

Headteacher's Message - Adele Christofi

What a fantastic week of celebrations we have had! The week started with Monday's Winter Concert, where the theme of the evening was 'Community' one of our core values. The hall was appropriately decorated and filled to the brim with parents, students and governors. The evening performance showcased singers, drummers and the wonderful steel pan band. Mr Sahbaz played the caz with Arin and it was a fabulous duet. The evening was complimented by a range of dramatic monologues and duologues that students had been completing as part of their Thursday enrichment programme. As I sat there watching the students, I was filled with pride at the array of creative talent and confidence. The performing arts are a crucial part of the curriculum and Monday's event was testament to its importance. I'd like to say a huge thank you and well done to Mr Christofides, Head of Performing Arts and Ms Dimitratou our drama teacher, who did an excellent job of coordinating the event. Well done to all of the students who took part.

Tuesday was a busy day of celebrations! We continued with our achievement assemblies and Year 11 were awarded a range of awards, whilst Year 8 received them during Monday's assembly. It was great to see so many students being awarded and the happiness on their faces when their names were called out. I was also honoured to have received an award myself for leadership and ambition, which was presented to me by Mr Mautner, our Chair of Governors in the Year 11 assembly, it was a very well kept secret! Thank you to those who nominated me - I am proudly wearing my bronze commendation lanyard badge. Tuesday's celebrations continued with hot chocolate and cookies for meeting the threshold of character points. We also finished the day with the Year 10 Vs Year 11 basketball match, and it was a great game! There was excellent play, great competition and fantastic sportsmanship! It was close, especially at the 3rd quarter, however Year 11 kept pressing and finished with a 64-53 win! Thanks to Mr London for refereeing, and to Mr Gallagher and Mr Sroka for coaching the teams.

Wednesday was Christmas day at LPS! We had students and staff in festive jumpers with all donations going to the Children's charity. The day included a festive lunch, staff helping to serve students and a general warm atmosphere. There were some great jumpers and really showcased the school's spirit! Many thanks to Chef Dan for cooking Christmas dinner for the whole school - I struggle cooking for my own family let alone 600 hundred students!!

I'd like to say a few thank yous and goodbyes. Mr Gallagher will be leaving us to move to a school closer to home, where he will also take up a promotion as a Head of Year. We'd like to say a big thankyou to Mr Gallagher for his contribution to both PE and Geography. He will be missed by both staff and students; we wish him all the best in his new role. I'd like to welcome Mr Khan, who has started with us in the PE department, who I am sure will be a great addition to our school. Likewise, I'd like to say a temporary goodbye to Mrs Tansley, who is going on maternity leave. I'd like to say a big thank you to Mrs Tansley for her work both in the PE department and on the Senior Leadership Team. We look forward to hearing about the two new additions to her family.

Finally, I'd just like to say a big well done to all of our students for completing their first term as Laurel Park School. Thank you to all staff for their hard work, commitment and dedication to the school and helping us to drive up standards. Thank you to parents for supporting school events, policies and also helping to celebrate our students. Wishing you all a safe and peaceful break.

Message from Mrs Tansley

As many of you know, I will be taking some time out from Laurel Park School to have twin boys due in January. This is my last newsletter for a while and I will be handing over the reins to Ms Gray in school who will do an excellent job at sharing our school highlights with you. I would like to thank all the lovely parents that often give me very positive feedback about our newsletter.



The Penguin Competition Winners!



Shri Nila
in Year 7



Leonardo
in Year 8



Riyansh
in Year 9



Alfonso
in Year 10

Hot chocolate and cookies

Well done to the students that were awarded hot chocolate and cookies with Ms Christofi and Miss Bignell on Tuesday as a result of achieving more than 270 Character Card points this term. 120 students in total enjoyed the celebration which is a record number and a fantastic testament to all the hard work going on in school in relation to our values of Integrity, Determination, Excellence and Ambition.



Our New Minibus!

We took delivery this week of our new school minibus!

We have waited a long time for this so it was very exciting to finally have it on the school site!



Headteacher's Commendations



This week we have celebrated the first termly **Headteacher's Commendations Awards**. With more than 71 nominations, the panel had a tough meeting deciding who would win the first batch of awards. We are delighted to share the winners and their reasons for winning below.

