

# LEALANDS

## news

EXCELLENCE RESPONSIBILITY RESPECT



'LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO VISITS LEALANDS'

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Discover more on these topics and much, much more news & updates in this issue!

### Upcoming Events:

**19th December - End of Autumn Term**

**5<sup>th</sup> January - Spring Term Begins**

**18<sup>th</sup> January - Ski Trip Departs**

**29<sup>th</sup> January - Y10 Parents Evening**

# Headteacher's Introduction

## From Mr Ward, Acting Headteacher

As we head towards the end of an extremely busy term and look forward to a rest over the Christmas period, I reflect on the journey we have taken and all the exciting events that students and staff have taken part in this term. We have had more trips and visits than ever before; involving an increasing number of students and we can all be proud of what has been accomplished over the last 15 weeks.

There have been a number of highlights which I would like to mention. As always, our sporting achievements have continued, with so many of our students representing the school in basketball, netball, football and athletics. This was also one of the highlights for me personally as I was able to get involved in the Rugby session with Lawrence Dallaglio. It was great to see some of our year 8 and 9 students so engaged in the session with DallaglioRugbyWorks.



I mentioned an increase in trips this term. A number of these were organised by our Technology Department who are trying to give students real experience of technology in the workplace. There are many opportunities that local firms are offering us and we are taking advantage of these opportunities to enhance the experiences of our students.

On the creative side, we are really excited and looking forward to the performing arts production of Mary Poppins next term and we saw a glimpse of this at the Presentation Evenings in October. At the recent Winter Concert we also saw some of our extremely talented students. It is always great to see and appreciate the contributions that students make to school life. The Art Club continues to go from strength to strength and it was great for me to send out Christmas cards designed by one of our students to Headteachers from other schools and staff within the local authority. Our MP, Sarah Owen also got one. I know she is extremely supportive of our school and it was great to have her visit earlier in the term at our internet safety event.

Another highlight for us were the two discos that took place; one at Halloween and more recently our Christmas disco. Our PTA, 'Friends of Lealands' are doing so much to raise money for school and the work of the volunteers is much appreciated.

An achievement we are really proud of is, once again, being recognised by the Department for Education for our work and success on attendance and being first out of 20 similar schools for good attendance amongst our students. Thank you to all parents who support us with our drive for students to come to school regularly and achieve their best. I would also like to thank our 'purple ties' Student Leaders and our Student Voice representatives who contribute so much to school. This is always evident at our parental events such as Open Evening and Parents Evenings.

During the rest of this year we will continue to focus on ensuring high standards of behaviour and our values of Respect, Responsibility and Excellence. We know that relentless work on these areas will ensure that we build on our work so far and ensure further success for our students.

Finally, this week, I have been delivering our Christmas Assemblies to the year group, a job that is usually done by Mr Burridge. At this assembly I mentioned some of the Christmas traditions from around the world, information I gained from students and staff within our fantastic diverse community. Thank you to the students and staff who contributed to this.

During this final week of term, I met with Mr. Burridge. He is making good progress with his treatment and is hopeful about returning to us later this year. We continue to send him our very best wishes and hope that his upcoming treatments yield positive results.

Once again thank you for all your support over this term and I hope you all have a restful holiday.

# Update From Mr Burridge



As we enter the season of Advent and many of us are looking forward to Christmas and the New Year, it's a time of reflection, celebration, joy and anticipation. It's also a time to think about our families, friends, local and global communities. My hope for everyone in our Lealands family is that they have plenty to celebrate and be thankful for and I'm always so proud of our students and staff who give so generously of their time, words, deeds and finances to help others, often making great personal sacrifices.

MacMillan has been one of the charities our school has supported for many years with cake sales, Christmas raffles, gift sales and much more. Many of us have been touched by the effects of cancer and, this year,

I have had the opportunity to personally experience the absolutely phenomenal work Macmillan does and the difference they make when people are facing so many challenges and difficulties. I'm in awe of the doctors, nurses and medical staff in our NHS who give so much and do such meaningful work, along with their seemingly endless kindness and generosity. And I'm so grateful for the dedication to learning of the doctors and surgeons, scientists and researchers who spend many years studying and applying their knowledge and skills as well as finding new treatments and cures that bring hope and make each generation better. I am proud of our many former students who are a part of this.

So I hope that as we lead up to Christmas, we all remember to be kind to one another and thankful to those who are kind to us. Presents are a way of showing this gratitude, but deeds and words of kindness often mean so much more.

I want to thank our school staff for the wonderful support they provide for students and families every day. They frequently go above and beyond and I hope they know they are appreciated for this and know they are making a positive difference in the lives of so many. My personal thanks go to them for continuing the work so well in my absence this term and allowing me not to worry (too much!). I know I have a fabulous team of dedicated caring staff who work tirelessly in the very best interests of the children we are privileged to educate and care for.

It has been wonderful to hear about all the usual events taking place (and some new ones) and how enjoyable these have been for those involved. I've also been hearing about the many successes and excellent work of our students which brings great joy. It has been sad not to be able to be directly involved in the school on a day to day basis and I miss everyone, but look forward to a time when I can return more fully. So far my treatment has been going well and the next step in this will be an operation in the New Year, but hopefully this will eventually allow me to get back.

I would like to end by wishing you a peaceful Christmas and hope that you have many joys to celebrate and enjoy.

**John Burridge**  
**Headteacher**

# Key dates for your diary:



- **End of Autumn Term:** Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025
- Years 7-9 finish at 12.20pm and Years 10-11 finish at 12.30pm*
- **Start of Spring Term:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- **Ski Trip to Italy Departs:** Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- **Year 10 Parents Evening:** Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- **Year 10 Work Experience Begins:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026
- **Year 11 Mock GCSE Exams Begin:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026
- **Year 9 Parents Evening:** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026
- **Half Term Begins:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## Term dates:

- **Autumn Term Ends:** Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025
- **Spring Term:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- **Half-Term:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026
- **Summer Term:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026
- **Bank Holiday:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- **Half-Term:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026

## Term Dates:

Full academic term dates for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 can be found on the school website:

