

LAUREL PARK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A ROUND UP OF THE WEEK AT LAUREL PARK SCHOOL

Headteacher's Message - Adele Christofi

Hello to all our school community! Another fun-packed busy week at Laurel Park School.

Our Year 9 students had the opportunity to attend the Big Bang STEM event at Leyton Sixth Form, where they showcased their excellence and were truly inspired. There were a number of stalls all centred around careers in STEM. A special thank you to Ms Gray for organising this enriching experience for our students. Additionally, this week, Year 9 had a motivational talk by Maisha Sumah, encouraging them to aim high and not let their circumstances hinder their success. It was a moving and thought-provoking session, and our students were highly engaged and reflective. Ms Smith secured this highly sought guest speaker so a big thanks for all her efforts.

Furthermore, Year 9 students participated in a careers day with the Army, exploring the various career opportunities within the armed forces. We are grateful to Ms Gray for her coordination and to all the staff members who accompanied the students on this informative trip.

Our recent Year 8 Parents' Evening was a great success, with high levels of attendance and a positive atmosphere. Parents received valuable feedback on their child's progress and areas for development. A special thank you to all the parents for attending and to the staff for their dedication. Ms Efstathiou from the office played a key role in coordinating this event, and we are thankful for her efforts.

I am pleased to report that Year 11 students demonstrated a focused and diligent attitude during their Spanish speaking exams this week. The exams were conducted smoothly by Ms West, with Mrs Sheikh-Oomar overseeing the coordination of the process. That is now 25% of the GCSE now completed.

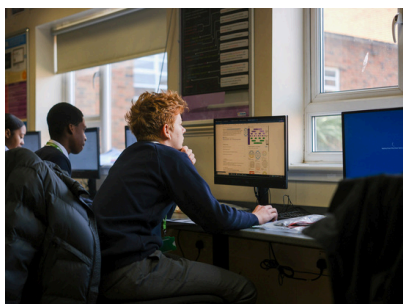
I would also like to celebrate the excellent conduct displayed by our Year 10 students during their recent mock exams. The invigilators were particularly impressed with their focus and attitude in what are very important exams.

As a reminder, Year 11 public exams will commence on the 2nd May with Digital IT, followed by the main written exams starting on the 9th May.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's education. And I wish you all a safe and peaceful weekend.

Adele Christofi
Headteacher

**Next week it
will be week 2**



WORD OF THE WEEK IDENTIFY

DEFINITION

Verb:

1. to recognise and correctly name someone or something
2. to recognise something or discover exactly what it is, what its nature or origin is etc
3. if a particular thing identifies someone or something, it makes them easy to recognise

SYNONYMS

- Classify
- Determine
- Pinpoint

ETYMOLOGY

The verb "Identify" (1600-1700) Late Latin *Identificare*, from Latin *idem*: → IDENTITY

SENTENCES

1. Experts are examining the wreckage, but the cause of the accident has not yet been identified.
2. And both offices have identified the need to pay volunteers something for their work, or lose them altogether.
3. Scientists have identified the gene that causes abnormal growth.

APRIL

Monday 29th: My London Project led by the Museum of London

MAY

Thursday 2nd: Enfield Dragon's Den, Digital IT exam

Thursday 9th May: GCSE exams start

Tuesday 14th: Health drop in clinic

Character Education focus of the week

This month's Virtue is **Volunteering**

Volunteering is giving your time to help someone else

This weeks' value is **Determination**

How can Volunteering help us achieve Determination?

Volunteering provides a sense of purpose and accomplishment, which **fuels our motivation** and keeps us **determined** to keep trying for the best. By seeing the immediate change your actions bring you're inspired to continue making a difference.

E.g.:

School clean up: By cleaning up your school you can immediately experience the positive feeling a clean and organized environment gives you.

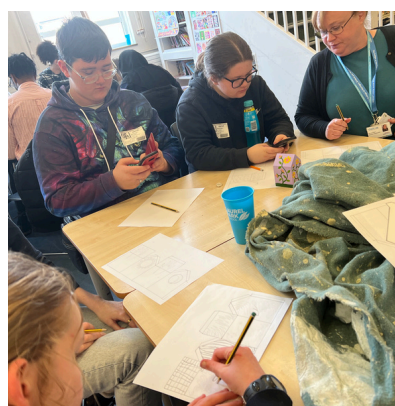
Animal Shelter Volunteering: By walking dogs or socializing with animals you can see the impact of your care and attention on the well-being of animals.



Steering Group get arty!

On Friday last week, we hosted the most recent meeting of the Steering group, who are working on the heritage project for the Old Charity School in Edmonton.

