



# LAKELANDS NEWS

October 2023

## A message from The Headteacher

I cannot quite believe that I am writing this having been Headteacher at Lakelands for eight weeks already. As I am sure you can imagine, it has been a really busy period but one which I have enjoyed immensely. I have had the pleasure of meeting many current and potential parents, carers and families and cannot thank you enough for the support you have offered. Everyone has been so welcoming and I have to say that your children have been nothing short of amazing. They live our values (*safe, smart, responsible, kind*) each and every day they are with us and are a real credit to themselves, their families and their school.

Right at the very start of the new academic year, I held an assembly with each year group to introduce myself, my career so far, some interests outside of education and my expectations of all who are involved with our fantastic school. In these assemblies, I reiterated the importance of our school values, talked about having 'pride in our badge' and how this is achieved through 'relentless consistency' and 'excellent relationships.' I have to say that your children have really embodied this throughout our first half term together.

In my first letter to you, I said that I would not make knee-jerk decisions to immediately change things in school, instead that I would be working strategically with my senior leadership team to assess our development priorities. I also said that every decision we would make would have our students at the very centre and I am delighted to say that this has come to fruition.

As your child may have shared with you, we have introduced some changes to how and where they move around the school building between lessons. We have more children in our building than ever before but, unfortunately, the school corridors and physical resources do not grow with them. For this reason, I have asked that they follow the new protocols to ensure the health, safety, wellbeing and learning of everyone inside our school. I have been incredibly proud of how they have responded to this and see each day how this has improved their school experience.

Our incredibly hardworking senior leadership team are now far more visible around school through the introduction of 'culture walks' which involves us visiting corridors and classrooms throughout the day. This has been implemented to provide support and supervision to our students and staff, to ensure our extremely high expectations are being realised and to improve the overall quality assurance taking place in our school. Again, our students and staff have risen to the challenge and tell us that this has had a huge impact.

In terms of safeguarding, we have introduced a number of initiatives to further improve the excellent safeguarding and support already in place. We have created new posters to make obvious the Designated Safeguarding Leads in school and have displayed these in key areas. A new lanyard system utilises different colours to signify the roles of adults, including visitors, on our site. Finally (for now), we have created three new webpages; two are intended for parents and carers and one is dedicated to our students. These can be accessed using the following links:

[Families-Keeping your Child Safe Lakelands Academy](#) - information and links, including statutory documentation, for the internal and external support available. This page also includes information on how and why we communicate with our families, how we educate our students and information about local and national topics of concern.

[Keeping Your Child Safe Online | Lakelands Academy](#) - information and links for internal and external support available to you as parents and carers. This page aims to help us all protect our children from potential online harms.

[Students - Keeping You Safe | Lakelands Academy](#) - information and links for internal and external support available. This may be particularly useful during any periods of school closure such as weekends and holidays.





# LAKELANDS NEWS

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A lot of work is currently happening behind the scenes to improve attendance. Attending school every possible session is crucial to maximising the learning and potential of every individual and there will be a continued drive to further improve individual and overall attendance. We fully understand that children become ill, have accidents and endure other issues in their lives which can sometimes make attending school more difficult, but we look forward to working together to support your children to improve their attendance where this is needed. I must add that attendance at Lakelands is in-line with national attendance data, but for our children to enjoy an advantage over others, it is vital that we give them every opportunity. Maximising both their attendance and how their time is spent in school are aspects of this. As you will be aware, attendance is quite rightly a high-profile national topic at the moment and we are working proactively on the policy, staffing, systems and processes that will ensure we are doing everything in our power to give your children the opportunities and advantage they deserve.

Another area we are working diligently on is the improvement of outcomes at GCSE level, both for individual students and whole cohorts. A great deal of research and resource have already been considered and planned for. I am confident that this will support the further improvement we are driven to achieve, building on the significant increase in results for 2023 compared to 2022. This data is in the process of being confirmed and verified by the Department for Education, after which we will be able to share it with you.

School is of course far more than what happens in the classroom and I have been delighted with the trips already completed or planned by staff, the sporting competitions and fixtures played, the CIAQ (careers, information, advice and guidance) offered, charity events and the excellent school production which is currently in the latter stages of rehearsals and preparations.