<https://www.lealands.luton.sch.uk/termdates>



# Value of the Month

December 2025

## Value of the Month

**December 2025**

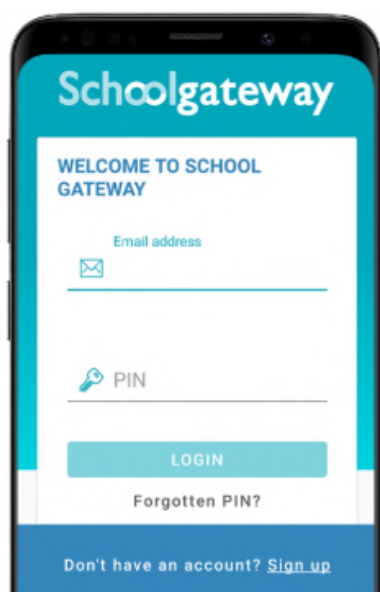
**"Supporting Others "**



**The best way to find yourself,  
is to lose yourself in the service  
of others.**

# New School Communication System

## School Gateway



From January 2026, we will be moving to a new communication system called School Gateway. This easy-to-use app will help streamline how we share important updates, letters, messages, and attendance information with you.

School Gateway will allow parents and carers to receive school communications instantly on their phones or devices—making it quicker and more convenient to stay up to date with everything happening in school.

In the coming weeks, we will share simple instructions on how to download the app and get set up. We encourage all families to join us on School Gateway so we can continue to improve how we connect with our school community. This new app will replace the current MyED app and will cease to be used from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. You can download the app now and set up your logins via the Google Play/Apple App store now in preparation for it to go live in January 2026.

Thank you for your support as we make this positive change!

## School Gateway: Activate your Account

You can access School Gateway via a smartphone app or the website.

### 1. Download the Android or iOS App

- iPhone/iPad: [Click here for the Apple App Store](#)
- Android: [Click here for Google Play](#)

### 2. Visit the web version of School Gateway

- If you don't have a smartphone or prefer to use a computer, [visit the web version of School Gateway here](#)

## Registration Process

Once you are at the website or in the app, click the NEW USER tab.

You will be asked to:

- Enter the email address and mobile number that your school has on record.
- Press "Send PIN".
- You will receive a text message with your unique PIN.
- Enter the PIN on the screen to log in and start using School Gateway!

### ⚠ Important Note

If you are having trouble logging in, it may be because we do not have your current email and mobile phone number on record. Please contact the school office as soon as possible to update your details on our system.

# Sports Successes & Updates

## By The PE Department

### Basketball

Our Year 7 girls basketball team have had a great first season and made it to the finals against Cardinal Newman.

In a well fought game, they lost out in the end 28-18. Well done girls for coming in 2nd place in Luton.



Our Year 8 girls have had a great basketball season going undefeated in the group stages.

They played Cardinal Newman in the final in a very close game. In the end they just lost out by 1 point 23-24.

Well down girls for coming in 2nd place in Luton.

Our Year 9 girls have also had a fantastic basketball season, qualifying for the finals against Cardinal Newman.

In a hard fought battle they came out winners 27-16 to become champions!

Excellent work girls!



The U16 boys continued their basketball season with two games over this 1/2 term. Our first game was against Putteridge. Unfortunately the boys started really slowly and went down to an early 12-0 deficit.

From the second quarter on, the boys found their stride and started a fight but were never able to truly get back into the game and lost 25- 14.

Our second game saw us achieve a dominant win over Icknield 31-12. The boys, led by twins Logan and Malachy, showed a much improved defence to restrict Icknield throughout the game and the whole team started scoring early to ensure they controlled the game from the start.

Well done to all players involved.



# Sports Successes & Updates

By The PE Department

## Netball

Our U14 girls competed at the annual county netball competition which saw many schools compete across Bedfordshire. The girls did a fantastic job to come in 2nd place in the plate competition.

Great work girls!



Our Year 7 netballers won all of their games and qualified for the Luton finals! Excellent work girls!



## Football

Our U13 girls played in the U13 Utility Cup sponsored by Luton Town. A great event with 28 schools attending across Bedfordshire.

Our girls played really well throughout and made it through to the Vase competition. After winning their quarter final, the girls then narrowly lost 1-0 in the semi final.

They went on to win the 3rd and 4th place play-off game on penalties to secure 3rd place. Well done girls!



## Futsal

Recently our Year 7/8 girls and Year 9/10 girls competed in the Luton Schools Futsal competitions. Both teams were excellent and went through their respective competitions unbeaten to both be crowned champions!

Amazing achievement girls!





# Sports Successes & Updates

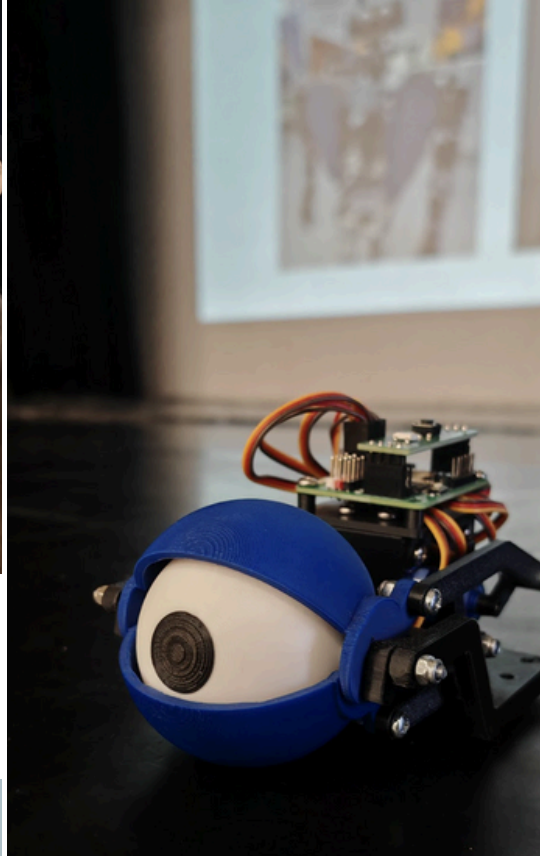
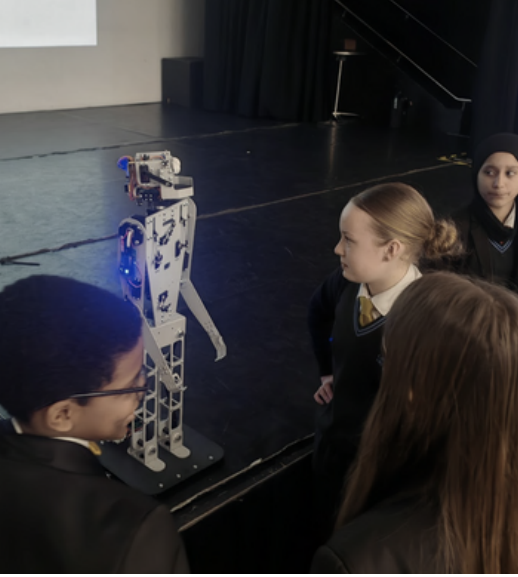
By The PE Department

