

# Lordswood News

## A Letter From The Headteacher

Dear Parents,

This has been one of the shortest Spring terms but, as you will see from this newsletter, there has been nonetheless a lot going on across the different areas.

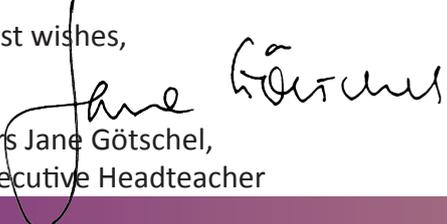
The climax of the term was this year's joint school production of Hairspray. I hope that many of you were able to attend one of the performances which, once again, were of a very high standard and it was particularly pleasing to see new stars coming through. Well done to all students involved and to the Drama and Music Departments across the two schools! Our basketball teams have enjoyed considerable success and last Friday the school supported Sports Relief with most of the school taking part in a sponsored run. Students have competed most impressively in the Mock Trial Competition and a group of students took part in the Birmingham City Council Trailblazers project. I hope that you enjoy reading more about this in this newsletter.

We recently met with representatives from the Education Funding Agency to discuss the sports hall and sixth form centre building project. Design plans are being finalised and there will be a follow up meeting after which we are hopeful that the funding will be released to enable us to commence the project. The plan is still to have the build completed by September 2017. Work continues also on the planned expansion of Harborne Primary School and Birmingham City Council are hoping to submit a planning application shortly.

The Spring term ends at **3pm on Thursday 24th March** and the summer term starts for all students on **Tuesday 12th April**. A number of revision workshops have been scheduled for year 11 students over the Easter holidays; invitations have been sent out and I would welcome parent support in ensuring that students attend.

I wish you all a very happy and enjoyable Easter.

Best wishes,

  
Mrs Jane Götschel,  
Executive Headteacher

## Congratulations are in order!

*Achievement Coordinators*

*with a big well done for our students*

The following students received chocolate Easter eggs for their achievements during the spring term. Nominated by their Achievement Co-ordinators, these students obtained an impressive number of praise slips across all subject areas. Mrs Peniket, Mr Baker and Mrs Uffindall congratulated the students, and awarded them with their prizes during end of term reward assemblies.



### Year 7

7D Farah Shah  
7D Jovita Manickam  
7G Ameena Ahsan  
7G Mariya Ahmed  
7L Dionne Hunter  
7L Sabah Hussain  
7R Nosheen Siddiqi  
7R Laiba Hassan  
7S Manpreet Sahota  
7S Juny Monama  
7W Iqra Rashid  
7W Maryam Naseem

9R Scarlet Powell  
9R Jasleen Sihra  
9S Henna Akhtar  
9S Zahra Hussain  
9W Ruth Shioleftou  
9W Sophie Gornall

### Year 10

### Year 8

8D Nikitha Raghunaathan  
8D Mehak Kohli  
8G Jodie Keight  
8G Hajra Aahmed  
8L Lydia Harris  
8L Joely Howard  
8R Camerun Jagpal  
8R Sniyah Mahmood  
8S Kiren Kaur  
8S Aishah Parveen  
8W Nicole Chikandwa  
8W Iqra Naseem

10D Sidra Shafique  
10D Maria Ashfaq  
10G Aysha Oakes  
10G Zoya Aftab  
10L Amina Mekic  
10L Navpreet Rai  
10R Eva Price  
10R Ellessa Allen  
10S Haleema Arzu  
10S Simran Kaur  
10W Laiba Hussain  
10W Zara Chaudhry

### Year 11

### Year 9

9D Lenaya Clue-Kelly  
9D Amelia Aykroyd  
9G Habiba Qadir  
9G Asma Hanif  
9L Avneet Biran  
9L Sarah Rahimi

11D Lucie Carr  
11D Abbie Thompson  
11G Aman Gill  
11G Madihah Tahir  
11L Tia Lawrence  
11L Ammaarah Samuel  
11R Gabrielle Redmond  
11R Rabiah Naiz  
11S Asmita Goswami  
11S Salma Mahmood  
11W Emily Montgomerie  
11W Tia Nelson



*Mrs Peniket's Year 7 Easter Egg winners*

## School Council Reflects On Success

*Simran Minhas details all that the council have achieved this year*

Productive, impactful and successful. Did this make you think of the School Council? Joking aside, School Council has been hard at work this term to make a beneficial change in both Lordswood and the wider community. We have listened to students' concerns and have been working on improving the school from feedback received.

Our four teams: Fundraising, Praise & Behaviour, Student Wellbeing and Eco-Schools all established goals to contribute to making this change.

So far, we have successfully organised a Christmas jumper day, and raised money for various charities, such as: breast cancer awareness and motor neurone, Ghana and, most recently, Sports Relief. We have raised a very large sum of money on these fundraising events and I would like to thank everyone for their on-going support and enthusiasm for the causes. I would also like to remind you all that we have two more fundraising events in the calendar and that all ideas to raise money, as well as charities to donate to, are definitely welcome. Thank you again and happy Easter!

*Caila Ryner Chairperson of School Council and Fundraising Manager*

Our team have been liaising with senior staff to improve the praise system in Lordswood. We have been closely reviewing the merits awarded in lessons to establish guidelines for subject departments with regard to how many merits should be awarded. This is currently being trialled with the Geography department. Also, you may have seen the 'Keep Left' signs around school which we created to tackle the congestion issues in the corridors. Next term we aim to introduce new elements to the praise system and will be collaborating with the Student

Wellbeing team to reward those participating in clubs.  
*Aishah Fazal Chairperson of School Council and Praise and Behaviour Manager*

This year, the Student Wellbeing team have organised several themed dinners to be served in the canteen with the help of Mrs Avery. These themed dinners such as the Diwali and Chinese New Year dinner were a great success. Recently students have completed a survey in form time regarding the food served in the canteen as our team wanted suggestions as to how the school menu can be redesigned to best meet student wants and needs. The Student Wellbeing team will also be working with Place2Be and the Year 11 peer mentors, in the foreseeable future. I would like to thank everyone, on behalf of the Student Wellbeing team, for their contribution and encouragement!

*Saba Shahzad Deputy Chairperson and Student Wellbeing Manager*

The Eco-Schools team have been testing their green fingers in the allotment this term to grow some fruit and vegetables that should be ripe in the summer. We have also introduced recycling boxes into every classroom on the ground floor which we are sure students have been making use of. Hopefully we will be introducing bike sheds and LED lights in the future.

*Avneet Biran Deputy Chairperson and Eco-Schools Manager*

As a whole the School Council would like to thank students for all of their help - whether it was donating money for a charity or responding to our survey on the school menu - their generous contributions were greatly appreciated and helped us to make the student voice heard. Next term, we hope to see even more success and productivity within School Council. Student voice will always be heard.

We would like to thank Miss Pickford for her continuous perseverance and determination and we would also like to wish you all a happy Easter!

## Year 11 PSHEE Day

*Liberty Richardson reports on a hard hitting but important day*

On the 9th February 2016 we had our annual PSHEE day at school. Where normally we learn about careers, life and stress management, this day was different; this time we found out about things that are a really serious matter in the world today.

In the hall we were spoken to by a representative from the West Midlands Police – Alison Cope. She was very welcoming and kind; she showed us a video about the murder of Joshua Ribera – the fifteen minute video took us all on the roller coaster of the life and death of a famous upcoming rapper Depzman.

