

# LEALANDS

## News

**EXCELLENCE RESPONSIBILITY RESPECT**



**STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM 2025/2026**

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

### **Upcoming Events:**

**18.07.25 - End of School Year**

**21.07.25 & 22.07.25- Teacher Training (School Closed)**

**21.08.25- GCSE Results Day**

**03.09.25 - Autumn Terms Begins**

## *Recent End of Term Letter*

### **From Mr Burridge**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are coming towards another excellent term and academic year at Lealands and I wish to thank you for your support and all the many messages of thanks received by our teachers and staff; they are much appreciated.

I hope that you enjoy reading the forthcoming Lealands News which will include a phenomenal amount of excellence exhibited by students throughout the school and the many opportunities to learn and develop that they have been involved in this term.



In these final few weeks of term, we have seen some very hot weather, albeit, as is normal in the UK, this has been quite changeable. As a result of this, we have allowed students to wear their school PE kit which has been well received and appreciated. In my previous communication I explained that this adaptation would be until further notice and will continue to the end of this term. From the return to school on the 3rd September all students must wear full school uniform, including their correct year group tie and a blazer. I will write to you again if this position changes due to any ongoing exceptionally hot conditions in the Autumn term. As is appropriate at this time of year, please be reminded of our policy regarding jewellery and hair styles. In particular, students sometimes get piercings during the holiday period, but by September these must be removed for school other than one small stud earring in each earlobe. Please ensure that if you are planning to support your child to have any other piercings that these will be healed and the piercing can be removed for school on the 3rd September.

For parents buying uniform items, please remember that shoes must be of leather type with no flashes/logos or colours (examples can be seen on our website of what is and is not acceptable for school). Please remember that shoe stores often sell trainer type shoes popular with students labelled as 'school shoes' but these will not be acceptable in school.

I am very grateful to our Friends of Lealands PTA who have been facilitating uniform swaps during this term which have been very well used. More of these will take place during the Autumn term. I know this is a great help to many families struggling with the cost of living and providing uniform. We have a large stock of second hand uniform items and so if this would be of benefit to you please do contact your child's Pastoral Support Manager or Head of Year.

Sadly, as part of the rising cost of living, the price of a school set meal (meal and dessert) will rise to £2:75 from September. This is an unavoidable increase, but still represents excellent value for money as we work hard with our caterers to keep prices as low as possible. The price of separate individual items will remain the same and we will be working with the caterers to get even better value for students and parents with these in the future.

I really hope you have a very enjoyable and relaxing Summer and we look forward to seeing you in the Autumn term.

## *September Return Information*

**Students will return for the Autumn term on Wednesday 3rd September at the following times:-**

Year group	Time of arrival	Time of line up	Entrance
7	8:20am	8:30am	Main entrance - green gate
8	10:15am	10:25am	Courts entrance
9	10:15am	10:25am	Main entrance - silver gate
10	11:15am	11:25am	Main entrance - green gate
11	11:15am	11:25am	Main entrance - silver gate

**Normal arrival and leaving times from Thursday September 4th for all year groups will be as follows:-**

Year group	Arrival window	Time of line up	End of day if not attending clubs	Entrance
7	8:20-8:30am	8:30am	3:00pm	Main entrance - green gate
8	8:20-8:30am	8:30am	3:00pm	Courts entrance
9	8:20-8:30am	8:30am	3:00pm	Main entrance - silver gate
10	8:45-8:55am	8:55am	3:20pm	Main entrance - green gate
11	8:45-8:55am	8:55am	3:20pm	Main entrance - silver gate

## Key dates for your diary:

**Mark your calendars with these key dates - stay informed and never miss an important event!**

- **End of Summer Term:** Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025  
*\*Year 7 & 8 finish at 12.20pm / Year 9 & 10 finish at 12.30pm.*
- **Staff Training Day (School Closed):** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> & Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025
- **GCSE Results Day:** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025
- **Staff Training Day (School Closed):** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September & Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025
- **Start of Autumn Term:** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025  
*\*See tables on page 3 for arrival and start times for September 2025.*
- **Valencia Trip Deposit Due:** 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025
- **Prospective Parents Open Evening:** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025
- **Staff Training Day (School Closed):** Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025
- **Staff Training Day (School Closed):** Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025
- **October Half-Term:** Friday 24<sup>th</sup> - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025
- **End of Autumn Term:** Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

## Term Dates:

Full academic term dates for 2025-2026 can be found on the school website: <https://www.lealands.luton.sch.uk/termdates>



## *Value of the Month*

**July 2025**

### **Value of the Month**

**July 2025**

**"Celebrating Achievement"**



**Talk about your successes and recognise your achievements no matter how small they be. This will help you prepare for future success.**

## Sports Successes & Updates

### By The PE Department



#### **Champions Again! Lealands dominates town track and field for a fourth year in a row!**

The PE Department are delighted to announce a fantastic victory! 2025, Lealands were crowned Luton Town Track and Field Champions for the fourth consecutive year! This is a huge achievement and without a doubt, the most coveted title in the town.

