

Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

14 March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

GCHQ languages visit

This week 12 of our Year 10 French and Spanish GCSE students attended a day run by members of the UK's security services who work for GCHQ. The day intended to show young people how our security services use languages to fight against terrorism, serious and organised crime and support our armed forces. Upon arrival, students learned some Korean, Mandarin and Arabic, then had a lesson on encryption and decryption techniques that allow organisations to send coded messages and GCHQ to read them despite attempts to keep messages secret. Following this, teams were set a series of challenges and tasks to track a fictional smuggled shipment from South America, through Europe and finally to the UK. Each task was in a combination of their target language of French or Spanish combined with the languages they learned earlier in the day. Students used their language skills, teamwork, resilience, logic and determination and ended the day presenting in their target language to the GCHQ staff. They competed against some very prestigious fee-paying schools and acquitted themselves beautifully, being just as competent and confident as anyone else in the room. At the end of the day, one of our teams came a very close second place in rescuing a kidnapped spy and one of our students, was awarded a prize and recognition for her confidence, enthusiasm and quick ability in learning Korean.

It was an excellent day, and our students learned so much and represented Lawnswood so well. We are proud of all they achieved. If your child is going into Year 10 next year, or in subsequent years, please do keep an eye out for this trip running again - places are limited and will go quickly.

Yorkshire Dyslexia Festival – save the date!



Yorkshire Dyslexia Festival
Organised by Yorkshire Rising Dyslexia

Yorkshire Dyslexia Festival
Pudsey Civic Hall - Saturday 5th July 2025

Join us at the Yorkshire Dyslexia Festival for a day full of talks, activities and great exhibitors at Pudsey Civic Hall.

Speakers & Exhibitors Coming Soon!

SAVE THE DATE
Yorkshire Dyslexia Festival
Saturday 5th July 2025
More information coming soon!

Key dates for next week

Tuesday

Channel 4 Q&A panel session, Year 7

Year 7 bake sale

Community Iftar, 5.45pm-7.30pm

Wednesday

Year 9 vaccinations catch-up session

Year 10 parents' evening

Thursday

Dame Kelly Holmes AQA event

Year 11 GCSE Drama examination

Friday

Training day – school closed to students

Saturday

School show dress rehearsal, 9am-1pm

Yours faithfully

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

Mrs J Bell
Headteacher