



THE WEEKLY WORD

Edited by: Gillian Beardshaw

Email: tww@lawrencesheriffschool.com

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

First Word ... from Peter Kent, Headteacher

Volume 22 Number 13

Friday 7 December 2018

I am writing this week's column in haste having just heard that we are one of 16 schools in the country to have our Grammar School Expansion Bid approved. Huge thanks to everyone who worked so hard on the bid, particularly Mr Hickling who burned huge amounts of midnight oil to ensure that we met the government's deadline for submission during the summer holidays.

The funding that has been secured will allow us to build a major new classroom block, making it possible for us to achieve three aims that are central to the governing body's long-term strategy:

1. To take an additional form of entry.

As Rugby grows and new housing in areas such as Houlton begins to have an impact, it is clear that the numbers aspiring to come to the school will continue to grow. Rather than becoming more selective - something the governors are anxious to avoid - we would like to seize the opportunity to offer more people in Rugby and the surrounding area the opportunity to attend the school. The funding that we have secured will enable us to do this.

2. To admit even more disadvantaged students.

You may remember that in 2013-14 we became the first school in the country to secure a Power to Innovate order from Parliament that enabled us to admit more students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The impact of that order continues to be felt and since then the percentage of disadvantaged students being admitted to LSS has steadily increased. The successful bid will enable us to maintain and further develop this policy, described by Jeff Coupe, a former Chair of Governors, as making LSS a true 'community grammar school'.

3. To further secure the long-term future of the school.

There is no doubt that in the 21st Century, schools are not funded for small numbers. Small schools are an attractive ideal and one that many of us remember fondly. Growing up in Liverpool, I attended a comprehensive of around 500 and it was fantastic, but also completely unsustainable given the way that schools are now funded. When I came to LSS, we were a school of 540 students and have now grown to nearly 940. However, even that number is small by modern standards and places a serious strain upon the unusually low level of funding that Warwickshire schools receive.

Hence the opportunity the bid provides to move to five forms of entry, offers a more sustainable model for the future of LSS, whilst also responding to the needs of the town and securing the principle of social inclusion that grammar schools were created for.

One final note. The thought might be crossing some reader's minds: will five forms of entry lower standards? I remember I was asked the same question around 2005 when the governors decided to move to four forms of entry. Since then we have been ranked top in the country three times for GCSE results, regularly achieved exceptional value-added scores and twice been ranked outstanding by Ofsted. Hence, I am very confident in categorically stating that widening the opportunity to attend the school will not lower standards. **Peter Kent**



**THURSDAY 13TH DECEMBER, 7.30PM, BIG SCHOOL
TICKETS £5 (£3 CONCESSION) AVAILABLE FROM SCHOOL OFFICE**

**DON'T BE A
VICTIM
OF
CAR THEFT!**

**DO NOT LEAVE
VALUABLES VISIBLE
IN CAR**

Parents and carers are advised not to leave valuable items in view, if they leave their car whilst bringing their child to school.

END OF TERM

Friday 21 December 2018

School will finish at:

12.30 pm

Full details of travel arrangements will be made available next week

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SCHOOL TRANSPORT NOTICE

REMINDER: All students must have their bus pass with them and show it to the driver when they alight the service in order to travel.

If students do not have their bus pass they will **not** be allowed to travel.

Thank you to all staff, students and parents who got involved in our school's Movember campaign. It was highly successful in raising awareness of men's health issues (testicular cancer, prostate cancer, mental health, and the importance of exercise).

As well as this, we managed to raise **£1619.96** towards the Movember foundation.



The following schools are currently consulting on their Admissions Policy for entry in 2020:

**St. Anne's Catholic Academy, Nuneaton
St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, Nuneaton
St Francis Catholic Primary School, Nuneaton
St Thomas More Catholic School, Nuneaton**