



Laurence Jackson School's Parental Bulletin

28th November 2024

KEY MESSAGES

PD Day—Please be reminded that school will be closed tomorrow due to a staff PD day.

Uniform expectations—As we approach the final weeks of term, we start to look forward to our LJS 'Christmas Countdown', the end of term and Christmas! We really want students to enjoy this period in school, however our high expectations continue until the very last day of term, and we appreciate your support in reinforcing these. Over the last couple of weeks, we have noticed a rise in students wearing trainers to school or forgetting to wear their ties. Please can you remind your child that their tie and school shoes are a compulsory part of our dress code. If there is a short-term issue with their uniform, please let us know so that we are aware that you are resolving it.

FAO Year 9 parents/carers—Y9 Progress Check 1 will be issued home (via email) next week, on Monday 2nd December.

Outdoor PE—During the inclement weather period, students taking part in outdoor PE lessons are permitted to wear warmer layers **underneath** their full PE kit. They are also allowed to wear sensible hats (beanie type) and gloves if they choose.

STEM Database - We are currently looking to develop a 'STEM database' of contacts that could help us to bring STEM subjects to life at our school, and we would love your support. If you or anyone you know works in a STEM-related role, eg engineering, computer science, robotics, mathematics, or scientific research, we would greatly appreciate your support. If you can help or have a contact in the STEM field, please email reedc@laurencejackson.org letting us know: Name of contact, Best way to contact, Field/Expertise. Thank you in anticipation of your support, Mrs Reed (Subject Leader of Computing / STEM Lead).



Careers Ambassadors—we are pleased to celebrate our newly appointed Career Ambassadors in school. Students have received training for this role and have had the opportunity to explore a range of activities they would like to get involved in this year to enhance our career provision further. We are looking forward to working with these students this year and will keep you updated on their involvement.

Learning for Life—The Year 10 sex education session delivered by Brook is on Friday 13th December. If you have any concerns your child may struggle with any of these topics, please contact russellp@laurencejackson.org or the relevant year manager. In addition to this, Year 10 are welcome to go to L1 at the end of the day to receive a C-card. The C-card scheme is aimed at young people between 13-24 years who can register to get a range of contraception, information and advice. The aim of the service is to promote reproductive and sexual health and help young people to access local services.

Upcoming seasonal events

Christmas Lunch—Wednesday 11th December. Please ensure your child has sufficient credit on their Arbor lunch account if they would like a Christmas lunch on this day.

Optional Christmas Jumper Day—Thursday 12th December. Students and staff can choose to attend school in a Christmas jumper *in addition* to their full correct school uniform. The event will help support Save the Children. To contribute to our JustGiving page for this event please follow [this link](#)

Christmas concert—Wednesday 18th December 7pm in the main hall. *Tickets are £4.00 and available via [this link](#)* Please see the poster within this bulletin for more details.

Food Bank Collection—Thursday 12th December, we would be very grateful for items to support The Guisborough Bridge Ass. If you can, please send items in with your child on the morning in a bag to be given to our staff at the front of school. The following items are low in stock: Christmas puddings, sponge puddings, packets of high-bake water biscuits / crackers, rice puddings, custard, tinned meats e.g. chicken in sauce/ corned beef, tinned ham, tinned fish (not tuna), instant mash, sandwich pastes, 500g sugar, coffee, hot chocolate. They often run low of male toiletries, toothpaste, shampoo and shower gel too.

Arbor—apologies as we are still experiencing Arbor parent app issues in relation to parents/carers seeing incorrect balances and items purchased. If you need to check the true balance of your child's lunch account please contact school.

