

LEALANDS NEWS

EXCELLENCE RESPONSIBILITY RESPECT



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

Upcoming Events:

20.12.24 - End of Autumn Term 2

06.01.25 - Start of Spring Term 1

07.01.25 - Year 11 Parent
Information Evening

29.01.25 - Year 10 Parents Evening

Visit the '**Key Dates for Your Diary**' page inside for more important upcoming events!

Headteacher's Introduction

John Burridge, Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we head towards the end of term and 2024, it's that time when we all look backwards and forwards. Lealands continues to go from strength to strength as we reflect on fantastic GCSE results, a massive range of wider opportunities provided to students, continuous improvements in learning and progress and an enormous range of wider support for students and families that our staff provide. We were also honoured to be recognised by the Department for Education for our work and success on attendance; having met with the Government about our highly effective practices and being published in a toolkit for schools nationally to learn from what we do here. We know that, fundamentally, good attendance is essential for continuity of learning and success as well as setting up good habits for life.



We began this year with a focus on the best behaviours and attitudes to learning. Students have really taken this on board and this has been to the benefit of us all. After Christmas, we will continue to focus and build further on our work in this area and will be relentless in our goals. Thank you for your support in our partnership together. We are also looking forward to the opening of our new provision in the former Elearning Centre building at the front of the school. Building work will soon be completed and we will be working with the Local Authority to create a centre supporting emotional wellbeing, resilience and mental health for our students and those from other schools in the future. It is exciting to see the building coming back to life for such an important role after many years. We are also very much looking forward to the 2025 School Production of The Wizard of Oz, following a sneak preview of some exceptional singing and dancing at the Presentation Evening.

This term has been incredibly busy with so many trips, visits and rewards events. It is great that so many of our students are benefitting from these and this final week, in particular, sees hundreds of students visiting Winter Wonderland, the Pantomime or having a film afternoon in school to acknowledge and appreciate their fantastic contributions to school life. Our students continue to go above and beyond in showing responsibility and this is especially true of the Student Voice reps who contributed to the recent Luton-wide conference with such confidence and engagement to help make their town a better place for young people. In addition, our charity ambassadors and students throughout the school have been supporting others through a phenomenal amount of donated food to the Luton Food Bank, donations to Save the Children for our successful Christmas Jumper day and cake sale for MacMillan among others. Staff have also been contributing through an amazing raffle (if you have been to reception recently, you will have seen an enormous array of beautifully presented prizes thanks to staff and Mrs Downey, in particular).

Particular highlights, this term, have been: the Presentation Evenings celebrating so many wonderful achievements; our Winter Concert showcasing amazingly talented and entertaining students; and our whole school Remembrance Service where deep respect was shown by all.

In this final week of term, I have been enjoying talking to students in assemblies about the traditions and meanings of Christmas focusing on 'the spirit of Christmas' which is applicable to all as a time of giving and being thankful for all the positive and joyful things in life. We are also enjoying some wonderful Christmas themed treats prepared by our very talented catering staff!

I hope that you have a wonderful Christmas and experience some of the 'spirit of Christmas' during this season.

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

Key dates for your diary:

Student Christmas Lunch: Wednesday 18th December 2024

End of Autumn Term 2: Friday 20th December 2024*

*Key Stage 3 students finish at 12.20pm

*Key Stage 4 students finish at 12.30pm

Spring Term 1 Begins: Monday 6th January 2025

Year 11 Parent Information Evening: Tuesday 7th January 2025

Relationship & Sex Education Parental Information Evening:
Thursday 9th January 2025

Year 11 Parents Evening (online): Thursday 16th January 2025

Ski Trip Departs: Saturday 18th January 2025

Year 10 Parents Evening (online): Wednesday 29th January 2025

Save the date:

Year 11 Evening of Excellence:

Thursday 6th February 2025

Year 10 Work Experience Begins:

Monday 10th February 2025

Year 9 Parents Evening/Options Evening (face to face):

Wednesday 12th February 2025

Year 8 Evening of Excellence:

Thursday 13th February 2025

End of Spring Term 1:

Friday 14th February 2025

Start of Spring Term 2:

Monday 24th February 2025

Term Dates:

Autumn Term:

Wednesday 4th September - Friday 20th December 2024

Spring Term:

Monday 6th January 2025 - Friday 4th April 2025

Half Term:

Monday 17th February 2025 - Friday 21st February 2025

Full academic term dates for 2024-2025 can be found on the school website:

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

Value of the Month - December 2024

Value of the Month

December 2024

“Manners and Politeness ”

IN THE CLASSROOM		AROUND THE SCHOOL	
Be on time & do your best	Sit properly & work quietly	Say hello and goodbye	NO Bullying
Raise your hand to speak	Keep our classroom clean	Hold the door open for people	If you bump into someone, say sorry
Avoid blurting	Follow directions	No inappropriate language	Be safe in all you do.
Pay attention & stay focused	Ask permission if it isn't yours	Respect other people's property	Keep our school clean
Keep organized	Complete your homework	Cover your mouth when sneezing or coughing	Be humble & be appreciative

WITH ADULTS		WITH CLASSMATES	
Look people in the eye	Be respectful	Use kind words & give compliments	Don't make fun of anyone
Don't interrupt	Say "excuse me" to get attention.	Be patient, take turns, and share	Avoid tattling
Say please and thank you.	Follow directions	Avoid being bossy	Admit it when you make a mistake
Be helpful	Show your best behavior.	Don't be afraid to say sorry	Mind your own business
<u>Always</u> tell an adult about unsafe actions, emergencies & bullying.		Don't spread rumors	Be a team player

Good manners reflect something from inside. A sense of consideration for others and respect for self.