## Sports Hall Athletics

In November, our Year 7 and 8 girls and boys competed in the Luton Schools Sportshall Athletics. A great day saw our Year 8 girls and Year 7 boys finish in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and our Year 8 boys finish 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our Year 7 girls narrowly missed out on a podium finish coming in fourth but all round an amazing performance. Well done to everyone who took part and represented Lealands fantastically!



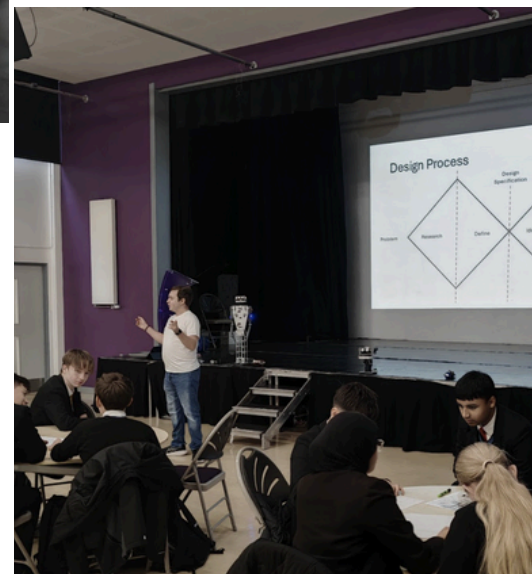
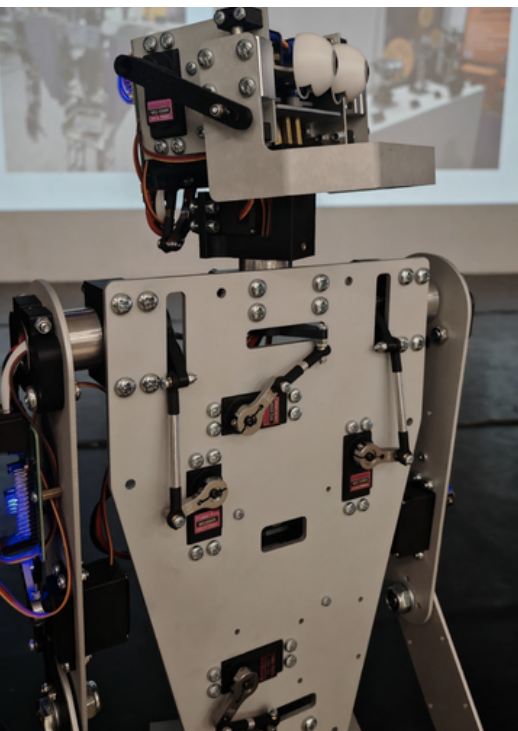




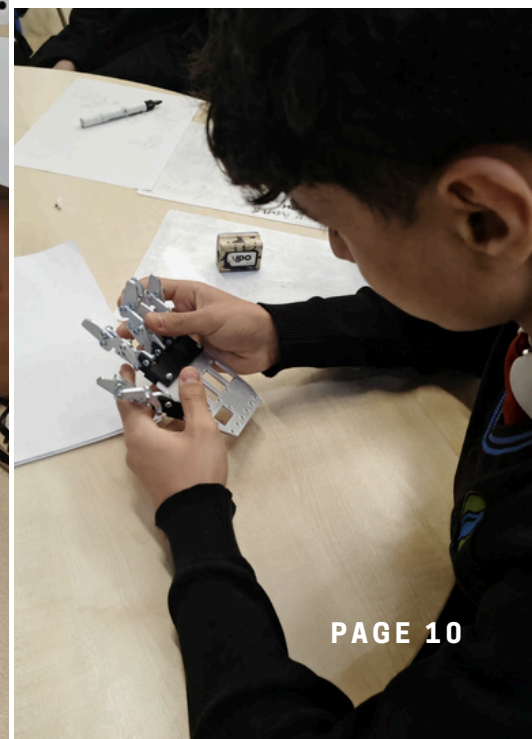
"My experience at the robotics workshop on the 3/12/25 was good. It was so fun learning about robotics. Letting us control the robot and making us do activities was fun!! It's good to have a break from lessons every now and then for us to learn about the world around us. I would love for the school to have an experience like this again, where the CEO of a company comes to the school to teach us about fun facts."

**Zachary A - Yr 8**

# ROBOTICS



We were lucky enough to have Joshua deliver an inspiring workshop for our Year 8 and 9 Engineers, showcasing his robotics business. Students explored how to design and troubleshoot their own restaurant-service robots and several even got hands-on experience programming his robots using the real software.





# Celebrating Our ActiveLearners!

## By The Languages Department

The Languages Department would like to congratulate the following students for great effort on ActiveLearn during November.