For this session, students from Laurel Park, West Lea and Orchardside, as well as Chickenshed worked with our artists Dean and Kareen to collaborate on ideas for the project. Dean looked at different patterns linked to the building itself, whilst Kareen looked at fabrics and calligraphy. This is the first of two meetings with the artists before work starts on the building itself.



At the end of this newsletter, you will find some information from the National Citizen Service, which has been shared with the school. It is a fantastic opportunity for any student aged 15-17 so please have a look if that is your child!



REMINDER

Please ensure that you inform the school office if you have any change to your personal details - phone numbers, emails or addresses.

Thank you for coming to Year 8 Parents Evening this week



THANK
YOU
😊

The Big Bang Event at Leyton Sixth Form College

Half of Year 9 and our Science ambassadors were privileged to be invited to Leyton Sixth Form College's Big Bang Fair on Tuesday. All the students got the chance to network with students from the college, employers such as the RAF, the NHS and Thorpe Park and universities such as Newcastle and Essex. They had the opportunity to find out so much about STEM pathways they might not have previously thought about. Their confidence and engagement was exceptionally impressive and they had a brilliant time. They even got a goodie bag on the way out! We are grateful to Leyton Sixth Form for putting on such a great event.

See the next page to hear from the students about the event



LSC

leyton sixth form college

It was a great experience exploring science and all it's possibilities - Trevaunique, Year 9



It was very fun learning opportunity getting to speak to so many different people - Micha, Year 9

It was fantastic! The robots and VR sets especially were brilliant - Mehrab, Year 9



It was great! I loved speaking to so many people. I didn't want to leave! - Alexandros, Year 9



It was the best trip ever! - Kristjano, Year 9



The service was wonderful, the psychology students were so informative and ensured my knowledge was great. The NHS section made everyone feel comfortable. Everyone was very kind - Emily, Year 8



Year 7

Top Character points this week!

Esham, Adem, Alice,
Fatoumata, Alexander C, Diana,
Marianna, Daryna, Nita, Kania,
Valentina, Raheem, Ostap, Vy,
Aida, Anna, Urooj, Reatlegile,
Phong, Gergana, Yaren, Sophie,
Rojina, Daniel, Gabriel S, Ramin,
Nicole, Trey, Edwin, Shaniya,
Anzhela, Isabely, Ezekiel

Year 8

Kaitlyn, Nicollas, Emily, Alex,
Rumeysa, Kadir, Haoxuan,
Juan, Leonardo, Flavia



Year 9

Mergyul, Glory, Mohammad C,
Keira, Nathan, Miracle, Dea,
Simona, Harvi, Tereza, Khadija,
Zora, James, Marina, Rebecca,
Mary, Zera

Year 10

Fatmata, Alexandra-Diana,
Shakeel, Melina, Georgi, Edlira,
Tom, Loreнна, Ayseneva, Nefeli,
Laura, Esma, Anastasia, Maria,
Florin, Kristiana

Year 11

Ciprian, David, Vanesa, Jasmin,
Madiha, Msli, Miruna



Please can you ensure your ParentPay lunch money account is topped up in advance to enable your child to visit the Bay Leaf Restaurant. Meals are £3 per day and therefore you should expect to top up £15.00 per week if your child visits every day.



Careers Corner

In March, Ms Gray posted on Google Classroom about some paid work experience opportunities, one of which was with LNER. There were 110 places available in the whole of the UK and two of them went to LPS students - Kenny in Year 10 and Ada in Year 8. So far they have completed sessions about their ideal job, what skills people might need to develop, made a video which they have peer evaluated and looked at interview skills. Not only are they building up their skills, they are being paid for it! Congratulations to both of them

With the Big Bang Event and the Army Engagement Open Day this week, as well as the Creative and Digital Exhibition before Easter, all of Year 9 have now been on a careers based trip.

This has given students a chance to network with different employers and higher education providers, developing their understanding of the world beyond Laurel Park. We will be hosting events later on this term for Years 7-8



Shakespeare Day at LPS

Tuesday this week was Shakespeare's Day which a day to remember the importance of the great playwright and poet and how he still continues in influence everyday life.

This week our Head of English Mr Coyle led assemblies about Shakespeare and how his work links to our school values, especially his links with multiculturalism. He brought it up to present day, with the story in the news about the new West End production of Romeo And Juliet and the online backlash there has been from the casting. Mr Coyle also linked the assemblies to Macbeth, which is the GCSE text. Thank you so much Mr Coyle



Year 9 talk with Maisha Sumah

Year 9 were exceptionally privileged to hear from an inspiring guest speaker today - Maisha Sumah. Maisha is an international multi award winning speaker and mental health advocate who inspires, empowers and influences thousands of individuals through her platform **She Walks in Value**. As well as numerous TV and magazine features, she has been listed as one of the top 50 most inspiring black women in the UK. She has been chosen as the youngest mental health expert representative for the BME communities within the NHS to talk about solutions for mental health.