Safeguarding Spotlight

REPORT AND REMOVE

In line with the highlights of the group chats over the last couple of week, I wanted to remind parents of the report and remove tool which is available to support young people having images removed from the internet. It is openly discussed that once something is sent or shared online or via chat that control of that image is then lost. There is no way to prevent it being leaked or shared across the world. The golden rule we share with student is "that if you wouldn't show a trusted adult, don't send". However this is not always followed and young people can find themselves in a situation where they have lost control. The report and remove tool is set up to help try and control such circumstances, however this is not always 100% effective. Please follow the link to find out more and how to use report and remove. [Supporting young people to report nude images: Report Remove | NSPCC Learning](#)

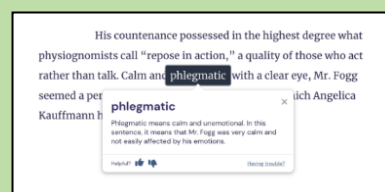
Next week will be using our assembly programme to remind students of our expectations around mobile phones. Whilst we understand that students need to have a mobile phone, they are not allowed to use their phones for any reason during school in the school building.

Mr Bayston, Designated Safeguarding Lead

Sparx Maths and Sparx Reading Y7 - 9

We are pleased to report that so far students in Y7-9 have completed **5225 personalised hours of Maths learning** and **answered 526,111 questions**. **299 students have improved their times tables fluency**. We can see that students who are consistently engaging with this resource are benefiting in terms of their learning and progress with Maths. It is worth noting that these are only 1 minute long and specifically cover the maths needed for individual questions. If students are unclear on any aspect, they should make use of these videos, then reattempt the question. Some students are keen to complete their home learning as quickly as possible and some are trying to find answers from these sources rather than work out their answers. Sparx Maths are aware of this issue and have shared with us: *'The increasing availability, capability and accuracy of maths solving apps and AI services like ChatGPT and Google Gemini, mean that it's becoming more common for students to use them when completing their homework. This challenge is broad-reaching - it potentially affects any work that we ask students to complete at home, be that via worksheets, text books or online services like Sparx Maths. We've been carefully considering the feedback that we've been receiving about the impact of this challenge on Sparx Maths homework. Given the pace at which these services are evolving, we don't believe the right answer is to try to "block" them from being used. It would be impractical for us to do so and ultimately, we don't believe it would work'* We recognise that some of you have already discussed this with your children and explained that in the end, this route won't benefit them. We would appreciate it if you could check in with your child and discuss what they do when they find tricky questions in Sparx Maths and remind them the importance of the help videos whilst avoiding the temptation to take an easy route to solve their home learning via 'AI'.

Sparx Reader: Those in Y7 and 8 have completed **1545 hours of careful reading** and completed **611 books**. It is brilliant to consider the positive impact that this is having on introducing students to a wide range of vocabulary and the skills of reading texts. Some students get very close to completing their 300SRP quota of weekly reading. In addition, we recognise that students need to make better use of the feature within Sparx where you can learn the meaning of a word. It is accepted that a reader needs to know 95% of the words in a text in order to understand it (Nagy and Scott, 2000). It follows that, if a learner is struggling to recognise even a handful of words in a paragraph, they can very quickly become locked out of being able to make meaning. Sparx have built the experimental student feature called 'contextual definitions' not only as a way for our young readers to stay immersed in the story, but also to help them make the most of all the opportunities for incidental vocabulary acquisition that reading offers. 'Contextual definitions' do the heavy lifting in helping students to understand how that word contributes to the meaning of the sentence. Whilst students are reading an e-book on Sparx Reader, when they click on a word, they'll see a small popup asking if they'd like to receive a definition. If Sparx have one available, they'll produce the word along with a description within the context of the passage of text they are reading - a bit like this: It would be helpful if you discussed with your child whether they have encountered any words they haven't been sure of the meaning of within Sparx Reader and then review what they have done about this if so. Then it will be worthwhile if you discuss the ability to find out a word's meaning by clicking on it. Perhaps you could challenge your child to teach you the meaning of one new word a week from Sparx Reader?



