

LEALANDS *news*

EXCELLENCE RESPONSIBILITY RESPECT



SENIOR STUDENT LEADER TEAM 2026-2027

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

Upcoming Events:

17th July - End of Summer Term

20th August - Y11 GCSE Results Day

3rd September - Start of Autumn Term

Headteacher's Introduction

From Sam Ward, Headteacher

As we reach the end of another academic year, it is important to reflect on both the successes and the challenges experienced, both personally and as a school community.

The year began with the sad news that Mr Burrridge would not be returning in September due to ill health. This brought a period of significant change for everyone at Lealands, requiring staff to step into new responsibilities and work together to ensure that the high standards our students deserve were maintained. I would like to express my sincere thanks to every member of staff for the professionalism, resilience and support they have shown throughout the year. Their dedication has ensured that the school has continued to move forward despite what were challenging circumstances.



You will have received the news that Mr Burrridge has taken the decision to retire after 15 years as Headteacher of Lealands High School. During his leadership, he has overseen a significant transformation, taking the school from one facing significant challenges to one that is now thriving, oversubscribed and recognised for its strong culture, exceptional staff and wonderful students. His determination and commitment have helped shape the Lealands we know today. I have had the privilege of working alongside Mr Burrridge throughout his entire time at Lealands and have learnt a tremendous amount from him. On behalf of our staff, students, governors and the wider school community, I would like to thank him for his outstanding service and the lasting legacy he leaves behind. We wish him a long and happy retirement. Although he is stepping away from his role, I know Mr Burrridge will always remain part of Lealands. I am sure he will enjoy returning to visit us from time to time, and I look forward to keeping him updated as we continue to build on the strong foundations he has established and lead the school into its next exciting chapter.

During this term, the process of appointing the next Headteacher has taken place and I am both delighted and proud to be taking up the role. Having worked in Luton for over 33 years, I have an understanding of both the local community and the importance of providing every young person with the very best educational opportunities. I began my teaching career at Denbigh High School in 1993 before joining Lealands High School as Deputy Headteacher in 2010. Over the past 16 years, I have seen Lealand's journey and the dedication of our staff, the achievements of our students and the strength of our community. I am excited to lead Lealands High School into its next chapter, building on the successes of recent years while continuing to drive improvement. My ambition is to ensure that every student is supported to achieve their very best within a school culture firmly rooted in our core values of Respect, Responsibility and Excellence. Together, we will continue Climbing the Mountain of Success, ensuring that Lealands remains a school where every young person can thrive and fulfil their potential.

As always, the end of the academic year brings the opportunity to say farewell to a number of valued members of staff as they move on to new opportunities. In particular, I would like to mention Ian McCracken who has been a dedicated member of the Lealands community for over 12 years. During his time with us, Ian has built a strong and successful Modern Foreign Languages Department. He is leaving to take up a Head of Year position at a school closer to home and whilst we are sorry to see him go, we wish him every success in this exciting next step in his career. We are also saying goodbye to Loretta Stewart who is moving to a school nearer to her home after almost 11 years of dedicated service as a teacher. Loretta's connection with Lealands goes back even further, having first been a student here before returning as a member of staff. Her commitment to the school and the relationships she has built with students and colleagues alike have made her a much-valued member of our community.

The Summer Term is always the one we expect to provide a gentle run towards the end of the academic year. However, that never seems to be the case! Once again, this term has been incredibly busy, with a wealth of exciting events, educational visits and opportunities for our students.

This year has brought the additional challenge of several weeks of exceptionally hot weather. I have been immensely impressed by the resilience and determination shown by both students and staff in continuing to work hard despite the uncomfortable conditions. I firmly believe that keeping the school open and maintaining high expectations during

(Cont'd)...

Headteacher's Introduction

From Sam Ward, Headteacher

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periods of hot weather is in the best interests of our students. Education is too important to be disrupted unnecessarily, and I would like to thank our whole school community for the positive way in which they responded.

I have also been extremely proud to be involved in the interviews for our new student leaders. Every student who took part represented themselves exceptionally well, demonstrating confidence, maturity and a genuine commitment to making a positive difference to our school. I am looking forward to working with this group over the coming year. They have already made an excellent start by supporting our Year 6 Transition Day and playing a key role in the success of our Cultural Heritage Day. I have no doubt they will continue to be outstanding ambassadors for Lealands High School throughout the year ahead.

Another highlight for me was our Cultural Heritage Day earlier this week. I genuinely believe it was our best yet, with the vast majority of students fully embracing the opportunity to share their stories, traditions, cultures, music and art. The assemblies were outstanding and it was wonderful to see so many students taking such pride and confidence in celebrating their family heritage and cultural identity. The day was a powerful reminder of the rich diversity that makes Lealands High School such a special community.

Finally, I would like to celebrate some of our sporting successes this term. Our students once again demonstrated exceptional commitment and determination, winning the Coronation Athletics Shield for the fifth consecutive year as well as claiming victory in three of the four town rounders competitions. These achievements are a testament to the dedication, hard work and teamwork of both our students and staff, and I would like to congratulate everyone involved in these fantastic accomplishments.

