

# THE WEEKLY WORD

The Lawrence Sheriff School Newsletter

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



Lawrence Sheriff School Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 08963659 whose registered office is at Lawrence Sheriff School, Clifton Road, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 3AG

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## First Word ... from the Headteacher, Peter Kent

I suppose one of the inevitable discussion points of the week is what to do when it snows. Deciding how to respond to poor weather is probably one of my least favourite tasks as a headteacher. To be honest, whatever decision one takes is likely to be criticised.

I think it was providential that last week the promised snow came on Sunday, providing ample time to assess the conditions before making a decision to close which could be notified to parents via the LSS website and the Warwickshire LA text messaging system. Since we share a number of bus services, I always speak to Mrs Marten at RHS before making a decision and also maintain informal links with my headteacher colleagues in other Rugby schools. Snow can come at less convenient times. In the past closure decisions have had to be taken early in the morning or as was the case in 2013 (the last date on which we had a snow closure) during the day to enable our bus services to safely transport students home.

I make no apology for erring on the side of caution in any decision over school closures. The weather may be fine in one area served by the school, but treacherous in another part of the county. Every year brings thoughtless and ill grounded complaints that schools close too readily when it snows. The people who make these complaints fail to mention that they would be the first to criticise if headteachers took unnecessary risks and opened when it was dangerous to do so. The reality is that whatever decision one takes, there are always some who think that they know better.

I would like to remind everyone of the channels of communication that we use during poor weather. The local authority offers a text messaging service which many parents find helpful and I would encourage everyone to sign up for it who has not done so already. If the weather forecast looks worrying, I would also suggest regularly checking the school website. As soon as a decision to close is made, it will also be posted on the Warwickshire school closure website. We obviously cannot ring every parent and for the same reason we would ask parents to ring or email school only if it is absolutely necessary.

Whatever the situation, I and my colleagues will continue to do our best to make the right decision, with the safety of pupils and staff as our primary concern.

**Peter Kent**

**Rugby Philharmonic Choir**  
presents  
**Handel's "Messiah"**  
150th Anniversary  
**Christmas Concert**

Saturday 16th December 2017, 7:30pm  
The Temple Speech Room, Rugby School  
By kind permission of the Head Master

Tickets are available from: Jan Harvey  
Tel: 01788 438368  
OR  
Contact us on: [mail@rugbyphilharmonic.org.uk](mailto:mail@rugbyphilharmonic.org.uk)  
Admission £12.50 - no concessions.

## Berlin German and History Tour: 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017



We arrived in school early on Wednesday morning to make our way to Heathrow for our flight to Berlin. By the time we arrived at the hostel at 6pm, we were all very tired and most of us dropped to sleep straight away after our evening meal.

On Thursday, we had a walking tour of the city with an interesting tour guide. We visited Museum Island, Checkpoint Charlie, the Brandenburg Gate, the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, Hitler's Bunker, and the Reichstag (where one of our group lost his passport down the back of a bench). Most people had a traditional 'currywurst' for lunch. In the evening, we relaxed and dined in a steakhouse, which was a welcome change after all of the junk we had eaten during the day.

On Friday, we had a visit to the Olympic Stadium, which was incredibly large and historically important. Not only was it a sports stadium, it was also one of Hitler's personal projects. We spent a sombre afternoon at Sachsenhausen, a concentration camp, which taught us about the tragedies of the camps.

Throughout the trip, we were lucky to be able to shop at different shopping centres, although some of the boys blew their money at the earliest opportunity. We also visited a Christmas Market on Potsdamer Platz, which had a large toboggan slide as well as food and gift stalls.

On the final day, we walked the East Side Gallery (one of the remaining sections of the Berlin Wall). It was covered in meaningful artwork and it made a great backdrop for our final day photos.

Throughout the trip, we had many opportunities to speak German and most students made the most of this. One of my personal highlights was having a conversation in German with a German...even if I was just asking where the toilet was!

The trip was well planned and we liked what we saw, we just weren't too pleased with the time we arrived back at school on Sunday night! Thanks to Mrs Standing, Mr Grove, Mr Abbott, and Mrs Scott for giving up their time to take us to Berlin. **Harry Butler and members of WSKS who came on the trip**

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

Warwickshire Choristers and St Alphege Choir, be performing Benjamin Britten's 'A Ceremony of Carols' at Dale Street Methodist Church Solihull and then again at Leamington Spa. The Warwickshire County Male Voices will perform the lesser-known Christmas carols for Male Voices and a selection of Christmas favourites!

Primary (Junior) and Secondary school boys from across Choristers (7 to 14 years) and the older boys (aged 14 access, rehearsing weekly in Rugby, Coventry and tours.

Tickets for the family friendly concerts are available accompanied children free.

If your boys enjoy singing (and the news this week is full interested in joining a choir please contact

**A Ceremony of Carols**  
A FESTIVE CELEBRATION IN MUSIC  
BY BRITTEN, RUTTER AND MORE

**20<sup>TH</sup> DEC | 7.30 | Solihull** | St Alphege Parish Church  
Church Hill Road, B91 3RQ

**21<sup>ST</sup> DEC | 7.30 | Leamington Spa** | Methodist Church  
Dale Street, CV32 5HL

**RITA SCHINDLER**  
harpist

**St Alphege Parish Church**  
BOYS AND GIRLS CHOIR  
JOE COOPER, director  
NICHOLAS JOHNSON, organist

**Warwickshire CHORISTERS**  
COUNTY CHORISTERS  
director BENJAMIN HAMILTON  
COUNTY MALE VOICES  
director DANIEL GALBREATH  
accompanist JULIAN GRIMSHAW

For more details, including tickets, see  
[StAlphegeMusic.org.uk](http://StAlphegeMusic.org.uk)  
or [Choristers.org](http://Choristers.org)

adults **£10**  
accompanied children **FREE**  
including a drink, a sweet something and a programme

Warwickshire Music | Warwickshire ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

accompanied by international harpist Rita Schindler will Carols' on **Wednesday 20th December** at St Alphege Church the following night, **Thursday 21st December**. world premiere of a newly commissioned triptych of harp by R. F. Smiley and the choirs of St Alphege will sing

Coventry and Warwickshire form the Warwickshire – 21) the County Male Voices. The choirs are both open Warwick, and coming together for singing days, trips and

from [www.choristers.org](http://www.choristers.org) or on the door. £10 for adults,

of the benefits, academically and mentally) and are [wchoristers@gmail.org](mailto:wchoristers@gmail.org)

## Emergency School Closures

In the event of an emergency school closure (e.g. due to severe weather conditions) the school will operate a text messaging service via Warwickshire County Council in order to notify parents. All parents and carers are strongly recommended to sign up to this system, details of which are at:

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures)

If you have children at other Warwickshire schools you may be able to sign up for those schools as well if they have chosen to use this system.

Thank you.



## 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](http://www.RugbyTableTennisClub.NET)