

A ROUND UP OF THE WEEK AT LAUREL PARK SCHOOL

Headteacher's Message - Adele Christofi

Dear Laurel Park Community,

What an absolutely incredible week we've had here at Laurel Park! I'm genuinely thrilled to share with you the wonderful events and achievements that have made this such a memorable time for our entire school community.

We had the privilege of welcoming our Chinese visitors this week, who have been completely immersed in the British education system. I must say, our Laurel Park Ambassadors have been absolutely fantastic hosts, truly embodying the welcoming spirit that makes our school so special. Their dedication and enthusiasm have been remarkable to witness.

Our sports day was nothing short of spectacular! The participation and effort from everyone involved was outstanding, and I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Mr Sroka and his team for organising such a brilliant event. A special thank you also goes to our year 11 sports pupils who came back to help – their support was invaluable and showed the strong bonds that continue beyond their time with us.

Tuesday brought an exciting adventure as our entire school ventured out to either Whipsnade Zoo or Thorpe Park. This was a superb opportunity where our pupils behaved excellently and truly showcased the values of our school. I couldn't have been prouder of how they represented Laurel Park throughout the day.

Wednesday's culture day was particularly close to my heart, celebrating identity and fostering a real sense of belonging within our community. Pupils came to school proudly wearing their cultural attire, and we were treated to a wonderful steel pans showcase. The day was topped off with a Greek cuisine themed lunch featuring pastitsio, vegetarian moussaka, Greek salad, and cultural music. My sincere thanks to Chef Stavrou for creating such a superb feast that brought everyone together.

We also celebrated our incredible staff this week with our end of term BBQ, where we awarded the Headteacher commendations. It was genuinely heart-warming to see so many pupils nominating their teachers and support staff, simply saying 'thank you'. At this point, I'd like to say a big thank you to Ms Robertshaw and Mrs Cuba for all their work in our school. Both teachers will be moving to pastures new next academic year, and we wish them all the best in the next chapter of their lives.

Speaking of staff well-being, several colleagues enjoyed a fantastic day at Wimbledon last Saturday, sitting on Henman Hill and watching live play on court 1. It was my first experience there, and it proved to be a wonderful way to build bonds with colleagues.

Friday brought the excitement of our Golden Ticket raffle, where pupils had to be in school to stand a chance of receiving their prize. We held a live stream with pupils coming to the conference room to collect their prizes – this will reset again in September.

I'm delighted to share some outstanding individual achievements: Kieran in year 10 became National champion in trampolining in his age category last weekend, and Talia in year 10 secured 2nd place in a dance competition where she faced fierce competition. These accomplishments truly reflect the talent and dedication of our pupils.

Finally, all parents will be receiving a letter outlining the programme for the start of September, featuring a staggered return to ensure a rigorous induction programme.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish everyone a safe and peaceful summer and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Adele Christofi
Headteacher

Start of Term Schedule – September Week 1

Monday 1st: INSET Day (Staff only) & Sixth Form Enrolment

Tuesday 2nd: Year 7 start (normal time) & Year 12 Enrolment

Wednesday 3rd: Year 7 continue (normal time)

Thursday 4th: Years 8–11 return, Year 12 & 13 Induction Day, Year 7 Home Learning

Friday 5th: Whole school in (Years 7–13)

Back to
School

“

This week, we celebrated an incredible Sports Day, and what a fantastic event it was! Our students gave it their all, showing amazing talent, determination, and enthusiasm across every race and activity.

A huge well done to all students who took part – your effort and enthusiasm made the day unforgettable. Congratulations to those who earned medals and to everyone who demonstrated such brilliant team spirit!

A massive thank you to the entire PE Team, as well as all staff for their support in making the day run so smoothly.
– well done, everyone!

