



March 2012

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A Specialist Centre for Media Arts and Applied Learning

Lordswood News

A Letter from the Headteacher

Dear Parents,

As another busy term draws to a close, one of the highlights has got to be this year's joint school production, 'Grease'. Those of you who were able to join us for the performances will undoubtedly agree that this was the best production yet with an impressive standard of music and acting. Well done to both students and staff and a huge thank you to all who made this such a successful production.

There have been many other highlights over the term - visits local, national and international, fundraising events, project days and more; you will find reports of many of these in this newsletter.

Our basketball team has gone from strength to strength and achieved some significant victories against formidable opposition. Opponents have been impressed not only by the team's skills and commitment but also by their sportsmanship - they are great ambassadors for the school.

I should also like to commend students who have taken part on visits this term; it is always very pleasing as Headteacher to receive positive comments about the behaviour of our students when out on trips - they are a credit to themselves, their families and the school.

You are probably aware that we have launched parent reps for each year group; we are keen to increase parents' involvement in the life of the school and want to improve opportunities for parents to feed back their ideas and views. There is more information about this in this newsletter

and I am very grateful to those parents who have taken on this role.

Our new science block is nearing completion and we are aiming for an 'official' opening just before the summer half term - further details will follow nearer the time. We are now looking at how we might improve facilities in other areas of the school, making the most of funding available.

This term we say farewell to two valued members of staff, Mr Howes and Mr Riley. I should like to thank both colleagues for all that they have contributed to the life of the school and wish them well for the future.

Term ends on Friday at 1:10pm and the summer term starts for all students on Tuesday 17th April at the normal time. For Years 11, 12 and 13 students this is a busy time of the year as they undertake exam preparation. I hope that they will ensure that they achieve a sensible balance between revision and relaxation and that they will use the time remaining wisely and take advantage of support available.

I should like to wish you all a happy and relaxing Easter break and look forward to seeing you at the different events taking place next term.

With best wishes

Mrs Jane Götschel
Headteacher

Basketball Academy Update

Coach Guppy reports on how our boys have fared this season

As the basketball season draws towards an end, the team and all of the players can reflect on what has been a tough few months, with some valuable experiences and incredible improvements made by all involved. There have been too many highlights to mention but reaching a third men's league cup final in four years and maintaining the Premier league status for the second consecutive season are both among the best! Still time for one or two more highlights before the end of the season though....

It was a difficult start to the season with so many new players joining the squad and with the team learning to play together. After losing the first three games, the team began to find some form against very difficult opponents and finished at the Christmas break with a 3-6 record. The longer the season has gone on, the better the team has played. Recently the team went on a four-game winning streak, including beating the previously unbeaten (and top of the league!) Lasers team - easily the best performance of the season so far. With two league games to go, the team is sitting mid-table with a 7-8 record.

The Under-19 boys team is once again through to the last 32 in the England Basketball Schools competition and is due to play either Hartlepool or Doncaster after the Easter break, hoping to repeat the successes of previous years. Both opponents would be extremely difficult teams to beat but with the dedication and hard work shown by all of the players at Lordswood, they always have a good chance - regardless of the opposition.

The Rosebowl Plate Final is taking place on Sunday 15th April 2012 at the Doug Ellis Sports Centre (Wellhead Lane, B42 2SY). The game starts at 2pm, but two of our players have also been chosen to take part in the league All-Star game starting at 12 noon. Please feel free to come along and support the team for the final game this season - due to the handicap system, the team will begin 24 points behind and will need all the support it can get!

If you want any more information about the Basketball Academy or know anyone that might be interested in helping, please contact me at a.guppy@lordswoodgirls.co.uk and I will be happy to help!

Hope to see you at the final!

E-Safety Update

Mrs Finucane with info on Internet Safety Day, Facebook and Google 'Safesearch'

Internet Safety day

On 7th February 2012, we celebrated 'Internet Safety day'. The theme of the day was called 'connecting generations' which promoted the idea of the young working with the old to use the internet safely.

In school, Year 8 and 9 attended an assembly to highlight the issues around posting inappropriate photographs online and encouraging safe internet use. Year 10, 11 and the sixth form were given the opportunity to discuss their online behaviour during their review period and look at ways they could share their expertise with the older generation and promote what a fantastic tool the internet is when used safely.

Facebook

As you are probably aware, almost everyone has a Facebook account. However you may not be aware that there is an age restriction to having a Facebook account! When registering for a Facebook account your daughter must be at least 13 years old. This is part of Facebook's terms and conditions.

It has come to our attention that some students in Year 7 have Facebook accounts. Whilst this may or may not have been sanctioned by their parents, what's important is that parents make a conscious decision about when Facebook use is appropriate, and not simply leave their daughters to their own online devices.

There are risks to early Facebook use. Many are obvious: Sexual predators lurk on the Web, and Facebook could be a place where they find targets. Cyberbullying is an even bigger risk, as young children often do not have the emotional

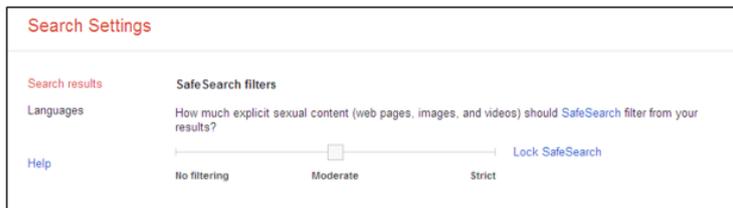
and psychological awareness to make good decisions about what they post. In a more fundamental way, Facebook and other similar technologies might be rewiring the way young children's brains work, some scientists have warned. There is no conclusive research, but people like British neuroscientist Susan Greenfield have spoken out warning that "screen relationships" are bad for developing brains.

