

A ROUND UP OF THE WEEK AT LAUREL PARK SCHOOL

Headteacher's Message - Adele Christofi

Dear Laurel Park School Community,

As we approach the half-term break, I'm delighted to share with you the vibrant tapestry of activities and achievements that have coloured our school life this week. It's been a whirlwind of events, each one showcasing the incredible talents and dedication of our pupils and staff.

The week kicked off with a surge of pride as Hfasa represented Laurel Park in the Jack Petchey borough final on Monday. Her confident performance was a testament to her remarkable progress since joining us in 2023, speaking no English. The sight of our pupils and staff rallying to support her warmed my heart and exemplified the spirit of our school community.

Tuesday was a day of diverse experiences. Mr London led a group of aspiring legal minds on a 'Legal Team' trip, offering them a fascinating glimpse into the world of law and case scenarios. Meanwhile, our Year 11 art pupils unleashed their creativity in the 'Unlocking Broomfield' workshop. Working alongside Friends of Broomfield Park and local artists, they began crafting ideas for a mural in the park, even mastering the delicate art of paper butterfly making.

Pupil safety is always at the forefront of our minds, and this week saw assemblies across the school focusing on personal safety. We particularly emphasised the importance of being vigilant when out and about, especially regarding mobile phone use in public spaces.

Wednesday evening buzzed with excitement as our Year 9 pupils explored their future pathways at our Options Evening. I'm immensely proud of our curriculum offer, which we've carefully designed to provide a rich tapestry of choices, valuing all areas including Arts, Sport, and Technology.

The creative arts continued to flourish on Thursday with a charming mini cabaret performance by our drama pupils. Centred around the theme of 'Love' to celebrate Valentine's Day, it was a delightful showcase of the talents nurtured in our Thursday after-school drama club.

Looking ahead, this Saturday, 15th February, Ms Nicolaou and Ms Joseph will be accompanying a group of our pupils to Imperial College London for a debating competition. We're eager to share the results with you after the half-term break. And let's not forget our upcoming trip to Paris – an exciting adventure on the horizon!

In the sporting arena, our pupils continue to make us proud. The Year 10 basketball team has been on fire, securing victories against Southgate on Monday and Kingsmead on Tuesday. Their Tuesday performance was particularly spectacular, breaking the school record with an impressive 50-27 score!

As we head into the half-term break, I'm filled with pride at the diverse accomplishments of our pupils. From eloquent speeches to artistic endeavours, from legal explorations to sporting triumphs, the Laurel Park community continues to shine in myriad ways.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break. Let's return refreshed and ready for more learning, growth, and achievements in the weeks to come.

Adele Christofi
Headteacher

“

“Why Our School Uniform Policy Matters: A Student's Perspective”

Dear Miss Christofi,

I strongly believe that our school policy should maintain with the uniform rule. This is because I think it will make things easier when students are getting ready in the morning. Another reason is that it helps parents not to spend too much money on branded expensive clothes.

Wearing our uniform lets everyone know that we are part of Laurel Park School, it gives us our identity. It shows the local community what smart independent young individuals we are. On the other hand; many students will disagree with me because some would say, the uniform is not comfortable to wear or just not look nice on them in general. Fashion trends change frequently and students often want to keep up with the trends. Without uniform the can wear what is currently popular amongst their peers.

In conclusion, I strongly believe that uniform must be worn at school because the parents won't need to spend money on expensive clothes, students will be more organised when getting changes in the morning and also it helps with representing the school.

Charlie

”



Headteacher's Award

At the end of each week, 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 7 and 8 winners from this week who received a great surprise to find out they had won this prestigious award!

Year 7

Amaiya - Wins for **Integrity**, She is consistently ready to engage and demonstrates determination along with a positive attitude towards learning. Particularly in the form class, she puts forth her utmost effort during reading time.

