

A ROUND UP OF THE WEEK AT LAUREL PARK SCHOOL

Headteacher's Message - Adele Christofi

Dear Laurel Park School Community,

As we embark on this bustling term, I hope you've all had a restful break and are ready for the exciting challenges ahead. I'd like to extend warm Easter wishes to our Christian community and a heartfelt "Christos Anesti" to our Orthodox families.

It's my pleasure to welcome two new additions to our senior team. Miss Routledge joins us to lead Business Studies and spearhead vocational education in the sixth form, while Miss Brohan brings her expertise to the Maths department and will be driving initiatives in teaching and learning. Their contributions will undoubtedly enrich our school's academic landscape.

This week kicked off with our Year 11s showcasing their artistic talents in their GCSE art exam. Their focused attitude and dedication were evident in the excellent work they produced. Equally impressive were our Year 11 Beauty students, who completed their final exam by treating their models (mostly their mums) to a luxurious pampering experience with a bridal theme. This not only demonstrated their skills but also provided a wonderful opportunity for quality time with their mothers.

I'm thrilled to share that we've secured substantial funding for sports equipment and facilities. We've been busy investing in new gear that both our pupils and staff can enjoy, opening up exciting possibilities for physical education and extracurricular activities.

In line with our growing commitment to inclusion, our SEND team has introduced a horse riding intervention. We're eager to see how this innovative approach will benefit our pupils.

Our Year 7 netball team has been busy competing in a borough tournament. We're looking forward to sharing more details about their performance in next week's update.

Looking ahead, I'd like to draw your attention to some important dates. MFL speaking exams will commence next week, followed by the Graphics exam on the 1st and 2nd of May. Written exams are scheduled to begin from the 8th of May.

As always, I'm immensely proud of the dedication and achievements of our pupils and staff. Whether it's in the exam hall, on the sports field, or in new learning experiences, the Laurel Park community continues to shine. Let's embrace the opportunities this term brings and support one another in our collective journey of growth and discovery.

Adele Christofi
Headteacher

This week Year 11 have started their GCSE exams. The Art students have been busy completing their final portfolios ready for assessment. Our Beauty students also completed their final assessment this week. Well done to all those students who worked incredibly hard to achieve some fantastic results.

Next week students will have their spoken exams in languages and their final Graphics exam on Thursday and Friday.

All Year 11 students also had an assembly reminding them of exam expectations and procedures for the up and coming exams.

Finally we had some fantastic attendance to our Easter revision sessions - thanks to those staff who supported the students during this. Period 0 and Period 7 continues in the run up to the exams as well as dedicated exam buster sessions designed to prepare students for their exams. It is essential that students are attending school and are on time in order to maximise their opportunities as best as possible.



Can we have some feedback on the new Week 1 menu?

We'd love to hear your thoughts! Let us know what you liked, what could be improved, or any suggestions you may have.

Click the link below to share your feedback:
<https://forms.gle/V8JT7ShKU76Wk1E59>

Next week is
Week 2

For the sixth form we had St George's and City University deliver a workshop on Tuesday for our year 12 students on Post 18 Options: Is University Right For you? During the session our speakers gave students information on the benefits of going to University, different types of degrees, how to apply for university, student finance, and how your degree can be used for different career pathways. Overall, it was an invaluable experience for our students and it was very informative.



The Stencil Spray painting Mural workshop took place in Broomfield Park over the holidays and a couple of Laurel Park students popped by and took part. The Unlocking Broomfield team were there to show us what to do and Ms Haddon's son was very proud of his section of the mural!

I also want to say how proud I am of the GCSE art students who have just spent 10 hours completing their art exam. I couldn't take photographs during the exam but we look forward to sharing the artwork at a later date. Some very impressive work was produced and students worked hard on some ambitious projects.



Well done from Ms Haddon.



Important Dates!

28th - 30th April - Year 11 Community Language Exams

30th April -
Year 8 Parents' Evening 3:45pm - 6:15pm
Year 11 Form Award Winner Breakfast

1st May - Year 10 Form Award Winner Breakfast

2nd May - Year 9 Form Award Winner Breakfast

5th May - Bank Holiday - School closed

6th - 7th May - Year 11 Spanish Exam

8th May -
Year 7 Form Award Winner Breakfast
Written Public Exam For Year 11 Students

9th - Year 8 Form Award Winner Breakfast

9th May - Year 7 National Gallery Workshop Trip

21st May - Year 10 Harry Potter Studios Trip

22nd May Guitar and Drums Showcase 5PM

HALF TERM BREAK
Monday, 26 May - Friday, 30 May 2025

11th June - Year 7 Parents Evening 3:45pm - 6:15pm

16th - 20th June - Year 10 Mock Week

24th June - Year 11 Prom

Save on Broadband and Phone Costs with Social Tariffs

Did you know there are cheaper broadband and phone packages available for families receiving benefits such as Universal Credit or Pension Credit? These are called social tariffs, and some providers may refer to them as 'essential' or 'basic' broadband.