At this time of year, I would also like to remind parents and students of our expectations regarding jewellery and hairstyles. During the summer holidays, it is not uncommon for students to have new piercings or changes to their hairstyle. Please ensure that, by the start of the new term in September, all piercings have been removed, with the exception of one small stud earring in each earlobe, in line with our uniform policy. In addition, hairstyles should not include shaved patterns, lines or designs. We appreciate your support in ensuring that students return to school ready to learn and in full compliance with our uniform expectations. This helps to maintain the high standards and positive learning environment that we value at Lealands High School.

I would also like to highlight our updated Mobile Phone Policy which is detailed in this newsletter and has already been communicated to both students and parents/carers. It is essential that all students fully understand the policy and the consequences of failing to comply with it. The success of this policy depends on students, parents/carers and staff working together to ensure that it is consistently followed. The expectations will be reinforced with all students at the start of the new term. I would ask for your full support by ensuring that you do not attempt to contact your child via their mobile phone during the school day. If you need to contact your child, or if there is an emergency, please do so through the school reception. By working together, we can ensure that mobile phones do not become a distraction to learning and that all students are able to focus fully on their education.

It has been an eventful and exciting term, and I know that both students and staff are looking forward to a well-deserved break over the summer holidays. I look forward to celebrating with our Year 11 students on Results Day on 20th August and to welcoming all of our students back in September for another exciting year at Lealands High School. In the meantime, I wish you and your family a relaxing and enjoyable summer. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you all in the new academic year.

Key dates for your diary:



- **Culture Day:** Tuesday 14th July 2026
- **Art Celebration:** Tuesday 14th July 2026
- **Year 7 Evening of Excellence:** Thursday 16th July 2026
- **End of Summer Term:** Friday 17th July 2026*

*School will finish at 12.20pm for students in Years 7 & 8 and 12.30pm for students in Years 9 & 10.

- **Staff Training Day (School Closed):** Monday 20th July 2026
- **Year 11 GCSE Results Day:** Thursday 20th August 2026
- **Start of Autumn Term:** Thursday 3rd September 2026

Term dates:

- **Summer Term:** Monday 13th April - Friday 17th July 2026
- **Autumn Term:** Thursday 3rd September - Friday 18th December 2026
- **Half-Term:** Friday 23rd October - Friday 30th October 2026

2026 Staff Training Days:

- Monday 20th July 2026
- Tuesday 1st September 2026
- Wednesday 2nd September 2026
- Friday 2nd October 2026
- Friday 23rd October 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>

Return To School – September 2026

Students will return for the Autumn Term on **Thursday 3rd September 2026** at the following times:

Year Group	Arrival Time	Line Up	Entrance
Year 7	8:20am	8:30am	Courts Entrance
Year 8	10:15am	10:25am	Main Entrance - Green Gate
Year 9	10:15am	10:25am	Main Entrance – Silver Gate
Year 10	11:15am	11:25am	Main Entrance – Green Gate
Year 11	11:15am	11:25am	Main Entrance – Silver Gate

Normal School Day (from Friday 4th September 2026)

Year Group	Arrival Window	Line Up	End of School Day	Entrance
Year 7	8:20–8:30am	8:30am	3:00pm	Courts Entrance
Year 8	8:20–8:30am	8:30am	3:00pm	Main Entrance - Green Gate
Year 9	8:20–8:30am	8:30am	3:00pm	Main Entrance – Silver Gate
Year 10	8:45–8:55am	8:55am	3:20pm	Main Entrance – Green Gate
Year 11	8:45–8:55am	8:55am	3:20pm	Main Entrance – Silver Gate

Students will line up with their tutors on the first day of term. Tutor group information will be available to students via Epraise from Tuesday 1st September 2026.

Value of the Month

JULY 2026

Value of the Month

July 2026

"Celebrating Success"



Picture of winning Athletics Team - Summer 2025

Make time to celebrate successes. Be proud when you succeed and be happy for others when they do.

Introducing Our Senior Student Leader Team!

2026-2027

We are delighted to announce and congratulate our newly appointed senior student leaders for the 2026-2027 academic year!

Please join us in celebrating our Head Boy, Frank, and Head Girl, Sophie, Deputy Head Boy, Gabriel, and Deputy Head Girl, Shanaye, and Student Voice Leaders, Nitya and Lamiyah.

These outstanding students embody our school values of excellence, responsibility and respect. They have shown exceptional leadership qualities, a strong commitment to our school community and a genuine passion for representing their fellow students.

We are incredibly proud of each of them and look forward to the positive impact they will have on Lealands High School over the coming year



Sports Updates & Successes

From the PE Department

Rounders:

On Thursday 2nd July, Lealands hosted the town finals for rounders. Our outstanding students represented the school superbly during the season reaching the last 4 in the town. All four year groups (Years 7–10) reached the finals on the day, which is a tremendous achievement in itself. Even more impressively, three of the four teams (Years 8, 9 and 10) were crowned town champions!

Year 10 beat Cardinal Newman

Year 9 beat Putteridge

Year 8 beat Chiltern

Year 7 narrowly finished runners up to Cardinal Newman by one rounder.