Mary - Wins for **Integrity**, Mary is consistently showing integrity whether its homework, classwork or in form she is always standing out. Her commitment to learning and wanting to improve is something others should be following

Julia - Wins for **Excellence**, Julia consistently shows excellence. She is a great student and is always eager to learn. She always finds ways to show acts of kindness. Her positive attitude to learning is evident in all her lessons.

Andis - Wins for **Ambition**, Andis is a student who is highly motivated, ambitious and striving to better himself in learning as well values.



Year 8

David - Wins for **Integrity**, David has earned the Integrity Award for his dedication and resilience. Despite being on crutches and attending medical appointments, he arrives at school on time, prepared and eager to learn. He actively participates in lessons, wears his full uniform, and always carries a smile. His perseverance and positive attitude inspire others, truly embodying integrity.

Khairya - Wins for **Integrity**, Khairya has been doing superbly in all her lessons and is showing increasing maturity as she progresses through Laurel Park school.

Rea - Wins for **Excellence**, Rea shows excellence in everything he does. He is always doing what he is asked to do to the best of his ability . He is kind to everyone and always prepared and eager to learn. I am so proud of him.

Taihyana - Wins for **Excellence**, Taihyana is deserving of an award for excellence; she consistently demonstrates exceptional performance, a strong work ethic, and a commitment to growth. She inspires others through leadership, resilience, and creativity while making a positive impact on the form group and wider school community. Her dedication sets a standard of excellence in all she pursues.





JACK PETCHEY

Jack Petchey's
"SPEAK OUT"
Challenge!

On Monday 10th February was the prestigious Regional Final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. Our finalist Hfasa engaged the audience with her powerful and heartfelt speech entitled "Fear is not your Enemy." It was great to see family, staff and friends support Hfasa on the night as she stunned audiences with her amazing confidence and positive message. We are so proud of you, Hfasa. A massive well done to our LPS winner !!



YEAR 10 BASKETBALL VICTORY!!

The Year 10 boys basketball team has had an incredible week, competing in three matches and securing three victories. Their dominance was clear from the start in their first game against Southgate School, resulting in a convincing 39-14 win.

The team continued their winning streak against Kingsmead, achieving the highest score ever recorded by a Laurel Park basketball team with a resounding 50-27 victory.

Their final match against St Ignatius proved to be a nail-biting encounter. In a tense, back-and-forth game, the boys clinched a crucial win with a last-minute three-pointer from Salah, finishing the game 31-30.

This successful week caps off an amazing season so far for the team.

They have won their last six league matches in a row and are now heading into a title-deciding match against Latymer after half term. The winning squad for these matches consisted of: Mubarak, Salah, Kieran, Christo, Gideon, Trevaun, Mohammed, Bryan, and Charlie.

Mr. Ayerh is extremely proud of the team's efforts and progress throughout the season.



This week, we celebrated Apprenticeship Week with an inspiring assembly! We shared with students what apprenticeships are all about—combining learning and earning while gaining hands-on experience.

From engineering to healthcare and creative industries, we highlighted the wide range of job roles available through apprenticeships. Students learned about the amazing benefits, including earning a salary, gaining industry qualifications, and launching a successful career.

We hope this sparks curiosity and excitement for the endless opportunities apprenticeships offer.



Year 11 inspired by FixUp seminar

On Thursday, Year 11 were really fortunate to have an amazing and inspirational seminar led by Rory from the FixUp team. Rory worked with the Year 11s for an hour, talking about growth mindset, positivity, following the rules and working hard to reach your dreams and aspirations.

Rory talked about how success doesn't just happen and to use today as a 'line in the sand' moment. The seminar was well timed as students need to prioritise their goals as they start their final mocks as soon as we return after half term.

Students were also provided with an LPS Excel booklet, full of strategies and top 10 tips from their different student areas to help them to revise, and a Study Skills booklet to give them different revision strategies to aid them for their mocks.

We also rewarded students who have been attending the most period 7 sessions after school. Well done to Ryan R, Laura, Raya, Enes, Keira E, Alfonso, Tom, Tuana, Maida M, Jewel, Boris and Daria who were all rewarded for their efforts

Thanks to Rory and the FixUp team for a great session.



