

Lealands News

School Newsletter | Issue 15 | December 2013 | Student Name _____



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Lealands
High School
A Specialist Sports College

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Coming Up

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Christmas Concert
Tuesday 10th December
And
Wednesday 11th December

End of Term:
Friday 20th December

Spring Term Starts:
Tuesday 7th January

Half - Term
Monday 17th February -
Friday 21st February

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Aspire

Believe

Achieve

Wow – it has been a busy term and this month’s newsletter should give you a flavour of all the wonderful experiences we are able to provide for our students.

A couple of personal highlights have been the Presentation Evening and Remembrance day. For Presentation Evening, the sports hall was transformed into a glittering venue and our guest speaker was truly inspirational. It is always such a pleasure to celebrate the many achievements of our students with parents and carers at this annual formal event. Remembrance day was the culmination of a number of activities in school coordinated by Miss Sheridan. It was very moving, that despite the rain, we could just about fit the whole school into the central covered areas and remember those who have given their lives for us. Students were, as ever, amazing in the respect they showed and their fantastic behaviour.



As a school we are continuing with our goal to be a centre of excellence in all we do and I am pleased that the Parents Forum is growing and providing us with excellent ideas and support for further improvement. You can read more about this on pages 4 and 5. We are also continuing to work closely with our partner schools in Lea Springs (Legrave Primary, Sundon Park Juniors, Pirton Hill Primary and Cheynes Infants) as well as the Luton Futures secondary schools. We are all looking forward to January 6th when staff from all the Luton Futures schools will be working together to develop outstanding lesson plans. Our staff will be linked up with teachers from Icknield High School and Challney High School for Girls. This is an excellent opportunity for teachers to learn from each other.

We are also pleased to have appointed some new staff to the school recently and I hope you will join me in welcoming Mr Makenji (Technology Technician) Miss Milock (EAL Coordinator) Mrs Santoni (Languages Teacher) and Mrs Bates (Behaviour Support Assistant).

We will be sorry to see two members of staff leave us at the end of term. Mr Patrick Morrissey, one of our site agents who has worked at the school for a number of years and most recently for our facilities management company, Mitie, is moving to Wales and Mrs Parnell has been appointed to a special school in Milton Keynes. We wish them well for the future.

Our theme for the Christmas season is ‘A Gift for Life’ and we will be supporting the Christian Aid, Present Aid appeal. This fits very well with our value of the month which is ‘charity’. We hope that students will get involved in buying Lealands’ stamps for their Christmas cards so that the money raised can go to support those less fortunate around the world. We will involve Student Voice in choosing which present we buy with the money raised.

As we come towards the end of term, I look forward to seeing many of you at the annual Christmas Concert which promises to be an outstanding event. I would also like to wish you, your family and loved ones a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas.



An Introduction from the Chair of Governors

My name is Paul Troughton and I am delighted and honoured to have been recently elected by my fellow governors to serve as the new Chair of Lealands High School. I am committed to ensuring that we provide all our children with the highest possible standard of teaching and learning in a safe and caring environment.

It has been 5 years since I first became involved in the Governing Body as a Parent Governor, and I remain as passionate about the importance of the school's values in those important years now as I did then.

Role Of A Governor:

The role of the Governing Body is to promote on-going improvements in standards throughout the school. We help the Head Teacher and staff plan the school's long term direction and progress. We help set the school's aims and values and many of our responsibilities carry a statutory requirement: This means we are obliged by law to do things such as agree the annual budget. Our role is sometimes described as a 'critical friend'. This does not mean that we are there to criticise the Head or the school. Instead, we try to ask useful questions to gain a greater understanding of the school and to develop a culture of continuous improvement. A good school governor is someone who is passionate about children's education, is open to ideas, likes working as a team and is willing to ask questions.

Work Of The Governing Body:

We meet regularly as a body 13 times a year to discuss and monitor the work of the school, but we also have many informal meetings with the school leadership team. We endeavour to continually develop our knowledge and expertise, by participating in the training offered by the Local Authority Governor Support Department.

Every Governor has a responsibility for a school visit at least once per term. This broadens our understanding of the school's day-to-day workings and builds important relationships with the school community. We complete a governor visit feedback form for circulation to the rest of the Governing Body.

Earlier this year we met with Ofsted during the statutory inspection.

This is not an exhaustive list of the duties of a being a governor, but I hope it gives you an insight into the role we play within your school. I hope that should a governor vacancy present itself in the future, that you would feel sufficiently knowledgeable and inspired, should you wish to apply, to do so through the appropriate means. If, in the meantime, you have any questions about the work of the Governing Body, please contact me via the school.

Paul Troughton

Seventeen parents attended the Parental Forum which took place on the 13th November. The parents were asked to share their thoughts on the strengths and areas for development for the school and the school's achieving excellence plan priorities were shared.

Listed below is the feedback received. We welcome any comments from parents and will look into all of the suggestions.