Winning the shield four times in a row demonstrates the unrivalled strength of our athletics team here at Lealands. This consistent success is a direct result of the outstanding teaching, expert guidance, and dedication to excellence our students receive from their PE teachers, both in class and during the many hours spent perfecting their skills in extra-curricular clubs.

A massive congratulations to our incredible athletes and dedicated PE staff! We are all so proud!



#### **County Champions**

We would like to give a huge congratulations to our County Champions Jahzel for Triple Jump and Grace for Long Jump. Grace will be going on to represent at English National Schools.

Amazing work girls and a huge congratulations to the other Lealands and Luton school students who were very successful this year!



#### **Rounders Final**

We had a very successful day on 1<sup>st</sup> July at the Luton Schools Rounders Finals. This was hosted at Lealands and all our teams qualified for the finals! Our Year 7s beat Icknield to become champions. Our Year 8s beat Cardinal Newman to take 1st place. Our Year 9s lost out in the final to Denbigh to take 2nd and our Year 10s beat Stockwood Park Academy in a close final! Well done to all the girls involved!





# Sports Day

## By The PE Department

During the week beginning 7th July, our school came alive with the excitement and energy of our annual Sports Days. Each year group took its turn to compete, showcasing their athletic prowess and team spirit in a series of track, field, and various other sports events.

The atmosphere was electric, with students cheering each other on, demonstrating the true essence of camaraderie and sportsmanship. The roar of support from the sidelines was a testament to the close-knit community we have built, where every achievement is celebrated and every effort is acknowledged.

Well done to all students who competed and supported each other. Your great determination and sportsmanship were evident in every event, and you have all made our school incredibly proud.

Well done to everyone involved for making this Sports Day week a memorable and inspiring experience. Here's to continued success and more exciting competitions in the future!

Huge congratulations to the winning tutor groups from each year group!

Year 7 - **76**, Year 8 - **84**, Year 9 - **91**, Year 10 - **106**



## Literacy

**By Ms Fendick**

Congratulations to the following students for making excellent progress in literacy during Spring term:

- Year 7 - Stevie and Lliyana



•

- Year 8 - Elizabeta and Rory



## Outstanding Achievement

From July 10th to 13th, 2025, our very own Year 8 student, Riley, travelled to Portugal to proudly represent England at the Scalabis Cup. This prestigious international competition features top-tier talent in trampoline, double mini-trampoline (DMT), and tumbling gymnastics.

Riley delivered a strong performance during his qualification rounds, successfully landing both of his runs. Despite a couple of small deductions that narrowly kept him from reaching the finals, he achieved an impressive 13th place out of 37 competitors.

Even more exciting, Riley's fantastic scores were instrumental in the English team clinching a third-place finish in the overall team event! This is an absolutely incredible achievement.

A massive congratulations to Riley on becoming an international medal winner! We're all incredibly proud of his dedication and success.





# Student Leadership Selection

**By Miss Cussen, Year 10 Head of Year**

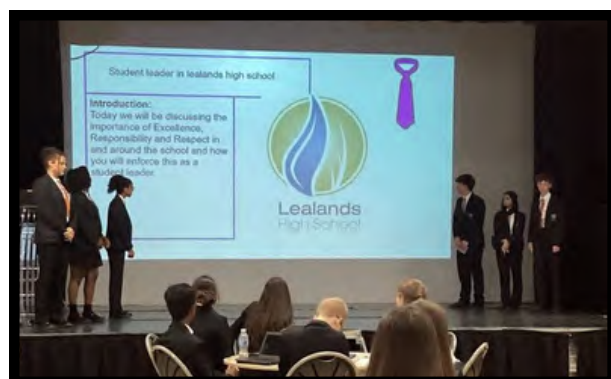
We're thrilled to announce our new Student Leadership team!

We recently interviewed some truly exceptional candidates, and they were all an absolute credit to Lealands and our "orange tie" year group.

