



NEWSLETTER

A ROUND UP OF THE WEEK AT LAUREL PARK SCHOOL

Headteacher's Message - Adele Christofi

This week has been yet another great week at Laurel Park School. On Monday of this week, a number of Year 8 students performed their final showcase of work having worked alongside the Rudolph Walker Foundation. Rudolph Walker (AKA Patrick from Eastenders) set up the foundation having seen how the performing arts changed his life. He wanted to establish a legacy, where young people can use the performing arts to overcome obstacles and challenges in life, whilst building self-esteem and celebrating achievement. Since September, the group of young people dedicated their time every Wednesday, once the rest of the school had an early finish, to work with professional actors and facilitators from the Rudolph Foundation to devise and re-work extracts of script for performance. They focussed on issues that were relevant to them and the stage gave them a platform and a voice. The work was inspirational, authentic and showcased the talent that we have in Year 8. What I was most proud of was the bravery to stand on stage, the professionalism in the group as a performance company and the confidence that they delivered their performance with. Performing to a live audience is challenging for the most experienced of actors, yet our Year 8s did it with flair. I'd like to say a huge thank you to all of the facilitators who came in and worked with our students every week and put on a great show, supported by a fab soundtrack! I am hoping that all of the students in the showcase consider doing Drama GCSE as they would do incredibly well!

This week has marked Children's Mental Health week, an opportunity to make this a focus and to ensure our young people are looking after themselves and talking to people when they are worried about something. Children's mental health can be impacted by so many things, we have seen a rise in mental health concerns as a result of Covid and because of children spending too much time on their mobile phones. As parents, we need to ensure that we limit screen time and encourage our young people to engage in face to face discussions and to get outside to exercise. This week we have had health drop in clinics with our school nurse, which students have access to, if they need to talk to someone about any concerns. Likewise, students can self-refer to a platform called Kooth (www.kooth.com), which is an online counselling service. There are always people to talk to in school, or students can get in touch via SHARP, which is located on the school's website.

This week also saw the second half of Year 10 go to Epping Forest to complete their fieldwork for their Geography GCSE. Students in Year 10 study both physical and human Geography and as part of their work, have to complete field study work for a specific aspect of their GCSE written exam. Thank you to Ms Anscomb, Ms Nash and Mr Akubuko who coordinated and accompanied the trips, enabling our students to collate that all important research.

Year 11s are very much into the preparation for their next cycle of mock exams. I was pleased to hear of so many students attending Saturday maths intervention classes, delivered by Mrs Mohamed. Students and staff giving up their weekend shows complete dedication and commitment. Likewise, attendance at after school interventions has been very good, and students are utilising every opportunity to maximise their potential. The second round of mock exams starts on the 26th February and there will be revision and intervention classes on over half term to prepare for this. So let's support our young people by ensuring that they are spending less time on social media and more time filling their brains with things that count!

Wishing you all a safe and peaceful half term.

**After half term it
will be Week 2**



LABOUR

DEFINITION

Noun:

1. work, especially physical work
2. all the people who work for a company or in a country
3. the process of giving birth to a baby

SYNONYMS

- Employment
- Industry
- Childbirth

SENTENCES

1. The garage charges £30 an hour for labour.
2. We need to reduce our labour costs.
3. Meg was in labour for ten hours.

ETYMOLOGY

Middle English: from Old French labour (noun), labourer (verb), both from Latin labor 'toil, trouble'.

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 21st: Year 9 Options Evening
Monday 26th: Beginning of Year 11 Mock exams

Tuesday 27th February: Year 10 London Careers Festival trip

Wednesday 28th February: GCSE Drama trip to Metamorphosis



Character Education focus of the week

New month, new virtue!

This month's Virtue is **Critical Thinking**

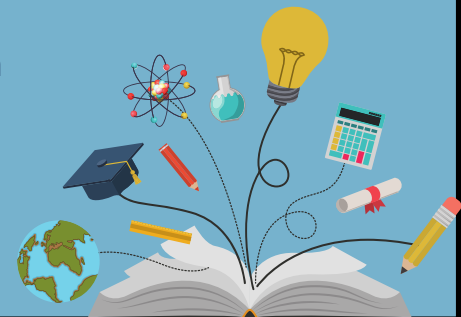
Critical Thinking is the ability to think reflectively and to come to independent conclusions

"Reserve your right to think, for even to think wrongly is better than not to think at all." - Hypatia of Alexandria

This weeks' value is **integrity**

How can **Critical Thinking** help us achieve **Integrity**?

- Through critical thinking you might find out you made mistakes. Show integrity and tell the truth about it even if it's difficult.
- Critical thinking allows you to understand that everyone has their own point of view. This will help you to show integrity and treat everyone equally no matter if you agree with them or not.
- Critical thinking helps you explain your thought process behind a decision. Sharing information openly will help you achieve integrity.