One of my key reflections has been that we do not currently share much of the amazing work, experiences and opportunities that take place at Lakelands Academy. As a result, we have just launched school Facebook and Instagram accounts to join the rejuvenated X (formerly Twitter) account. This will allow us to share and celebrate the great work being undertaken as well as improving our communication with you. I would urge you to follow these to keep up to date with what is happening at Lakelands Academy:



**Facebook:** Lakelands Academy Ellesmere  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552707301507>



**Instagram:** \_Lakelands\_Ellesmere  
[https://www.instagram.com/lakelands\\_ellesmere](https://www.instagram.com/lakelands_ellesmere)



**X (Twitter):** @LakelandsAcad  
<https://twitter.com/LakelandsAcad>

During the next half term, we plan to engage even more closely with our key stakeholders and this obviously include your children and yourselves as parents and carers. The first aspect of this will be student voice and parent/carer voice questionnaires which will help us to understand views, thoughts and experiences in order to plan for further improvements, developments and foci for our work.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my thanks for your welcome and support to date and to wish you all an enjoyable half term.

Mark Hignett  
Headteacher



# Mental Health Awareness Week

Both Wellness Wednesday in the Library and the crochet and craft in WBC went really well. The club were busy bees making poppies and we also had a visit from the British Legion who were very impressed with what they were doing and can't wait to see the finished product.

The poppies will be used in a special display at Lakelands Academy which is asking the wider community to support its efforts by making and sponsoring poppies.

The idea came about after teaching assistant Angela Jones helped teachers in the Maths department to set up a lunchtime crochet club for students last year. "They were very enthusiastic and keen to learn," she said. "It's proved so popular that it seemed like a good idea to do something to help the Poppy Appeal."

For the past month, a dozen club members have been crocheting poppies, which will form part of a display that will be unveiled in the school's reception area in the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday.

Head of Maths Vicky Heath said: "We enjoy it so much and you could say we've all become hooked on crocheting. Producing the poppies is a great opportunity for everyone to improve their crocheting skills while learning about the poppy and the importance of remembrance.





# Mental Health Awareness Week

Thank you to everyone who helped bake some of the delicious cakes and biscuits for our cake sale.

We raised a total of £62.00 which will go a long way in helping us buy vital new equipment for the Wellbeing Centre.



Miss Worthington and Miss Molloy helped organise the creative writing and some tasty overnight oats!



Wellbeing Walk





# PE - NEWS - PE - NEWS - PE - NEWS

Year 7/8 boys to a Rugby Event at Shrewsbury Rugby club where they took part in coaching sessions throughout the day learning key development skills and core values of Rugby. There all performed well throughout the day, showed a lot of respect to the other schools and coaches representing themselves and Lakelands well. This was shown when Michael McNally was presented with an award for the desire to learn and respect for others.



## Y8 Football v Lacon Child

The Year 8 boys showed fantastic sportsmanship, had great team spirit. They won 6-3 in normal time which means they are through to the next round.



## Year 9 and 10 Girls Netball



Both teams played against St.Martins and Oswestry School in the end, after a couple of schools were no longer able to attend.

The Year 10s won their game against St.Martins 6-2 and then lost 7-3 to Oswestry. However, they played brilliantly and the Oswestry staff commented on what a great team they are and how well they conducted themselves.

Year 9s drew their first game against Oswestry 3-3 and then went on to win 9-4 against St.Martins. They were also fantastic in the way they conducted themselves and represented Lakelands throughout.

All girls were polite, respectful to officials and showed outstanding teamwork and determination!

## Year 8 Boys Football

The Year 8 football boys played Oswestry school and won 5-0. They were fantastic in the way they conducted themselves on and off the pitch. They are a joy to take to fixtures. They are currently unbeaten after 2 games!





# Navy Cookery Workshop



The Royal Navy Logistics Specialist Recruiting Team are currently seeking ways to educate the general public and promote roles within the Royal Navy. To achieve this, their primary aim is to conduct interactive workshops and engaging presentations within education settings around the UK.



We were fortunate to be able to offer a "Ready, Steady, Cook" style workshop. There was an interactive Master Chef style lesson in which the class worked in teams, and were presented with a box of ingredients for two dishes. The aim was to create a main dish and a dessert within the time frame. Using the recipe sheets provided (along with the Royal Navy team's assistance), the class had 90 min to complete their dishes before presenting them.



The Year 9 Charity Cake Sale and 'Guess the number of sweets in the Jar' raised a grand total of **£300.00**, to be split equally between **Macmillan Cancer Support** and **Brain Tumour Research**  
In memory of Ella McCreadie.





