$

3) $\frac{1}{2}(30 - n) = 4$

5) $\frac{n}{11} - 7 = 5$

6) $\frac{2n}{11} + 8 = 10$

End Of An Era

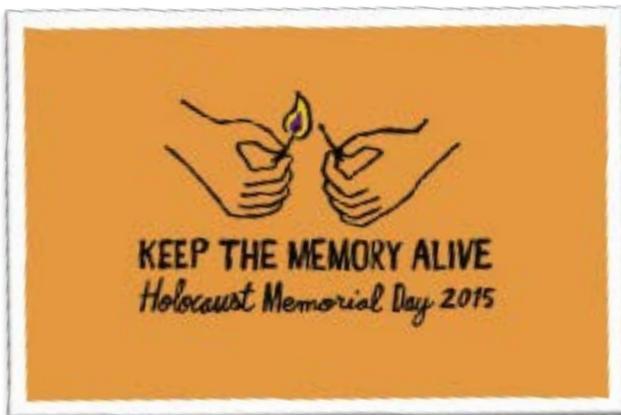
Year 13's Shanita Purewal says farewell to business studies students' venture, Iconic

As we have reached the end of an era, we are sad to say goodbye to our in-school business Iconic. Iconic was created and managed by myself and my peers, and gave us the opportunity to apply our business knowledge beyond the curriculum. This allowed us to really identify with the theory we had learnt in our business lessons.

We produced, packaged and sold various products from hot chocolate to daffodils over the years, to produce a profit. This helped us to appreciate the hard work and dedication that goes in to running a business. As well as helping to prepare us for our examination, creating Iconic has also helped to prepare for life beyond sixth form by teaching us tasks like how to budget costs, and giving us a glimpse into the world of work. We are very grateful for the opportunity that we have been given, and hope that future business studies students continue the legacy.

Heaps Going On In History

Miss Christian with stories of an exceptionally full term in the history department



The annual commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day on January 27th provides a fitting opportunity to engage in remembrance of the 9 million victims who perished as a result of the Nazi regime. As ambassadors for the Lessons From Auschwitz project, we had the privileged opportunity of delivering assemblies to Years 7-13 during this week to share our own experiences of visiting Auschwitz last year.

This year, the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day was 'keeping the memory alive' and we aimed to focus on the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust and the important lessons we can learn from this atrocity. Whilst the horror of the Holocaust is beyond human imagination, and perhaps lies as merely a distant event in the minds of many young people, its relevance is incredibly prominent today. We may dismiss fear of any such atrocity occurring today on the basis that we live in a supposedly 'modern society', yet in our key stage 5 assemblies we were able to think of endless examples of prejudice, discrimination and hate crime that are witnessed every day. Thus, we must remember to assess our individual roles and responsibilities in society and remember that indifference to events occurring around us can easily become participation. We all have a responsibility to challenge such discrimination and to promote equality and acceptance.

The powerful testimonies of brave survivors have undoubtedly played an important role in helping us remember the Holocaust, yet the fear is that these survivors will not always be here to share their stories. When presenting to key stages 3 and 4, we shared the story of Ann Kirk and the Kindertransport programme that saved her (and thousands of other Jewish children) from the horror of the concentration camps and allowed her to start a new life in Britain. Ann continues to share her experience today and whilst the raw, live testimony of a survivor is irreplaceable, it is our role to carry forward their experiences and stories and to 're-humanise' the statistic of 9 million. It seems that to fail to remember the Holocaust would be a betrayal of these nine million individual human beings.

Amelia Wilkinson and Asid Khan



Chilling images of the Nazi death camp

Mock Trials

Over the past few months our team have been preparing ourselves for the Birmingham Local Heat of the Magistrate's Court Mock Trial which took place on Saturday 21st March. We arrived in the morning and were warmly greeted by the staff at the court. The building itself is astonishing with very grand architecture and its historical elements have led it to be one of the few listed buildings in town.

We were fortunate enough to be granted permission to take a tour around parts of the court although we were unable to view the entire building as areas of the building were in session for real cases.

Our team, consisting of twelve girls, were divided into three different titled roles: prosecutor defendant and magistrates (examples of the roles are lawyer, legal advisor and witness). Each role had equal importance in the case and forming our enthusiastic team. Before the actual competition proceeded, we were taken to a court room to practise and the magistrate assigned to our school explained the features of the court room setting e.g. the witness box, retiring room and the public gallery.

When the official case commenced, we were both excited and confident in our ability although the natural nerves surfaced from being observed by professionals. As we were competing with schools acknowledged for their achievements we were ever more determined to present to them our capability.

As a team we would like to say a special thank you to Miss Christian who has dedicated her time and effort into supporting our team and providing us with this opportunity. We would encourage other pupils to participate next year in order to gain this valuable experience.

