

NEWSLETTER



A Special Term for a Special Delivery: Our New Minibus Has Arrived!

This term has been extra special for our school community as we are thrilled to announce the arrival of our brand-new minibus!

This incredible achievement has been the result of a truly collaborative effort. Students, families, staff, and the wider community have all come together with one shared goal – to raise the funds needed to make this dream a reality. We are eternally grateful to everyone who played a part in supporting this project, whether through donations, fundraising events, or simply spreading the word.

The new minibus opens up a world of opportunities for our school. It will provide far greater flexibility for trips, sporting fixtures, and a wide range of off-site activities – particularly benefiting our PE department. More importantly, it will serve the whole school community, enhancing the experiences of students across all year groups.

From all of us here at school, a huge and heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in making this happen. Your support has made a lasting difference.



Year 8 - Devising Peacock Garden

The year 8's were devising for the first time a piece of theatre for themselves based upon the 1947 partition of India. This time period was chosen to learn about historical and social plays. It was a piece they could create using all the techniques they have learnt so far. It was a first for them all but they all remembered putting on plays when they were little and this helped them create the story. Many of the girls shared their families' heritage stories of growing up in England or coming to England and used these to help them devise their plays.

Year 9 - Circles - a play based on the number 11 Bus route.

The girls worked on duets about two characters who live in Birmingham and catch the number 11 Bus. This work allowed all the girls to direct and act in a naturalist piece of theatre for themselves. This was a culmination from everything they have learnt over the three years into a mini performance to share and show off their technique and skills.

Year 7 - Hood

This term we enjoyed working on forum theatre otherwise known as in the round. We worked on a play called Hood about a girl, Hood, who has to take responsibility for her family. The best part of this term was; 'everyone can be seen and it feels more natural as the audience is all around you.' The best bit about Hood was that we got to be different personalities' 7Y1

Arts Ambassador trip

The Arts Ambassadors had the luxury of visiting the Birmingham Hippodrome and seeing how it all works behind the scenes.

Firstly we went to see a lighting and sound check in progress and then had a backstage tour. It was fabulous to see the parts of the theatre that the audience do not usually get to see.

My favourite part was when Ian demonstrated the lighting desk in the Patrick Centre. I have never seen anything on that scale and that was just the small desk.

Thanks to the Education and Technical managers, Craig and Ian we had a really great experience.

Kapreece, Year 9





Matilda

The Drama Department is immensely proud of every single student who has contributed to this year's musical in any capacity. From actors, choreographers and dancers to stage crew, swings, dance captains, musical directors and lighting technicians (all working under the guidance and support of staff), our students have embraced their roles with enthusiasm and dedication. Countless hours have been spent rehearsing, refining and collaborating all in pursuit of delivering the very best performance possible.



Being in Matilda meant we have rehearsed every Friday after school since February. The audition process encouraged students from all year groups to be in the show, allowing us to make wonderful friends along the way. The rehearsals themselves have been fun and there are so many strong singers and talented actors in the cast. The environment was very welcoming, with everyone working together enthusiastically on the dancing, singing and acting involved in the show.

Grace and Rosin, Year 8



What a busy 2nd year we have had in the design & technology department!! Here's a quick breakdown of some of the fantastic things students have been designing and making this term.

Yr7

Students this term have been busy preparing and cooking a range of dishes which would be suitable to be sold at the Queen Mary restaurant located at Dudley Zoo. The dishes have been created to either be eaten inside the restaurant or be eaten as a picnic food. Dishes have included cookies, scones, pizza, stir fry and couscous salad. The results have been amazing!

Yr8 & 9

Students have been busy focusing on improving their sewing skills by making lip balm holders and then going on to make either a tote bag or tool roll. By making these items students have been developing their fabric cutting skills, pinning skills, use of the sewing machine and ironing skills.

Yr10 students have been studying the unit 2 element of the course which looks at deciding on suitable nutritional dishes for a toddler and parent. Students have to plan their meals in detail, prepare, cook and plate them and evaluate the final result.

End of year design and technology exhibition

To celebrate all of the students' work this year we teamed up with the art department to host an exhibition of students' work. Here are some pictures of the wonderful work on display this year.





Last half term, Year 7 students finished the 'Weather and Climate' unit of work. Students began to study the fieldwork enquiry process, conducting their own investigation into microclimates around the school site - when we were eventually able to get outside due to the rain! The pupils are now studying specific biomes including rainforests and deserts.

