In this issue

Young Chef of the Year
Get Set Hangout
Christmas Card Competition

Plus much more...

Aspire  Believe  Achieve
## In This Issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction from Headteacher Mr Burridge</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Notices</td>
<td>4-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Results</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get Set Google Hangout</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke of Edinburgh Awards</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black History Month</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International News</td>
<td>12-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 History Homework</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance News</td>
<td>16-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Achievements</td>
<td>18-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lealands Remembers</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeds in Space</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keech Hospice Cheque Presentation</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Chef of the Year Competition</td>
<td>24-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Voice</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Library Trip</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Leaders and Leadership Opportunities</td>
<td>28-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Card Workshop</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9 Enterprise Day</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Homework</td>
<td>32-33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas at Lealands</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Frank Ambassadors</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Peris 2015</td>
<td>36-39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow – this edition of Lealands News is full of many outstanding achievements from our students. I am filled with pride by the wonderful contributions that they make to our school and the fantastic achievements of so many individuals. We have been focusing on growth mindsets this term to encourage everyone to believe that they can overcome barriers and improve at anything with the right attitude and mindset.

The word ‘yet’ has become very important to us when discussing achievements and work. The idea is that when anyone says, ‘I can’t do it’ or, ‘I’m no good at…’ we quickly add, ‘yet’. This is about adjusting our attitudes and mindsets so that we live out the school motto by believing in ourselves and our own ability to achieve with the right approach and effort.

Miss Bews, who is our teaching and learning lead, has set the senior leaders the task of learning something new and keeping a journal or video diary. I will be learning how to make origami shapes and we are hoping to see Mr Cullum become an expert on the unicycle!

As we move into the Christmas season, I am looking forward to the wonderful talent that will be on show in the Christmas concert and the Christmas lunch that will be prepared by catering students for over 90 local residents who attend activities in the Community Hub.

This term we have introduced an online appointment system for parents evenings. This was at the request of parents and I hope that you have found it to be a positive development. The feedback so far is good but we are always interested to hear your views.

We also launched our Facebook page – I hope you have signed up to this; if you are a Facebook user, so that you get regular information and news delivered directly to you. Thank you to those who support all our staff and students with so many, ‘likes’ for their activities and achievements.

At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to a couple of staff members. Miss N Malik (teacher of maths) will be moving on and we wish her well in the future. Miss Mailk
has been with us temporarily and we are grateful for the work she has done in the maths department. Miss K Southall, Pastoral Support Manager for Year 8, is leaving us to pursue a new direction. We are all very sad to have to say goodbye to Miss Southall who has done a fantastic job for the school, but wish her well in the future. Mrs Trott will be joining the maths department as an experienced and permanent teacher of maths. We are very pleased to have Mrs Trott joining us and I know you will join me in providing a warm welcome.

Finally, can I thank you all for your continued support and encouragement during the term. Our school continues to go from strength to strength thanks to the support and engagement from so many parents and carers.

I hope you have a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mr John Burridge
Headteacher

Important Dates

Parents’ Evenings:
Year 9 - Wednesday 20th January 2016
Year 11 - Wednesday 10th February 2016
Year 7 - Wednesday 16th March 2016

Year 10 Work Experience - Monday 1st February - Friday 12th February 2016
Year 9 Options Evening - Wednesday 2nd March 2016
Dance Show - Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th March 2016
Contact Information

It is extremely important that we have up to date contact information for all students. Any changes to a student’s address, parental contact telephone numbers or email addresses should be passed to Mrs Lawes in the Finance Office as soon as possible either by telephone on 01582 611600 or by email to admin@lealands.luton.sch.uk.

Severe Weather Notice

In the event of an emergency school closure, for example due to severe weather, parents/carers will be informed by text message. If you are unsure whether you have given us an up to date mobile number, please contact the school on 01582 611600. If you do not have a mobile phone, you are advised to check the school’s Facebook page www.facebook.com/lealandshighschoolofficial or the school’s website www.lealands.luton.sch.uk where a message will be added to the ticker.

Luton Borough Council now has a page dedicated to school closures. This can be found on their website at www.luton.gov.uk/schoolclosures

Term Dates:

School will be closing on Friday 18th December 2015 at 12.30pm for the Christmas period and starts again on Tuesday 5th January 2016.

Staff Training Day: Monday 4th January 2016

Spring Term - Tuesday 5th January 2016 - Thursday 24th March 2016
Half-Term - Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February 2016
Summer Term - Monday 11th April 2016 - Thursday 21st July 2016
Half-Term - Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June 2016
VALUE OF THE MONTH

December

“Human Rights”

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

“There should be no discrimination against languages people speak, skin colour, or religion.”

Malala Yousafzai
(Nobel Peace Prize Winner)
Lealands High School is pleased to announce that we are now on Facebook.

Our Facebook page www.facebook.com/lealandshighschoolofficial, will be used as a resource to connect with our community; sharing news, achievements, information, updates and photographs.

We would encourage parents and students to sign up to our page as we will use it as a tool for communication, sometimes at short notice.

