



# NEWSLETTER

A ROUND UP OF THE WEEK AT LAUREL PARK SCHOOL

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## Headteacher's Message - Adele Christofi

During the last week Mr Hubbard and Ms Barmounaki launched the Golden Ticket. The Golden ticket is awarded to a student each lesson for outstanding work and commitment to their learning. If a student receives a golden ticket they are able to skip the lunch queue, collect additional character points and enter their tickets into a raffle for potential big prizes. I have been overwhelmed with the number of students eager to show me their tickets. Well done to all Golden Ticket winners and to staff for using them to motivate and inspire our young people.

Last week I was also privileged to look at all of the prefect entries. I was impressed with the speeches that our students had put together and the overall commitment and dedication they show to their school. We will be doing a formal announcement in due course, so watch this space.

I have been busy visiting primaries and hosting open mornings as we approach this Year's 6 transition deadline. I am very proud of our school and of what we do and continue to do to ensure that our young people get a quality first education. I am also proud that we are a small school with a family feel where we know our young people and can create bespoke opportunities for them. I would value your support in spreading the word by sharing our posts from our school Instagram accounts or Facebook to your own networks. Likewise, we have a lot of flyers advertising our school's open evening on Thursday the 3rd October. If you are able to have some flyers to distribute in your workplace that would be very much appreciated - please get in touch with the front office who will happily arrange for them to come home to you. Likewise, please feel free to come along to Open Evening, it is always good to see the school in action.

I always value parents telling me what their children are doing outside of school. This week I was informed that Talia in Year 10 auditioned for the Step into Dance youth programme. The panel expressed how much they enjoyed the dance that Talia performed and consequently she has been offered a place on their prestigious programme. This is a wonderful opportunity, well done to Talia, we look forward to hearing all about it. If you are a parent and your child is doing something outside of school, then please let me know about it so that we can celebrate the achievement!.

Finally, parents we are closely monitoring punctuality. We will be issuing reflection time for students who are late to school. It is important to ensure your children get to school on time, as we are preparing them for adult life and inevitably being punctual to work.

Wishing you all a safe and peaceful weekend.

Ms Christofi  
Headteacher

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# Lunch at The Bay Leaf Resturant



We are excited to share a glimpse of our delightful lunch at Bay leaf Restaurant! Each day, our plates are filled with vibrant, nutritious foods, made by our wonderful chefs!

## Inspector Calls Trip

Last week, Year 11 attended a captivating production of JB Priestley's morality play 'An Inspector Calls' at Alexandra Palace Theatre. The play follows the story of Eva Smith, a young working-class woman who takes her own life. Inspector Goole arrives at the Birling's house and disrupts the family's celebration to expose the horrifying truth that all the family members are connected to Eva Smith's death.

With its stunning set design and powerful themes, students were enthralled by the story's final plot twist, which left the audience questioning the family's willingness to change and whether they would accept their responsibility. The performance offered a thought-provoking commentary on the dangers of a capitalist society and the need for a fairer society for all.

Our students demonstrated excellent behaviour during the live performance. One of the highlights was the clever set design and how the house which was elevated on metal struts collapses with the crockery being broken to symbolise the collapse of the Birling family. The lighting and sound effects all combined to show how the Inspector was interrogating the family under a harsh light and the mist on the cobblestones show how the Birling's secrets spilled out onto the streets of 1945 when the play was written. Priestley's message is very clear and powerful, providing our students with excellent revision of the key themes for their future mock examination.



Next week is Week 1





## Year 7 Drama

Year 7 are currently studying for Term 1 introduction to Drama the Epic Legend of Gilgamesh. These are Still images used to sequence the main plot points of the story.



## Year 11 Prefects



This week we appointed our new team of Year 11 prefects. Students were asked to complete an application form before submitting a video speech about their suitability for the role. After these were reviewed by Ms Christofi, the successful candidates were announced in Year 11 assembly this week.

Congratulations to Laura, Maria, Orel, Brielle, Alvita, Muhtasham, Maida M, Helios, Jenny and Anh N. They all now have their gold ties and prefect badges and are wearing them with pride. They will be helping out at school events, be support for their peers and help steer the school by leading student voice.

