

A ROUND UP OF THE WEEK AT LAUREL PARK SCHOOL

Headteacher's Message - Adele Christofi

Happy New Year and welcome back to all of our community members to what is a very special addition of our newsletter.

As I'm sure you will remember in November we had the very much anticipated visit from Ofsted. The inspection framework changed in September Again, meaning it was more rigorous than before. We had a graded inspection, meaning that they were looking specifically at all 5 key areas; Behaviour and attitudes, quality of education, personal development, leadership and management and the sixth form. We had four inspectors overall, all specialists in their own area of education. The HMI was a specialist in SEND provision and the other inspectors had specialisms in history, English, science and vocational education. The days consisted of lots of meetings with staff, governors and students, work scrutinises, lesson visits, walking the corridors both accompanied and unaccompanied by our staff. Being out and about at break and lunchtime. In a short amount of time they managed to see a huge amount across the school. The process was thorough and very fair.

On the final day, Mr Hubbard, Mrs Seymour and myself were called into the final meeting where they gave their judgments. It was a tense moment! As the inspectors started to deliver their narrative to us we all began to beam. How the inspectors fed back and the positivity they communicated with was both heart warming and somewhat moving. The inspectors proceeded to give a grade for all of those five areas stating that we were good in all of them - and the narrative inferred that we were a strong good, as I am sure you will have picked up in the report. The students were phenomenal and the inspectors categorically said that all the students with whom they spoke (and they spoke to a large number of students) said how proud they felt of their school, how they enjoyed coming to school, they felt the teachers and staff cared about them, they were safe and that they were known as individuals. They also noted how the current outcomes are not reflective of what is going on in the school, as there are legacy issues and students in older year groups haven't had their 5 year journey operating in the same way as we operate the school now.

As the Headteacher of this school this was a pivotal moment and one that I am so immensely proud of. I'd like to thank all of our wonderful staff, governors parents and young people for the incredible support, hard work and effort that you have all put in to improve standards in our school and realise the potential I knew the school had. This is not today that we are complete in our work.

We will now begin phase two of the school's journey, which is really focussed on securing outcomes for all our young people, which we are very excited about. I will ask from all of our community that you share our great outcome with friends, colleagues and neighbours on social media platforms and in any other form of communication as we now need to get the word out that we are #allgood!

Happy New Year!
Ms Christofi
Headteacher

Next week is
Week 2



GOOD NEWS!

OFSTED REPORT

It is with great pleasure that we are able to share with our community, the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection. Overall the experience was a very positive one and a long awaited chance to showcase our school and the rapid improvement that we have made over the last two years.

The inspectors were very complimentary during their time with us and this is evidently reflected in what can be described as a glowing report.

Ofsted no longer grades the overall effectiveness of a school, but instead grades a school in 4 key areas:

Quality of Education
Behaviour and attitudes
Personal development
Leadership and management

Additionally they have graded our newly opened sixth form.

We are proud to share that we have been graded 'Good' across all of these areas

And so in summary, we can conclude that your child attends a school that is #allgood!

LAUREL PARK SCHOOL
#ALLGOOD 

KEY COMMENTS

'Pupils who attend this school now behave very well'. They describe the new rules as 'strict but fair' and have positive relationships with staff.'

'We are a small school, and we are known and understood as individuals'

'Pupils typically live up to the school's expectations to work hard and allow everyone to learn and achieve their best.'

'Pupils have a say in the way the school is run....Pupils develop their leadership skills.'

'The curriculum on offer is broad and ambitious'

'Pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities access the curriculum alongside their peers and are successful.'

'Behaviour around the school is calm and orderly'

Year 11 Notices

Mock results

On Friday before we broke up for the holidays, Year 11s gathered in the hall to collect their mock exam results. There was a mixture of reactions from the students - some were really pleased with their results, some were disappointed. All know they still have work to do. These results have been analysed by class teachers and senior leaders so that we can work with the students in order to continue this improvement for the next mock exams, which will start on Monday 24th February.

Inspirational Year 11 assembly - the countdown begins!