We have already taken action on some. In this newsletter you will find an article from Paul Troughton, the Chair of Governors, and you should have received a letter about on-line payments for school lunches. I will be sending out details about how parents/carers can log onto Show My Homework to access their child's home learning calendar before the end of term and I'm currently in discussions with Mr Furkins about running an Accelerated Reader workshop for parents.

The next meeting of the Parental Forum will be 6.00pm on Wednesday 19th March 2014. If you would like to get involved and help to further improve our school, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs. R Bendefy
Assistant Headteacher
bendefyr@lealands.luton.sch.uk

Comments from individual members of the Forum

Strengths:

- My son is doing brilliantly since starting high school. Everything is so positive.
- It makes my son feel like he is treated fairly.
- Integration from Year 6 to Year 7 is really good. There is extra support for students.
- My son has settled in well in Year 7. The transition period has been smooth.
- It was a good idea to allow students to join clubs whilst still at Primary School.
- Excellent transition.
- Communication 😊
- Excellent communication.
- Good communication. Teachers and tutors respond quickly to queries.
- First impressions are very good.
- The newsletter is informative.
- Governors are engaged in school.
- Strong caring Head.
- The way teachers help the students.
- My son suggests it is a fantastic place to improve his maths.
- Accelerated reader. A great scheme for my daughter and I can keep track of how well she is doing.
- The overall learning policy is a strength.
- The web site is easy to use and now working for Show My Homework.
- The school pushes children to achieve.
- Various events and activities to mix pupils before they start.
- My son has enjoyed everything so far and is hugely enthusiastic about what he has learnt each day.

Areas for Development:

- Provide more notice for school trips.
- I would like to meet my son's teachers such as his history and geography teachers.
- A personalised Show My Homework would be very useful.
- A parents' password for Show my Homework. (x2)
- I thought the Tutor evening for Year 7 was too early in the year. All my daughter's tutor did was read through the information booklet that we'd already read at home.
- Lack of communication with my son's reading. He is a great reader but not achieving at his ability. This area that I don't think it is being picked up.
- Lack of communication with new parents in Year 7. I felt I was closed out.

- A Governor report in the newsletter to raise awareness of what they do and who they are.
- Photos of the governors in the newsletter and web site so we know who they are.
- Very long queues at lunch time.
- You need to improve the school lunch environment.
- To explain new terms to parents (in letters maybe) such as Accelerated Reader. What is it?
- Uniform. In summer just jumpers for the uniform.
- Homework on the web is not updated for all homeworks.
- Catering fund on line so we don't have to rely on our son remembering and bringing cash into school.
- Information to be provided on subject content / topic so we can support.
- Involve parents and teachers more from an early stage.
- Access to a behaviour log online.
- Phone call queries are not replied to quickly enough.

Achieving Excellence Plan Priorities

Priority 2.1: Increase parents' skills and engagement in order to improve student outcomes (academic and behavioural) for targeted / hard to reach groups.

- Accelerated reader workshop.
- Revision workshops to show parents how to support / prepare their child for exams.
- I'm keen to join a class on a typical day to see what goes on.
- 1:1 (or small groups) with families targeting specific problems or learning weaknesses.
- 1:1 with students on how they can up their game.
- An art workshop.
- As a parent I would be willing to attend any workshop.

Priority 2.2a: Develop a process to identify parents / carers, who would be appropriate to invite to become members of the parental forum.

- Create a PTA
- Good representation of parents with different levels of experience. Parents of good, poorly behaved students or parents that feel excluded.
- Add a general invitation in the newsletter with a list of dates of the future meetings.

Priority 3.3: Review the home learning policy

- Examples of homework would be useful.

Priority 3.3b: Parents evening seminars continue at parents' evenings to inform parents about how to support learning.

- Bimonthly seminars to keep us informed.

Actions we will take as a result of the Parental Forum:

- Send out parental passwords for Show My homework with an accompanying letter.
- Look at the timings of the year 7 tutor evening in September for next year and consult more widely.
- Accelerated reader workshop for year 7 parents.
- Publicise the membership of the governing body in the newsletter and website.
- Enhance monitoring the use of Show My Homework.
- Online payments for dinner money.
- Trial termly curriculum overviews for parents in appropriate subjects.

Lealands' New Head Boy and Girl



After some fantastic interviews the following students have been appointed:

Head Boy - Luke Davis

Head Girl - Georgia Marcantonio

Deputy Head Boy - Myles Smith-Thompson

Deputy Head Girl - Tia-Roni James

The Head Boy and Head Girl tell us how they felt about their appointments:

Luke Davis: 'I am very proud and thankful to have been appointed head boy. The interview process was very intense, however I just had to be myself and I am looking forward to helping the school in the best possible way!'

Georgia Marcantonio: 'I am extremely proud and thrilled to have been appointed head girl. I look forward to fulfilling this role to the best of my ability and I am grateful to have the opportunity to give something back to Lealands as they have given me so many opportunities'

Well done to them and we wish them luck in their new roles.

Student Voice Updates

The development in Student Voice continues to be one of the priorities on our School Achieving Excellence Plan.