Simran Minhas 9R

The Mock Trial Team were:

Defence Lawyers	Magistrates
Aysha Oakes	Jaspinder Shoker
Hanna Oakes	Simran Minhas
	Sanna Shazad

Witnesses	Prosecution Lawyers
Imogen Reeves	Ameena Masood
Saba Shazad	Aishah Faizal
Amelia Palin	
Sonia Dhillon	



Lordswood's formidable mock trial team ready for action
Oxbridge Lecture

Earlier this year, our class received the opportunity to have Professor Rachel Murphy from Oxford University provide a lecture style lesson on 'China's Road to Socialism.' The lesson covered content on China before Communist power and then its road to Socialism in

terms of economic development, international relations and social reform.

The lecture was fast paced, and provided a circumstance extremely similar to a University lecture and as I will be studying history at University, I found this extremely beneficial. The lecture provided a great level of detail, which expanded our knowledge on China's history and therefore lent itself to our studies of the Cold War, in which China become a key player following its affiliation in the Korean War.



Students with Professor Rachel Murphy from Oxford University

As a result, this deeper knowledge can now be used for factual detail when essay writing, and can make us stand out in the examination, making Professor Murphy's lecture an extremely helpful experience. The lecture was overall an enhancing experience, which provided an excellent knowledge basis which can be directly applied to our studies, and was also very enjoyable as a lesson, with an opportunity to gain an understanding of what an Oxford lecture may be like.

RAF Cosford Trip

As a part of our History course we visited RAF Cosford which had a cold war museum.



An impressive exhibit at RAF Cosford

The museum had all sorts of air to air missiles like the Sky and the Flash, as well as ground to air missiles like the Alarm. The museum also contained hotspots, which went into depth on key events in the Cold War such as the Cuban missile Crisis and the Berlin Blockade. The hotspots provided us with some different perspectives on each event and helped supplement our knowledge. One of the most interesting exhibitions was of a Soviet car which was made from plastic, this emphasised the

difference between the economies of the US and the USSR at that time. Overall we had a really enjoyable time and found seeing these weapons in real life brought home the realities of the nuclear arms race. The visit helped enhance the course and I would recommend all keen historians make a visit!

Year 8 Linguists

Miss Siviter reports on a French-filled day for Year 8 students

On Thursday 26th February, 15 Year 8 pupils attended a Languages event at Hillcrest School, Birmingham. Students from a number of different schools in the area were invited to watch *Erreur d'identité* 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, Korean, 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.

Spring Success In Geography

Members of the Globetrotters team Jemma Mahey and Catriona Sharples describe some superb achievements

The LGS Geography Department has had its fair share of superb achievements, and it has continued to grow over the Spring term, to maintain this impressive record. Firstly, congratulations to our former student Elizabeth Palmer, for receiving a place at Cambridge University, to study geography next year! The department is extremely proud of her for this wonderful triumph, following her A level grade of an A*. Currently, Elizabeth is completing a 'Year in Industry' placement, at New Street Station, Birmingham. This is a redevelopment scheme that is also a part of the A level specification, showing how the lessons are clearly relevant to current affairs.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, GCSE interventions were held at lunchtimes, by Mrs Mellor and the Sixth-Form Globetrotters. These sessions were put in place to offer support and allow students to reach their full potential, as they prepare for their final exams. There are many beneficial aspects to these lessons: giving students one-to-one advice on exam practice; improving revision techniques and also providing them with the confidence that they can succeed. Last year, these sessions were definitely a contributing factor,

to helping the geography department achieve record-breaking results and we hope they will help do the same again!

Focussing on fieldwork, there have been some amendments to the Year 12 field trip. After developing a fantastic partnership with the Stansfeld Fieldwork Centre in Oxfordshire, and visiting the area for many years, it has unfortunately closed. We were grateful for being able to conduct an array of interesting and unique surveys along the River Windrush, which helped students to pass their fieldwork studies exams, at GCSE and AS Level. However, we have now formed a new alliance with the Preston Montford Fieldwork Centre in Shropshire. Here, Year 12 will be completing the fieldwork for the second part of their examination and putting classroom theory into practice. They will also be venturing into the famous Carding Mill Valley area. Let us hope it is a warm sunny day so the water isn't too cold!

Lastly, we hope that the success of the Geography Department is sustained this summer, and we trust that our current students will make us proud yet again.

Renaissance Accelerated Reading

Mrs Ashford with an update from the library

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

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

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

Also as part of the scheme 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 students' success.

Since the start of September 2014, Year 7, 8 and 9 students have read over 131,879,306 words and 2,880 books!

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

Most words read:
Rosemeen Gulshian 5,469,041

Most quizzes taken and passed
Sanna Wazir 7D- 28
Sana Shahzad 9D- 27
Fariha Anjum 9S- 22

Finally well done to the following KS3 review groups who have read a staggering 43,127,813 words between them (so far!!)