This week, Year 11 assembly was led by our headteacher Ms Christofi. She spoke to Year 11 students about how important this time of year is for the and that the hard work has to start today and to continue. With only a few weeks until the next mocks and the written GCSEs starting in May, time is of the essence. Students who do Art, Music, Drama, Languages or Health and Social Care will have exams before this date. Other subjects have coursework for students to complete. Students should be revising for 2-3 hours per evening if they want to achieve well.



Launching period 0 and period 7

To support students with revision in school, this week, all Year 11s have started Period 0. This is targeted intervention which is taking place during the registration period. Mock results have been analysed so that students are getting appropriate support in English, Maths or Science.

From Monday, we will also be starting period 7. This is from 3.15pm-4.00pm. Again students will be directed where they should be going as these sessions will be targeted to improve their grades. Champions Hour will also be available during this time, which is a quiet study space for students to use in school.

All students will be given a prom passport. Staff will be signing these off as students attend their period 7 interventions. Students will need to have attended 30 hours in order for them to be able to attend Prom.

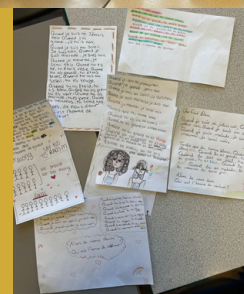
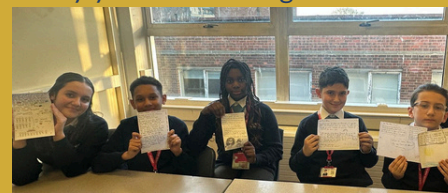
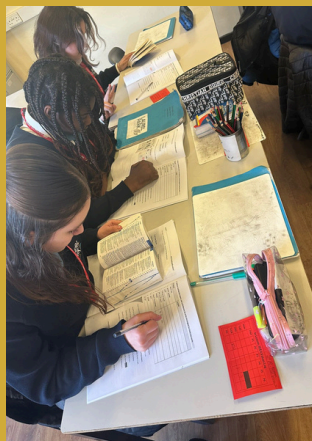
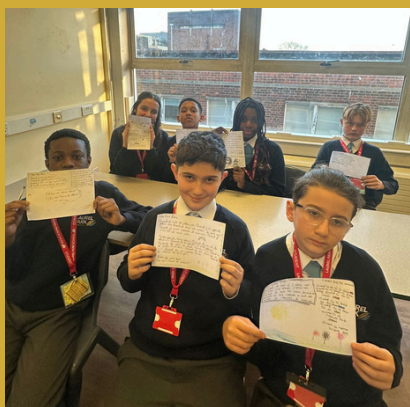
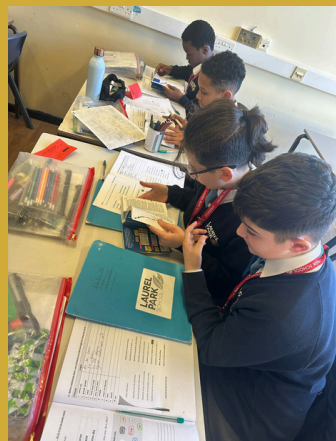
Parents Evening - Wednesday 15th January

Next Wednesday is Year 11 Parents Evening. It will take place from 3.45pm-6.15pm at Laurel Park School. As this is such a vital time for Year 11s, it is compulsory for all to attend. Year 11s will receive their predicted grades that staff have put together based on mock results and effort in class which they may need in order to make applications to post 16 providers.

Year 7 French

Students were learning colours in lesson through a wonderful French poem by Leopold Senghor a Senegalese poet and the 1st African president of the Republic of Senegal.

“Leopold Senghor asks a very important question in his poem: who is really the man of colour? He muses about why white people call black people "coloured," when there is a huge range of observable colours on white people's skin. With a touch of humour, the author successfully delivers his message and still touches the hearts of people many years later. His goal was to undermine prejudice and draw attention to our common humanity.”



