

Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

10 November 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you all enjoyed a restful and pleasant half term break – it seems a rather distant memory to us already! I am pleased that my update this week starts with a celebration of just a few of our wonderful students. We recently had a visit from some colleagues from another Leeds secondary school to see what we had done to so rapidly improve our results last year. Their feedback about their time with us was overwhelmingly positive, in particular about our students' attitudes to their learning.

Celebration – Students of the Month

Each month, our pastoral teams make a Student of the Month award. I have great pleasure in sharing the names of the most recent award winners and the reasons they were nominated.

Antony Tidswell 7EER – Antony has settled quickly into Lawnswood life and is embracing all the opportunities available to him both in and outside the classroom. He recently found a valuable wallet on his way to school and, being a model student, he handed it in at school, enabling the staff to reunite it with its very grateful owner in the community.

Jamie Hayter 8ELU in September and **Louise White 8YBA** in October - Both students are superb ambassadors, always willing to help. They also have excellent attendance and a fantastic attitude toward their learning.

Amelia Drake 9LTE - Amelia always makes the correct choices and is an absolute pleasure to have in the tutor group. She produces beautiful work; completes tasks to a high standard and is always willing to join in discussions and offer her opinion.

Jennifer Riley 1ISEL - Jennifer recently attended the French trip where many students had the opportunity to use their language skills and experience different cultures, visiting Paris and Disney land. Jennifer was a pleasure; she really went above and beyond, forming good relationships with students that she did not previously know and was a good role model to younger students. Jennifer really embraced the all aspects of the trip.

Paige Smithson 10AJA - Paige recently joined our school and has really settled into Lawnswood life. She has been working hard to catch up on missed learning, making friends and has been a very positive influence on the other students. Paige has shown many aspects of the Lawnswood 7Cs her commitment to her learning, her confidence in joining a new school and her collaboration in working with staff and students to set a good example to others.

French and German Trips

The students had a wonderful time on their trip to Paris. The MFL department kept us up to date via Twitter and, although tired, all the staff and students delighted in sharing their experiences with us on their return to school on Tuesday.

I wish all the staff and students going to Cologne this weekend a very safe and happy trip. We look forward to hearing your stories when you return on Wednesday.

Sixth Form Open Evening

We were delighted to share a wonderful evening with parents/carers and students (current and potentially new) last week. It was great to see so many engaged young people who we look forward to welcoming into our sixth form in September 2018.

If you were unable to attend the event, you are welcome to come into school to discuss what we offer, meet the sixth form leadership team, speak to current students and look around the sixth form facilities.

Please encourage your son/daughter to complete their application via UCAS Progress prior to 12 January, and then they will be called for a formal interview in the new year.

Communication

We are always keen to improve our communication with parents/carers which is why we have invested in My Ed. My Ed is an app that supports with home school communication and enables you to better engage with your child's school life.(www.myedschoolapp.com.)

The app is easy to install – go to your app store on your phone or tablet, search for MY Ed and download the app.

The app will show general school information including key dates; this is also available on our website. *In addition*, for parents of our current students, it provides up to date information about your child's attendance, achievements and behaviour.

If you allow the 'push notifications' on the app it will alert you to any new information or texts that have been sent to you from school.

Texting, emailing and the school website are the schools chosen methods of communicating cost effectively, directly and effectively with parents and carers and the app is another part of this process to support with effective communication.

Contacting us

For the times when you wish to get in touch with us, I have listed below some key colleagues to help you contact the most appropriate person.

Miss Diane Hallas	Head of Year 7	hallas.dia@elawnswood.co.uk
Mrs Gale Daley	Year 7 Manager	daley.gal@elawnswood.co.uk
Mrs Michelle Harris	Assistant Headteacher Key Stage 3 (Year 7)	harris.mic@elawnswood.co.uk
Ms Jeanine Taylor	Year 8 Manager	taylor.jea@elawnswood.co.uk
Mr Jon Hough	Year 9 Manager	hough.jon@elawnswood.co.uk
Mrs Pat Periot-McCann	Assistant Headteacher Key Stage 3 (Year 8 and 9)	periot.pat@elawnswood.co.uk
Miss Roseann Millington	Years 10 and 11 Manager	millington.ros@elawnswood.co.uk
Mrs Karen Parker	Head of Years 10 and 11	parker.kar@elawnswood.co.uk
Mr Shane Carey	Deputy Headteacher (contact for KS4)	carey.sha@elawnswood.co.uk
Mrs Sara Dickinson	Post 16 Pastoral Leader	dickinson.sar@elawnswood.co.uk

Telephone numbers and the contact details for more key staff are on our website.

Confidence

The world of GCSE and A level is constantly changing and we working hard to prepare our students for these reformed qualifications that rely on almost solely on linear examinations. In the summer of 2017, on average, GCSE students had 23 hours of exams and these counted for 60% of their qualifications. However, from 2018, GCSE students will have an average of 33 hours of examinations which will count for 90% of their qualifications; this is a huge shift.

Next week is the first of our Confidence Weeks this year where learning activities will support students to revisit subject-specific content that was covered several months ago and develop metacognitive strategies to support their success in linear exams. Students will discuss the importance of revisiting learning during their registration activities.

Please take a moment to talk to your child about Confidence Week and what they have done to revisit learning in their lessons or for home learning. Please also share with them any strategies that you found/find helpful.

Students in Year 11 in particular may be feeling a certain amount of pressure at the moment, especially now their mock exam timetables have been published. Please support us in reassuring your child that if students do what we ask, we are confident they will be successful. It is important that they don't panic and we will be careful to structure revision to ensure they are fully prepared for this series of mock exams.

Further information for Year 11 can be found here: <http://www.lawnschool.co.uk/main-school/11/year-groups/> If you are worried about your child or have any questions about the mock exams, please contact Mrs Parker (Head of Year 11) who will be happy to support you.

Charity fundraising

We will be raising money for Children in Need on Friday 17 November. Our Sixth Form Leadership Team will be wearing fancy dress and collecting money at break and lunch times. We will also have collection buckets at both Student and Main Receptions for general donations but, in particular, your old round pound coins. You are invited to send old pound coins along to contribute to the collection.

Thank you in advance for your support in enabling us to contribute towards the Children In Need charity.

Remembrance Day

As always, we have observed a minute's silence today (Friday) to enable us, as a school community, to remember those who have lost their lives during combat. This week's assemblies have focused on the context of Remembrance Day and, through registration activities, students have had the opportunity to discuss and ask questions.

Reminders

Year 13 Parents Evening on Wednesday 15 November

This is an excellent opportunity for you to come and speak directly to subject teachers about your child's progress. Please ask your child to make individual appointments with their subject teachers.

A level Art trip

We have excellent links with Leeds College of Art and, on Friday 17 November, our Year 12 and 13 students have the opportunity to visit and take part in workshops there. Our outcomes in Art at Key Stage 5 are outstanding; in fact, last year, 100% of the students achieved an A/A* in Year 13. We look forward to celebrating further with this year's cohort in the summer.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Bell
Headteacher