Super Effort with ActiveLearn During November (10% or more completed)			
Year 7			
Aarohee K	Dennis A	Kaitlyn F	Nabiha B
Abinaa S	Dion S	Keya S	Nevaeh G
Aidan C	Edis R	Khalil L	Nina M
Alex M	Eduard C	Kristiano P	Princess A
Alfie W	Efe Sophia O	Lena W	Rachel Elisabeth P
Amirah B	Enxhi D	Louis S	Romario T
Antonia M	Esmail G	Lucas D	Ruby S
Aysha I	Faith D	Maariya R	Samuel O
Bethany J	Finley S	Marcelina L	Siaana K
Bethany L	Freya Rose B	Marimar D	Sumaiyah A
Charlie M	Geovanni P	Marwa Leina M	Summer P
Cian O	Hiba A	Mason M	Taliyah T
Claudia B	Inaaya H	Michael T	Umar J
Dania M	Ishaq-Mohamed B	Miycah B	Yeshiah J
Daniel B	Jacob G	Mohammad Ashar M	Zahara N
Daniyal A	Jayden P	Mouksdeep S	Zoha I
Deborah S	Justice K	Murtaza M	

Super Effort with ActiveLearn During November (10% or more completed)		
Year 8		
Abdurraheem A	Davide S	Lana M
Abigail B	Drita D	Lana S
Amelia P	Erika R	Lisa O
Amilia M	Harley W	Logan M
Anne A	Haroon K	Louis M
Awais H	Hayden B	Mahdiali R
Ayana M	Ifrah A	Maleek T
Ayoub M	James B	Mohammed Yahya R
Baheer G	Jessica B	Nazirah I
Caleb A	Kadesha B	Oluwasemilore Mary A
Chanice M	Kailo S	Precious Charmaine E
Cian J	Katie J	Remeriah M
Daniel S	Keenan F	Rishikesh R
Danny H	Khloe S	Rohan A
David B	Kobi W	Sachkeerat R
David I		

# Celebrating Our ActiveLearners!

By The Languages Department (Continued...)

Super Effort with ActiveLearn During November (10% or more completed)		
Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Aaliyah W	Aria L	Aleesa A
Aimee F	Chloe O	Aymma H
Angel B	Eduard S	Chloe B
Cara K	Esther O	Chloe J
Desire M	Khadija M	Chloe W
Elizabeta P	Lachantae G	Daria N
Evie W	Lamiyah F	Darius-Samuel P
Golden G	Paula E	Denis-Cristian G
Ihsan-Yusuf H	Senen T	Eleanor G
Kayla V	Zenat N	Emmanuel O
Maham S		Giulia D
Noah H		Holly E
Sophie R		Ionut C
Vjola L		Kieran S
Zane M		Lucas T
		Morgan L
		Regan B
		Rishikan S
		Sabiha A
		Shazia M
		Sonni M
		Youssef B
		Zoe D

There are also several students who achieved Epraise badges this month for their overall progress, with a total of 423 badges given since the start of the year. Well done to everyone mentioned!

Remember, students can get badges at the following points -

25% - Bronze Badge - 5 extra STEPs

50% - Silver Badge - 10 extra STEPs

75% - Gold Badge - 15 extra STEPs

100% - Platinum Badge - 20 extra STEPs

Extra tasks - Extra Badge - 25 extra STEPs.

Languages teachers have given everyone 1 STEP for every 2% completed and Mr McCracken has added the badges already.



# Celebrating Our ActiveLearners!

By The Languages Department (Continued...)

ActiveLearn E-Praise Badges Awarded During November				
Bronze - 25%		Silver - 50%		Gold - 75%
Year 7				
Aarohee K	Mason M	Aidan C	Ishaq-Mohamed B	Dania M
Abinaa S	Michael T	Amirah B	Jayden P	Enxhi D
Alex M	Miycah B	Avleen G	Kristiano P	Ishaq-Mohamed B
Antonia M	Moukshdeep S	Bethany J	Maariya R	Kaitlyn F
Archie P	Murtaza M	Dania M	Marcelina L	Kristiano P
Ashar M	Nabiha B	Deborah S	Maria N	Nevaeh G
Aysha I	Nina M	Dion S	Marimar D	Zahara N
Daniel B	Rachel P	Emily G	Marwa Leina M	
Daniyal A	Romario T	Enxhi D	Nevaeh G	Platinum - 100%
Demetrius V	Siaana K	Finley S	Sophia O	Faith D
Dennis A	Sumaiyah A	Freya B	Sumaiyah A	Ishaq-Mohamed B
Geovanni P	Summer P	Geovanni P	Zahara N	Kaitlyn F
Hiba A	Taliyah T	Inaaya H		Nevaeh G
Isla-Mai S	Yeshiah J			Zahara N
Khalil L	Zoha I			
Louis S				Extra Tasks
				Ishaq-Mohamed B
				Kaitlyn F
				Samuel O

ActiveLearn E-Praise Badges Awarded During November			
Bronze - 25%		Silver - 50%	Gold - 75%
Year 8			
Abdurraheem A	Hayden B	Amelia P	Amelia P
Amelia P	Kadesha B	Amilia M	Anne A
Amilia M	Khloe S	Anne A	Awais H
Ava H	Kobi W	Caleb A	Caleb A
Baheer G	Lisa O	Cian J	Daniel S
Caelan N	Logan M	Dania A	Erika R
Caleb A	Maleek T	Davide S	
Chanice M	Mikael B	Haroon K	<b>Platinum - 100%</b>
David B	Nazirah I	Imanah A	Awais H
David I	Sachkeerat R	James B	Daniel S
Famia U	Tai R	Kailo S	Danny H
Harley W	Thomas W	Precious E	Rohan A
		Rishikesh R	

ActiveLearn E-Praise Badges Awarded During November				
Bronze - 25%		Silver - 50%	Gold - 75%	Platinum - 75%
Year 9				
Almee F	Maham S	Cara K	Kayla V	Aaliyah W
Angel B	Rebeca S	Desire M		Elizabetha P
Desire M	Sophie R	Elisa I		Golden G
Fisnik D	Vjola L	Evie W		Kayla V
Ihsan-Yusuf H		Zane M		
Year 10				
Aria L	Lamiyah F	Esther O	Esther O	
Eduard S	Neresa D	Khadija M		
Lachantae G	Senen T			
Year 11				
Aleesa A	Khashan M	Eleanor G		
Chloe J	Kieran S	Holly E		
Chloe W	Sabiha A	Lucas T		
Darius-Samuel P	Sonni M	Regan B		
Denis-Cristian G	Youssef B	Youssef B		
Holly E	Zoe D	Zoe D		

# Attendance Update

**By The Mrs Lloyd, Senior PSM & Attendance Manager**

Winter often brings a peak in illnesses like the flu, common cold, and norovirus. This surge can frequently result in higher rates of student sickness, consequently leading to increased school absences during the colder months.

Did you know however that Pharmacists can offer advice on a range of illnesses, such as coughs, colds, sore throats, ear infections and aches and pains. They can also give advice about medicines. This includes how to use your medicine, worries about side effects or any other questions you have. If they cannot help you themselves, they can refer you to a GP or other health professional.