This term, we have been involved in events connected with Black History Month and also fundraising for Children in Need. Members of the year 11 Student Voice Group, planned and delivered assemblies in October about Black History. Year 9 students also held a cake sale, raising over £85 for a Sickle Cell charity. We also had an external company come in and deliver a Black History seminar, workshop and exhibition which all Key Stage 3 students attended and all Key Stage 4 students had the opportunity to visit.

To raise money for Children in Need we organised a Student v Teacher fun quiz at lunchtime and year groups took part in a number of sponsored events. We also had our first Year 7 pyjama party – We have never seen so many onesies in one place! We will announce the final total raised when all the money has been collected and counted. Thank you to all students who have participated in Student Voice events this term. We look forward to more great work over the next two terms.

Luke Davis and Georgia Marcantonio

Catering / Canteen Update

School meals can now be paid for online, giving 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. The school will continue to have the cash facility available, but over time it is hoped that the majority of parents will be using the online payment system.

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

In order to develop and improve the dining experience for our students we have recently installed an additional drinks vending machine and are hoping to be able to launch an additional hot counter servery very soon which should help to provide a speedier lunch service.

Online Payments

This is a reminder that you can now pay online using the '[Parents Payment](#)' link from 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:

Voluntary Contributions

Technology contributions Years 7,8 and 9
Graphics contributions Years 10 and 11
Resistant materials contributions Years 10 and 11

Trips and Visits

Flatford Mill February 2014

Important Dates



**School closes on Friday 20th December 2013 at 12.15pm
for the Christmas period
and starts again on Tuesday 7th January 2014**



Spring Term: Tuesday 7th January 2014 - Friday 4th April 2014
Half term: Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February 2014

Summer Term: Tuesday 22nd April - Friday 18th July 2014
Half term: Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May 2014

STAFF TRAINING DAY - Monday 6th January 2014

Medical Notes: Booster injections

Advance Notice for Year 10

The Tetanus/Diphtheria/Polio Booster injections are due to be given to all Year 10 students on **Tuesday 28th January 2014**.

A leaflet providing further information and a consent form will be sent out to parents at the start of the January term. The consent form needs to be completed, signed and **both copies** returned to the medical room no later than **Friday 17th January 2014** - Miss A Maczugowska - Medical Officer.

Advance Notice in Event of School Closure

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. If you do not have a mobile phone, you are advised to either check the school website www.lealands.luton.sch.uk.

Details of school closures will also be listed on the council website at www.luton.gov.uk.

Value Of The Month

VALUE OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER 2013

CHARITY

"No one has ever become poor by giving."



Anne Frank



Sports News - Netball

Congratulations to the **Year 7 Netball Team** who won their first game against Stopsley. They played brilliantly and worked really well as a team. We look forward to many more positive results in the future.

Well done to the **Year 8 Netball Team** who played against Ashcroft and won 7-5. This game was close but the girls continued to play to the best of their ability and played a great game. They worked brilliantly as a team and this was shown in the result.

Well done to the **Year 9 Netball Team** who played against Stopsley and won 5-0. The girls played extremely well and this showed in their results. We are looking forward to more fantastic results from the girls in the future.



Year 7 Netball Team



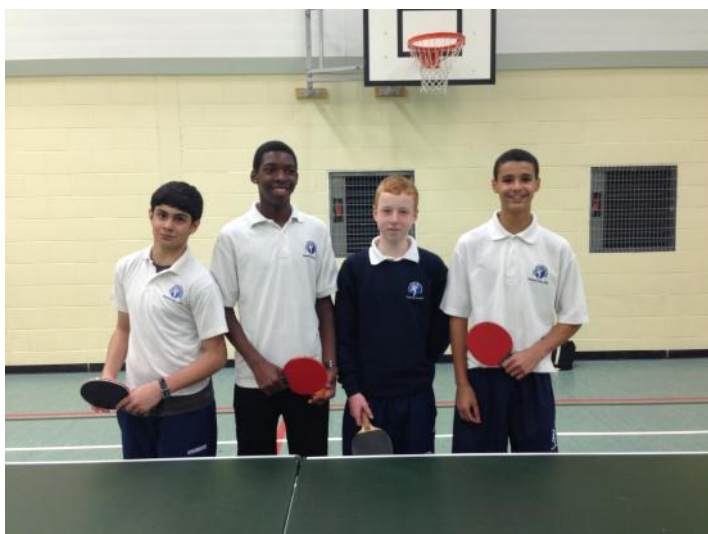
Year 9 Netball Team

Football

Congratulations to the **Year 10 and Year 11 Football Teams** who both had successes in The County Cup. The Year 10 team beat Manshead 3-1, while the Year 11 team beat Hastingsbury 7-2. Well done to them.

Table Tennis

Well Done to Kieran Hide, Tyreeq Bakinson, Alex Foster and Talha Baig from Year 10, who represented Lealands at a Luton School Table Tennis Tournament. They played really well and as a result finished 3rd.



