



Lady Lumley's School Newsletter

23rd November 2018 Issue Number 434



NAME:

TUTOR GROUP:

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

It has been an interesting week at Lady Lumley's School. As well as an exciting, and I felt slightly one-sided, staff v students netball match to raise money for Children in Need (the students won!) we also had a special assembly for the Year 8 students to begin the preparations for the Bewerley week in the summer. On Thursday lunchtime we had all of the Year 11 students in the Hall to hand out the results of their recent trial examinations. This is something we have done for several years and the occasion mirrors receiving the real results in the summer. More about this next week. And on Thursday we had the sixth form open evening, really busy and also more on this next edition. Oh, and we got rid of Christmas. It was announced in assemblies this week that the school was considering banning Christmas. Obviously the influence of the school, whilst making life-long changes to individuals which may one day affect the whole world, is relatively limited and so we can only ban Christmas in Lady Lumley's School. No cards, no parties, no gifts and no Christmas tree. The idea was brought to senior leadership a month ago, and we agreed there was an argument that the original idea of Christmas (the name sort of gives it away) as celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ was pretty much lost. We are a secular school with few practising Christians, so why should we make such a big deal out of this overtly religious occasion? Mrs Paul delivered assemblies to the students in the school where she questioned certain aspects of the modern Christmas. Things like how expensive it is, how perfect it has to be, how stressful all of this can be and how some people have a horrible, lonely Christmas. Mrs Paul challenged the students to think about Christmas, what it is, what it could be and what it really means. She set them a task of constructing a reasoned argument why we should keep Christmas: but these will have to be good arguments! Students have a deadline of November 30th to get letters (hard copy or via e-mail) to her and then, maybe, if the arguments are good enough, we might see fairy lights in Lady Lumley's once more.

Mrs Paul also challenged the older students in Years 9 to 13 to question the traditions we follow that they have not considered and rationalised for themselves. There is an old adage (attributed to Henry Ford) that if we "always do what we have always done, you'll always get what you've always got". Young people, who are, by definition, our future, need to question the ways things are done and be given honest answers as to the reasons why. Apathy is the enemy of democracy and this proposal is intended to get the young people to think about the world around them and to respond in an appropriate manner. There is much about society that is good, and much that could be better. I have been slightly disappointed that a small number of people (thankfully very few students) do not know how to conduct civilised discourse and have made unconsidered comments on social media. This is not an effective way of bringing about change and Mrs Paul made it clear in assemblies that opinions are most effective when presented as a reasoned and considered argument. I hope students, with the support and encouragement of their parents and carers, consider the pros and cons of Christmas celebrations and use this as an opportunity to practise and refine their persuasive writing skills. Richard Bramley

Children in Need 2018. This year for Children in Need, Lady Lumley's sixth form students organised their own events to raise money for the charity. They came to school dressed in their pyjamas and took part in the BBC's Children in Need quiz hosted by senior students. They were then told that if they could raise £50, they were allowed to 'Gunge the Teachers' Mr Varey and Mr Ambrose. Being a huge source of motivation, they raised over £150! Therefore, the students (and teachers!) could give a donation to pour water, paint, beans and eggs over the teachers. However, the fundraising doesn't end there as this week a staff vs student's netball match has been organised.



YOLO. On Friday 16th November, Year 9 saw a production called YOLO by a Theatre in Education company called 'An Invisible Man'. It was good because the two actors who performed in the play talked about it afterwards.



It tackled issues like drugs, alcohol and sexting, along with other risky behaviours that we may face when we are older. It was made to educate teenagers but they presented it in a way that was enjoyable. It was a really interesting experience, so thank you to An Invisible Man!
By **Freya Botzen** and **Rosie Hodgson**

Governor News. Governor's met on Thursday 8th November (sorry for the delay in reporting this) with a focus on the school's resources – personnel and finances. As we are all becoming more aware, schools are under great financial pressure as exemplified in the BBC2 programme School (Tuesdays at 9:00 p.m.). At Lady Lumley's we have kept a very close eye on the school's finances over the years and we are currently in a secure budgetary position. We do realise that many schools are not in such a position, most through no fault of their own, and that there will be negative consequences for the future of young people across the country unless more money is found for the nations' education system. Young people are our future and it is incredibly short-sighted to underfund schools and other child-focused services.

As well as examining the school's budget, governors agreed on a school policy about social media. Social media can have benefits and is here to stay, but its misuse can have negative consequences, the extremes of which were talked about in last week's anti-bullying assembly to students in Years 10 and 11. The school's Social Media policy gives simple guidance on respectful use of the medium for all members of the school community and it is now available on the school's website.