Please raise this issue with your daughter if this is a concern of yours and discuss why the Facebook account is necessary and what it is being used for. With your support we can work together to promote responsible use of social media.

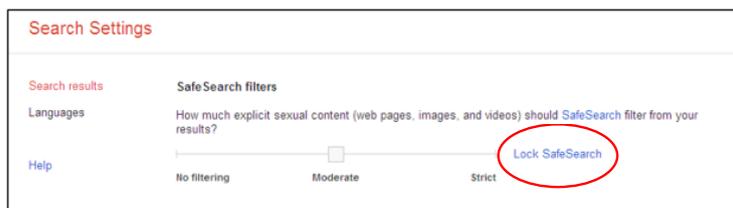
Google "Safesearch"

Searching online is a popular activity amongst young people and Google is normally their first port of call. As a parent you need to be aware that your daughter might come across inappropriate content during their online search – even if they are searching for seemingly harmless keywords or subjects. The good news is that Google offers a 'Safesearch' feature which helps you to keep adult content out of search results. Here's how you can set up 'Safesearch'

1. Type in the web address www.google.com/preferences . This takes you straight to 'Safesearch'



2. You can choose the level of filtering you would like activated on your family's computer. 'Strict' means both explicit text and images are filtered whilst 'Moderate' means only explicit images are filtered ('Moderate' is the default filter setting on Google)



3. If you have a Google account you can lock 'SafeSearch' on your computer so that the filter setting is always in place and only you can change the settings.

4. When 'Safesearch' is locked in place, you will see a set of coloured balls at the top of the search pages. If the coloured balls aren't there, 'Safesearch' is no longer locked!



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

The Learning Gateway - an Update for Parents

Mrs Finucane with news of parental access

The roll out programme continues for parental access to the Learning Gateway. Year 8 parents now have access to their daughter's data and can log in to see data about attendance, achievement, behaviour and assessment. We still have Year 8 parents who have not yet collected their log in details. If you are a Year 8 parent and you requested access to the Learning Gateway, please come into school, with photo ID, to collect your log in details as soon as possible.

Year 7 parents will be the next group to gain access. Accounts have been set up for those parents who requested an account. There will be a Learning Gateway session in G10 at 3:30pm, 4:30pm and 5:30 pm during Year 7 parents evening on the 29th March 2012 where you will be able to collect your log in details and find out more information on how to access and use your account. If you have not yet requested an account and would like one, please come along

to the session where we can arrange this for you.

If you have any questions regarding the Learning Gateway, please contact Mrs Finucane, Director of e-learning using email:
l.finucane@lordswoodgirls.co.uk

Parents' Higher Education Advice Evening

A notice for all our Year 11 and Year 12 Parents

Aston University will be holding their annual Parents' Higher Education Advice Evening on Wednesday 13th June 2012 on the Aston University Campus. They are conscious that knowledge and awareness of Higher Education issues such as admissions and finance are important, not only for those applying to University but also to their parents and family, particularly if they have little or no experience of Higher Education themselves. With this in mind, they have put together an evening for parents on the Aston University campus, covering general HE issues to complement the support and advice given to parents by schools and colleges.

A copy of the programme for the evening includes general seminars on the benefits of Higher Education, UCAS applications, choosing a course and student financial support. The evening will be fairly informal with plenty of opportunities for parents to ask questions and share thoughts with experienced HE staff.

Booking is essential for this event and the booking form can be found online at: www.aston.ac.uk/parents-evening. Please note that, due to the popularity of this event, booking is limited to 3 places per family and will be considered on a first come first served basis. Last year's successful event attracted over 200 attendees and received excellent feedback. Aston hope that the 2012 event will be equally successful and will give students and their parents the opportunity to discuss current issues and updates in the Higher Education climate.

If you have any queries regarding this event for parents, please contact Amandip Bisel, the

Schools Liaison Officer on (0121) 204 475A or email her at a.bisel@aston.ac.uk. Alternatively, please go to the Schools and Colleges Liaison website www.aston.ac.uk/schliaison for further details of this event and all future events.

Saira Parveen's Electoral Success

Miss Dignon brings news of an amazing achievement by one of our Sixth Form students

Congratulations to Saira Parveen who campaigned successfully to become a member of the UK Youth Parliament. She is a strong public speaker with high levels of motivation and we are, therefore, convinced she will make an excellent ambassador for the school and for all young people in the UK.

"After a long campaign during February, I am elated to say that I have been elected as a Member of the UK Youth Parliament!"

I cannot wait to start working with, and for my generation, bringing about the changes that they want to see. I have always been passionate about youth voice, and believe that my age group need to be taken more seriously by the Government.

Immediately after hearing about Youth Parliament, I took the opportunity to run for election as I saw UKYP as a significant platform to voice our views, issues and concerns.

My role as an MYP for Edgbaston and Northfield will include attending numerous scrutiny meetings, regional meetings, annual sittings and visiting Parliament in late October to debate the issues I feel should form the UKYP manifesto. I will be conducting research to fully comprehend where the concerns of the youth in my community lie, and then use this research as a tool in influencing the Government.

I am extremely grateful for the immense support I



received from our school, including all students and members of staff! They have made this dream of an opportunity a reality for me. I hope to bring about change on their behalf in return."