Many of us were left in tears after the experience; this was proof that knife crime was and is a serious problem. Then we were confronted with another shock, Alison Cope is Joshua's mother. Alison wasn't the face you'd expect to see; a smiling and kind face of a Mother whose child was only killed three years ago. She was like this because of who her son was; she didn't become the person who locked herself away (even though she admits to sitting in his bedroom and having a good cry every once in a while.) She was being the person her son was proud of calling his 'Mum'.

In class we were set the task of making a mix of different powerpoints, posters and a logo to fight against the amount of knife and gun crimes. One group had the task of making an assembly; they had to plan what they would say about guns and knives. Another group was responsible for researching case studies in our local area (Birmingham). My group had to create two morning review powerpoints for year 7 to 11s and another one for year 12-13s. Both show the effect of gun and knife crimes in the UK. The last group was in charge of planning the campaign by making a logo and a catchy slogan to make us remember why it is dangerous to carry a knife or gun. The unknown spoken victims of a murder is the murderer's family who are also affected and most killers never meant it to escalate so far.

In the end we learnt that guns and knives are bad; that is that, they are not items that should be carried around like a mobile phone. They are killers that you can hold and they get you in more trouble than anything; when you fire the first shot you have no idea who is going to get hurt – no idea if that person has a family or friends who care. What's the point of taking a life? When you're taking your own freedom? Gun and knife crime is a serious problem – it's about time we did something about it.

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## Awesome Applied Learning

### *Mrs Machin congratulates those involved*

As this term's Applied Learning programme comes to an end, I'd like to thank all of those students who have not simply been attending but have been throwing themselves into the sessions with enthusiasm and commitment.

The Debate Mate course was a huge success, with students learning how to construct their argument, deliver their point and respond to each other in a respectful and considered way. This group had some fantastic debates and lots of laughs along the way too. Students taking part in Mandarin have not only learnt the basic in Chinese Mandarin speaking but have also found out about Chinese culture and traditions. The balance was clearly found between classroom teaching and interactive activities as the students were always engaged and enjoying themselves. The multisports club

has certainly given the girls a run around! The students are put through their paces with fast moving activities; improving their stamina, precision and skill. Within each session the girls have been partnered up, put in teams and asked to play individually, not only improving their sporting ability but also allowing them to mix with new people and learn about adapting to the task in hand. Students are getting stuck in with the gardening club, helping to prepare the ground for future growing and harvesting. We always welcome help with this club, so if you have free time on a Wednesday afternoon and are happy to get your hands dirty then please get in touch. As always, the girls in the jewellery making club are enjoying the intricate work involved with making bracelets, keyrings and other trinkets. The students are welcome to take the items that they make home with them and these make lovely presents for friends or family members.

We will soon be displaying the programme for the Summer Term; places have already been allocated to students who have previously selected to do tennis, textiles, mini archery and self defence. However, if you are really keen to do any of these, it may be possible to add you in, just pop along and see me in GA11.



*Students experiencing the wide range of activities on offer on Wednesday afternoons*

# E-Safety Update

*Mrs Finucane with her termly e-safety update*

## Digital Leaders Programme

Lordswood Girls' School has recently signed up to and recruited nine students to the Childnet Digital Leaders Programme. The objective of this programme is to empower young people aged 11-18 years to champion digital citizenship and digital creativity within their school and to educate their peers, parents and teachers about staying safe online. This youth leadership programme will offer the students an exciting online community, structured training and ongoing support from Childnet's expert team, to make e-safety learning fun and effective and helping Lordswood Girls' work towards an outstanding whole school community approach to e-safety. Watch this space for more updates from the leaders.



*Meet our Digital Leaders*

## Emerging Trends – Anonymous Social Media Apps

### YIK YAK

This is an anonymous online app. It uses the GPS settings on your mobile phone or tablet to find your location and show you the most recent posts from other people around you within a 5 mile radius. As well as posting your own content, you can post and vote on other people's comments.



There are a variety of concerns that have been raised with the use of this app. Firstly the fact that it is anonymous has led to incidences of cyber bullying. The privacy settings are difficult to find and use which means comments on the site are public which anyone can respond to including strangers. It is not intended for use by anyone under the age of 17 and you may feel that the app is not appropriate for your child.

### KIK

This is an instant messaging app. It lets you create your own username and message others, including group chats. You can share photos, organise events, share games, news and anything of interest to you from the internet. The issue with this app is that your account is not tied to your smart phone contact list and therefore you can message a much wider range of users. As a parent you need to be aware that conversations and images can't be viewed publicly, which makes it much harder to monitor. Teenagers can post photographs on instagram and then invite viewers to "Kik me" privately to chat. There have been many reports of online grooming and sexting using this app. Education.com included Kik on it's list of "The 8 Worst Apps for Your Kids" earlier this year, saying it has "more to do with young teens flirting and sexting than just keeping in touch with friends."



You can download 'Kik: a guide for parents' produced by CEOP from the 'latest news stories' section of the Parent e-safety page on the school website.

New e-safety website from CEOP for parents and carers  
This new website supports parents and carers in protecting their children from abuse online. The site provides advice for parents who are concerned about their children, as well as those just looking to learn more about what they can do to keep their children safe.

You can visit [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents) from the 'Advice and useful websites' section of the Parent e-safety page on the school website.

# Of Mice And Men Theatre Trip

*Liberty Richardson reviews a recent trip to the theatre for GCSE English students*

Everyone who has taken GCSE English in the last few years (before the curriculum was changed) has probably read or heard of the novella 'Of mice and men.' The book itself is a brilliant story which you don't want to put down until you've reached the dramatic, but bittersweet ending to an excellent piece of literature. It is a treat to be able to see such a famous book played out in a theatre production; thanks to our English department, Year Eleven had the chance to do this.

As a kinaesthetic learner, I find it harder to learn by just reading and writing; this is why I found the theatre trip both enjoyable and educational. The actors played their characters perfectly (even if they did change the novella to fit their needs). It was still thoroughly exciting to watch and to see how different people from different places represent the characters that John Steinbeck created seventy nine years ago. But aside from the actual theatre, the trip itself was very fun and one of my favourite moments was when my English teacher, Mrs Brookes was pretending to be the character of Curley's wife in the seat behind me during the interval (American accent included!).

The overall experience was helpful and an entertaining night. It was nice to actually be a part of a real life story instead of watching it on a screen or reading it a book (I am not saying that reading isn't enjoyable!). I will probably end up going to more theatre productions with my parents, friends and other family members because the 'Of Mice and Men' theatre trip was truly inspiring.

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## Hairspray's A Hit!

*Mrs Swallow reflects on yet another successful joint school production*

A sold out Friday performance, where there really was standing room only, was a fabulous culmination to this year's school production of 'Hairspray'. The audiences really got on board to support the cast and make it a truly memorable experience for all of the students involved. I am immensely proud of the way they pulled together to achieve such a high energy and uplifting performance.



*The cast of Hairspray 2016*

My sincere thanks to all staff that helped out in any way but above all to the cast. It seems amazing to me how every year, no matter the struggles in rehearsals, the cast always manage to get it 'right on the night.'

*Some reflections from the cast*

"Doing Hairspray was the best experience I ever had in Drama, it gives you more confidence, and good experience of how acting is. It's so amazing that I'm taking Drama for GCSE's I loved it so much I didn't know why I didn't do it last year, but I am definitely doing it next year!!"