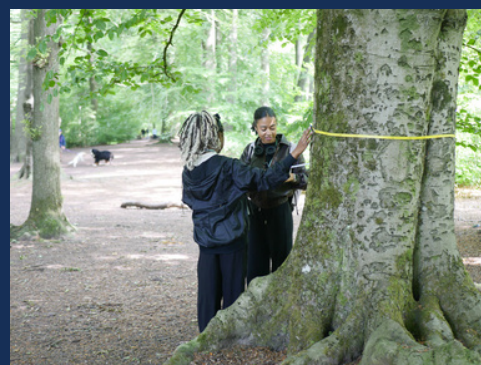
Year 8 explored Extreme Weather through fascinating case studies and are now shifting focus to the topic of Population.

Year 9 have just finished studying tectonic hazards, such as earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis. They've explored how impacts differ across countries and are now developing their map-reading skills in Geographical Skills.

Year 10 students have had a busy term with two field trips! In May, they visited Carding Mill Valley to measure the changes to the river as it flows downstream. In July, they visited Stratford upon Avon to investigate the impact of tourism on the town centre.



Year 12 ventured to Warley Woods to measure carbon storage in our local woodland. Now they're preparing for independent coursework over the summer!



Finally, well done to our Year 11 and Year 13 students who have worked hard all year and have now finished their geography exams!



During the summer term we hosted an engaging, creative afternoon for sixty Year 5 students from George Dixon Primary School as part of the King Edward VI Primary Partnership event. Both boys and girls participated in two sessions, one in Art, where students practised using a range of patterns, and one in English, where they were able to eat a chocolate frog and describe how the chocolate affected their senses. The students praised our school and said they had had a magical time.



Also, in July, sixty Year 5 students from St Peter's Primary School attended a performance of our musical, 'Matilda', in our school Hall, and were thrilled to see such a professional musical performed in a school! We love it when children from our local primary schools have the opportunity to see the amazing work, and talent, produced at our school!



On Wednesday, 2nd July, 166 new Year 7 students attended their Lordswood School for Girls Induction Day, which was based around the 'Harry Potter' novels. Students played Quidditch, produced some Art work and described their chocolate frogs. They also studied French and Spanish, which was new to most of them. For a special treat, the new Year 7s were able to watch part of the school musical, 'Matilda', and also see some of our students performing songs from 'Wicked', 'Hamilton' and 'Annie'. They all had an amazing day, and we look forward to welcoming our new Year 7s in September and hope that they flourish at Lordswood.



It's been a brilliant year so far for extra-curricular sport at Lordswood, with students getting involved in a wide range of activities and representing the school with pride and enthusiasm. The winter term saw our football and netball teams competing in various leagues and competitions, with great effort and teamwork on display. In the spring term, we were thrilled to showcase our talented students in a fantastic gymnastics performance, and participation across the board has remained high.

Beyond the main team sports, we've also had lots of students enjoying pickleball, cricket, tennis, volleyball, and badminton, creating more opportunities for everyone to stay active and try something new. It's been great to see such a positive buzz around PE and sport across all year groups!

We're also very excited to announce our brand-new Sports Ambassadors—a team of students who will work closely with the PE department to help promote sport and increase participation, especially through lunchtime clubs open to all year groups. Congratulations to:

Sare (7W), Sienna (7S), Amyrah (7G), Divine (8W), Summer (10D), and Ruby (10D)

These students have shown real enthusiasm and commitment to PE and will be helping us bring even more sporting opportunities to the school day.

We're still looking for Year 9 and Year 8 representatives to join the team—if you're interested in becoming a Sports Ambassador, please pop into the PE office to find out more.

Well done to all students who've taken part in clubs, teams, or performances this year—you've made it a fantastic year for PE!



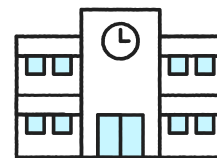
Sports Day 2025 – A Brilliant Day of Fun, Competition and Team Spirit!

What a fantastic day we had for Sports Day 2025! The sun was shining (for the most part), and the atmosphere was buzzing from start to finish. Students got stuck into a wide range of events including the 300m and 100m sprints, penalty shoot-out, benchball, shot putt, javelin, and more. It was brilliant to see so many students giving it their all and supporting each other throughout the day.