# Congratulations



These names are for the individuals with the most achievement points in their year:

Year 7: Alfie Hodnett and Evangeline Meade

Year 8: Mark Coleman and Abbie Hodnett

Year 9: Freya Davies and Michael Jones

Year 10: Emma Kunne and Megan Bolton

Year 11: Elise Morgan and Rebecca Tinsley—Edwards

## Students Performing and Excelling in Out of School Activities

Mimi Kempster & her pony Che Bello won the Children on Horses Individual test with a score of 73.746% at Wellington CDI in June.



Harry Price represented the Royal Navy at Forces Equine Games over the weekend and his results were phenomenal. He won 2 of his classes and he was awarded his individual prize giving due to his outstanding achievements.





# Library News

## A Magical Celebration

What a wonderful wizarding celebration we had when Lakelands celebrated its first Harry Potter Day on 12<sup>th</sup> October! Staff and students dressed up as Harry Potter characters, there were magical snacks on offer in the canteen and students found that some of their usual lessons came with a wizarding twist! Of course, reading was at the heart of the celebration, and it was wonderful to share extracts from the Harry Potter books with students throughout the day.

## Party Time!

After school, we held an exclusive Harry Potter party in the library, where the magic really came to life! The butterbeer was flowing, the sorting hat was busy sorting our students into houses and the Honeydukes sweet bar meant that no-one had to go hungry. Students enjoyed a selection of magical crafts and games then put their Harry Potter knowledge to the test in the ultimate Harry Potter Quiz. A magical event for all involved!

## Spell Competition Winners

In celebrating Harry Potter Day we challenged all our Year 7 & 8 students to write a spell to change something about Lakelands Academy and we received some truly magical entries.

From spells that can magically finish all your homework to spells that will make the lunch queue shorter, we saw lots of imagination and creativity on display. Congratulations to the following students for their wonderful spells!

### Year 7

#### Highly commended

Poppy Davies  
Tabitha Greinhart  
Nicholas Atcharadze  
Alfie Evans  
Miley Meredith  
Poppy Phillips  
Gabriel Grupa  
Alfie Hodnett

### Year 8

#### Highly commended

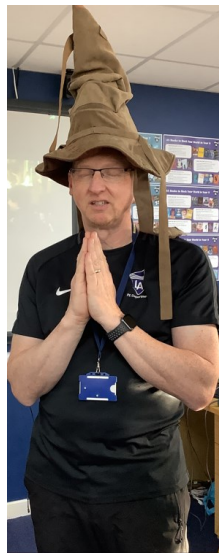
Jesse Williams  
Tanara Curran  
Emilly Roberts  
Harry Aspin

### Year 7 Winner

#### Evangeline Meade

### Year 8 Winner

#### Evie Green





# Library news

## Poetry Slam

This year, to celebrate National Poetry Day, we held our first ever Poetry Slam – and it was a fantastic success.

The event offered students the chance to read or recite a poem of their choice in front of a live audience and after learning all about performance poetry in library lessons, a number of students treated us to some fantastic, original poetry!

A large audience turned up to enjoy the event, and there was a wonderful, supportive atmosphere in the library. Congratulations to everyone who took part and a special well done to **Martha Roberts (9B)** who won the Grand Slam Prize for her wonderful, original poem on the theme of war.

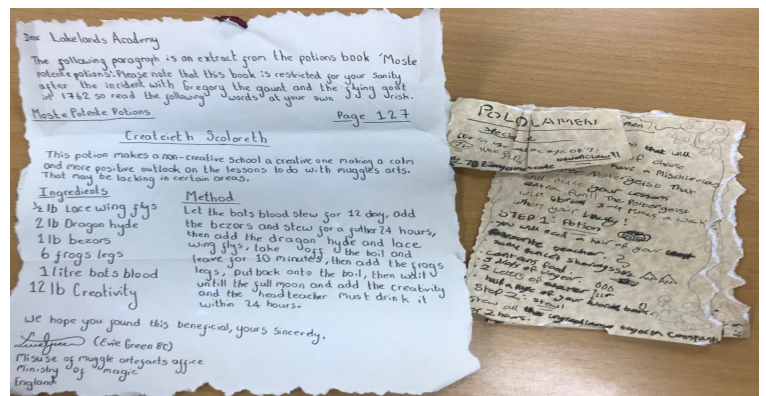
## The Big Book Buzz!

The library has been buzzing with happy students as we've been handing out brand new books for all our Y7 students to keep! The Bookbuzz scheme gets students excited about reading by allowing them to pick out a book of their choice from 16 amazing titles. Our students were thrilled to receive the books that they'd chosen this week and can't wait to get reading.