Mr Sroka (Head of PE)

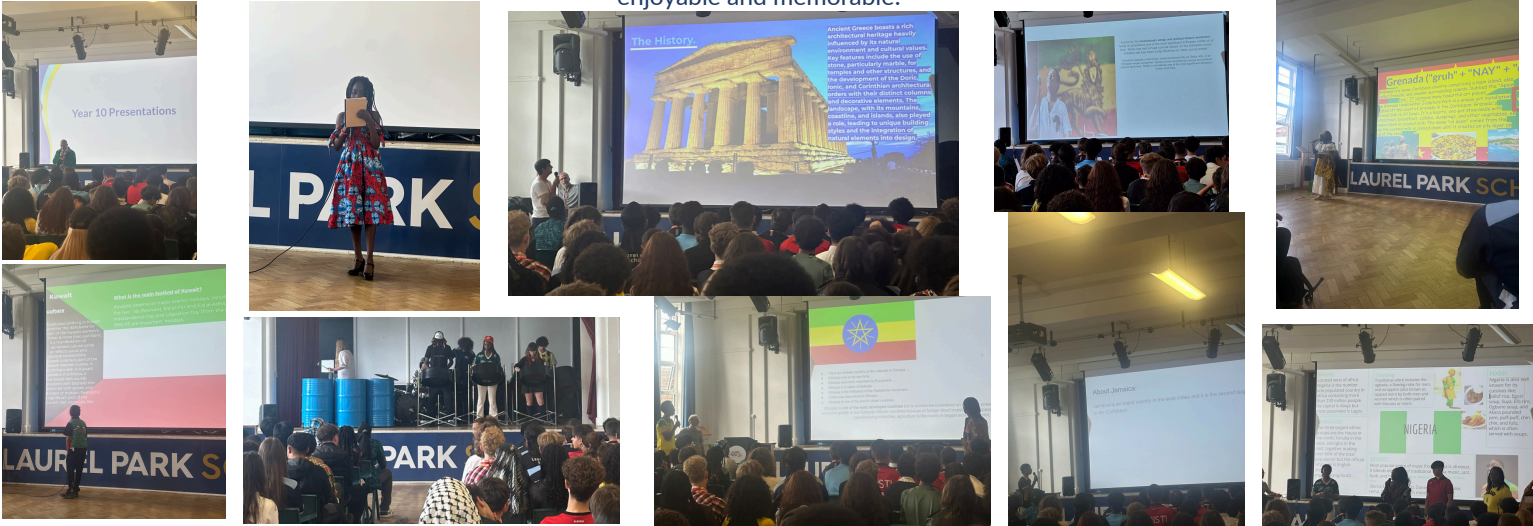
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This week, our students enjoyed some fantastic end-of-term trips! Years 7 and 8 had an amazing time exploring Whipsnade Zoo, discovering incredible animals and learning along the way, while Years 9 and 10 spent an exciting day at Thorpe Park, filled with laughter, thrills and unforgettable memories. Both trips were a huge success and the perfect way to end the school term. Our students had so much fun and represented the school brilliantly. Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday – see you next term!



On Wednesday 16th, we celebrated Culture Day – a wonderful event that brought our school community together. Students and teachers dressed in traditional outfits representing their cultures, creating a vibrant and colourful atmosphere. We held a special assembly where students showcased presentations about their heritage, giving us an insightful glimpse into different traditions and backgrounds. It was truly beautiful to see and learn about the diversity that makes our school so unique. A huge well done to everyone for making the day so enjoyable and memorable!



This week, our Year 12 students have been taking part in work experience, gaining valuable, hands-on insight into the world of work. Our students have spent time at various leisure locations, including Waltham Forest Feel Good Centre, Leytonstone Leisure Centre, Walthamstow Leisure Centre, Albany Leisure Centre, and Nuffield Health Friern Barnet, West Lea Primary School and within our very own Laurel Park Beauty Centre. Throughout the week, our students have shown excellent professionalism, developed industry-specific skills, and proved to be real assets to their placements. We're especially proud of Samuel in Year 12, who has even been offered a weekend job in recognition of his outstanding work this week!



Congratulations to Miss Bignell who was shortlisted for this year's Good School Food Awards - Superhero School Food Leader. She was shortlisted for her work in revolutionising the meal offer at Laurel Park School - through The Bay Leaf Restaurant - ensuring that our students have access to nutritious, delicious and healthy meals with no junk and ensuring that no student ever goes hungry. We know that she and Miss Pitsilis have big plans for The Bay Leaf Restaurant and we cannot wait to see what happens next year!



Student Success Story!



We are so proud of our students who have achieved incredible success in their recent competitions! Keiran represented London at the Inter-Regional Trampoline Finals and came 1st place – National Champion! What an amazing accomplishment – well done, Keiran!

Talia wowed the judges in one of the toughest dance competitions she's ever faced. She achieved 2nd place out of 6 for her solo performance, and that's not all – in her group dances, she earned 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places out of 8 groups! Absolutely fantastic results, Talia!