Online scams advice for parents

It's Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 11th February and this year's campaign is helping to protect children from online scams. Scams are becoming more advanced and can take many forms, from phishing emails to fake images and videos used for blackmail.

Half a million children in the UK are impacted by online scams*, so to help you protect your children from online scams, we're sharing our brand new scams advice hub including the different types of scams, what you and your child can do to prevent them and what to do if your child is a victim of a scam. [Visit Internet Matters scams advice](#)

[hub](#)

internet
matters.org



Year 7 French

Students wrote heartfelt thank-you cards to express their appreciation for their teacher's hard work and dedication this half term. Students also made cards to thank their friends for their friendship.



Since the introduction of boxing at LPS, we have witnessed a remarkable transformation in the students who participate. The core purpose of our boxing classes is to foster discipline, determination, and confidence—qualities that perfectly align with our school's core values of Integrity, Determination, Excellence, and Ambition.

This positive shift is evident as our students not only excel in the boxing ring but also carry these vital skills into the classroom, enhancing their overall academic performance and personal growth. The impact of this program extends beyond physical training, helping students develop a mindset of perseverance and focus that they can apply to all areas of their lives.

-Mr Akubuko
Assistant Head



Thank you so much to all the parents who attended the parent workshop led by Tender on Online Relationships.

Our next parent workshop will be on Tuesday 25th March from 3.30pm-4.30pm. This will take place at Laurel Park School and will be on Healthy Friendships and Relationships. There will be a final workshop on Tuesday 29th April from 4.00pm-5.00pm on Zoom about Managing Difficult Emotions.

More details about accessing these workshops will be sent closer to the time



Wicked Dance Workshop by Talia - Half Term

We are thrilled to share that Talia, a talented Year 10 student, will be leading a Wicked-themed Dance Workshop this half-term Friday 21st February at Make Believe Theatre School. This workshop is open to students aged 6-18 years, and it's a fantastic opportunity to learn some iconic moves from the popular musical Wicked!

Booking now our one day only
Wicked Workshop.
Singing, Dancing, Acting and Arts & Crafts



Join us on Friday 21st February at
Oasis Academy, Enfield Lock
Ages 3-5 10-1pm
Ages 6-9 10-3pm
Ages 10+ 10-3pm



Welcome to Careers Corner

Where each week you get updates on the careers education programme

National Apprenticeship Week - 10th-16th February

To celebrate National Apprenticeships Week, we will have a number of in school events:

- this week's assembly
- links to apprenticeships in lessons

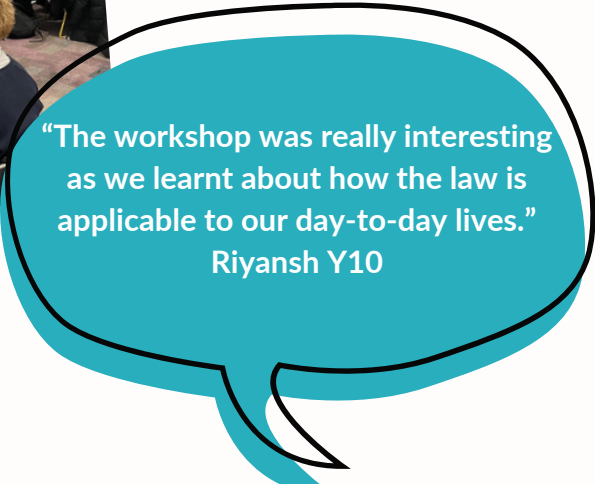
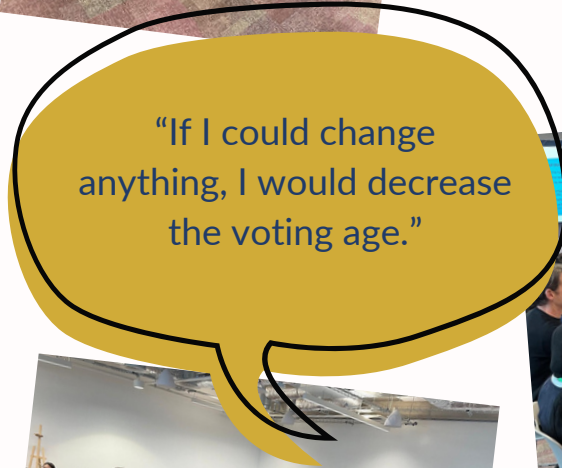
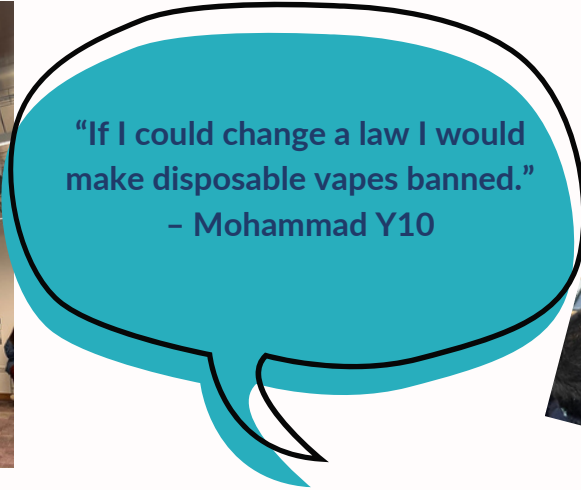
You will also be taught about apprenticeships during your careers unit in PSHE.

There are also a number of places you can find out more information about apprenticeships

- Use Springpod (you need to sign up) to find out more about apprenticeships - see poster in this newsletter
- play the Apprenticeship Arcade game on the Amazing Apprenticeships website to find out more - <https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/apprenticeship-arcade/>
- take the BBC Bitesize quiz to find out what apprenticeship suits you best - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zy8r6rd>



On Tuesday, our Y10 students travelled to the Meta office in London's Kings Cross to participate in a workshop organised by Young Citizens called 'The Big Legal Lesson': A national campaign to teach young people about the law. It was a really insightful day for our students who worked alongside Meta's legal team exploring the law within our everyday lives. Students worked on case study scenarios to explore the impact of the law on individuals within our society. They also had the opportunity to write about a law they would change. There was certainly lots of enthusiasm and interest as students eagerly discussed their ideas. Meta's Legal department were extremely complementary about our students. We are extremely proud of them all.



Teaching and Learning **FOCUS**

We have been looking at excellent classroom practice this half term and this week is no exception. Below we showcase some of the ways we demonstrate scholarly habits during the last week of a busy half term.



Year 11 - As the term winds down, it can be tempting for Year 11 students to ease up on their studies. However, those who continue to put in the effort until the very last day will reap the rewards. With GCSEs on the horizon, every lesson, revision session, and piece of coursework completed now makes a difference.

Teachers often emphasize that consistent hard work especially at the end of term can set students apart. While others might be switching off, staying focused ensures that knowledge stays fresh and exam techniques remain sharp. It is also a great opportunity to ask final questions, complete outstanding work, and strengthen weaker areas before the next stage of preparation begins. Our year 11 students pictured above, continue to demonstrate scholarly habits at the end of the term, the Laurel Park way.

Year 8 - Our year 8 learned about Antarctica and why it is important. They discussed Climate Change and Global Impact, International Cooperation and Scientific Discovery, and the impact it has on Wildlife and Ecosystems. They discovered that Antarctica is a hub for scientific discovery, and a reminder of the need for global cooperation. By learning about Antarctica, we gain valuable insights into our past, present, and future.



Year 7 Students Create Adorable Soft Toys

Our talented Year 7 students have been putting their creativity and sustainability skills to the test by designing and making soft toys from eco-friendly materials. As part of their Design and Technology lessons, students explored the importance of using sustainable fabrics, recycled stuffing, and ethical production methods to reduce waste and environmental impact.