Throughout the season, all teams played with speed, power and coordination, consistently demonstrating excellent teamwork and sportsmanship. Their performances resulted in dominance across the district leagues in all age groups.

This success is a testament to the dedication and commitment of Miss Keefe, Miss Walker and Miss Cussen, whose weekly training sessions and excellent game management have played a significant role in the teams' achievements.



Sports Updates & Successes

From the PE Department

Cricket

Our Year 7/8 cricket team enjoyed a successful season, competing against Lea Manor, Icknield and Challney. The team recorded impressive victories over Lea Manor and Challney, while narrowly missing out against Icknield in a closely contested match.

Throughout the season, the players demonstrated consistent quality with both bat and ball, causing problems for every opposition team they faced and producing a number of outstanding individual and team performances.

The standout fixture was against Challney, a school renowned for its success and consistent achievements in the town competition. We are delighted to report that our team rose to the occasion and secured an excellent 31-run victory. This was a fantastic achievement and a testament to the hard work, determination and teamwork shown by all involved.



Sports Days

From the PE Department

Well done to all of our students for such incredible and action packed sports days! The enthusiasm, determination, teamwork and sportsmanship on display throughout the week were fantastic to see.

The days featured highly competitive football, rounders, basketball, and track and field events, making for very close and exciting competition from start to finish.

Well done to every student who took part, cheered on their tutor groups and gave their very best effort. The energy and positive attitude from every student made the week a big success!

Congratulations to 75, 85 and 96 on being crowned Sports Day champions! At the time of printing, the Year 10 Sports Day was incomplete so results will follow.



Town Track & Field Athletics Championships 2026

Lealands once again demonstrated outstanding determination, talent and team spirit at this year's Town Track & Field Athletics Championships, finishing as runners-up overall.

Having been crowned Town Champions for the previous four consecutive years, this achievement is particularly impressive given that we are one of the smallest schools in the town. While this year the title went to Cardinal Newman School, who have over 600 more students to select from, our athletes competed with incredible commitment and consistency throughout the competition.

We are immensely proud of the entire team, who achieved podium finishes across a wide range of events and represented Lealands with excellence, resilience and sportsmanship.

Alongside the overall competition, schools also compete for the prestigious Coronation Shield, awarded to the school that achieves the highest points total relative to the number of students on roll. We are delighted to announce that Lealands has retained this trophy for the fifth consecutive year. The shield continues to take pride of place in our main entrance and is a testament to the dedication and success of our athletes.

A special mention goes to the following students for their notable performances and contributions to the team's success:

Ubaydullah A, Lucas D, Leah S, Anne A, Bevirlyn O, Azriel R, Malachy J, Josiah D, Lucian N, Macaiah G, Kyiran B, Nemaih S, Desire M, Vivienne S, Isabella M, Kayra B, Chanel S and Aleeya S.

Congratulations to all of our athletes. You represented the school brilliantly and should be extremely proud of your achievements. Thank you for your hard work, determination and team spirit throughout the season.

Well done, Team Lealands – you have made us all incredibly proud!





LEALANDS HIGH SCHOOL

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

FROM SEPTEMBER 2026



The Department for Education has prohibited mobile phone use in schools.

Our aim is a focused, distraction-free environment for all students.



OUR POLICY: NEVER SEEN, NEVER HEARD



Students may bring a phone to school, but upon entering the school gates, it must be **switched off** and placed in their school bag.



Phones must **remain in bags** at all times. They must not be kept in trouser pockets, coat pockets, or blazers. Students will be reminded at the gates and during morning line-ups.



These restrictions also extend to **smartwatches**, **smart glasses**, and any other personal computing devices.



Phones (or any of the above) must be **NEVER SEEN, NEVER HEARD** during the school day.

BREACHES: STAGED CONSEQUENCES

1

FIRST OFFENCE



The phone will be confiscated and locked away. The student will be able to collect it at the end of the day and the breach of policy will be recorded on Epraise as a **demerit**.

2

SECOND OFFENCE



The phone will be confiscated and locked away. A parent/carer must come to the school to collect it. The breach of policy will be recorded on Epraise as a demerit.

3

THIRD OFFENCE



The student will be banned from bringing a mobile phone into school for the rest of the academic year. If a phone is required for travel safety, it must be handed in at the gate every morning and collected at the end of the day.



REFUSAL TO HAND OVER A PHONE in any of these circumstances will result in further consequences. This is something we are keen to avoid but it cannot be discounted.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS & EXCEPTIONS



CONTACTING YOUR CHILD

If parents/carers need to contact their child during the school day, this should be done **only** via school reception and not to their mobile phone.



STUDENT EMERGENCIES

If a student needs to contact home in an emergency, they can do so via Reception, Matron, or, in exceptional circumstances, a member of the Pastoral Team.



MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS

Exceptions will be made for diagnosed medical needs (e.g., monitoring blood glucose levels for diabetes). In these instances, the phone is permitted **strictly for medical use**.



STAFF-SUPERVISED EXCEPTIONS

On rare occasions, a senior member of staff may ask a student to use their phone under direct supervision (e.g., to verify a contact number if we cannot reach parents in an emergency or in the case of an urgent safeguarding concern). **This will only ever happen in a designated "safe zone," such as a senior staff member's office.**



FULL SUPPORT THANK YOU

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a focused, respectful and distraction-free learning environment for all students.