One of the standout moments was the classic staff vs students tug of war, which brought out some serious team spirit—and plenty of laughs! The staff 100m race was another crowd favourite, with some impressive (and surprisingly competitive!) performances that had everyone cheering from the sidelines.

What really stood out was how supportive and well-behaved the girls were. They cheered each other on, celebrated every effort, and showed great sportsmanship in every event. It was lovely to see so many students encouraging one another, win or lose.

We wrapped up the day with a relaxed awards presentation out on the field, celebrating some fantastic individual and team performances—and, of course, everyone enjoyed a well-earned ice pop in the sunshine to finish the day off. Huge thanks to all the staff and students who helped make the day such a memorable one!

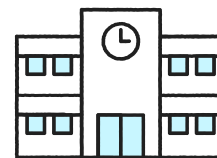


Leavers Assembly Friday 9th May

Mrs Waraich organised another amazing year 13 leavers assembly this year, with help from students and staff. It is always a wonderful event that gives our students a lovely send off. The event includes subject rewards, musical entertainment, student speeches, trips down memory lane and our silly awards, just for fun. Malaika, Deputy Head Student, shares her memories of the day:

Our Leavers' Assembly was everything you'd want it to be — fun, emotional, a little bit chaotic, and full of memories we'll never forget. From start to finish, it was the perfect way to round off our two years together. The vibe was immaculate — laughter, a few tears (we're not naming names), and just that feeling of wow, we really made it. Satveer's dhol performance was next-level and got everyone hyped from the get-go. The mood music throughout had us all feeling things — one minute we were vibing, the next we were lowkey trying not to cry. The photo slideshow was a rollercoaster. Seeing how much we've all changed (glow-ups and all) over the two years was wild. The silly awards were hilarious — absolutely no one was safe, but it was all love. Let's be honest, some of those awards were too accurate... Each form gave their own speech — some funny, some sweet, some a bit unhinged in the best way. And then came Ahmed's speech, which honestly stole the show. Thoughtful, powerful, and had everyone in their feels. Of course, the assembly ended with everyone running around taking a million photos, trying to squeeze in hugs and group shots before it was all over. That post-assembly buzz? Unreal. It wasn't just an assembly — it was a reminder of all the memories, chaos, growth, and good times we've shared. We're proud, we're emotional, and we're definitely going to miss this.





Year 12 Post 18 Preparation Day

Mrs McInerney and Mrs Leadbetter organised a jam-packed day of workshops on Wednesday 4th June, to get year 12 started on their Post 18 applications. Newman University gave students an introduction to Higher Education and Student Life talk; Ask Apprenticeships talked 'everything apprenticeships'; University of Leicester discussed student finance, accommodation and access to support and Aston University explained the UCAS application process and how to write a personal statement. Students were then given an hour to get started on their UCAS applications. The day was rounded off with a presentation by Mrs Leadbetter, Director of Post 16 Studies, to parents, with lots of tips on how to support their child through the Post 18 process.

UCAS Exhibition

On Monday 23rd June as part of Post 18 Week, Mrs Leadbetter, Mr Gibson-Chaudhry and Mrs McInerney took all of year 12 to the NEC for the annual UCAS exhibition at the NEC. The event is a fantastic opportunity for students to find out about what universities, apprenticeship and training providers have to offer and features over 100 exhibitors. All of year 12 made their way to the NEC to visit the exhibition and talk to the staff and students from across the country. Lots of freebies were collected and lots of important conversations were had.

UoB Open Day

On a gloriously sunny Friday 27th June, all of year 12 attended the University of Birmingham open day as part of their Post 18 Week. Although UoB may not be their choice of uni, the experience helped our students understand what the university experience will be like.

Lauren reflects on the day:

Attending the University of Birmingham was a useful experience. Although UoB is not one of my choices, attending the open day still helped me to see what the university offers and what kind of things I liked and disliked to look for in the other universities. Throughout the day I attended subject drop ins and taster lectures, I spoke to various students and listened to professors talk about their subject and what the course has to offer. The professors delved into depth about what to expect throughout the years of the course offering lots of detailed knowledge which helps when deciding which course is best suited for you. The open day offered tours of the campus and talks on accommodation and student life at the uni. Overall my experience at the uni left me with a greater understanding of university life and what I want to look for in other unis that would help me decide. Whether you plan on going to the uni or not, if you are given the chance to go it's very helpful to take up the opportunity just to get a grasp of what you want in a uni and what you don't.

