

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

The recent announcement about the expansion fund for grammar schools was perhaps more notable for the reactions it produced than the actual announcement.

The actual sum of money involved is extremely small when one considers the total budget of the Department for Education. £50 million is the proverbial small change in the pocket of the department. For example, the most recent available accounts reveal that £1.4 billion was spent on the Condition Improvement Fund, investing in capital projects within academies. A project to promote healthy lifestyles, using a fraction of the revenue from the sugar tax, has been allocated £100 million, which schools can bid for a small share of. Hence, £50 million divided between 160 grammar schools, even in the highly unlikely event that all schools successfully bid for a share of the fund, is likely to have a marginal impact at best.

The best thing about the announcement is not the money but the signal that it sends out. Other types of schools have been allowed to grow in response to parental demand. However, earlier administrations deemed that parents were only allowed to demand the types of schools that government approved of; hence grammar schools were specifically banned from increasing in size.

In the light of all this, the reaction of some to the announcement seem disproportionate. Those predicting a widespread return to selection and the creation of a series of grammar schools annexes should perhaps spend more time reflecting on financial realities.

I think the reaction is a reminder that opposition to academic selection is a deeply held belief for some. Whilst few would suggest that there is anything wrong with Oxford, Cambridge or Russell Group universities being highly selective, any form of selection by grammar schools provokes strong feelings. Like many passionately held views, details of fact such as those mentioned above, make little difference. Regardless of the amount allocated by the government, whether it be £50 million or £50, some believe that grammar schools should not expand and should indeed not be allowed to remain open.

Whilst I respect those who have such strongly held beliefs, it cannot be right to seek to impose them upon others. I was delighted to be able to send my two sons to Lawrence Sheriff and I believe that other parents should have the right to do the same. Starving grammar schools of funds and arguing that they should be treated differently from other schools, regardless of the views of parents, is both unfair and unjust.

Peter Kent

Shopping online?

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

Master Chef 2018

From an original entry list of 48 students the final 4 teams of 4 were chosen through 2 days of omelette challenges!

Then the 4 House teams competed against each other to produce a 2 course meal for 4 people including freshly baked bread.



All 4 teams worked extremely well and produced some wonderful food from some very intricate recipes.

Unfortunately, only one menu could win, and congratulations to the team from Tait, and well done to everyone who took part!



The Winning Meal!

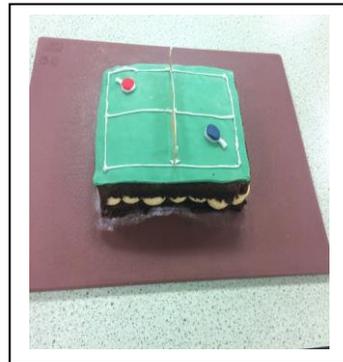
The Lawrence Sheriff School Bake Off 2018

The theme for this years' Bake Off was sport and over 2 days of finals, 14 students took part to create a cake of their own design to reflect the theme.

Competition was fierce and standards extremely high – a lot of practice had obviously taken place beforehand!

Our judges were given an almost impossible task and much tasting and sampling was required.

After much deliberation and cogitation, first prize went to **Frederick Stephens'** fantastic swimming pool!



Second prize went to Matthew Newbould

and third prize went to Lewis Holman



Well done to all those who took part in what was a very enjoyable event!

Mike Sutcliffe, Operations Manager