Working together for a focused, safe and respectful school community.

University of Bedfordshire

Reader Leader Celebration Visit

To mark the end of this year's Reader Leader Programme, our year 7 students and their year 10 mentors enjoyed a fantastic visit to the University of Beds, celebrating all they have achieved together throughout the year.

The day began with literacy based activities which helped encourage teamwork and creativity. One of the highlights was an icebreaker challenge where students recreated famous book covers as freeze frames. It was wonderful to see the year 10s and 7s working together, using communication and imagination, of course there was also plenty of laughter to go alongside this as they tried to bring these covers to life.

Students then took part in a creative group challenge with their partner. Each team had to invent a brand new book they would like to see on library shelves, creating a synopsis and presenting their ideas to the group. Their presentations were judged on originality, marketing and presentation skills, and we were incredibly impressed by the quality of every team's work.

A special congratulations goes to our winning team, who thought up a gripping psychological thriller exploring how memory can play tricks on us. The creativity, depth and originality of their idea were outstanding, and it was hard to believe they had thought up such an original concept during a single session.

Although this year's Reader Leader Programme has now come to an end, we are extremely proud of everything our students have achieved. The programme has helped develop reading confidence, communication skills and leadership, but also a great success has been the genuine friendships formed between our year 7 students and their year 10 mentors. It has been wonderful to see these relationships grow beyond reading.

We would like to thank all of the students who took part for their enthusiasm, commitment and kindness throughout the programme. We are already looking forward to launching the Reader Leader Programme with a new cohort next year and creating many more successful partnerships.



Celebrating blue ties first year at Lealands

As we reach the end of another successful academic year, we would like to congratulate our Year 7 students on completing their first full year at Lealands.

It is hard to believe how much they have grown since walking through our doors on their very first day. What began with nervous excitement and new beginnings has become a year filled with confidence, resilience and achievement. They have embraced every opportunity, settled into school life brilliantly and have truly become fully fledged Lealands students. As they move into Year 8, we know they will be fantastic role models, helping to welcome and inspire the next cohort of Year 7 students.

One of the year's standout achievements was their incredible fundraising efforts for Tourette's Action. Through organising, planning and leading their own charity events, our Year 7 students demonstrated outstanding teamwork, creativity and leadership. Together, they raised an impressive £697.80, making a meaningful contribution to a fantastic cause while showing the compassion and community spirit that we value so highly at Lealands.

Our students have also represented the school with pride in a wide range of sporting competitions throughout the year. Whether competing in Town Sports, rounders, cross country, athletics, football or netball, they have shown determination, resilience and excellent sportsmanship. Their commitment, enthusiasm and willingness to support one another have been just as important as their successes on the field, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved.

The performing arts have also been a highlight of the year, with many Year 7 students playing an important part in our wonderful production of Mary Poppins. Whether performing confidently on stage or working tirelessly behind the scenes, their dedication, creativity and teamwork helped make the production a memorable success for everyone involved.

As we reflect on the year, we are immensely proud of everything our Year 7 students have accomplished. They have embraced challenges, celebrated successes and become valued members of the Lealands community. We look forward to seeing them continue to flourish in the years ahead and wish them a well-deserved, happy and restful summer break.



Supporting Our Most Able Students

A Year of Academic Excellence

We had a fantastic end to the year for the Year 9 Most Able students. The students received their final grades on Wednesday from their tutor, with the students achieving amazing grades. We had six 1st class passes and eight second class passes. This is a fantastic achievement. The students got to attend their graduation on Friday at the beautiful Magdalen College Oxford. The students celebrated their achievement and had the opportunity to meet current students and tour the campus. Well done to Aya M who braved the crowds and spoke superbly on the day about her experiences in front of a full auditorium.

Unfortunately our planned visit to Beds Uni got postponed by the University and will happen in the new academic year.

Well done to all students involved in the most able activities over the course of another busy year. We have had university visits to Oxford, Cambridge and Bedfordshire. Students sitting further Maths GCSE and taking part in the UK maths challenge. We have had another cohort graduate from the Brilliant club and students taking part in the Wadham project and students visiting the Royal Veterinary College In London.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY NEWSLETTER



Smart Manufacturing Expo: Birmingham NEC

Our Year 9 Engineering students recently traded the classroom for the cutting edge with an exciting visit to the Smart Manufacturing Expo in Birmingham. The group got a firsthand look at the future of the industry, exploring advanced robotics, AI-driven automation, and sustainable engineering technologies. It was a fantastic opportunity for our young innovators to see how their classroom learning applies to the real world, sparking plenty of inspiration for their future STEM careers.



Jaltek: Sundon Park, Luton

Our Year 9 Engineering students recently enjoyed a fantastic educational visit to Jaltek in Luton, a leading manufacturer in the electronics industry. The students were given a fascinating insider look at how advanced electronics and circuit boards are designed and manufactured on a commercial scale. Putting their own skills to the test, the group took part in a practical workshop using electronics learning kits to build their very own steady-hand games. This hands-on experience perfectly bridged the gap between classroom theory and real-world engineering, and our students did an amazing job showcasing their precision and problem-solving skills.



