

Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

28 September 2018

Dear parent / carer

It's almost incredible that we are already four weeks into this long half term! Both staff and students have been busy establishing new routines and our goals for the year, both academic and extracurricular.

Extracurricular activities

Our programmes of extracurricular clubs and activities for students have been published this week. Students can peruse what's on offer from the programme displayed in their form room. You can see the programmes on our website here: [Lawnswood School - Engagement](#). I am very keen that all our students participate in at least one regular club or activity each week so should be grateful if you would engage your child in positive conversation about what might be of interest from the range of activities on offer.

Sixth Form update

Year 12 students have now signed up for their Study Programme, which will be launched officially next week. Options within the extended study programme give students the opportunity to learn new skills beyond their academic lessons as well as to pursue areas of personal interest.

We are delighted that, of the opportunities available, we have had the following number of Year 12s sign up so far:

Philosophy programme - 8

Progression module - 11

Internships - 15

EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) - 9

Learning mentor - 1

Teaching Assistants - 24

Duke of Edinburgh - 15

Teaching and learning - 3

All the students have received training to be a reading buddy and/or provide guided reading to a Year 7 or 8 student.

Finally, all Year 12 students have taken on the responsibility of being 'on duty' during a break or lunchtime to support younger students.

It is an enormous pleasure to see our Sixth Form students' commitment to being active contributors to the school community. On behalf of staff, I thank and commend them all.

Open Evening

Our Open Evening on Tuesday 18 September went really well; we saw the highest attendance in recent history and feedback from prospective parents and students confirms that everything about our school and our community is making a great impression.

My thanks to all the student ambassadors who participated in the event in any way. Without exception, they were a real credit to the school and their families. There are too many students to name individually but, if your child was an ambassador at the evening, please do take the time to tell them what a great job they did!

If you are a parent of a Year 6 student too, you are very welcome to visit the school during the core hours for a tour and opportunity to raise any questions you may have. A daytime visit really is the best way to see what a school is really like. If you would like to see us, please contact main reception to find a mutually convenient appointment.

Year 7 - Wild About Lawnswood

For the last few weeks, Year 7 students have been working hard on a cross-curricular project to design a wildlife park for Lawnswood School. Their projects are close to completion and they are currently preparing their final group presentations to be judged by me next Friday. I am very much looking forward to seeing the culmination of their hard work and learning. I will announce the winners in my next update and you will be able to see the fruits of their labour at the Year 7 Settling in Evening on Thursday 11 October.

Careers Fair

We have been given the opportunity to take some of our Key Stage 4 students to a Careers Fair at Elland Road on Thursday 4 October.

The event brings young people face to face with employers, training providers, colleges, universities and professional bodies. It aims to raise aspirations and inspire the next generation using hands on activities and demonstrations. I'm sure the students we take will find it supports them in the next stage of their career.

National Poetry Day on Thursday 4 October

As part of our celebrations of National Poetry Day, we are launching a **Poetry Writing Competition**. All students are invited to write a poem on the theme of change and give it to their English teacher or Mrs South in the library by Thursday 11 October. There will be prizes!

Students will be given further information during their English lessons and I look forward to sharing the winning entries of the writing competition on our website.

There will also be a **Poetry Party** in the library during lunchtime on Thursday 4 October. If your child enjoys reading or listening to poems or even enjoys writing or performing them, please encourage him/her to come along to the library for an informal sharing of poetry we love. Students can get a pass to access the library for the event from Ms Stevenson in F17, Mrs South or their English teacher.

Out of school tutors

As students get closer to their GCSEs, some parents choose to support their child by employing subject specific tutors. Whilst we do not feel this should be necessary, we do understand that for some students it can help build confidence in preparation for exams. However, we would like to ask that if your child does receive support from a tutor they let their teacher or the subject leader in that department know, so that we can give you some advice about which topics it would be best for the tutor to work on at home and give them information about the exam board and specification that we use.

Key dates

This week, your child should have brought home a leaflet listing key dates in this academic year. If you did not receive or you mislay your copy, there's one attached to this email or it's available online at [Lawnswood School - School calendar](#)

Please be aware of a correction. Year 9 Options Evening was included twice on the original version of the leaflet; the event is on Wednesday 23 January, not in October.

In the next couple of weeks, you may want to be aware of the following:

Wednesday 3 October: fire drill practice in school

Thursday 11 October: Year 7 Settling in Evening from 4.30pm until 7.00pm

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Bell
Headteacher