

A ROUND UP OF THE WEEK AT LAUREL PARK SCHOOL

Headteacher's Message - Adele Christofi

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we embrace the vibrant energy of spring, I'm delighted to share some exciting updates from our bustling school life. Our pupils continue to impress us with their enthusiasm, dedication, and remarkable achievements.

During the half-term break, a group of our pupils embarked on an unforgettable journey to Paris. They explored iconic landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, and The Louvre, immersing themselves in the rich culture and history of the French capital. The trip culminated with a visit to Euro Disney, adding a touch of magic to their experience. I'm incredibly proud of our pupils, who demonstrated exceptional maturity and impeccable behaviour throughout the trip. A heartfelt thank you to Mr Mandrides, Ms Xyrizou, Mrs Sheikh-Oomar, and Ms Umer for accompanying and guiding our pupils on this wonderful adventure.

Back on home soil, our Year 11 pupils have been working tirelessly to prepare for their upcoming GCSE exams. Many attended intervention sessions during the half-term break, taking advantage of additional support to boost their confidence and knowledge. I'd like to express my gratitude to all the staff members who facilitated these valuable sessions, going above and beyond to support our pupils' academic journey.

I'm thrilled to announce two exciting initiatives that are set to inspire and empower our pupils. The Spurs Huddle project, focusing on girls' football and NFL, will kick off on Tuesdays. This fantastic opportunity aims to encourage more girls to engage in sports and discover new passions. Additionally, our Year 7 pupils have begun the Write2Speak workshop series, with the first of three sessions taking place on Monday. This programme is designed to nurture confidence and enhance oracy skills among our young learners.

We have some remarkable achievements to celebrate. Kieran in year 10 has successfully advanced to the regional finals in trampolining – an incredible accomplishment that showcases his dedication and talent.

To our Year 11 parents, please note that your children are currently in their mock 2 examination window. It's crucial that they maintain their revision efforts during this period to solidify their understanding and prepare effectively for the upcoming GCSE exams.

As always, I'm in awe of the resilience, creativity, and spirit demonstrated by our pupils and staff. Together, we continue to create a vibrant learning environment where every individual can thrive and reach their full potential.

Wishing you all a safe and peaceful weekend,

Adele Christofi
Headteacher

Calling all Parents - Become a School Governor!

My name is Tracy Webber and I am a parent governor here at LPS. I have a child in Yr10, and became a governor in 2022 because I wanted to take an active role in the success of the school my child attends, and gain insight into how the school operates.

I enjoy being involved in shaping the future of the school and being a voice for parents. It is important that parents' perspectives from across our school community are represented in decision making.

As a governor, I get to meet new people, learn new skills, work collaboratively in a team, and support my child's education.

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor to join our governing body and would strongly urge any parent/carers to apply if you would like the opportunity to contribute to our school community and have a direct influence on your child's future education. There are many benefits to being a parent governor, so please get in touch if you would like to find out more at chairgovernor@laurelparkschool.co.uk

**Next week is
Week 2**

WORLD BOOK DAY

6 MARCH 2025

World Book Day is happening on Thursday 6th March and we want YOU to be involved!

There will be a number of competitions and activities taking place next week:

English staff are going to dress up as their favourite character from a book of their choice as well as sharing with you some of their own reading habits. Maybe you could convince your other teachers to dress up too?!

There will be a 'Guess the Title' competition on the walls of O corridor. If you guess all 20 book titles correctly you will receive a prize. Entries should be given to Ms Mahmud in O12 by Monday 10th March.

A silent reading room will be running on Thursday 6th March for all those who want to come along and read quietly. If you would like to attend, a member of the English department will pick you up from the outside doors at 12.40pm.

A 'Story in a Day' for Years 7 to 10

Lots of fun activities in your English lessons



Below is your £1 token to choose a brilliant free book. Find out more about the £1 tokens and how they work at: worldbookday.com/books



Year 11

This week, Year 11 have begun their final set of mock exams. They have already completed exams in Biology, RE, History, English, Sports Studies, Maths, Business Studies, Graphics, Turkish and Arabic! A busy week for Year 11s!