Saira Parveen, Year 12

Changes in ICT

Mrs Blake brings news of the changes to the ICT curriculum

You may well have read and heard of the shift in ICT education away from students being simply users of ICT towards them being creators of content with the emphasis being on understanding how computers work and the basics of programming and coding. The Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, is seeking to scrap the current ICT curriculum from September 2012 and allow schools more freedom to choose what to teach. ICT education will be less prescriptive but not any less important.

At Lordswood we already provide opportunity for students to learn programming and, as Year 7 parents will know, understanding what is inside a computer has been the ICT homework project for this half term.

Some of the new developments we are looking into are the creation of mobile applications for Android Smart phones using 'App Inventor' and YouSrc. The construction of exciting games is possible using Kodu from Microsoft, which allows users to program games for the Xbox, and Muvizu which is a very straightforward way for users to create amazing looking animations. All of these are free to download so if you would to find out more they are available from links below. A word of warning though - check the system requirements and make sure your computer is capable of running the software as some are very graphics focussed and may require a high specification processor and a dedicated graphics card.

So, if your child comes home telling you that they have been playing Xbox games or using Apps for the phone please be assured that, even though they may think they are just 'playing', they are being the creators of the content and are engaging in higher thinking skills through their use of ICT!

<http://muvizu.com/>
<http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/projects/kodu/>
<http://appinventor.mit.edu/>
<http://yousrc.com/>

An Update from the School Council

Miss Lomas fills us in on the activities of our Council this term

The Spring Term has been another active one for members of the School Council. With Reps having been busy discussing issues ranging from homework to lunch and break times. However, reports seem to indicate that Lordswood is a pretty happy school at present!

On February 24th, the Fundraising Working Group organised an Accessorise in Yellow day in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care. Staff and students were encouraged to accessorise their uniforms and work attire with yellow items in return for a donation to charity and we managed to raise approximately £160! The Marie Curie yellow daffodils were also on sale at reception and sold out within a couple of days. Thanks to everyone who contributed; it was lovely to see flashes of yellow brightening up the school for a day!

The Communities Working Group organised a Community Easter Party which was held on Tuesday 27th March. Children from local nurseries as well as a few pre-school aged siblings of Lordswood students attended for a morning of Easter crafts, egg hunts and fun which was enjoyed by all! The Council would like to thank Miss Gough, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Baddams, the Work Skills students and everyone who helped out on the day!

Plans for the School Council fundraising week in June are coming along nicely with each year group having decided on their activities for their allotted day. Events will include picnics, non uniform days, mass zumba classes and cake sales so watch out for letters about the week very soon. This is the first time the Council have had an entire week to fundraise for their chosen charities and it should be an amazing week!

As always, don't forget to check for news and updates on the School Council website which

can be found by logging into the main school website at www.lordswoodgirls.co.uk.

Applied Learning Afternoons

An update on our Wednesday activities from Miss Gough

Applied Learning continues to prosper on a Wednesday afternoon. Last half term 11 year 7 students qualified for the British Red Cross Emergency Life Support Certificate and we have a group of Year 8 and 9 students taking the course this half term. Students are also taking part in basic Self Defence, Basketball, Urban Art, Photography and Textiles. The gardening club is preparing for spring and have done a fantastic job of brightening the flower beds and potting our Jubilee trees ready for students to plant.

The timetables are being finalised for after Easter; Self Defence and Gardening will continue, Punjabi sessions and Cheerleading will begin and more students will be taking part in Photography as well as working in the radio station.



Photographing their urban artwork

We are organising an event at Winterbourne gardens which will celebrate the fantastic work which has been produced during applied learning afternoons so far. We will also be inviting students who have not attended anything, along with their parents, to try to encourage them to take part in the future.



Potting up the Jubilee Trees ready for planting out

Applied Learning afternoon offers a fun and diverse way of learning and we would like as many students to benefit from it as possible. Invitations will be sent out in the next few weeks.



Learning how to save a life; one of our students gets to grips with a CPR dummy

Introducing Parent Reps

Miss Gough on the launch of our new Parent Rep system

Thank you to our parent reps who have been meeting at the school during the last term to launch our parent rep system. Your year group reps are there for you to talk to about any issues that you have and any suggestions that you can make about school life. The reps are available through school email - please see addresses

below, at parents' evenings and during parent drop in sessions.

This term we have discussed issues such as school trips, work experience and transition. We have discussed ways to encourage more students to walk and cycle to school and ways to improve the communication between the school and home.

Over the coming meetings we will be looking at ways to utilise the school website and organising some social events for the whole school community as well as dealing with issues as and when they arise.

You can email your year group rep at the following addresses;

Year7parent@lordswoodgirls.co.uk
Year8parent@lordswoodgirls.co.uk
Year9parent@lordswoodgirls.co.uk
Year10parent@lordswoodgirls.co.uk
Year11parent@lordswoodgirls.co.uk
sixth_form_parent_rep@lordswood.co.uk

If you would like to discuss any of the above information, please either call me at the school or email me at e.gough@lordswoodgirls.co.uk.

Royal Horticultural Society's Gardening for Schools Campaign

Details on the successes of Gardening Club and a new friend for Lordswood!

Having been successful with gaining Level 3 of the Campaign for School Gardening, Maggie Le Mare, our budding gardening leader, wrote to Alan Titchmarsh to thank him for the support that he and the Royal Horticultural Society provides. We were delighted to receive a hand written card from him.