Severe Weather Procedure

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

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

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

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



Thrilling Wins, Close Battles, and County Qualifications: A Stellar Term for Our Teams!



Sports Updates

By The PE Department

Girls Basketball

Our Year 7 and Year 8 girls' basketball teams recently competed in the finals, showcasing incredible skill and teamwork. The Year 7s triumphed with a fantastic 22-8 victory, while the Year 8s put up a strong fight in a close 15-20 game, earning 2nd place. Both teams will now represent Luton at the County competitions—well done, girls!

Boys Football

In November, the Year 8 boys pulled off an incredible comeback in the 3rd round of the cup, turning a 4-1 deficit into a thrilling 5-4 victory! With just five minutes to play, they were still 4-2 down but showed amazing determination, scoring the winner with the final kick of the game. Well done, boys!

The Year 8 B team claimed a well-earned 2-1 victory in the 2nd round of the National Cup! Despite dominating the first half, their efforts only secured a 1-0 lead at the break. A strong finish sealed the win and a spot in round 3—great job, boys! Goals: Marcel x1, Loki x1.

Girls Football

Our Under 13 girls celebrated two wins in two days! Winning 2-0 in the National Cup against St. Albans and 3-0 in the County Cup against Gilbert Ingfield. Excellent work girls!

Girls Netball

Well done to both our Year 8 and Year 9 netball teams who both secured comprehensive wins against Chalk Hills in November! Both teams have now won all of their fixtures and are looking forward to competing in the finals!

Athletics

Our Sports Hall Athletics teams had an action-packed day on Wednesday, 22nd November, with fantastic performances all around! The Year 8 boys were crowned champions by just one point, while the Year 8 girls secured 3rd place with strong results. Both teams now advance to the county competition in February!

For Year 7, their first event was a valuable experience, with the girls finishing 6th and the boys 7th in a tight competition. Well done, everyone!

Annual Presentation Evenings: A Celebration of Achievement

In October, at Lealands High School, we celebrated the hard work, progress, and achievements of our students during the academic year 2023-24 with our much-anticipated annual Presentation Evenings.

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

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

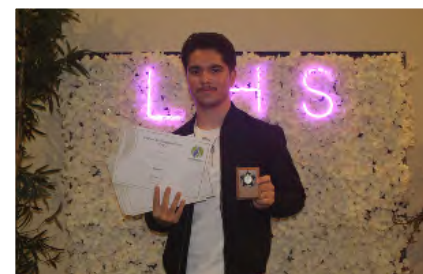
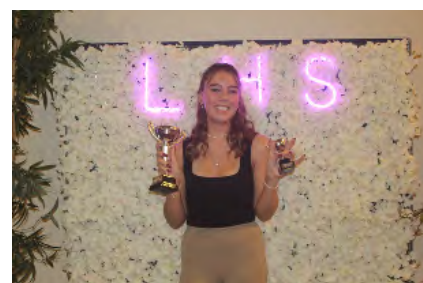
We also enjoyed a preview of our upcoming school production of The Wizard of Oz, which offered a magical glimpse of the creativity soon to take the stage.

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

Class of 2024 Award Winners:

- **Georgi** - Gary Smith Award - Computing
- **Roshni** - Legacy Trophy - History
- **Kelise** - Tony Revill Cup - Geography
- **Lois** - Mae Craydon Award - Drama
- **Zara-Jess** - Delia Patterson Trophy - Performing Arts
- **Jahkeime** - Gustav Holst Cup - Music
- **Victoria** - Crozier Plate - PE
- **Emma** - Swita Sandhu Award - Vocational
- **Ajmal** - Andy Pitts Prize - Maths
- **Amina** - Pattendon award - Design Tech
- **Kouame** - La Médaille de l'Excellence - French
- **Ishrat** - Megan Evans Award - Spanish
- **Anisa** - Peter Scott Award - Science
- **Mark** - Theresa Parsons Cup - English Literature
- **Victoria** - Ellis Cup - English Language
- **Leon** - Frattini Plate - Kudos through Endeavour
- **Lily** - Gerald Lewis Trophy - Art

"Celebrating the perseverance, determination, and talent of our students, the Annual Presentation Evenings at ... High School showcased the remarkable achievements and growth of an inspiring year."



Lealands Remembers

At 11:00 a.m. on Monday 11th November 2024, Lealands High School came together as a community to honour the sacrifices of those who have lost their lives in conflicts past and present.

The service began with Mr. Patterson sounding "The Last Post," marking the start of a reflective two-minute silence.

In a moving tribute, Head Boy Harry and Head Girl Tahlia each recited Bill Mitton's poignant poem, Young Sons, capturing the solemnity and gratitude of the occasion. A representative from each tutor group placed a poppy cross in the school's memorial garden, followed by Headteacher Mr. Burridge laying a commemorative poppy wreath.

The gathering provided a unifying moment for students and staff, creating a shared sense of respect and gratitude. This reflective ceremony reinforced the Lealands High School values of respect, responsibility, and excellence, allowing everyone present to honour those who served with dignity and gratitude.



Languages - Active Learn

By The Languages Department

The Languages Department would like to congratulate the following students for great effort on ActiveLearn during November. There are also several students who achieved Epraise badges for their overall progress, with a total of 805 badges given since the start of the year.

Well done to everyone mentioned!