A huge congratulations to:

- Head Girl: Aleesa
- Deputy Head Girl: Jessica
- Head Boy: Youssef
- Deputy Head Boy: Sonni
- Heads of Student Voice: Zoe & Idris
- Head Student: Jahzel

We wish them all incredible success in their new roles – we know they'll do an amazing job!



## *Year 11 Prom*

### **By Miss Jones, Year 11 Pastoral Support Manager**

We're delighted to share that the Year 11 Prom, held at the beautiful Luton Hoo Walled Garden, was a fantastic success! Held on the 3rd of July, the evening was filled with laughter, dancing, and plenty of unforgettable moments. Our students looked incredible and celebrated the end of their GCSE journey in true style.

We are so proud of the amazing young people they've become; full of promise, kindness, and confidence. It was a joy to see them enjoying a well-deserved celebration.

A heartfelt thank you to the staff, parents, and organisers who helped make the night so special. Congratulations, Year 11 you've done yourselves proud!



More Photos from Prom can be viewed on our website  
[www.lealands.luton.sch.uk/gallery](http://www.lealands.luton.sch.uk/gallery)



## *Paris Trip: Four Days We'll Never Forget*

**By Mr. Marie, Languages Department**

From the 25th - 28th of June, Mrs Strachan, Miss Cussen, Mr Sharpe, Mr Taplin and I accompanied 45 students on trip to Paris. It was a fantastic few days full of culture, fun, and a fair bit of unexpected weather.

We kicked things off with a boat trip along the River Seine. The heat was intense (well above 30°C) but the students handled it well - thanks to a lot of water bottles and sun cream! Cruising past the landmarks from the river was a great way to take in the city, even if we felt like we were melting by the end.

Then came our visit to the Eiffel Tower and the weather decided to switch things up completely. Just as we arrived, the skies opened. A proper summer storm hit - thunder, lightning, and the kind of rain that soaks you through in seconds. Despite all this, students still managed to enjoy the view and made the most of it. I overheard one (I won't name you!) say, "it felt like a scene from a movie!"

The following day was Disneyland Paris and, as always, it didn't disappoint. The group split off to explore the park, and everyone had a brilliant time. Some focused on rides, others hunted for characters or just soaked up the atmosphere. The day ended with the fireworks display, which completely blew us all away. Our students said it was the best they'd ever seen and I'd have to agree.

On our final day, we managed to squeeze in two major stops: Notre-Dame and the Louvre. Notre-Dame, even under restoration, was impressive. At the Louvre, of course, the Mona Lisa was the main attraction, but we took our time exploring other parts of the museum too.

Paris gave us heat, storms, history, magic, and some of the best pastries in the world and we wouldn't have had it any other way!





## Fundraiser Event

During the summer holiday, between 23rd and 30th July, Mr Ward and Mr Hall, ably supported by Mrs Ward, are embarking on an 8 day challenge to paddle in a kayak from Lechlade in Gloucestershire to the Thames Barrier in Central London - a total of over 150 miles.

They are raising money for The Alzheimer's Society and The Stroke Association. Both these conditions have impacted their families over the last few years and are extremely worthwhile causes.

The below pictures include a QR code linking to their Just-Giving Page. Any contributions to either charity would be much appreciated.



# Duke of Edinburgh

**By Mr Payne**

## **Duke of Edinburgh Practice Days 11th June & 12th June 2025**

During the course of the last term our DofE Bronze students had been learning about campcraft at after school training sessions. They understood the importance of the countryside code. They knew what a substantial meal was and how they would be able to cook it on their Trangia (camping stove). They knew how to pack their rucksack and how to keep everything inside it dry if it rained.....oh how they wished it rained! They could erect and take down a tent. And they had a basic understanding of what they could do with a map and a route plan. It was time to take them out and introduce them to real map reading and the joys of navigation.

Over the course of the 2 days our intrepid adventurers learned how to look for features on the land like field boundaries, contours, roads, churches and woods and actually see them on their maps. This is probably the most vital part of their training as failing to read the map accurately inevitably leads to unplanned detours and a much longer walk on their expedition. It was a very long and hot day, but all of our students worked hard to gain the vital skills needed to help them achieve their goal of completing the Bronze Award.

Well done and keep up the good work!