Year 12 Work Experience Week: A Brilliant Success!

30th June – 4th July 2025

We are incredibly proud of our Year 12 students who took part in this year's Work Experience Week, a fantastic opportunity for them to explore future careers, build essential skills, and gain real insight into the world of work.

An impressive 75% of the year group secured practical placements in a wide range of settings, including law firms, hospitals, pharmacies, primary schools, nurseries, charity shops, and many more. The feedback from employers has been overwhelmingly positive, with several commenting on the maturity, enthusiasm, and professionalism of our students. Some students made such a strong impression that they were offered part-time roles, a brilliant testament to their hard work and attitude.

For those students who remained in school, the week was equally valuable. They worked closely with our independent Careers Adviser, Mrs Johal, receiving expert guidance on UCAS applications and personal statements, a key step in preparing for their next chapter. In addition, they experienced the demands of real work by contributing behind the scenes to school life: painting scenery for the upcoming production of Matilda, helping to clean and organise areas in PE and Food Technology, and offering outstanding support during school events throughout the week.

Gaby spent her week looking after animals at Top Barn Farm Shop and shared the following: "My work experience was very rewarding, as I got to learn many new skills both socially and with animals. I am really grateful for the opportunity the school gave us to do this, as it is so helpful for my application to vet school. I will, I hope, increase my chances of being accepted into my dream university."

We'd like to say a huge well done to all the students involved, you represented the school with respect and resilience. Thank you to all the employers, staff, and parents who helped make this such a memorable and meaningful experience. Mrs McInerney



Year 12 Welcome Day

On Monday 30th June we welcomed over 100 students to the New Year 12 Welcome Day. Students were welcomed by our current year 12 students on arrival and heard all about Lordswood Sixth Form from Mrs Waraich, Head of Year 12 and 13. Students then had 4 subject introduction sessions where they found out more about the subjects they are hoping to study with us in September. The cafe was open at break time for them to give them a taste (pun intended!) of what life will be like in sixth form. The day finished with a talk from Mrs Leadbetter, Director of Post 16 Studies, explaining the summer enrolment process and top tips for preparing for sixth form. We look forward to seeing all our students again in September. Enrolment will take place in the sixth form block on Thursday 21st September.



QAC Sight Village Volunteering

We have been supporting Queen Alexandra College's Sight Village Exhibition for over 20 years and this year we had a bumper number of students volunteer. Training took place in school at the end of June and here students were introduced to the various visual and aural impairments the delegates may have. They were then shown how to interact and guide people sensitively and safely. Students then volunteered at the Exhibition on Monday 7th and 8th June. Mrs Leadbetter went to visit the students on both days and was extremely proud of the way the students were conducting themselves. The QAC organisers had nothing but praise for the students, and following the event we received a telephone call from one of the delegates who wanted to thank our student Parwana specifically for her help. Special mention also to Sien, Gaby and Leilt who really impressed the organisers with their dedication and commitment. A big thank you to all our volunteers, over 50 students this year!

Rayaan and Parwana tell us all about their experiences:

I recently volunteered at Queen Alexandra College (QAC) for two days, supporting blind and visually impaired individuals, and it was an incredibly rewarding experience. During my time there, I had the opportunity to guide visual impairment individuals around the exhibition. I made sure to approach people with patience, empathy, and a willingness to help. It was important to me to create a comfortable and supportive environment for the individuals I was working with, and I did my best to be both helpful and respectful in every interaction. Even though it was just two days, I felt that I was able to make a positive impact. I learned a lot about different ways to support people with visual impairments. More importantly, I connected with some amazing individuals and walked away from the experience feeling inspired and grateful for the opportunity. Volunteering at QAC really strengthened my passion for helping others, and I'd definitely love to be involved in doing something like this again and will also help me to boost my personal statement for University.

Rayaan

Volunteering at QAC was a wonderful experience, I met lots of friendly people, and we had great conversations about life. I learned how blind people cope with daily challenges and the struggles they face, which was very eye-opening. It felt really good to help others, and I also learnt many things at the event. Overall, it was a meaningful and rewarding experience.