The application process is open once more for any other students who wish to apply.

Next week we will let you know who our Year 10 prefects are - watch this space!

## Open Evening Arrangements

### Early finish at 1.35pm

- All students will be dismissed from school at 1.35pm on Thursday 3rd October
- Students that are helping in the evening and wish to stay on at school in the gap, will remain with their Raising Standards Lead and then go to their department to help set up.

### Student Tour Guides

- There will be a meeting on Tuesday 1st October at 8.35 in the sports hall after roll call. The meeting takes place with Mrs Tansley and you will receive your route.
- Register in the Bay Leaf Restaurant at 4pm in full school uniform
- Arrange to be collected or make your way home, at 8.15pm

### Department Helpers

- Some of you will be asked to stay at school to help set up between 1.35-4.00pm on Thursday. Check with your teacher if you are needed.
- Everyone register in the Bay Leaf Restaurant at 4pm. Water will be provided. Go to your department areas where you will stay all evening to help.
- Arrange to be collected or make your way home, at 8.15pm

### Speakers

- Register in the Bay Leaf Restaurant at 4pm
- You will be based in the assembly hall, your parents are very welcome to come and watch you speak
- Arrange to be collected, or make your way home, at 8.15pm

### Has your child not been chosen?

- If your child has not received a letter to help out and they would like to, they are to speak to their Raising Standards Lead at line up, who will liaise with Mrs Tansley to see where there are spaces.

**We would like to invite ALL families - current and prospective, to visit Laurel Park at our Open Evening on Thursday 3rd October 4.45-8.15pm**

## Friday 4th October

Due to the late finish on Open Evening, school will start for all students on Friday 4th October at 9.40am.

Breakfast will be available from 9.15am in the Bay Leaf Restaurant.



## Careers Corner

There's only three weeks to go until Unifrog's UK University Fair on Wednesday 16 October at 4-6:30pm. This is available for our Year 10-12 students where they will be invited to meet 40 universities in two hours - including University of Bristol, University of Warwick, University of Leeds, and Cardiff University. They'll gain practical advice from the experts to help them get a step closer to their dream university.

For students who are unsure about what or where to study - Live sessions and interactive booths can inspire them to consider a diverse range of universities from all over the UK.



[Sign up to the fair](#)

All Year 10 parents should now have received a letter about our Year 10 work experience week which will be taking place from 3rd-7th March 2025.

Please support us by speaking to your contacts about sourcing a placement for your child

**CAN YOUR  
CHILD HAVE  
FREE SCHOOL  
MEALS?**

[Click here to check and  
complete the form](#)

The Bay Leaf Restaurant is open every morning from 7.50am to 8.15am for free breakfast for all students.

At lunchtime we serve two hot meal options and unlimited salad bar, all prepared from scratch by Chef Dan and his team.

If you pay for your meals please make sure ParentPay is topped up.



**BAY LEAF  
RESTAURANT**

# NOMINATIONS FOR HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Anyone can nominate a student for a  
Headteacher's Commendation.

Staff, parents, other students -  
complete this nomination form:



## Criteria

**Integrity** - for hard work, honesty, making good choices, representing the school

**Determination** - for motivation, overcoming barriers, effort, self-discipline

**Excellence** - for Character Points, personal excellence, sporting / musical excellence

**Ambition** - for high aspirations (mock) exam results, assessment results



Bronze Award  
Awarded 1st time



Silver Award  
Awarded 2nd time



Gold Award  
Awarded 3rd time





Meet 40  
universities in  
2 hours!