She shared her incredibly personal story where she suffered from obstacles such as violence, war, addiction, depression, poverty and racism. She spoke to the students about how she overcame her traumatic life experiences to become who she is today. The students were mesmerised by Maisha's powerful words which really had an impact. She inspired them to look inside themselves, don't get distracted, trust the process and 'walk your value.'. We were exceptionally grateful for Maisha to give up her time to come and speak to our students.



Christo wins!

At our recent trip to the Creative and Digital Exhibition, Christo in Year 9 entered a prize draw after completing a worksheet linked to the event. He was very fortunate to win a Funko Pop figure kindly donated by Framestore, from their latest work on the Thor Movie. Well done Christo!



Army Engagement Open Day at Wellington Barracks

On Thursday 35 Year 9 students went to visit Wellington Barracks in central London for their Army Engagement Open Day. Students found out about the 200+ careers linked to the army and got to try lots of challenges along the way. They loved the laser shooting range, the virtual reality sets and the physical and endurance tests along the way. They especially enjoyed the camo make up and trying on the various army kit.

See the next page to hear from the students about the event



'It was very educational and I used a lot of physical energy to test my endurance' - Miracle



'It was fun. My favourite bit was the VR' - Glory



'The ambulance was really intriguing and it really inspired me find out how they dealt with injured soldiers on the battlefield' - Mary



Premier League Inspires Collapsed Curriculum day at Tottenham Hotspur

On Tuesday, some Year 9 students who had completed the PL Inspires programme got to celebrate with other schools with a day out at Tottenham Hotspur Football Stadium, White Hart Lane. They took part in workshops on online safety and how to perform CPR, got a tour of the stadium including the locker room and were given Tottenham caps and keyrings. The day was topped off with a meet and greet with German international Timo Werner!

'I had a amazing time and it was great to meet Timo Werner' - Abdallah

'The trip was nice and fun, I enjoyed it and would love to go again' - Malick



Please see details below about the latest season of **#NeuroNinja Parent Partnership** programme through **Action Your Potential**. This programme is designed support parents to 'build a resilient child'.

Have a look at the end of the newsletter for a poster about **Enfield Youth Elections**, which are coming up soon. Helios in Year 10 was a member last year and we would love to have some Laurel Park representation for this year!

#NeuroNinja Parent Partnership Programme



Webinar Course - Build A Resilient Child

Wednesdays 8-9pm

Session 1

Building A NeuroNinja: Parenting,
playing the long game

Wednesday 8th May

Session 2

Our Lives Train Our Brains:
Well-Being & Mind Management

Wednesday 15th May

Session 3

A Bully In Our Pockets? How
Phone -Based Childhoods Damage
Children's Mental Health

Wednesday 22nd May

Session 4

Building Resilience
How to shape your daily
parenting to build resilience

Wednesday 29th May

Register here just once for the whole course

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TOWNSHIP



(on the App Store; 'Everyone' on Google Play)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISLEADING PUBLICITY

Township's developers have previously faced criticism for advertising the game on social media by using clips of gameplay which can't actually be found in the final product. This may well lead to a child or young person downloading the game with severely misplaced expectations of what they'll be playing.

IN-GAME ADVERTS

While it's common for mobile games to feature in-game advertisements for other products and services, Township employs a particularly egregious strategy seen in several similar products. It offers users in-game currency in exchange for watching such adverts, which can obviously encourage young people to willingly expose themselves to marketing material.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

The game's core concept of building up a settlement to increase its population and income can feel slow paced at first – and players are incentivised to spend real-world money to move things along more quickly. That can mean handing over anything from £1.99 to £19.99 for these in-game boosts: amounts that can rapidly add up to a considerable sum if left unchecked.

TIME-CONSUMING GAMEPLAY

Township's gameplay loop of acquiring resources and reinvesting them into your little community is a fun one – but this rewarding sense of making progress can lead to players spending far more hours staring at the screen than they realise. There are also special in-game events which run for a limited time, designed to entice players into even longer gaming sessions.

