

Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

22 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

This week saw us open our school for our Open Evening on Wednesday. It was wonderful to see so many current parents/carers as well as meeting prospective new students and their parents and carers. As always, our staff and students excelled, and I met lots of excited Year 6 students who are looking forward to joining us in September.

Spanish Trip – report from Ms White

On Thursday 14th September a group of 16 Year 11 Spanish GCSE students travelled to Spain. Our 4-day trip saw us fly into Málaga airport before continuing our journey to the coastal city of Cádiz. We were incredibly well looked after by Spark Spanish, a local language school that includes residential accommodation. They also provided our expert guide and chaperone, Pedro, who was brilliant at ensuring students maximised their conversational skills and interacted in Spanish with the locals. We were lucky to be able to visit many different sites such as the bullring, market, castle, beach, shopping areas and we even climbed the 179 steps of Torre Tavira to enjoy panoramic views of the city. Students enjoyed tasting local dishes such as churros con chocolate and traditional tapas and we spent our evenings up on the roof terrace making the most of the warm climate, socialising with music, games and dancing. All in all, a fantastic experience that will give students a very valuable boost ahead of their Spanish GCSE exams in the summer. ¡Olé!

We are aiming to get more trips abroad this year and in years to come. My thanks to Ms White and Mr Connor-Crabb for taking our students.

Letters of Richard Cobden Project – report from Mr Baker

Following Lawnswood's involvement in the Richard Cobden Letters Project with Leeds Beckett University and the Green Wing Project, our students entered a national competition run by The History of Parliament Trust. The projects were excellent, and as a result we won:

First Place: Boitumelo Dube (Y9) - Black Voices Matter

Runner Up: Millie Flanagan (Y10) - Education for All

And honourable mention: Kai Silcox, Poppy Poole, Frost Heaton - Meteor Showers Podcast

To celebrate this success, Boitumelo, Millie and Kai, along with four other Lawnswood students, were invited to The Letters of Richard Cobden Online website launch and Prize Giving in Westminster. Miss Beaumont, Mr Baker and the students were all rewarded with a tour of Parliament, a session in the public gallery to watch a Commons debate, a meeting with MPs and Lords, and tea and cakes in Portcullis House. Boitumelo confidently addressed the invited guests (including a descendant of Richard Cobden and Leeds North West MP Alex Sobel), impressing the whole audience with his excellent project and speech. It was a wonderful experience for all those involved. We hope to continue our work with Leeds Beckett University, and to be further involved in parliamentary education.

Year 12 Welcome Evening, Wednesday 27 September, 4.30-5.30pm

It has been wonderful to welcome so many of our community back into the sixth form. The students have made a great start and have settled in well.

The Sixth Form curriculum is very different to the Main School offer, and it is important that we continue to work closely with families so that students can step up to the challenge of Key Stage 5 study, alongside accessing all the wider opportunities afforded by the Study Programme.

Details can be found in the Sixth Form section of our website, but we would also like to extend a warm invitation to any parents or carers, to come into school for an informal face to face meeting with a member of the sixth form team on Wednesday evening.

If you would like to take advantage of the opportunity to talk to a member of the team about what to expect in Year 12 and how we support your child to be successful please send an email to Ms Ullah, zuhra.ullah@elawnswood.co.uk, and state whether you would prefer to meet the team at 4.30pm or 5.00pm.

We look forward to talking to you next week.

Key dates for your diary the week commencing Monday 25 September
Wednesday

Year 12 welcome evening, Zoom, 5.00pm-5.30pm

LEAP launch challenge trip, Year 10 students

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Bell
Headteacher