Get Hands-On with Electronics



Inspiration overload at The Big Bang Fair!: Birmingham NEC



STEM Enthusiasts Explore

A group of our passionate Year 7 and Year 8 STEM enthusiasts recently visited The Big Bang Fair, the UK's largest celebration of science, technology, engineering, and maths for young people. The event was packed with interactive exhibits, cutting-edge tech demonstrations, and hands-on workshops that brought science and engineering to life. Our students threw themselves into the activities, from coding challenges and virtual reality experiences to live science shows. It was a fantastic day of discovery that has undoubtedly fueled their passion for STEM subjects and opened their eyes to the incredible career paths ahead of them.



Luton 5K Colour Run

For Luton Foodbank

On Saturday 4th July, 28 of our amazing students and staff headed down to Wardown Park to get absolutely drenched in colour for the Luton Foodbank Annual 5K Colour Run!

We are so proud to share that Lealands has raised over £300 to help support families right here in Luton. A massive thank you to everyone who has supported us so far!

There is still time to donate!

We'd love to push that total even higher. If you can spare a bit of change for a fantastic cause, you can still donate at the link below:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/colour-26-lealands?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL



BEFORE

AFTER



Mr Ward and Mr Hall's Summer Charity Challenge

'Race The Sun' for Action Medical Research for Children



Last week, Mr Hall and I took part in their latest challenge, 'Race The Sun' which consisted of a 30 mile bike ride followed by a 10 mile walk and a 2 mile kayaking paddle in the beautiful Cheddar Gorge in Somerset.

It was a real challenge in the intense heat but was finally completed in a time of 6 hours and 53 minutes

Thank you to everyone who supported us by sponsoring the event. We ended up raising over £1500 for Action Medical Research. This is a charity who raise money to fund vital research to defeat diseases that devastate the lives of sick and disabled babies, children and young people.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Bronze & Silver Award Expeditions

The last couple of months have been very busy in terms of the DofE Award at Lealands with Bronze and Silver expeditions taking place.

Bronze Award

The Yr 9 Bronze students were out on May 18th and 19th completing their expedition section in fine style. We took a small but dedicated cohort of 12 students, 'The DofE Dozen', to see how they would cope away from their families, beds and their phones! Well, they all survived and are now all poised to complete their Award before they break up for the Summer.

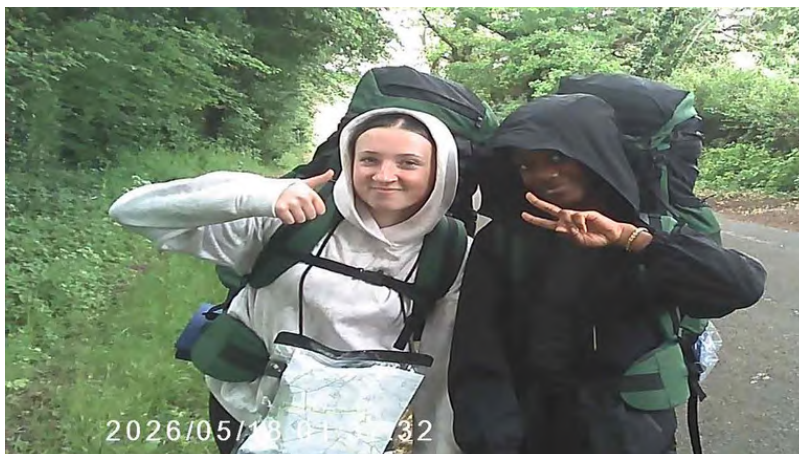
Bronze Participants: Angel, Brooke, Janae, Golden, Ammarah, Andie, Aya, Sophie, Ramani, Juanita, Gabriela and Sarah.

Congratulations! You were all absolutely amazing. Miss Walker and I were so impressed with your attitude and commitment throughout the training and expedition. You should be very proud of what you have achieved.

"When we first arrived we got into two groups before getting out our maps and started the hike. On day one, we were guided by our teacher who instructed us on how to use the maps in real settings. When we got tired we had snack breaks to renew our energy to continue the stroll effectively. And if we would count our steps to compare it to the amount of metres on the grid of the maps.

Finally, on the afternoon of the first day, we returned to the campsite where we would start making our tents. We got into our pairs and started with putting in the tent posts. Due to me and my partner not being familiar with tents we decided to put the larger post in the more prominent socket, accidentally pulling it through. This made the post get caught up in the socket thus making us unable to pull it out. But me and my partner didn't panic and instead went to each side of the socket, one person at the opening and the other at the end where the pole would reappear. We use synchronised pushes to get the pole out the other end. Using what we learnt we continued with ease doing the rest of the poles and only had minor struggles putting in the pegs.