Thank you for your ongoing support with this. If you have any questions or require any support please contact Mrs Crawford (Assistant Headteacher) crawfordn@laurencejackson.org

Careers—Focus on: A-Levels—Here is a quick guide:

<p>What are A Levels and who are they for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2-year study- Subject based qualifications- Students normally study 3 of them- Assessed by exams	<p>What grades so I need to access A Levels?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Usually, students need:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-At least five GCSEs at grades 9 to 4.-At least a grade 6 in the specific subject you want to study <p>However, the specific requirements to study A Levels will vary across colleges so it's important to check what your child will need when they are making a decision about what they want to study.</p>
<p>What can I do with my A Levels?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Continue on to university- Look for employment- Go onto vocational or work-based qualifications, such as an apprenticeship- Keep your options open – it is normal for students to not to be 100% sure about a job they would like to do later and A Levels are a good way to keep options open to them.	<p>Helpful links for further information</p> <p>Understand what A-levels are & what you can do with them Careerpilot : Get information : A Levels : Why choose A Levels, what's involved? A levels Skills for Careers</p> <p>As always, we are here to support. E-mail careers@laurencejackson.org if you have any further questions or require any guidance in supporting your child with a career route.</p>

Upcoming Careers Events:

Foundation Learning Taster Events – Wednesday 4th and 12th December—Askham Bryan College are offering specific Taster Events for their Foundation Learning provision. There are smaller more bespoke events where learners are able to discuss their individual needs on a one-to-one basis.

Law Masterclass – Wednesday 11th December —We are delighted to welcome Martha Rae, an Employment Solicitor with Jacksons Law Firm to school for a Masterclass in Law. Year 10 and Year 11 students should speak to Miss Mitchinson in the Careers Office or email careers@laurencejackson.org to reserve their place – *places are limited.*

Y10 Work Experience Week – Placements—Please see below the attached placements which have been advertised to Year 10 students. Interested students should speak to Miss Mitchinson in the Careers Office.

Junction Foundation Multibank—We have received the following information from Nikki Carmichael, Commissioning Officer- Prevention and Resilient Communities at Redcar Council: "You may be aware of the new Junction Foundation Multibank but if not, I hope to share the fantastic opportunity that is available to our local people and their families. The Junction Foundation have just launched the 5th Multibank within the UK. Working in partnership with Amazon and other local suppliers, The Junction Multibank is a central hub (Riverside Park, Middlesbrough) which is full of surplus stock items to be given via practitioners to families in need. Items include warm clothes, hygiene products, school uniforms, school supplies, crockery, Christmas gifts, cleaning products, baby supplies, household furnishings and other miscellaneous items. Where there is an identified need by a charity, community group, teacher, social worker or other non for profit organisation within the Tees Valley, items can be requested/ ordered for collection. Numerous individuals from the same organisation can join as referral partners. Once registered, people will receive an invitation to order each week. It contains an inventory of what is in stock and a link to an order form. Once made, the order is picked and packed and the person who ordered it will receive confirmation that it is ready. Then they will then be able to book a slot to collect it. This website provides more information along with directions as to how to sign up: <https://www.thejunctionfoundation.com/the-junction-multibank> If you have any questions, please contact The Junction via the link or contact Nikki on (01642) 771639 / 07795305911 / nikki.carmichael@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Local Pantomime—Please find the link below to purchase tickets for the production of a local children's' pantomime with 6 performances in December at Saltburn Theatre. It's sure to be a fun festive treat for all the family. [Majestic Theatre Arts - Alice in Wonderland tickets from £7.00 - Alice in Wonderland - Majestic Theatre Arts - Stage Stubs](#)



Christmas CONCERT 2024

FEATURING

LJS Choir, Orchestra, Stage Band and Soloists

The Snowman

White Christmas Star of Bethlehem

All I Want For Christmas

Carol of the Bells Last Christmas

7pm WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER

Tickets £4

available ONLINE from:

[https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/
Vision-Academy-Learning-Trust/](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Vision-Academy-Learning-Trust/)



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