Remember, students can get badges at the following points -

- 25% - Bronze Badge - 5 extra STEPs
- 50% - Silver Badge - 10 extra STEPs
- 75% - Gold Badge - 15 extra STEPs
- 100% - Platinum Badge - 20 extra STEPs
- Extra tasks - Extra Badge - 25 extra STEPs.

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

Outstanding effort in Languages this month. Keep pushing for your next badge and earn those extra STEPs!

Super effort with ActiveLearn during November - 10%+ completed - Year 7 & 8

Year 7				
Aalia H	Antoni G	Davide S	Jessica N	Nazirah I
Abdurraheem A	Armin J	Drita D	Julianna P	NematLucy A
Abel P	Ava P	Eli K	Kadesha B	Noel F
Abigail B	Awais H	Ella K	Kara M	Olivia C
Adam M	Ayana M	Elliot C	Keenan F	Oluwasemilore Mary A
Ahmad K	Bevirlyn O	Elouise C	Khalid B	Phoebe T
Akram E	Bobbi B	Erika R	Kian H	Precious Charmaine E
Alexander C	Bradley B	Ethan E	Kobi W	RehmatLola A
Alfie R	Caitlyn B	Famia U	Lana M	Rishikesh R
Alyssia P	Caleb A	Franklin B	Lana S	Rohan A
Amanda B	Calisee H	Gabriela M	Lewis M	Sarah H
Amelia N	Carla F	Gajenthly G	Louie S	Saralsabel D
Amelia P	Coby S	Hagan N	Mahdiali R	Seyon V
Amina D	Daniel S	Ifrah A	Maisie M	Spencer G
Anaya M	Danika L	Imanah A	Maryam R	Tijani P
Angel S	Danny H	Isaac P	Mason O	Tyler S
Anisha M	David B	James B	Maximilian V	Vienna M
Annaje T	David C	James P	Mya S	Viviane S
Anne A	David J	Jessica B	Naomi S	Vivienne G
Year 8				
Aaron G	Damien B	Ilary S	Natasha P	
Abigail M	Daniel G	Inayah I	Nathan S	
Abigail O	Dawid M	Jameela M	Noah H	
Adil T	Desire M	Janae F	Noor I	
Aiden C	Deya F	Juanita S	Rahima B	
Albert K	Elisa I	Kalel B	Ramani S	
Aleesha A	Emily D	Kayla V	Riad B	
Ali Q	Ephraim A	Keioni S	Sama K	
Amani C	Erin M	Keya M	Sami R	
Amelia T	Ethan C	Leo W	Sarah S	
Analise C	Evie W	Lexi C	Sean M	
Angel B	Faheem D	Lexie A	Sneh M	
Aswin R	Faris M	Lily S	Sophia D	
Aya M	Filip P	Logan J	Sophie R	
Bernadette N	Fisnik D	Lucian N	Sumayyah A	
Bethel O	Franchesca D	Maham S	Sumayyah F	
Brooklyn N	Gabriela S	Markayda A	Tyler P	
Cara K	Golden G	Marzuq C	William D	
Chloe G	Gurleen K	Mikaeel U	Zainab M	
Chloe S	Harjot C	Mikey L	Zakkiya S	
Corey T	Hendrix W	Naeem A	Zane M	
Cyanne N	Humayra Fatema R	Nael A		

Super effort with ActiveLearn during November - 10%+ completed - Year 9, 10 & 11

Year 9			Year 10		Year 11
Aabidah A	Edward B	Lithushan C	Alaisia S	Kieran S	Anta B
Aasiyah K	Ella W	Mahalman A	Aleesa A	Laila R	Haider R
Abbie A	Emmanuella A	Nitya B	Alejandro D	Lucas T	Raul P
Adam S	Fafa O	Renee S	Alicia S	Mishal A	Shalom B
Aida-Iulia J	Frank T	Richmond B	Andrea P	Rayan E	Urte B
Aiyanna W	Gurmanjoot S	Roberta R	Ayan S	Regan B	
Alekh L	Harry T	Ruth P	Aymma H	Rishikan S	
Alexa S	Iyinoluwa O	Sabrina O	Burhan K	Sabiha A	
Amelia S	Jack S	Senen T	Chloe J	Sabreina D	
Ami-Leigh R	Jamie Z	Serene-Zuriel A	Chloe W	Saima M	
Amina M	Jennifer E	Sonia K	Darius-Samuel P	Shazia M	
Amiyah I	Jessica B	Suhana A	Eleanor G	Sonni M	
Angus C	Kamila O	Szymon R	Eveline S	Victoria K	
Ash S	Kayra B	Taylor F	George A	Yonlanda Y	
Ava B	Keron M	Yusuf M	Giulia D	Youssef B	
Chloe O	Lachantae G	Zenat N	Grace N	Zaara U	
Eduard S	Lilly-Ray C		Holly E	Zahra B	
			Keeley B	Zainab S	
			Khadija B		