ALAN TITCHMARSH

3 March 2012

Dear Maggie, Thank you for your very appreciative letter. I'm just happy to help make a bit of a difference and, thanks to you, that difference is all the more significant. Keep up the good work, and best wishes,
Sincerely,
Alan Titchmarsh

Please can you insert scanned card here
Many thanks to Maggie, Mary Taylor, Rachel Sartorius, and Jayne Bacon, who continue to drive the gardening club forward. As ever, if you feel that you could contribute some time or expertise to the club, please contact me by telephoning the school or emailing e.gough@lordswoodgirls.co.uk.

Lordswood's Digital Ambassadors

Announcing our pioneering new group of students

The Teaching and Learning Policy and Practice group announced their digital ambassadors scheme during assemblies recently. Students were requested to apply to become digital ambassadors and there was an overwhelming response.

Pleased with the outcome, Mrs Waraich and a team of staff involved in the Policy and Practise group decided upon 13 students to become ambassadors.

The following students will undertake various activities using many technologies to report, record and highlight the events which take place during the school year. These include constructing a virtual tour of the school, creating promotional videos for the cadets, reporting and filming the events of sports day and creating content for the radio station.

Digital Ambassadors are:

Petrina Williams Year 7
Kyra Byrne Year 7
Tapiwa Kadzviti Year 8
Sophie Bullock Year 9

Pheobe Harris Year 9
Jasmyn Palin Year 9
Mandeep Kalsi Year 10
Louise Melvin Year 10
Amelia Wilkinson Year 10
Amanda Jukes Year 11
Roma Sira Year 12
Kiranjit Hundal Year 12
Anna Kings Year 13

Success for a Creative Writer!

Congratulations to one of our talented Year 11s

Aniera Evans in year 11 entered a short story into The Gentlemen Press young writers' competition. The theme of the competition was Objection to Perfection. She won the runners-up prize in the 16-18 category and her story will be included in a published anthology titled Objection to Perfection. This is an extract from her short story about a conscientious objector in world war one:

'It was a windy Monday, like most Mondays that autumn, late September, 1916. The sun pushed from behind a curtain of grey clouds and released a blast of golden heat on my face; I closed my eyes and tilted my head upwards to embrace its warmth. From afar I may have looked like a student - at Oxford, or somewhere suitably prestigious. I had dropped out of school, but I lingered around there, outside the gates, wearing the same old shirt and blazer; like a ghost. More able students passed me by, laughing about what a teacher may have said, how a boy may have looked, or how a girl may have smiled. It's one of the oddest things in life, I find, that when in the biggest groups one can feel most alone. But there was one who broke through my defences and made me acknowledge not only my own but others existence also. Timmy, young and fresh faced, slipped through the cracks in the wash of people until he finally reached me, acknowledging me with a grin which I reflected. I tilted my head back away from the sun, and bared a grin with my cigarette still clasped between my teeth. He pinched it out from between them and took a puff, before turning back to me and laughing. His hand fell by his side, and the cigarette fell from his hand. He was a clever boy, I found. He was aware of his flaws, though less of his good qualities. But what good is knowing your own good qualities; all it does is make you stop striving for perfection. That was my endeavour - perfection. It

shames me now, to think that my ambition to be something that never really existed almost cost me my morals, if not my sanity.

"Come with me to the sign up," Timmy said casually, just as casually as he had made his decision to join a fight that would lead to him killing, and most probably, being killed "What do you think you will sign up for: Navy? Army? I think you ought to do army and then perhaps we will be together." How was this all so natural? Although everything was war nowadays; the rations we ate, the games children played, even the rain, when it pounded at the cobblestones and caught the light resembled a shower of gunfire. Not a trace of pre-1914 life remained, or if it did, it remained hidden, in secret boxes that must never be opened, in fear of our better past being tainted by the frightful today.'

Public Speaking in the Council Chambers

Congratulations to one of our talented Year 11s

On the 2nd of February six girls in year 11 went to the Birmingham Council Chambers to take part in The English Speaking Union's annual public speaking competition. The girls all performed excellently and were a credit to themselves and the school. Isobel Herbet describes the evening:

'The ESU Speaking Competition was a great experience. We met lots of new people from a range of schools and were given the chance to listen to many enthralling speeches. The competition consisted of each speaker delivering a speech on a chosen topic and then being questioned by a designated questioner from another team and then members of the audience. Lordswood entered two teams; one group chose to speak about the importance of children being able to choose their own religion and the other group argued the supremacy of state education over the education provided at Eton. During the time when the judges were deciding on their winners, all of the teams were given a tour of the Council Chambers by the Mayor which was very informative. Once the tour was finished we returned to find out the verdict. It was announced that my team members (Emily Shaw and Lydia Duffy) and I had won second place,

and that Emily had won an individual award as best questioner! We were all very proud, and the winning team from KES certainly deserved their victory. A lot of hard work had gone into the preparation for this competition, and so it was great to see it rewarded. We all hope to compete in something similar again soon!

News from Science

It was all about space in the Science Department this term

Ogden Trust Partnership

Lordswood Girls School have been invited to work alongside 4 local schools, in collaboration with the Ogden trust, to raise the participation and perception of physics. (<http://www.ogdentrust.com/>)

Eight students from year 11 were given the chance to attend master classes, run by the Physics Factory, Hillcrest School and Edgbaston High School. During these sessions they were given the opportunity to have a go at many different activities and discuss the physics behind them.

The class run by Hillcrest School involved a rocket making competition where students were asked to consider the factors that make a good rocket, design and make their own, and launch the rockets at a target to gain points. Lordswood Girls managed to design and make excellent rockets and they were crowned the overall winners! Well done girls!