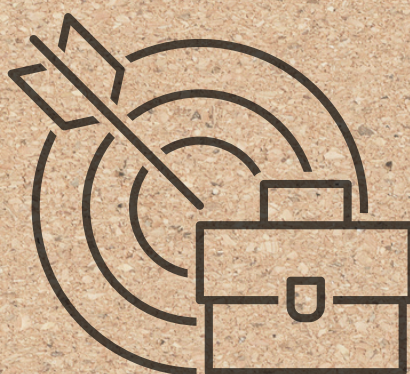
Welcome to Careers Corner

Tuesday 14th January at 4.30pm (virtual session hosted on MS Teams)
Student year groups 7-9 England & Wales, S1-S3 Scotland, 8-10 Northern Ireland

“Quick with the facts, help the NHS be swift to react!”

A 45-minute briefing with the NHS team
Complete the career challenge at their own pace

Certification awarded on completion
Register now! (students)



Wednesday 15th January at 5pm
(virtual session hosted on MS Teams)
Student year groups 10-13 England & Wales, S4-S6 Scotland, 11-14 Northern Ireland

After a sudden bump and fall, should they visit A&E or is first aid enough for all?

A 45-minute briefing with the NHS team
Complete the career challenge at their own pace

Certification awarded on completion
Register now! (students)

Teaching and Learning **FOCUS**

We have picked up where we left off in our classrooms last term. Below are some of the great work that our students have done this week in Food Technology, Animation and Maths, which continues to showcase the ambition we have for all students at Laurel Park School.



Shadow puppets

Animation - Our students have had the opportunity to work with Mr Martin who has a lot of experience in the Film industry. They have been learning about the history of Lego and how it is used to create stop animations. They used a zoetrope with hand drawn characters to create a moving scene and made shadow puppets based on the work of German animator, Lotte Reinger. The final piece will be released on our website. Watch the space!



Zoetrope



Maths - We teach to the top every lesson and Mrs Mohamad's year 10 Maths lesson was no exception. Classroom environment was conducive to learning, coupled with excellent teacher demonstration and independent practice. Students could confidently articulate their knowledge about solving inequalities as they work to master other topics in maths.

Food Technology - Year 11 Food Technology students have been working exceptionally hard to trial the use of different types of ingredients on the outcome of products. Here we see students making pasta from scratch using a variety of flours with varying gluten content. These budding food scientists will use the findings of their experiments to create food products suitable for different sets of people. With the rise in popularity of 'free from foods', our Food Technology students are well placed to leave a lasting mark in our Food and Science industries.



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 Creativity!

"Creativity takes courage." – Henri Matisse

This week's value is Integrity.

How can Creativity help us achieve Integrity.



- **Resilience Building:** The creative process includes trial and error. Learning to appreciate failure as part of growth instils a sense of integrity, as students learn to be accountable for their actions and persist in doing their best.
- **Innovation in Learning:** Creativity encourages students to think of new ideas in their studies. When they try out different ways to learn, they take charge of their education, which helps them develop integrity in their schoolwork.
- **Self-Expression:** Doing creative activities like writing, drawing, and making music lets students share their thoughts and feelings. By being honest in their self-expression, they help build a culture of integrity in themselves and in their communities.

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



Member of the



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about JUSTALK KIDS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

JusTalk Kids is a child's version of the JusTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JusTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JusTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call; exclusive stickers; a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber; and exclusive ringtones and themes.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JusTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JusTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JusTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact: this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JusTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

TOO MUCH SCREENTIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 25% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JusTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what *is* and *isn't* safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

Meet Our Expert

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



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/justalk-kids>

Co-parenting with care

Creating a positive environment for children

This programme is specifically for parents who are separated or divorced and needing support to improve their co-parenting of a child/ren living in Enfield. This is a valuable opportunity to enhance relationships and strengthen co-parenting skills; Both parents are welcome to attend.

Sessions include

- Understanding co-parenting
- Communication skills
- Creating a co-parenting plan
- Navigating emotions
- Building a collaborative relationship
- Resources and support
- Moving forward



These 2 courses will be delivered via MS Teams, over 6 sessions on the following dates and times:

Date: Wednesday 5, 12, 26 February & 5, 12, 19 March 2025

Time: 9.30 am - 11.30 am

Date: Monday 24 February & 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 March 2025

Time: 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm

For more information or to make a referral, scan the QR code, email services@familylives.org.uk or call 0204 522 8700 or 0204 522 8699



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