



# THE WEEKLY WORD

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

First Word ... from Peter Kent, Headteacher

Volume 22 Number 1

Friday 7 September 2018

Welcome back to the new term. I hope that you had an enjoyable summer and that you managed to relax and recharge your batteries.

In keeping with my normal practice, I plan to wait a few weeks for the term to settle down before diving into an analysis of public examination results. Hence other than noting that the results were very pleasing at both ages 18 and 16, I will focus upon other matters for my first two articles.

There is no doubt that inclusion has been the educational theme of the summer. Just this weekend, a Guardian investigation focused upon levels of school exclusion in 2016-17, with the shadow education secretary commenting that high exclusion rates “should be a matter of huge concern.” In July, press reports focused upon the practice of ‘off-rolling’, with students who were attending institutions in Year 10 being removed by a variety of strategies before they took public examinations in Year 11.

Understandably, there is a high level of concern about the perverse incentives driving such behaviour. Hence I suspect that when the current inspection regulations are re-drafted in September 2019, we will see an even greater focus upon inclusion.

As a selective school, LSS is very fortunate and it would be both unfair and unreasonable to compare us with the more challenging circumstances faced by many other schools. My philosophy has always been that in the light of our context we should retain the students who are sent to us. Hence in my twenty years of headship, no pupil has ever been permanently excluded from the school. To be fair, in doing this, I am merely continuing a trend, since I know that my predecessor, Dr Pogson, had the same philosophy. Before anyone thinks that we make use of other tactics, our level of fixed term exclusions (sometimes called suspensions) are also some of the lowest in the country.

Last year a Guardian investigation also suggested that a number of schools were in the habit of asking large numbers of students to leave between Years 12 and 13 in order to boost league table performance. Like all schools we have entry requirements for our Sixth Form, but our statistics for the retention of pupils between Year 12 and Year 13 are unusually strong. This year only two students have left us at the end of Year 12, in both cases because they wish to pursue other career or academic options.

As I have emphasised throughout this piece, the school is very fortunate in the calibre of its students and so I don't think I deserve any plaudits for retaining them. However, all that I have written does demonstrate our commitment, repeated each year, to work with every child throughout their time at LSS, to enable them to achieve their full potential.

**Peter Kent**

## Shopping online?

Access your favourite retailer via: <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lawrencesherriffschoolpta>

## Congratulations to all of this year's GCSE, AS and A level examination students!



## Parent Consultations

### Schedule for 2018-19

Year 7	Thursday 15th November 2018
Year 8	Thursday 2nd May 2019
Year 9	Thursday 17th January 2019
Year 10	Thursday 16th May 2019
Year 11 (1 of 2)	Thursday 18th October 2018
Year 11 (2 of 2)	Thursday 28th March 2019
Year 12 (1 of 2)	Thursday 8th November 2018
Year 12 (2 of 2)	Thursday 21st March 2019
Year 13 (1 of 2)	Thursday 27th September 2018
Year 13 (2 of 2)	Thursday 7th February 2019

## Michael Carter (I3 TCJD)



Congratulations to Michael success in the intercounties Championships at the where they won a silver

The team were just pipped one pin in the last frame of weekend, in July.

and his team for their recent under 18's Tenpin Bowling Airport Bowl, Heathrow medal.

to the gold medal position by the last game of the

## Insight

Parents and carers of new students to the school will receive their login details for Insight, an online parent portal used for attendance, behaviour, reports and assessments and parent consultation bookings, by the end of September.

## Polite reminder

Please can all parents and carers remember that for the safety of all pupils that they should not attempt to come on the school site to drop off and collect students at the start and end of the school day. Please arrange for a safe pickup point away from the school site if you wish to drop off/collect students from school, as the roads adjacent to the school site are very busy. Thank you.