ActiveLearn Epraise badges awarded during November - Year 7

Bronze - 25%			Silver - 50%	Gold - 75%
Year 7				
Abdurraheem A	Elliot C	Lewis M	Aalia H	Abigail B
Adam M	Elouise C	Lliyana S	Abel P	Alyssia P
Ahmad K	Erika R	Louie S	Alyssia P	Danny H
Amanda B	Ethan E	Louis M	Anne A	Gajenthly G
Amelia P	Famia U	Maisie M	Caitlyn B	Rehmat A
Amilia M	Franklin B	Mary A	Caleb A	Sarah H
Anaya M	Hagan N	Maryam R	Coby S	Seyon V
Angel S	James B	Mason O	Daniel S	
Anisha M	Jayden G	Muizz S	Danny H	Platinum - 100%
Annaje T	Kadesha B	Mya S	Davide S	Alyssia P
Ava P	Kai H	Myiesha H	Drita D	Precious E
Ayana M	Kara M	Noel F	Gabriela M	Rehmat A
Bevirlyn O	Katie J	Olivia C	Ifrah A	Sarah H
Bradley B	Keenan F	Phoebe T	Jessica N	
Carla F	Khalid B	Seyon V	Lana S	Extra Tasks
David B	Kian H	Tijani P	Mary A	Precious E
David C	Kobi W	Tyler S	Maximilian V	
David J	Lana M	Vivienne G	Nemat A	
Ella K	Lana S		Rishikesh R	
			Russana S	
			Sarah H	
			Seyon V	

ActiveLearn Epraise badges awarded during November - Year 8

Bronze - 25%		Silver - 50%		Gold - 75%	Platinum - 100%
Year 8					
Aaron G	Gabriel I	Aaron G	Abigail O	Abigail M	
Abdallah H	Hendrix W	Aiden C	Analise C	Aya M	
Acilay A	Husayn A	Amelia T	Aya M	Desire M	
Adil T	Jay P	Cara K	Juanita S	Harjot C	
Ainsley H	Kalel B	Chloe G	Desire M	Ilary S	
Albert K	Keioni S	Elisa I	Mikaeel U	Maham S	
Aleesha A	Lena H	Emily D	Maham S	Mikey L	
Bernadette N	Maya O	Evie S	Jameela M	Sama K	
Bethel O	Nael A	Faris M	Natasha P		
Damien B	Robyn G	Fisnik D	Amelia T		
David P	Rory B	Juanita S	Sophia D		
Deya F	Sean M	Keioni S	Evie W		
Ephraim A	Sebastian H	Keya M	Elisa I		
Ethan C	Sneh M	Lexi C	Gabriela S		
Eva D	Sumayyah F	Logan J			
Faris M	Tyler P	Lucian N			
Francesca D	Zakkiya S	Mikaeel U			
		Naeem A			
		Natasha P			
		Sumayyah A			
		Zainab M			
		Zane M			

ActiveLearn Epraise badges awarded during November - Year 9, 10 & 11

ActiveLearn E-Praise Badges Awarded During November					
Bronze - 25%		Silver - 50%		Gold - 75%	Platinum - 100%
Year 9					
Adam S	Keron M	Aiyanna W	Lithushan C	Nitya B	Nitya B
Aida-Iulia J	Lilly-Ray C	Eduard S	Nitya B		
Aiyanna W	Maha Iman A	Emmanuella A	Sonia K		
Alekh L	Richmond B				
Amiyah I	Samiha B				
Ash S	Senen T				
Iyinoluwa O	Taylor F				
Kamila O	Zenat N				
Kayra B					
Year 10					
Ayan S	Alaisia S	Alejandro D	Laila R	Saima M	Eleanor G
Eveline S	Deile Y	Alicia S	Mishal A		
		Andrea P	Regan B		
		Chloe W	Saima M		
		George A	Xenon N		
		Grace N	Yonlanda Y		
		Khadija B			
Year 11					
				Charisma E	Shalom B
				Anta B	

Students meet the baby animals at Whipsnade Zoo and discover what the impact of climate change has on them.



Year 10 and 11 Students Explore Climate Change and Wildlife at Whipsnade Zoo

By The Student Support Department

Recently, a group of Year 10 and 11 students had the exciting opportunity to visit Whipsnade Zoo for a unique educational experience. The trip featured a thought-provoking workshop where students learned how climate change impacts the animals.



Following the workshop, students had the chance to explore the zoo and observe the incredible animals up close. Highlights of the visit included meeting the zoo's newest residents: two adorable baby giraffes and a playful young hippo.

The trip was not only informative but also inspiring for many of the students. One student shared: "I loved this trip, and I've decided I want to work in a zoo when I leave school to help protect animals."

DID YOU KNOW?

Weekly individual tuition is available from an experienced tutor on the following instruments at
LEALANDS HIGH SCHOOL



If you are interested and would like your child to be considered for one of the limited tuition slots available, please send an email to receive further details:

gccmusic1@gmail.com

ATTENTION YEAR 11

Catch-up Club

Community Classroom Open Every Day

From 8-8:55am

**Resources/ Chromebooks available
for revision and extended learning**



**See you there Year 11!
Miss Jones, Mr Dummett
and Mr Mason**

Reading Over The Holidays

By Miss Rezaei, learning resource Co-ordinator

Although school is closing over the winter holidays, we still encourage all students to carry on reading over the festive break. Students can struggle over the break due to not having their usual routine, but having an allocated time for reading over the holidays can help ensure students still keep up with healthy habits. Please see further reading and research with the link below.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/impact-and-research/Research/the-benefits-of-reading/>

Also not forgetting, your local library would have a host of different activities that children can get involved with linked below.

<https://libraries.lutonlibraries.co.uk/events>

Unfortunately, research suggests that children's love of reading declines as they get older through secondary school. Studies show that while 33% of 7-year-olds say they 'love' reading, this drops to 29% at age 10 and further declines to just a quarter (25%) by age 11.

This could be down to a number of factors, including students associating with reading as a younger activity. However, with more exposure to more challenging books and a wide selection of choice, students' love for literature will continue!