Scan the QR code above with your mobile device to be directed straight to our page.

**Online Payments**

Don’t forget you can pay online using the ‘Parents Payment’ link from the homepage of our website: www.lealands.luton.sch.uk

If you do not have your link code to login, please contact the school finance office on 01582 611600. Parents can pay online for the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Voluntary Contributions</th>
<th>Events, Trips and Visits</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technology Years 7,8,9</td>
<td>Flatford Mill</td>
<td>Science Revision Guides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textiles Year 10 and 11</td>
<td>Duke of Edinburgh</td>
<td>Music Lessons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resistant Materials Year 10 and 11</td>
<td>An Inspector Calls</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Technology Year 11</td>
<td>Netball England</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The school prefers for all school meals to be paid for online. This gives you the flexibility to top up your child’s account at home using a debit or credit card rather than having to use cash or cheque.

Access to the online payments can be found on our website using the link at the top of the page ‘Parents Payment’; this will take you directly to the registration/log in website.

Further details and an online payments instruction manual can be found on our website: www.lealands.luton.sch.uk
Sports Results

**Year 7 Girls Football** - Our Year 7 girls football team came 2nd out of 9 schools at the recent 5-a-side tournament.

**Team:** Jeanette Sitauze, Harmoni Williams-Barnett, Abigail Walker, Shanice Thompson, Saruna Gudza, Kiyarnah Bailey, Maria Chadli, Sanaa Mburu.

**Year 7 Boys Football** - Our Year 7 boys football team also came 2nd at the recent 5-a-side football tournament, narrowly missing out on penalties.

**Team:** Harvey Williams, Taylor Keeley, Oliver Williams, Daniel Williams, Keenan McNaught, Hayden Allford, Terry Offeh, Jamaal Johnson, Hayden Dunn.

A fantastic achievement by both teams, well done!

**Year 11 Boys Football**

Lealands’ Year 11 football team won against Challney School for boys. The team went 1-0 down but recovered with a goal from Ciaren Jones to level the scores. The game went to extra time at 1-1. Goals from Samuel Ojo and two from Kyle Ajayi saw Lealands put three goals past Challney in extra time and saw Lealands win 4-1 at the final whistle.

Congratulations to all the boys who now advance to the next round of the Luton Schools Cup. Special congratulations to Ethan Tann, Kyle Ajayi and Ciaren Jones who played extremely well throughout the game.

**Team:** Ciaren Jones, Kiaran Archer, Abdullah Mohammed, Kyle Ajayi, Liam Cerqua, Daniel Gould, Sam Ojo, Mason Rourke, Jack Stephen, Ethan Tann, Yahya Ettawri, Prince Mensah, Kiaran Murphy, Ben Pincher.

**Netball Results:**

**Year 7 Netball** - Our Year 7 netball team had another huge win recently when they beat Icknield High School 22-0!

**Year 8 Netball** - Our Year 8 netball also beat Icknield High School recently 7-3.

Fantastic results, well done!
Get Set Google Hangout

A group of Year 7 students, recently took part in a Get Set Google Hangout with Minister of State for Children and Families, Mr Edward Timpson and Olympic Athlete, Perri Shakes-Drayton.

Mr Timpson’s responsibilities include; school sports and character and resilience building in young people and Perri Shakes-Drayton is a British track and field athlete who competes in the 400m sprint and 400m hurdles.

The students had interview questions prepared for the guests about how they have built resilience throughout their careers.

Both guests informed the students how they have had to deal with disappointment; Mr Timpson during a by-election in 2008 and Perri Shakes-Drayton during an injury in 2013 which forced her to switch events. They told the students that it is about how you react to disappointment or failure. Always look for positives and build on those to build resilience and come back stronger.

Year 7 student Justine Heal asked “Through hard times, what characteristics help you persevere through?” Perri Shakes-Drayton answered, “You need determination, passion and be strong minded”. Mr Timpson answered, “A sense of humour and perspective”.

The subject of resilience ties in with Lealands’ learning ethos of developing resilience, independence, communication and creativity.

The ‘hangouts’ are run by Get Set, the British Association and British Paralympic Association’s youth engagement programme. They will continue to run with members of Team GB and Paralympics GB between now and Rio 2016.

To view the video of the ‘Hangout’, visit the School News section of our website to find the online story.
Duke of Edinburgh Awards

In April 2015, Lealands High School became a fully self-funded Directly Licenced Centre (DLC) for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. As a result, students at Lealands can now be trained, assessed and qualified internally by our own staff for both the Bronze and Silver Awards.

On Tuesday 13th October, Mr Ashby and Mr Payne were invited to St James’s Palace for the day where they were presented with their licence. The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, was in attendance and the licence was handed to Mr Ashby and Mr Payne by Christian Horner OBE, Team Principal of the Infiniti Red Bull Racing Formula One Team who was the honorary guest for the day.

Mr Ashby and Mr Payne are now looking to recruit Year 9 students for the Bronze Award and presented an assembly in November to students about this.