8G Miss Tooley 10,255,885 words
9W Mrs .Healey 10,257,222 words
9S Mr Clark 11,218,074 words
9L Mr Guppy 11,396,632 words
Well done!

Notification Of Traffic Survey

Please be aware of a survey on local roads

Just to make you aware on the 12th May between 7.00am and 7.00pm for one day, the Department of Transport will be carrying out a traffic survey based on Hagley Road West opposite Lightwoods Park. It will be carried out by Nationwide Data Collection and they are obliged to notify schools in the local area.

Contact Name is Ian Mcdonald on 07543 649615.

Year 8 Hit The Ski Slopes in Torgon, Switzerland!

Charlie Hitchco and Leilani Merrell of Year 8 describe the trip

On Friday March 6th, 15 Year 8 students took on the 26 hour journey to get to Torgon in Switzerland for a ski trip. The 15 girls had already had skiing lessons at the Ackers Adventure Centre, only a handful had skied on snow though, what a challenge! Miss Dhaenens came along with us to Torgon as Mr Baker was unfortunately unable to attend due to him recently becoming a father!

Upon arriving in Torgon, it was straight down to business with fitting with helmets, ski poles, and boots! The next day, it was an early start for Lordswood and the several other schools staying at the Gold Test Centre. We were separated into groups based on ability, making sure we

had at least one friend (although we were soon to make many others!)

After a hard day's skiing on the mountain, we had amazing evening activities to participate in, from rock climbing to a roller disco, torch lit skiing to s'mores making, and we certainly enjoyed the massive Pirate Disco at the end with our very own Peg Leg, Leilani!

By day four everyone was onto the bigger better and more difficult runs and on that very day we all had the opportunity to ski over to France where we had lunch.

On the last day, four people from each group achieved a ski medal. After saying our upsetting goodbyes to students from other schools, we got back onto our coach and embraced our 26 hour journey home. We also had lots of fun on the ferry playing 'Heads Up' with Miss Dhaenens (she's a pro now!) and meeting up with some other ski groups and friends.

We'd like to thank Mr Baker for organising such an amazing trip, we will never ever forget this once in a lifetime experience!

We would also like to thank Miss Dhaenens for being such a fun teacher on this trip!

Most of all we'd like to thank our friends for making the trip so enjoyable and also thanks to Scarlet for organising the present from everyone for Miss Dhaenens.

Hanna Spash
Isabelle Hewitt
Chloe Freeman
Eve Evans
Carys Blake
Scarlet Powell
Lotti Slowik
Ruth Shioleftou
Beccy Birley
Kiah McPherson
Chloe Ellis
Yannick Llaemand
Manisha Sidhu

High School Musical



Diary Dates			Thurs 11th June - History Showcase 7.00 - 9.00pm
Mon 13th April	-	INSET - school closed to students	Fri 19th June - Year 12 & 13 Performing Arts Showcase
Mon 13th April	-	Year 10 Gadget Show Year 12 geography trip	Mon 22nd June - Year 10 Sports Leaders Primary Festivals
Tues 14th April	-	School open for summer term, normal school day	Weds 24th June - Years 7-11 PSHEE and citizenship day
W/C 14th April	-	Year 10 mock exams all week	Thurs 25th June - Post 16 Celebration Evening
Fri 17th April	-	Sixth Form Easter Ball	Mon 29th & Tues 30th June - Year 10 Geography field trip
Thurs 23rd April	-	Non-uniform for Ghana Ghana quiz evening 7 - 9pm	29th June - 10th July - Year 12 work experience weeks
Tues 28th April	-	Whole school PSHEE and citizenship day	Weds 1st July - New intake Year 7 induction day
Thurs 30th April	-	Year 7 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 6.30pm	Fri 3rd July - Year 8 MFL trip
Mon 4th May	-	May Day bank holiday school closed to students	W/C 6th July - KS3 reviews with parents Year 11 post 16 focus week Council fundraising week
Tues 5th May	-	Normal school day	Tues 7th July - Year 10 French trip
W/C 5th May	-	Year 9 KS3 exams in core subjects	Weds 8th July - Horticultural show day
Thurs 7th May	-	Heart of Lordswood evening	Thurs 9th July - Summer music concert Year 10 Spanish trip
W/C 18th May	-	Year 7 & 8 KS3 exams all week	Fri 10th July - Sports day
Fri 22nd May	-	Non-uniform day Year 11 leavers' ball	Mon 13th July - Post 16 induction day
Mon 25th- Fri 29th May-		Summer half term	Tues 14th July - Oscars & Digital Technology evening
Mon 1st June	-	Normal school day	Weds 15th July - Summer fayre
Tues 2nd June	-	Year 10 sociology law courts trip	Thurs 16th July - Celebration evening
Thurs 4th June	-	Year 10 psychology Chester Zoo tip	Fri 17th July - School breaks up for students 12 noon
W/C 8th June	-	Year 10 reviews with parents	Mon 20th July - INSET - school closed to students