For further reading, please see the article below.

https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/news/news-2024/booktrust-research-reveals-fewer-children-are-reading-for-pleasure/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=reading_for_pleasure_news_october&utm_term=2024-12-02

Accelerated Reader Update

Congratulations to all year 7s and 8s, who are taking part in Accelerated Reader, for their amazing effort in November!

Lealands High School Reads!

In November 2024, students have read...

2,079 Books

9,768,675 Words

for **22 minutes/day!**
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader

Please keep it up for the remainder of December, to see if you can beat November's statistics. Remember, all Accelerated Reader students will be taking another STAR test in January to determine their reading age and it is always most accurate when students have kept up their reading over the holidays. As always, thank you for your support with reading.

LEAP Projects & Outreach

By Miss Watson, LEAP Centre Manager

The Art of DJing

This term, a select group of Year 10 and 11 students have taken part in a 10 week programme called The Art of DJing.

The programme integrated DJing, songwriting, podcasting and content creation. Students were able to use professional equipment throughout the sessions giving them an insight into what it is like to be a professional DJ.

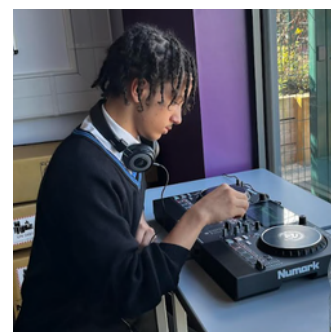
In week 1 through to week 6, students were introduced into the art of DJing, music production and songwriting. At first, some students were a little nervous of the decks but with encouragement, all were able to mix songs competently.

In week 7, students looked into the art of podcasting. They were encouraged to share thoughts, feelings and interests on a range of subjects. An interesting topic our students wanted to talk about, was the area where they live and the opportunities available to them. To assist them with this, an ex-student, Kadeem, visited a session to discuss school and his job now. He shared that he works for a company called Disguise which runs 95% of the touring set up for live events globally including Jay Z and Beyonce.

Students at the beginning of the programme set goals and these were discussed with the mentors during a number of sessions. They got them thinking about their ambitions and challenges they may face along the way.

Feedback from the students was very encouraging and they thoroughly enjoyed the sessions. Students said it opened their eyes to opportunities in the music world and how they could get into this if they were interested.

We want to say a huge thank you to Luke and Michael who delivered engaging and thought provoking sessions for Lealands' students.



LEAP Projects & Outreach

By Miss Watson, LEAP Centre Manager

One Stop Y8 Girls Boxing

This project aims to give female students the opportunities to engage in fitness, martial arts and boxing. The project aims to promote physical fitness, self-discipline, and self-confidence among the participants.

It is part of a pilot project which Lealands has been a part of for 2 terms. As well as the physical aspect of the sessions, the program also has a mentoring element. During the mentoring sessions, the following areas may be discussed depending on the need of the student: academic problems, peer pressure, depression, bullying, raised by single parents, parental pressure, physical image, drug and alcohol abuse, poverty, obesity and other health problems and materialism.

There are currently 12 Year 8 girls accessing this programme which started in September and will run until Christmas. Feedback from students is that they are enjoying the sessions and look forward to them weekly. They have reported that they are learning a new skill and boxing helps to get frustrations out in a positive way.

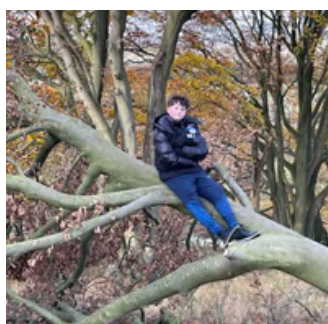
Year 11 Boxing Saves Lives

Boxing Saves Lives attends school every Tuesday and works with a group of our Year 11 boys. The programme helps them to have a focus on releasing any pent up frustrations in a positive manner. The trainer who attends, speaks to the boys about things that have gone on that week. The trainer, Michelle, runs her own boxing sessions at a gym which two of the students have now started to attend. It is open to all levels, ranging from those who want to compete to those who want to keep fit or improve their mental health. Sessions are one hour long at Lewsey Sports Park Gym in Luton. Juniors 11 yrs to 14 yrs Tuesdays 6pm, Saturdays 1pm. 14yr+ Tuesdays 7pm, Thursdays 7.30pm and Saturday 2pm. On Saturday there is a female only session starting at 10am - 11am. Sessions are £3. It is a positive club with fully qualified coaches.

Year 8 and Year 9 Pegsdon Hills Walk

As part of the LEAP programme, students get the opportunity to attend a walking trip. Within LEAP, students have a weekly mentoring session and we find doing this in a different environment away from school can really help our students to open up.

This term a group of Year 8 and 9 students attended Pegsdon Hills on a windy November day. On their walk, they encountered sheep, big hills, big drops, lots of trees to climb and a makeshift swing! Although tired, students said they enjoyed it and it was something different to the norm. They said it allowed them to clear their head and was very calming being in the fresh air. One student liked the views and countryside so much he was now thinking of farming as a career!



Luton 2040 Student Voice Conference

By Mr Taplin, Student Voice Co-ordinator

On Monday 9th December, Mr Taplin, Student Voice Co-ordinator, took 10 of our amazing Student Voice students to Luton University to take part in the Child Friendly Luton 2040 Student Voice Conference.

