



# THE WEEKLY WORD

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

First Word ... from Peter Kent, Headteacher

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I started the academic year by emphasising that the school is not just about examination results. For that reason I have deliberately not 'dived into' public examination results in my first few articles. However, there is no escaping the fact that results do matter and are an important part of our role in preparing students for the next stage of their lives.

Having reviewed GCSE last week I thought I would use this week's article to explore our performance in A level and BTEC examinations. The key statistics are very encouraging. At A-level 99% of students passed, with 71% going on to gain A\*-B grades. Students on our new and very challenging BTEC course in Engineering performed well above national trends, with around two thirds achieving a distinction or above and every student passing.

As usual when discussing Sixth Form results, it is important to remember that we operate a different admission policy at this level from that in the rest of the school. The governing body have made a conscious decision not to have a selective sixth form. Fundamentally students are asked to gain a B grade in the subject that they wish to study (a 6 or above in the new GCSE grading system) accompanied by a good set of broader grades, an entry criteria significantly lower than those in many schools - a point highlighted by press coverage over the summer.

In the light of this it might be assumed that our A-Level results would be significantly lower than those achieved at GCSE, since our criteria for entry is very different from that in Year 7. In fact the reverse is the case. The results achieved by the school consistently compare extremely well with those achieved by any grammar school in the country.

More important than any league table, I was very pleased to hear from students on results day how much they had enjoyed their time in the sixth form. It was also very encouraging to hear about the ways in which the Sixth Form team and my other colleagues had gone to great lengths to support students facing a range of different challenges. Every student who wanted to go to university was able to and almost every student was able to go to their first or second choice university.

As I started this article by pointing out, results matter. However, we also want our students to have a happy and enjoyable two years that prepare them well for their future lives and leave them with positive memories of their time in the LSS Sixth Form. **Peter Kent**

## Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening - Thursday 18th October (1 of 2)

Insight will be opened for parents to book appointments for the first of two Year 11 parent consultation evenings on **Monday 1st October at 8.00 am**, it will remain open until the end of school on **Monday 8th October**.

We will then add any appointments that Dr Mather, Head of Year, wishes to make and confirm when schedules have been completed.

If you require any assistance with Insight, please email: [Issinsight@lawrencesherriffschool.com](mailto:Issinsight@lawrencesherriffschool.com) or [Teresa.mpofu@lawrencesherriffschool.com](mailto:Teresa.mpofu@lawrencesherriffschool.com)

Our **2018 World Challenge** trip started in Leh, the 30,000-habitant capital of Ladakh, India's northernmost region. From the very beginning, us 15 "Challengers" were managing our own time and leading ourselves, from converting our money to finding places to eat. We visited Leh's brilliant Tibetan refugee markets, haggling for gifts and souvenirs, and began to plan the later stages of the trip in small groups – which was difficult but rewarding and eventually brought the team together.

During this initial "acclimatisation" phase, we walked up from the 3500m base altitude of the town to just over 4000m. Some of the group had immediately felt some of the early symptoms of altitude (headaches and shortness of breath) but ascending and descending over the course of the entire trip, and the trek phase in particular, meant that reaching 5000m and 6000m later mostly felt little more difficult than this initial climb. How people were affected was, as is always the case with altitude, random, but those who had it the worst were always best supported by the group. Around this time we also got to know the "alpine plod", the slow walking pace that makes hours and hours of trekking manageable with practice.

After another couple of days in Leh town, we moved out to Kuzey Middle School, in the village of the same name, to begin our "Project" phase. The school had 55 students between 4 and 14 years of age, and although it had some nicer areas, several in-use classrooms were in disrepair. We arrived on the children's last day, as they welcomed us with a marching drill and a Ladakhi dance routine, and we thanked them with the song we had practiced together. Before they left, we also handed over the sports equipment we had already bought and played cricket and football together.

The project was five days of wiping, filling and whitewashing walls, then painting educational coloured murals on top, as well as arranging for window repairs and installing rugs on some of the classroom floors for the cold winters. We also built and put up a pair of football goals in the playground, which we put to good use when the children came back to play with us again on our last day. We planned well and worked hard and it paid off, as our improvements came out brilliantly, the teachers and kids seemed very happy and we felt that we'd made a real difference.