**Aabidah, Abbie, Emmanuella, Naeem, Hania, Nitya, Sophie, Kailyn, Kayra, Syeda, Madison, Aasiyah, Sabrina, Iyinoluwa, Amelia, Eduard, Frank, Alex, Aiyanna and Kaya.**



## **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award - Qualifying Expedition -17th & 18th June 2025**

On one of the hottest days of the year, our Bronze DofErs set off on what would prove to be a very challenging, yet rewarding first day of their expedition. Spirits were high and rucksacks were heavy, and off they trekked into the unknown. There were three separate walking groups, each heading off on a different route. They had checkpoints to reach throughout the walk but apart from that very limited contact, they were on their own, with just their newfound map reading skills to get them back to camp. As Miss Walker and I followed the groups remotely, we wondered who was getting blisters and who had gone for a 'wild wee'. Eventually after a long day in the unforgiving sun, the weary wanderers began to drift back into camp. Of course, their work was not over. They still had to set up their tents, unpack the rucksacks and finally get to cook that 'substantial meal' that DofE insist upon.

We were amazed that they still had energy for playing games after dinner (maybe next year I should make the walk longer?). But soon it was time for showering and getting the much needed rest that would allow them to do it all over again the next day. Most were asleep quickly but a few were still giggling as the night sky grew dark. Miss Walker reminded the gigglers that they would be awoken early in the morning and that did the trick....eventually. A shooting star shot across the sky and that was the perfect end to a great first day.

As everyone began to wake up we asked the usual questions and got all the usual answers. How did you sleep? Rubbish! Does anything hurt? Yes. Everything! Are you excited about day 2? No. Basically, everyone was feeling the effects of day 1, but to give them their due credit, they were up quickly, they made breakfast and washed up and took down all the tents in record time. The teamwork that the group showed during this phase of the expedition was exceptional. Help was offered to whoever needed it and Lealands' core values of respect, responsibility and excellence were on display for all to say. I may not have mentioned it before but this group of students are one of the very best I have had the pleasure of supporting through their DofE Bronze Award.

And just like that, the campsite was empty and the walking groups had set off on the second day of the expedition. Walk. Eat. Sleep. Repeat.

Checkpoints checked. Water bottles refilled. Outside wees weed, and then they were back at the minibus. Finally, they could take off those hideous walking boots and sit back and enjoy a leisurely drive back to Lealands.

All participants have successfully completed the expedition section of the award and most have fully completed the Bronze Award itself. Hopefully the memory of what they achieved will stay with them as they should all be very proud. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is internationally recognised because it is difficult to achieve. Miss Walker and I are incredibly proud of each and every one of you, and as the blisters fade, we hope that you will consider signing up for the Silver Award in September.

Mahoosive congratulations to: Aabidah, Abbie, Emmanuella, Naeem, Hania, Sophie, Kailyn, Kayra, Syeda, Madison, Aasiyah, Sabrina, Iyinoluwa, Amelia, Eduard, Frank, Alex, Aiyanna and Kaya.



## **A trip to the Palace**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> May, I was delighted (although a little embarrassed) to attend a Gold DofE Presentation at Buckingham Palace. I had been invited because I have been involved in the delivery of the Award at Lealands for nearly 20 years. In fact, the Award was originally started at Lealands by Mr Cullum and our dear ex-colleague Geoff Morris, who was also invited.

Once we had arrived at the Palace and after the obligatory photographs, we were directed to the gardens at the rear of the Palace. The Buckingham Palace Garden had been transformed into a festival-style celebration for young people and their loved ones, with giant deckchairs, bunting, garden games and activities. Attendees had the chance to hear from the famous DofE Award holders and sporting legends, and pick up career advice from actors, presenters, authors, and campaigners at stages throughout the garden.

The celebration saw His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh – who received his own Gold Award from his father Prince Philip at nearby St James’s Palace in 1986 – congratulate attendees in a speech from the Palace’s West Terrace, telling them that they should all be “incredibly proud” and “stand a few inches taller”. The Duke also met Award holders, hearing about the positive impact their DofE has had on them. Alex Scott MBE delivered an inspiring speech alongside Poppy Bough, 20, from Beverley who celebrated her own Gold Award achievement today. Poppy, who has autism, told the crowd how the DofE was life-changing for her. She said: “Before I began my DofE, I had never spent a night away from home and I had no friends to do it with. At the first meeting, I stood there petrified, but for the first time ever, I saw something I could join in with”.

Every young person that achieves their Gold DofE Award has the opportunity to receive their Award from a member of the Royal family at either Buckingham Palace or St. James's Palace. Ruth Marvel OBE, CEO of The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, said, “Last year, over 342,000 young people started their DofE across the UK – the highest in our nearly 70 years of history. This shows just how much appetite there is amongst young people for enrichment opportunities beyond formal education. Together with our volunteers, partners and supporters, we want to reach 1.6 million young people by next spring – so that even more young people can take part in a life-changing DofE Award.”