Most pharmacies can also offer prescription medicine for some conditions, without you needing to see a GP or make an appointment. This is called Pharmacy First.

Conditions they can offer prescription medicine for are:

- impetigo (aged 1 year and over)
- infected insect bites (aged 1 year and over)
- earache (aged 1 to 17 years)
- sore throat (aged 5 years and over)
- sinusitis (aged 12 years and over)

If you go to a pharmacy with one of these conditions, the pharmacist will offer you advice, treatment or refer you to a GP or other health professional if needed. They will also update your GP health record, but your information will not be shared with anyone else.

The closest pharmacies to offer this near Lelands include:

- Rowlands Pharmacy (Sundon Park Road)
- Moakes Pharmacy (Marsh Farm Shopping centre)
- Hockwell Ring Pharmacy (The Green, Hockwell Ring)

Let's ensure we are working together to get students well and back to learning as quickly as possible.

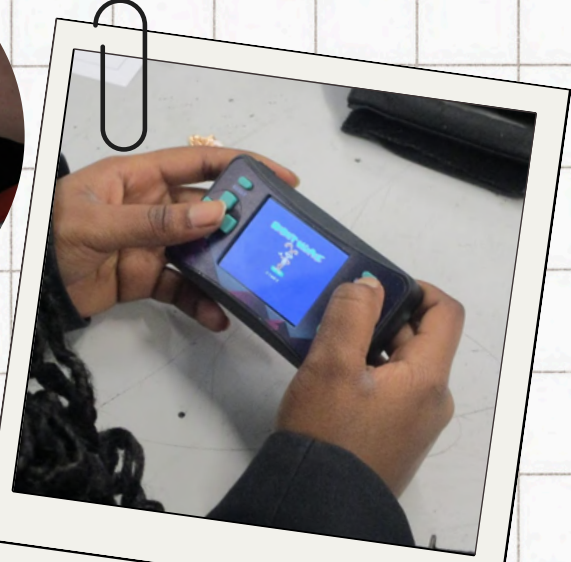
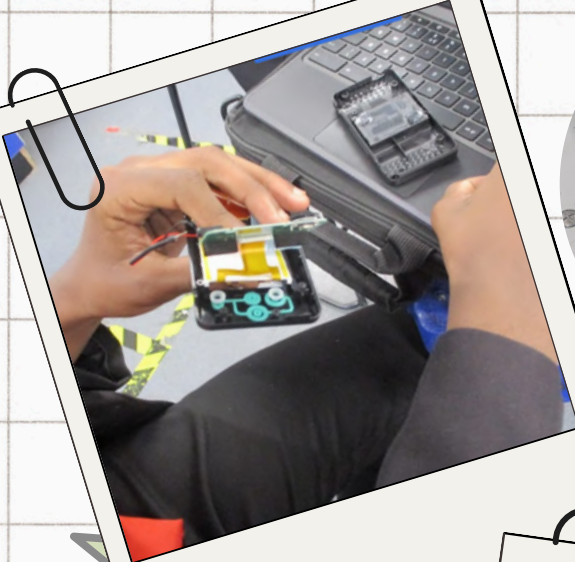


**team.  
repair**

### What Our Engineers Have To Say....

The kit was great. Me and all my friends had good fun playing with it after we built it, the kit is very straightforward with pictures in the instructions and I would want to try other kits in the future

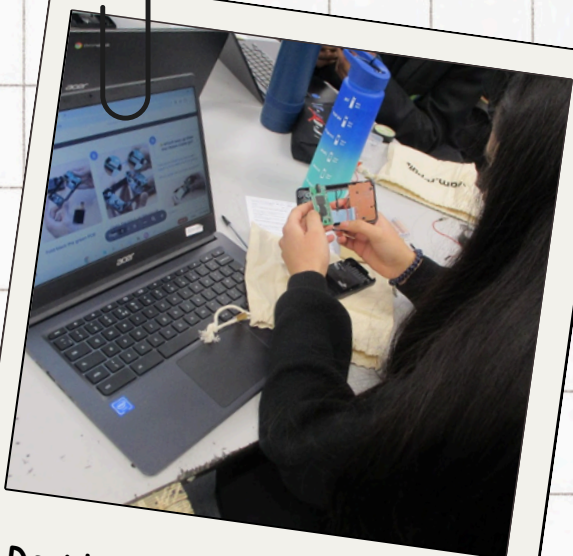
Sneh M - Yr 9



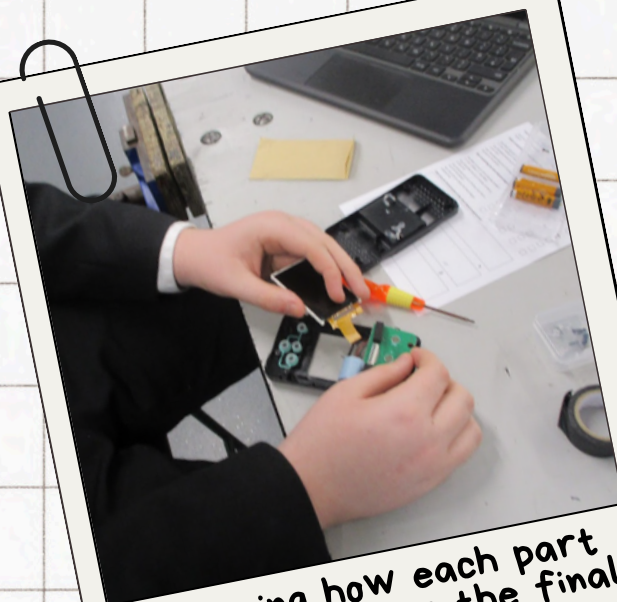
**Year 9 Engineers  
with Mrs Taylor**







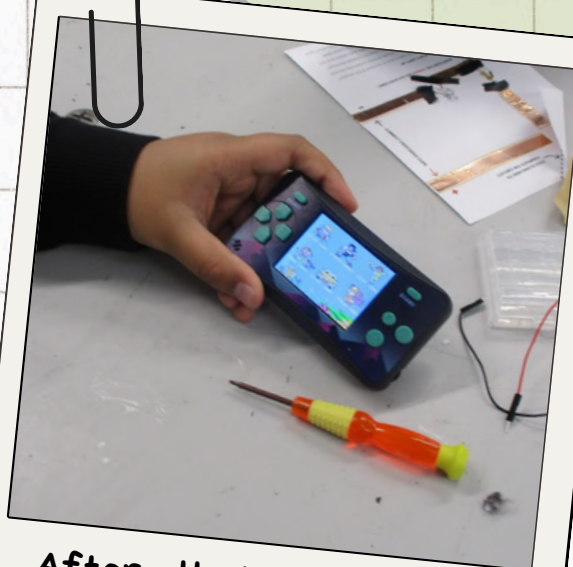
Problem-solving at its finest.