The students involved in the classes were:

Natasha Hussain
Alice Tomlinson
Charlotte Tringham
Hemma Sangha
Manpreet Bharj
Maryam Mobeen
Emma Markman Morris
Simran Rupra

All the students proved themselves, once again, to be excellent ambassadors for the school.

Space..... so what?

Years 10 and 11 students were treated to a visit from Anu Ojha, a space scientist who, among

other things, has worked alongside NASA and the European Space Agency. The visit was arranged through the physics factory (<http://pfbham.blogspot.co.uk/>) and the Ogden trust.

Classes were treated to a nonstop whirlwind lesson about space, and the importance of space science. Students got to see first hand the impact that space travel has on everyday life and took part in a series of investigations.

Throughout the course of the lesson, the students investigated 'magic snow' and its uses in space and they got to build a real telescope using only a ruler, lenses and blu-tac!! They were able to see the uses of infra red radiation and got to use a specialist infra red camera. The highlight of the lesson, without a doubt, was the construction of a comet, using red wine, Worcester sauce, graphite, sand, water and dry ice!!

Well done to those classes that took part in the lessons.



Fascinated students watch as Anu Ojha uses dry ice and other components to make a comet

Year 8 Ski Trip

Libby Hall-Annison and Kia Binning report on their recent trip to Torgon

Year 8 went on a ski tip to Torgon, Switzerland on the 9th March. It was a long journey (20 hours!) so we did some very enjoyable things including watching films, reading, chatting, winding up the teachers and listening to music. We stopped off at many service stations along the way and met up with friends on the other coach. We had

breakfast in Switzerland at a service station and from there we set off for the mountains. The view was amazing and a great sight to look at.

We arrived in Torgon at around 2pm, unloaded the coach and went to our dorms. We unpacked and got settled in. We got our skis and helmets sorted and later we had dinner. Every night there was soup for starters, a different main course such as wraps, pasta and bolognese and burgers, and a different dessert, ice cream, brownies or mousse!

Every day we went skiing for five hours, it was very fun but tiring. We learnt many new things and went higher and higher on the ski slopes. By the end of the week everyone had managed to ski to France. Some of us managed to ski very fast at around 50mph! As well as skiing, there were many evening activities including rock climbing, bingo and a disco. They were all as enjoyable as the skiing! We would definitely recommend it to next year's Year 8s!

Stop Malaria

News of some fabulous fundraising for a very worthy cause

On Friday 16th March students from the Community Task Force collected together all the donations of coppers and silver coins to make a huge piece of artwork on the hall floor. The activity was in aid of the 'Stop Malaria' scheme being run by the Tony Blair Faith Foundation. The students had a great time making it and raised £60 for the charity!

Well done to everyone involved!



Students proudly surround their coin design

Geography and the Big City

Mr Sami recalls the recent fieldtrip to Birmingham City Centre

The Year 8s went on a fieldtrip to Birmingham City Centre on the 15th and 16th March 2012. When people first heard that the geography department were taking the students to the city centre, the reaction was not the most positive. Most were probably wondering about the purpose and what could be of interest in our city centre. However, our Year 8s knew better than this, having studied Birmingham as a topic in Year 7 and Year 8.

The fieldtrip was linked to the upcoming homework project, which asks students to come up with some new promotional material for our ever-changing city. We wanted our students to capture how fast our city centre is changing and to highlight the impressive amounts of money being spent to give the city a facelift.



One of the many peaceful sights on offer in Birmingham

The students were placed in groups and were armed with a camera. They had to collect photographs, which could be used in their promotional material. Many students took photos of The Cube in the Mailbox, The Bullring and Brindley Place. However, the jury was out on whether they actually liked the very modern designs of these new buildings.

The students developed a new understanding of our city centre. They were impressed with the billions of pounds being spent but equally as shocked at the areas in the city centre which were in serious decline. Many students had their own ideas on how the latest site to be developed, called Eastside, should be developed in the future.



An example of the very modern architecture which our students weren't too keen on!

We had a fantastic time exploring our city centre and the Year 8s will be keeping an eye out for the latest developments to pop up in our skyline!

Stabiz Goes From Strength to Strength

Mrs Waraich reports on the progress of Lordswood's latest business enterprise

As mentioned last term Stabiz planted approximately 400 daffodil bulbs at Winterbourne Gardens which have now bloomed!!

Students successfully picked and wrapped their daffodils ready for sale and sold them to staff for a profit. Staff were exceptionally happy with their daffodils especially with the low carbon footprint.

Well done Stabiz!



Members of Stabiz with their daffodil crop



Picked and wrapped and ready to sell!

Lordswood Welcomes MP Gisela Stuart

Emmanuella Mbatangie reports on the AS Government and Politics students' day spent with our local MP

In February 2012 the Year 12 pupils who study Government and Politics welcomed Gisela Stuart, who is the MP for Edgbaston, to speak to the students and give them an insight into what it is like to be an MP and work in both Birmingham and Westminster.

It was lovely to see that she had such a bubbly personality and was willing to tell us everything about her career. We all liked her determination to create equality and better opportunities for younger students to study and become successful women and men in such a tough industry. She successfully persuaded the majority of the students to become politicians, thus hopefully increasing the number of women in Parliament who are currently in the minority!



Some students found learning about her relationship with some of her colleagues was the best part of the discussion. In particular, students were mesmerised by Gisela Stuart's relationship with Tony Blair when she was the former Health Minister. *"The only time he got my name right was when he sacked me. Having said that, he was such an inspirational and determined Prime Minister."*

Moreover, it was interesting to hear about Gisela Stuart's views on the Euro, the judiciary and also about whether Britain is democratic or whether there is this "democratic deficit" in the UK (a topic which we are studying as part of our A level course).