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

On Thursday 24th, Friday 25th and Saturday 26th September 2015, six Year 11 students took part in their final expedition for their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. The three days consisted of walking, orienteering and overnight camping in which students were required to carry all of their equipment in their rucksacks. Duke of Edinburgh students are trained to navigate, walk, cook and camp without the help of Lealands staff. The students are now completing their physical, skills and volunteering sections in order to complete the ward.

The students involved were: Daniel Gould, Rudo Makoni, Tia-Ebony Travers, Kayla Perry, Billy Milford and Ross Murray.
Black History Month

This October, Lealands High School celebrated Black History Month through a variety of fundraising events including; assemblies, a cake sale, a cultural dress day and an African/Caribbean inspired lunch.

The events aimed to show that anyone from any race and/or culture has probably engaged or are currently engaging in the ‘everyday’ aspects of Black History, which can often be overlooked. Such as the music we may listen to, the food we may eat, our access to education, and the ethnically diverse friendships and relationships we may have.

We raised an impressive £865.18 from the events, which will go to the Luton Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Care Forum, a charity that works specifically with young people and parents in Luton who suffer from Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Nadine Scarlett, Rudo Makoni and Irene Madzimure in Year 11, and also to Mrs Selby, Mr Payne, Mr Ward, Mr Burridge, the kitchen staff, and to the rest of the staff members and students who supported the events and made everything possible.

Thank you, Miss Masawi.
On the last Saturday of October I left a cold and wet UK for the warmth of India as part of our on-going partnership with Subodh Public School, in Northern India. By Sunday afternoon I had arrived in Vadodara; as it was half term my wife had joined me and we were visiting her mother who she had not seen for a long time.

Apart from visiting lots of relatives, I had to accompany her to countless dress shops as she hunted for a collection of Saris for an Indian wedding we will be attending next year. During one such trip everybody came out of the buildings and assembled in the road; as I was sat in a car I hadn’t even noticed there had been an earthquake. This was the same earthquake that affected Afghanistan and its tremors reached as far as northern India.

At midnight on Wed/Thurs we took the overnight train to Jaipur; after my experience last year I went first class which was much more comfortable, there were still boys running in the sleeping area shouting “Chi Coffeeee” every ten minutes as soon as it was light. The hotel was a grand old house with peacocks strolling around the grounds; it was really nice to get away from the incessant noise of the streets of Jaipur.

On arrival at the school I was warmly welcomed by the Principal, Dr Bella Joshi. It was a big week for the school as they were preparing for their annual production. The show was to take place the following Friday evening and incredibly all the 10 thousand tickets had been taken and there was a demand for more. By the time I had to leave, an enormous stage had been erected with lights, lasers and huge screen behind it to show the videos the students had prepared. It was such a shame that I was to miss the event, as it was clearly going to be spectacular.

My work with the staff and students began on Saturday; this is a normal school day!! By the end of the week we had completed numerous activities in maths, science, PSHE, English and PE. Their students worked extremely hard and quickly adapted to our style of working; the
results of the assignments were very good and some of their handwriting was outstanding. One morning I had a two and a half hour session with 50 students on a maths activity our Year 8s work on over several lessons; they impressed me with their ability to remain focussed for so long and the quality of the work they produced. I also spent some time with their senior staff introducing ‘Thinking Maps’.

During my stay their staff took me to a Rajasthani Village set up, to show tourists the various local crafts and traditional dancing. I bought the Technology Department a large number of items for under £30. They also took me to a factory that was producing re-cycled paper; it was really good to see that India is taking conservation seriously. This message was echoed in the school as they have a fridge in the foyer for surplus freshly cooked food which is distributed to the poor during the evening.

Once again I would like to thank Dr Joshi and her staff for being such wonderful hosts and to the British Council for funding this partnership.

Mr Slatter
International News – Tanzania

The development of Sazira School in Tanzania continues with the support of Lealands High School; Mr Edward Ntungi visited our school in September and returned with lots of ideas of how best to use the computers he now has in the school and how to introduce games lessons that require a minimum of equipment. Mr Ntungi was really grateful to the ICT and PE department for the time they gave during his visit.

The money donated by the staff football team has also been spent on some very worthwhile improvements for the boys who sleep overnight at the school. When I last visited these students slept on old mattresses in an unused classroom; there was also no electricity for lighting in the evening and no running water for washing.

The small sum of money has been invested in mosquito nets and a small solar powered light; there was enough money left over to construct a frame for the boys to hang the clothes they wash. The construction of the well we sponsored is now complete and the school has access to clean water for drinking and washing.

Since we were linked three years ago there have been tremendous improvements made in the school; their students now receive a daily meal, have clean drinking water, the boys who sleep at the school are better catered for and their curriculum continues to develop as they become better resourced and their staff more aware of a range of teaching strategies.
Once again, Year 7 have produced some excellent Roman artefact homework. The variety of objects made this year and the amount of effort put in was outstanding. Well done to you all.

