



LAKELANDS NEWS

A message from The Headteacher

I write this final newsletter of the 2024-25 academic year as we look forward to our first rewards trip in recent years. There is a huge amount of work required for these trips to take place and I want to publicly thank all the staff who have made this possible. We hope your children enjoy the day and also that it becomes an annual addition to our school calendar which can grow to include other experiences and destinations. For those staying in school, we have arranged a variety of activities in order that we can also celebrate their successes from this year.

We have made a real commitment to recognising and rewarding our students and I am delighted to report that it has been a record breaking year! The range of rewards has continued to grow and now includes, in addition to the trips, 'Golden Ticket' fortnights (recognition of upholding our school values), 'Thank You Friday', outstanding and improved attendance and our 'R' system with points contributing towards their House totals. On the penultimate Friday of the summer term, 592,468 'R' points have been issued at an average of over 1000 per student. All students have achieved well in excess of 728 with the leading student currently on an incredible 1340 points. House totals are updated on our website each Friday evening and the competition has been hotting up in recent weeks. Whitemere are currently in the lead with 151,514 points and you can see how the year ends by viewing [Lakelands Academy](https://www.lakelandsacademy.com).

In addition to the reward trips, our staff have offered an increased number of curricular trips, expeditions, qualifications, visits, extra-curricular clubs, fixtures, meetings and tournaments. Last week witnessed another extremely successful Sports Day and Year 11 Prom along with our attendance rewards which saw 121 students recognised and celebrated. Readathon was a huge success that included raising £900, holding a book swap and celebrating the end of the Accelerated Reader programme with our Year 9s. In the week prior, the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh groups completed highly successful expeditions and we also held a charity football tournament, including myself and Mr Birch having soaking wet sponges thrown at us in the name of raising money! The final week of term includes the annual sponsored walk, our Summer Festival and participation in the HD Sportz Schools Soccer Tournament, in addition to the celebration trips. We are hoping to further extend these opportunities in 2025-26.

I would like to thank you for your support with ensuring your children's attendance has been as high as possible. This has resulted in Lakelands having the highest attendance of all Shropshire secondary schools, improving on our third position last academic year. Our attendance is also significantly above the national average for secondary schools. Following on from our 2023-24 national attendance awards (top 25% of all schools and top 25% of similar schools nationally), we have recently received certificates for being in the top 10% of similar schools nationally and the top 25% all schools nationally for Spring term 2025. We are extremely proud of our success with attendance as it is such an important area. When a school's attendance is high, it demonstrates that children feel safe, have a sense of belonging and enjoy coming to school, and it is really important to celebrate outstanding attendance as well as significant improvements.

Another area of significant improvement has been the responses to our stakeholder voice surveys. As you will be aware, we have asked yourselves, our students and our staff to complete these surveys on a termly basis since February 2024. When comparing our most recent survey to the first one, it demonstrates many significant improvements:



LAKELANDS NEWS

Summer2025

Parent/Carer

- 31% increase in agreeing that school makes you aware of what your child will be learning.
- 31% increase in agreeing there are opportunities to communicate with the SEND Team to discuss your child's needs and progress.
- 20% increase in agreeing the school makes sure our pupils are well behaved.
- 18% increase in agreeing that school lets you know how your child is doing.
- 15% increase in agreeing that school supports your child's wider personal development.
- 14% increase in agreeing your child's learning is appropriately challenged in lessons.
- 13% increase in agreeing that our communication is effective and timely.
- 11% increase in agreeing that our school has high expectations for your child.
- 10% increase in agreeing that instances of bullying have been dealt with quickly and effectively.

Our priority for improvement in response to your feedback is to further increase the number of clubs and trips available to your children at our school. We have worked hard to increase opportunities this year and this will continue to be a key area for further development in 2025-26.

To provide context to our results, we have undertaken a benchmarking exercise to compare your responses to those recorded nationally. I am delighted to share that thirteen of the fourteen comparable questions show a more positive response for Lakelands than the averages nationally with just the area highlighted above falling below this.

Students:

- 23% increase in agreeing that school provides them with information about their next steps.
- 17% increase in those agreeing that school encourages them to respect people from other backgrounds and to treat everyone equally.
- 17% increase in agreeing that school encourages them to look after their physical health.
- 15% increase in agreeing that school encourages them to look after their emotional and mental health.
- 12% increase in those agreeing school encourages them to be independent and take on responsibility.

Another area we have sought your views on this year has been the potential benefits of joining a multi-academy trust (MAT). Your input has proven really useful and has contributed towards our extensive due diligence process, a process that has also included consultation with solicitors, external auditors, Governors and Headteachers of other schools and a professional consultant amongst many other elements. After four months of detailed due diligence, both the Lakelands Academy Governors and Trustees of The 3-18 Education Trust have voted in favour of submitting an application to the Department for Education (DfE) for our school to join the family of schools. This process can take a number of months before the DfE make their decision and I will keep you updated on the progress of this.

Earlier this year, we launched our new website and shared with you the links to some of the key pages. Some of these have been updated or added to recently and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of these:

Staff contact details - [Staff-Contact-Details.pdf](#)

Curriculum overviews - [Faculties & Subjects - Lakelands Academy](#)

Careers - [Careers - Lakelands Academy](#)

Safeguarding information and signposting - [Safeguarding - Lakelands Academy](#)

Policies - [Policies, Inspections & Financial Statements - Lakelands Academy](#)

Vision and values - [Vision and Values - Lakelands Academy](#) (thank you to all who responded to our consultation regarding our review of the school vision. Your responses have had a large impact on what we have created).

Our social media is another source of information, announcements and updates:



Facebook: [Lakelands Academy Ellesmere](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559753621024>



Instagram: [_Lakelands_Ellesmere](#)

https://www.instagram.com/lakelands_ellesmere



X (Twitter): [@LakelandsAcad](#)

<https://twitter.com/LakelandsAcad>

I would like to publicly thank Miss Guthrie, Mr Wright, Miss Griffiths and Mrs McEvoy who are leaving us for new opportunities and challenges, along with Miss Burrage who left us at May half term after my last newsletter. Joining us, I welcome Miss Bellis (Science), Miss Capewell (Maths), Miss Powell (Geography) and Mr Raeside (Outcomes and Standards Leader – Teacher of Science and Maths) along with Mrs Read (French) and Mr Batley (History), both of whom have joined us since the April newsletter.

My final thank you and good luck go to our outgoing Year 11s who I know are awaiting their Prom (which will have taken place by the time you receive this) and then their GCSE results with much anticipation. They conducted themselves brilliantly throughout the exam period and deserve to achieve everything they wish for. As their time with us has come to an end, they make way for our latest additions to the Lakelands family and we look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 cohort in September.

I hope you all have a great summer as we look forward to further improvements and opportunities in the new academic year.



A reminder please, all students
return to school on Wednesday
3rd September 2025