Remembrance Day - 11th November

On Monday the 11th November, all students and staff came together in the atrium at 11am for the 2 minute silence. This allowed for everybody to pay their respects to those who have died and suffered in war and for those people who are still involved in a war throughout the world. Mr Patterson played the 'Last Post' on the trumpet which, as always, set the scene for the act of remembrance. Normally, the 2 minutes silence is held on the field but the wet weather meant that the event had to happen inside. That day, the school had some very important visitors from LCET (Luton Churches Education Trust) who wanted to know how Lealands High School get involved with Remembrance week. They also observed the 2 minutes silence with the students and staff. The visitors were very impressed with the way the whole school came together as one, in order to show respect to the fallen in war.



Throughout Remembrance week, during citizenship lessons, students in Years 7 to 9 had the chance to write a reflective message or a name on a poppy and place the poppy on the mound in the atrium. Years 10 and 11 did the activity in form time. Many students found this an emotional and moving activity, allowing them to reflect on personal stories about war or from personal memories of losing somebody close to them, for example, grandparents in recent years.



Mr Atkinson delivered an inspirational Remembrance assembly to year 11 and Miss Sheridan delivered Remembrance assemblies to years 7 to 10 where she talked about her friend Marc Birch, a Royal Marine, who was killed in action while in Afghanistan in December 2008.



Thank you to all students and staff who supported the Remembrance activities.

Young Chef of The Year Winners

Two of our Year 10 catering students; Megan Cole and Alice Yeboah did exceptionally well to achieve 1st and 2nd place in this years 'Young Chef of the Year' competition which took place on Wednesday 20th November at Barnfield College. The competition included students from Luton schools; Lealands, Ashcroft, Icknield and Stopsley.

The students had to design their own menus, set their own time plans and lay their own tables. Marks were then awarded for the meal itself as well as presentation 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. Megan who was awarded first place in the competition prepared a traditional English menu consisting of cottage pie with horseradish mash followed by apple tart with Chantilly cream. Her prize for winning was a trophy, certificate and £30 worth of Amazon vouchers. She will now move on to the district finals which take place in February.

On winning the competition she said;

"I was shocked and excited to win the Young Chef of the Year and I can't wait to participate in the district finals in February"

Alice who came in second place, only lost out to Megan by one point. She prepared a Thai style menu of pan fried supreme of salmon with boiled rice, coated with a sweet chilli sauce, followed by a pineapple, passion fruit and pomegranate salad, topped with a fragrant sugary syrup.



She said, "I was very happy to come second because I knew I was up against some extremely tough competition".

Hospitality and Catering teacher Miss Selby said on her two students winning, "I am so proud of Megan and Alice. They have put so much time and effort into their work including coming in during their own time. They fully deserved to win first and second as their meals were presented beautifully and stood out amongst the competition"



Megan will now participate in the district finals in February next year so will be busy in her catering lessons preparing for the next competition. We wish her all the best of luck for that and further updates will follow.

More photos can be found on our website at www.lealands.luton.sch.uk under the Gallery section.

Lealands held not one, but two fantastic fundraising coffee mornings in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support on Friday 27th September. Mr Payne, Lealands Community Development Manager, invited members of the local community, staff and students, to enjoy coffee, cake and biscuits beautifully baked and presented by the Year 9 and 10 catering students.



The students showed full commitment to the cause by not only baking during lesson time, but also coming in after school giving up their own time to make the beautiful creations on show. The students' commitment was also reflected in the staff, especially Technology staff Mr Burr, Ms Lowery and Miss Selby.

Other staff also helped by donating their own offerings to add to those from the students, while others competed in a 'guess the number of beans in the jar' competition. The staff member with the nearest guess would win half of the proceeds from the entry fees with the rest going to the charity. Entry was £2 each and the staff member with the nearest guess would win half of the proceeds from the entry fees.



During the second coffee morning, organiser Mrs Profeta unveiled the correct answer of 2230 beans. The winning estimate came from Science teacher Miss Claudine Parnell who was the nearest with a guess of 2400. Miss Parnell was extremely excited at the news of her winning, and kindly donated £10 of her winnings back to the charity.



Lealands events were a massive success raising £257.98 for the cancer charity, however they are already thinking how they can raise even more money at next years' event.



Following the huge success of the Lealands Community Fun Day on Saturday 20th July, representatives from local charities Keech Hospice Care and cancer charity KK Stars attended a school assembly to collect their cheques.



Head Boy, Luke Davis and Head Girl, Georgia Marcantonio presented a cheque for £1632.29 to Keech Hospice Care and £127.15 to KK Stars.



Rebecca Eastwick, Community Fundraiser from Keech Hospice Care, informed the students how the money raised would be used to pay for music therapy sessions which cost £40 each.

“Music therapy is an important way of helping many of our residents communicate and to enable them to release their feelings. The sessions are not only important to the residents, but also to their families as we use them to create memories. The session can be recorded and passed on to the families as a lasting memory of their loved one. We can’t put days into their lives, but we can put life into their days”.

Both charities were extremely grateful for the money raised on the Community Fun Day and preparations are already underway to make next year’s event even bigger and better.



Presentation Evening 2013

Students celebrated in style at the school's annual Presentation Evening on Thursday 3rd October.