*Zoe Ka-NCube*



*The fabulous finale to the show*

"Being in Hairspray was something that my friends wanted me to do and I really liked it and I loved that I was a council member. I really liked working with my friends after school and meeting and getting to know other people. I am looking forward to the next production and I really liked the dancing ,singing and acting. I have made lots of new friends and can't wait for next year."

*Simran Hira*



*The cast during one of the most memorable numbers*

"Since year 7 I have been in every school production but Hairspray was by far my favourite. When I found out we were doing it I was so happy (it's one of my favourite films of all time) and when I found I got the role of Little

Inez I was even happier. She was such a fun character to play! Her lines were sassy and her solo in 'Run and tell that' has a great message behind it. I have also made so many new friends from doing Hairspray and my drama skills have definitely improved. I would advise everyone to do the school production next year as it's a great break from the stress of school! I can't wait!"

*Layla Mehay-Bennet*

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## Other Drama Goings-on

*More news from the Drama Department*

### London Trip 2016

Year 10-13 Drama and Music students once again took a trip to London. Students saw two west End Shows, 'The Woman in Black' and 'Wicked' and toured the famous Drury Lane Theatre. The diversity of these theatre performances will be of great use to their future studies in both subjects as well as allowing their cultural experiences to grow.



*Students thoroughly enjoying their trip to the Capital*

### Trailblazers

On Wednesday 3rd February the Trailblazers project came to an end. The project involved 120 students from 20 schools in Birmingham and allowed students to speak to the people that make the decisions in their city. Students participated in the final event at the Birmingham Council Chambers, completing workshops on budget setting, creating a coat of arms, placards for change and writing a speech about the things we would like to see changed in 'our Birmingham' The day culminated in the students taking a seat in the chamber itself (students in the councillors seats whilst the staff sat in the public gallery) and learned about how the sessions were conducted with their own presentations. The Lord Mayor of Birmingham addressed the students and the finished 'alternate map to Birmingham' was presented to each student. The students have shared their ideas fluently and purposefully making their mark on the project. They were a credit to the school and themselves.

Congratulations to:

Sara Bailey-Reason  
Heblin Bonilla  
Phoebe Couch  
Jasmine Davis  
Amelia Malcolm  
Bethany Nicholls

Here are a few of the images from the day to wet your appetite.

For further details of the project visit <http://www.stanscafe.co.uk/trailblazers.html> where the final map and Prezi presentation can be found at:

Photographs of the project can be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/bhamtrailblazers/>  
Visit Stan's Café Theatre You Tube page for more information.

Dates:

Year 12 practical examination  
Friday 22nd April at 6.30pm

Year 11 Practical examination  
Friday 13th May at 4.30pm

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## Science Week Investigations

*Mrs Farrah shares students' findings made during Science Week*

All KS3 students took part in a series of investigations into UV protection. Students were able to test a range of materials to see how much, if any, UV light was able to pass through. The experiments form part of the Royal Society of Chemistry's global experiment with data being uploaded from schools all over the world.

Students were then asked to relate their findings to evaluate which materials would be the most appropriate for use in space and in particular on the International Space Station. A video will be unlocked from Tim Peake when we have uploaded our data which we are all looking forward to.

More details on the experiment can be found here:  
<http://www.rsc.org/learn-chemistry/collections/experimentation/collaborative-chemistry/mission-starlight-global-experiment-with-uv-protection>

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## Sport At Lordswood

*Mr Guppy with an update from the PE Department*

### Basketball Academy

The Basketball Academy season is drawing to a close with a number of highs and lows experienced throughout the long season. It has been an incredible

effort from everyone involved to attend all the training sessions, compete in every single match and keep up to date with all other work and responsibilities. The players have all managed it and have done the school and trust proud in so many ways.

The West Midlands Basketball League Premier team had a slow start to the season losing its first 5 games against some really difficult opponents. Not being deterred by this, the results since Christmas have been more like the form Lordswood Basketball Academy expects, with a 7 win and 1 defeat end to the season with one game to go. No doubt all of the team will want to finish the season with the best possible team performance.

The Year 10 Girls team, made up of four year 10 students and six year 7 and 8 students has made it to the Birmingham Schools final after completing their nine league fixtures. The final will take place against St Paul's School for Girls at Nechells Community Sports Centre on Wednesday 20th April at 4pm. Hopefully the girls can end the season with a trophy after all the hard work and effort that they have put in throughout the season.

The start of the new academic year will see the season start up once again, hopefully with more girls' teams in the schools leagues and the WMBL side competing for the Premier Division title once again.



*Lordswood Basketball Academy team*

### **Sports Leaders Club By Mehwish Jahangir**

"The Sports' Leaders club is a great experience to teach our skills to others. It allows us to improve and develop our skills in Sports and is very fun. It helps us to develop the Sports Leaders skills we need for our PE course. The club takes place every Monday after school, from 3 to half 4. At the moment we are delivering netball sessions in 'Our Lady Of Fatima Primary School'. Next term, we will deliver rounders sessions in Saint Mary's Primary School. Then, in the Summer term, we will deliver some sessions in City Road Primary School. In total, 8 Year 10 students go and work in pairs to deliver these sessions. We teach a skill of the sport to a small group of primary school students each week. We rotate and teach a different group each week so by the end of the half term,

the primary school students will have learnt all the skills of that particular sport. "

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## **Year 8 Languages Day**

### *Miss Dhaenens reports back from a language conference at Hillcrest School*

On Friday 18th March, 12 year 8 pupils attended a languages conference at Hillcrest School, Birmingham. Students from a number of different schools in the area were invited to watch Les Garçons 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 Italian, Latin, and German to Japanese and Russian.

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

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## **Easy Fundraising! Have You Signed Up?!**

### *Miss Hegarty with details on how you can earn money for LGS while you shop!*

Thank you to all the parents who have recently signed up to Easyfundraising which helps to raise FREE funds for the school. We have raised £210 so far, which is fantastic!

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online, from your weekly shop to your annual holiday, you could be raising a donation for Lordswood Girls' School?

There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's really simple, all you have to do is:

#### **1. Join.**

Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lordswoodgirlsschool/> and sign up for free.

#### **2. Shop.**

Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.

#### **3. Raise.**

After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to LGS at no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Lordswood Girls' School will be really grateful for your donations.

Think  
**shopping,**  
think  
**easyfundraising**



Don't forget to help **Lordswood Girls' School - Harborne** raise free donations. Remember [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) every time you shop online.

It doesn't cost you a penny extra!

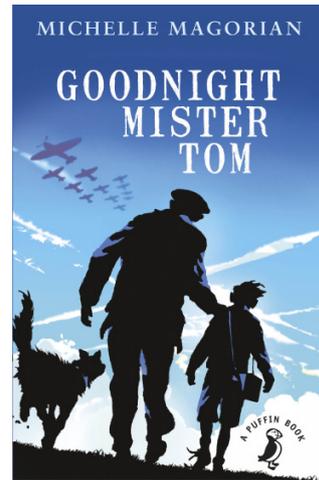
Collect donations...  
Online | Mobile | In-store

Find out more and join here:  
[easyfundraising.org.uk/https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lordswoodgirlsschool/](http://easyfundraising.org.uk/https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lordswoodgirlsschool/)



around, he mourns for him. Tom doesn't want to leave Willie so he kidnaps him!