Learning how each part connects, making the final product work



Finding those faults



After all the hard work, Students got to have a play with the retro game



## Mr Butterfield says.....

Director of Design & Technology

What an amazing opportunity our Year 9 engineers have thanks to **Team Repair**. With support from **SUEZ**, we received 32 sponsored kits. We also secured a £650 bursary from **NEON Engineering**, which helped us build partnerships and buy new tools so students can keep growing their skills.

Through participation, pupils develop essential skills such as problem solving and collaboration, gaining the confidence to become "tech wizards"



# Reader Leader Training

**By Ms Rezaei, Learning Resource Centre Coordinator**

We are delighted to share that our Reader Leader Programme has officially launched with thanks to the University of Bedfordshire who will oversee this programme and deliver training. This exciting initiative gives our Year 10 students the opportunity to build on their leadership skills and become trained reading mentors for selected Year 7 students.

Interest in the programme was incredibly high. Our Year 10s submitted thoughtful applications; explaining why they felt they would make strong Reader Leaders. The standard was so impressive that selecting the final group proved extremely difficult. Their enthusiasm, maturity and genuine passion for supporting younger students shone through.



As part of their training, delivered by staff from the University of Bedfordshire, the Reader Leaders explored:

- What makes an effective Reader Leader
- Why reading is so important, both academically and personally
- How to model good reading habits and guide younger readers
- Strategies for discussing texts, including choosing key topics and themes
- The importance of “Book Talk”—engaging readers through questions, predictions, conversation, and interactive discussion

The programme goes beyond simply listening to someone read. Reader Leaders act as positive role models, helping to build confidence, nurture a love of reading and encourage meaningful conversations around books and learning.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 10 students for taking on this responsibility and we look forward to seeing the positive impact they will have on our Year 7 readers throughout the year.





# Lealands Remembers

At 11:00 am on Tuesday 11th November, the Lealands High School community gathered together for a Remembrance service to honour the sacrifices made by those who have lost their lives in conflicts.

The ceremony began with Mr. Patterson sounding 'The Last Post,' followed by a respectful two-minute silence. The service continued with a recital of the poem 'In waters deep' by Eileen Mahoney, delivered beautifully by our Head Girl, Aleesa and Head Boy, Youssef.

Acting Headteacher, Mr. Ward, laid a poppy wreath, while representatives from each tutor group placed poppy crosses in the memorial garden. This service provided an opportunity for all of us at Lealands to pause, reflect, and express our sincere respect and gratitude for those who served.

Our staff and students showed great dignity and respect as we came together to remember.



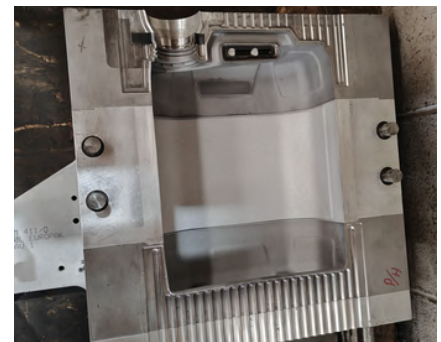


## DESIGN &amp; TECHNOLOGY

**STAFF CPD IN PLASTICS**

We are delighted to share that Mr Butterfield and Miss Aftab recently enjoyed a fantastic opportunity: they participated in a fully funded CPD training course run by the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3), taking part in one of the renowned Polymer Study Tours.

Through a mixture of expert-led lectures, hands-on practical sessions and guided visits of polymer-processing facilities, participants gain first-hand insight into the polymer industry in action.

**Grant Approved....**

We are excited to announce that our D&T department has been awarded a £1,000 grant to invest in new plastics equipment for our classrooms. This funding will significantly enhance our ability to deliver high-quality, industry-relevant learning experiences for our students.

This funding represents a fantastic step forward for our department and will help ensure our students continue to benefit from engaging, relevant and future-focused D&T provision.

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# Exploring Careers & Apprenticeships with Luton Airport:

## A Message for Year 7 Students



This week, our Year 7 students had a special assembly delivered by a representative from Luton Airport, offering an exciting insight into the many career opportunities available right here in our local area.

Luton Airport is more than just a gateway for travellers; it's a vibrant hub that provides numerous jobs and apprenticeships for young people interested in aviation, hospitality, engineering and business. The airport staff shared inspiring stories about their own careers and highlighted how apprenticeships can be a fantastic way to kickstart a successful future.

Students learned that careers at the airport aren't just about flying planes. There are roles in fire and safety, air traffic control, security, customer service, baggage handling, maintenance, marketing, and management.

Many of these positions offer on-the-job training and pathways to further education.

Luton Airport is committed to supporting local young people and helping them explore their potential right here at home. They invited students to think about their interests and consider how they might pursue a career in this dynamic sector.

Remember, your journey to a rewarding career can start now, by staying curious, working hard, and exploring the many opportunities available in our community. Who knows? One day, you might be working at Luton Airport, helping to keep it running smoothly and welcoming travellers from around the world.

## Meet Our New Parent Governor

**Aura Strugari, Parent Governor**

I have two children currently attending Lealands High School, one in year 10 and one in year 8. I became a Parent Governor to help the school community.

Professionally, I work as a secretary and am currently studying Construction Management at the University of Bedfordshire. I would like to support the learning journey because I consider every child deserves the right to learn and have the best support to achieve great things.

Outside of work, I am treasurer and trustee at Alpha & Omega Ministries (the church that we are members of as a family). I like to learn and face challenges. My hobbies are gardening, crocheting and reading.