Miss Young
Dance News

The Dance Department has a lot planned this school year, and it would be amazing if everyone took part.

Do you love dancing? If yes, then you should try out some of the extra-curricular clubs that Lealands provide.

**Mondays:** Lealands’ Dance Company from 3:30pm-5:00pm, in the dance studio. We are focusing on African and Contemporary dance with Lauren from Next Generation Youth Theatre. Everyone is welcome and it is free to attend!

**Tuesdays:** General dance club for all years, during lunchtime.

**Wednesdays:** A dance club for boys only. We are focusing on Parkour and contact work.

There is also going to be a G&T dance club, for students that show exceptional progress within dance lessons, watch this space!

Some exciting trips are coming up, such as; The Lion King, for Year 7 and the “Move It” dance exhibition for Years 9 and 10.

Dance leaders have been chosen by Mrs Harley. These students all have roles such as; mentors, spokespeople, reporters, publicists, photographers and coaches. If you have any requests or suggestions, the dance leaders will listen to your suggestions and try to improve the dance department with these. Please see Anais Justin, Kiara Justin, Tajisha Frederick, India McKenzie, Faith Douglas, Shekina Kama, Lydia Willock, Courtney Frazer, Jayda Francis or Taliyah Mitford for more details or to pass on your suggestions.

As you may know, auditions for Lealands’ annual dance show were a few weeks ago. Congratulations to those who received a place! Rehearsals are on Tuesday lunchtimes for Years 9, 10 and 11 and Thursday lunchtimes for Years 7 and 8. The dance show will take place on 9th and 10th March.
Dance Show Auditions

In October, students took part in auditions for the annual Lealands dance show. As usual, there was an excellent turn out and auditions were spread across two days. Some entrants auditioned in groups whilst others auditioned as solo dancers.

Various styles were on show including; street dance, contemporary, tap and ballet, all of which had been prepared and choreographed by the students themselves.

The standard of dance talent was outstanding as usual and gave judges Mrs Harley and Mr Kinnear some tough decisions. The successful candidates are now busy choreographing and rehearsing their routines ready for the dance show in March.

This is always a highlight of the academic year, with such talented young dancers on show.

2016, so make sure you grab your tickets when they come out on sale next year. This consists of different styles of dance performances from pupils within the school, and also some special performances from Next Generation Youth Theatre.

Make sure you take advantage of what the dance department has to offer and you will find yourself enjoying every last bit of it!

By Anais Justin 99MA Dance Leader

Photos taken during Dance Club by Kiara Justin, Faith Douglas and Shekina Kama, Year 9, Dance Leaders.
Outstanding Achievement

We always like to highlight outstanding achievements by our students outside of school as well as in school. The following, is an excerpt of a piece of writing, by Year 11 student, Ryan Brown. Ryan has been writing this in his spare time and it has no relation to his school work. We are incredibly impressed by the standard of writing and the commitment he has shown to something which is not connected to school.

The possibility of there one day being ‘living’ machines is rapidly increasing at an unbelievable rate. Some people say that we are no where near this point or that we will under no circumstances get there, however, by how technology is progressively evolving and how for most new gadgets, computers and robots are getting more intricate than the last, if there is a way to accomplish this revolutionary goal, it won’t be too long before we work out how, if we haven’t already, or until it is in development. If anything we are closer to attain this achievement than ever before.

Technology is getting so complex. Already there are computerised wrist watches on the market for about £600 called ‘smart watches’. These watches can be used to operate certain functions on your phone such as making calls or using a map application which can then use the watch’s display to show your route, your location, your direction and destination similar to how a compatible phone or most other satellite navigation devices would. Along with this, some of these ‘smart watches’ themselves are twice as powerful as some malty-million pound supercomputers from only a few decades ago which at the time would have filled most of a room where as these watches can go on your wrist and weigh hardly anything.

As it goes for actual desktop computers, there are now computers produced by Apple where the computer is built into the screen yet thinner than the average household TV or computer monitor and faster than the average PC. All that is required by these computers are a keyboard, mouse and a socket it can use to acquire power from. Through this you can see just how much technology has changed in the last 30+ years, stuff we have now in reality, maybe even in our pockets were once things of science fiction possibly even impossible not that long ago.

Already computers and robots are taking over the world. They wash our cars, make us drinks, text us and the police when someone breaks into our car or home. Robots such as ASIMO’s are already starting to replace secretaries in Honda and now there is already a program that can compose simple retro looking computer games and all you have to do is give it a small specification on what the game is about and other small details. Computers are in most households in developing countries usually as a PC, Apple Mac or a phone. In businesses, computers and robots can be used to do so many things for us so we don’t have to and sometimes much faster than the average human can along with more precision too making them perfect for working in factories. Some robots are being developed so that when a nuclear power plant leaks or blows up it can walk in and turn off all of the shutoffs on pipes and to clear the area due to people not being able to enter the site with the soaring amount of radiation even when they’re in some suits. If they can already do this then how long is it until they look after our children? By Ryan Brown, Year 11.
Outstanding Achievement

In October’s edition of the newsletter, we informed you that, Year 8 student, Nicole, had been selected to attend extended trials for the Regional Excellence Centre for the East of England girls under 13s football team. She kept a diary of her weekend:

On the weekend of the 3rd and 4th October, I went to Northampton to become an official football player for the East Region. On Saturday, I arrived at the Moulton College. First, I got my training things and then got changed. After we had a meeting with our parents, they said goodbye. After they left, we went outside where I had an hour and a half goalkeeper training. While I was training, the Uruguayan Rugby Team stopped and watched. When we finished, we had a nutrition lesson and wrote in our reflection diaries. Finally we ate lunch.