Despite our efforts we were significantly late to prepare our dinners. We set our pangaea and started to boil water for the pasta we were making, but the water wasn't boiling quick enough. So we placed the lid on our tranguia and had no choice but to be patient while our pairs ate their dinner. It was early dawn when our pasta was finally ready to be eaten and nighttime



when we finished cleaning our dishes. When we were at the sink, the tap kept letting out a tsunami worth of water at the slightest touch, therefore flooding the sink. We used this to our advantage by using the flooded water to wash our dishes without wasting water. Additionally, before the flood we split roles of washing and rinsing as well as drying to save already wasted time, but the incident proved to us that rinsing wasn't necessary due to the sink already being filled with water. So we both did the washing and drying by dividing the dishes into smaller groups so the workload was less. During this time we learnt a key lesson, patience and resilience was key. Although we were the last to return to our tents.

In the morning of the second and final day, we woke up and prepared ourselves for the long journey ahead. During breakfast we were given new maps and were split into two groups once again, this time we wouldn't receive guidance. When we started the hike we had no struggles because we were familiar with the routes from the previous day. This was likely due to us assigning people to skill based tasks. Though we tackled the map-reading the unpredictable weather and gruelling walk took a toll. Sometimes it would gently rain, and other times it would be sunny. But the constant pain on our feet was constant. Yet everyone persevered and made it to the finish line in the end.

*The Duke of Edinburgh was a new experience and pushed me out of my comfort zone in more good ways than bad". ~ **By Golden, Year 9***

Silver Award

Our intrepid Year 10 students were undertaking an even more challenging task, not one expedition but 2. And they had to do it twice! The DofE insists that Silver participants take part in a practice expedition of 2 days and 2 nights before the Qualifying Expedition of 3 days and 2 nights. We had a tight knit group of 13 students, The 'Silver Snugglers' as they liked to be called, completed their Bronze Award last Summer and came back for even more punishment this year. Some of this group also helped train the Bronze DofErs.

The practice expedition took place from June 3rd to 5th at Bromham near Bedford. This was very similar to what they had done last year but the qualifying expedition, June 15th to 17th, was completely new ground. We drove the students to Little Staughton and dropped them off with maps and really heavy rucksacks. They then had to make their way to Grafham Water near Huntingdon Cambs.

They were all absolutely fantastic! Miss Walker and I have really enjoyed watching their development and it has been an absolute pleasure sharing, in what has been, an amazing journey.

Congratulations! Frank, Hania, Aasiyah, Sabrina, Sophie, Abbie, Alex, Gul, Amelia, Eduard, Kaya, Aiyanna and Kailyn

All that's left is finalising the last pieces of evidence for your other sections, and then, your Silver Award will be completed.....Gold anyone?

This year I was given the opportunity to do 2 absolutely amazing things by the one and only Mr Payne. This was the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award as well as being a DofE Ambassador at Lealands. Since the start of Year 10 in September, I have had to take part in Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections to complete my award. More recently, I went on my Silver Expedition.



It was 3 days and 2 nights in a variety of weather from windy to rainy to hot. It was crazy. Despite this I undoubtedly managed to have an amazing time. It was definitely challenging and hard but still one of the best experiences I have had during my time at this school and would recommend it to everyone.

Throughout this year, me and 3 other Ambassadors have worked together to help deliver the Bronze award to Year 9 students. We had to help them with their sections and create resources and give them knowledge about their expedition. This role was truly inspiring and worthwhile. It taught me exceptional leadership and communication skills. It not only inspired me but allowed the Year 9s to experience a great life achievement.

The expedition was definitely my highlight as it is so much more than just a trip and the memories created there will never be forgotten. ~ **By Frank, Year 10**



Completing my Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award has been an enjoyable and rewarding experience that has helped me develop a range of new skills while giving back to the school community.

For my volunteering section, I supported Year 9 students who were completing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. My role involved helping them understand tasks, answering questions, and providing guidance when needed. Through this experience, I improved my communication skills and learned how to explain things clearly to others. I enjoyed being able to help younger students and seeing them grow in confidence throughout their journey.

For my skills section, I focused on learning and collecting. This allowed me to develop my knowledge and organisation skills while working towards a goal over an extended period of time. I enjoyed learning new information and building my collection, which required patience, commitment, and attention to detail.

For my physical section, I chose swimming. Throughout this activity, I worked on improving my fitness, stamina, and overall well being. Swimming helped me stay active and motivated, and I enjoyed challenging myself to improve my performance over time.

Overall, my Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award has been a positive experience. It has helped me become more confident, responsible, and committed while developing important life skills such as teamwork, communication, and perseverance. I have enjoyed every section of the award and am proud of what I have achieved. ~ **By Sabrina, Year 10**

Year 11 Skills Programme

By Aleesa A, Head Girl 2025-2026

In a world where much of our free time is spent scrolling, the Skills Programme was created to encourage Year 10 students to discover new passions, build hard and soft skills and enhance their future applications.

Through student-led sessions delivered by our Purple Ties, Year 10 students explored passions such as crochet, henna and chess; where they learned the core techniques of each skill before putting it to practice independently, in a supportive, hands-on environment. It was a great success, with over 45 students taking part!

A special thanks to all the student leaders who supported and delivered sessions; this wouldn't have been possible without their dedication and enthusiasm!



Class of 2026 Celebrate at Prom!

A well deserved finale to their Lealands journey!



