

Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

12 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Happy New Year to you all, it is lovely to have all our students back safely after the Christmas holidays. This week in assembly, I've been talking to students about the value of community and how much we appreciate every member of our community and that includes you as parents and carers. I hope that you all had a nice break and managed to enjoy some time with family and friends.

Respect

As they returned to school this week, our students have been discussing what respect means to them and what they would like respect to look like at Lawnswood. Over the next few weeks, they will continue to learn about how to show respect in their school community, local community and more widely. Please do ask them what they have been learning about and how they can ensure their behaviour is respectful at home too. Attached to this update is a document that we will be using with students to help them understand what we mean by showing respect which I hope will support your conversations at home.

Year 11 Parents Evening, Wednesday 17 January

A gentle reminder to book your parents' evening appointments if you have not already done so. You can make appointments by either following the link on our website or going to [SchoolCloud - Lawnswood School](#). It would be great to see all of you at this final parents' evening before students sit their GCSEs.

The Leeds Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair

The Leeds Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair will take place on **Monday 5 February** at Leeds First Direct Arena. This event, which is the largest of its kind in the north, kicks off National Apprenticeship Week 2024.

Find out more and book your free ticket at [Leeds Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair | first direct arena](#)

Ethics Cup

Yesterday 8 of our wonderful students competed in the Ethics Cup, hosted at the University of Leeds by the School of Philosophy and Ethics. Students engaged in several case studies with some key ethical and philosophical debates at their centre. Examples of the moral questions being discussed included 'Should we pierce babies' ears?' to 'Were the Covid-19 medical trials ethical?' Students competed in a series of head-to-head matches with another schools, where they presented their cases and were judged by a panel of highly acclaimed academics from the world of ethics and philosophy. The students were then asked questions by the judges and were graded on their presentation, response to questions, and the questions they asked the other team. Lawnswood team's presentations were outstanding, they spoke

with confidence and the judges remarked repeatedly on their eloquence, maturity and thoughtful response to these ethical questions. The Lawnswood Ethics Cup Team were a credit to our school community and achieved sixth place in their points count. They missed the semi-finals by a whisper and the teams that made it through were Sixth Form students compared to our Year 10 and 11 students. We are immensely proud of our Ethics Cup Team.

Year 9 Options process

This half term we start the exciting process of supporting our Year 9 students to choose which subjects to study in Year 10.

We deliberately afford the students several weeks to make the decision as it can be a difficult and important one. The process will begin next week, when students will watch a video in tutor period which explains the process.

The launch proper then takes place at options evening on Tuesday 23 January, 5.30-7.00pm. If your child is in Year 9, please ensure that you can come along, with them, to this event.

Students will be shown how to login to the online options system as well as the different subjects available to them. We find that this process is most successful when students take time to talk to their teachers, family and friends, so I would like to offer my thanks in advance for your engagement in the process.

Year 10 & Year 12 Target Setting

We take target setting at GCSE and A Level very seriously and feel strongly that it is only valuable if the targets set are driven by the students themselves and based upon a wealth of evidence. During this half term the Year 10 and Year 12 students will be supported by their class teachers to set meaningful targets. More information about this will be provided to you next week, alongside a video explanation of how the process works and how best to support your child to set meaningful, ambitious and motivational targets for them.

Year 13 Parents Evening

The booking system will open on Friday 19 January, at 4pm. Please login to make appointments with all your child's subject teachers. The link to the booking system can be found here: <https://lawnswood.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Friends of Lawnswood Meeting

Friends of Lawnswood would like to invite you to a meeting on Thursday 26 January at 5.30pm in school. This is a meeting to find out how The Friends of Lawnswood works, meet the current members and hopefully encourage you to join. It would be great to recruit some new members to support the school. If you are interested, please come to Main Reception for 5.30pm.

Key dates for your diary

Monday

Year 7 Football v Benton Park and Horsforth @ Benton Park

Wednesday

Year 11 parents' evening

Thursday

Battle of the Bands - The Wardrobe, 2.15pm onwards

Friday

Year 13 parents' evening bookings open

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Bell', written in a cursive style.

Mrs J Bell
Headteacher