Next week exams will continue, as will period 7. The students conduct has been exemplary with lots of them focussed and working on bridging the gaps in their knowledge in order to improve grades

Year 10 work experience

A reminder that next week is work experience for Year 10. Students who have secured a placement will be out of school for the whole week. We have a wide range of placements - corporate firms, retail, education, law courts and construction to name a few! We look forward to hearing all about them in a few week's time. We also have students running our Laurel Park beauty studio next week - lots of staff are looking forward to their treatments next week!

If students have not secured a place they will need to attend school as usual.



Unlocking Broomfield Community Art Project



Just before half-term our Year 11 art students had the opportunity to start work on another Community Art Project, called 'Unlocking Broomfield'. Enfield Council and Laurel Park School have been working together with a group of artists from Matchbox Collective to create a temporary mural around the old house that is expected to be installed in April this year.

Enfield Council has received initial support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NHLF) for their project 'Unlocking Broomfield Park for the Community'. Made possible by National Lottery players, the project aims to reinvigorate Broomfield Park, exploring its rich heritage and providing activities for the community to engage with the vision for the park.

Development funding has been awarded by NHLF the Heritage Fund to help Enfield Council progress their plans to apply for a full National Lottery grant to dismantle the derelict, burnt-out shell of Broomfield House and reconnect the House and Park through memorialisation, interpretation, and landscaping which will include restoration of the unique Baroque water garden.

The first workshop with our students included learning a bit about the history of Broomfield House, looking at ancient artifacts from the local area, creating our own artwork and imagining what students would like to see Broomfield House replaced with, when it's gone. There will be another workshop in a few weeks time in school, to plan some murals for the hoardings around the house. In the Easter holidays, street artists will be hosting a mural painting workshop and are encouraging Laurel Park students from all years to get involved.



CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to:
 Year 7: Josie 14805 questions
 Year 8: Hibaq 304 questions
 Year 9: Kadir 568 questions
 Year 10: Dea 4298 questions
 Year 11: Alfonso 2205 questions

They answered the most questions in their Year group during Spring 1 half term and have been receiving their prizes in assembly this week.

The competition has started again for Spring 2 half term, so start answering the questions!
 In addition, there is also a weekly prize for the student in each year group who answers the most questions.

Educake can be accessed here <https://my.educake.co.uk/login>
 Students are regularly set homework on here and have the option to select their own questions too.



Three Day Trip to Rome

Sunday 24th May to Tuesday 26th May 2026

We are excited to offer a three-day trip to Rome from Sunday 24th May to Tuesday 26th May 2026 as part of our Character Education programme.

Trip includes:

Return flights, accommodation and unlimited public transport
 Guided tours of the Colosseum, Vatican Museums, Roman Forum, and more
 Stay at Hotel Villa Rosa.

Cost: Approx. £750 (includes transport, accommodation, some meals, and activities)*subject to change based on flight prices

Limited to 25 places - first come, first served. Deposit of £100 payable on ParentPay from 2pm on Monday 10th March 2025.

Only available for current Year 7-10 students. Students must have a valid passport and EHIC/GHIC. Poor behaviour may result in removal from the trip without a refund.



Full details in the letter on ParentApp and our website.



As part of their Level 3 Sports and Physical Activity course this term, our Sixth Form students have enthusiastically embraced handball, a rapidly growing sport in the UK. They've demonstrated impressive progress in key skills, including passing, dribbling, shooting, and defending.



Last weekend, our talented debaters took on the challenge of a parliamentary-style competition at the prestigious Imperial College London. In this fast-paced format, teams had just 15 minutes to prepare before delivering passionate speeches—without notes! Arguing as either the Government or Opposition, they had to think on their feet, counter arguments, and impress the judges with logic and wit.