Every year, Lealands hold the event to recognise the achievement and hard work of the students from the previous academic year.

Presenting the awards at this year's event was Mrs Marion King, President, United Kingdom & Ireland – MasterCard Worldwide and ex-student of Lealands High School. Marion was honoured to be invited to the event and it was the first time she had visited the school since leaving. Amazed by the fantastic facilities now on offer at the school, Marion delivered a truly inspirational speech to the students encouraging them to achieve their goals. She said, "A girl from Sundon Park can go on to lead one of the top companies in the country and hold a meeting with the President of China!". Ms King is keen to continue working with the school and some confident students even arranged work experience with her on the evening.



The evening took place in the school's Sports Hall which was transformed beyond recognition for the event with red carpet and light studded backdrop.

There were prizes and awards in various categories including; progress, certificates of excellence, subject commendation certificates and trophies for students in each year group, including the former Year 11 students who returned to the school to collect their awards.





Physics At Work Day

In September, some of the year 10 triple science students got the opportunity to go to The Cavendish Laboratory Physics at Work Exhibitions, at Cambridge University. We had talks by companies and scientific groups, such as, Rolls Royce, TTP, and the Wolfson Brain Imaging Centre. They shared with us what they did through videos, presentations, demonstrations and question and answers. Some sessions were interactive with guess the chocolate bar that had been scanned with an MRI machine. Many science theories and principles were discussed as well as learnt. There were also many chances to get involved with cool demonstrations; like making fake snow. Everybody had a great day and we went away with a great experience and learnt something new!

**By
James Ford
Year 10**

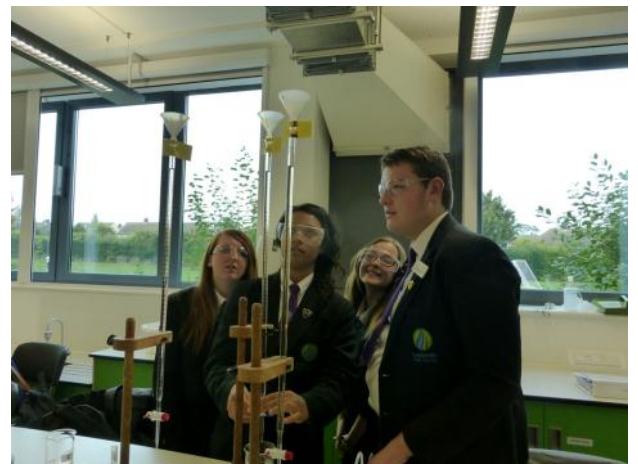


Science Master Class

Six Year 11 students from the triple science group attended the annual Science Master Class at Luton Sixth Form College on Friday 18th October to pit their wits against students from the other Luton High Schools. There were three practical activities and 4 quizzes and we managed to win the scientist picture quiz round! It was a fantastic opportunity to see the science department at the Sixth Form and work in groups with students from other schools.



The spaghetti tower challenge was great fun and the iodine clock challenge frustrating, but we all had a great time.



**Yasmin Buckingham
Alex Hilsdon
Ellis Jones**

**Luke Davis
Chantelle Johnson
Hannah Parles**

Sazira Secondary School, Tanzania – Update on our Partnership

Following Mr Ntungi's visit to us in September it was decided to send a small donation to their school to help improve their facilities. In a previous newsletter, I outlined the problems the students faced in a school with no electricity, gas or fresh running water; the students all come from a poor rural background with many walking long distances to reach Sazira.



Many of the students leave home without breakfast and bring no lunch to school; they may spend up to ten hours with no food. Our donation has been used to construct a stove that will enable the school to provide porridge for the students as they arrive at school. Mr Ntungi has been emailing me regularly with updates of how the building work has been going and on Thursday 28th November, I received an email with pictures to inform us that the children were served porridge from the stove for the very first time that day.



We would like to continue our support of these children with other fund raising activities during the year. If you have any further suggestions of how we might help our partner school in Tanzania please contact me.

Mr Slatter



Year 7 Onesie Party for Children in Need

On Friday 22nd November Year 7 held a Onesie party to raise money for Children in need. The event was supported by some hard working student leaders and student mentors, some of them even wore Onesies as well. A good time was had by all and we raised just under a £100.

Well Done to everyone involved!



Mr Slatter Spends Half Term Teaching in India

Following the successful visit of Ms Kala from India as part of the British Councils 'Connecting Classrooms' project, I spent the half term break at our partner school in Rajasthan . My wife joined me for the visit as she is also a teacher and was born in India, so I had a translator if it was needed.

Having taught in India 25 years ago I was looking forward to discovering how much the country had changed. As I flew into Delhi it was not difficult to appreciate that air pollution has now become a major problem; a haze covered the entire city completely blocking out the sun. Thousands of cars, motorbikes, rickshaws and cycles seemed to block every road and the fumes from the exhausts made the air unpleasant to breathe.

It was a relief to reach the 'Pink City' of Jaipur as it is a modern city planned as a grid like Milton Keynes; the traffic flowed much easier with its wider and straighter roads.