## Superstar Readers!

Congratulations to everyone who has made a great start with Accelerated Reader this year. Since September, our year 7, 8 & 9 students have collectively read 448 books and 13,374,903 words!

A special well done to **Ariana Rowley (7N)**, **William Brook (8W)** and **Evie Payne (9W)**, who are currently the top readers in their years. Keep up the fantastic work!







# Harry Potter Day





# Early Help Family Drop-in

Free information, advice and support

Come along to:

The Centre, Oak Street, Oswestry, SY11 1LW

Every Monday

9:30am – 12:30pm

## You can meet:

Early Help Family Workers

Housing Support Officer

Food Bank

Family Information Service

Parenting Support

Shropshire Domestic Abuse service

and others



Supporting families with children aged 0-19 years (up to 25 years for young people with special educational needs and disabilities)

We aim to make it easier for you to ask for help and get support when you need it.

Shropshire Council

[www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk)

Shropshire Strengthening Families

## SEND Coffee Morning

22nd November

9:15 – 10:45

with speaker Beckie Jepson  
(Spectra Inclusion Support Team)

Invites via ParentMail





**OSWESTRY AND BORDERS  
FOODBANK**  
**HELPING LOCAL  
PEOPLE IN CRISIS**

Charity number: 1143519



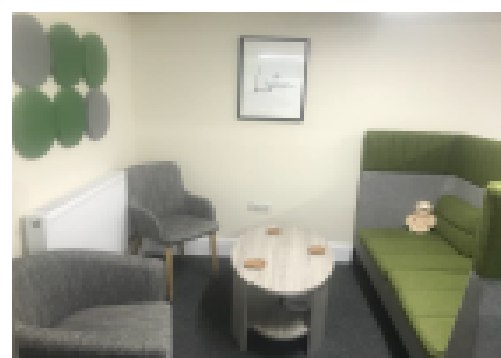
**56 Beatrice Street, Oswestry, SY11 1QW**

**Foodbank opening times:**

**Monday** 11am-2pm - food parcel collections  
9:30am-2pm - donations at the back door

**Wednesday** 10am-12pm - appointment only

**Thursday** 11am-2pm - food parcel collections  
9:30am-2pm - donations at the back door



**58 Beatrice Street free walk-in support services:**

**Monday** 10:30am-12:30pm - Women's Aid  
- Samaritans

**Thursday** 11am-2pm - Mental health practitioner  
- Blood pressure/ general health checks (monthly)

**Citizens Advice Financial Services (by appointment only):**

**Monday 9:30am-2pm Wednesday 9:30am-1pm**  
**Thursday 9:30am-2pm**

## Get Help

**Help Through Hardship:**

0808 208 2138 (Mon - Fri 9am-5pm)

Shropshire Council Welfare Support Team: 0345 678 9078

## Contact us

**Oswestry & Borders Foodbank:**

Phone: 0300 10 20 110

Email: [referrals@oswestryandborders.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:referrals@oswestryandborders.foodbank.org.uk)

Website: [oswestryandborders.foodbank.org.uk](http://oswestryandborders.foodbank.org.uk)

## Give Help

**Scan to donate:**



**Text to donate:**

Text OANDB3 to 70029  
to donate £3  
Text OANDB5 to 70711  
to donate £5  
Text OANDB10 to 70039  
to donate £10

You will be charged the direct donation amount plus the charge of our charity's payment card. Oswestry and Borders Foodbank will receive 95% of your donation less processing fees. The six pence amount for Oswestry and Borders Foodbank to cover its additional 10% processing fees is split between our staff and the charity.



## LAKELANDS PRE-LOVED CLOTHES SHOP

To make pre-loved school clothing available to our school community we have set up a school shop. All items available will be free of charge.

### How it works!

- Families kindly donate any old, unused or unwanted school uniform they no longer require. If you would like to donate any school uniform please drop it in at reception. Please make sure all uniform has been cleaned and washed prior to donating and any name tags removed.
- Uniform can be ordered using the Microsoft Form below and can also be found on our school website. Please copy the link and paste into your browser.
- You will receive an email confirmation when your order is ready to be collected.
- Orders can be collected from reception by the Parent or the pupil. We ask that orders are collected as soon as possible and will only be held for 5 days.
- If the item is not in stock you will be added to a waiting list and contacted as soon as it becomes available.

Link to form - <https://forms.office.com/r/Z19NqNvuRg>

### ITEMS AVAILABLE

These will all be free of charge  
Lakelands Black Sweatshirt  
Lakelands PE Polo & PE Rugby Top  
Lakelands PE Fleece  
Navy Skort

### Reminder

Pupils must arrive at school on time in the mornings and be on site ready for the 8.55am bell.