# Art Club

By Mrs Ward-Lindsay, Teacher of Art



Art Club has been fantastic this term! We've loved seeing students from Year 7 to Year 11 getting creative in so many different ways. They've explored modelling, printing, cartoons, music making, portrait drawing, anime-style artwork, collage, and even made cards for our Lealands Christmas Card competition.

We've welcomed new students in Year 7 as well as those returning from previous terms. Everyone is invited to come along, try new techniques or materials, or bring in work from home to complete at school. There's always something exciting to create, and we'd love to see even more students join us.

Art Club runs every week on Thursdays from 3pm to 4pm in Art 1 - come along and have some fun!

## 🎄 Lealands Annual Christmas Card Competition Results 🎄

We are excited to announce the winners of this year's Christmas card competition!

- 1st Place: Sophie R (97MC) – Her design was chosen as our official Lealands Christmas card!



- First Runner-Up: Angel B (96SF)
- Second Runner-Up: Aya M (92CC)

Congratulations to all the students who entered. Your creativity made this year's competition truly festive!



# Blue Peris Trip 2025

In November, a team of intrepid Year 9 students faced the wilds of Snowdonia, spending a challenging and rewarding week at the Blue Peris Mountain Centre. Their challenging itinerary included sea level traversing, slate quarry hikes, exploring the caves of an old slate mine, mountain climbing and gorge walking. Here are some first-hand accounts from the students involved:

"My experience at Blue Peris is very memorable and I loved every second of it. From climbing up mountains, to scaling up a waterfall to laughing with my friends in my dorm. I enjoyed every moment and I'm so glad I got to push myself to try and do things I've never done before.

The night line is an experience I'll never forget, crawling and manoeuvring myself without any sight was a great test of trust and teamwork with the people I went with. I'm so lucky to have gone on this trip and make unbreakable bonds with people I didn't ever think I would have. I really enjoyed my time there working in the team I was with and if I could I would do it all over again".

**By Sophie R.**

"My experience at Blue Peris was absolutely Unforgettable! The night line was one of the most exciting parts, crawling and navigating through the dark really got my adrenaline pumping and gave me such a confidence boost. It felt amazing to push myself out of my comfort zone and realise what I was capable of. I also loved spending time with my friend in the dorm and the community room. Ee played uno every night, laughed non-stop, shared stories, and made so many amazing memories together. Doing all the activities with my group brought us even closer. We worked as a team, supported each other and had an incredible time from start to finish. I enjoyed my time there and if I could I would definitely go again".

**By Markayda A.**

## Highlights from the team:

My favourite bit  
was the nightline!  
Leo

My favourite bit was  
sea level traversing!  
Jenson

My favourite bit  
was the sea level  
traversing!  
Nathan

My favourite bit  
was the  
mountain!  
Ethan



# Annual Presentation Evenings

In October, at Lealands High School, we celebrated the hard work, progress, and achievements of our students during the academic year 2024-25 with our much-anticipated annual Presentation Evenings.

This highlight of the school calendar was held over two evenings, with three ceremonies due to the high number of prize winners.

The events celebrated students across all year groups, recognising their progress, achievements and dedication. It was inspiring to see their perseverance and talent rewarded.



We also enjoyed a preview of our upcoming school production of Mary Poppins, which offered a magical glimpse of the creativity soon to take the stage with an exclusive announcement of the show dates.

Congratulations to all our winners, and thank you to everyone who made these evenings a success.

## **Class of 2025 Award Winners**

- The Peter Scott Award for Science - Saarah B
- The Megan Evans Award for Spanish - Saarah B
- The Andy Pitts Prize for Maths - Tafheem M
- The Swita Sandhu Award for Vocational - Jai Nai
- The Tony Revill Cup for Geography - Judith B
- The Gary Smith Award for Computing - Ameira A
- The Frattini Plate for Kudos through Endeavour - Abbie H
- The Gustav Holst Cup for Music - Zach L F
- The Crozier Plate for PE - Joni S
- The Ellis Cup for English Language - Camelia C
- The Pattendon Award for Design Technology - Andreea Maria C
- The Mae Craydon Award for Drama - Anta B
- The Theresa Parsons Cup for English Literature - Hollie K
- The Gerald Lewis Trophy for Art - Leah O
- La Médaille de l'Excellence for French - Natasha T
- The Legacy Trophy for History - Camelia C



# Winter Concert Highlights

The annual Winter Concert took place on Tuesday 9th December. Our students presented a variety of acts, showcasing skills developed in the performing arts. The programme included a mix of singing, instrumental music, acting and dancing, which was well-received by the audience.

The event served as a demonstration of the effort and preparation put in by both the students and the Performing Arts Department. The acts presented were the result of the time dedicated to rehearsal and practice.

We would like to congratulate all those involved in the production of the concert, including the students, teachers, and technical staff. Our thanks also go to the families and friends who attended to support the performers.

***"Our students presented a variety of acts, showcasing skills developed in the performing arts."***





# Rugby 'Royalty' Inspires Students: Lawrence Dallaglio Visits Lealands

***"He delivered a powerful and honest message about overcoming significant challenges and the vital importance of persevering through adversity."***



We were delighted to welcome former England rugby captain and Rugby World Cup winner Lawrence Dallaglio to our school this November. He led an inspiring session with a group of Year 8 and Year 9 students, as part of our involvement with his charity, Dallaglio RugbyWorks.

Lawrence began the visit by leading a high-energy rugby session. Notably, Acting Headteacher Mr. Ward got involved in the session, making the most of some high-level coaching tips from Lawrence himself. Following this, Lawrence spoke to the students about his remarkable career, sharing the highlights of his sporting successes, including England's 2003 World Cup triumph. Crucially, he delivered a powerful and honest message about overcoming significant challenges and the vital importance of persevering through adversity.

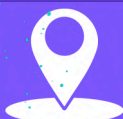
This successful visit came about as the school have been working with RugbyWorks, whose dedicated mentors have been delivering engaging sports and personal development sessions to a group of KS3 students.



# Join us for Evening Multi-Sport Sessions



12-18 year olds



Venue 360



On Mondays



4pm-5pm

Scan me  
to register



[gloria@dallaglorrugbyworks.com](mailto:gloria@dallaglorrugbyworks.com)



[www.dallaglorrugbyworks.com](http://www.dallaglorrugbyworks.com)



# Lealands Celebrates The Festive Season



The Christmas spirit is in full swing at Lealands as we approach the holidays.

