

A ROUND UP OF THE WEEK AT LAUREL PARK SCHOOL

Headteacher's Message - Adele Christofi

As we approach the festive season, I'm delighted to share some exciting updates from our vibrant school life. It's been a whirlwind of activity, and I'm thrilled to see our pupils embracing every opportunity with enthusiasm and dedication.

This week, we welcomed a film crew to Laurel Park to create a promotional video for our popular Bounce@LPS trampolining club. It's a source of immense pride to see our pupils, who have been trained as coaches, supporting members of the community during these Tuesday and Thursday after-school sessions. The skill and talent displayed by our young trampolinists are truly exceptional, and I'm eagerly anticipating the finished video that will showcase their abilities.

I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the pupils who contributed their creative flair to the design of our annual Christmas card. Your artistic efforts are greatly appreciated, and I'm looking forward to sharing the final design with our wider community very soon.

Our commitment to providing comprehensive careers education took centre stage on Thursday as we hosted an enlightening workshop for our Year 9 pupils. Project Guardian and TFL delivered engaging careers sessions, broadening our young people's horizons and introducing them to a world of possibilities. These experiences are invaluable in shaping their future aspirations and decision-making.

I'd like to bring your attention to a few important notices. Next week will be brimming with trips and activities to celebrate the end of term, providing our pupils with enriching experiences beyond the classroom. Please note that school will finish on Friday, 20th December, with dismissal beginning from 11:15 am. Looking ahead, the new term will commence on Monday, 6th January.

In closing, I'd like to express my gratitude for your continued support and engagement with our school community. The achievements and growth I witness daily are a testament to the collaborative efforts of our pupils, staff, and families.

Wishing you a safe and peaceful weekend,

Ms Christofi
Headteacher



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 winners from this week who received a great surprise to find out they had won this prestigious award!



Maeve - Wins for **Integrity**, Maeve has been a fantastic student since the start of the school year. She is helpful and always determined to do her best in lessons, proving to be a great role model.

Eseta - Wins for **Determination**, Eseta is one of the students who is always looking for an opportunity to establish her feet in the school, having moved from a different school. She is always ready to get a character card sign and focus in the lesson.

Klevi - Wins for **Excellence**, Klevi is a great role model and is always showing excellence since his started here at LPS. He is always trying to do his best and will always strive to be positive on a daily basis.

Precious - Wins for **Excellence**, Precious consistently demonstrates the Laurel Park School values. She always shows a positive attitude to learning and she is a great role model.



Christmas tree collection across Enfield
(post codes N9, N11, N13, N14, N18 N21,
EN1, EN2, EN3 and EN8). For a small
donation, we'll collect your tree and
recycle it (see
<https://northlondonhospice.org/support-us/christmas-tree-recycling/> for more
details)



Free Information Events for NCL Parents: My Child is Unwell, What Should I So?

For all Parents:

This winter, childhood health experts in North Central London are hosting two children's health information events for parents. The online sessions are free and open to any parent or carer living in Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey or Islington, and are an opportunity to hear and ask questions about common childhood illnesses and injuries. There are four sessions to choose from and all will cover the same topics:

Tuesday 17th December 10am
Tuesday 17th December 8pm
Tuesday 14th January 10am
Tuesday 14th January 8pm

Find out more and book your place at [My Child is Unwell, What Should I do?](#)



On Tuesday, our talented team of trampolining coaches featured in a promotional video with marketing company, 3 Heads Agency. Keiran, Mary, Megan, Miracle, Trevaun and Wilson all learned their lines exceptionally well and were also filmed coaching younger children. Well done to all involved and the video will be shared once it is available. Mrs Tansley



Careers corner

Year 11s are coming to the end of their 1:1 careers meetings which they have been using alongside applying for their post 16 choices. There is still plenty of time for them to do this and they should continue to do so over the holidays. The students will be receiving the mock results next week so can start planning on what they need to do in order to maximise the grades they can get.

Important Dates between now and half term



DECEMBER :

Monday 16th: Achievement Assemblies

Tuesday 17th: Year 9 Trip Ice Skating
Year 10 Trip London Eye & River Boat Cruise
Year 11 Cambridge Market.

Wednesday 18th: Year 7 & 8 Trip Millfield Theatre

Thursday 19th: Christmas Jumpers and Christmas Lunch. Winter Concert. Doors open at 5.45 (non-ticket event but contributions via Parent Pay are welcomed). Event starts at 6pm.

Friday 20th: Year 11 Mock Results Day
Last day of term, early finish - from 11:15am

School starts on **Monday 6th January 2025 at 8.25am**

PSHE

Year 9s had a workshop led by TfL called 'Project Guardian' all about raising awareness of inappropriate behaviour that can happen on public transport.

Some great questions were asked if they were taken through different incidents that have happened on public transport and what they can do to raise awareness, such as speaking to the bus driver, asking the victim questions such as 'what time is it?' and using the help points at tube stations. Students were also told to always tap in and out as it helps TfL to know which bus or tube they were on if an incident occurs.