Soon after Willie learns of Zach's death. He is heartbroken and blames himself for his friend's passing. Mister Tom tries to persuade Willie he can't grieve forever; a lesson he has to try and learn himself too. The novel ends happily though as Tom is allowed to adopt Willie. 'Dad' is the name Willie now calls Mister Tom; Tom feels something he hasn't felt in a long time - family love. This book shows me that a family isn't just formed by blood ties but those who care for you and will do anything for you. This is a wonderful book and one I highly recommend to all.



## Goodnight Mr Tom - A Review

*Maryam Nassim on a story which she loves*

'Goodnight Mister Tom' is about a little, lonesome boy, 'Willie', who was left on the doorstep of a cantankerous, grouchy old man called Tom Oakley. At first the two have no connection and feel awkward. But through the story the characters start to bond. You wouldn't think a deprived child and a grumpy man would end up loving each other, but surprisingly they do! Willie soon makes friends and you could say that he has a best friend in a boy called Zach. Later in the novel, Willie and Tom are both saddened when they learn Willie's mother is ill and wants him back. At this point they begin to love one another dearly and are upset by this news.

The parting of Tom and Willie is presented as being very emotional for them both. This is shown when the writer says 'they hadn't exchanged many words; they both felt too numb'. The use of the word 'numb' shows the emotional effect on both characters. The emotion in the novel grows later when Tom saves Willie from his cold-hearted mother who just had a baby. Willie and his little infant sister are left under the stairs while the mother commits suicide. When Tom saves Willie, he and the warden find the innocent baby is dead.

Willie is seriously injured so he is put in hospital and Tom is told he can't look after Willie as he isn't related to him. When Willie realises that Mister Tom isn't

## Congratulations From Mrs Miller

*A huge pat on the back for all our health and social care students*

I would firstly like to congratulate all students on their progress and achievement in health and social care. It has been a busy term with examinations and assignments and all students have worked exceptionally well.



*Some of the baked goods produced by students*

I also wanted to share with you some of the work year 11 have been carrying out. In class we have been

investigating the benefits of creative and therapeutic activities. The task required them to select, plan and implement a creative and therapeutic activity. We have enjoyed a game of bingo, a drawing lesson, therapeutic colouring, a photography lesson and a range of baking activities. All students led their own activities and did an excellent job! Teachers in the making!

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## Active Citizens At LGS

### *Miss Christian reports on the community involvement of our students*

Active Citizenship Awards were presented to students in recognition of their contributions to the school and their community. Students were nominated by members of staff for:

- charitable or voluntary work at school or in the wider community
- advocacy and representation
- developing citizenship skills or knowledge
- encouraging compassion, tolerance and respect for others

Hasina Ahmed was nominated for her incredible activism in the local community by her review tutor Miss Miller, "In Year 11 she was a prefect, in 2014 she walked 8km in aid of the penny appeal, and a sponsored walk for Al-Aqsa. She currently volunteers at a club on a Sunday where she works with young children in her community and helps plan and teach lessons. She is also a young governor at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospital and she attends meetings to discuss changes and share her opinions with others."

A group of Year 10 students were nominated by their PE teacher Miss Hart for community activism; "They have been working hard during the Autumn term to plan coaching sessions for primary school children. They have just started going into primary schools this term to run extra-curricular clubs in a variety of activities. They will be working with our Lady of Fatima, City Road and St Mary's primary schools every Monday after school until the end of this academic year. While they have only had one session so far the primary pupils and staff were all very complimentary and the year 10s really enjoyed themselves."

Well done to Iman Raza, Olivia Watson, Lara Vizor, Saha Shahzad, Rosemeen Gulshan, Kainat, Dilawaiz and Mehwish Jahangir.

Miss Preston nominated Jasdeep Samra for his advocacy on the issue of Sikh oppression. He was the artist behind pieces that have been displayed in Gurdwaras in Birmingham and London.

If you know of a student who deserves to be recognised for their contributions, please complete a nomination form and submit to Miss Christian.

## News From Year 12

### *Mrs Leadbetter with all that's been going on in the sixth form*

Students in year 12 have been taking the lead in their year group assemblies this year, developing valuable teamwork and presentation skills along the way. Each review group chose their own topic on subjects of interest and relevance to them. With lots of help and support from their review tutors they have delivered assemblies on topics ranging from dealing with stress to drugs and driving.

It takes a lot of courage to stand up in front of your peers so a huge well done to the review groups who have risen to the challenge so far:

12.1 Mr Goetschel, 12.3 Miss Hussain, 12.5 Mrs Pearce and Mrs Southerton, 12.6 Miss Clarke. We look forward to forthcoming assemblies from 12.2, 12.4, 12.7 and 12.8.

On PSHEE day this year students in year 12 experienced basic first aid training delivered by the Red Cross. During the session students learnt how to react in an emergency situation and to administer basic first aid. All year 12 students visited the careers fair organised by Ms Baker and gained valuable knowledge about the opportunities available to them once they leave sixth form.

#### **Year 12 Achievements**

Each week in assembly year 12 students are commended for their achievements in our 'weekly well done'. Students who have received a special well done this term include Patience Kanjira, Shirley Manungo and Salome Atunde who spoke to year 12 on behalf of the NCS youth project; Hana Iqbal and Saylah Hussain who represented the school on a recent trip to Auschwitz; and Ricardo Pope after we received a letter of praise from his work experience placement.

Congratulations to all the year 12 students who took part in the Sports Relief mile run on Friday 18th March, especially to Mourice Palmer who ran lap after lap with, what seemed like, inexhaustible energy; and to Valentina Zanetto and Amanpreet Bhopal who kept coolly running when many others had stopped.

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## Parents' Forum

### *Mrs Van Zeller with an update*

A forum was held this term in March and attended by about 10 parents and governors.

Topics of discussion included:

- Lockers and congestion
- Choice at lunchtimes at the end of the queue
- Internal exams
- Year 9 option blocks
- Breakdown of topics within subjects

Parents then broke into groups and discussed the topic of how emotional wellbeing is dealt with in the school. These discussions provided useful feedback and pointers for planning in the future.

The next forum will be on Wednesday 29th June at 7pm at the School. Please let the clerk know of any topics you would like covered (t.van.zeller@lordswoodtrust.co.uk). All parents are welcome.

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# Holocaust Memorial Day

*Lucy Leggett and Francesca Iafrati fill us in on a moving project at Lordswood*

This year's Holocaust Memorial Day theme was 'Don't Stand By.' Elie Wiesel, a survivor of the Holocaust, said: "I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."

The Holocaust and subsequent genocides took place because the local populations allowed insidious persecution to take root. Whilst some actively supported or facilitated state policies of persecution, the vast majority stood by silently – at best, afraid to speak out; at worst, indifferent. Acknowledging the role of bystanders encourages us not to allow persecution to go on unchallenged.

## What we hoped to achieve

In 2014, anti-Semitic 'incidents' in the UK reached their highest ever level – double the number of incidents in 2013. Anti-Muslim hate crimes tripled in London after the Paris attacks. In 2014, hate crimes motivated by racism, religion and homophobia in London rose by 20%.

And if you think that we don't use concentration camps anymore – what about the 'jungle' in Calais? Or the refugees in Cardiff forced to wear identifying wrist bands? Or the doors of refugees being painted red in Middlesbrough?

