

# THE WEEKLY WORD

The Lawrence Sheriff School Newsletter

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



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

We are at the point in the school year where choices are playing a prominent part in everyone's thinking. Year 8 have just finished considering their KS4 options, Year 11 are holding discussions with sixth form pastoral staff about the subjects that they have asked to study next year and members of Year 13 are seeking to gain the grades required to progress on to their chosen universities.

In the face of all this, I thought that I would make two points about the choices that students and their families now face. The first one is that choice is a fact of life, but it is sometimes a difficult one to accept. There is always the temptation, when faced with a choice between A, B and C, to say that one does not want any of them and that D would be preferable. Whilst that might seem initially attractive, it is also unrealistic. Throughout life, we make choices in our professional and personal lives. An education, which suggests that this element of choice can either be avoided or subverted, is not a helpful preparation for the future. Within LSS, we try to offer as broad a choice as possible and our curriculum is designed to be personalised to adapt to the individual needs of students. However, some choice is still inevitable.

The second point follows on from this. The choices that we offer at Lawrence Sheriff are based upon our long experience of what higher education institutions are actually looking for (I emphasise higher education, because this is what over 95% of our students progress on to). A good example comes from modern languages. We make the taking of French or German at GCSE compulsory, partly because we think that it is a crucial part of any student's education and also because we know that universities give priority to students with these qualifications. Whether or not universities state this publicly does not really matter – our concern is how they behave in practice. For this reason, every student has chosen a modern foreign language as one of their options for the past eight years. Similarly, our advice about a wide range of other subject choices reflects our long and successful experience in supporting students on the route to higher education.

Thirdly, the Department for Education now place a strong emphasis upon the English Baccalaureate combination of subjects (English, mathematics, sciences, a foreign language and history or geography). Broadly, we agree with this view and for this reason our options are structured in such a way that every student is able to achieve the English Baccalaureate. In this way, students have maximum choice in the future because their options have not been inappropriately narrowed at an early stage in their school career.

Despite the complexity of the issues that we face, it is worth emphasising that the breadth of our personalised curriculum enables every student to pursue a programme of study that caters for their individual needs. For this reason, student feedback about the quality of the curriculum that is offered to them during their time at LSS continues to be extremely positive.

**Peter Kent, Headteacher**



# David Webb

**Died: June 2017**

David Webb, Art master, died in June 2017. Ols will remember him for strict discipline in the Art Room and encouragement of those of individual talent. His principle contribution to school life was his imaginative and meticulously executed designs for the sets of school plays. Behind the Art Room in the old kitchen of the Headmaster's House, he had his kiln where, at all hours, he could be found pursuing his particular interests, ceramics. The tiles he made were of many designs and could be seen on the walls of his house in Overslade Lane and in his hideout in France.

David did not make friends easily, but with those who shared his interests, he was open and welcoming. I was fortunate to be one of those and Patricia and I spent many delightful hours on the terrace of his cave overlooking the Valley of Le Loire in France. Here he was at his happiest among his artistic friends who also had caves along that hillside. It was a very sad time for him when his eyesight began to fail and his physical and mental condition prevented him from leaving his flat in Poole. I shall remember him and his wife, Faye, for their convivial company, particularly in his cave dwelling.

## **A personal reminiscence from Geoffrey Martindale (former Headmaster)**

### **Class of 68**

This September will mark the Fiftieth year since as new boys at Lawrence Sheriff School some of us were lucky enough to be part of IW and have Mr Webb as our form master. Mr Webb took this role very seriously and looked after us all the way through to the Fifth form. He fulfilled his duties most conscientiously, taking us on form trips each year, notably to London, Liverpool and Brighton. We all look back on these trips with great fondness. Few of us will ever forget a memorable trip across the Mersey on the New Brighton Ferry! Another feature of Mr Webb's excellent guidance that many remember were the Art History Appreciation, which have become more significant in retrospect. We had no idea at the time that we were receiving such an important education, but Mr Webb was never afraid of the innovative in his teaching methods and his keenness to equip us for life. His commentary on Art History film strips was always original and quirky. "Next time you are at a cocktail party in Berlin and someone nudges you in the ribs and asks you the date of the start of the Renaissance you will be able to tell them 1401 – the date of the competition for the bronze doors of the Florence Baptistery."

## **Martin Valentine (President, Old Laurentian Society)**

# Wear a Hat Day at Lawrence Sheriff School

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018



Last year the Sixth Form held a Wear a Hat Day for the very first time in aid of brain tumour research. We decided to join in with this national fund raising event in memory of an ex LSS student, Stephen Realf, who was diagnosed with a brain tumour at 19 during his RAF training as a jet pilot. Sadly, despite an operation and treatment, Stephen died just after his 26<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Our event proved to be really successful and fun; the Sixth Form wore their varied and colourful hats all day, made donations, bought badges and wrist bands, manned a cake stall and raised over £440 in just the one day.

It also raised interest from younger students who were curious as to why the Sixth Form were in hats, which started conversations about the brain tumour research charity and the need for more funding for research. We also learnt of others who have had family or friends affected by brain tumours.