After a nights rest in my hotel, which held a strong resemblance to 'The Best Marigold Hotel' (film reference); I was picked up by Ms Kala and driven to the school. Waiting at the entrance was Dr Bela Josha and her three Vice-Principals; as is the custom in India I was presented with flowers, a scarf and beads. We then followed the Principal into her luxurious office and discussed the programme for the week. Dr Josha has been at the school for over twenty years and has seen its growth from 50 students to its current population of 4000, with 260 staff. The school is located in the business centre of Jaipur and as a result space is at a premium; the students aged from 3 to 18 are accommodated in a four storey building. With no space to expand, the new staff car park for over 300 vehicles has been built underground; the sports field resembled a construction site. Subodh is a private school and there is an annual fee that has to be paid; this is not





unusual in India, Jaipur has more Private than State Schools (these are for the children from poorer families). Their uniform is unique; denim jeans and waistcoat with a white shirt – even their shoes are the same – every piece of clothing has the school's logo on it. The beginning and end of the day is staggered so that everybody gets into the building without being crushed, students arrive after 7.00am and by 2.30pm everybody is on their way home. At the entrance to the



school was a board giving daily notices and a list of everybody whose birthday it was. They have hour lessons and they cover all the same subjects as we do at Lealands; less time in the week is given to music, drama, dance, technology and PE. There is no lunch break although there are several short breaks for snacks.



The youngest children (with the shortest legs) are located on the ground floor with the eldest students on the upper floors. Class sizes were comparable with Lealands and many of the classrooms were equipped with modern Smart boards similar to our own.

I had the opportunity to teach some maths during my visit, I found I had to speak much louder to overcome the noise of the fans/air conditioning and the volume of sound from having 4000 people in a single building. The students all had text books, exercise books and their equipment - which they had to buy! It was a pleasure to see the overwhelming enthusiasm they had for their learning and the vision of the school for their future.



In a final meeting we discussed opportunities for our students to work on combined projects in Art, English, Citizenship, Dance, Maths, Music, PE and Textiles. Dr Joshi was very keen on exploring opportunities for students from the two schools to take part in exchange visits.

It was an incredible opportunity to experience teaching in India and I am very grateful to Dr Joshi and her staff for their hospitality and enthusiasm for our partnership.

By Mr Slatter

Black History Month - Exhibition

Students have been getting involved with black history month throughout October and November and were given the opportunity to learn about British black history when NINE RED Presents (CIC), a community interest company based in Sundon Park visited with their exhibition hosted by Miss Debra Knight, Mrs Imelda Knight and Mr Keith Brown.



This exhibition highlighted how Africans, Caribbeans and their descendants previously hidden from history have profoundly influenced and shaped events in Britain over the course of the last two thousand years.

On display were photographs of a number of black British role models such as; Baroness Valerie Amos, Viv Anderson, Trevor Phillips, Oona King,

Diane-Louise Jordan and many more. The students were set a task to visit the display, choose an individual then stand up, name them and discuss what they had done that was significant to British society.



Following the task, Mr Brown, author of the book 'RESPECT: Essential, Universal, Elusive', talked to the students about the definition of respect.

"You can only give respect if you have self-respect. Irrespective of

race, ethnic origin, gender, disability, age, religion or political belief, as a duty all people deserve respect."

He then briefly outlined his motivation for writing the book following a visit to Robben Island in South Africa where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 27 years.

Many students stayed after the exhibition to speak with Miss Knight and her colleagues to find out more about the history and culture of black people in Britain which showed their genuine interest in the subject.

Black History Month - Cake Sale

On Friday 8th November, seven Year 9 students gave up their break time to host a fundraising cake sale for Black History Month. The idea was thought up with the help of School Chef Doreen Peacock who wanted to do something to raise money for some relevant charities.

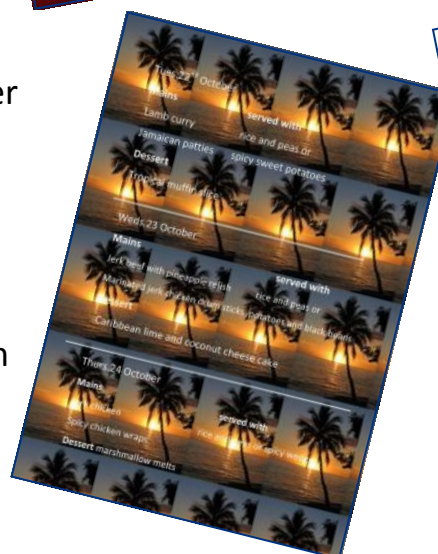


Mrs Peacock baked cakes for the event, plus staff and students donated some of their own, and by the end of morning break time the sale was completely sold out. The students organised the event, advertised it and decided on the prices themselves and did a fantastic job raising a massive £87.50 which will be split between 3 charities chosen by the Student Voice; UNICEF, Sickle Cell and Young Stroke Survivors (SCYSS).