After lunch, we were informed that we had another training session. I went with my team, where we got to know each other more. After training we went to the lecture theatre where we had a team building exercise. After that, we had a foam rolling session and then we got our overnight things and went to the Marriott Hotel. When we arrived we got our room key and tracksuit for the evening, then went to our rooms where we had a shower. An hour later, we met for dinner and then ate. After dinner we had another meeting. Around 8.30pm, we went to our rooms for player down time and sleep at 9pm.

The next day we got ready to eat and our game. We were given targets and then set off for our game against MK Dons Boys Academy. Unfortunately, we lost, but the coaches said it does not matter as long as we passed our target and team target.

After the game, we ate lunch. Then I went and had another goalkeeper training session and then I met up with my team to do some reflection time. After reflection time, I had dinner and gave my kit in and said goodbye and thank you.

A few days later I received the news that I was successful and am now a Regional Excellence Goalkeeper. There is now more hard work to come.

Well done Nicole; an outstanding achievement!
Outstanding Achievement

Congratulations to Year 9 student, Callum, who recently came first in the final of the Bedfordshire County Archery Championships at Clophill Archery Club.

Callum was one of four contestants who made it through to the final on Sunday 29th November, which only occurs once a year.

Well done Callum; an outstanding achievement!

Train To Teach

NEW YEAR | NEW CAREER

TRAIN TO TEACH EVENT

If you would like to learn more about the routes into teaching then please come along to a joint event organised by local teaching schools.

attend a presentation

speak to teaching experts

meet staff from a range of teaching schools

SATURDAY 16TH JANUARY 2016 : 10.00am - 2.00pm
HOSTED BY CHILTERN TRAINING GROUP

For more information please visit:
www.ctg.ac.uk
On Wednesday 11th November at 11am, students and staff from Lealands High School, gathered together by the memorial garden to observe a two minute silence to remember those who have given their lives during conflict. The school community bowed their heads as the silence was introduced by Mr Patterson playing the 'Last Post'.

Following the silence, Head Girl, Nadine Scarlett, recited the poem 'Remember Me', by Harry Riley and Head Boy, Ciaren Jones, laid a poppy wreath next to the Lealands memorial tree. A representative from each tutor group stepped forward and planted poppies and poppy crosses alongside the wreath.

Students were given access to the garden for the remainder of the day, if they wished to lay their poppies privately.

Following the event, Headteacher, Mr Burridge, said, “The Remembrance service was a very moving occasion. Our memorial garden was surrounded by a thousand students and staff who showed great respect and dignity in remembering those who have and are still sacrificing so much for us”.
Lealands High School has received confirmation that we will be among a small number of UK schools who are taking part in a project which is literally out of this world.

Earlier this year two kilos of seeds were flown to the international Space Station on Soyuz 44S. The seeds will be spending months in microgravity conditions before returning to earth in March 2016 and then distributed to participating schools in April 2016.

The seeds have been sent as part of Rocket Science, an educational project launched by the Royal Horticultural Society’s Campaign for School Gardening and the UK Space Agency.

On receiving the space seeds, students will grow them alongside seeds that haven’t been to space to measure the differences over seven weeks. Our young space biologists will have to plant the seeds, monitor them and record the necessary data.

The out-of-this-world, nationwide science experiment will enable students to think more about ways in which we can preserve human life on another planet in the future and the difficulties surrounding growing fresh food in challenging climates. This project is a fantastic way of teaching our students to think more scientifically and contribute to a national science project.

Tim Peake is set to become the first British astronaut to visit the International Space Station, making him the first UK astronaut in space for over 20 years. Tim and his crewmates are scheduled to launch on December 15th 2015 at 11:02 GMT. Tim will be stationed on the ISS a unique scientific research facility, where he and his crewmates will conduct a series of experiments that cannot be done anywhere on Earth. These experiments include physiology, biology, materials science, solar physics, radiation physics and technology demonstrations. Some of these experiments are intended to improve our understanding of fundamental science and some will demonstrate new applications of science and technology – but all will help to enhance the quality of life here on Earth or help us in the next stages of human exploration of the solar system.

Tim wants this mission to inspire people, especially children, to develop their interest in science and learn more about career opportunities that it opens up.

