



Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

26 February 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

It was lovely to see all our students return safely after February half term break. I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing half term holiday too. As always, we have a busy half term ahead as we move towards Easter.

Celebrations

You will probably be aware that we launched a recognition scheme in September that enables students to be awarded with certificates and special rewards for the number of commendations they receive in school.

Last week, many students have been presented with Bronze and/or Silver Awards. They have earned these by reaching the appropriate number of commendations.

Congratulations to all the students who have achieved these awards!

The full list of students who have been presented with awards is on our website. Please see the table below for an indication of the number of positive commendations each student has achieved.

Certificate	Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4
Bronze	25	15
Sliver	50	30
Gold	100	50
Headteacher’s Commendation	150	75
Governor Commendation	200	100

Lawnswood Book Week

There are lots of events planned for next week and we are encouraging staff and students to enter into the spirit by reading and sharing our enjoyment of reading with each other.

All week, everyone in Years 7 to 10 will be reading the same book! We’re calling it our **Community Read**. Every lesson, a member of staff will read aloud a new chapter of our chosen book, *Friedrich*, a novel about two boys and their families in the 1930s and 1940s, written by Hans Peter Richter and first published in 1961.

We are focusing on reading because, as you will know, reading has a tangible, positive effect on us. Just last week, the National Literacy Trust published a shocking fact: “Life expectancy is shortened by 26 years for children growing up in areas with the most serious literacy problems”.

Every day next week:

- Year 7 will participate in our **Bookworm Competition**.
- Year 8 will contribute to a **group display competition**, promoting books that they have enjoyed.

- All students will be invited to complete the World Book Day Library Quiz.
- Staff will be seen around school reading a good book and, on classroom and office doors, we will display information about our favourite books.

On **World Book Day** on Thursday:

- Staff and students (who have pre-registered with their form tutor prior to the day) will be wearing book character-related **fancy dress**.
- World Book Day **tokens** will be generously awarded in the Library.

On Thursday and Friday:

We will host a **Book Swap** in G39. Students are encouraged to bring in books that they have read and are happy to pass on to a new reader. In exchange, they can select books that have been donated by other students. It's a great, *free* way to extend everyone's reading repertoire!

Dates for your diary or for information:

Week commencing 5 March: Confidence Week

Week commencing 12 March: Science Week

Thursday 15 March: Year 10 Parents Consultation Evening from 5.00pm until 7.00pm

Diner facilities

As our catering provider, Carillion plc, is no longer trading, the service has been taken up by a new provider, Chartwells. It is still very early days but I am assured that there will be no interruption in service and, so far, feedback from students about their diner experience has been positive.

If you send cheque payments to school for the diners, please make your cheque payable to Chartwells.

Parent Governor election

If you haven't already received a letter from school (delivered via students) about our ballot of parents to elect a new Parent Governor, the letter may be lurking in your child's schoolbag or you can see it on our website.

You can vote online or use the paper ballot form that was attached to the letter we sent home. The candidates' statements are on the letter and on our website, which also includes a link to the online voting: [Lawnswood School - Parent Governor ballot - use your vote!](#)

Bus users and punctuality

We occasionally communicate with the local bus company about buses running late in the mornings. As we must all acknowledge, buses are sometimes delayed by circumstances outside their control. However, it is important that students catch a bus to school at an appropriate time to enable them to arrive in their form room for 8.30am registration. If your child catches a bus to school, I should be grateful if you would discuss the importance of punctuality and agree which buses are available to catch at a suitable time.

Traffic speed reduction in West Park and Far Headingley

Regularly, we meet with local external agencies to discuss the safety of our students in the community. With this in mind, and with particular regard to road safety, I am pleased to let you know that some 20mph speed zones and traffic calming features have recently been introduced in West Park and Far Headingley. If you drive locally, please be aware of the new speed restrictions and road ramps.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support. As I trust you will gather from this letter, Lawnswood School is moving from strength to strength and we appreciate your part in this.

Yours faithfully

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

Mrs J Bell
Headteacher