During the project we also met the chefs who would be travelling with us, especially for the mountainous parts of the trip where access to food would otherwise be difficult or non-existent. We got on brilliantly and they became the foremost of the brilliant people we would meet and work with, from hotel staff to shopkeepers to mountain guides. A particular highlight of the Project was playing volleyball with the chefs in the dark before bed, by light of our head-torches and the stars.

After sad goodbyes and receiving auspicious white Ladakhi scarves at the school, we set out on our eleven-day trek to the top of the 6153m Stok Kangri. The scenery was phenomenal, different every day, and we took a tablet called Diamox to help us cope with the altitude (none of us had any serious side effects at all). The walking wasn't easy and got increasingly harder - but all of us, and the group as a whole, got stronger too. For almost a week we walked over six hours per day, but the latter half of the trek involved 4 nights at base camp as we prepared for summit day. We practiced using crampons and ice axes on the glacier days before, but didn't need them at the top in the end. Summit day was absolutely no joke - it was exactly as long and hard as 12 and a half hours and 1153m up to the top make it sound - but we did it. The view was amazing, but the fulfilment and relief was so much better.

The rest days after the trek were very welcome, as we finalised the plan for our "R+R" phase. We flew from Leh to Mumbai, then got onto an (air-conditioned!) bus and drove to a great hotel, run by a wonderful family, in Jaipur. There we had time to experience tuk-tuks before getting back on the bus to Jodhpur, where we saw the Blue City and the Mehrangarh Fort, which were both brilliant. We then went back to Jaipur to do sightseeing there, we saw the City Palace, Palace of the Winds, and Amer Fort. Agra was the final destination, as the remaining days of the trip ran down quickly. We saw the Taj Mahal which was beautiful and, as clichéd as it sounds, a lot bigger in person. After that, we got the bus to Delhi and slept a final night before getting the plane to Heathrow in the morning.

World Challenge is a serious commitment, but throughout and at the end of the trip I honestly felt like the year-plus of saving up, fundraising and preparation was more than worth it. It's an experience that does a lot on a personal level, and I'd highly recommend it! **Joe O'Toole 13 WSKS**



What	When	Where
World Challenge Information Evening	Monday 8th October 6pm	LRC28.
	Join us on     weareworldchallenge.com	

## Memorial Service

to celebrate the life of

### Roley Davies

(passed away on 13 August 2018)

Former Deputy Headteacher and Head of Mathematics at  
Lawrence Sheriff School (1953 -1989)

An open invitation to join family members and former colleagues  
on

**Sunday 21st October 2018**

**2.30 pm**

St. Andrew's Church  
Church Street  
Rugby  
CV21 3PT

**Shopping online?**

**Access your favourite retailer via:**

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lawrencesherriffschoolpta>

**and the school gets a commission!**

## Celebrating Success!

The school enjoys celebrating its pupils' successes outside of school as well as their achievements within school.

Mr Orford is running a 'Sheriff Sport' Enrichment during which pupils will be producing a regular sporting newsletter which will highlight sporting achievements both within and outside school. We know that many students take part in various sporting activities outside school, including table tennis, canoeing, sailing, dancing, tennis, football refereeing/coaching, cricket umpiring, swimming - to name but a few! So if your son or daughter has any sporting successes during this academic year which they are happy to have celebrated across the school community, please email the details to [sheriffsport@lawrencesherriffschool.com](mailto:sheriffsport@lawrencesherriffschool.com).

Similarly, if there are any non-sporting activities you would like us to celebrate, such as competitions for photography, art, music or writing, please email Mrs Beardshaw at [tww@lawrencesherriffschool.com](mailto:tww@lawrencesherriffschool.com) so it can be included in *The Weekly Word*.

Please note that if you submit names and individual photographs you are confirming that your daughter/son has consented to this information being published. We will not be able to include photographs if they include other students or individuals/groups from outside school.

Thank you.

**Peter Kent**  
**Headteacher**



### TABLE TENNIS



#### Lunchtime Sessions:

Wednesday: year seven club members only (Lawrence Sheriff School)  
Friday: club and school team members only (Lawrence Sheriff School)

#### Club Sessions:

Wednesday 6.30 pm—9.00 pm (Lawrence Sheriff School)  
Sunday 10.00 am - 12.00 pm (Hill Street Community Centre)

**Try them out - first two are free!**

**See the website for more info: [www.RugbyTableTennisClub.NET](http://www.RugbyTableTennisClub.NET)**