## AUTUMN TERM 2023

Wednesday 6th September - Wednesday 20th December

HALF TERM: Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November

PD Day - Monday 6th November

CHRISTMAS: Thursday 21st December - Tuesday 2nd January

## SPRING TERM 2024

Thursday 4th January - Friday 22nd March

PD Day - Wednesday 3rd January

HALF TERM: Monday 12th - Friday 16th February

EASTER: Monday 25th March - Friday 5th April

### REPORTING AN ABSENCE

If we are expecting your child to be in school and they are unable to attend, please telephone, **not email**.

If your child is absent for more than one day, please note that we require you to phone **every morning**, not just on the first day of absence.

These are safeguarding requirements.

To report an absence please ring 01691 622543

## Thank you!

The DT department would like to say a huge thanks to **Lumberjack Tools in Wolverhampton** for sponsoring the school with one of their VSL305 digital variable speed lathes

Also, we are delighted to announce that **BOSCH** will be sponsoring the school and attending another training session in October to work with the Year 11's



# UNIFORM REMINDER

Please see below a list of areas of concern to focus on as part of our uniform and appearance code. A reminder of the uniform code is in your child's diary.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation and for helping us to support the strong values of Lakelands Academy.

*Please label all uniform and belongings. This really helps us when trying to reunite lost property with its owner.*

## GOOD



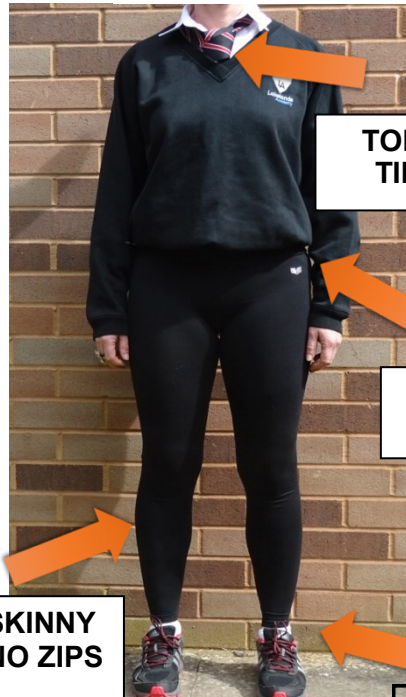
TOP BUTTON / TIE FASTENED

BLACK KNEE LENGTH SKIRT

BLACK SENSIBLE (FLAT) SHOES - NOT BOOTS

**Single small stud in each ear is permissible but no other piercings are allowed.**

## BAD



TOP BUTTON / TIE UNDONE

JUMPER TUCKED IN

LEGGINGS/SKINNY TROUSERS/NO ZIPS

TRAINERS

## BAD



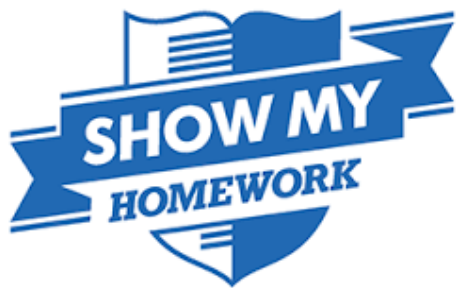
TOP BUTTON / TIE UNDONE

SHIRT UNTUCKED

SKIRT TOO SHORT/ TOO TIGHT OR LYCRA

TRAINERS





**PARENTS/CARERS PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK SHOW MY HOMEWORK. YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE WHAT HOMEWORK HAS BEEN SET AND IN SOME CASES IF THE HOMEWORK HAS BEEN HANDED IN.**

## Attention All Parents!

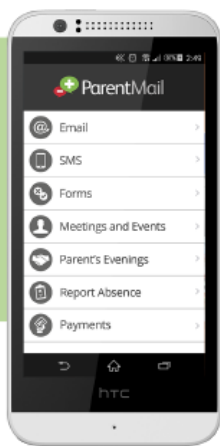


Have you downloaded the new **FREE** parent App?

Receive and respond to school messages from your smartphone instantly!

### You can:

- ✓ Find messages in a clear, uncluttered feed (separate from your busy email inbox)
- ✓ Receive ALL school & club messages on one App
- ✓ Have instant access - no need to login
- ✓ Receive in-App notifications making sure you're alerted each time you're sent a message
- ✓ Read school messages even when there's no internet connection
- ✓ Preserve your data allowance



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