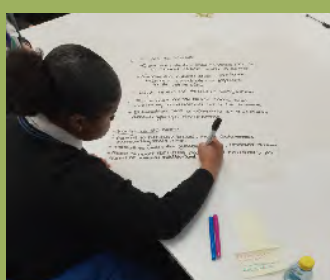
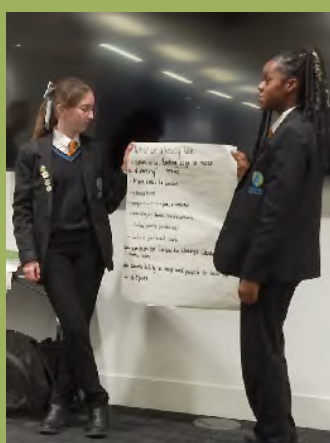
Our students were exemplary from start to finish and we were so proud of them throughout the day. It was really interesting to hear what the priorities are for young people in Luton and the views from others on what needs to be changed and how.

Priorities remain mental health, safety and gangs. However, what was interesting was that we have some really good stats in Luton, that we don't hear about:

- 3rd most generous region in the UK for charity
- Luton achieved the best set of GCSE and KS2 results in the whole of Eastern England in 2024
- 3rd lowest carbon emissions in the whole of the UK
- 2nd highest amount of new businesses created in the UK last year (second only to London)

We are so proud of how eloquently and confidently our students spoke, as well as listening to the views of other young people. Students were divided into 2 groups; Tahlia, Head Girl and Grace, Year 10, scribed for both and then Grace and Zoe, Year 10, had the task of presenting the views to the rest of the conference, which they did with ease and brimming with confidence.

Students had a really positive experience and very much enjoyed their day.



“I really enjoyed today’s conference and felt extremely empowered by the opportunity to share my thoughts and opinions about Luton. I think the conference was also a great way to understand and learn new things about our town by listening to other students talk about their experiences”.

By Grace, Year 10

STREATERIES



EXCITING MEAL OPTIONS FOR JUST £2.50 OR FREE SCHOOL MEAL PRICE!

At Aspens, we're all about offering **GREAT VALUE** and a **GREAT CHOICE** for students. Here's what you can get for **just £2.50** or your **FSM ALLOWANCE**:

MAIN DISHES:

HEARTY MAIN MEAL OF THE DAY
Choose from a meat or veggie option.

HOT TOPPED PASTA
Pasta in the Sauce of the Day.

HOT NOODLE POTS

FILLED JACKET POTATOES
With your choice of filling.

HOT DELI DAILY SPECIAL
Options like Marinated Chicken Wraps, Individual Pizzas, Mexican Burritos, or Chicken Burgers.

TASTY BIG BOWL PROTEIN SALAD
A healthy, satisfying option with daily protein toppings.

SANDWICHES OR HALF BAGUETTES
Perfect for a grab-and-go lunch with a range of fillings.

PLUS, PICK ONE:

DESSERT OF THE DAY
For a Sweet Treat.

HOMEMADE TRAYBAKE OR COOKIE

FRESH WHOLE FRUIT

Or a
BOTTLE OF WATER
To stay hydrated.

With such a variety of options,

**YOU'LL ALWAYS
FIND SOMETHING TO
ENJOY!**



Festive Fun At Lealands

The Christmas spirit is in full swing at Lealands.

The centerpiece of our festive efforts is the magnificent Christmas tree in the Main Hall.

Adding to the festive atmosphere is our much-loved annual workroom and office decoration competition. This year, the theme is “A Letter to Santa,” inspiring an array of creative designs. Each department has embraced the challenge with enthusiasm, turning their spaces into imaginative interpretations of the theme.

At the time of publication, the winner of the competition has yet to be announced, but with so many fantastic entries, the decision will undoubtedly be a tough one as always!

As we count down to the Christmas holidays, Lealands has been busy with lots of Christmas-themed events including; our Christmas card competition, penguin parade, annual Winter Concert, foodbank appeal, Christmas lunch, and the office/workroom competition.

Everyone at Lealands would like to wish a Happy Christmas to all!



Wandering the corridors of Lealands after dark

By Mr Edwards, Assistant Headteacher

It's Thursday afternoon, it's been a long day of teaching. The sun is going down and the frosty ground on the playing field has remained frozen all day. As I walk the corridors of the school wishing our students a lovely evening, I can hear Christmas tunes in the distance. I wander in their direction at an increasing pace and open the door to the Art Club.

This room is filled with so much joy it is hard to do anything but smile. As I walk from table to table, students are explaining their thinking behind their various creations. Students are painting, drawing, making things, moulding their clay and even creating models out of cardboard boxes.

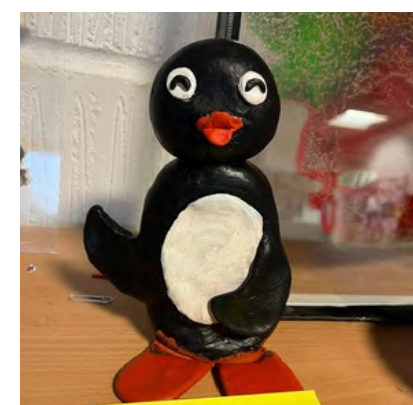
After speaking to the students about their work, I stand back and remember just how lucky they are to have an environment where they can go at the end of the day on a Thursday that is calm, fun, filled with creativity with their teachers Miss Reason and Miss Ward-Lindsay on hand to prompt and help them to hone their creative muscles. As I circulate, I speak to the students and tell them that this opportunity is mostly lost when they leave school and they should take advantage of it while they can.

Jess, Year 10, explained that she understood how special the environment is and that is the reason that she has barely missed a session since Year 7. She showed me through her portfolio of work, proudly identifying the pieces that she worked on in the Art Club over the years.