We live in a world where Donald Trump declared that he wants to ban all Muslims from the US, and his audience cheered. It is just as important as ever to not stand by and allow these things to escalate. This is why Holocaust Memorial Day is still hugely relevant and important – we don't want to repeat the mistakes and crimes of the past. Also the mistakes of denying refugees refuge in WWII should not be reproduced, and the dehumanisation of those fleeing from war and their portrayal as cowards, economic migrants and/or undeserving of our help or our healthcare and support should not happen. We should treat them in the same way as we would expect British people to be treated

and not denied basic human rights and banned from nations for being the 'wrong religion' to seek asylum from a murderous regime. This project serves as a warning against European solidarity and worldwide solidarity being lost to far right reactionary politics and hatred fuelled by fear based on myths used to keep us in line and divided.

"Hitler exterminated the Jews of Europe. But he did not do so alone. The task was so enormous, complex, time-consuming, and mentally and economically demanding that it took the best efforts of millions of Germans. All spheres of life in Germany actively participated: businessmen, policemen, bankers, doctors, lawyers, soldiers, railroad and factory workers, chemists, pharmacists, foremen, production managers, economists, manufacturers, jewellers, diplomats, civil servants, propagandists, film makers and film stars, professors, teachers, politicians, mayors, party members, construction experts, art dealers, architects, landlords, janitors, truck drivers, clerks, industrialists, scientists, generals, and even shopkeepers—all were essential cogs in the machinery that accomplished the final solution."

HMD is a time when we seek to learn the lessons of the past and to recognise that genocide does not just take place on its own, it's a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not prevented. We're fortunate here in the UK; we are not at risk of genocide. However, discrimination has not ended, nor has the use of the language of hatred or exclusion. There is still much to do to create a safer future and HMD is an opportunity to start this process.

## Our project

One of the principal aims of the Holocaust Educational Trust is to re-humanise the victims of the Holocaust. When confronted with the fact that 6 million people died at the hands of the Nazis, it's easy to forget that each of them had their own life before and during the Holocaust. In order to remind students of each person's individuality, we created a tree based on those planted in the Yad Vashem memorial. Each student was given a short biography of someone affected by the Holocaust – victims from all around the world, of all ages; religious and secular – after which they wrote the name of their person and something that struck them about their story on a leaf. The result was a vibrant tree, displayed in the hallway of the school as a constant reminder that each person was impacted by the Holocaust in a different way, and that their lives shouldn't be defined solely by their victimhood.

A series of assemblies accompanied our tree project, covering the subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, as well as the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust in light of the prejudice some media outlets and individuals have shown towards the victims of the European Migrant Crisis. We also focused on the stories of Hannah Goslar and Anne Frank, whose inspiring friendship demonstrates that even in the midst

of suffering, humanity endures. With each of these assemblies the aim was to reveal the many layers of the Holocaust – its effect on individuals, how genocide has not been limited to the Nazis’ reaches and how the lessons it teaches are still pertinent even today.



*Just one of the moving details on the Holocaust Memorial tree*



*LGS’ incredible Holocaust Memorial Tree*

## BBC micro:bits!

### *Exciting news from the ICT Department*

The BBC has unveiled the BBC micro:bit, a pocket-sized codeable computer with motion detection, a built-in compass and Bluetooth technology, which is to be given free to all schools across the UK. A collaboration between 29 partners, the micro:bit is the BBC’s most ambitious education initiative in 30 years, with an ambition to inspire digital creativity and develop a new generation of tech pioneers. The UK currently faces a critical skills shortage in the technology sector and the BBC and partners aim to help change that. In the 1980s, the BBC Micro introduced many children to computing for the first time and the BBC micro:bit,

part of the BBC’s 2015 Make it Digital initiative, will build on the legacy of that project for the digital age. It aims to inspire young people to get creative with digital and develop core skills in science, technology and engineering.

Key features of the micro:bit include:

- 25 red LEDs to light up, flash messages, create games and invent digital stories.
- Two programmable buttons activated when pressed. Use the micro:bit as a games controller. Pause or skip songs on a playlist.
- On-board motion detector or “accelerometer” that can detect movement and tell other devices you’re on the go. Featured actions include shake, tilt and freefall. Turn the micro:bit into a spirit level. Light it up when something is moved. Use it for motion-activated games.
- A built-in compass or “magnetometer” to sense which direction you’re facing, your movement in degrees, and where you are. Includes an in-built magnet, and can sense certain types of metal.
- Bluetooth Smart Technology to connect to the internet and interact with the world around you. Connect the micro:bit to other micro:bits, devices, kits, phones, tablets, cameras and everyday objects all around. Share creations or join forces to create multi-micro:bit masterpieces. Take a selfie. Pause a DVD or control your playlist.
- Five Input and Output (I/O) rings to connect the micro:bit to devices or sensors using crocodile clips or 4mm banana plugs. Use the micro:bit to send commands to and from the rings, to power devices like robots and motors.



*The BBC micro:bit, coming soon to LGS*

## Engineering Education Scheme

### *Miss Bukreedan with an update on the project*

Four year 12 maths students are participating in the EES project this year. They are Hasan Al-Dhufari, Ayesha

Maqsood, Hadis Mohamadi and Paige Smallman. The students are working alongside a mentor from Network Rail to develop a solution to monitor a more efficient track drainage system.

As part of the project, the students attended a two-day residential at the University of Birmingham. During these two days, the students worked as a team to use the facilities available at the university to build up their prototype, experiment with their ideas and make 3D-designs. Furthermore, this was an excellent opportunity to experience University life, working with other schools and being away from home. The students explained "We first worked together to construct our model, whilst Hasan was fixing the water sensor. Then, we started testing the water sensor at different levels of blockages, like soil, sand and leaves. Hassan was using Google Sketchup to develop 3D CAD designs for our report. The highlights of my residential trip were having most of the day for prototyping and testing and getting to know each member of our group. Lastly, we had to do a 5-minute presentation to all the groups. Overall, it was a great experience and we learnt a lot about team-work and communication skills."



Our students at Walsall Training Centre

## Students Review PSHEE Day

Mrs Peniket interviews Year 7 students and reveals her findings

Year 7 students attended five workshops on PSHEE day on 9th February, 2016, consisting of drama, first aid, emotional wellbeing, health, friendships and puberty. The drama and first aid sessions proved to be the most popular sessions, and the students made the following comments:

"I have learnt about mental health and can now differentiate between mental and ill health. I also know what feelings cause mental ill health and know what to do to stay mentally healthy."

Layeba Khan (7G)

"I enjoyed the 'First Aid' session the most as we learnt about the recovery position and what to do in real life situations. We also heard about how some people from our school helped an old lady when they were by the bus stop."

Alana Higgins (7W)

"I enjoyed the 'Puberty and Growing up' session because I learnt a lot of new things that I didn't know before; it was really informative about what would happen to us in the coming years as we grow up."

Ardita Cami (7G)

"I enjoyed the Drama session because we got to act out different situations. What I learnt is that bullies come in all shapes and sizes. I also liked the First Aid session because it showed you what to do in an emergency and this will be very useful in the future."

Alisha Symons (7W)

## Talent In Media Studies

Mrs Leadbetter sums up a busy term

As ever it has been a busy term in media studies as students complete their practical production projects. After analysing the way gender is represented in Lego advertisements, year 11 students produced their own toy advertisements aimed at a particular gender. The results have been very interesting with some students deciding to go against gender stereotypes in their choice of image, colour and tagline, whereas as others have followed Lego's example and made the gender divide very clear. Here are a few examples of the results.