ONLINE MULTIPLAYER MODE

After reaching level 19, players in Township can form a 'co-op' and unlock the option to exchange goods with up to 30 other users. Online multiplayer modes are nothing new, of course – but neither are the potential risks they pose to children and young people. Chances are, youngsters will be interacting with complete (and possibly much older) strangers within the game environment.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS THE GAME IN ADVANCE

While older children may notice and understand that Township might be marketed in a potentially misleading way, it could be worth explaining to prospective younger players how and why the game differs from what's been advertised. This will help them to manage their expectations and avoid any possible disappointment if they do decide to download and play it.

MONITOR SPENDING AND SCREEN TIME

More modestly priced in-app bundles can be a welcome treat for a child wanting to speed up their progress in Township, but it's wise not to leave a linked payment method active in case a youngster gets carried away. Likewise, to prevent Township from causing an increase in screen time, parental controls on most devices allow limits to be placed on how long a game can be played each day.

BE WARY OF EXTERNAL SITES

Township's makers state that all in-game ads are age-appropriate: children won't be shown adverts recommending more violent titles, for instance. Even so, clicking on these adverts can take players out of the game and onto external sites that have nothing to do with Township or its developers: this raises the risk of children encountering inappropriate content or being tempted by online purchases.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE STRANGERS

Township's online multiplayer mode (as with any game which includes that functionality), is an avenue through which a child could be contacted by people who they don't actually know. It's worth reminding young Township fans, therefore, not to give out any personal information to strangers online – whether that's within the game itself or in the social networks associated with it.

Meet Our Expert

Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon, Lloyd Coombes has worked in the games media industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new games and tools, he's also a parent who prioritises online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SHOPPING PLATFORMS

For people looking to make purchases on their phones, several shopping apps – such as Temu – allow users to buy goods at reduced prices. Others, like Vinted and Depop, let you sell items you no longer want. As internet shopping continues to grow, however, so does the risk of scammers, hackers and breaches of privacy.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISSING ITEMS

Users of Vinted, Depop and Temu have reported not receiving their products despite payment being taken. Users can initially contact the seller to query a missing item, and they have between two and five days (depending on the app) to tell the company what has happened. However, once the money has reached the supposed 'seller', it can be quite difficult to get back.

SCAMMERS AND PHISHING

Scammers are always on the lookout for unsuspecting buyers or sellers. Common tactics include cancelling shipment of an item once the payment has been processed or asking to conclude the chat and payment outside of the app, where the victim is no longer protected by the buyer protection plan. This should, naturally, be avoided at all costs.

DATA MISUSE

Apps of all kinds frequently collect our data, often asking for more information than is necessary to set up an account. Data gathered in this way is then usually sold on to third parties for marketing purposes. Lately, certain apps have been under scrutiny for using spyware to track their members' activities – but all too often, the user's consent to this practice has been hidden away in the terms and conditions.

FAKES OR REPLICAS

It's certainly not unheard of for poor-quality products to be falsely marketed as luxury items, using misleading pictures or clever wording. These disingenuous sales are sometimes outed by suspiciously low price tags, but this isn't always the case. For children and young people especially, there's a risk that the promise of bagging a high-end item for a fraction of its usual price will outshine any suspicions they may have.

SLOW REFUNDS

While all apps offer a refund if the product is damaged or doesn't match the description, it can take up to a month to be compensated for this. For many people (especially during a cost-of-living crisis) that can be a long time to be without both the product you bought and the hard-earned cash you spent on it.

MISLEADING DESCRIPTION

Some people will be able to notice when, say, a product's photo and its description don't seem to match. This isn't a reliable means of picking up on misleading marketing, however – especially not for children and young people, many of whom may not yet realise that such practices even exist. While it's illegal to advertise one thing and sell another, plenty of shady traders use clever wording and omissions to get around this.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ALWAYS STAY ON THE APP

It's vital that users pay for any goods through the same app on which they found them, to ensure they are covered by buyer protection. This means users can access support if the item arrives damaged, isn't as described, or doesn't arrive at all – allowing them to seek compensation for the loss. Such regulations can't protect you, however, if you didn't do the deal through the app in question.

BE WARY OF PHISHING ATTEMPTS

Scammers frequently send messages within these apps to steal personal and financial information from other users. Don't respond to these messages – and under no circumstances should you follow any links they contain. Check for spelling errors, as well as inspecting the name of the sender. Report any suspected phishing emails to the app's help centre – and notify your bank if you think your financial information has been compromised.

CHECK REVIEWS

Take time to read the reviews and comments left by other users – not just of products, but of sellers and buyers, to ensure they're legitimate and reliable. Before buying an item online, check the reviews for comments about the product's quality, the seller's communication and the delivery time. If you're selling, check the reviews of your buyer for red flags such as frequent requests for refunds or claims of 'missing' items.

