

Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

9 March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

We have had an eventful fortnight since I last wrote to you. Unfortunately, we had to close our school for three days as a result of the 'Beast from the East'. Then, even more unfortunately, we had a problem with our water pumps on Monday and Tuesday which meant I had to close the school again to ensure we met health and safety requirements.

Staff, parents, carers and students were all looking forward to getting back to normal, then yesterday morning's adverse weather arrived! Most local schools decided to close again but, given the amount of learning time we had already missed, we did everything in our power to ensure we could open to students. I am sorry, however, that one of our text messages didn't get sent, which caused uncertainty for some parents, carers and students. We use a national website, used by a number of schools locally and nationally, and I understand that peaks in demand for messaging, as we had yesterday, can cause problems. As soon as we were aware the text had not worked, we sent it again. I am sorry if this caused confusion or inconvenience and I thank you all for your support during this fortnight of disruption.

Lawnswood Book Week

Our Community Read for years 7 to 10 is scheduled to finish today. In lessons, members of staff have read aloud new chapters of our chosen book, *Friedrich*. We have all read the book together and it has proved to be a wonderful and engaging activity.

Year 7 students have continued with the Bookworm Competition and it finishes today, with judging by Ms Stevenson later this afternoon! Year 8 have been creating their group displays, promoting books that they have enjoyed.

The weather tried its best to ruin our World Book Day celebrations, not just once but twice; last Thursday and again yesterday. However, it was wonderful to see so many staff and students joining the fun and wearing book character-related fancy dress. Photographs are available on our Twitter feed.

Our Book Swap continues today so, if he/she has visited the event, your child may come home with something new to read.

Students of the Month

Congratulations to our students of the month for February who are listed below. I am sorry that they are being announced a little late due to recent disruption. The students will receive prizes in their assembly next week.

Nicole Ziviani in Year 7

Sophia Zaman in Year 8

Jenni Riley in Year 9

Riley Lawless-Coombes in Year 10

Will Walker in Year 11

Dates for your diary or for information:

Week commencing 12 March: Science Week

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

Friday 23 March: Cabaret Evening in the main hall at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start.

Parent Governor election

Further to our ballot of parents that ended this week, I am delighted to confirm that the votes have been counted and, subject to final eligibility checks, we have a new Parent Governor: Mr Martin Groom.

Thank you to everyone who placed their vote. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Martin on his appointment.

Welcome to new staff

I am pleased to let you know that we have recently been joined or will be soon be joined by some new colleagues:

Mrs Y Moore	Head of Art and Design Technology
Mrs C Coop	Student Support Manager for the Sixth Form
Mrs L Rollett	Teacher of Science
Mrs K Wormwell	Teacher of Science
Mrs S Edwards	Teacher of Art
Mr J Cronin	Teacher of Art
Mrs M Lali	Primary Teacher

We have also welcomed two new colleagues whom you may meet on Visitor or Student Reception if you call in to see us: Mrs R Thakker and Mrs V Womack.

Energy drinks

We received a message from Morrisons earlier this week informing us of their new rules surrounding energy drinks. They asked us to notify parents/carers. Please see below for the details they sent us. *I wanted to let you know about restrictions Morrisons is introducing on the sale of high-caffeine energy drinks. From Monday 5 March, we will ask customers buying high-caffeine energy drinks (which are those containing more than 150 mg of caffeine per litre) to prove they are over 16 years of age.*

These restrictions will apply to in store and online sales and will be implemented through our 'Challenge 25' age restricted controls. This means that any customer who looks under the age of 25 will be asked for proof of age when attempting to purchase these products.

We do not allow energy drinks in school and your support to ensure your children are aware of this and meet our expectations in this respect would be appreciated.

Rawcliffes' blazer and tie package offer

One of our uniform suppliers, Rawcliffes, has asked us to let you know about an offer; if you are planning to get a new blazer, you can buy a blazer *and* tie during March for £25. This offer applies to size 28" to 36" chest in boys' and girls' styles. Buy at 617 Roundhay Road, Leeds LS8 4AR or online at schoolwearsolutions.co.uk

Cabaret Evening

School will host its sixth annual Cabaret Evening on Friday 23 March, from 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. This event has proved to be a fabulous evening of comedy, music and drama, comprising a variety of performances from staff, parents and star students.

The Cabaret is the showcase event in the Friends of Lawnswood School calendar and is a significant fundraiser for school. It's also a great opportunity to see the creative talent that the school

community has to offer. This is a community event so friends, neighbours, grandparents and any children over 14 are welcome. For more information and to reserve tickets please contact: friendsoflawnswood@hotmail.com. Tickets cost £5 each and can be bought on arrival. A bar and refreshment stall will be available on the night and the event ends at approximately 9.00pm.

Thank you for your understanding during the rather unusual circumstances of the last week or so. We have worked hard to return to normality today and look forward to welcoming next week refreshed and fully restored.

Yours faithfully

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

Mrs J Bell
Headteacher