Many of the students in the room were working on their entries for the Christmas card competition, which will be judged by Mr Burridge and the winner will be used as our official school Christmas card to send to stakeholders far and wide during this festive period.

My time spent in the Art Club this afternoon was absolutely joyful and creative. There were so many students, that some had spilled over into the next room. I hope that you all get a chance to do something creative that you love during this festive period like our students in the Art Club.

We have a wide variety of extra curricular clubs for students to take part in, so make sure you check out our lists on our school website and try something new.



Christmas Card Competition

By The Art Department



We're thrilled to announce the winner of this year's Christmas Card Competition!

A huge congratulations to Alexis in Year 10, whose stunning design will be our official Lealands' Christmas card for 2024!

We were blown away by the creativity and effort shown by all our talented students, and narrowing it down to the top entries was no easy task!

Congratulations to our top 5 finalists:

Lealands Christmas Card Competition

Winners

1st Place	Alexis (Year 10)
2nd Place	Abigail (Year 7)
3rd Place	Ella (Year 7)
4th Place	Vienna (Year 7)
5th Place	Danika (Year 7)

Pop Up Penguin Parade Competition

By The Art Department



This winter season we asked the students to make a 3D penguin for our 'Pop up penguin parade' and we've had some fantastic results, see for yourself!



Mindful Art Sessions

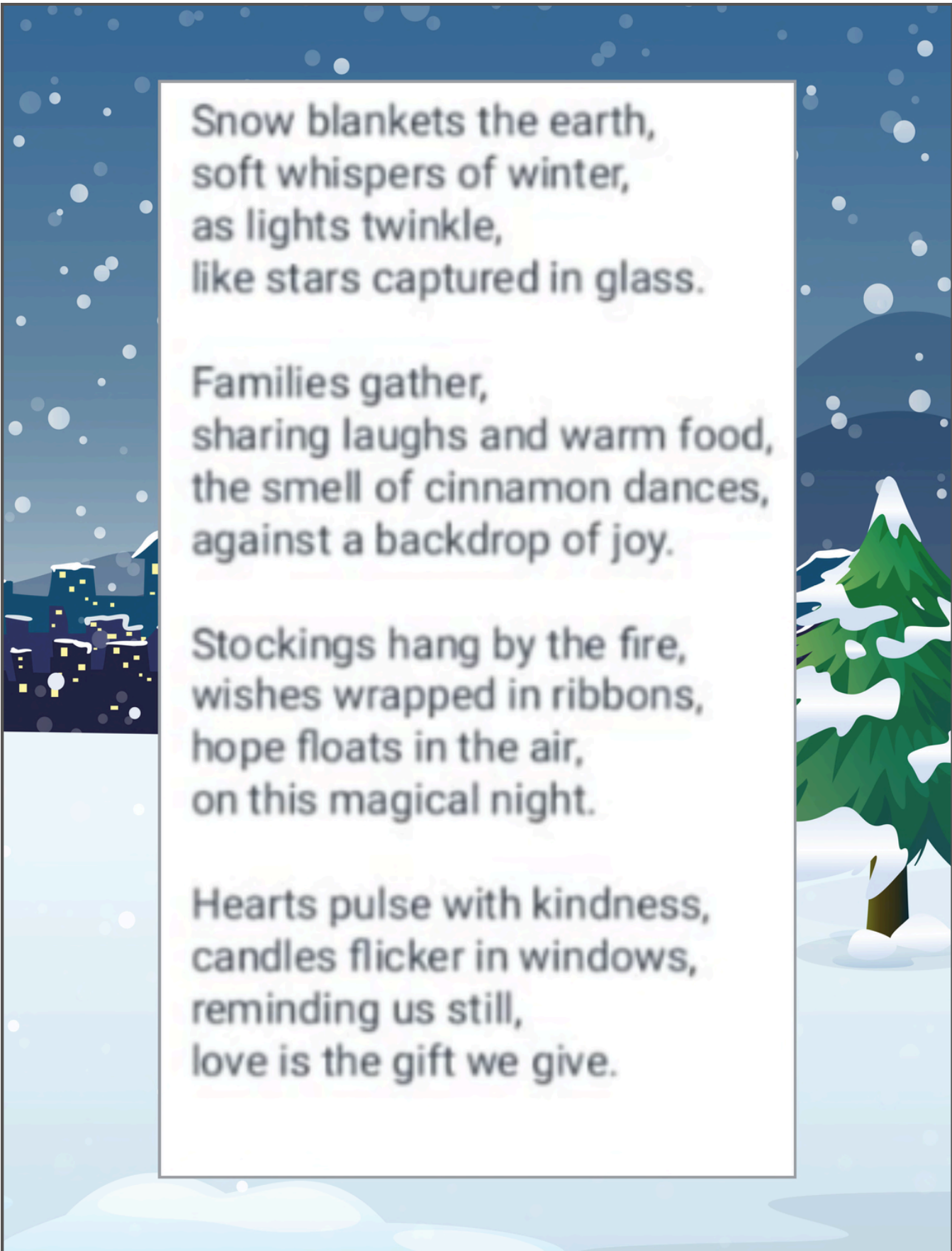
By Mrs Ward-Lindsay, Teacher of Art

This term we have had more students taking part in our therapeutic Mindful Art sessions. The students have created some wonderful pieces of work that celebrate their identity which have not only been fun to make, but have also enabled students to make new friends.