Follow the project via http://principia.org.uk/.
https://twitter.com/astro_timpeake
Keech Cheque Presentation

On Tuesday 17th November, a representative from Keech Hospice Care was invited into our Year 8 assembly to be presented with a cheque for £921.46. This was the fantastic amount raised during our Fun in the Sun afternoon in July; well done everyone!

Thinking Maps – Double Bubble Map

This picture shows an example of the Double Bubble Map which is used to allow students to compare and contrast two things, for example, two characters, two sports or even the two world wars. The map shown here was produced by students in a RS lesson who were given the opportunity to present their ideas using the map of their choice. The aim at Lealands is to train students to independently use the Thinking Map appropriate to the task they are being asked to complete.

Ask your child to show you the hand signal for the Double Bubble Map.
Lealands took this year’s Rotary Club, ‘Young Chef of the Year’ competition by storm, winning 1st and 2nd prizes, plus taking the following two runners-up places.

All four Year 10 catering students; Jessica Walcott, Charlotte Dean-Brown, Claire Frost and Mya Hinde did exceptionally well to emulate the success of Lealands’ students who have won the competition for the previous two years.

The event took place at Barnfield College and included 12 students from local Luton schools. The students had to design their own menus, set their own time plans and lay their own tables. Marks were awarded for the meal itself, as well as presentation, skills demonstrated and food hygiene standards.

The competitors had to prepare and cook a two course meal in an hour and a half, which then had to be presented on their tables ready for judging.

Jessica, who was awarded first place in the competition, prepared Teriyaki chicken served with egg fried rice, followed by strawberry shortcake. Her prize for winning the competition was a trophy, certificate and £30 worth of Amazon vouchers. She will now move on to the district finals which take place in February.

When she was chosen as the winner, she said “I was really surprised when they said my name; I thought it was a joke! All of the other meals looked so good; I really didn’t expect to win. I am really excited and a bit nervous about the district finals and need to start preparing what I am going to make this time”.

Charlotte, who came an extremely close second, only lost out to Jessica by half a point. She
prepared traditional cottage pie, topped with a cheesy mash potato followed by chocolate brownie, served with a raspberry coulis.

Catering teacher Miss Selby commented on the achievements of her four students. “I am so proud of Jessica, Charlotte, Claire and Mya, this is an outstanding achievement and reflects all the preparation and hard work they have put in over the past few weeks, often coming to practise in their own time. Having won the competition for the previous two years, there was lots of expectation on our students, but they dealt with the pressure brilliantly and fully deserved to win. Their meals were presented beautifully and stood out amongst the competition”.

**College Open Days**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Open Days</th>
<th>Luton 6th Form</th>
<th>Cardinal Newman</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 12th January 2016 5-8pm</td>
<td>Tuesday 9th February 2016 5-8pm</td>
<td>Wednesday 3rd February 2016 5-8pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday 20th January 2016 5-8pm</td>
<td>Wednesday 10th February 2016 5-8pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday 27th January 2016 5-8pm</td>
<td>Wednesday 26th April 2016 5-8pm</td>
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<td><strong>Oaklands College</strong></td>
<td><strong>The National Apprenticeship Show - Milton Keynes</strong></td>
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<td>Tuesday 9th February 2016 5-8pm</td>
<td>Monday 14th March 2016 All Day</td>
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<td>St Albans 5-8pm</td>
<td>Tuesday 15th March 2016 All Day</td>
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<td>Wednesday 10th February 2016 5-8pm</td>
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<td>Welwyn Garden City 5-8pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday 26th April 2016 5-7pm</td>
<td><strong>Central Bedfordshire College</strong></td>
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<td>St Albans 5-7pm</td>
<td>Dates TBC</td>
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<td>Wednesday 27th April 2016 5-7pm</td>
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<td>Welwyn Garden City 5-7pm</td>
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<td><strong>Bedford College</strong></td>
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<td>Tuesday 1st March 2016 5-8pm</td>
<td>Thursday 25th February 2016 3-8pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday 17th March 2016 5-8pm</td>
<td>Thursday 14th April 2016 3-8pm</td>
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Year 9 Student Voice member, Charlie Nelson, will be taking on a 300 mile charity bike ride next Easter, in memory of his younger brother Reece, who passed away in 2012 from a brain tumour. Charlie has worked non-stop over the past couple of years to help raise money and awareness for The Brain Tumour Charity.

On Wednesday 4th November, Charlie was invited to BBC Three Counties Radio, to talk to Nick Coffer about the bike ride and his reasons for doing it. The interview was extremely moving and Charlie did an amazing job considering it was live on the radio and he wasn’t given the questions beforehand.

If you are in a position to offer any help or support to him, be it large or small, he and his family would be extremely grateful.

If you would like to support Charlie by donating to the charity, please visit his Virgin Money Giving Page. At uk.virginmoneygiving.com/someonespecial/reecenelson.

For the full background story of Charlie and his fundraising, please visit the ‘School News’ page of our website www.lealands.luton.sch.uk
Our Trip To The British Library

On Monday 16th November, selected gifted and talented students from Years 8 and 9, were offered the opportunity to go on a trip to The British Library; the nation’s biggest library with over 200 million books and archives.