Nita in Year 7 (Ambition) for making a significant contribution to our first Laurel Park Open Evening.

Alex in Year 9 (Integrity) for being a fantastic buddy to a new student in his year group, liaising with teachers and really helping the new student settle into school life.

Maria in Year 10 (Determination & Excellence) for consistent achievement and dedication both within school and outside of school in her sporting excellence.

Casey in Year 11 (Ambition) for making a significant contribution to our first Laurel Park Open Evening

Aaliyah in Year 11 (Ambition) for being hardworking, self-motivated and making the right choices. She has high aspirations and is working hard for her GCSE's.

Mr Leith (Ambition) for giving up a lot of lunches and after school slots to support the Year 11 History students.

Egidijus in Year 11 (Excellence) for determination and sporting excellence, playing GK for Southgate AFC for the past 5 years.

Alex in Year 8 (Determination) for making the right choices, motivated to overcome barriers and applies a lot of work and effort to become the best version of himself.

Miss Gamble (Determination) for tearing her achilles yet still coming into school as much as she could, setting good cover work and showing dedication to her department.

Mrs Tansley (Integrity) for all her hard work and commitment to the rebranding of the school and its transition to Laurel Park.

Olivia in Year 11 (Determination) for working really hard at school and is thriving since she joined.

Ezgi in Year 7 (Determination) for progressing through secondary school with awareness of her responsibilities and great determination.

Mrs Elsom (Excellence) for contribution to the rebrand of the school in terms of financial organisation and preparation.

Fatoumata in Year 7 (Ambition) for making a significant contribution to our first Laurel Park Open Evening.

Yuliia in Year 9 (Integrity) for always being polite, friendly and looking out for others. A great person to have in Mr Marston's tutor group.

Ms West (Determination) for working very hard in school, very committed to her teaching and represents the department extremely well.

Ms Gibson (Integrity) for being well respected by students and understanding the people around her.

Nyiah in Year 10 (Determination) for showing resilience and motivation despite challenge circumstances.

Victory in Year 7 (Ambition) for making a significant contribution to our first Laurel Park Open Evening.

Zoe in Year 11 (Ambition) for performing to an exceptional standard at high profile school events including Open Evening and the Laurus Nobilis Awards.

Vahid in Year 11 (Integrity) for reviewing a school process, identifying areas for improvement and made recommendations, which were actioned by Ms Christofi.

Ms Pitsillis (Determination) for always finding time for everyone, despite having a very high workload. She is one of the most organised members of staff in school.

Headteacher's Commendations



Continued...

David in Year 11 (Determination & Excellence) for being hugely motivated for his GCSEs, consistently demonstrating a positive attitude and willingness to go the extra mile.

Titus in Year 10 (Integrity) for being a fantastic ambassador for the school and its values. Always attentive, polite and diligent around school.

Alice in Year 7 (Integrity) for making a fantastic start to school by actively volunteering in school life.

Riyansh in Year 9 (Ambition) for performing the piano to an exceptional standard at high profile school events including Open Evening and the Laurus Nobilis Awards.

Niki in Year 11 (Integrity) for her involvement in school life and representing the school. Her commitment to her studies and extra-curricular experiences is exceptional.

Idriss in Year 11 (Determination) for having a very positive attitude to learning and working exceptionally hard across his subjects.

Keiran in Year 9 (Excellence) for fantastic dedication to trampolining both in and out of school.

Adem in Year 7 (Ambition) for making a significant contribution to our first Laurel Park Open Evening.

Perla in Year 11 (Determination) for always being inquisitive, wanting to learn and improve her subject knowledge. She will always make time to listen to others.

Mr Jebri (Excellence) for his contribution to preparing the school facilities for the rebrand launch.

Kenny in Year 10 (Integrity) for working very hard, helping out at lunchtimes and representing the school at events.

Nita in Year 7 (Ambition) for making a significant contribution to our first Laurel Park Open Evening.



Christmas Lunch

We celebrated our Christmas Lunch on Wednesday this week. An extra long lunch break meant that everyone received a festive cracker along with a delicious Roast Turkey, roast vegetables, stuffing, yorkshire pudding and gravy. Thank you to Chef Dan for making it happen! And thank you to our prefects for doing an excellent job of serving the food.



