



NEWSLETTER

A ROUND UP OF THE WEEK AT LAUREL PARK SCHOOL

Headteacher's Message - Adele Christofi

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As we move further into the academic year, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on some of the exciting events and achievements that have taken place at Laurel Park School this week.

Firstly, I am delighted to report that our Year 6-7 online transition evening was a resounding success. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and excitement of our new Year 7 students who asked some fantastic questions during the question and answer session. The evening provided a fantastic opportunity for our staff and students to forge new relationships and set the stage for a smooth transition into secondary school life.

In addition, I had the pleasure of hosting the recent Headteacher's meeting. This gathering of esteemed educational professionals allowed us to share best practices, exchange ideas, and collaborate on initiatives that will benefit our students' academic journey. It was a productive and enriching experience. Heads who visited the school for the first time since we became Laurel Park were very impressed and complimentary about what we have done thus far.

Furthermore, our Year 9 students went to a Digital and Creative careers event in London. This event aimed to inspire and inform our young learners about the vast array of career opportunities within the digital and creative industries. The feedback from both students and industry professionals was overwhelmingly positive, and I am proud of our students' engagement and curiosity throughout the event. Many thanks to Ms Gray and Mrs Xyrizou for supporting our students with this.

As you may know, World Book Day was recently celebrated with great enthusiasm at Laurel Park School. Our dedicated teachers dressed up as their favorite book characters, creating an atmosphere of literary magic and sparking the imaginations of our students. Additionally, we held a school-wide spelling bee, fostering a love for language and encouraging healthy competition among our students.

I would also like to take a moment to celebrate the achievements of our students in the recent debating competition held at LSE. Our students demonstrated exceptional skills in critical thinking, public speaking, and teamwork, resulting in numerous successes. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Mrs. Nicolaou and Mrs. Joseph for accompanying our students on this enriching trip and providing them with invaluable support.

Lastly, I would like to inform you that our Year 7 Parents' Evening is scheduled for Wednesday, 13th March from 3.45pm to 6.15pm. This evening will provide an opportunity for you to meet with your child's teachers, discuss their progress, and address any questions or concerns you may have. We encourage all Year 7 parents to attend this important event.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's education. Together, we can ensure their success and well-being at Laurel Park School.

Enjoy a safe and peaceful weekend,

Ms Christofi
Headteacher

**Next week it
will be week 1**



FORMULA

DEFINITION

Noun:

1. a method or set of principles that you use to solve a problem or to make sure that something is successful
2. a series of numbers or letters that represent a mathematical or scientific rule

SYNONYMS

- Recipe
- Method
- Procedure

SENTENCES

1. We're still searching for a peace formula.
2. Sugar is represented by the simple formula CHO.

ETYMOLOGY

The noun "formula" (1600-1700) Latin "small form", from forma; → [FORM1](#)

MARCH

- Monday 11th: Southern Challenge STEM trip
- Tuesday 12th: Year 6 Taster Day
- Wednesday 13th: Year 9 immunisations; Year 7 Parents Evening
- Thursday 14th: Tina Turner Education Day
- Tuesday 20th: Dance Festival
- Thursday 21st March: Year 10 workshops; Year 9 immunisations; Open morning
- Tuesday 26th: Health drop in clinic

APRIL

- Week beginning 15th April: Year 10 mocks

Character Education focus of the week

New month, new virtue!

This month's Virtue is Friendliness

Friendliness is the quality of being kind, thoughtful or affectionate towards another person

"We have a great relationship all the time. Our relationship didn't change a lot since the beginning because it was always very respectful. The only way the relationship has improved is getting closer. We spend more time together, always being in the [ATP Player] Council, being on court, playing exhibitions together. I don't think it's a rivalry. All these important moments in tennis make you appreciate it more." - Rafael Nadal about Roger Federer

This weeks' value is integrity

How can Friendliness help us achieve Integrity?

- Greet other students and members of staff in the hallways or classrooms
- Invite classmates to join activities or group discussions.
- Offer help to peers who may be struggling with different tasks.
- Help out by holding the door open, or assisting with classroom tasks without being asked.
- Listen attentively to peers and show understanding to their perspectives and feelings even when they do not align with yours.



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 10 and 11 winners from this week who received a great surprise to find out they had won these new prestigious awards!

Year 11 Winners

Mohamed wins for determination - Consistently asking for extra work outside of interventions to make sure he does his very best in his mocks. He has been proactive with bring topics in for P0 intervention making him a great role model for the form on how to utilise his teachers effectively .