Students in year 12 have written articles, taken photographs and designed their own music magazines and year 13 have produced a music promotion package.

Level 3 Diploma students have learnt to use new software this term and can now design vector images using Inkscape. They have used their new skills to create their own logo and T Shirt designs.



*One of the vector logos designed by media students*

## Lessons From Auschwitz

### *The reflections of our students following their visit to Auschwitz*

Two students visited Auschwitz as part of the Holocaust Education Trust's Lessons From Auschwitz (LFA) program. This involved attending a seminar before the visit to hear a survivor speak, a one day visit to Poland, and a workshop after the visit to think about what steps they could take to raise awareness of the consequences of prejudice and discrimination in our lives today.

Hana Iqbal explains the impact of the visit on her: "My journey to Auschwitz is one that will never be forgotten and an experience that will never be overlooked. The reason why I took part in it was due to wanting to understand more about what events took place in Auschwitz. I felt that instead of just hearing about something in lessons or reading about it in a book, seeing it for yourself is more influential. Experiencing something first hand allows you to reflect on it better as you can try more to understand and see what happened during World War 2.

The initial perceptions that I had were in some ways different from what it was. I expected it be quiet. Part of me was unsure what to expect as you can never really predict how you are going to feel until you're there, standing in a concentration camp where you know millions of people were tortured and killed for no reason other than the fact that they were Jewish, disabled or even homosexual. All my expectations of Auschwitz were challenged when we arrived.

We first went to Auschwitz 1 which wasn't what I expected. As we were walking around it, there were many other people whereas; I thought it would be quieter. There were lots of different blocks where different things would happen to the prisoners such as the 'experimenting lab' where horrific experiments took place. We had the chance to go into the gas chambers which was terrible. You could see scratch marks on the grey walls and it was so dark. However, what shocked

me the most about this camp was that there were houses very nearby. I couldn't comprehend how people could live so near to the tragedy that was occurring right next to them. Nevertheless, they were bystanders who couldn't risk anything happening to them or their families.

Auschwitz 2 was the camp that really surprised me. It was so vast in size which was why it took so long to get around it. It looked gloomy and it was so quiet. However, it looked more like what I expected in comparison to Auschwitz 1. At the end of the day we were joined by a rabbi to hold a memorial service where we lit candles on the railway track. The rabbi made such an inspirational speech. It was really emotional as we were sitting in Auschwitz 2, in the dark, in silence. The Rabi shared stories with us about what happened in the war; these made me upset but grateful for what I had.

Although it was an emotional experience, I have taken a lot away from it. The main thing I learnt is that even now I can never truly understand what happened because I didn't live it. However, as an ambassador of LFA I can make sure that it is never forgotten and we will reach out to the rest of the school by holding an assembly in the coming year to make sure that this tragic event will never be forgotten."

Sophie Caprioli explains her motivations for taking part in the visit;

"Before I began the LFA project I was always interested by WW2 and the holocaust and subsequently I read many books on this topic such as Anne Frank's Diary, 'Alone in Berlin' and 'Hanns and Rudolf'. However, I had never heard a holocaust survivor speak or even come close to understanding what it must have been like to have gone through such a horrendous experience. One of my main aims in participating in the LFA project was to try and understand more about what it would have been like to be not only a Jew, but also a member of an ethnic minority, or someone living with a disability or having political beliefs differing from the Nazis, during, before and after the war.

During the orientation seminar we had the fantastic opportunity to hear Rudi Oppenheimer, a holocaust survivor, speak about his experience. When we hear that six million Jewish victims were killed during WW2, it is difficult to understand that each and every one of that six million was a human being with a family, especially in our society today where we are so far removed from that reality. Listening to Rudi speak highlighted how, like us, those Jews were normal, law abiding citizens. Rudi explained to us how drastically his life changed during the war to a point where he and his family were deported to Bergen Belsen, having to suffer terrible conditions which sadly resulted in him losing both his parents and grandparents. The fact that it's so difficult to try and understand what it might have been like to have gone through such a terrible experience demonstrates how important it is that we never forget the holocaust and those who tragically lost their lives.

Before visiting Auschwitz, I wasn't sure what to expect, as the only pictures I had seen were in black and white, from 70 years ago. What's more, when we visited Auschwitz 1, I was surprised at how insignificant it looked to the unsuspecting eye. What struck me was the fact that people were in such close proximity to the camp, in fact, the camp commandant's house was right next to the fence, - it would have been impossible not to have known what was going on. We were shown the piles of shoes, hair, glasses and suitcases as well as the hundreds of pictures taken of the Jews who first entered the camp. To see the devastating number of items taken from the Jews was overwhelming although, personally, the most significant image that stuck in my mind was the sheer size of Auschwitz Birkenau and the chilling view of the front entrance.

I think that one of the most important lessons I've learnt from the Auschwitz trip is that, in the words of the Chief Rabbi "you will never understand what it was like to be at Auschwitz", although, visiting is the closest you'll get. Therefore, the LFA trip has inspired and highlighted the significance of teaching new generations about the holocaust so we can learn from history to make sure it never repeats itself. "



*The terribly familiar railway into the camp*



*Just a few of the family photographs of victims who never left the death camp*

# Business Students Raise Money For Sport Relief

*Philip Tafireyi with news of a charity football tournament*

On Thursday 17th March as part of my BTEC Business course myself and my peers Giandeep, Rakha and Rahul ran a Sixth form Football tournament and this involved about 50 year 12 and 13s. The event ran from 3:10pm till 4:20pm and it was a very successful event which had staff and students who came to either take part or support their peers. We were able to raise £50 from a cupcake sale which was held at break time and then were able to raise a further £20 from the football tournament. We are still planning the finals which will be played against the two teams and they will then play against the staff.

# Renaissance Accelerated Reading Scheme

*An update on our avid readers from Mrs Ashford*

All Key Stage 3 students are involved in the Accelerated Reading Scheme. Students pick books within the reading levels they are given by their teacher after they have completed a STAR test, and once they read their book, they complete a quiz on the website which helps to ensure they understand what they have just read. Students need to attempt the quiz no more than 48 hours after reading the book.

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 2015, Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils have read over 122,656,044 words and 2,627 books!

As the Spring term ends all students should be congratulated on their efforts but a special mention should go to those students who have read over two million words each!

Abigail Parker 7L	3,213,700 words read
Caitlin Norman 7S	2,268,948 words read
Falak Jan 7R	2,223,154 words read

Also well done to Taliya West 7D and Asma Hanif 9G who have passed five quizzes this term at 100%!

Congratulations to the following KS3 review groups:

9G	K.Tooley	5,878,652 words
7L	F.Briggs	5,253,127 words
8G	H.Sami/A.Sunley	3,275,059 words

And finally a special mention for 7X/EN1 (Miss Lynock and Mr Goetschel) who have currently passed 149 quizzes and read a staggering 9,144,679 words this term, an amazing achievement.

Well done!

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## Glorious Geography

*A review of the term from Mr Sami*

With the summer fast approaching, the Geography Department have been working alongside all examination groups in Years 11 and 13, as they prepare for their final examinations.

Year 11 will be provided with a seven week revision programme after Easter to focus on examination technique and tie up any loose ends. Whilst Period 6 (every Thursday at 3pm!) will be utilised to focus on gaps in revision for some students. The department will test student knowledge through quizzes and fact tests, conduct revision games and practise examination questions in lessons.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all students for their hard work and determination to do well. If anyone has questions or concerns, then they can pick up a pass for the lunchtime 'Geography Clinic' to speak to a teacher on a one-to-one basis to focus on areas of concern.