The Year 9 students involved were; Rudo Makoni, Maureen Mbaiké, Zioni Bankole, Georgia Turner, Abigail Mutyora, Kiarna Abraham and Ivana Phillips. Well done to them and everyone else involved.



Other events held at Lealands over black history month included; a week of Caribbean influenced school meals prepared by School Chef Doreen Peacock which were advertised around the school with posters made by the same Year 9 students who arranged the cake sale.



Families United Network - FUN

Following a fun packed 4 week programme at Lealands in the Summer of 2013, Families United Network (FUN) loaded the van once more ready for another busy October Half-Term.

Families United Network (FUN) is a registered Charity and membership organisation which works to support children, young people and families living with disabilities throughout Bedfordshire.

The holiday club included activities such as a bouncy castle, inflatable obstacle course, ball pond, arts and crafts, computers, a sensory room, circus skills workshop, Halloween themed activities and a show with Magic Dave.

Once again, staff, parents and children had a fantastic week at Lealands and look forward to coming back again in February.



Leap Prog

The Lealands Engage, Achieve and Progress programme started on Monday 4th November for a group of students in Year 8 and 9.

Our goal is to promote positive development, improve attendance and raise attainment enabling our students to reach their full potential emotionally, socially and academically.

The LEAP PROG has been designed to engage students in many different activities to help them develop their communication skills; raise levels of self-esteem; increase confidence and show them how to be vital members of a successful team. We believe these life skills will help them to maximise the opportunities available to them during their time at Lealands and ultimately achieve the very best GCSE results.

So far all the students involved have engaged fully and are making excellent progress. Well done and keep up the good work.

Ryan Cooper, Andrew Noble, Angelina Lin, Callum Cargill, Callum Hennelly, Chloe Brackley, Ivo Luz, Jesse Lovett, Joy Amoah, Mara Pires, Mya Hinde, Nidal Khan, Samara Ottey and Tashin Uddin .

Harry Clark, Chloe Hewitt, Jordan Meade, Reece St.Ville, Kyle Ajayi, Kieran Bloomfield, Becky Edmonds, Kyle Farmer, Lauren Howard, Jenay Jarrett, Farzana Khatun, Dean Long-Dando, Nisha Ronan, Abisha Tharmaseelan and Destiny White



Year 9 Sports Leaders

This term the year 9 sports leaders participated in two leadership events with Vicki Thompson and Jo Brewster at the Inspire Sports Village.

We had already received our training here at Lealands so we all felt prepared but just a little nervous.

The first one took place on the 23rd October and was a key stage 1 festival. At this festival we introduced many new skills to the children as they played games such as tag rugby, basketball and other invasion games. These games let them explore new things and improve their teamwork.

The second festival took place on the 7th July and was again at Inspire and this time it was an inclusive sports event. The children learned how to play goalball, new age kurling, boccia and table top games.

The second event at Inspire was slightly more challenging as the children had physical or learning disabilities. It was a really great day and it was rewarding working with different children.

Both of the events were very interesting and gave us all a chance to develop many important life skills such as communication, teamwork and confidence.

I hope to do many more events this year as I enjoyed them both very much.

By Tia Travers.

Jo Brewster sent a very nice email expressing her thanks;
"Just wanted to say a huge thank you to you and your young leaders who were fantastic at this event and a credit to Lealands."

Well done to all the students involved: Tia Travers, Kayla Perry, Caitlyn Towers, Shannon Shakes, Abigail Smith, Georgina Barton, Jemma Poulton, Rhys Cole, Ishmael Jongwe, Kyle Ajayi, Elise Crick, Sevim Stamp, Amoy Smith, Nadine Scarlett, Rudo Makoni and Emma McNamee.



Accelerated Reader

The 'Accelerated Reader' programme has started better than ever at the beginning of this academic year with our average Key Stage 3 student averaging 24 minutes of reading every day. Year 9 are currently in the lead with a daily average of 25 minutes, but Years 7 and 8 are close on their heels with both year groups averaging 24 minutes per day.



Form parties were enjoyed by winning forms 7VA and 9MS before the half term break with the Year 8 winners to be announced before Christmas.

Huge congratulations are in order for Amber Collins-O'Neill and Megan Adams who were both worthy winners of Amazon vouchers for their outstanding starts to the year.

This year, students who are averaging at least 20 minutes of reading a day (worked out by the Accelerated Reading programme based on a student's reading ability and the number of words they've read) are being placed in prize draws to encourage them to meet the national reading target set by the Government.

We also have prizes for students averaging at least 85% in their quizzes. This is to try to encourage students to pay close attention to the books they're reading and to ensure that they're selecting books in their suggested reading range.

Stay tuned for further awards and prizes ahead of the festive break.

Mr Furkins

Luton Mobile Library Comes to Lealands

On the 18th November the Luton Mobile Library visited Lealands to introduce our Year 7s to the many advantages of being a member of Luton Libraries. All our Year 7 students have now got their Luton Library membership cards which enables them to have access to all the online resources together with discounts at the Luton Hat Factory. Students have the opportunity of downloading e-books, borrowing MP3 pre-recorded books and also being able to research their past. This is the third year that students have been enrolled in this scheme.