It was an incredible experience, with our students debating everything from global politics to ethical dilemmas. Their confidence, teamwork, and critical thinking shone through—making our school proud on a truly competitive stage!



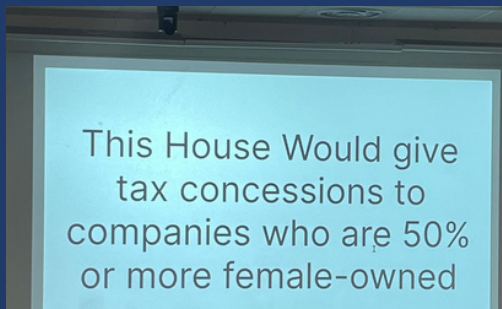
Ms Nicolaou



This House Supports the rise of the "court of public opinion"

The debating competition was a great event to attend. I learnt many different laws and how the structure works. Additionally, I learnt about things such as POI's (Points of information) during a rebuttal. I also gained knowledge and experience in public speaking and I'm now significantly more confident.

Y10 Riyansh



This House Would give tax concessions to companies who are 50% or more female-owned

My favourite part was debating against college students. I learnt how to structure a formal debate and how to formally interject a speech using POIs to the opposition.

Y10 Oliver



This House Prefers a world where wealth is seen as shameful

I really enjoyed the skill and challenge of debating as a whole. What I loved the most was hearing other people's point of view on the topic and their strong opinions.

Y10 Nathan

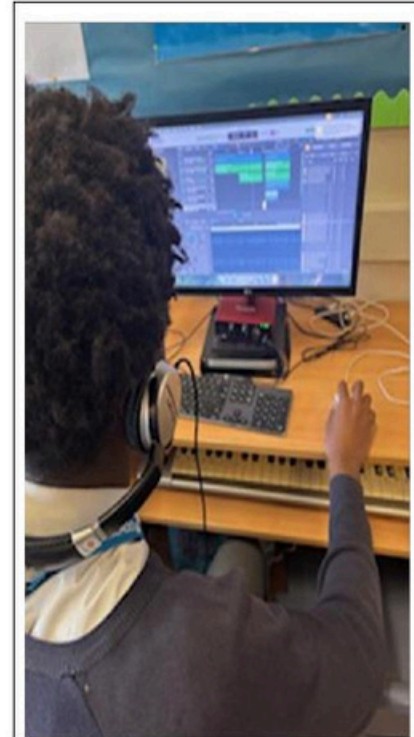
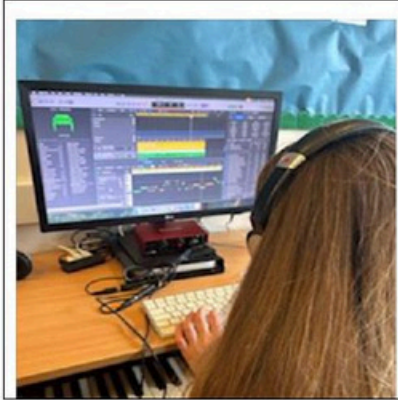


What I enjoyed most about going to the Debating Competition at London's Imperial College was the preparation for each motion and being able to think creatively in the moment.

Y10 Gideon

Teaching and Learning **F**OCUS

Creating Music Beats



Year 10 students have been making some serious noise in their music lessons -literally! This term, they have been diving into the world of beat-making, exploring digital music production and rhythm composition.

Using industry-standard software, students have been experimenting with drum patterns, melodies, and basslines to create their own unique beats. Whether influenced by hip-hop, electronic, or pop music, each track reflects their creativity and growing technical skills. Many students have already produced impressive beats, with some even considering taking their skills further into music production as a hobby or career. The school is excited to showcase some of their work in an upcoming assembly, where the best beats will be played for everyone to hear.