They work just like standard packages but cost less—helping to ease the pressure of rising living costs. Ofcom is encouraging more providers to offer these deals to support low-income households.

Take a look at the list of available social tariffs here:
<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-and-broadband/saving-money/social-tariffs>



During the Easter break, our Year 10 students went above and beyond by attending an engaging taster day session at University College London (UCL). The day featured a series of lectures and seminars focusing on Psychology and Infectious Diseases, giving students a real taste of academic study at university level.

A highlight of the day was hearing from UCL's first-year undergraduates, who shared their journeys from GCSEs to university, offering valuable tips and guidance on course selection and the structure of an undergraduate degree.

Well done to all the students who were proactive throughout the experience, asking thoughtful questions and making fantastic contributions. The visit not only broadened their academic horizons but also gave them a real insight into what university life at UCL is like, from the learning environment to the campus atmosphere.



6 intrepid members of the LPS Equine club made their first visit to Trent Park Equestrian centre this week. After getting kitted up and meeting their horses they had a lesson learning how to mount, walk and trot their horses. At the end all were awarded rosettes for their excellent conduct.

A lovely time was had by all



Teaching and Learning **FOCUS**

Sweet Success! Year 7 Students Get Creative with Homemade Jam

Students in Year 7 rolled up their sleeves this week as Year 7 pupils embarked on a deliciously hands-on project: making their own jam and designing custom labels to go with it.

The activity, part of the school's Food Technology curriculum on preservation, blended practical kitchen skills with creative design as students learned the entire process of jam-making — from preparing fresh fruit and measuring ingredients to boiling the mixture and sealing it safely in jars.

The sweet scent of strawberries and raspberries filled the air as students stirred bubbling pots with enthusiasm and precision. But the fun didn't stop in the kitchen — once the jam was set and cooled, it was time to get artistic.

In the classroom, students turned into budding brand designers, each creating a unique label for their jar. With colourful drawings, clever names like "Berry Bonanza" and "Sunshine Spread," and thoughtful touches such as ingredients and best-before dates, the jars became personal works of art.

Diane said "I didn't know making jam was so easy — and now I have my own brand!"

The project for combines creativity, teamwork, and real-world learning. It's been fantastic to see the students so engaged with learning to make a product from scratch, but also how to present and package it, which are great life skills.

We eagerly await the feedback of parents and friend as they compare this homemade jam to the commercial equivalents.

One thing's for sure: Year 7 has cooked up something truly special!



Laurel Park Year 9 Students Master Fractions with a lot of Focus

This term, Year 9 students at Laurel Park School have been diving into the world of fractions, learning how to add and subtract them with confidence and skill. What might seem like a tricky topic at first has turned into an exciting journey through numbers, with students making impressive progress along the way.

Students have been breaking down the steps to success—finding common denominators, simplifying results, and even tackling mixed numbers.

Did you know that learning fractions is applicable to our daily lives? Here are a few examples of how we could use them:
Cooking and Baking: Recipes often involve fractions (e.g., $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of milk + $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of cream).

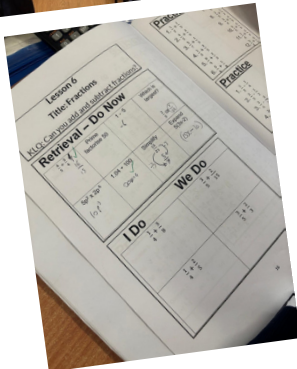
Shopping: Discounts and measurements can involve adding/subtracting fractions (e.g., $1\frac{1}{2}$ meters of fabric minus $\frac{3}{4}$ used).

Time Management: Figuring out time spent or left (e.g., $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours plus $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour).

Construction & DIY: Measurements often come in fractions (e.g., combining or subtracting lengths like $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches - $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches).

Science Subjects: Fractions appear in measurements, data analysis, and formulas (e.g., in physics and chemistry). Many exams include questions on fractions to test problem-solving and numerical reasoning.

With confidence rising and enthusiasm growing, LPS students are proving that with the right tools and teaching, fractions don't have to be frightening—they can be fun!