The finished toys showcase a variety of imaginative designs, from cuddly animals to unique character creations, all made with care and consideration for the planet. This project not only developed their sewing and design skills but also encouraged them to think about sustainability in everyday life.

Well done to all the students involved for their hard work and commitment to eco-friendly craftsmanship!



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 Staying Positive!

"Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm"
- Winston Churchill

This week's value is Determination

How can Staying Positive us achieve Determination

- **Helps You Keep Going After Failure:** If you don't do well on a test, a positive mindset helps you see it as a learning opportunity rather than a reason to give up.
- **Reduces Stress and Increases Focus:** Instead of panicking before an exam, a student with a positive mindset stays calm, focuses on revision, and performs better.
- **Builds Confidence in Your Abilities:** If you struggle in a specific subject, studying with a positive mindset helps you find new ways to approach it instead of feeling stuck.



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

STAY
POSITIVE

Member of the



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



**WE WANT YOUR
FEEDBACK**

We know that our parents love LPS because 90% of you told Ofsted that you would recommend us to another parent, so now we need your help to...

**TELL EVERYONE ABOUT
OUR AMAZING SCHOOL**

**JUST CLICK THE LOGOS BELOW
TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS**



**Quick easy and can be
anonymous**

<https://snobe.co.uk/schools/lau-rel-park-school>



**Send an email with
your review**

office@goodschoolsguide.co.uk

JACK PETCHEY GRANT AWARDS

CELEBRATING STUDENT EXCELLENCE!



Do you have what it takes to stand out and make a meaningful impact? The Jack Petchey Grant Awards are here to recognise students who truly go the extra mile—whether through their efforts at school, in their community, or by achieving incredible personal goals.

This is your opportunity to be celebrated for your hard work, leadership, and determination to make a difference.

What's the Award All About?

The Jack Petchey Grant Awards are a prestigious programme designed to shine a spotlight on outstanding young achievers who embody the values of leadership, dedication, and resilience.

Students who stand out demonstrate:

- **Leadership and Teamwork:** Inspiring others and working collaboratively to achieve success.
- **A Positive Attitude and Resilience:** Staying determined in the face of challenges and remaining optimistic.
- **Contributions to School or Community Life:** Volunteering, organising events, or supporting projects that make a difference.
- **Personal Accomplishments:** Excelling in unique talents, academics, sports, or the arts and inspiring others to follow their passions.

What's in it for You?

Winners receive up to £300 to support impactful school projects or activities.

You'll also gain:

- ✦ **Recognition** at a special awards event.
- ✦ **A CV Boost** to enhance your portfolio.
- ✦ **Pride** in making a difference and inspiring others.

How Can You Get Involved?

Be a Role Model: Show kindness and lead by example.

Get Involved: Volunteer or organise events that make a difference.

Show Resilience: Overcome challenges and stay determined.

Share Your Talents: Inspire others with your skills and passions.

Why Take Part?

- This award is more than just recognition; it's about leaving your mark and making a difference. You'll also:
- Gain the confidence to tackle future challenges.
- Build leadership skills that will benefit you in all areas of life.
- Contribute to a stronger and more inspiring school community.

Your Journey Starts Here!

Take the first step towards achieving something extraordinary. Speak to **Ms Ezzeldin** your Jack Petchey Coordinator today to find out more and get advice on how to begin.

This is your time to shine, inspire others, and make your school proud. YOU could be the next winner of the Jack Petchey Grant Award!



Apprenticeships

Explore Apprenticeships with Springpod Unlocked

Thinking about applying for an apprenticeship but don't know what to expect? Take this short course (1 hour) and see if it's the right pathway for you!

- Learn more about apprenticeships
- See what careers you can go into
- Hear from apprentices
- Be more confident in your decisions about your next steps

How to get started - 3 easy steps!