KEEP SAFE AS A SELLER

Sellers can be exploited just as much as buyers. Some users may purchase an item, for example, then pretend it didn't arrive to secure a refund. Always take photos of the shipping label, along with a picture of you posting the item. Send the package's tracking number to the buyer and keep a copy for yourself, letting you investigate any future claims that it never arrived. When taking photos of items you're selling, ensure nothing personal is in the background.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware, who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/shopping-apps

Experiences away from home

NCS helps 15-17 year olds build skills for work and life, gaining confidence and independence along the way.

It's an experience of a lifetime with new challenges and new people.

NCS away from home experiences:

- Are available across England
- Five days and four nights
- Boost CV and college/ university applications
- High Adrenaline Activities such as high ropes and archery



**Places are limited!
Visit our website to
secure a place today.**

WEARENCS.COM



ENFIELD YOUTH

ELECTIONS



Do you want to use your voice to represent the voices of young people in your community to bring about social change through meaningful representation and campaigning both locally and nationally? If yes, you can bring yourself forward to stand in the Enfield Youth Elections! If you become an elected member, you will have the opportunity to sit on and represent:

The Enfield Youth Council – Represent the views of young people locally within Enfield.

UK Youth Parliament – Represent young people nationally.

The London Youth Assembly – Advocate with other boroughs within London.

Elected as Mayor and Deputy Mayor – Represent the interests of young people in the borough to politicians, residents, public services.

Sit on scrutiny panels – Ensure Councillors and Officers are held accountable for the decisions they make on behalf of community.

For more information about the different opportunities, please visit youthenfield.taptub.co.uk



To qualify to stand for election you must:

Be aged 11-17 (or up to 25 if you have SEND) Live or attend school or any place of education in Enfield

NEXT STEPS

Are you interested in becoming a candidate for the EYE?

If so, there are two steps that you need to take:

STEP 1

Sign up by visiting <https://youthenfield.taptub.co.uk/enfield-youth-council/enfield-youth-elections/> and fill out the application form.

STEP 2

Once you have registered, book yourself onto the Enfield Youth Election open day which will take place on Thursday 30th May.

Interested?

Email youthcouncil@enfield.gov.uk

<https://youthenfield.taptub.co.uk/enfield-youth-elections>



Represent Enfield in the London Youth Games



TEAM ENFIELD HOCKEY

Under 14
Boys &
Girls
Teams

Open Trials
Saturday 27th April
Saturday 4th May

**Southbury
Leisure Centre**
10:30-12:00

Register Here:



Questions?

lyg.whehockey@gmail.com



www.whehockey.com



Eligibility Criteria: Players must either live or go to school in Enfield, and be born on or after 01/09/2009. Note that players who already play at County, London Area or higher representative levels are NOT eligible to play in the London Youth Games.

Coaching and team management proudly provided by Winchmore Hill & Enfield HC

JOIN TEAM ENFIELD

GIRLS FOOTBALL

TRIALS & TRAINING

GET READY TO COMPETE IN THE LONDON YOUTH GAMES

TRIALS:

TUESDAY 30TH APRIL: 18:00-19:00

TUESDAY 7TH MAY: 18:00-19:00

VENUE: SOUTHBURY LEISURE CENTRE

TRAINING:

14TH, 21ST, 28TH MAY 18:00-19:00

TUESDAY 4TH JUNE 18:00-19:00

VENUE: SOUTHBURY LEISURE CENTRE

SCHOOL YEAR

YEAR 7 & 8

YEAR 9 & 10

AGE GROUP

11 - 13 YEAR OLDS

**13 - 15 YEARS
OLD**

OLDEST DOB

01/09/2010

01/09/2008

YOUNGEST DOB

31/08/2012

31/08/2010

COMPETITION SUNDAY 9TH JUNE

**TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT:
SPORT@ENFIELD.GOV.UK**

**You must live or go
to school in enfield
to be eligible**



BADMINTON

TRIALS & TRAINING

LONDON YOUTH GAMES 2024

TRIALS: TRAINING:

FRIDAY 17TH MAY: 24TH & 31ST MAY 18:00-20:00
18:00-20:00 7TH & 14TH JUNE 18:00-20:00

VENUE: THE DRILL HALL, 1 OLD PARK AVE

AGE GROUP
11 - 17 YEARS OLD

OLDEST DOB
01/09/200

YOUNGEST
DOB

COMPETITION
SUNDAY 16TH JUNE



YOU MUST LIVE OR GO TO SCHOOL
IN ENFIELD TO BE ELIGIBLE

To Register, please contact:
sport@enfield.gov.uk