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is difficult yet rewarding. It pushes us out of our comfort zones and allows us to grow. It requires commitment, dedication and lots of hard work. It is not for everyone, but it is available to EVERYONE.

At Lealands, we start the Award in Yr9 and we will be coming into an assembly early next term to tell you how you can get involved. What have you got to lose?



## ***Duke of Edinburgh- Aspire***

The Aspire cohort of students have been working on the DofE Bronze Award as part of their school curriculum. They have worked very hard to pass all of their sections and have achieved great things. The group has gained new cooking skills and worked to help younger students improve their reading. The culmination of their hard work came when they held a Lealands' Got Talent contest. This was an incredibly successful event which was supported fantastically by the whole school and raised lots of money for charity.

The group took part in an on site expedition on 17th & 18th June. They completed a series of 'Taskmaster' type activities and had lots of fun throughout.

Congratulations to everyone involved!



## Student Testimonial

Good afternoon Mr Payne,

Doing my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award was such a great experience and helped me learn loads of new things. For my Volunteering section, I walked my neighbour's dog every week. At first, it just seemed like a simple job, but I quickly realised it was actually a big responsibility. I had to make sure I was on time and looked after the dog properly. Over time, I got more confident and really enjoyed spending time with the dog. It also felt nice knowing I was helping someone in my community.

For the Physical section, I chose swimming. I already liked swimming, but DofE gave me the push to get better at it. I worked on improving my technique and stamina, and I could definitely feel myself getting fitter. It was fun, but also challenging at times, especially when I was trying to swim longer distances without stopping. Still, it felt good to see how much I improved by the end.

For the Skills section, I decided to play the violin. I've been learning for a while, but this gave me a chance to practise more regularly and get better. Sometimes it was frustrating when I couldn't get things right, but I kept going. I learned some new songs, and my playing definitely improved. I felt really proud when I could play a whole piece smoothly without messing up.

The Expedition was probably the most fun part of the whole thing. We walked through fields and countryside using a map, which I'd never really done before. It was hard at first, but I got the hang of it. We had to carry our own stuff, cook our own dinner on little camping stoves, and even put up our tents ourselves. It was tiring but also exciting, and it felt good to be independent and work as a team.

Overall, doing my Bronze DofE was amazing. It helped me try new things, build confidence, and learn how to stick with something even when it's hard. I'm really proud of what I did, and I'd definitely recommend it to anyone thinking about doing it too.

Kind regards,  
Sabrina O





## Careers Fair

By Ms Griffiths

### Lealands Careers Fair Inspires Future Pathways

On Friday 20th June, Lealands welcomed students from Years 7 to 10 to its annual Careers Fair. The event brought together over 20 representatives from a wide range of local and national businesses, further education colleges, universities, apprenticeship providers, the armed forces, and emergency services.

This exciting and informative event offered students the chance to explore future pathways, ask questions, and gain valuable insights into various careers. Whether students were thinking ahead to their GCSE choices or considering long-term goals beyond Lealands, the Careers Fair provided an excellent opportunity for meaningful conversations with industry professionals and education experts.

We would like to give a big thank you to the following companies who attended the careers fair:

- Alltask
- Barnfield College
- Bedford College Group
- Beds Police
- Computacentre
- Doppelmayr
- Expert Academy
- Innovus
- L&D Hospital
- Mitie
- Microsoft
- Moore Kingston Smith
- Oaklands College
- Target Healthcare
- The PAD
- YMCA
- Leon Barnett football academy
- RAF
- Luton 6th Form



# Cranfield University Trip RAF

By Mr Butterfield, Acting Director of Design & Technology

**We Can Be: Engineers**

Our Year 8 students had a fantastic opportunity to meet Neil Williams, an engineer from the Civil Aviation Authority, through an exciting partnership with the Royal Air Force (RAF). During the visit, students were inspired by Neil's insights into aviation engineering and gained a deeper understanding of the vital role engineers play in the aviation industry.

During the event, Neil's enjoyment in engineering was infectious: "I have always loved fixing things and I always wanted to be an engineer. There are so many jobs you can do within being an engineer. You can go anywhere with engineering and it never gets boring. I am still as excited today as when I started 44 years ago."

As well as asking Neil their own questions, everyone took part in a word cloud about engineering and created a design for an aeroplane of the future with fresh thinking about form, fuel and purpose.