Eralda wins for excellence - Eralda has perfect attendance and is always on time. She is always ready to learn and conscientious. She has made great efforts in her mock examinations and has been determined to ensure she progresses. She has taken advantage of all interventions available to her.

Sachelle wins for excellence - Sachelle is a cherished member of LPS. She always strives to be the best version of herself - from the work she produces through to her personable qualities, like her manners, sense of respect, and truthfulness and honesty. She works hard both in and out of school for the benefit of not only herself, but those around her too.

Sonila wins for excellence - Sonila has again worked really hard during this mock period and leading up to her mocks. she has learnt from mock 1 and has independently planned her revision sessions to help her time management . In form she is focused and uses the time wisely to reflect on understanding of text and also to develop her skills. Sonila uses every opportunity to learn and develop her skills

Niki wins for ambition - A superb student who can always be relied upon to help others. She has excellent attendance and punctuality. She assists in firm time and has given up her time to support in TTRP with a Y8 form and has encouraged younger students prepare for debating competition. She has prepared well for her mocks. .

Elifnaz wins for ambition - Perfect attendance and punctuality. Always comes in perfect uniform and is ambitious to do well in her exams by revising a lot and supporting other students as well.

Kayra wins for determination - Reliable, hard working student who consistently demonstrates all of our school values. Kayra is a student who reflects on what is not going well and seeks advice on ways to improve. She cares about her future, she is ambitious and has been studying and revising well.



Year 10 Winners

Diamond wins for determination - Consistent, respectful and always well prepared. He is a great role model and is always willing to give 100% into his work. Great at the debate competition and is a great team player.

Aymn wins for determination - Better work ethic; organisational skills; attendance and punctuality

Nathaniel wins for determination - Respectful, responsible

Shir wins for excellence - Despite being a new student, Shir has quickly become a part of our team. Always helpful, polite and humble, with positive attitude towards learning, he consistently does the right thing. He is truly an asset to our form group.

World Book Day at LPS

Laurel Park School celebrated World Book Day with book swaps, quizzes and spelling bees galore! There were some great outfits from staff to celebrate, especially the English department who you can see pictured below. Lots of the students made use of the library to 'read for Pleasure' and all Year 7 to 9 classes completed a 'Bookflix' activity, with the aim of completing a short Netflix style review of a book



Year 9 immunisations
Year 9s will have their HPV Senior booster jobs on either **Wednesday 13th** or **Thursday 21st March**. Please complete your online consent form if not done so already



Year 7 Parents Evening
This will take place on **Wednesday 13th March from 3.45pm-6.15pm**. All Year 7 parents should be attending to get updates from teachers about your child's progress

Careers Corner

Some incredible opportunities are coming through to give our students some bespoke careers advice for the future:

- Unifrog's University Careers Fair on Wednesday 13th March - further details at the end of this newsletter
- Free Careers taster seminars in the Creative Arts, Psychology, Engineering, Law, Medicine, and Banking - further details at the end of this newsletter

Information and opportunities regarding careers is regularly posted in Google Classroom so it is important students check this regularly to ensure they don't miss out!

Laurel Park Students debating at LSE

On Saturday 2nd March students from Year 8 and Year 10 were selected to attend The ICYD Debating Competition held at the prestigious London School of Economics in Central London. Our students had to follow the British Parliamentary Style of debate which consisted of very strict rules: the ability to express ideas cogently in 5 minutes, learning the art of rebuttal and asking 'Points of Information' at key times within the debate, to name but a few! Our three teams: 'Lightning Logic', 'Arguably Awesome' and 'The Debateinators' all competed in four different rounds and each motion was very challenging. They were up against fierce competition with other more experienced debating teams, however this did not stop them from rising to the challenge and battling hard. One of the highlights of the day was seeing Samet and Reis in Year 8 win their fourth round!



The
National
College®

New feature from The National College

Every week Laurel Park are given information on current issues around keeping children safe. We will now be including this in the weekly newsletter.

