

Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

22 September 2017

Dear parents/carers

It's been a busy fortnight since I last wrote, with many reasons to celebrate and news to share with you.

Celebration

Open Evening

We had an extremely successful Open Evening on Tuesday 19 September. It was well attended and left our prospective parents and students impressed with what they saw and heard. I would like to thank all our student ambassadors who did a marvellous job sharing their thoughts about the school and showing our visitors around. Without exception, they were a real credit to the school and their families. There are too many students to name individually but, if your child was an ambassador on Tuesday, please do take the time to tell them what a great job they did!

Tours of the school – if you are a parent of a Year 6 student too, please do come and visit the school during the core hours. It really is the only way to see what a school is really like. We will be offering tours by members of the senior leadership team in the next two weeks. Please contact main reception to find a mutually convenient time for you to visit our school.

Year 7 - Wild About Lawnswood

Since their arrival, our Year 7 students have been working hard on a cross-curricular project to design a wildlife park for Lawnswood School. Their projects are now nearing an end and, in groups, they will be preparing their final presentations to be judged by me. I am very much looking forward to seeing the culmination of their hard work and learning. I will announce the winners in my next update.

Extended Project Qualification

In their celebration event this week, our Year 13 students gave presentations with panache and answered questions with expertise. Members of their audience learnt about anaesthetics; space exploration; serial killers; androgyny in clothing; language use in cookery books; and much, much more. We were extremely proud of our Year 13 students and look forward to celebrating with the current Year 12 when they completed their EPQ this year.

Reminders

Year 11 Information Evening on Thursday 28 September from 6.00pm until 7.30pm

Our information evening offers the opportunity for you as a parent/carer to find out how you can support your child to prepare himself/herself well for GCSE exams. As well as providing subject-specific information, the evening will include a session about how you can support your child with revision strategies. Year 11 students were given a letter to bring home on Wednesday and it included a reply slip for your attention. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday.

Year 12 & 13 Information Evening on Thursday 28 September from 6.00pm until 6.45pm

This information evening offers an opportunity for you to learn how to support your young adult through the application process for university. We have colleagues from local universities attending to support this evening.

Year 12 Welcome to Sixth Form Evening on Thursday 28 September from 6.45pm until 7.30pm

The second half of the evening of 28 September will focus on providing information about how you can support your young adult to be a successful sixth form learner.

French and German Trip Parents' Information Evenings on Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 October from 5.00pm until 6.00pm

If your child is going on the French and/or German trip, you will have received a letter about the events on 2 October (France) and 3 October (Germany). We aim to run a series of cultural trips abroad each year. If your child is interested in being involved in one of these trips in the future, please ask him/her to speak to a teacher in the MFL department.

National Poetry Day on Thursday 28 September

We will be celebrating National Poetry Day at Lawnswood School with various poetry-related activities. There will be the opportunity to watch performance poetry in the Library at lunchtime, and each lesson that day will include a reference to poetry. There will also be a writing competition and all staff have been asked to share their favourite poem with their classes. Students will be given further information during their English lessons and I look forward to sharing the winning entries of the writing competition with you soon.

Progress Tests in English and Maths

Year 8 and 9 students will be undertaking progress tests in English and maths during those lessons next week. This is nothing to worry about and they will be fully prepared during their lessons. The data from these tests forms part of our quality assurance of teaching and learning and students' progress against our own internal assessments.

General

Unplanned building evacuation on Tuesday 19 September. You may be aware that we had an unplanned evacuation of the school building on Tuesday. I would like to offer my apologies to parents/carers who were caught up in this at the end of the day and to those of you who couldn't contact your child as soon as school finished. At the end of our lunch break, the casing of one of the fire alarms was accidentally damaged, but this wasn't observed at the time. The casing continued to crack over the course of an hour, until the alarm was finally triggered to sound. Unfortunately, this coincided with the end of the school day and we were unable to get into the building until we had been given the all-clear by the fire service. Again, please accept my apologies for the inconvenience or worry this may have caused you.

Free School Meals

This year we have ensured that students who are eligible to a Free School Meal allowance are able to access it at morning break time. The reason for this is that some students wish to purchase their meal at break, then take it to a club or activity at lunch time. It does, however, require students to be aware that, if they spend their allowance at break time, they won't have any more money to buy lunch unless they put additional funds into their account. Please can you ensure your child is aware of this and is able to budget throughout the day to buy food when required.

I look forward to writing again soon.

Best wishes



Mrs J Bell
Headteacher