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**We Can Be: Engineers**





**#designfutures**



**#engineersofthefuture**



# We Can Be: Engineers

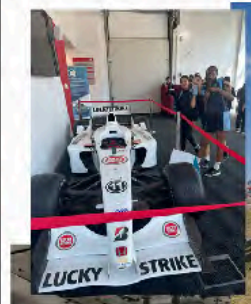


What an incredible day our future Year 9 Engineers (currently in Year 8) experienced at Cranfield University, thanks to a fully funded trip supported by the Big Ideas and RAF STEM team.

Students were given a unique opportunity to engage with a wide range of university staff involved in the operation of Cranfield's on-site airport—from ground crew to lead lecturers of the postgraduate programmes.

They spent dedicated time with each team, asking thoughtful questions and taking part in hands-on workshops that brought engineering and aviation to life.

To round off an inspiring day, students had the unforgettable experience of sitting in the cockpit of a Boeing 737, as well as exploring a state-of-the-art training aircraft equipped with the latest aviation education technology.



"Experiences like the visit to Cranfield University are absolutely vital for our students. They provide real-world insight into the careers and technologies that bring STEM subjects to life. Meeting professionals, asking questions, and stepping inside aircraft used for cutting-edge aviation training helps our learners connect their classroom knowledge to future opportunities. It's days like these that inspire the next generation of engineers."

— Mr G Butterfield,  
Acting Director of Design & Technology



Mr Butterfield our Acting Director of Design & Technology said:

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## Experience Day

On Thursday 10th July, 700 enthusiastic students set off on an unforgettable Experience Day, exploring a variety of exciting destinations. From the thrilling rides at Thorpe Park, Chessington, and Legoland, to the iconic London Stadium, the adventurous Box End Water Park, and scenic Harpenden.

They also enjoyed climbing at Big Rock MK, the bustling sights of London, the seaside fun at Southend, the wild encounters at Whipsnade Zoo, and the action-packed Urban Battlefields MK.

It was a day full of discovery and joy, offering experiences they will cherish.



## Most Able

By Mr Pearson

There have been some real highlights over the year for our most able students, and the recent graduation of the scholars programme is definitely one of them. 28 students attended Magdalene college, Cambridge, for the Brilliant Club programme. The programme saw students learn a new topic from a PhD student in either 'The power of language' or 'Is a Person a Human? An Anthropology of Personhood'. Students had 6 sessions with the tutor and then had to submit a 1500-2000 word assignment on the topic. Our students did superbly with all students passing with either a 2:1 or a first class pass, which is an amazing achievement. Both tutors were full of praise for their hard work and dedication.

The opportunity to visit Magdalene college for their graduation was a well earned reward. An extra special well done to Aida and Aymma who were selected as spoken scholars at the graduation to share their thoughts on the scholars programme.

Other highlights of the year include:

- The excellent effort of the KS3 UK Maths Challenge team. Their results were superb!
- A select group of Year 11 students have spent the year preparing for their further maths GCSE. Students attended Friday after school sessions all year with Mr Mason, and were really positive coming out of their GCSE exam. Good luck to them in August!
- Varying groups of KS4 students got the opportunity to visit Wadham college Oxford or Pembroke College in Cambridge. A select number of students finished their Wadham project in both Year 11 and Year10. The sessions saw them focus on future university topics and undertake Meta-Cognition sessions to develop learning and revision skills.

Well done to all students involved in the activities this year! I look forward to another year filled with equal highlights.







# Bedfordshire

## Fire & Rescue Service

[bedsfire.gov.uk](http://bedsfire.gov.uk)  
 Southfields Road  
Kempston, Bedford  
MK42 7NR  
 [bedsfirealert.co.uk](http://bedsfirealert.co.uk)  
 @bedsfire

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Important Water Safety Message – Please Read

As the summer holidays approach and the weather becomes warmer, we want to share some vital information about **water safety**. Many young people enjoy spending time near rivers, lakes, and other open water, but these environments can be very dangerous—even for strong swimmers. This message is supported by **Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service** and local partners, including the **Police**, **East of England Ambulance Service (EEAST)**, and **Local Authorities**, who often respond to water-related incidents during the summer.

Open Water areas may look inviting but hide serious hazards such as:

- **Cold Water Shock** – sudden immersion in cold water can cause panic and breathing difficulties
- **Hidden Dangers** – weeds, rubbish, currents, and sudden changes in water depth
- **Risk of Injury** – from jumping or diving into unknown water

### World Drowning Prevention Day – 25th July & Find Your Float Campaign

On **25th July, World Drowning Prevention Day** raises awareness about how to stay safe in water. This year's campaign, **Find Your Float**, highlights an important life-saving skill:

*"If you get into trouble in the water, knowing how to float can save your life. But we all float differently. By practising how to float in a safe and supported environment, you can learn what floating looks and feels like for you, helping you to be better prepared for an emergency situation."*

We encourage families to explore this campaign with their children, helping them to understand and practise floating techniques in safe places such as swimming pools.

