

Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

20 December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

We have reached the end of what has seemed like a very long term! It's been lovely celebrating with students during assemblies this week and today seeing them in their festive outfits. As you know we are collecting money for Save The Children and will share how much we have raised in the new year.

### ***Taster Day – Wednesday 18 December***

A huge thank you to our sixth form team and A level teaching colleagues, for another very successful Sixth Form Taster Day. The Year 11 students spent the day 'as a sixth former' and really engaged in the opportunity to go to four taster lessons. Speaking to the students at lunch time I was really impressed by how much they had reflected on the morning and how much it was helping them to finalise their subject choices for next year.

The students were then treated to two further experiences in the afternoon; where they got to interview a current Year 12 student and listen to a talk from a current student at university. I hope these great careers opportunities really inspired them to take the next step towards fulfilling their ambitions.

After the holiday, the latest progress report will be generated, and I really look forward to seeing you all at parents evening on 15 January. If you haven't made your appointments yet, please follow the link, [SchoolCloud - Lawnswood School](#)

### ***Subject Newsletter***

This term has been exceptionally busy with lots of exciting events and learning. Please take a look at our subject newsletter to see a round-up of each department.

### ***Winter Concert***

For those of you who joined us for our winter concert last week, I'm sure you will agree that it was a spectacular evening which showcased the exceptional musical talent at Lawnswood. My thanks to Mrs Rushton and Mr Heaton for hosting the evening. Our next big musical event will be our School Show in February. We hope to see you there.

### ***Looking forward to next year***

The start of a new year is always a great opportunity to set targets for the year ahead and celebrate what is working well for the young people in our care.

Students in Year 7 –10 will sit a reading assessment in the first couple of weeks, and I would really like to ask you again to support your child in engaging with reading at every possible opportunity. Losing yourself in a book is such a great way to support them with their well-being and relaxation, as well ensuring that they are as successful as they can possibly be academically.

Year 9 students have a fantastic period of self-reflection and opportunity ahead, as we begin the exciting options process. Ms Nicholson will launch the process on Tuesday 21 January, so please save the date. It can be daunting to select which subjects students want to study at GCSE, and starting the conversation early, with a strong focus on their future ambitions, is the key to success.

Year 10 students have also not been forgotten, and I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our Target Setting Evening, which will take place at 6.00pm, in the Main Hall, on 30 January. Ms Nicholson will explain how we work with students to support them in setting their own GCSE target grades, and our approach to ensuring that no child feels there is a ceiling on what they can achieve.

Our sixth form students are equally not exempt from the opportunity to reflect and grow in the new year. Year 12 students will also be evaluating their performance in the first term and setting target grades for their Key Stage 5 subjects and Year 13 students will be receiving their latest progress report and joining us for Parents Evening on Wednesday 29 January. The booking system for Year 13 Parents Evening will open on Friday 17 January.

If your child is in Year 13 then I hope that they have a really restful holiday over the next two weeks, they worked hard for their mock exams and pushed themselves to get their University applications in during the last term and I really hope that they are now being rewarded with offers from their chosen places. Ms Ullah and her team have worked tirelessly to ensure that all students are on track and will continue to support them all in the New Year.

### ***Thank you to all who completed the Parent Voice Survey***

We have received the results of the survey this week and will be spending the first SLT meeting after the holiday evaluating your feedback. Following that meeting we will share the findings with you and the steps we will be taking as a result.

### ***Message from West Yorkshire Police***

We have been asked to share a letter from West Yorkshire Police about the dangers of vaping. Please take time to read the letter and talk to your child about the dangers and where to get support to stop using vapes.

### ***Key dates for the week commencing 6 January 2025***

Reading tests, Years 7-10

Year 12 exams in class

#### **Monday**

School re-opens to all students

#### **Friday**

Deadline for Sixth Form applications

Narrative and Feminism workshop, Year 11

#### **Saturday**

Year 10 trip to The Lowry

Yours faithfully

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

Mrs J Bell  
Headteacher