Headteacher's Award

At the end of each week, selected form tutors choose one student from their form for the 'Headteacher's Award'. In a special ceremony with Ms Christofi, she shares the 'story behind their success' with the winning recipients. The students also receive a special certificate and pin badge to commemorate the achievement.

Congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 winners from this week who received a great surprise to find out they had won these new prestigious awards!



Year 7 Winners

Milo wins for integrity - Milo embodies all of the school's values. Milo is an excellent student and peer; he is always helpful, polite and hardworking. Milo is always there to support his peers and does so with so much care. It is a pleasure to have Milo in our form.

Ahad wins for ambition - Always doing his best in lessons. Tries really hard. Always offers to help. Very charming and polite. Always gets on with his work. And makes the best chicken alfredo!

Nandito wins for integrity - always doing his best in form and in lessons, other students like being around him and he is very helpful.

Urooj wins for excellence - Consistency in everything she does, but also a sense of maturity that goes beyond her years. She is always ready for learning and participating in whatever activity/lesson she has. An exemplary student.



Year 8 Winners

Lisa wins for integrity - Lisa is bright and bubbly and is always willingly to offer help in TTRP. She is always well equipped and is working very hard on her lessons! Very well done.

Reis wins for excellence - Always does the right thing and his behaviour is excellent

Flavia wins for integrity - Flavia always does the right thing and has excellent behaviour inside and out of class

Buse wins for determination - Buse has settled in well to LPS. She is positive in her approach and is working hard in lessons. She is always punctual with the correct uniform and equipment. An excellent start!

Year 10 Geographers get even more muddy!

The rest of the Year 10 Geographers took place on their field study at Epping Forest this week



It was so much better than being in the classroom - Ahn

It was a fun experience seeing a river in real life- Aymn



I feel like I learnt more about rivers - Ryan

Getting in the river was a first time experience which brought Geography to life- Alexandra



YEAR 9 TASTER LESSONS

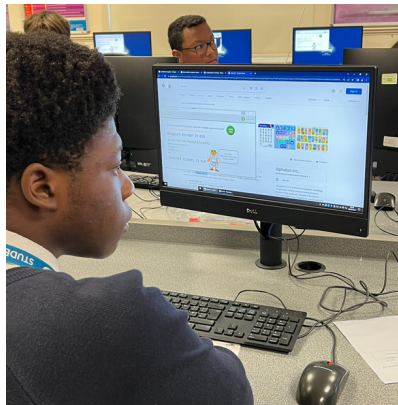
On Thursday all of Year 9 to to try a lesson that they have not had before in preparation for the Options process. It was a brilliant morning - thanks to all the staff who supported!

Students were asked for feedback:

‘Everything was just amazing’

‘I experienced how it would’ve been if i picked this for my GCSE’

‘It made me certain about my choices’



Senior prefects chosen at Laurel Park!



Congratulations to **Niki** and **Idriss** who have been chosen as our first Senior prefects at Laurel Park!

Year 9 Parents Evening

Thank you to everyone who came to Year 9 Parents Evening this week. Don't forget we have our Year 9 Options Evening on **Wednesday 21st February**



THANK YOU
😊



Holler inspire Year 11

Year 11 had an incredibly inspiring assembly about resilience this week in the build up to their next set of mock exams which start on 26th Feb. This was organised by the fantastic Holler

Serena came in and spoke about her own personal journey and how she has overcome her struggles - moving areas, changing careers, end of relationships and recovering from a heart attack. She said no matter what she has never given up and come back stronger every time.

She uses her motto to help - 'think it, believe it; become it'



Children's Mental Health Week

This week is Children's Mental Health Week and all students were reminded in assemblies of where they can go to if they need help, in and out of school:

- <https://www.kooth.com/> - great if you need someone to talk to
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/> - great if you need someone to talk to
- Shout by texting SHOUT to 85258 for free.
- <https://laurelpark.thesharpsystem.com/> - SHARP on the school website, can you use this to report any concerns
- Starting after half term, you can book a drop in session with our school counsellors during Monday and Thursday lunchtime
- You can also speak to any member of staff who can help you



Speak Out Challenge

This week saw Jenny from Year 10 representing Laurel Park at the final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge at Enfield Grammar.

Jenny did absolutely brilliantly on her speech entitled 'Harms and Charms of Social Media'. Well done Jenny!



Jack Petchey's
"SPEAK OUT"
Challenge!

LPS gets reading with its Readathon challenge!

All Year 7-10 students have been encouraged to take part in a Readathon Sponsorship Competition! Students have been invited to read and get sponsored for this, with the money going towards buying books for children in hospitals as well as supporting Laurel Park in buying more books.

More details have been sent in a letter to you earlier this week - it would be great to have your support!