Richard Bramley

Word Of The Week - Reasonable. It was a tough choice this week for Word of the Week but I think I have made a reasonable choice. Reasonable has many uses. Dictionary.com lists 5 categories: 1: showing reason or sound judgment, 2: having the ability to reason, 3: having modest or moderate expectations; not making unfair demands; 4. moderate in price; not expensive, 5: fair or average. I think I used the word reasonable in the first part of this article in Sense 5; I made a fair choice of word this week. Others this week have let themselves down by not being reasonable in Sense 1; by not showing reason or sound judgment. To make a sound judgment you need evidence, either hard evidence obtained by first-hand experience or by building up as true a picture as possible by hearing, and listening to, the opinions of others. The word reasonable comes from Old French *reisun*, from Latin *ratio* reckoning, from *rēri* to think. Before one can make a reasonable decision, one has to think. Too often people tend to react without thinking, which is a shame and provides a poor role model for young people. Schools aim to teach people to think, to consider a range of views and then, and only then, to make a judgment. In other words school tries to teach people to be reasonable. And, thank goodness, the vast majority of the students at the school are reasonable people.

The Prophet Muhammad's Birthday / Milad Un Nabi

The day is widely celebrated within the Muslim world and is a public holiday in a number of Muslim countries. In the sub-continent of India and certain Arab countries like Egypt, the celebration starts with reading from the Qur'an, followed by poetry and songs in praise of the Prophet. There are also lectures and story telling. In some big cities of the Muslim world the day is marked with processions and flag waving under a huge decoration of lights. Mrs Paul

The Young Americans. All students who have paid deposits / returned reply slips; the final payment is due by 21st December. Your deposits have secured your places for this event.

Please note there is some confusion regarding dates- the event takes place from Friday 15th February to Sunday 17th February 2019. Those students who have agreed to do Homestay will get confirmation letters soon; the Young Americans will arrive in Pickering on Thursday 14th February and leave on the morning of Monday 18th February. Please see Mrs Goodwill to get a Lady Lumley's Letter if you have registered online (you do not need to do this if you have already applied / paid / passed your slip to Mrs Goodwill); the Young Americans have their own marketing material which asks for students to register online- you do not need to do this.

Parents' Forum . Our first meeting this year will be on Tuesday 27th November at 6:30p.m -7:30p.m in the Sixth Form Common Room. Katie Woodhouse (PSCO) will lead the session and offer parents/carers advice and guidance about online safety and how you can support your children. Katie will share some of the presentation from a recent visit to school, which focuses on sexting and online grooming. If you require further details about the meeting please contact Brian Davis by email- bdavis@ladylumleys.net or via the school reception.

Teenage Cancer Trust . On Monday morning all Year 10 students were given a presentation by a trained professional from the Teenage Cancer Trust, Roger Lennon. The presentation was delivered in a sensitive way and helped to educate the students about the early warning signs and how they can reduce their risk of cancer in later life. Throughout the presentation the students were encouraged to become experts of their own body and ask any questions they might have about the subject. Along with the presentation the students also watched a short video which aimed to break down the fears of cancer. The students were very engaged throughout the session. Many thanks to the Teenage Cancer Trust for the informative and expertly delivered presentation.
Miss S. Turner

Useful Contact Information:

Main School Office: 01751 472846
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IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 27th November

Y11/12/13 German Christmas Market, Leeds
12.45 - 6.30PM
Parents Forum , 6.30 - 7.30PM

Wednesday 28th November

Y11 Drama C1 Practical Prep

Thursday 29th November

Y11 Drama C1 Practical Prep & Performance
Days (Performance 4PM)
Basketball, LLS 4 - 5PM

Friday 30th November

Y10/11 History Trip, Thackray Medical
Museum

Upcoming Events...

4th - 5th December - Y13 Drama C2 Practical
Prep & Performance Days (Performance 6PM)
6th December - Y9 Consultation Evening
10th December - Y12/13 Consultation Evening
11th December - House Drama Rehearsal
12th December - Pickering Town Carol Service
13th December - House Drama/ Music
Performance
14th December - Y10 CoPE Fair
w/c 17th December - Y11 MFL Mock GCSE
Speaking Exam
17th December - Non Uniform Day
17th December - House Dodgeball
17th December - Y12/13 Barnsley FC Visit
17th December - Y7 Disco, L3
17th December - House Drama/ Music
Performance
19th December - Y13 Prizegiving (Y13 Leavers)
20th December - House Swimming Gala
21st December - School Closes For Christmas
7th January - Staff Training Day
8th January - Students Return to School
w/c 8th January - 17th January, Y12/13 Trial
Exams
17th January - Y6 Roadshow, PCJS
18th - 25th January - Y11 - 13 Spanish
Exchange
18th January - Y9 Drama Devising Project
w/c 21st January - Y9 Exams (in Lessons)
24th January - Y6 Roadshow St Joseph's
29th January - Y10 Consultation Evening
30th January - 7th February- Y10 -13 Austrian
Exchange