Parwana





Charities Week 7th - 11th July

As we write we are just coming to the end of another fabulous sixth form charities week. Each form group organises their own event and the sixth form students really get stuck in. A big thank you to our amazing year 12 review tutors, Mrs Waraich, Mrs Clarke, Malaika and Maya (our fab volunteers) and of course the students for all their hard work in organising the events. Malaika reflects on the week:



Charities Week was a resounding success this year, filled with energy, laughter, and a true spirit of community. From thought-provoking career talks to entertaining fundraisers, the entire week showcased the very best of what our school has to offer. Standout events were the fiercely contested netball match, created by Ms Hartland, between staff and students — a match full of competitive spirit, surprising athleticism, and a few dramatic tumbles! Not to be outdone, Mr Goetschel's event with the English and Maths departments going head-to-head in a high-stakes Countdown tournament, proving that mental agility is alive and well on both sides of the academic divide. Meanwhile, the ever-popular "Splat the Teacher" event drew a large and enthusiastic crowd — some of our teachers may still be drying off! Ms Ghalib's pamper hamper raffle was another highlight, with beautifully curated prizes up for grabs thanks to the generous donations and organisational flair of our Year 12 forms and staff. They worked tirelessly behind the scenes to plan, promote, and deliver each activity with professionalism and enthusiasm, showing maturity beyond their years. The money raised will go to a selection of carefully chosen charities, and we couldn't be prouder of our school community for coming together to support such important causes. The generosity, teamwork, and spirit shown by both students and staff truly captured what makes this school special.

EDI

The EDI Committee stands for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity—core values that we are actively working to promote and embed throughout our school community. Our aim is to create an environment where everyone feels respected, represented, and supported, regardless of their background, identity, or ability.

Over the past year, we've taken meaningful steps to raise awareness and celebrate diversity within our school. Some of our recent initiatives include:

International Women's Day Assembly

We held an assembly to recognize and celebrate the achievements of women around the world, while also highlighting the ongoing challenges faced in the fight for gender equality.

Pride Month Assembly

During Pride Month, we organized an assembly to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community, promote acceptance, and educate our peers on the importance of inclusivity and allyship.

Looking ahead, we're excited to continue building on this momentum. One of our key upcoming projects is:

EDI Conference Participation

Lordswood has been assigned the theme of cognitive and mental disabilities for the upcoming KEVI EDI Conference. Our team has prepared a detailed and thoughtful presentation on this topic, which we look forward to sharing with the wider KEVI network. Our goal is to raise awareness, challenge stigma, and encourage greater understanding of mental health and cognitive differences.

As Head Student and Deputy Head Student, we meet weekly with the members of the school council to discuss the ideas, concerns, and suggestions brought to us by students across all year groups. Each week, we rotate between different key stages to make sure everyone has a chance to be heard. Representatives from each form group share feedback during these meetings — whether it's something that needs improving, a new idea for the school, or a request for clarification on certain things happening around school.

Since the start of the year, we've discussed a range of topics.

A big focus for us is making sure that students with neurodiversity feel supported and understood across the school. We're aiming to create more awareness and improve the resources available, so that every student feels seen, included, and valued.

If there's something you think could be improved or is worth discussing, let your form's council rep know. We meet with them regularly and are always open to hearing what ideas or suggestions students have.

Halima, Head Student, Jehsi, Deputy Head Student

Trips

Do Something Different Day – A Brilliant Day of Adventure and Fun!

On Thursday 17th July, we held our much-loved annual Do Something Different Day — and what a fantastic day it was! The school was buzzing with excitement as students threw themselves into a range of brilliant activities, both on-site and out and about.

For those who stayed in school, the day was packed with creativity and fun. From competitive board games to the messy (but marvellous!) art of piñata making, laughter filled the classrooms and corridors. It was a brilliant reminder that you don't have to go far to have a great time!

Meanwhile, each year group was treated to their own special trip:

Year 12 enjoyed a thrill-packed day at Alton Towers, braving rollercoasters and making the most of the sunshine.

Year 10 had a soggy but sensational time at Drayton Manor. The day began with a downpour, but spirits weren't dampened! One of the top highlights? Getting the teachers on the water rides — and everyone stepping off absolutely drenched but grinning from ear to ear!

Years 8 and 9 had a wild time exploring Twycross Zoo, meeting amazing animals and learning about conservation in action.

Year 7 spent the day discovering the wonders of Dudley Zoo, where they came face-to-face with everything from lemurs to lions.

It's such a privilege to be able to offer these fantastic experiences to our students. Days like these aren't just about having fun (though there's plenty of that!) — they're about building friendships, confidence, and memories that will last a lifetime.

We're already looking forward to next year's adventure!

Trips