We are beyond proud of both Keiran and Talia for their talent, hard work, and determination.

Thursday the 10th of July saw our intrepid horse riders have their final session. Enjoying the sunshine and their new found confidence our riders took off to the outside track to enjoy the sunshine. We even made a new friend when the smallest horse at the centre decided to join us! After a lovely ride we treated the horses with some mints which apparently are their favourites! We would like to thank Mark for all his great work with the Laurel Park Students and Trent Park Equestrian centre for hosting us.



Just before the summer break, we're delighted to announce the completion of the sports hall upgrade – transforming it from a 3-court to a 5-court facility. This significant improvement enhances our PE provision and broadens sporting opportunities for all students.

The project was made possible thanks to funding from London Sport, secured earlier this year. A big thank you to Matt for coordinating the installation and to Ally for her amazing work in securing the funding and maximising its impact for the school.

This marks the final step in our investment into school sporting facilities, providing students with new and improved opportunities to participate, perform and enjoy sport.



Character Education focus of the week

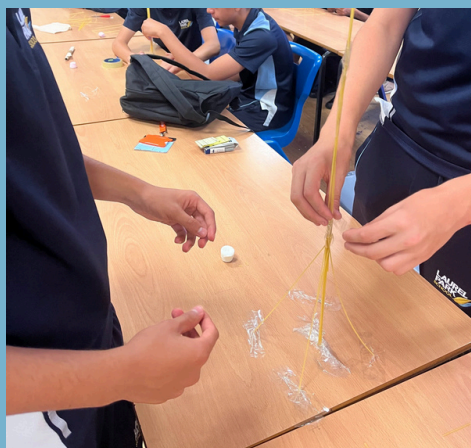
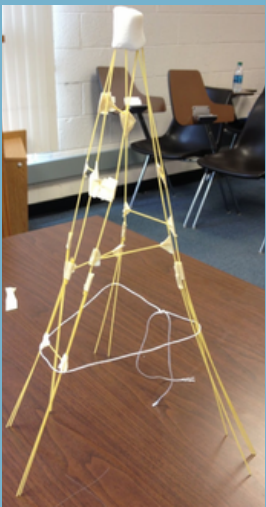
Year 9 Teamwork Challenge

The Spaghetti Tower

Last week, Year 9 students explored the Skill of Teamwork through the famous Spaghetti Tower Challenge, created by Peter Skillman and used at top universities worldwide, including Stanford and UC Berkeley, as well as by major companies like Amazon and Microsoft.

The activity challenged students to build the tallest freestanding structure using spaghetti, tape, and marshmallows. It highlighted key teamwork principles such as iteration, prototyping, role distribution, effective communication, and revealed the dangers of hidden assumptions (like underestimating spaghetti's weight!).

An engaging and hands-on experience, the challenge strengthened collaboration skills and gave students a taste of real-world problem-solving.



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your place

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FREE TICKETS TO LONDON'S BIGGEST IMMERSIVE PRODUCTION – STOREHOUSE

Sage & Jester, the creators of STOREHOUSE, are offering young people the chance to experience London's most ambitious immersive theatre production for free this summer!

Set inside a former newspaper warehouse, STOREHOUSE invites you to explore a vast, 9,000m² archive containing every story, memory, and meme ever transmitted. It's an extraordinary journey that will leave you questioning truth, trust, and the digital world.



Venue: Deptford Storehouse



Performances until: 22nd August 2025



Age recommendation: 12+

What's on offer:

Claim up to 4 FREE tickets per booking using this link:

[Book Here](#)

For larger groups, email: hello@theschooltrip.co.uk

Find out more:

[Watch the audience reactions](#)

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STOREHOUSE

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visit

**Holiday activities and food
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*Free for those in receipt of benefits
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ENFIELD
Council



Dear Parent and Carer,

As we approach the summer holidays, we want to ensure you are aware of the support available to help your children thrive and stay safe. Enfield Council and its partners offer various activities and services for children's wellbeing and development.

