

Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

4 October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

### **RED Award**

We are pleased to announce that Lawnswood School has been successful in attaining the Red Kite Alliance RED Award for Respect Equality and Diversity. The award recognises the school's work to embed a culture of mutual respect, to champion equality, and to celebrate diversity.

Students and staff often express pride in the diversity of the school and it is wonderful to have this validated with the award. We are delighted to have been recognised for all the amazing efforts of our community. Thank you to all members of the Lawnswood community who have participated in events such as Culture Day and Lawnfest. The award acknowledges what we as a staff already passionately believe about the school and the community we serve.

Our feedback relayed that our application was especially strong and that the work of the school was impressive. There was praise for the 'Ready, Respect, Safe' ethos of the school; the development of our student leadership team; and the proactive data-led work targeting specific groups, to ensure a strong focus on making sure that Equality and Diversity permeates all we do across the school. We are proud of the recognition that Lawnswood is creative and committed to going above and beyond to give students equal and exciting opportunities.

### **Aim Higher creative writing day**

A group of Year 7 students were selected to be part of a creative writing workshop day. The day is run by the Aim Higher organisation and involves students working with peers from Lawnswood and from other local schools. Published poet, Sharena Lee Sati, will be working with students and helping them to discover the magic of poetry and creative writing. We hope to be able to share some of their work in a later update.

### **National Re-Start a Heart Day 16 October**

On the 16 October we will be completing our annual re-start a heart day with all of Year 10. This national awareness day allows our students to have a go at practising some essential life Saving skills and CPR. This year the volunteers are being coordinated by The Yorkshire Ambulance Service and we are also delighted to welcome Lord Lieutenant, Ed Anderson CBE who will be visiting us too.

### **Trips and Visits**

Last weekend six of our Year 11 pupils completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award practice expedition, after being amongst the 27 pupils to receive their Bronze Award in the summer. They spent two days exploring Ilkley Moor and surrounding areas, before finishing on their third day with the ascent of Beamsley Beacon on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales. The staff supporting them were very impressed by the dedication and perseverance shown by the group, who had to carry all their equipment and camped on both nights in rather chilly conditions. As well as completing two expeditions, the pupils are also completing voluntary work, a physical activity, and the development of a skill. The DofE Award is a highly regarded opportunity for young people to develop a wide range of skills and culminates with an

invitation for Gold Award recipients to attend Buckingham Palace to receive their Award from a member of the royal family. Any pupils in Year 10 who are interested in the DofE Award and are not already involved should see Mr Rhodes in F62, and we will be launching the Award to Year 12 pupils next week.

### ***Drama update***

The Drama Department has started the year in full throttle with visits to Leeds Playhouse to see the revival of groundbreaking 1959 play *A Raisin in the Sun*. Year 11 had a fantastic time and were inspired by the phenomenal acting and stylish scenic design. We are excited to work on this script and develop scenes from the play for our GCSE acting exam. We will also be re-visiting Leeds Playhouse on December 4 with all of our KS4 students to watch *The Lion*, *The Witch* and *The Wardrobe*, it is always exciting to take students to the theatre and enjoy quality drama together.

This half term we also had the pleasure of The Paper Birds Theatre Company, a Leeds based company who are well established and recognised by the exam boards. We worked with Year 11 on the devising Drama unit, looking at developing movement, character motifs and performance skills as a whole and spent the morning refining our ensemble skills and making progress with our performance coursework. Rehearsals for the school show 'All Shook Up' are in full swing and we were delighted to have over 80 students audition for the roles! The performance will take place in February and we can assure you a great evening of entertainment!

### ***Food allergens***

As you might have seen in the media, the Food Standards Agency has issued a widespread warning regarding the potential peanut contamination of mustard products – namely mustard, mustard powder, and mustard flour. Mustard is a common allergen in many ingredients, products, and dishes, so we wanted to write and outline the immediate steps we have taken to ensure the safety of your pupils. Over the weekend, Chartwells have given us the following reassurance.

Their specialist Vendor Assurance team has been working hard to establish whether any mustard products in our supply chain have been contaminated. At this stage, none of the products in our supply chain have been included on the recall list, but this is a fast-moving situation, so we will be taking the following proactive steps. The children we feed with a known peanut allergy will be served whole food items this week, such as a jacket potato with a suitable topping for their specific requirements, such as tuna, beans, or cheese, with a plain, and a piece of fruit. We have also introduced a further triple check process for all processed items, such as condiments, sauces, and pre-packed sandwiches, to ensure the safety of every child we serve.

Given the severity of those with an allergy, we will be putting out clear signage instructing **any child with a peanut allergy to make themselves known to catering teams**. This is particularly important for the pupils self-managing allergens in secondary schools, and whom might not be able to eat a dish or item they typically would.

***Key information for next week –***

**Monday**

Year 7 football vs St Mary's Menston and Ilkley Grammar (@ home)

Year 8 football vs Roundhay (@ home)

**Tuesday**

Aim Higher writing day

Year 10 football vs Mount St Mary's (@ home)

**Wednesday**

Year 7 settling in evening, 4.30pm-7pm. Talks at 5pm, 5.30pm and 6.30pm

KS3 girl's netball vs Leeds West (@home)

**Thursday**

Mental health boost – every lesson, 6 minutes reading fiction

Year 9 football vs Cardinal Heenan (away)

Year 11 football vs Guiseley (@ home)

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Bell  
Headteacher