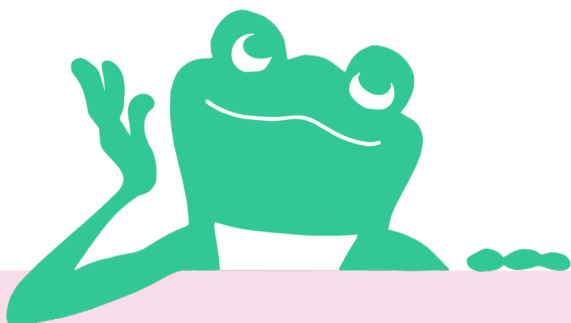


unifrog

# UNIVERSITY FAIR

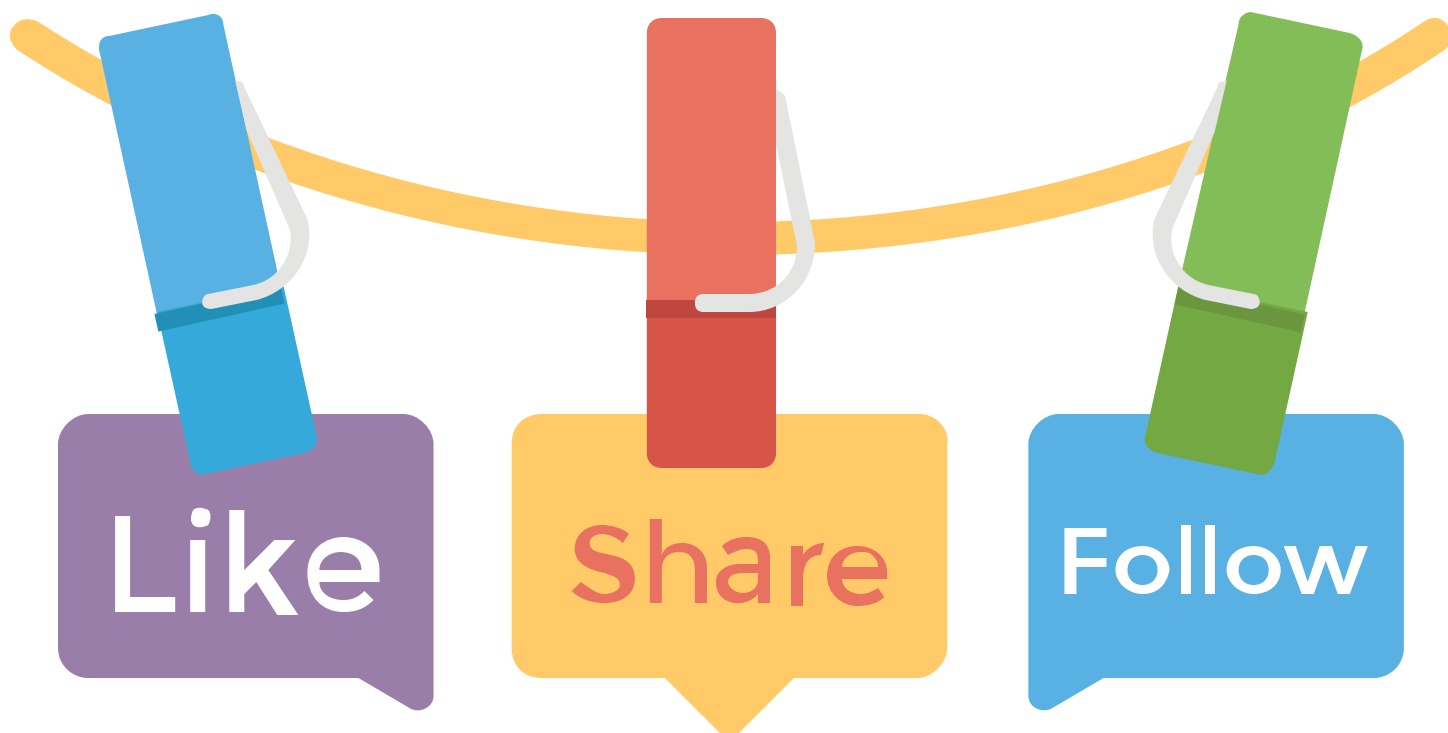
Wednesday 16 October, 4–6:30pm

The fair to help you choose where to study, apply successfully, and prepare for university life



scan  
here to  
sign up

# Do you follow Laurel Park School on Instagram and Facebook?



We think Laurel Park is an amazing school, where are students are achieving fantastic things - we think the whole world needs to know about it!

Make sure that you, your family and friends for LPS on Instagram and Facebook and that you like and share our posts.

Last year Miss Bignell set the target of getting 500 followers on insta by Christmas - this Christmas she want to hit 1000 follows - help us reach this target!