Building on this, we would like the whole school to join in with Wear a Hat Day on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April**.

How can you help?

Students can buy hat badges or wrist bands for a £1. We will start selling badges and bands next week.

On the day itself, students can wear a hat of any description and donate a £1. Donate cakes for our cake stall. Contributions can be brought to the Sixth Form Centre next Friday morning between 8.30am and 8.50am.

Hopefully, with your support, we can raise a significant amount for this very worthwhile cause.

Further information about the brain tumour research charity can be found at [www.braintumourresearch.org](http://www.braintumourresearch.org) and [www.wearahatday.org](http://www.wearahatday.org).

Thank you.

**Helen James**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre Manager**



## U9's PLAYERS WANTED

(U10's FROM SEPTEMBER 18)

At Khalsa Juniors FC our philosophy is to encourage young players to experience different positions so that they can become comfortable with various aspects of football. This helps young players gain an understanding of the complexities of each position to better support their teammates and ensures that every child has the opportunity to play.

We are currently looking to expand our teams to allow more U9 players to experience our football philosophy and player development.

To attend one of our open training sessions and for further details please contact:

Nav Bains  
T: 07305 064087  
E: [chairman@leamingtonkhalsajuniors.co.uk](mailto:chairman@leamingtonkhalsajuniors.co.uk)  
W: <https://leamingtonkhalsajuniors.co.uk/>



Training:  
Sydenham Primary School,  
Tuesday & Thursday 6pm – 7pm

Matches:  
Saturday 10:00am – 11:30am  
U9's - Current school year 4 /  
DOB between 01/09/2008 – 31/08/2009

### Lost property

The majority of uniform that makes its way to lost property is not named. This means that, not only is it impossible to return it to its owner, but that staff have to make a through search through dirty kit in an attempt to find some distinguishing mark on it.

Please ensure that all of your son's uniform is **clearly marked** with his name.

Thank you

### Student Planners

It has been noted that the student planners have Wednesday 25th April down as a Teacher Training day. This date was **removed** after the planners were printed.

Please note that Wednesday 25th April is a normal school day and all students are expected to be in school.

Thank you

**Teresa Mpofu, Deputy Headteacher**

## Year 8 Parent consultation evening

The booking system for Year 8 parent consultation evening will open Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April and remain open until the end of day on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April

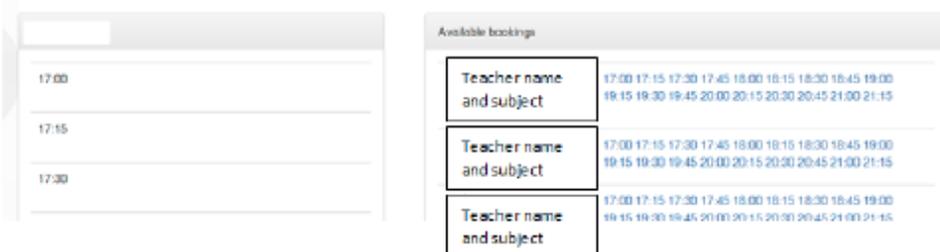
When you login to Insight the appointment page will open automatically.

<https://gate.we-learn.org.uk/tasc/LSS/secure.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2ftasc%2fLSS%2fsecure.aspx%3f>

If you require notification of your login details please email:

[lsinsight@lawrencesherrifsschool.com](mailto:lsinsight@lawrencesherrifsschool.com)

The teachers available to you will show on the right hand side with time slots, and your schedule will be on the left hand side. You simply click on a time slot and your appointment will transfer to your schedule. You can remove an appointment if you need to change it.



As some teachers teach more than one class, there will not be enough appointments for every parent to see every teacher; we have therefore limited the total number of bookings a parent can make to seven. This will ensure that all parents can see a cross section of their son's teachers. Once the booking has been closed, we may then add appointments for some parents e.g. the Head of Year or Pastoral dept. may wish to add appointments to your schedule. Once this has been finalised in school we will email you to say that booking has been finalised and you can either print off your schedule using the download button in the top right hand side of the page or bring a mobile device with Insight available to the parents evening (this would require your device to have 4G accessibility as you would not be able to access the school network).

This system is now used very successfully in many schools in Warwickshire but if there are teething problems please email the lsinsight email address above.

Mrs Teresa Mpofu  
Deputy head

# student finance england

the student finance experts

The Student Finance England full-time undergraduate application service for 2018/19 is now open.

New students should apply online at [www.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.gov.uk/studentfinance). You do NOT apply this year if you have made a deferred entry application.

The deadline for submitting applications is 25 May.

Follow these three easy steps to make sure you get your money in time for the start of your course:

### **1. Visit the Student Finance England student finance zone**

Before applying look at the range of SFE resources on our student finance zone – [www.thestudentroom.co.uk/studentfinance](http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/studentfinance) – to find out what you can get and how to apply.

### **2. Register online**

The quickest and easiest way to apply is online at [www.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.gov.uk/studentfinance)



## 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)