Year 7 - Teamwork Assembly

In October, 71AM was set the challenge of giving a presentation in front of a Year 7 assembly. The theme was the Value of the Month for October - 'Teamwork'. Henry Bloom and Ellana Pink, the form's representatives on Student Voice, were put in charge of coming up with an idea. A speech? A video clip? Absolutely 'knot'! They decided to have a tug-of-war on stage, which involving the whole class and a well-seasoned rope borrowed from the PE department.



After a number of practice sessions in their classroom, squeezed in between the usual administrative and learning requirements of form time, their final rehearsal took place in the hall under the experienced eye of Mrs Patterson.

And finally, the day arrived. Their performances were polished, entertaining, and an excellent example of teamwork – which was the point of the exercise. The students enjoyed the experience enormously and were extremely proud of themselves. Kiara Fleckney of 71AM said, "I couldn't believe how much we achieved in so little time."

Kew Gardens Trip

On November 5th, thirty Year 10 students and 5 Lealands staff took a trip to The Royal Botanical Gardens in Kew, London.



12 gifted and talented Science students explored Kew's indoor rainforest, located in the Palm House, learning about the unique climate and plants of the wet tropics.

Year 10 GCSE Art students spent the day taking part in several different observational drawing tasks. They visited two art galleries exhibiting Botanical Art: the Marianne North Gallery and the Shirley Sherwood Galley. Their outcomes from these activities will form part of their current GCSE coursework



Students were impeccably behaved and a fun day of learning was had by all.



Year 9 Enterprise Day

On Thursday 21 November 2013, Year 9 students took part in Enterprise Day. At the start of the day the students were presented with a scenario and a business in an assembly. The scenario was the students worked for a design company and had been approached by a business that organised music festivals called Open Air. Open Air wanted the students to design an all-weather, waterproof poncho that could be bought by music festival goers when it started to rain during the festival.



Students first had to get into teams and decide on a company name, company logo and slogan. They then had to pitch themselves to their team members for the various roles available such as Company Director, Finance Director, Marketing Director and Designer.



The teams had to complete a variety of tasks such as developing a customer profile for their ponchos, creating financial forecasts of sales, costs and profits as well as design and create a prototype of their product.



Each team then had to put together a presentation of all their work and present their company and ideas to their form groups. The best company was then chosen to go through to the final round after lunch.

The last session of the day saw winning teams from each form group pitching themselves and their ideas against each other in front of the whole year group. Mr Ward had the role of an investor from Open Air, who would choose the winning team and winning idea.



After feedback and deliberation from Mr Ward the winning team were named as "Pincher Poncho" from 93MP. The members were Kizzy Cesaire, Elise Crick, Aaron-John Martin, Zion Sellassie-Yoseph and Tia-Ebony Travers.



Well done to all Year 9 students for their contributions on the day.

Quotes from Year 9 students:

"It was a great experience" **Kai Stevens**

"It was an opportunity to be creative and innovative" **Carl Wigfield**

"Enterprise Day helped us to develop our entrepreneurial skills" **Ivana Phillips**

"Enterprise Day put us into the mind set of real business men and women " **Rudo Makoni**

"It was great fun, even though we were beaten by a crab!" **Conor Ford**

"It really helped us communicate as a team" **Ethan Devine**



On Sunday 10th November, 40 year 9 students arrived at Lealands ready for their residential trip to Blue Peris in North Wales. The trip involved lots of adventurous outdoor activities including; sea level traversing, mining, canoeing, climbing, gorge walking and mountain walking. The aim of the trip was for the students to gain experience of outdoor adventures, teamwork and to become independent learners. The students displayed exemplary attitudes towards the challenges and trials they were faced with.

We would like to thank all the students who attended the trip for their great efforts throughout the week and for making Blue Peris 2013 a fantastic trip.

Miss Watson, Miss Cussen, Mr Payne, Miss Shelford and Mr Whelan

Here are some of the students' comments following the trip:

Amoy Smith 91AS

Blue Peris was an amazing experience. It allowed us as young people to learn different skills such as leadership, and perseverance, to experience being out of our comfort zones as well as to enjoy ourselves no matter who we were working with. All the activities were very rewarding and enjoyable, however, the one I will always remember was the mountain walk. Also I think that we learnt a lot in that week that we would have learnt in school, particularly that; when you put your mind to it, you can achieve anything.

Kacper Klawinski 95SA

Blue Peris was a very good experience. It taught me leadership skills and communication skills. The best bit was when everyone except 2 boats capsized during canoeing. The scariest bit was when we were climbing down the mountain.

Kyle Farmer 95SA

I enjoyed the experiences at Blue Peris because I have not done the activities before such as the Mountain Climb and Canoeing. I also feel I have gained new skills such as listening, teamwork and trust in others. Overall it was great.

More photos are available on the back page and in the Gallery section at:

www.lealands.luton.sch.uk



For more photos of the Blue Peris trip, please see the Gallery section on our website:
www.lealands.luton.sch.uk