**Click the icon to make sure you are following!**





# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION  
13+

Instagram is a highly popular social media platform with over 2 billion active monthly users. The app is continuously updating and adding new features to meet the wishes of its audience, allowing them to upload images and videos to their Instagram feed, create interactive 'stories', go live, exchange private messages or explore and follow other accounts that catch their eye.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ADDICTION

Many social media platforms, Instagram included, are designed to keep us engaged on them for as long as possible. They encourage scrolling often and scrolling more in case we miss something important - in essence, a fear of missing out. On Instagram, young people can lose track of time when aimlessly scrolling and watching videos posted by friends, acquaintances, influencers and possibly strangers.

### UNREALISTIC IDEALS

Children sometimes compare themselves to what they see online: how they look, how they dress, and the way their life is going in comparison to others on social media. However, most people only show the positives about their lives online and many use filters when sharing pictures of themselves. A constant comparison with unrealistic ideals can lead to insecurity over one's own appearance and lifestyle.

### GOING LIVE

Live-streaming on Instagram allows users to connect with friends and followers in real time. Risks increase if the account is public, because that means anyone can watch the broadcast, which could result in further contact from strangers. Additional dangers of going live include an impulse to act inappropriately to draw more viewers, as well as being exposed to harmful content or offensive language.

### INFLUENCER CULTURE

Social media influencers are sometimes paid thousands of pounds to promote products, services, apps and more. When celebrities or influencers post such content, it often says 'paid partnership' above the post. In April 2024, Ofcom found that over a quarter of children (27%) believed in influencer marketing, accepting their endorsement of products wholeheartedly. So it's perfectly possible for young people to be taken in by this kind of content.

### PRODUCT TAGGING

Product tags allow users to tag a product or business in their post. This tag will take viewers directly to the product detail page on the shop where the item can be purchased. Children may also be encouraged by influencers to purchase products that they advertise.

### EXCLUSION & OSTRACISM

Youngsters are highly sensitive to feeling excluded, which comes in many forms: not receiving as many 'likes' as expected; not being tagged in a friend's photo; being unfriended; not receiving a comment on their post or a reply to a message they sent. Being excluded online hurts just as much as offline. Young people have reported lower moods and self-esteem when excluded in this way, feeling as if they don't belong and aren't valued.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### AVOID GOING PUBLIC

If a young user wants to share their clothing style, make up or similar and use product tagging to show off the items in their post, they may be tempted to change their settings to public. This leaves their profile visible to everyone, which carries the risk of strangers getting in touch with them. Set a child's account to private and explain the importance of keeping it this way.

### HAVE AN OPEN DIALOGUE

Talk to children about the positives and negatives of social media, including the risks involved and how they can view or create content safely with family and friends. Explain how safety settings will ensure only followers can view them, and why this is so important. Also, if you find a child continuously uses filters on their photos, ask them why and impress on them that they don't need it.

### MANAGE LIKE COUNTS

Due to the potential impact on mental wellbeing, Instagram allows users to hide the total likes on their posts, to prevent people from obsessing over that number in the corner. Users can hide like counts on all the posts in their feed as well as on their own posts. This means others can't see how many likes a person gets. This can be done by going into Settings > Notifications > Posts > Likes > Off.

### USE MODERATORS

Instagram Live has implemented a mechanic called 'Moderators', meaning that creators can assign a moderator and give them the power to report comments, remove viewers and remove the ability for certain viewers to comment at all. Consider this if a child in your care wants to go live on the platform. It's also recommended to keep devices in communal spaces so you're aware if a child does go live or watch a livestream.

### FOLLOW INFLUENCERS

Following influencers will allow you to monitor what they're sharing as well as being able to discuss anything which you deem inappropriate. Talk to children about who they follow and help them to develop critical thinking skills about what the influencer is trying to do. For example, encourage the child to ask themselves if an influencer is trying to sell them a product when they make a video endorsing it.

### BALANCE YOUR TIME

Instagram has a built-in activity dashboard that lets you control how much time is spent on the app. Make sure children sign in to the platform with the correct age, as Instagram's 'Teen Accounts' afford much more control for parents and carers over how long they can use the app each day. Talk with young users about how much time they spend on Instagram and work together to set a healthy time limit.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr. Claire Southard is an online safety consultant at eCyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire 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.