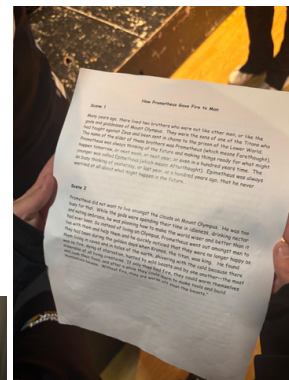
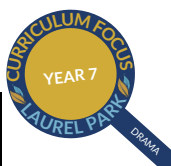
Year 7 Drama Students Ignite the Stage with Greek Mythology Performance

Students in Year 7 brought ancient myths to life this week as they performed their drama assessment based on the classic Greek tale How Prometheus Gave Fire to Man. The performance, held in the school's drama studio, was the culmination of a term's work studying Greek mythology and learning the art of stagecraft.

With enthusiasm and creativity, the young actors took on the roles of powerful gods, curious mortals, and the daring Titan Prometheus, who defies Zeus to bring fire—and knowledge—to humanity. The script, adapted for Year 7 students, retained the essence of the myth while allowing plenty of opportunities for expressive performances and teamwork.

Drama teacher Ms. O' Flaherty praised the students' dedication. "It's been amazing to watch their confidence grow". This script gave them a chance to explore big themes like bravery, rebellion, and the consequences of our choices—all through the lens of Performance'

For many students, it was their first time performing in front of an audience. The drama assessment not only highlighted students' acting skills but also deepened their understanding of storytelling and ancient culture—proving that Greek myths, even thousands of years later, still have the power to spark imagination.



Character Education focus of the week

The vision of Laurel Park School is to develop well rounded students who have the ambition and determination to excel in life whether this be through academic study, vocational training or employment.

Alongside this, we have a commitment to developing character and integrity across the school and wider community. Opportunities are provided outside of the taught curriculum to develop core life skills, preparing our students to be proud global citizens.

Finally, Laurel Park is a school where all members of the community are treated with care and respect, whilst supported both with their well-being and their academic aspirations.

This is achieved through our Core Values of **Integrity, Determination, Excellence** and **Ambition**

Each month we will see a Skill and each week we will try to link this Skill to one of our Values.

This month's Skill is Leadership!

"Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence." - Sheryl Sandberg

This week's value is Integrity

How can Leadership help us achieve Integrity?



- **Taking Responsibility:** Good leaders take responsibility for their actions and decisions. Instead of blaming others when something goes wrong, they acknowledge their mistakes and work to correct them.
- **Honesty in Communication:** Strong leaders are truthful and transparent. Whether they are giving credit to team members, admitting when they need help, or sharing information honestly, their words and actions align with their values.
- **Standing Up for What is Right:** Leaders with integrity do not ignore wrongdoing or unfairness. They have the courage to stand up for what is right, even if it is difficult. Whether it's stopping a negative behavior or supporting someone in need, they show that integrity means making choices based on values, not convenience.

Students will be presented this in assembly each week but please also speak to them at home



PULSE DJ PARTY

THURSDAY
8TH MAY

5PM TO 5.45PM

DOORS OPEN AT
4.50PM

FEAT. TALI - DJ 2FOUR7
DOMINIK - DJ DOMINIK
ROCCO
KEIRAN
KEIRA
SIVA - DJ SOS
DAJA - DJ DAJA B

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sextortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 26-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

26 FRIENDS ONLINE NOW

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

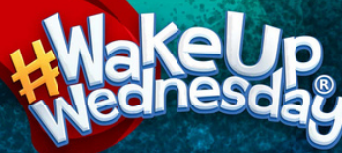
Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.



The National College®



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office@goodschoolsguide.co.uk



RE:SET

Parents and Carers Sessions on Relationships Education

Laurel Park School is working with Tender Education and Arts this academic year to become a Healthy Relationships Champion School!

RESET is their Healthy Relationships programme, and they are supporting us to deliver relationship education sessions throughout the school. They will also be supporting families in how to talk to children about healthy relationships.

Please join us for 1x in person and 1x online parent and carer session on the following dates:

Healthy Friendships and Relationships

Tuesday 25th March 3:30-4:40pm (in person at school)

Managing Emotions

Tuesday 29th April 4-5pm (online via Zoom, sign up link below)

To sign up to the healthy relationships session, please complete this form:

<https://forms.gle/dDQQDW6JF2PhLqX57>

The managing emotions session will take place on Zoom

Sign up with the Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/managing-emotions-for-parents-carers-at-laurel-park-tickets-1270254538519?aff=oddtcreator>

To find out more about RE:SET, please visit **www.tenderreset.org.uk**

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Thank you!