Positive enrichment activities:

Summer University

Fantastic range of fun and learning courses and activities for 11–19-year-olds (up to 25 for those with SEND). More info:
www.youthenfield.taptub.co.uk/summeruni25

Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

Free activities and meals for children eligible for free school meals. To book a place for your child at an activity, you will need to be in receipt of a HAF voucher. Enfield schools will issue these vouchers to eligible families. Once vouchers have been issued, you will receive a text or email from hello@holidaysactivities.com to confirm you have been issued a voucher. Website: [Holiday activities and food programme | Enfield Council](#)

Youth Offer: youth clubs, positive activities, projects and mentoring

A diverse range of youth offer and support for young people aged 11-19 (up to 25 with SEND). More info: <https://youthenfield.taptub.co.uk/> [Enfield's local offer for SEND | Enfield Council](#)

Specialist Support:

Insight Enfield : Drug and alcohol misuse support. Contact: 020 8360 9102,

Email: insightenfield@waythrough.org.uk Telephone: 020 8360 9102,
Website: [Insight Enfield SORT IT! - Waythrough](#)

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

STAYING SAFE AROUND WATER

Enjoying time in, on, and around water plays a vital role in a young person's overall development, offering a healthy and exhilarating way to have fun. This guide outlines essential safety advice, based on the Royal Life Saving Society UK's Water Safety Code, to help ensure children can enjoy swimming and similar activities safely and responsibly.

1 STICK TO LIFEGUARDED AREAS

It's never advisable to enter unsupervised bodies of water, especially alone. Instead, it's considered best practice to accompany children to places with lifeguards, as they will be trained to respond swiftly in emergencies and provide first aid when needed.



2 LEARN SIGNS AND FLAGS

When going to a new environment, it's important to research the local area and make children aware of safety signage before entering the water. If visiting the seaside, make sure children are always supervised by an adult and that they know what different beach flags mean, so they're knowledgeable of where and when they can enter the sea.



3 STOP AND THINK

Young people should be cautious before entering water, as it's difficult to know what hazards could be underneath. Use the Water Safety Code and encourage children to ask themselves questions such as, "Is the water too deep or too shallow? Are there currents, tides, or underwater objects?" Make sure children know never to enter water from a height, as what lurks below could cause serious injuries.



4 CONSIDER WATER TEMPERATURE

Even on hot days, water can be deceptively cold. Tragedies strike when young people experience cold water shock. Never let children enter water quickly; instead, ensure that they enter slowly and carefully to allow their bodies to adjust to the temperature or exit easily if needed.



5 INFLATABLE SAFETY

Although inflatables may seem like a fun idea when visiting locations like the beach, they can float further out from shore and into more dangerous water. It's advisable only to use inflatables in spaces like appropriately managed swimming pools, where they're used in more controlled and supervised environments.



6 SUPERVISION IS KEY



For young children, and particularly those under the age of five, it's important for them to be supervised at home, outside and at the pool at all times. It's essential for parents and educators to understand that young children can drown quickly and silently; therefore, anyone supervising them must maintain constant watch in case they get into difficulty.

7 DON'T GO TOO FAR



When swimming, especially in open water, it's best to teach children to stay within a safe depth. Share advice with them such as only entering water up to a standing depth, and in the case of visiting the beach, swim parallel to shorelines. This will allow a child to stay in control and get out of the water easily.

8 KEEP POOLS AND TUBS DRAINED



For parents of young children, a simple way to protect them at home is to keep outdoor spaces and bathrooms tidy after playtime. This includes removing water from paddling pools after use and turning them over, returning lids to hot tubs and taking toys out of baths, so all water can be fully drained from the tub.

9 FLOAT AND CALL 999



If a child gets into difficulty in the water, they should try to float on their back, stay calm, and call for help. If a young person sees someone else in trouble, they should dial 999 or 112 immediately, then shout to reassure their friend, encouraging them to float on their back, and letting them know that help is on the way. Children should never enter the water to attempt a rescue or retrieve belongings.

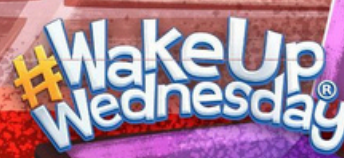
10 TEACH WATER SAFETY



Beyond swimming lessons, children should be educated in school on water safety. Use RLSS UK's accredited programme, 'Water Smart Schools', which offers free lesson plans and resources on how to be safe on, near and around water by following the Water Safety Code.

Meet Our Expert

The Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) is a national water safety charity that gives children the chance to enjoy a lifetime of fun in the water, safely. Water safety education provided in schools is vital and, in some instances, could be a child's only opportunity to learn about the water.



The National College