We're delighted to share that the Year 11 Prom, held at the beautiful Luton Hoo Walled Garden, was a fantastic success! Held on Thursday 2nd of July, the evening was filled with laughter, dancing, and plenty of unforgettable moments.

Our students arrived in style, making quite the entrance in an impressive lineup of high-end cars. The fashion was just as show-stopping; the Class of 2026 looked absolutely incredible, showcasing sharp suits, breathtaking dresses, and perfectly styled hair. They truly celebrated the end of their GCSE journey in true glamour.

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!



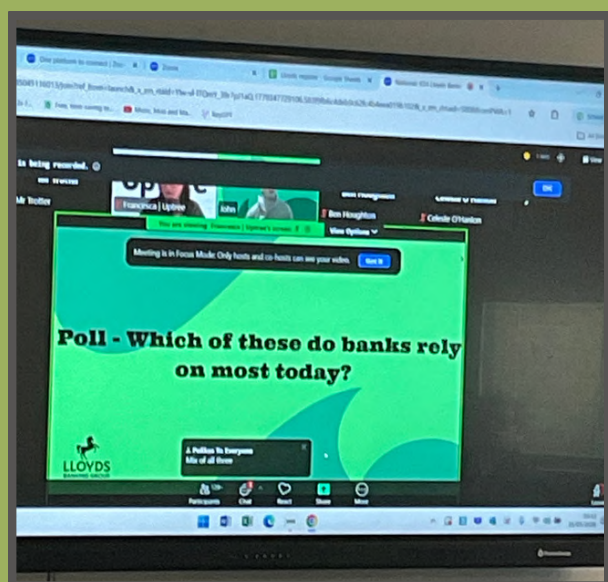
Lloyds Careers Live Inspires Year 10 Business Students

Year 10 Business students recently took part in the inspiring Lloyds Banking Group Careers Live programme, gaining valuable insight into the world of work and the wide range of opportunities available within the finance and business sectors.

The virtual event, organised by Lloyds Banking Group Talent, gave students the chance to hear directly from professionals working across the organisation. Students learned about different career pathways, the skills employers are looking for, and how industries such as banking, technology, finance and customer services are evolving.

During the session, students explored topics including career prospects, qualifications, training opportunities and what it is like to work in a fast-changing industry. They also had the opportunity to hear real-life experiences from employees and ask questions through interactive discussions.

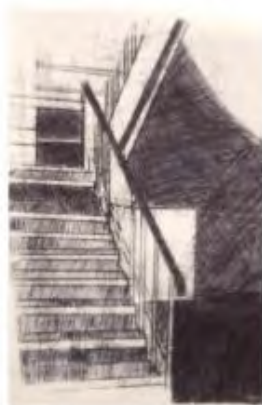
The experience helped students to develop their understanding of future career options while linking directly to their Business Studies learning in school. It also encouraged them to think about the skills, confidence and resilience needed for success in the workplace.



*Congratulations to our amazing
Yr11 GCSE Art and Design
students*



The end of the summer term means we have to say goodbye and good luck to our fantastic Yr11 GCSE Art and Design students.



They have worked so hard over the past two years on their Portfolio (60% of their final grade) and their 10 hour exam (worth 40%).

The AQA Moderator visited and viewed their work at the end of June and was really impressed with the range of materials and processes used. We look forward to celebrating their success at results day in August. Carry on and keep creating!

Best wishes from the Art Team

Beyond the Classroom: Experience Day 2026!

Bringing the Lealands Journey To Life!

On Thursday 9th July, over 700 enthusiastic students set off on an unforgettable Experience Day, exploring a variety of exciting destinations. Their adventures spanned the thrilling rides of Thorpe Park, Chessington, and Legoland, the sunny seaside resort of Southend-on-Sea and the scenic sights of Harpenden. Football fans got a behind-the-scenes look at the stadium of Premier League winners Arsenal, while others enjoyed action-packed battles at Urban Battlefields MK.

To top it all off, those visiting London Zoo were treated to wild encounters—including a surprise royal visit from the King! It was a day full of discovery and joy, offering experiences these students will cherish for a lifetime.



Beyond the Classroom: Experience Day 2026!

Bringing the Lealands Journey To Life!



WHY IS GOOD ATTENDANCE IMPORTANT?

Here are 5 reasons why good attendance is so important!



At KS4, pupils who attend school nearly every day in Year 11 (with an attendance rate of 95-100%) are 1.9 times more likely to achieve the Grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE

Consistent attendance prevents gaps in knowledge, making it easier to keep up with the curriculum.



Regular attendance helps students build confidence, emotional stability, and lasting friendships through consistent peer interaction.

Being in school provides a safe environment for students to engage in education, access pastoral care, and participate in extracurricular activities..



The routines you develop around attendance and punctuality at school are the same as the expectations of any future employer in the world of work

Stay Safe This Summer!



Online safety Advice

With long summer days ahead ensure your child is keeping safe online and not at risk of harm - please look at the following articles from the NSPCC for support

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Safeguarding during the summer holidays

During the school holidays, the safeguarding team only monitors their email address occasionally. If a child is in immediate danger, call 999. For other serious or urgent issues, contact Children's services directly on 01582 547653 or out of hours 0300 300 8123 rather than waiting for a reply here.

