



# THE WEEKLY WORD

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

First Word ... from Peter Kent, Headteacher

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I spent much of last weekend in Dublin, at one of the twice yearly meetings of the Executive of the International Confederation of Principals. My role on the Executive has recently changed and with a degree of irony in the light of current events, I no longer represent Europe. Instead, I am now the General Representative, overseeing the governance and constitution of the organisation.

It is said that travel broadens the mind and I continue to find that working with colleagues from a wide variety of different backgrounds certainly helps me to see the world of education through a different set of lenses. We are currently trying to organise a major conference in Shanghai in October 2019 and it continues to be fascinating to understand the educational philosophy of my Chinese colleagues. Whilst lots of UK schools are encouraged to adopt Chinese approaches to topics such as mathematics teaching, they remain very interested by the English system and keen to learn from many of our educational approaches.

It was not just my Chinese colleagues who challenged my assumptions. On the Executive I sit alongside two representatives from Africa, who were amazed by a recent discussion about class sizes in Europe. When I told them that it was unusual to have any classes above 30 they pointed out that in many African countries class sizes of above 45 were common. When I said that I was tired after arriving late on a flight from London, my colleagues from Australia pointed out that they had flown for more than 17 hours to get to Ireland and that it was often necessary to undertake long flights just to attend meetings in their own country, never mind elsewhere. When I mentioned that snow might lead to some schools in England and Ireland closing over the next few weeks, a headteacher from Ontario in Canada laughed and said that every winter he faced temperatures far below zero and kept school open despite huge snow falls.

As always the Executive meeting left me with a series of questions. Is 'the way we do things around here' always the most effective? What ideas and approaches can I borrow from other cultures and take back to Lawrence Sheriff? What are the strong elements of the English system that I can share and which elements of educational systems elsewhere could be transferred to Rugby and elsewhere in the UK? **Peter Kent**

## Vision

Children may not always know that they have a vision problem. It is therefore recommended that children have regular eye tests. These should be carried out at least once every two years, even if there are no problems with their eyesight.

These tests can be done at a high street opticians and are free for all children under 6 years old (and those under 19 years old in full-time education).

You can speak to your child's Optician if you have any concerns about your their vision.

The opportunity to discuss any health issues relating to your child is always available and the School Health and Wellbeing Service can be contacted on 03300 245 204.

### Warwickshire School Health & Wellbeing Service

#### Compass

Base: Valiant Office Suites, Lumonics House, Valley Drive, Rugby CV21  
ITQ  
Switchboard: 03300 245 204

Charity Number – 518048 / Registered in England No 2054594  
Registered Office: 2nd Floor, Kensington House, Westminster Place,  
York Business Park, York YO26 6RW

[www.compass-uk.org](http://www.compass-uk.org)



# LAWRENCE SHERIFF SCHOOL



## Volunteers Wanted

Across the country, Design and Technology students are undertaking (NEA) - Non Examination Assessments like those never seen before. The big difference is the 'Iterative Design' aspect and the need for 'user' involvement in the development of a design. We are desperately looking for any Parents (past or present), OL's or friends of the school who would like to act as a 'user' in the development of students project work. The focus of projects is dictated by the examination board and includes products for:

- the 3rd world;
- an autistic child;
- a disabled person; or
- the visually or psychologically impaired.

### **What would volunteering involve?**

Initially, this would include taking the time to come into school, at a mutually convenient time, to discuss projects with students and their possible development. The second stage would be to come back into school and evaluate the prototype that has been produced. This would be undertaken as a group session with teacher presence to reduce the number of visits to the school and your precious time.

If you work or have some experience in any of these areas and you would like to volunteer as a 'user' to support our students please email me:

**[mike.hickling@lawrencesheriffschool.com](mailto:mike.hickling@lawrencesheriffschool.com)**

Thank you for your help, time and support.

**Mr Hickling**  
**Head of Design Technology Department**

Work will start on upgrading the A5 near Magna Business park, Lutterworth from **February until summer 2019**.

This will initially involve two night time closures (20:00 – 06:00) to set up the traffic management and from then there will be 40 mph single lane running on the A5 from just north of the A4303 Cross in Hand roundabout to Woodway Lane for the duration of the scheme.

There will also be a weekend closure planned for **May 2019**. During the closures of the A5, the signed diversion will be via the A4303 / M1 / M69.

The junction of the A5 with Mere Lane will be closed during the works as this is being upgraded also. Access to Mere Lane will be via Ullesthorpe road / Lutterworth Road.

We apologise for the inconvenience caused through these works and we will keep you updated via email once the date of the start is firmly established, and any further essential information regarding any changes and further closures.

**Magna Park helpline**



## 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)

## Shopping online?

**Access your favourite retailer via:**

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

**and the school gets a commission!**