Furthermore, it was also great listening to Gisela Stuart speak about seeking to be the Mayor of Birmingham. We truly hope that she gets the position.

Some of the most interesting, funny and fascinating things Gisela said were:

- 1) "The world's your oyster. Just go for it."
- 2) "If politicians don't trust people, why should the people trust politics?"
- 3) "I like people who take risks...it shows that you are strong-minded."
- 4) "I was completely shocked by the summer 2011 riots all over the country."
- 5) "I work for you. Your priorities are my priorities"

Overall, all the pupils, as well as Ms Dignon, enjoyed having MP Gisela Stuart come to Lordswood Girls' School and speak to the AS Politics students about her experiences as a

politician and her relationship with her former colleagues.

We all wish her the best in the future.

Family Reading

Information on Family Reading from Mrs Ashford

"Evidence shows that when parents encourage their children to read for pleasure they help them develop stronger literacy and communication skills". www.enjoyingreading.co.uk

Family Reading Boxes are available to all Year 7 and 8 pupils and have been put together by the school library to promote reading for pleasure and encourage students, parents and other family members to read together. The boxes include 20 titles which range from pre-school books, teenage dramas and classics to cookery and fiction for older readers. A full list of titles can be found on the library section of the school website. The whole collection of books will be on loan to each family for up to one month.

In order to loan a family box, students will need to get a consent slip signed by their parent/guardian and bring their library card with them to the library. If preferred, parents are welcome to collect the boxes after school on Wednesdays (2.15pm). Boxes can be returned in the same way.

Should you have any enquiries please contact Mrs Ashford in the library.

Wacky Wednesdays!

Congratulations from Miss Downes

Miss Downes would like to congratulate all of the girls who have been involved in the running of the 'Wacky Wednesday' sports club. The activities that have been led by students in Years 8, 10 and 11 have proved to be extremely popular with the Year 7s and the girls involved have maintained high levels of enthusiasm and commitment.

Well done to the following girls:

Shannon Johnston
Shannon Coffey
Chelsie Mann

Keep up the good work!

Business Studies Challenge at Aston University

A 'handy' challenge at Aston University

10 students were taken to participate in an accounting challenge where they competed against 10 other local schools.



A group of our budding business brains

The day included a tour of Aston University and also a business challenge based upon creating "foam hands" for the Olympic games, as well as selling their "foam hands" under various economic climates.

The student's enthusiasm and creativity were just a few of the comments made by the organiser. The 'Hands' designed by our students included edible strawberry flavoured hands and one which could be used as a cup holder. They came runner up in the design event and 4th place overall.

Well done to our business studies students!

Basketball Marathon in Aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital

Mrs Baddams reports on a sterling effort by our students

The Birmingham Children's Hospital is currently trying to raise funds towards the refurbishment of their Accident and Emergency department. After a visit to the hospital, students from Lordswood Girls' School and the Sixth Form Centre decided to organise a fundraising day led by the Basketball Academy. They held a sponsored 12 hour Basketball marathon and raised a staggering £855 with the support of their fellow students, staff and parents.



*Members of the marathon team celebrate their
amazing achievement*

Coach Guppy commented that:

"Our basketball squad have had some great achievements on and off the court since the Academy started in 2006 including winning local and National competitions but this event must rank amongst them. All of the Basketball students enjoyed the 12-hour marathon and to know that the hard work and sponsorship from everyone involved went to such a good cause made the whole day even more worthwhile."



Justine Cleary from Birmingham Children's Hospital being presented with the cheque

Renaissance Accelerated Reading Scheme

Mrs Ashford updates us on the scheme to get students into books

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

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

Targets will be 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 either at the Parent's Evenings or via your child.

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.

During the term Year 7 and 8 students have read over 42,112,265 words and 1,010 books!

All students should be congratulated on their efforts but a special mention should go to our Word Millionaires

Daphne Clarke 8G,
Olivia Ulpiani 8D,
Elizabeth Bissell 8G
Olivia McComb 8D

Also congratulations to those students who have done exceptionally well on their quizzes



A letter from the hospital thanking the students for their amazing efforts

India Purewal 8W 100%
Amy Robinson 7R 99%
Olivia McComb 8D 96.6%
Jonida Osmani 7G 91%

Well done!

As the Spring Term ends we have a lot to celebrate!

Year 10 Sports Leaders

Sophie Neale from Year 10 brings news on the progress of our Sports Leaders

Recently, a group of Year 10 Sports Leaders have been preparing for a series of practical sports sessions which will be run at Our Lady of Fatima Primary School. These dance sessions have been planned by five groups of students who will be responsible for teaching a range of different styles of dance within their one hour sessions. The primary school pupils will also have the opportunity to create their own dance routines at the end. The dance sessions that have been planned include a warm-up and skill related activity and contain choreographed dance steps which have been put together to make a simple motif. The styles of dance being taught include the salsa, the Macarena and country.

The Year 10 Sports Leaders are looking forward to working with the Primary School pupils after Easter and hope that they will find the sessions fun and interesting. Look out for the photographs in the next newsletter.

Gymnastics Competition

Miss Downes with luck for our talented gymnasts

Good Luck to Maisie Malcolm and Tiameasha Sanghera who are due to take part in the main gymnastic competition at the Munroe Centre on Friday 23rd March 2012. The girls have worked extremely hard to develop their gymnastic routines and will be representing Lordswood

Girls' School as they compete against a number of schools across the south of the city.