You could tell that everyone was itching to explore the library bustling onto the coach, ready for the long journey ahead to London. The coach began to move along with the echo of laughter filling everyone’s ears. What should have been a long journey felt like a surprisingly short one-like they say: *time flies when you’re having fun!*

We proceeded into the library and were gobsmacked by astonishment at the humongous size of the building; significantly looking larger on the inside. Later, as we met up with who would be leading our creative writing workshop we learned that it was even bigger, with books, manuscripts and archives running underground too! We set off in two groups for a tour of the African exhibition. This made it much easier to learn and work. We were then told to try and find different things about Africa and the way people of the continent were made to work as slaves by going off and exploring the exhibition. This was an extremely effective way to teach us as it gave us the independence to find out things by ourselves.

After exploring the exhibit, we proceeded to our creative writing room where we met up with the second group. In the creative writing room, we had to answer 10 questions that we were asked, but as if we were an African character, using keywords from our notes from the exhibition. This really got us thinking and creative and everyone was engaged by the task at hand. This happened to be a fun planning method that really helped us with writing a story.

We were then dismissed from the workshop and we could finally eat! Everyone sat in groups of friends and munched their way through a packed lunch. We then went in groups into the gift shop and bought some fantastic gifts that would act as a memory of what we had learnt and achieved here. Next, we were told that our day in the library was over; all that was left was the ride back to school. The coach ride back was the same as the one there, full of fun and excited discussions about what we had seen and encountered during the day.

Finally the day was over. We met back at Lealands and had a short chat about each other’s work before the bell went and were dismissed from school.

It had been a memorable day.

*By Nitin Verma, Year 8*
Sports Leaders

On Wednesday 18th November, sixteen Year 9 students were selected to be Sports Leaders for an indoor athletics event. Fifteen primary schools attended the event with upwards of 25 students in each team. The Leaders had to officiate each event, record the results and encourage the kids to achieve their best. Mrs. Dockerill from Denbigh High School, who ran the event, commended the students on their leadership skills and enthusiasm.

The leaders were: Seiya Fujino, Daisy Fujino, Kwabena Yeboah, Kisima Janneh, Soloman Habashanti, Faith Douglas, Shekinah Kama, Jamie Gill, Maria Mushtaq, Tolutope Folorunso, Kieran Newport, Jessica Farquharson, Arturas Brazauskas, Sophie Hayton, Aimee-Louise Sadler.

Sports Hall Athletics

On the 24th November, Mr. Stallwood took 15 Year 7 students to compete in the Sportshall athletics event at Inspire - Luton Sports Village. The event consisted of events which tested the teams’ agility, strength, speed and endurance in a variety of races and field events. There were some brilliant performances and teamwork from both the boys’ and girls’ teams, with the girls’ team coming 2nd and the boys coming 4th. Congratulations to both teams on this outstanding achievement. The result for the girls means that they will be competing as a team in the County event in January.

The teams were:


Girls: Saruna Gudza, Shanice Thompson, Abigail Walker, Maria Chadli, Sanaa Mburu, Justine Heal, Charlotte Morris-Curtis, Jeanette Sitauze.
Leadership Opportunities

What opportunities are there for you to be leaders at Lealands?

• Sports Captains
• Sports Council
• Student Voice
• Student Leaders (Year 10/11)
• History Leaders
• Literacy Leaders
• E-Safety Ambassadors
• Dance leaders
• Maths Leaders
• Language Leaders
• The Duke of Edinburgh Award (Year 9/10)
• Reading Mentors
• Peer Mentors
• Classroom Leaders
• Thinking Leaders

For more details about leadership opportunities at Lealands, please see Mr Ashby, Head of Year 8.
On Wednesday 4th November, our gifted and talented art students took part in an all day Christmas card workshop. They were given the task to design a Lealands themed Christmas card and then create a template ready for printing.

At the end of the day, all of the designs were given to headteacher, Mr Burridge, who had the extremely difficult job of choosing just one to be the official Christmas card of Lealands. this year.
Year 9 Enterprise Day

On Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th November, our Year 9 students took part in an enterprise project called ‘Griffins Den’. A team of Vauxhall undergraduates and apprentices came into school to give talks about careers in the motor industry and to aid the students to complete the day’s tasks.

The ultimate aim of the day was to promote engineering and manufacturing as an attractive profession, as well as giving the students a brief history and overview of a global company which has roots embedded in the local area.

The task for the day was to design a car for a young female called ‘Lucy’ who enjoyed going to festivals and then pitch it ‘Dragon’s Den’ style.
This term students have continued to impress us with their homework projects. All Key Stage 3 students are given a three task project focusing on research, design and make and a literacy task. There have been some highly creative and innovative creations so far this term and we cannot wait to see what the rest of the year brings.
Christmas at Lealands
As always the Christmas trees are looking fabulous in the atrium and reception.

Success In Computing
Congratulations to the following students for their success in computing last half-term (September-October 2015).