They were given lots of places to report incidents on public transport, which can also be used by parents, such as:

- Download the Railway Guardian app to report any incident
- Report the incident to the Police - 999 if someone is in immediate danger, 101 or online after the event
- Text British Transport Police on 61016
- Report online - <https://www.police.uk/ro/report/rsa/alpha-v1/v1/rape-sexual-assault-other-sexual-offences/>
- Live chat - Victim Support <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/support-near-you/live-chat/>

Year 9 had a great experience and had the opportunity to learn about how to support people outside of school.

Next week in PSHE, Year 8s will have a lesson on CPR, which is such a vital life skill.

Year 10s will be watching a short film produced and filmed in Enfield called 'Save Me' about the dangers of exploitation

This term Y11 students have been busy analysing poems from the Power and Conflict anthology in preparation for their recent Literature Mock exam. We have been extremely impressed with how well students have been annotating the individual poems and their personal engagement with the subject matter such as Identity, Power, War, Conflict and Nature to name but a few! One of our very own students in Y11, Alexandra has been so inspired that she has written her own poetry.

They never speak
but their souls collide
in depth of silence
no place to hide

a thousand unspoken words
echoed in silence
no voices heard
a mystery unsolved

no one hears
the heart when speaks
a language felt
not meant to hear

your eyes
a mirror to the heart
revealing
what we try to hide

in every eye
a story lies
a universe
within your eyes

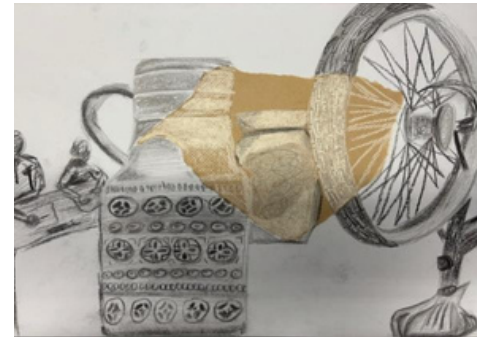
Teaching and Learning **FOCUS**

It is always a pleasure to visit lessons to see students fully engaged and focused on achieving to their full potential. Each week we will highlight and celebrate the wonderful work that is taking place in our classrooms at Laurel Park School.

Our year 10 Graphics students had an outstanding lesson to improve their observational drawing skills. They drew a variety of mixed media objects laid out in the middle of the classroom, including a bicycle, flowers and ceramic pots. Our students benefited from a mastery demonstration by Mr Marston, our Graphics specialist, who inspired everyone in the class to successfully produce an amazing outcome for their portfolio.



Students work shown here are good examples of excellent teaching producing excellent learning outcomes. Everyone in Graphics has a can-do approach to their learning, which is evident whenever you visit the class. Students are incredibly proud of their work.



Farhaan Ahmed

Khadija Miah



Aycha Halim



Maria Andrea

2025 Grantham Climate Art Prize Competition

Design a mural that addresses the climate crisis.

The winning design will become a large mural (9.4m x 2m) at Imperial College's South Kensington campus.

- Visit the [Grantham Climate Art Prize](#) webpage to submit your design.
- If you encounter issues, email your design (JPEG, PNG, or GIF under 20MB) to granthamartprize@imperial.ac.uk by 31 January 2025.
- Include your name, email, date of birth, age, title of your artwork, and a brief description.

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, Excellence, Ambition** and **Determination**.

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 Problem Solving!

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." – Arthur Ashe



This week's value is Integrity

How can Problem Solving help us achieve Integrity

- **Growth Mindset:** Encouraging a problem-solving approach helps students view challenges as opportunities to learn and grow, aligning with the principle of integrity in striving for improvement.
- **Prepares for Real-World Challenges:** Problem-solving skills prepare students to face ethical dilemmas in the real world, equipping them with the tools needed to uphold their integrity in various situations.
- **Empowers Student Leadership:** Opportunities for student-led problem-solving initiatives strengthen leadership skills, encouraging students to act with integrity and inspire their peers.

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



Member of the



CHRISTMAS LUNCH & CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

THURSDAY, 19TH DECEMBER 2024

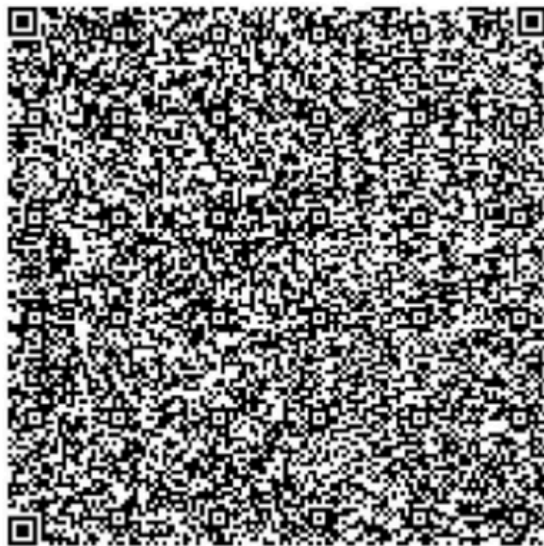
DONATE £1 TO SAVE THE
CHILDREN CHARITY.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT IT IS NOT A NON-
SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY.

PLEASE WEAR YOUR CHRISTMAS
JUMPER/FESTIVE JUMPER WITH YOUR SCHOOL
UNIFORM

SCAN HERE TO DONATE

£1



Save the
Children

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON.

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>