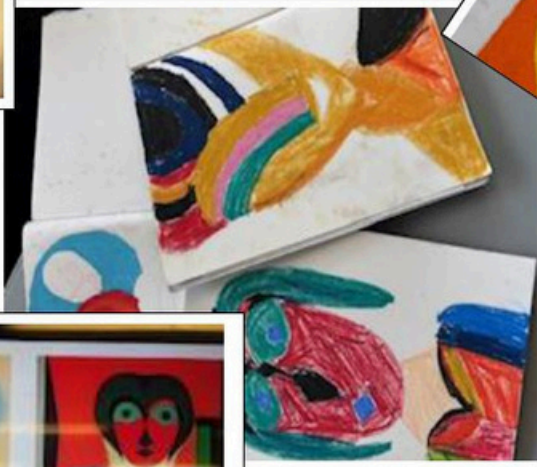
Year 9 Students Get Creative with Sonia Delaunay-Inspired Art

Year 9 students have been bringing colour and energy to their art lessons by creating vibrant pieces inspired by the work of Sonia Delaunay. Known for her bold use of geometric shapes and bright colours, Delaunay was a pioneer of abstract art and a key figure in the Orphism movement.

In this exciting project, students explored her unique style, using overlapping circles, contrasting colours and rhythmic patterns to create their own stunning compositions.



Through this, they developed an understanding of colour theory, abstraction, and the impact of shapes in visual art.



It's been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they experiment with colour and composition. Some of the most striking pieces will be displayed around the school and in an upcoming art showcase. Well done to Year 9 for their creativity and enthusiasm. Sonia Delaunay would be proud!

LAUREL PARK SCHOOL



BECOME A PARENT GOVERNOR

What we need....

- *A current LPS Parent.*
- *Interested in making a difference to our young peoples time at LPS.*
- *Able to commit to attend our meetings as far as possible - there are six to eight per year.*
- *Be happy to come in and visit the school.*
- *Someone to work with our current amazing Governors to further improve the school.*

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Our Governors come from a variety of backgrounds from the Arts, IT, Business, Education, Law and many more

- Read the message below from a current Parent Governor. Contact our Chair of Governors - Tom Mautner at chairgovernor@laurelparkschool.co.uk.
- office@laurelparkschool.co.uk for an application pack.
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LEARN MORE

WRITE
2
SPEAK

YOUTH COLLECTIVE



**For aspiring spoken word artists, rappers,
poets, writers and performers aged 9+**

Join the Write2Speak youth collective for a series of spoken word workshops and performance opportunities. Create, collaborate, and connect with like-minded individuals in a fun and relaxed environment. Learn to use your voice and share your ideas and lyrics with impact.

All young people are welcome, no experience needed!

1 Mar | 5 Apr | 3 May | 7 Jun | 28 Jun | 12 July

Dugdale Arts Centre, Enfield, 39 London Rd, EN2 6DS

www.Write2Speak.co.uk



SIGN UP VIA OUR WEBSITE OR QR CODE!

“I always struggled with expressing my feelings and thoughts, but this workshop helped to change that. Writing and performing poetry helped me find my voice.”



“I used to think poetry was boring, but this workshop proved me wrong. Spoken word is so powerful, and I loved learning how to write and perform my own pieces.”

www.Write2Speak.co.uk

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original ... and might not be entirely factual, either.

CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing protection of privacy.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's Live Location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except.... Additionally, if a child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

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.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2025>

NHS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE CAREERS FAIR



Thursday 6 March, 4.30-7.00pm

Middlesex University, Quad College Building, NW4 4BT



BOOK YOUR PLACE

“As my future aspirations are to become a children's nurse, being able to talk to one was really helpful, as she elaborated on different things she does and how she achieved her status.”

– A quote from a student at the 2024 fair

Did you know there are more than 350+ careers in the NHS?

- **Discover** what career best suits you
- **Chat** with NHS staff and get advice
- **Listen** to live talks and panels

Find out more at mdx.ac.uk/nhs-careers-fair