

Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

8 December 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

As a busy term draws to a close, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and recommend that you take a moment to visit our website to read about just some of the activities in which our students have been involved.

The rest of my email highlights some important information for the new year and a few key dates for your diary.

### ***Our focus on literacy continues - WORDS***

Thank you to all the Year 8 parents who attended the Information Evening at the end of November. Working together is the best approach to support the young people in our care to become enthusiastic readers. If you were unable to join us, please take some time to look at the news item on our website:

[Lawnswood School - Developing a Love of Reading - Year 8](#)

As we move into the new year, we will be testing the reading age of all students in Years 7 to 10. We are optimistic that our strong focus on the importance of reading at all ages will have improved this essential skill during the last six months.

### ***Year 8 - Let's Talk Careers***

This week, Year 8 students were lucky enough to meet with some visitors to the school to discuss their own career paths with our students. Careers include finance, consultancy, medicine, education, science and engineering technology and, after addressing our students, they were kept busy answering their questions. I would like to thank our visitors who gave extremely interesting talks to the students and our students who asked insightful questions and listened very respectfully. If your child is in Year 8, please do take a moment to ask them about the session and discuss their thoughts about their future career. Further information about this session can be found on our website.

### ***Year 7 update***

Year 7 progress reports will be posted home to parents/carers next week. The report will include information about attendance; punctuality; baseline assessments; effort grades across the curriculum; commendations; as well as the form tutor's comments about each child. If you have any concerns about your child's progress, please contact a member of the Year 7 pastoral team. The newly formed Year 7 committee is organising the annual Year 7 disco. They're being mentored by the Year 11 student committee. The disco is on Thursday 14 December from 5.30pm until 7.30pm in the main hall. As well as carefully selected music there will be a tuck shop and glow in the dark jewellery available to purchase. Tickets are just £2 and are on sale during registration periods next week. Proceeds will go towards Year 7's chosen local charity.

## **Students of the Month**

This term, we have introduced a new strand to our recognition of students' achievement and/or contribution in our community; a Student of the Month. The awards are being made in each year group and, once we have a generous collection of winners, we aim to make a feature of them on our website. This term, our Students of the Month include:

### *September's winners:*

Year 7 Django Ensor and Flora Martin  
Year 8 Louise White  
Year 9 Favour Okhiluah  
Year 10 Ellie Parker  
Year 11 Rupo Mapanga

### *October's winners:*

Year 7 Antony Tidswell  
Year 8 James Hayter  
Year 9 Emily Boudraux  
Year 10 Paige Smithson  
Year 11 Jennifer Riley

*November's winners are:*

### **Year 7 Millie Wainwright 7DME**

Millie was successful in her application to become a student leader and has embraced the role! Last week, Millie gave a teaching and learning tour to a group of trainee teachers. They were delighted with her confident, friendly and easy manner, not to mention her understanding of the Year 7 curriculum. Well done, Millie!

### **Year 9 Tiago Fernandes-Bradbury 9LTE**

Tiago is a great role model for the qualities and behaviour we look for in all our Year 9s. He always has a smile; is helpful to staff and supportive of peers; he is kind and considerate; he looks after his environment; and he is committed to his all-round education.

### **Year 8 Rory Brown 8AHA**

Rory is a fabulous ambassador for our school. He is always punctual, he has excellent attendance and he engages really well with form time activities. Rory receives positive feedback from all directions; he has commendations from a wide range of subject areas.

### **Year 10 Alex Daykin 10PSM**

Alex is an excellent and enthusiastic student with 100% attendance so far this year. He has made an excellent start to his GCSE courses and is extremely hard working and polite young man. Alex strives to do well in all areas of his studies, including home learning and extracurricular activities. He is always friendly and welcoming to staff and students and is a good all round positive role model within the school community.

### **Year 11 Shashwat-Adesh Chahar 11PFU**

Shashwat joined us in October this year and wholeheartedly engaged with Lawnswood School life straight away. He has an exemplary work ethic and is determined to achieve the very highest GCSE grades possible. Staff often comment on his mature and respectful manner and the fact that he is a pleasure to teach. Shashwat always meets school expectations and has already ensured that he is an asset to the year group and our school.

## **Parent voice**

If you haven't had chance to complete our online survey for parents, we would be very grateful if you could find a few minutes to do so before it closes on Monday 11 December. Please access the survey by using the password **LAW14789parent**

[Lawnswood School - Parent CDS Survey 2018](#)

## **Key Stage 5 taster day**

As the mock exams draw to a close for Year 11 students, it's important that they take some time to think about their next steps. Young people in our part of the county / Leeds are fortunate to be able to access a wide range of post-16 options so they need to take time to consider the choices

carefully. To support our students with this, we will drop the Year 11 timetable on Tuesday 12 December so that students can spend the day visiting Leeds City College or experiencing a day in the life of a Lawnswood Sixth Former.

### **Winter Festival**

You and your family and friends are warmly invited to join us at our Winter Festival from 6.00pm to 8.00pm on Wednesday 13 December.

Last year, the event was really successful and everyone enjoyed a fantastic evening of wonderful food, drink, crafts, music and drama.

Tickets are £3 for adults, £2 for children and concessions and £8.00 for a family of four. They are available from Miss Mitchell in Drama and Music or you may buy them on the door.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### **End of term arrangements**

Students will finish school at 12.05pm on Friday 15 December. The diners will be available to provide lunches (sandwiches, pasta, fruit and other cold lunch choices) to students who would like to eat before they leave. Students eligible to free school meals will, of course, be provided with lunch. If your child wishes to have lunch at school, please ask him/her to tell the Head of Year.

Friday 15 December is also festive jumper day (non-uniform), when we will be raising money for Save The Children. In return for a £1 charity donation on the day, students (and staff) may wear a festive jumper and non-uniform.

### **Punctuality**

I should be grateful if you would support us in reminding your child that they are expected to be in school by a specific time each day and that, if they arrive later than that time, they will receive a one hour same day punctuality detention.

Students must be in their form room for registration by 8.30am. If your child has a medical appointment on that afternoon, the detention will be deferred to the next available school day but, otherwise, we will not defer detentions. If your child travels to school by bus, please ensure he/she catches a bus that should arrive in plenty of time. Thank you for your support.

### **Winter weather**

As we move into winter there may be occasions when the weather may mean that we need to delay the start to school or in the most extreme cases close the school. I recognise the inconvenience for parents if the school is close and we always aim to keep the school open. However, if we deem the site to be unsafe then unfortunately we would have to take the decision to close the school. If this is the case, we will send you a text by 7.30am and information about any closure will be posted on the important messages section of our website.

### **Dates for your diary**

As usual, our spring term is also a busy one! I would like to highlight a few key dates and some other useful information.

**Monday 1 January**                      **Bank Holiday** (school closed)

**Tuesday 2 January**                    **Start of half term 3**

**Thursday 18 January**                **Year 9 Options Evening**

*If you have a child in Year 9, please save the above date, as we will be inviting you to our Options Evening on Thursday 18 January to explore the best GCSE and study choices for Years 10 and 11.*

**Tuesday 23 January**                **Year 10 Target Setting Evening**

**Wednesday 24 January**    **Year 12 and 13 partnership Parents' Evening at Ralph Thoresby School**

**30 January to 1 February**    **Hairspray the Musical** – *our feel-good show that is guaranteed to have you dancing the night away!*

**Thursday 8 February**    **Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening**

Finally, thank you again for your continued support. I wish you and your family a happy and peaceful end of term break and look forward to welcoming all our students back in January.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Bell', written in a cursive style.

Mrs J Bell  
Headteacher