Maisie and Tiameasha are ready for the competition

A Show Worthy of the West End!

Mrs Swallow reflects on yet another fabulous production

Last week saw another very successful joint school production with Lordswood Boys' School. The standard was raised again this year and all students involved in 'Grease' demonstrated a high level of commitment and motivation.



The triumphant cast at the end of the final show

There were some talented performances by the cast, in terms of acting and dancing and these were ably supported by a band that included a

number of year 7 students. I would like to offer my congratulations to all students that played a part in the production and take this opportunity to say how proud I am of them all.

Alice Tomlinson, Year 11, who played the role of Marty had this to say:

Having been involved in three school productions whilst being at Lordswood, 'Grease' was one of the most exciting and rewarding to be a part of. The chance to perform with students from other year groups was an enriching experience that allowed us all to shine with confidence. The bringing together of such a variety of people resulted in a great production that you wanted to watch, regardless of the pre-show mishaps and behind the scenes moments of panic. This is an experience that everyone should be a part of and it is certainly one you are not likely to forget.



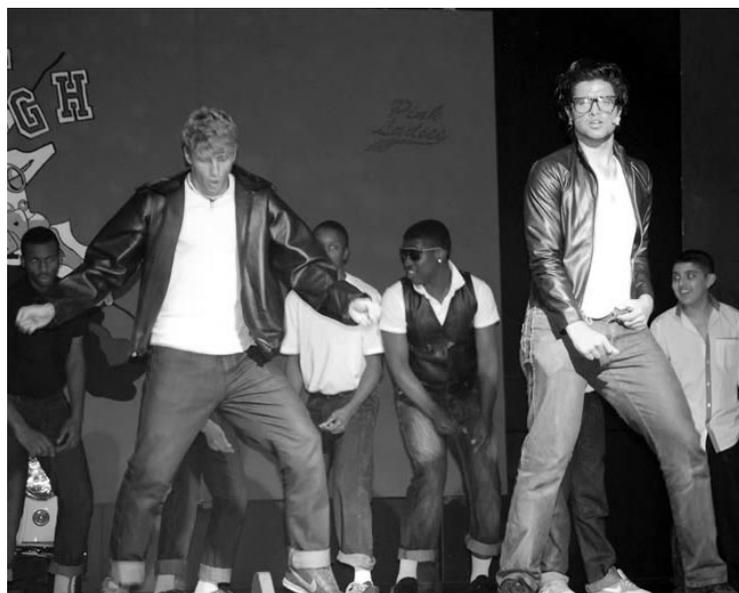
Sandra Dee, played by Vicki Rowland sings 'Hopelessly Devoted'

Samuel Parker has now been involved in all the joint productions over the last four year, both as part of Lordswood Boys' and Girls':

Being part of the 'Grease' cast was a unique experience. If you want to go into theatre the perfect place to start is being part of school productions. It helps you develop as an actor not only by getting into character but also by watching the way other people perform their roles. Patience is the key when taking part in this sort of performance as you may feel toward the end of the rehearsal process that it is not ready to be performed on stage but as we have proven over the past four years it always is. Do not get nervous about auditioning because you always have the support of your peers and the staff involved.

Balisha Karra joined the school this academic year to study Performing Arts in the sixth form.

'Grease' was an amazing experience as it helped me to develop skills such as working with students in different year groups. Admittedly, on the day of both performances I was more nervous than my younger peers but they were a great support and helped calm me down. This for me was a first as previously I have always been the calmest member of the cast!



The 'T Birds' perform 'Greased Lightning'

During the production it was very clear that there is a lot of talent in Lordswood Girls' and Boys' from band members to choreographers and even in the chorus. It was fun to watch the production develop and although I hate to admit it, I will miss not being 'old Miss Lynch' as she was a fun, new role to play. For those who have never signed up for a school production, my advice to you would be to not hold back next year. 'Grease' overall was a fun and enjoyable experience and worth every rehearsal.



Members of the chorus enjoying their time in the limelight

We hope to see many of you auditioning in September. Watch this space for news of the next production.

If you enjoyed 'Grease' the BTEC Performing Arts students will be performing the play version of 'Blood Brothers' at Lordswood Boys' School on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th May.

Future Leaders Quiz

Miss Tooley with the date for the next fundraising quiz

After the success of the last quiz in January, the Future Leaders fundraising group are holding another quiz night on Thursday 26th April. The evening will run from 7pm until 9pm and costs £10 to enter a team of 6 people.

Please send your team names to k.tooley@lordswoodgirls.co.uk by Friday 20th April.

Hope to see you all there!

Lordswood Gets Healthy Fortnight

Miss Tosh reports on how school has been raising awareness of the importance of eating healthily

How healthy are you? The last two weeks of the Spring term have seen students learning all about why it is important to eat healthily with various workshops and important sessions taking place in review tutor time in the mornings.

Each student has received a free portion of vegetables with their lunch which has gone down a treat! The fortnight has also seen lots of information around school about the consequences of skipping meals and not keeping well hydrated. The images that have been displayed around school may be a little gory, but they aim to get the message across of how important it is for students to make good dietary and lifestyle choices to live a longer, fuller, energetic life and achieve their goals. The canteen now displays which food groups are

contained in each product that they sell, which aims to inform students and help them to make healthy choices.



One of our Year 8s enjoying her free veg

Parents were also invited into school to work alongside their daughter to prepare a range of foods for a healthy lunch. This was a great opportunity for students to learn how to make their own lunch and all about the food groups that should be included and students also had the opportunity to listen to what kind of diets their teachers have during the radio bulletin on Monday and Wednesday morning, and to find out what happens to them if they skip a meal or do not keep well hydrated, the advice being- don't do it!



