

Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

7 March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

### ***Why we are so proud of our Sixth Form***

It has been wonderful to spend the last month interviewing Year 11 students who are hoping to secure a place with us next year.

One of the most important factors a young person should consider when deciding where to study next is whether the school will deliver strong academic outcomes, and whether they are likely to get better results at Lawnswood than elsewhere. I am pleased to report that A level results from last summer have now been validated by the Department for Education, and students who study at Lawnswood Sixth Form make consistently better progress than they would if they study elsewhere. In fact, in terms of the A level points scores students attain, our sixth form is ranked in the top 17% of all sixth forms and colleges nationally, and in terms of the percentage of top A level grades secured we fall in the top 9% nationally! So, if your child has not submitted their application to the sixth yet, there is still time. We want every one of our Year 11 students to stay with us, if they meet our entry requirements, as we know we can support them to get the best possible grades at age 18.

Not only are the academic results important but our sixth formers also enjoy one of the widest enrichment programmes on offer and that is why they are so successful in securing places at university and on apprenticeships.

Below are just two of the events that our Year 12 students have been involved in this week:

### ***Why be a Surgeon Event?***

Ten of our Year 12 students were invited to participate in an outreach initiative organised by the BHS, which is a national society for Hip Surgeons in the UK. They hosted an annual scientific meeting at the Harrogate Convention Centre giving our students an insight into the diverse range of careers related to Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery. The engaging and informative sessions provided an overview of careers in surgery, working in operating theatres, industry roles and an Industry Exhibition Tour, which was thoroughly enjoyed by students and staff.

### ***The Brilliant Club Scholars Programme***

I would also like to highlight the success of our Year 12 students who are enrolled on the Brilliant Club programme and enjoying the tutorials including the practical sessions focused on Neuroscience. The programme allows our students to work with a PhD tutor from the University of Leeds to develop their subject knowledge and passion for learning in a small group setting. It helps them to develop their knowledge, skills and confidence to support them in securing a place at a competitive university. Students are now working with their tutor to begin writing their assignments.

### ***School trips update***

Year 10 sport pupils had a fantastic day at Herd Farm Activity Centre last week completing assessed activities including a high ropes course for the practical aspect of their course. Next week is a bumper week for trips, including our first overseas residential of the year: 40 pupils from Years 8 & 9 are journeying to Reims in France on a trip run jointly by the languages and science departments. Closer to home, Year 10 pupils are attending a secret location for a languages-themed workshop run by employees of government intelligence agencies; pupils from Years 7-10 are due to attend a singing workshop with other local schools; Year 9 and 10 pupils have a fantastic opportunity to take part in a trial for British Cycling; and Year 9 and 10 design technology pupils will be competing in a design competition against other Leeds schools. We wish our cyclists and designers all the best!

### ***SEND support***

Attached to this week's Headteacher's Update is a document outlining a wide variety of activities and support available to children with SEND and their families.

### ***Communication with families***

Currently we use Classcharts as our primary communication tool with families, but we would value your feedback on how we communicate with you. Please could you take a moment to complete this brief survey which will help us with our planning. [Click here](#) access the survey.

### ***Focus On Your Future: National Careers Week***

We have had a lot of activities focused on careers this week, in addition to our usual curriculum focus on careers.

- Year 9 students explored Conservation careers with professionals from the Worldwide Fund for Nature.
- Year 8 students questioned visitors from Leeds Heritage theatres, Reed, HSBC, Leeds Hospitals, B & K Build, Mott MacDonald, and WSP about their jobs in our 'Guess My Job' event'.
- Year 9 students worked with a professional writer to develop their responses to films that they had seen in the Leeds Art Gallery, as part of the National Gallery 'Articulation' project.
- Year 12 students enjoyed an Introduction to Medicine and Healthcare conference in Harrogate.
- Georgia in Year 13 is an aspiring journalist and she interviewed an expert from the Aluminum industry.
- Poet, Andy Craven Griffiths worked with Year 7 and Year 10 students in poetry workshops.
- Students were reminded of their access to Unifrog [Unifrog - The universal destinations platform.](#), our FOYF dashboard [FOYF Opportunities at Lawnswood School](#), and our Career Development Coordinator, Mrs Gill, for reliable, personalised information about careers.

Next week, assemblies will focus on the changing world of work and the importance of developing resilience.

### ***Lawnswood Book Week***

We have enjoyed a fabulous week focused on the importance of reading for pleasure. We celebrated a competition win for Mayar in Year 9, who described reading as 'the key to thousands of worlds'. We

embarked on a mammoth Community Read, where all students in Years 7 to 10 have a book read to them across the week; this year we read 'The Ruby in the Smoke' by Phillip Pullman. Mr Mellor, our faculty-lead for English, led our assemblies and managed to include a Keepie-uppie competition alongside his reading focus! We enjoyed our annual World Book Day festivities, with many staff and students dressing up as book characters, and Mrs South, our school librarian, ran a competition to see if students could guess the books that staff characters came from. Visitors in our 'Guess My Job' event spoke about how they use reading at work. Year 12 students continued to support the younger year groups as trained paired readers. Mrs South enjoyed hiding 'Golden Tickets' in the library for students to find and claim a book. Students now have the opportunity to enter a competition to design a cover for a new edition of 'The Ruby in the Smoke'.

### ***180 Years of Lawnswood: an update***

Every Thursday we share pictures from our archive. If you, or any friends or family, attended Lawnswood School, please follow us and let us know if you recognise anyone.

### ***Key dates for next week***

#### **Tuesday**

Rotary Club DT competition @ John Charles Centre for Sport

GCHQ Languages event

1.30pm-2.30pm British Cycling Trial @ Bodington Brownlee Centre

#### **Wednesday**

French trip – away until Sunday

#### **Friday**

Secondary singing day @ Pudsey Civic Hall

#### **Saturday**

School show rehearsal, 9am-1pm

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Bell  
Headteacher