You can find more information about water safety and the Find Your Float campaign on the **Respect The Water** website: [www.respectthewater.com](http://www.respectthewater.com) and on the **Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service** website: [www.bedsfire.gov.uk](http://www.bedsfire.gov.uk).

### Emergency Advice

If someone is in trouble in the water:

- **Do not enter the water yourself**
- **Call 999** and ask for: **FIRE SERVICE** for inland water emergencies
- **Call 999** and ask for: **COASTGUARD** for coastal incidents
- Use available lifesaving equipment such as throwlines, lifebelts, or branches
- Encourage the person to **float on their back** and stay calm until help arrives

Please talk to your young people about these important safety tips to help ensure a safe and enjoyable summer.

Kind Regards

Stacey Moore  
Community Safety Officer



EVERY CONTACT COUNTS

WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK

WE DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE



## *Learning Resources Centre*

**By Ms Rezaei, Learning Resource Co-ordinator**

### **Boys, Books & Empathy: Why It Matters**

Recent research shared by children's book supplier Peters and Empathy Lab explores how reading can help children—especially boys—develop empathy. The study highlights a noticeable empathy gap in boys compared to girls and points to reading fiction as a powerful tool to bridge that gap. It also emphasizes the importance of offering boys access to emotionally rich, diverse stories without limiting them by traditional gender stereotypes.

#### **What the Research Found**

##### ***Reading builds empathy***

- The study confirms that fiction helps children understand others' emotions and experiences. This emotional insight is crucial for developing kindness, respect, and healthy relationships.

##### ***Carefully chosen books make a difference***

- Peters' "Read for Empathy" collections include books selected for their ability to build emotional awareness and compassion. These books tackle topics like friendships, challenges, diversity, and making a difference in the world. In addition, Ms Rezaei, our school Learning Resource Coordinator, would be able to suggest some great reads!

##### ***Removing gender labels helps boys engage***

- The research supports campaigns like "Let Books Be Books," which call for removing "for boys" or "for girls" labels from books. This opens up a wider, richer range of emotional stories that boys might otherwise avoid—stories that are essential to building empathy.

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### **How Parents Can Help at Home**

#### ***Read and reflect together***

- Ask your child how characters might be feeling and what they would do in their place. These conversations build emotional intelligence.

#### ***Choose varied books***

- Explore stories about emotions, relationships, overcoming fears, or standing up for others—regardless of the gender of the main character.

#### ***Encourage free choice***

- Let your child pick books that interest them, even if they don't "fit the stereotype." Boys especially benefit from freedom to read beyond adventure or action genres.

## Why It Matters

By reading widely and empathetically, boys can strengthen their emotional understanding, improve social skills, and become more confident communicators. This doesn't just help in school- it helps in life.

Reading isn't just a skill- it's a gateway to understanding others. And for boys, it can be the key to becoming more empathetic, kind, and self-aware.

If you'd like to read further on this topic please click [here](#).

And similarly, if you have any further questions please contact Ms Rezaei, our Learning Resource Coordinator.

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## Big Wins with Accelerated Reader

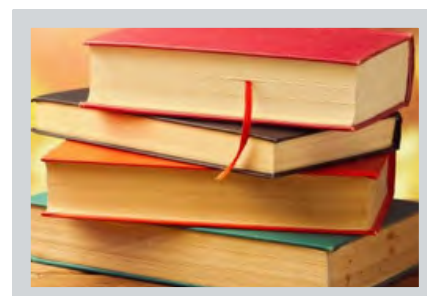
We're thrilled to share how well our Year 7 and 8 students have embraced the Accelerated Reader programme this term- especially in June!

In just one month, students read a total of 1,264 books! On average, they're reading 23 minutes per day- well above the 20 minute daily reading time recommended by the government to support literacy and academic development.

These are impressive numbers that reflect real dedication from our students. Research shows that just 20 minutes of focused reading each day has a powerful impact on vocabulary growth, comprehension skills, and overall academic achievement. Our students are not just hitting that benchmark- they're exceeding it!