This week is about the potential dangers of gaming, particularly the Tekken range of games. Please have a read through and make sure you are keeping your child safe at home



Year 9 Digital and Creative Exhibition

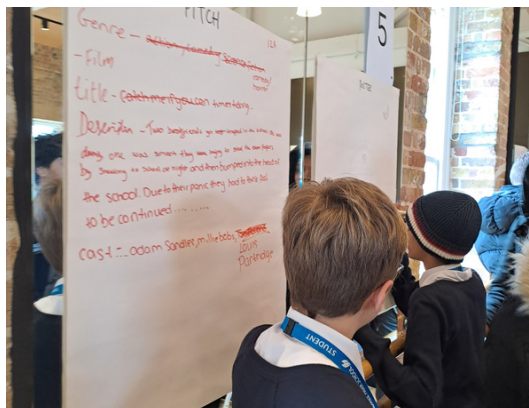
Some Year 9 students had the opportunity to visit Woolwich Works for a Creative and Digital exhibition

They had a bespoke presentation from Netflix, all about how much it has grown since its launch in 2012 and how many different jobs and professions have been created as a result.

The students were then given 30 mins to come up with and pitch an idea for a new TV programme or film alongside a poster to advertise it.

They then had a chance to network with colleges, universities and employers about what they have to offer.

We took advantage of being close to the River Thames for some scenic views before we left. It was a long and exhausting day! Big shout out to Alex T who gave up his seat on the tube on the way back for a lady with a newborn baby.

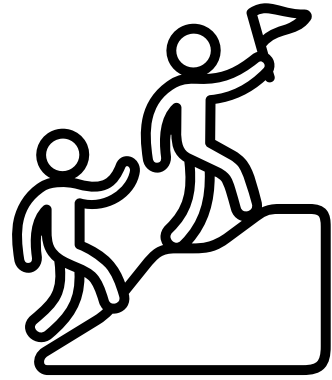


Laurel Park Students compete in Future Leaders of the Year competition

Best of luck to Niki and Ferhat in Year 11 who have entered the competition organised by Ivy House

They will be involved in an all day seminar to test their leadership skills.

We'll let you know how they got on next week



Top Character points for this week

Year 7

Esham, Samaira, Favour, Adem,
Alice, Fatoumata, Marianna,
Abraham, Dennise, Kania,
Valentina, Orlean, Safa, Amelia,
Kaja, Aida, Anna, Urooj, Verka,
Christive, Gergana, Rafael,
Nandito, Chloe, Gabriel S, Trey,
Ezgi, Edwin, Alexandros S,
Alexandru S, Shri, Shaniya,
Vittoria, Vasilen, Isabely,
Khairiya, Sami

Year 8

Andonia, Jasmine, Kaitlyn, Roan,
Muhammet, Ada, Austin,
Kaylah, Leonardo

Year 9

Iqrash, Tallulah, Dea, Alex P,
Keiran, James, Marina, Gabriel,
Mary

Year 10

Amir, Muhtasham, Lara, Aldo,
Dimitri, Serena, Raul, Shakeel,
Antelainta, Melina, Georgi K,
Edlira, Petroula, Endri, Ianis-
Gabriel, Brielle, Ora, Ismail,
Kira, Maida M, Siyar, Jasmin,
Nathaniel, Rami, Florin,
Kristiana, Daria

Year 11

Rosa, Malaika, Anbarin, Melanie,
Ceran, Mia

Excellent!



Free Career Tasters

Online workshops dedicated to giving students a taste of their potential future career

Learn More

We are delighted to announce that we will be hosting a series of free career tasters for students aged 12-18.

Ahead of National Careers Week, we will be hosting another series of free online career tasters for students aged 12-18.

These interactive sessions serve as a great introduction to a range of industries, while giving students an opportunity to hear from a professional and participate in an interactive career simulation.

Please encourage your students to bring any questions they may have to the webinars - we're here to help them on every step of their career journey.

If students are unable to join live, they can still register to receive the recording and our follow up resources.

Sign Up Here

Career Taster Schedule

Not sure which webinar to choose?

Signing up to multiple webinars is a great way for students to explore different careers and find out where their interests lie!



12th March, 6pm

Breaking into the Creative Arts

Breaking into Psychology

13th March, 6pm

Breaking into Engineering

Breaking into Law

14th March, 6pm

Breaking into Medicine

Breaking into Banking

unifrog

UNIVERSITY FAIR

March 13th

16:30 - 19:00



Scan here
to sign up!