The geography department launched a new initiative in January 2016, called 'Greenery'. It was felt that students needed more time dedicated to responding to teacher comments in exercise books. Greenery gives the students directed time to reflect on comments and improve their work, whilst progressing towards, and hopefully beyond, their target grades. The initial feedback has been very positive (even about the Classical music that plays in the background!) and it is clear that students are adding more thoughtful responses with their green pens. We hope this continues in the future! We have attached an image of our Greenery logo, which all students are familiar with in geography.



## A Week In Torgon

*Mrs Baxter writes fresh from the slopes*

Myself and nine students from Year 8 spent a week in Torgon in Switzerland skiing in fantastic conditions with lots of fresh snow. Most of the girls were beginners but they soon improved and did the school proud whilst making friends with the other two schools on the trip.

We had different activities each night including roller skating, wall climbing, and night walks in the snow. It was a chance for the girls to develop self independence.

A great time was had by all and we all got back in one piece ! A big thanks to Karen Hill, Pete Steele and all the staff from the other schools and the centre in Torgon.



*Our budding skiers on the slopes and in their roller boots*

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## Year 9 PSHEE Day

*Taya Shervington-Powell on the activities*

In pshee day this term, we had a session on 5 things: Diversity Role Models, Consent, Prevent, Birmingham MedMinds (mental health) and a Careers Fayre. Each session helped us enhance key skills such as listening to others, communicating effectively, making important decisions and being mindful of everyone around us.

Most of the sessions were discussions where we would talk about our opinions on the topic. We also did a lot of activities that got us to work together but we also learnt a lot from it.

One of the sessions that many people liked was the Diversity Role Models which was about making us aware of the LGBT community and respecting other people's feelings. There were 2 people from the LBGT community who talked about their personal stories and it made many of us reconsider our opinions on them.

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## Marking International Women's Day

*Miss Christian reveals how Lordswood Girls' School marked this important day*

On Tuesday 8th March, we celebrated International Women's Day. Every year group attended an assembly by Klaudia Boguta, Sophie Todd and Jaskirat Kaur raising awareness of discriminatory laws around the world. The assembly focused on the campaign by women's advocacy group Equality Now against 44 governments for their discriminatory laws. A report was released over half term with the intention of launching a worldwide petition campaign and accompanied by the hashtag #UnSexyLaws.



After hearing some shocking facts, students were encouraged to join Equality Now's campaign by signing a letter of petition and sharing this via the hashtag on social media. ([http://www.equalitynow.org/beijing20/explore\\_laws](http://www.equalitynow.org/beijing20/explore_laws))

In addition to this, students spent time in their review groups exploring an aspect of women's history. Year 7 explored the role of Birmingham women in history including the suffragette Nellie Hall and the fundraiser Shahin Ashraf. Year 8 students investigated why when it comes to gender equality we are "Not There Yet" through exploring personal stories through the No Ceilings initiative. Year 9 discovered key female figures of the 20th century and discussed what makes a woman "inspirational". Year 10 considered how the role of women has changed since the 1950s through an article in Life Magazine in 1956 titled "The Ideal Woman" and compared it to our expectations of women today. Year 11 studied the issue of women's rights and explored personal stories about the struggle women have to assert these rights in other parts of the world.

## A Busy Term For Year 13 Students

*Ms Kauser reflects on a frantic year so far*

I'm sure everyone will agree with me when I say it's been a busy year in the Sixth Form – never a dull moment!

The year 13s embraced the year with a 'Can a pound make a difference?' competition and by George did they make a difference! Students put their creativity to the test and created some amazing products to sell on their stalls. Students designed promotional materials and the whole school was invited to come and buy the lovely merchandise. The event proved to be a huge success with students raising a massive £245! Review group 13.3 managed to raise £55.35 by themselves - a huge triumph!

By the time October was out we saw the appointment of Lucy Leggett as our new Head Girl and Naveena Varma and Efstathios Tetradis are our new Deputy Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy. There were a number of strong applicants this year so they have done very well and have been great ambassadors for the sixth form.

The lead up to Christmas was the busiest ever with over 100 students applying to go to university, yes that's over 100 UCAS applications that needed checking and rechecking (thank you to all the staff for all the support I hear the students say!) Many students have successfully secured places at some really prestigious universities, so the pain was all worth it in the end. During the madness of UCAS we also had a team of 6 sixth form students attending the Lord Mayor's Quiz at the University of Birmingham. The team, (Rizza Zahid, Nayomi Jaison, Khadeja Sameen, Genevieve Benton-Hawthorn, Leo Van Zeller and Hasan Tharoo), did LSFC proud and out of all the schools in Birmingham they made it to 15th position, yay!

One of our sixth form students, Jasdeep Samra, deserves a special mention for his achievements this year. Jasdeep has been posting images of his artwork on social media, It was through this forum that one of his drawings was selected for an exhibition. The work has been exhibited in Birmingham and in London. What an achievement! Jasdeep also spends a lot of his own time sketching/drawing homeless people and tries to have a positive impact on people's lives. Well done! Keep up the great work.

Review group 13.2 and 13.7 made a huge effort when it came to the Macmillan Coffee Morning. The students sold hot chocolate and muffins after school every day in the conservatory and rebranded their event as the 'Macmillan hot chocolate afternoon'! The event raised a grand total of £130 - wow! Well done to all those who were involved with the event and a huge thank you to Ms Virdee and Mr Mcmanus for their support!

During Sports Relief there was a good show from the Sixth Form. The students thoroughly enjoyed the event and really threw themselves into things - Aliu Drammeh managed to run a massive 6 miles ... well done!



*Students at the MacMillan Coffee Morning*

## Food Technology - A Student's Perspective

*Isabelle Smith and Emily Bains discuss their experience of the subject*

During food technology GCSE we have been working on creating and developing a product that meets the needs of our individual clients. We have been following a given brief and using this we produced a series of design ideas that we would potentially take on to the making process. We really enjoyed the creativity and freedom at this stage of the design process as we began to experiment with a variety of products and techniques.



*A delicious fruit filled pie*

Each week we were able to receive feedback on our product allowing us to evaluate our skills and ideas. We then picked some of our favourite creations and developed them week by week in order to explore improvements whilst working towards our final product. Using client feedback we then decided on the most

successful developments and combined these aspects to generate one final product. We enjoyed seeing all our ideas and hard work eventually coming together as one product. It was a rewarding conclusion to practical work in food technology. We have enjoyed the GCSE overall as it has allowed us to be creative and learn new skills and techniques that will benefit us in future life.

## Food Bank Donations

*LGS students again prove their generosity and kindness never ends*

Mrs Uffindall would like to thank all of the students who kindly made generous contributions to the Birmingham Food Bank in January. The girls donated a variety of products which can be used to make food parcels to help people in the local community who are currently struggling to provide regular meals for their families.



*Students with some of the donated items*

Birmingham Food Bank were extremely grateful for the food package which consisted of 4 large boxes full of tinned food, 1 large box containing cereals and cereal bars, 3 carrier bags full of pasta and rice, 1 large bag full of biscuits, 1 carrier bag of tea, coffee and sugar and a box of pasta sauces.