Children and young people can contact Childline free and confidentially on 0800 1111.

Parents and carers can contact the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000.

Mental Health Support

If a child or young person is struggling with their mental health, please reach out for support

Text YM to 85258 for free, 24/7 crisis support.

Parents wanting advice can also contact the YoungMinds Parents Helpline on 0808 802 5544.

Call NHS 111 option 2 for advice

If you have needed to use any of these service over the summer please do update us in September.

Our local train line is an asset to the community and allows families to travel and enjoy holidays.

However there can be serious consequences for not following safety advice.

Please do speak with your children and remind them of the following safety points.

Water Safety Advice from Bedfordshire Fire Service

At least 7 young people and children lost their lives in open water incidents across the UK during the recent May heatwave alone.

Tragically, water-related fatalities among young people typically spike during periods of warm weather as children and teenagers seek relief from the heat in unregulated open water like rivers, lakes, reservoirs and canals. Water safety experts emphasise that while air temperatures rise quickly, inland water remains dangerously cold, leading to "cold-water shock" that severely impairs swimming ability.

<https://www.bedsfire.gov.uk/water-safety-advice>

Where Are They Now?

Alumni News

As a school, we are always incredibly proud and excited to hear how our former students are progressing.

Celebrating your journeys and sharing your success stories with our current students, staff, and parents is a wonderful way to inspire our school community.

With this in mind, we are launching a **'Where Are They Now?'** feature in this and all future newsletters.

If you are a former student (or know someone who is) we would love to hear from you! If you have news regarding your career, further education, or recent milestones that you would like to share, please get in touch. We will endeavour to include as many updates as possible in upcoming editions.

How to share your story: Please email your updates to careers@lealands.luton.sch.uk with the subject line 'Alumni News.'

We look forward to hearing from you!

Kieran Broderick 2004–2009

Since leaving Lealands, I continued education into college doing IT, with the original intention to go into computer games design. The path was not as straightforward as it seemed and unfortunately due to staffing levels and the quality of teaching I did not find my time at the college to be of much benefit. Having left that field of education I went into work, to support the family home, at groundwork level as a warehouse operative working my way to shift supervisor looking out for over 300+ other warehouse operatives then to Accounts Manager working directly with the customer while looking after a team of supervisors and a vast pool of warehouse operatives. I felt my time there was as best as it could get and I fancied a change, going into a field which required some IT software knowledge as a CNC offline programmer utilising Alphacam. This was designing custom wardrobes for the day to day customer, along with office desks and drawer chests. This worked into the broader field for the development of new houses/flats with construction companies.

From 2014 I have been teaching students the art of Shotokan Karate and through this a student suggested I go into the line of support work and to me this just aligned with everything I do in Karate. If I can have a positive impact on someone's life with Karate then why not as a support worker. It has been refreshing and rewarding seeing the backgrounds people have come from and the skills they develop through time.

My karate club has grown from 5 students to a staggering 70+ students of all ages from 5 years through to 60 years and above and coming from all walks of life. I have also dabbled in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and had some time with an ex Team GB Badminton coach, these are currently on the back burner but I do intend to take them up once more and improve on my ability within each as there is always benefits to being active and trying something different. Details of my Karate classes are available on the back page!



KOJO KARATE KAI

TRADITIONAL SHOTOKAN KARATE

COMMUNITY • DEVELOPMENT • ACCESSIBILITY

BUILDING CONFIDENCE, DISCIPLINE, FITNESS, SELF-DEFENCE & RESILIENCE

CLASS TIMETABLE



MONDAYS

LEALANDS
HIGH SCHOOL
(LUTON)

MIXED SESSION
17:15 – 18:45



TUESDAYS

BUSHMEAD
COMMUNITY HUB
(LUTON)

MIXED SESSION
18:00 – 19:30



THURSDAYS

BUSHMEAD
COMMUNITY HUB
(LUTON)

MIXED SESSION
18:00 – 19:30

ADVANCED SESSION
19:30 – 20:30



FRIDAYS

ST AUGUSTINE'S
CHURCH
(DUNSTABLE)

MIXED SESSION
17:15 – 18:45



SATURDAYS

BUSHMEAD
COMMUNITY HUB
(LUTON)

MIXED SESSION
10:15 – 11:45

**FIRST 2
SESSIONS
FREE!**

**50%
FAMILY
DISCOUNT**

TRAINING OPTIONS



£26 PER MONTH
1 SESSION PER WEEK



£45 PER MONTH
2 SESSIONS PER WEEK



£57 PER MONTH
UNLIMITED SESSIONS



£10 PAY AS YOU TRAIN

WHY TRAIN WITH US?

- ✓ TRADITIONAL SHOTOKAN KARATE
- ✓ AGES 5+ WELCOME
- ✓ MIXED ABILITY CLASSES
- ✓ FRIENDLY & SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT
- ✓ 50% FAMILY DISCOUNT

CONTACT



07808 528 116



DISCIPLINE TODAY. CONFIDENCE FOR LIFE.