

THE WEEKLY WORD

The Lawrence Sheriff School Newsletter

<http://www.lawrencesherrifschool.net/weekly-word>



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First Word ... from the Headteacher, Peter Kent

I am pleased to report that last week's Sixth Form Open Evening was extremely successful. We estimate that around 350 families were present at the evening and we have already received a far higher number of applications than would be usual at this time of year.

We have received several enquiries from parents of current Year 11 students about admission to the Sixth Form. Since the topic will be of interest to many parents of younger students, I thought it would be helpful to set out the process in this week's First Word.

Mrs Halestrap will speak to all of Year 11 next week about the process for applying to the Sixth Form. Our own students have a separate form which focuses upon their choice of subjects in Year 12 and 13. There is no interview for admission to the Sixth Form, but students do meet with a member of staff to discuss their choice of subjects.

I have also been asked if progression to the Sixth Form is automatic for our own students. The answer is that each year almost every student in Year 11 progresses into our Sixth Form and I expect exactly the same thing to happen this year. Those who do not progress have normally decided that they would prefer to study a set of courses that we do not offer. However, a student does have to achieve the qualifying score in order to be able to study a particular subject. For example, a pupil who wishes to study Mathematics needs to achieve a GCSE grade 7 (the equivalent to an A grade for those of us who still use 'old money!'). It would be entirely inappropriate to accept anyone onto a Mathematics course who has not achieved this standard, since our experience indicates that they are likely to fail. Hence we would be failing in our duty of care to our students if we allowed them to progress knowing that they were unlikely to succeed.

It is also worth setting out that the standard curriculum for Year 12 students is now three subjects plus an Extended Project. Universities would far prefer three good grades to four indifferent ones and also highly value the skills in research that are demonstrated by an Extended Project (many of the approaches to study that I experienced when doing a PhD are distilled within the EP). In a number of cases, students have been made lower offers specifically because they have taken an Extended Project.

Hence the message to our current Year 11 is that we are looking forward to you joining our Sixth Form and expect no change from the current pattern of almost everyone progressing. However, you will have to work hard in order to ensure that you achieve the grades required to enrol on your chosen subjects. Our entry grades for A level subjects are actually lower than many local providers, but do provide a realistic indication of the standard that is required in order to succeed in a demanding set of qualifications. **Peter Kent**

Shopping online? Access your favourite retailer via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lawrencesherrifschoolpta> and the school gets a commission!



A few keen staff took the boys on in a Basketball match put on by a very organised and resourceful Mr Gaffin to celebrate the end of Movember.

The match was held last Thursday 30 November on a frightfully cold lunchtime, but both teams battled to put out two teams that were eager to go - Iain Wood organising the student team.

The staff were proactive in their attacking play with Mr Wharton and Miss Parkin making leads; however our team tactic: 'to purposefully miss these shots to keep the game close', was working wonderfully. The students then engaged in some spectacular passing between Sean Egan and Rob Williams that lead them to score some impressive lay-ups. Frequent subbing by both teams reflected the speed and intensity of the game; with Mr Wood, Mr Shaw and Dr Johnson working together to get the play up the pitch. Further defensive play from Biant and Alankrit allowed the students to weave the ball up the pitch showing their resilience to some staff defending from Mr Brown and Mr Abbott. Curious self-referring from Mr Shaw gave the staff an advantage, however George Meadows worked tirelessly kept the staff well at bay despite Mikey and Mr Clarke's best efforts. Whilst Miss W scored two baskets; the basket of the match goes to Dr Johnson (set up by Mr Wharton); who elated the whole community watching the game with an impressive 3 point shot to draw the game.

A massive thanks to Mr Gaffin who organised the match. **Charlotte Wooliscroft, Teacher of Geography**



Whole School Photograph

The whole school photograph orders have arrived and are in the front office for collection at your convenience.

Many thanks.

Front Office

DON'T FORGET the MANCHESTER CAROLS at St Andrew's this **Saturday 9th December 7-30 pm**. Lovely modern version of the Nativity Story. It's become a big part of Christmas for lots of singers, players and listeners in Rugby for the past 5 years. The composer herself, Sasha Johnson Manning, is attending for the first time and will sing the solo. Proceeds to charity.

WITH REGRET, the Swing Museum performance on 15th December has to be postponed because of the illness of a band member. Re-arranged date to be confirmed.



TABLE TENNIS



Lunchtime Sessions

Wednesday: year seven club members only
Friday: club and school team members only

6.50 pm – 8.20 pm

Tuesday: Two-a-side League (Includes beginners' division)

Club Sessions: Try them out - first two are free!

Wednesday 6.30 pm – 9.00 pm
Sunday 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

See the website for more info: www.RugbyTableTennisClub.NET