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<tr>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>Year 9</th>
<th>GCSE ICT Year 10</th>
<th>GCSE ICT Year 11</th>
<th>GCSE COMPUTING Year 11</th>
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<tr>
<td>Riece James</td>
<td>Jacey Siddique</td>
<td>Shania Mohit</td>
<td>Amarni Miah</td>
<td>Dominika Pitak</td>
<td>Ryan Brown</td>
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<td>85DW</td>
<td>92AC</td>
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Show My Homework
A new version of the ‘Show My Homework’ website has recently been launched. This has been designed to make the site faster, visually easier and more intuitive. All log in details will remain the same. For further details and tutorials, please visit our website: www.lealands.luton.sch.uk
Following the success of last year’s Anne Frank Ambassadors, Lealands has selected eight Year 10 students to be this year’s ambassadors as part of the Anne Frank Trust. The students recently attended a seminar at the Luton Hat Factory, to learn the skills required for them to go forward and teach five RS lessons to their fellow peers. The lessons will focus on prejudice after Christmas and also planning an exhibition on acts of human kindness and heroism in the face of adversity.

This year’s Anne Frank Ambassadors: Shauna Marcantonio, Nabiha Paracha, Karris McGonigle, Chelseigh Brookes, Kamaal Lynch, Samara Ottey, Carla Lindars and Jordanne Harvey.
Blue Peris 2015

On the morning of Sunday 14th November 2015, a group of Year 9 Lealands' students departed on the annual trip to Blue Peris Mountaineering Centre in North Wales. Arriving in the afternoon, the students were raring to go and, after settling in, they were ready for their first activities.

Two of our students wrote about their experiences of the week:

Blue Peris was not only spectacular but life-changing. Life-changing in the way that it made me think of the future and certain decisions I will make in the future. In addition, it opened up pathways and made me consider certain options, for example, in Year 11; I would like to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh award. Furthermore, it made me stronger physically and mentally by exposing me to my fears. An example being, I am afraid of heights but still enjoyed rock climbing, mountain walking in strong winds and high altitudes and mining. It also stretched my confidence and showed me I am more capable of things than I think and believe I am. This trip helped me to learn more about myself and successfully produced mind-growth.

Blue Peris was an action packed week full of fun. It created enduring memories that will stay with me and other members of my group for the rest of our lives and whilst doing so we created and enlarged our vocabulary. We created the phrase ‘sluging it’ which means to stay or not move in certain positions for a large amount of time, particularly used in rock climbing and synonyms of the word are ‘rock hugging’. Furthermore, Blue Peris provided us with a camera which students and staff could take pictures with and on the camera we took fascinating pictures of amazing views and students from Lealands conquering each
challenge and activity. Moreover, we overcame the fact that it was windy and on most days it was raining and got on with the task given. In my group, we had moments where we struggled and simply did not want to carry on, but in those moments we built firm friendships and created closer bonds which then gave us the courage to grow these friendships and simply say ‘hi’ to our new friends when seen at school or elsewhere. Blue Peris also helped us to learn more about each other and not just about ourselves.

The themes that made the trip successful were that we were welcomed well and from the start they created that home feeling, making us feel that we were safe and yet comfortable. Throughout the week they provided us with qualified instructors that supervised us and kept us safe and also had a laugh with us which made the activity more fun and gave us the energy and determination to keep going.

This trip may be valuable for others because in a way it can change a person and make them more adventurous and courageous by simply setting them outside and showing them the beauty of the outside world and taking them away from the world they are embroiled in at home.

I cannot finish writing this report without thanking the people who made it possible for me to be able to go to Blue Peris, such as; my parents, Miss Watson, who organised the trip, Mr Payne, who emboldened me to go further in rock climbing, Mr Kinnear and Miss Markland, who were my group leaders, Miss Wight and the instructors at Blue Peris itself.

In conclusion, I am glad I went to Blue Peris because it opened gates to new pathways and helped to realise my potential and my strengths and
weaknesses. Furthermore, it proved that if you believe anything really is possible.

By Zoe Vassell, 91AM

It all started off going on the coach in warm, comfortable clothing. It was such a long journey! When we first arrived, I was quite surprised that the house was an attractive baby blue. The dorms were very spacious, lucky for me; I had my friends with me. Personally, going on late night walks were interesting; street lights, independence and experiencing new things.

During the week, there was not a time in a day you could sit and do nothing. The activities were very eventful. Knowing me, I would never have thought of doing any of them; however I really did enjoy it.

There was always something we did that we’ll always remember. Climbing beautiful mountains, orienteering, mining, raft-building, gorge-walking and much more. Yes, not all challenges were easy, but Mr Payne gave me the most determination to face them. In the end it was all worth it. My favourite is just the whole exciting trip. It’s really relaxing too, takes your mind off social media and other communication.

By Hua Li Zheng, 96MA

Our current Year 8 students will have the opportunity to visit Blue Peris next year and details will be available from Miss Watson very soon.
Blue Peris 2015
Aspire
Believe
Achieve