



# Laurence Jackson School's Parental Bulletin

9th June 2023

## Messages from the Headteacher

We continue to be impressed with our Year 11 student conduct during this exam series. We encourage them to keep focused throughout their remaining exams and wish them the best of luck. All Year 11 students and their parents / carers will receive information on Monday 12th June outlining students' final weeks as well as important information regarding results day on Thursday 24th August.

As you will know, the School Age Immunisation Service is planning to visit LJ on 28<sup>th</sup> June to administer the HPV vaccination to students in Year 8 and Year 9 who have consent. Due to some changes, the team will now only be seeing Year 8 on this date; immunisations for Year 9 will be on 18<sup>th</sup> July. If you would like your Year 8 or 9 child to have the HPV vaccination but have not yet consented, please visit the below website and input the school code. The consent portal runs up until the day before the vaccinations. If you wish to discuss this or have any queries about consent, please contact the immunisation team: 0300 003 2554 . Link to consent: [Vaccination Consent \(hdftsais.co.uk\)](https://hdftsais.co.uk) LJS code: HD111724.

More detail about the HPV vaccination can be found attached to the class charts message of this bulletin.

We are hosting a coffee morning for parents/carers of current students with SEN needs on Friday 14th July 10am-12pm in the Youth Centre near the top car park.



Our Celebrating Diversity month got off to a great start this week with many students experiencing a variety of disabled sporting activities including wheelchair basketball, seated volleyball and blindfold football. Other students had were visited during their RE lessons by guest speakers talking about the Muslim and Hindu religion. Our nurture group have been researching different religions throughout the week and presented their findings.



We are holding a Colour Run for students in all year groups on Thursday 29th June 3pm-4.30pm on our school field. It is £3.50 to take part with all profits raised going to a local charity. For further information students should please see Miss Russell - We look forward to seeing lots of students there!

Please be reminded that the procedure if your child is too unwell to stay in school is that they speak to a member of staff and not contact home directly. School will contact home if parents/carers need to pick up their child because they are too poorly.

## Celebrating Student Success

HUGE Congratulations to Xander S (Y10), Delilah W (Y8), Kallum M, Harley T, Amy C and Daniel R (Y9) for WINNING the Tees Valley Combined Authority Big Big Project Competition 2023! These students have competed in two previous knockout rounds against 11 different schools to reach the final, preparing and presenting their pitch based on how they would make their town net zero by 2050. Thank you to Miss Mitchinson for her support.

Please see the article [here](#) celebrating these wonderful students.





## Safeguarding Spotlight

As we have returned from a school holiday, we have had to challenge and deal with a number of issues originating from large group chats between students. Some of these chats include whole year groups and sometimes 300+ students, often many who do not even attend this school due to social networks across multiple schools. It seems the main apps used for group chats currently are Snapchat, Instagram and Discord. Obviously group chats, if used appropriately, can be very positive and helpful. However it is very easy for young people to be targeted through them or exposed to very inappropriate material such as drug use, sexual content or extreme violence videos; all of which can have significant impact on young people's views of normality and acceptable behaviour as well as their own mental health. Positive use of such platforms is only developed through parental support, positive guidance and regular checking and discussions about the groups they are in and the content being shared within. Please see below a "top tips for parents" poster for some helpful guidance.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

### BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

### SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

### EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

### UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

### NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert; potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

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### CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

### GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

### BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

### PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

### AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

### SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.





## LJS Uniform Swap Shop 2023

3.00 – 6.00pm on the following dates

Monday 17 July

Tuesday 18 July

Wednesday 19 July

This event is in the main hall and open to all parents and students to access free school uniform and PE kit for next academic year.

Any uniform donations can be handed in at main school reception  
(deadline for donations is 7 July please)

## Sports Clubs Timetable

Please see our summer term after school sports clubs timetable below.

Please note the Multi Sports club will not be running on Monday 12th June.

### Extra Curricular after school sports – Summer Term

Day	Time	Club	Where	Staff
Monday	2:45 – 4pm	Dance	Activity Room	Miss Thrower
	2:45 – 4pm	Multi sport club		Miss Tennyson
Tuesday	2:45 – 4pm	Football Fixtures	Astro	Mr Fowle
	3:45 – 4pm	Tennis	Tennis Courts	Mr Sunley
	3:45 – 4pm	Rounders	Astro / Field	Miss Eltringham
Wednesday	2:45 – 4pm	Athletics	Track	Miss Russell
	2:45 – 4pm	Fitness Club	Fitness Suite	Mr Newham
	2:45 – 4pm	Year 7 & 8 Football	Astro	Mr Harrison
Thursday	2:45 – 4pm	Netball	Netball Courts	Mrs Beak
Friday	2:45 – 4pm	Y9-11 Football	Astro	Mr Fowle
	2:45 – 4pm	Parkour Club**	Activity Room	Miss Hill (see note below)
	2:45 – 4pm	Rock Climbing**	Climbing Wall	Mr Tennyson (see note below)
	4:00 – 5pm	Parkour Club**	Activity Room	Miss Hill (see note below)

\*\*There are limited places available, so you must see the staff in the Sports Partnership office to sign up. They are in the office opposite the climbing wall in the sports centre.