This matters as reading regularly builds:

- Stronger language and communication skills
- Greater focus and concentration
- Imagination, empathy, and emotional understanding
- Better performance across all school subjects



The Accelerated Reader programme encourages students to read independently, take quizzes, and track their progress, which helps build motivation, confidence, and a real sense of achievement. The results are clear: Our Year 7 and 8 students are thriving!

## Keep the Momentum Going This Summer!

To keep up this fantastic progress over the holidays, we encourage all students to take part in the Luton Library Summer Reading Challenge. It's a fun, free programme where children can:



EARN REWARDS  
AND  
CERTIFICATES

EXPLORE NEW  
AUTHORS  
AND GENRES



You can find more info and sign up at your local Luton library or online [via the official Reading Challenge website](#) (also supported by Luton Libraries).

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## Help Us Restock Our LRC Shelves!

We're asking for your help to make sure our Learning Resource Centre (LRC) is ready for the new term.

Over the past few months, we've noticed that a number of books borrowed from the LRC haven't yet been returned—and some may have accidentally been returned to local public libraries instead. As a result, our school stock is running low, and we want to ensure all students continue to have access to the brilliant books they enjoy.

If your child has an overdue book, please send it back—no questions asked! There are no late fees or judgement, please just drop it off at the LRC or to Matron. Even if you think a book might have been returned somewhere else, please check at home just in case it's hiding on a shelf or under a bed. Every book returned helps another student find their next great read.

Thank you for your support.



## MINDFUL ART SESSIONS



This term we have had more students take part in our therapeutic Mindful Art sessions. In year 7, one group of students worked independently, creating designs which have then been painted onto t-shirts. Whilst another group has worked on a collaborative piece of work inspired by artist Sonia Delaunay. Students used different materials, such as paint, paper and pencils to create a mixed media piece of artwork.



Come along to Art Club! Open to students from all year groups who want a fun space to create art. You can bring in work from home or if you have an idea that you would like to try out come to **Art 1 on a Tuesday at 3pm**. If you want to talk to me about an idea you have, come along and see me in Art or email me to discuss!

Mrs.Ward-Lindsay  
(Art Teacher)

## GCSE Art Celebration Exhibition

On one of the hottest afternoons in June (of course!), we held our annual GCSE Art Exhibition.

Students, parents & carers were invited into Lealands Art Department to view Year 11 Portfolio and Exam Units and celebrate their amazing achievements.



Year 9 and 10 Hospitality and Catering students supported the event by designing, producing and serving fantastic refreshments, including cooling sorbet, mini victoria sponge cake and savoury snacks.



We look forward to seeing students again on Results Day to celebrate their achievements. Students will be able to pick up their Portfolios when the exam board release the work at the end of September.

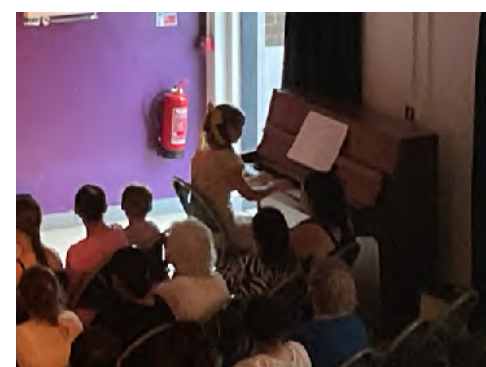


## Summer Concert

On Tuesday 1st July, Lealands came alive with music, drama and dance as our talented students took to the stage for our annual Summer Concert.

The evening featured a range of captivating performances, highlighting the dedication and creativity of our pupils in the performing arts.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us to support our students and celebrate their achievements.





## Culture Day 2025

On Tuesday 15th July, Lealands celebrated Culture Day! The School was alive with vibrant colours and engaging discussions as students proudly wore traditional dress and displayed flags representing their heritage, highlighting the rich diversity within our school community.

Throughout the day, lessons had cultural themes, and assemblies featured students performing traditional dances, songs, and music. To further showcase the variety of backgrounds in our school, flags representing the cultures of our students were hung over the atrium balcony, creating a wonderful display of our unity in diversity.

This event aimed to celebrate the rich mix of cultures at Lealands and gave everyone the chance to share and express their unique backgrounds. Thank you to Mr. Taplin and our Student Voice for organising this fantastic event, and to all the students and staff who contributed to making this day a memorable one.



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# Friends of Lealands PTA

Money raised by Friends of Lealands PTA will be used to enhance pupils experience at Lealands High School.

## Future Events



25th May  
29th June  
27th July  
24th August  
28th Sept

**Lealands High School**  
**244 Sundon Park Road, Luton**

email  
**Friends@lealands.luton.sch.uk**

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