The University of Law | University of Plymouth | University of Kent
University of Exeter | Norwich University of the Arts | Heriot-Watt University
University of Dundee | Liverpool | John Moores University | Bangor University
University of Sussex | University of Portsmouth | Solent, Southampton
University for the Creative Arts | University of East Anglia | University of
Worcester | Royal Holloway, University of London | University of Suffolk
Birmingham Newman University | De Montfort University
University of Bradford | Manchester Metropolitan University | Queen
Margaret University, Edinburgh | Queen's University Belfast | Teesside
University | University of Brighton | University of Hertfordshire | University of
Reading | Leeds Trinity University | Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts
Cardiff University | University College Leuven-Limburg | University of
Chichester | University of South Wales | Royal Central School of Speech and
Drama | University of Aberdeen | University of Essex | Norland College
Edge Hill University | UCLan | Oxford Brookes University | British Army

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TEKKEN 8



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Thirty years after its debut on the original PlayStation, the Tekken franchise is back with its eighth mainstream instalment. A one-on-one fighting game series in the same vein as Street Fighter and Mortal Kombat, Tekken 8 can be commended for its relative lack of in-game purchases – but there's still plenty to consider in keeping young players safe from potential hazards.

FUTURE SPENDING?

Tekken 8 carries a PEGI 16 rating, with the assessors noting its violence, occasional profanity and in-game purchase options. The latter issue, however, is a little different to what you may expect from a modern game: unlike many high-profile releases, Tekken 8's content is all accessible without spending any extra money. The exceptions are new characters, which will become available to purchase separately in the future.

COPYCAT RISK

With characters flying across the screen using a mixture of authentic and fantastical fighting styles, younger children and impressionable teens may find themselves tempted to copy their favourite characters or act out their epic fights in real life. This could simply amount to harmless fun – but could also easily lead to accidents, injury and distress if young gamers start actually landing blows.

VIOLENT GAMEPLAY

As a fighting game, Tekken 8's gameplay is heavily based on punching, kicking and throwing opponents around – while some characters' attacks occasionally involve weapons. Most of the violence is comparatively cartoonish in its execution and lacking in gore, but the fact remains that the action still revolves entirely around intense combat and inflicting damage on an opponent.

FAMILY CONFLICT

Tekken 8's story mode, 'The Dark Awakens', focuses on two of the series' most important characters – Kazuya and Jin, a father and son who have been warring for years. The sight of two family members physically fighting each other may be hard to understand (and difficult to deal with) for some children – causing confusion and concern over why relatives would want to hurt one another.

RANKED ONLINE PLAY

Tekken 8 features an array of online modes – most notably its 'Ranked' section, where players battle to reach the top spot of a worldwide leaderboard. Many players will dedicate significant amounts of time to practising and – while the challenge can be fun – some of these matches can get extremely competitive. Children could become obsessed with climbing the rankings and dedicate an unhealthy amount of time to the game or grow angry if they wind up on a losing streak.

ONLINE CONTACT

Tekken 8 doesn't offer voice chat by default, but a player's platform ID is visible (such as their PlayStation Network ID, Steam account or Xbox gamertag). Rival players can, therefore, reach out via messages if they wish. Given the game's fiercely competitive nature, these communications can potentially put children at risk of online abuse if their opponent is a particularly sore loser.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TRY IT OUT YOURSELF

As with many popular games, we'd recommend checking it out for yourself in advance if you have any concerns. In the case of Tekken 8, there's a free demo version available (for all platforms) which lets you experience fights with a handful of the characters: a useful way of establishing first-hand whether some children might find the game's violence to be too intense.

EXERCISE YOUR JUDGEMENT

While Tekken 8 features a sort of 'spray' impact effect when attacks land, it's not the kind of game that most observers would describe as gory (unlike, for instance, the Mortal Kombat franchise). Of course, any fighting game worthy of the name will include a significant degree of violence – but the level at which the battles in Tekken are pitched may not be an issue for some children.

MARTIAL ARTS MOTIVATION?

With characters utilising real-world fighting styles such as jiu-jitsu, boxing and kickboxing, Tekken could represent an opportunity to channel a child's fondness for the game into a beneficial interest in real-world martial arts. Classes can help to build young people's confidence and physical fitness, as well as providing avenues for making new friends.

CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS

If a child plays Tekken online with anyone apart from their friends, then parents and carers could consider restricting communications – such as shutting off the facility to be messaged by other players (although the child's profile name will still be displayed) – to reduce the chance of contact from strangers. This can be done via the console's account settings or through the child's Steam account (if playing on PC).

Meet Our Expert

Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon, Lloyd Coombes has worked in the games media industry for five years. He's played every Tekken title since the series began and, as a parent, also values the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



The National College