Students put into practice what they learnt about the importance of drinking during the day

There have been competitions running where years 7 and 8 have been asked to design a healthy lunch for the menu in the canteen. These will face a panel of important judges and the winning meal could be put on the school menu,

so watch this space! Years 9 and 10 have had the opportunity to show off their knowledge of nutrition by completing a quiz, with the opportunity to win a prize.

Overall, a very successful week. Thanks goes to Amelia Wilkinson, Philip Herbert, Rifit Bibi and Haliena Akhliq for all of their hard work in preparing for the fortnight.



Topping up their five-a-day with fruit juice

Lordswood Abroad!

Hannah Shioleftou and Amrit Sohal recall the recent Year 9 and Year 11 trip to France

On the 9th March we set off to France for a 15 hour journey at 4.00am! Even though it was an extremely early hour people soon livened up and the journey was soon full of singing and sweet eating.

We arrived at the PGL site at about 6pm (French time) to a warm welcome by the staff and we received a well cooked meal. After the scrumptious meal they let us settle in before taking part in whacky activities. These activities included becoming a chicken, an elephant and a multitude of other odd, yet humorous activities.

The next day we woke at 6:50am to be ready for breakfast by 7:30am. The first activity of the day was a short French speaking lesson on the vocabulary we would have to use whilst speaking to the locals. We learnt how to ask for different foods and the quantity we would need e.g how many slices. We then all piled into the coach and headed for the local market. There

was a vast variety of food including vegetables, fruit, bread, a large variety of meat and other tasty products. We had to buy some ingredients in groups to make our own lunches. We were given €20 and it was a competition to see who could make the most nutritious meal whilst staying within the budget. We cannot forget one of the most memorable locals, 'The Street Crier' who welcomed us as part of his daily readings. We then headed back to the château but before we got there we stopped off at the supermarket named 'Super U'.

We got back to the site and the competition commenced! We had 15 minutes to put our gourmet meal together and a winner was announced. A small break was given before doing the afternoon activities. The activities consisted of rope activities which were the trapeze and team building activities.



Hilarious team building activities entertained everyone

We then had time to sort ourselves out before dinner and after dinner we had a camp fire. During this we made our fire, sang a lot of songs (with actions!) and roasted - or burnt- our marshmallows and French bread. This was a nice chance for us to be together and just have fun. On Sunday we woke up just as early as the day before. This day consisted of sight-seeing galore. In the morning we received another French lesson and we learnt the different questions we would have to ask the locals later in the afternoon. We travelled to a château in Fongère. Before we went in we followed a French trail around the town. We learnt new vocabulary while answering the questions. Then we went into the castle with the audio guides and explored our new surroundings.

We had our lunch on the coach whilst travelling to le Mont St. Michel. This was a very cramped village built on an island. We had to climb what felt like thousands and thousands of steps to get to the top. There was a breath taking cathedral and an amazing view waiting for us. We looked around the cathedral before asking the tourists and shop keepers our questions. After that we had some free time to go shopping. We then met at the meeting point and headed back to the château. When we got back we had our tea and as part of it we had the opportunity to eat some of the local delicacy...snails!!

That evening we had a disco with all the other schools. This was a nice ending to a great weekend. There was dancing and singing and a whole lot of partying!

We got up the next morning and had breakfast. We said bye to the staff and a very big thank you before setting off. We were just pulling away as Ms Jbili realised she hadn't given the keys back so we reversed back and handed in the keys. We tried again and successfully left. We arrived back in England at about 3pm because we managed to catch an earlier train and got to school for about 7pm.

Before ending we would like to say a 'thank you' to Kev our coach driver and all the teachers who joined us on the trip. They are the ones who made it possible for us to go. All in all it was a great weekend and we learnt a lot.

On behalf of everyone at
Lordswood Girls' School and the
Sixth Form Centre, we would like to wish you a very

Happy Easter!

Diary Dates

Fri 30th March	School Breaks up 1.10 pm	Mon 2nd - Fri 6th July	Post 16 Taster days for Year 10 students
Mon 2nd - Fri 13th April	Easter Holidays		Year 9 Ogwen Trip
Mon 16th April	INSET day - School closed to students		Year 9 Battlefields Trip
Tues 17th April	Normal school day		
Tues 17th - Fri 27th April	KS3 Exams All Subjects	Mon 2nd & Tues 3rd July	Year 10 Languages Career day
Mon 30th April	Year 8 Work Related Learning Day	Weds 4th July	New Intake Induction day
Thurs 3rd May	GCSE Music and Drama Trip		New Intake Induction evening 6 - 8pm
	Maths Junior Challenge day	Thurs 5th July	Year 7 Work Related Learning Day
Mon 28th May - Fri 1st June	Year 10 Reviews with Parents	Mon 9th July	INSET day - School closed to students
	Year 10 SLA fundraising week	Tues 10th - Friday 13th July	Year 7 Reviews with Parents
Mon 4th - Fri 8th June	Whitsun Holiday	Thurs 12th July	Celebrating Success evening 7 - 8pm
Mon 11th June	Year 9 start KS4 studies	Mon 16th July	KS3 Summer Play Evening 7pm
Mon 18th - Fri 22nd June	Year 8 Reviews with Parents	Tues 17th July	Sports Day
	School Council fundraising week	Thurs 19th July	Summer Fayre pm
Mon 25th - Fri 29th June	Year 10 SLA Primary Festivals	Fri 20th July	School breaks up 12 noon