Click or Scan QR to create your **Springpod account**



Click or Scan QR Code for **Pathways Unlocked**



Click or Scan the QR Code for **Apprenticeships Unlocked - Start Now**

<https://unlocked.springpod.com/>

<https://unlocked.springpod.com/training-options/apprenticeships>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE RELATIONSHIPS & DATING APPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Dating apps are used to help people find new relationships – whether casual or more long term – matching users based on age, interests, gender and more. Some may consider dating apps harmless to under-18s because they aren't able to use them, but effective age verification measures are quite scarce, and it's been known for young people to end up on apps of this type.

EASE OF ACCESS

The relatively lax age verification process of many dating apps makes them incredibly accessible to children who really shouldn't be using them. This carries the obvious risk of exposing under-18s to a dating scene populated by adults – who may not even be aware of the young person's true age. This is concerning when we consider the 'hook-up culture' common on these apps – with many people using them to arrange casual sexual encounters.

CONTACT AND CONDUCT RISKS

Once someone is active on a dating app, their social media profiles can be linked to the app and might be accessed by others. This can lead to random users 'sliding into their DM's' (sending a direct message) without consent. Complete strangers could start bombarding a young person's inbox with pictures, messages and sexual comments.

SCAMS AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Some young people may feel they've formed a real bond with someone through online dating, but there's always a risk that it's not genuine. Scammers on these apps often build romantic connections with their victims – then once they feel they have their victim's trust, they begin asking for money under false pretences (such as suggesting they meet in person and requesting a 'loan' to cover a train ticket).

UNVERIFIED ACCOUNTS

As with all online interactions, you may not be talking to whom you think you are. Without paying a subscription, users of dating apps can often only view a certain number of profiles at a time. A TikTok trend has advised young people to set their age limit to 80 years and over – putting them in a sparse and more 'exclusive' category to bypass the usual restrictions. Unfortunately, this can lead to matches with someone much older.

PEER PRESSURE

The pressure to be in a relationship can be huge, and many young people use online dating apps as a cost-effective way to meet others. Some users find it difficult to meet people organically due to their lifestyle, and may not have the time or money to go out and socialise. It's also common for young people to set up accounts for their single friends in the hope of finding a match for someone they know.

SKewed PERSPECTIVES

Dating apps can promote an unrealistic view of what makes someone attractive. With such vast options, some users can become both picky and extremely harsh about others' appearance. Ultimately, all you see on these apps are pictures (with no insight into someone's personality), and some young people struggle with the fear of being judged. Even when someone does start dating, there's a persistent paranoia that their partner is only one swipe away from a potentially better match.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK ABOUT DATING APPS

Let young people know that they can talk to you about anything, even something as private as their dating life. At school, the relationships, sex and health curriculum can assist with conversations around healthy relationships, consent and online safety. Emphasise the message that you want to help them make healthy, safe and informed choices. If they feel embarrassed talking to you, make sure they have a trusted adult who can help them.

ENCOURAGE DATA PROTECTION

Empower young people to protect their data and personal information. Explain why including things like their school, age and surname in their profile could potentially be dangerous. Make sure they know never to give out personal details, and that there's no reason for other users to ask for them. If they feel uneasy about a situation online, they need to speak to someone that they can trust.

VERIFICATION STAMPS

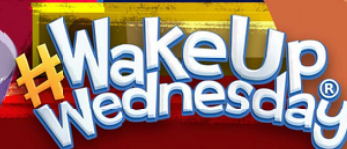
Explain that someone using a dating app should only communicate with those who have gone through a verification process. Online dating apps use a variety of methods to ascertain a user's identity, including scanning valid documents (such as a driver's licence or passport). Verification can also involve users taking a selfie to ensure that the photos on their profile match it.

REPORT AND BLOCK

Remind young people that they can always report or block (or both) anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable on any platform. Ask if they know how to do this and offer to help them figure it out if they're unsure. Every app should have advice on how to report or block another user, so be sure young people are familiar with the settings.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings works at RAISE (www.raiseducation.org.uk) in the field of relationships, sex and health education, providing educational, age-appropriate workshops for pupils around the more sensitive areas of the curriculum – including online safety and healthy relationships.



The National College