*Preparing to go to the Food Bank in Birmingham*

# Easter Sports Camps

## *Sporting opportunities throughout the Easter holidays*

Lordswood Easter Sports Camps are running for both weeks of the Easter Holidays at Lordswood Girls' School. With Tennis, Football, Uni-Hoc, Dodgeball, Benchball and more, we are bigger and better than ever! We are inside and outside so its fun whatever the weather! From £16 per day, its all at a great price too! For more information or to book please visit [www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/lordswoodtennisclub/coaching](http://www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/lordswoodtennisclub/coaching) or call 07946 469 506.

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## Lordswood Bake Off

### *Level 3 business students to hold a Bake Off inspired competition*

This year, as part of our level 3 business Btec course, we will be holding Lordswood's very first Bake Off inspired by none other than The Great British Bake Off. The Bake Off will take place on March 23rd and will consist of twenty candidates (ten pairs) who will produce 12 cupcakes each, which will then be judged by a panel of six judges. The winner will receive an award and all cakes will be sold the following day.

At break time on Thursday 24th March 2016, the cupcakes will be sold for between 50p - £1. So come on down and buy some delicious cupcakes and support under privileged children in Ghana!

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## More Mock Trial Success

### *Miss Christian yet again reports on LGS students achieving the very best*

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 19th 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 look around parts of the court and we performed our cases in two of the oldest court rooms.

Our team, consisting of twelve girls, were divided into three differently 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 in forming our enthusiastic team. Before the actual competition proceeded, we were taken to a court room to familiarise ourselves with it and our

associated magistrate explained the features of the court room setting e.g. the witness box, retiring room and the public gallery.

Our case this year examined an alleged assault on a taxi driver by a passenger, and an interesting claim of the defendant acting in self defence.

When the official case commenced, we were all excited and confident in our ability although the natural nerves surfaced from being observed by professionals. As we were competing against grammar schools and the regular winners of the competition, we were even more determined to demonstrate our own capabilities. Our defence were up first against Queen Mary's and proved their abilities to argue effectively securing a not guilty verdict for our defendant. In our second round our prosecution was pitched against St Francis of Assisi; despite our lawyers cross examining the witnesses and exploiting errors and inconsistencies in their testimony, the magistrates decided, there was too much doubt to find the defendant guilty.

A special congratulations to all who worked incredibly hard and were flawless professionals!  
Ruth Shioleftou & Saba Shahzad (Prosecution Lawyers)  
Charlotte Hitcho & Phoebe Howard (Prosecution Witnesses)  
Avneet Biran (Legal Advisor)  
Eleanor Pratt & Manisha Sidhu (Defence Lawyers)  
Jessica Todd & Samantha Mbano (Defendant and Defence Witness)  
Carys Blake, Leilani Merrill, Angharad Pearce, Adena Raynor & Jasmine Belle (Magistrates)



*Suited and booted and ready to go at the Law Courts*

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## Year 10 PSHEE Day

### *Amrita Dunn on Year 10 workshops*

The session about legal highs was very informative and very interesting. I learnt a lot of new things about legal highs and how, even though they are referred to as legal, it does not make them safe. I also learnt that legal highs are changed regularly to make sure they fit around

the law even if they contain hazardous chemicals like drain cleaner. The fact that the session was interactive made it more understandable and so therefore we were more interested in what we were learning about, in comparison to sessions where we sit down and listen for an hour. I would like to learn more in depth detail about legal highs as I think they are becoming an ever increasing problem along with illegal drug use.

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## Parent Governor Election News

### *News of the recent election*

Parent governor election. We are pleased to announce that Mr Simon Aykroyd has been elected unopposed. Mr Aykroyd has daughters in years 7 and 9. We will publish some background information in the summer newsletter.

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## Year 8 Hall Of Fame

*Year 8 have been drawing their favourite celebrity as part of their art lessons this term. Here are a few, can you guess who they are?*



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## An Artistic Reward

*Nicole Chickandwa with news from the Art Department*

In the last week before the Christmas holidays, a group of students from years 7-9 were awarded for their hard work in art by spending a whole day in an art workshop. The theme was poetry and we were looking at ways in which we can express poetry in our art. Two well-known poets, Serena Arthur (Birmingham young poet

Laurette) and Nabila Irshad, from Birmingham were invited to come in and share some of their poems. There were different inspiring poems for example; 'No place like home', 'A place in my mother's heart' and 'Winds over the river'. All of the poems had been written to create different emotional aspects including happiness, joy, anger and loneliness. After the poets had read their poems out loud, we had to choose a poem to create images for, I would say turning words into pictures. We were allowed to work in pairs or groups and could use any artistic materials we wanted to. This was a really good day and a great way to celebrate our achievements. On behalf of all the students who took part, thank you Miss Tooley and we hope this inspires other students to explore art and work hard. Who knows, sooner or later you could be doing something similar.

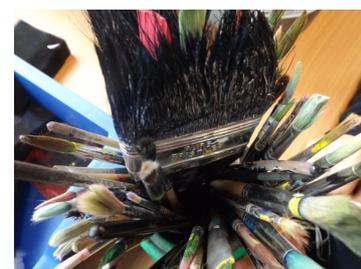
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## National Schools Photography Competition

*Students explore their creativity*

Students from across years 7-11 have been busy exploring how to take an innovative image that shows their aspirations for the National School Photography Awards. Students have been coming to lunch club to see how they might take some creative shots and think about what they might want to capture as their entry. See Miss Smith to find out how to submit an entry!

There are some great prizes on board and it has been really great to see some new faces in the department exploring their creative sides!



*Some of the wonderful images captured by students entering the competition*

# Diary Dates

Thurs 24th - 29th March - Year 10 Barcelona trip

**Thurs 24th March** - **School breaks up for Easter 3.00pm**

**Mon 11th April** - **INSET day, school closed to students**

**Tues 12th April** - **School reopens for all year groups 8.35am**

W/C 12th April - Year 10 exams all week

W/C 18th April - Year 9 exams week

Thurs 28th April - Year 7 Parents' Evening 4 - 6.30pm

**Mon 2nd May** - **Bank Holiday school closed to students**

Weds 11th May - Year 8 immunisations

W/C 16th May - Year 7 & 8 exams week

Thurs 19th May - Year 10 Parents' Evening 4 - 6.30pm

Fri 27th - May - Years 11 Prom

**Fri 27th - May** - **School breaks up for half term 3pm**

**Mon 6th - June** - **School reopens for all year groups 8.35am**

Thurs 9th June - Summer concert

Tues 21st June - Year 10 geography field trip

Thurs 30th June - Year 7 Induction Day

Fri 1st - July - 8 Bruges trip

**Mon 4th July** - **INSET day, school closed to students**

Fri 8th July - Ghana trip  
Fri 5th Aug

Thurs 14th July - Celebration Evening

Mon 18th July - Sports day

Weds 20th July - Summer Fayre

**Fri 22nd July** - **School breaks up for summer holidays 12 noon**

**Top up your child's lunch card online**

You should have already received a letter from school regarding online payments. This letter contains a code allocated to your child, which will enable you to register for online payments.

If you do not have this letter then please email [finance@lordswoodtrust.co.uk](mailto:finance@lordswoodtrust.co.uk) or contact the finance department and we will arrange for a new letter to be sent to you.

**Benefits include:**

- No longer need to send cash/cheques into school, no lost money
- You can see exactly what your child has been buying at school
- You know your child is eating a proper meal during the school day