The centerpiece of our festive efforts is the beautiful Christmas tree proudly displayed in the Main Hall. Adding to the festive atmosphere is our much-loved annual workroom and office decoration competition. This year, the departments have embraced the theme of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, inspiring an array of creative and engaging designs throughout the school.

As we count down to the Christmas holidays, Lealands has been busy with a wide variety of Christmas-themed events. These included our recent reward trips to the Panto and ice-skating, Christmas Jumper Day, the Christmas Disco, the Christmas Card Competition, our Elf on the Shelf Competition, the annual Winter Concert, a special student Christmas lunch and the office and workroom decoration competition.

With such a vibrant range of activities taking place, the energy across the school is wonderfully festive as we prepare for the holidays. We hope everyone enjoys this magical time of year. On behalf of all the students and staff at Lealands, we would like to wish a safe and Happy Christmas to all!



# Uniform Donations Needed!

## Has your child outgrown their uniform?

Not sure what to do with it?

Please place items in the Uniform Bin at Main Reception at school and we will recycle it in our second hand uniform shop. This will help families to keep the cost of uniform down and also help the environment by reusing items donated.



**The Uniform Shop will be popping up again in the new year!**

Help us support students, families & the environment!

## UNIFORM BIN

Donate your unwanted uniform to sell at our pop up shop

**Next Pop Up Shop**  
Coming Soon!



# Be A Friend! We Need You!

## Become part of Friends of Lealands PTA

The Friends of Lealands PTA is the perfect place to contribute to the school community and help enhance your child's educational experience. We're welcoming new members and fresh ideas!



# WE NEED YOU!

### How to Join or Learn More:

#### 1. Attend Our Next Meeting:

- **When:** Monday, 10th March 2026 at 5:00 PM
- **Where:** Lealands High School

#### 2. Join Virtually:

- Email us, and we'll send you a Google Meet link

#### 3. Simply Send an Email:

- Let us know you're interested!
- **Email:** friends@lealands.luton.sch.uk

## Raise Funds For Friends of Lealands PTA While You Shop!

Did you know the easiest way to support Friends Of Lealands is through easyfundraising? Shop online with over **8,000 retailers** and we receive a **FREE donation**—it costs you nothing!

### Christmas Shopping Bonus!

This month only, we can get an extra boost! Thanks to their Free £2 App-eal, if you register to support us via the easyfundraising app, we'll receive a bonus £2 donation!

Please download the app and use it for all your Christmas shopping to help us reach our goal. Thank you!

Download the App Now & Support Us:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/easyfundraising-app/?causeld=401743&utm\\_campaign=pmc&utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_content=app-eal-nov-wa1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/easyfundraising-app/?causeld=401743&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_content=app-eal-nov-wa1)

# Severe Weather Procedure

Occasionally during the year, particularly in Winter, we experience spells of very bad weather (e.g. snow). During these times we will always do our very best to keep the school open. However, there may be occasions that we have to make the decision to close based on:

- the safety and wellbeing of students and staff
- the number of teachers who are able to safely travel to school to determine if we have adequate numbers of teachers to take classes
- the severity of the weather, which impacts on whether the school grounds are safe for students, teachers and visitors

In the event that the school has to close, we will always endeavour to give as much notice as possible. The school will follow these procedures to notify parents/carers:

- **Update the school website** - a message will appear in red running across the top of the home screen, this should be your first point of reference.
- **App Message** - parents/carers who have downloaded our new School Gateway Parent App will receive a message directly to the app.
- **Text Message\*** - parents/carers who have not downloaded our Parent App, will receive a text message. \*Please ensure you inform us if any of your contact details change so we always have the most up to date information for you. Failure to do so may result in messages not being received.
- **Social Media Updates** - keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages for updates.
- **Inform Local Authority** - The school will inform Luton Borough Council, who have a page dedicated to school closures. This can be found on their website at <http://www.luton.gov.uk/schoolclosures>
- Local radio stations no longer update live lists on their websites (although they will read out lists on air).







For the attention of Parents and Guardians

### Children/Young People's safety around lakes, rivers and bodies of open water

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Dear Parents,

**We want to alert parents and young people of the potential dangers and risk to life of playing near and on frozen bodies of water in Bedfordshire.**

**We would ask all parents and carers to talk to their children and remind them of the dangers of ice and water and why they must keep away from it.**

Frozen lakes, ponds, canals and reservoirs can look picturesque, but they can be lethal. There can be no greater warning of this than last year's awful event.

The cold weather can lead to bodies of water freezing over and creating hazardous conditions. We understand the temptation to walk across or play on the frozen water, but we would like to urge everyone to see the dangers are associated with frozen water.

Our advice is to never go on to the ice under any circumstances. The ice may appear thicker than it is but please be aware that ice can be weak, especially as you move further from the edge. If you were to fall in it can be extremely dangerous due to the cold temperatures of the water and the possibility of currents pushing you under unbroken ice.

RLSS UK offer safety advice for winter water safety, with simple steps to keep safe during the winter:

1. Never go onto the ice to play, to retrieve an object, or a pet.
2. Never enter the ice to rescue somebody, call 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service

### What to do if YOU accidentally fall through ice:

- Stay calm and shout for help Spread your arms out across the surface of the ice in front of you Lie flat and use your arms to pull yourself over the ice towards the shore If the ice on the water breaks, try to make your way to the bank or shore, breaking ice in front of you as you go
- If you find yourself stuck and unable to escape, wait for help. Stay as still as possible to conserve your energy. Bring your arms close to your sides and keep your legs together, while keeping your head out of the water
- When you're safely out of the water it's important to go to hospital for a check-up

# Careers Fair 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

This event is a fantastic opportunity to:

- ✓ Showcase your programs, courses, or employment pathways
- ✓ Connect directly with motivated students exploring post-16 and post-18 options
- ✓ Promote apprenticeships, training, internships, and future career opportunities
- ✓ Build relationships with our staff and careers team
- ✓ Increase visibility within the community

## Why attend?

Our students are eager to learn about the full range of education and career possibilities available to them. By attending, you'll play a key role in inspiring their future and helping them make informed decisions about their next steps.



1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2026



9:00AM-1:00PM



LU3 3AL



For more info email:  
careersfair@lealands.luton.sch.uk