YEAR 10 VS YEAR 11 BASKETBALL MATCH

Well done to Year 11 who won the match 64 points to 53. It was a fantastic game. Next up in the new year is Y10 v Y11 netball and a basketball re-match!



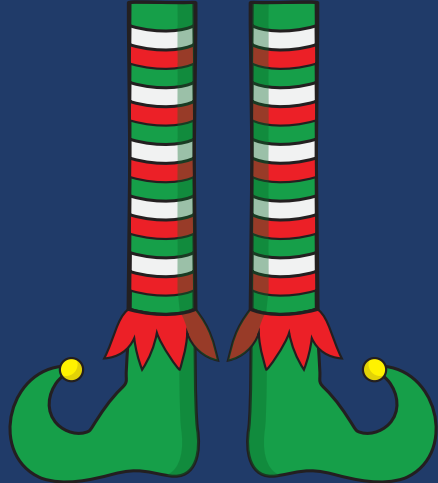
Careers Corner

After Christmas, Year 9s will be starting the process of making their choices for Key Stage 4 at Laurel Park. They will have assemblies from different subject leaders about how the course is run and have taster lessons in subjects so they get an idea of what to expect in that lesson.

All students will have access a 1:1 careers interview with an independent careers advisor about how the subjects they pick could have an impact on any future careers path they may wish to take. Year 9 PSHE lessons for half term 3 will also help and support them with this decision making process.

On **Wednesday 21st February** we will have an **Options Evening** where you will be invited to school to ask any questions you might have about the process or the subjects on offer. You will also be given a booklet explaining the process and giving you details about the subjects, including exam boards and exam criteria. Students will then use Google Classroom to complete their Options form, of which the deadline will be **Friday 8th March 2024**.

More details will be sent out by letter.

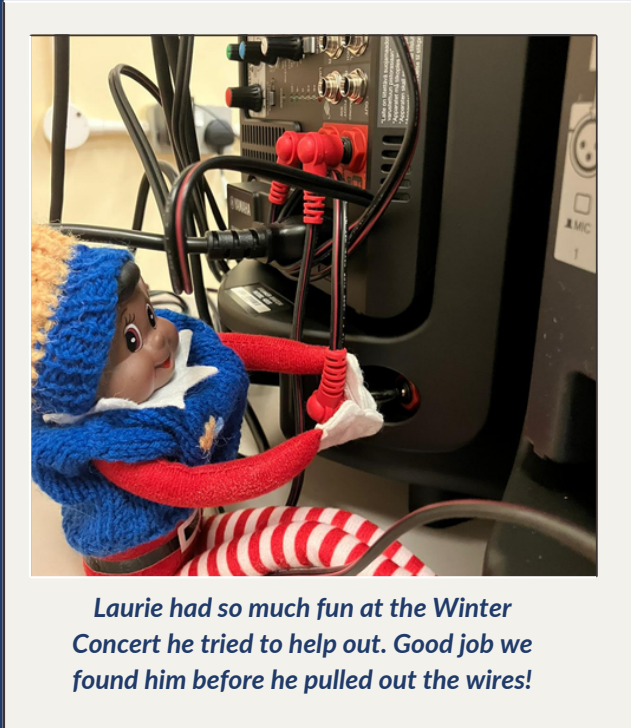


LAURIE THE ELF!

We are delighted to share that Laurie has seen the error of his ways and will be leaving Laurel Park on Thursday to go back to the North Pole, with a Headteacher's Award for his improved behaviour



Laurie is auditioning to Mr Christofides for our Winter Concert tonight. Will he make it into the performance schedule?



Laurie had so much fun at the Winter Concert he tried to help out. Good job we found him before he pulled out the wires!



This is quite the present Laurie? Have you brought us back a new minibus from the North Pole?!



It's the last day of term, and Laurie has got his Character Card signed in full. Surely this means he wants to be a good elf not a naughty one from now on?

Ms Christofi has personally congratulated him. And today he leaves us to go back to the North Pole...until next year...



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



Congratulations to Keiran and Trevaun!

Who have both been selected for the London Youth Games Enfield trampolining squad. They now start borough training and will represent Enfield on the 26th January. We are very proud of you!