A Christmas Poem

By Mikey L, Year 8



Snow blankets the earth,
soft whispers of winter,
as lights twinkle,
like stars captured in glass.

Families gather,
sharing laughs and warm food,
the smell of cinnamon dances,
against a backdrop of joy.

Stockings hang by the fire,
wishes wrapped in ribbons,
hope floats in the air,
on this magical night.

Hearts pulse with kindness,
candles flicker in windows,
reminding us still,
love is the gift we give.

Highlights From Our Winter Concert

By The Performing Arts Department

On Tuesday 10th December, the stage came alive as our talented students showcased their remarkable skills during the annual Winter Concert. A celebration of performing arts, the event offered a heartwarming mix of singing, instrumental music, acting, and dancing that left the audience in awe.

The Winter Concert wasn't just an opportunity to enjoy the performing arts; it was also a testament to the dedication and hard work of our students and the Performing Arts Department. Each act showcased the result of countless hours spent honing their talents and perfecting their performances.

We would like to thank everyone who made the event possible—from the students and teachers to the behind-the-scenes crew. A special thanks goes to the families and friends who came out to support the performers and celebrate their achievements.



"The Winter Concert was a celebration of creativity and hard work, showcasing the incredible talents of our students."





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Monday - Thursday & Saturday
10AM - 2PM



Blue Peris Trip 2024

By Miss Walker



We are thrilled to share the wonderful experiences our students had during their recent week-long trip to Blue Peris Outdoor Centre. Nestled in the heart of Snowdonia, this adventure-filled retreat provided an incredible backdrop for our students to engage in a variety of outdoor activities that fostered teamwork, resilience, and a love for nature. Throughout the week, students participated in a range of exhilarating activities.

They kicked off their adventure with slate mining, where students delved into the region's rich industrial history. They explored the fascinating world of slate production, learning about the tools and techniques used by miners in the past. This hands-on experience connected them to the local heritage and sparked discussions about sustainability and the environment.

Next, the group took on the thrilling challenge of sea level traversing. This activity not only required physical strength but also mental agility, as students navigated along the rocky coastline. The experience of climbing and balancing on the cliffs, with the crashing waves below, was both exhilarating and empowering.

The adventure continued with an engaging session in mountain climbing, where our students challenged themselves on the rugged terrains; learning essential skills in navigation and safety while enjoying breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape. The sense of achievement felt by each student as they reached the summit was truly inspiring!

Finally, the week culminated in an exciting gorge walking adventure. Students splashed through crystal-clear waters, navigated rocky obstacles, and embraced the thrill of nature as they trekked through the gorge. This activity not only built their confidence, but also highlighted the importance of teamwork, as they encouraged one another to tackle the challenges they faced along the way.

The trip to Blue Peris was not just about the activities; it was also an opportunity for students to bond, make lasting friendships, and create unforgettable memories. As we reflect on this incredible week, we encourage our students to carry the lessons learned into their daily lives—embracing challenges, supporting one another, and appreciating the beauty of the great outdoors. Thank you for your continued support!

Superstar Year 11 mathematicians reaching beyond GCSEs!

By Mr Mason, Assistant Headteacher

24 Year 11 students are undertaking an extra qualification in further mathematics. These students are tackling problems which would normally be learnt in Year 12 at A-Level; but these students are taking the extra qualification in their own time in Year 11. The material is challenging, and fun, and is a real test of their ability and determination.

The qualification is called the AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics and is seen as a stepping stone between GCSE and A-Level. Many of the students who studied the qualification in the last few years, have come back to Lealands and told us how easy the Maths A-Level is! This is largely due to the fact that they are pre-learning a large amount of the A-Level course.

There are 6 major topic areas, 4 of which are continuation of the GCSE course, and 2 which are brand new to the students. These are: number, algebra, coordinate geometry, geometry, calculus (new) and matrices (new).

Students have been revelling in the challenge and have been succeeding with some of the most tricky questions Year 11 students will see on any of their courses. I have included a question which students (and parents/carers) are welcome to try to test their mathematical skills. If students can work out the answer and show their full working, please let me know! I look forward to seeing you with your answers soon!

Solve the simultaneous equations

$$2x + y = 13$$

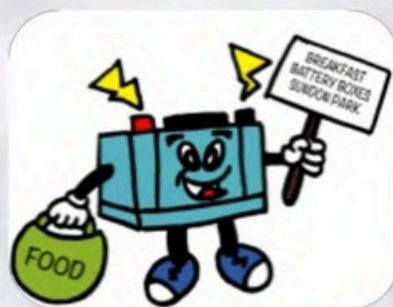
$$x + 3z = 2$$

$$z - 2y = -7$$

Do not use trial and improvement.

You must show your working.

$x =$ _____ $y =$ _____ $z =$ _____



BREAKFAST BATTERY BOXES CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS 2024

(in association with Friends of Leagrave Park & Sundon Park Baptist Church)

We provide healthy, hearty breakfast boxes to support local families during school holidays

#FIGHTINGHOLIDAYHUNGER

Please visit our hub at Sundon Park Baptist Church, 244 Sundon Park Road, Luton, LU3 3AL if you need support

COLLECTION DATES & TIMES

(Please note, its one collection a week & bring your own bags)

Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th, From: 9:30am-11am

Monday 30th & Tuesday 31st, From: 9:30am-11am

ITEMS WE NEED:

Cereal, Long-Life Milk, Bread/Bagels, Jam/Spreads, Fruit Juice/Squash, Baked Beans, Eggs, Pancake Mix/Flour, Fresh Fruit, Christmas Treats.

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