

Newsletter Date: 20/10/11

Intake Lane
Rodley
Leeds
LS13 1DQ
0113 2295454
www.leedswestacademy.org.uk



Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a whirlwind half term of unpacking, finding our way around, and working out how to use our new equipment, but we are now feeling at home in our fabulous new surroundings. We were inundated with visitors on our Open Evening, with positive responses from prospective students and parents alike. The most frequent request from parents has been 'can I come back to school?'

The term started with another round of celebrations however as we reflected on the impressive set of results achieved in the Summer examination round. Leeds West has more than doubled the standards at GCSE in the last three years, with last year's Year 11 gaining 44% 5A*-C grades including the essential English and maths together, plus over 81% of students achieving their 5 A*-C. As well as this, Post 16 students achieved a very creditable 228.3 points for every exam they entered, far outperforming the Leeds average of 208.4 and placing us 5th in the ranking for Post 16 providers in the whole city.

The flight path of our improvements is steep and shows the sustained commitment of every member of staff to ensuring we give our students the best possible chance of success. It is great to see that students clearly want to be with us and learning day after day, as the impressive improvement in attendance shows. Thank you to all Parents and Carers for supporting our drive to be the flagship school in Leeds – with our leading edge facilities in the new building we most certainly will be!



Annette Hall, Principal



NOTICE TO PARENTS/CARERS: Since we have moved into the new building we are aware that access from Intake Lane is quite restricted, especially during the start and end of the day. With this in mind, when dropping off or collecting your child, can all parents/carers please ensure...

- not to park on the double yellow lines;
- you do not let your children open car doors onto the road side;
- to be mindful and show consideration to local residents who do need to park their own vehicles;
- to consider dropping your child off on Coal Hill Lane or Leeds and Bradford Road so they can use the Lollypop man;
- to watch your speed when travelling near the academy and Summerfield Primary School.

Thank you for your cooperation

Communication Hub opening event - 17th November

One of our first 'opening events' will take place on Thursday 17th November. We are delighted the Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, will open our Communications Hub by unveiling an artwork installation of her work by artist Stephen Raw in our library. She will also give a reading of her poetry in the theatre. Carol Ann has recently been shortlisted for the prestigious Galaxy Book Award 2011 for her collection of verse, *The Bees*, and we are honoured that she will be joining us for the occasion! We will upload a full report and photos of the event on our website www.leedswestacademy.org.uk



World Challenge - Namibia, Summer 2011

LWA's first World Challenge expedition to Namibia this summer was a tremendous success! Having raised £3195 each prior to the trip, the 6 students who went also raised an additional £700 with the support of the rest of the Academy to donate equipment and resources to our community project. The first ten days were spent in the shadow of the Waterberg Plateau Wildlife Reserve working on a community project to build a Kindergarten School. A break-off group spent time clearing a disused and overgrown netball court, re-cementing the cracks to prevent future overgrowth and re-painting the lines with the academy's names on the court. To celebrate the completion of the project, we were challenged by local women to a game of netball.



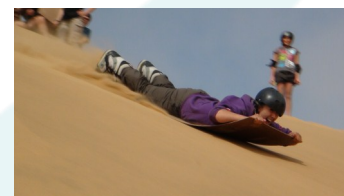
Work complete, the students embarked on the second part of the trip – the trekking. They spent two days trekking along the coast and then through the Namib desert. The highlight of this section was the climbing of Dune 45 to see the sun rise over the sand which required a wake-up call at 5am! The final trek was 70k along the beautiful Fish River Canyon. A qualifying Duke of Edinburgh Expedition, this challenge required the students and staff to be completely self-sufficient for 5 days of challenging trekking. Throughout the trip the views were stunning (the star-studded night skies were incredible!) In terms of wildlife we saw zebra running right past us, had a visit one night on the beach from howling Jackals, woke up to fresh Leopard tracks through the camp one morning and saw Rhino casually emerging from the bushes as we travelled on the overnight train into the city!



In the 3½ weeks spent in Namibia, the students spent 2 nights in a youth hostel, 2 nights on a plane, one night on a train and all the rest in a tent. Only 2 meals were taken in a restaurant with the rest being self-cooked on trangias, barbeques and open fires.



Each student compiled a huge list of personal achievements by the end - many students had to overcome homesickness, small disagreements in the field, fear of heights, budgeting, mild tummy upsets, sometimes being a little hungry on trek, not being a fussy eater, fear of creepy crawlies, physical fatigue, blisters and aches and pains due to carrying a heavy rucksack on many consecutive days. By far, the unanimous highlight for the students was the R&R on the last 2 days in the coastal holiday resort of Swakopmund, and more specifically the sand dune boarding. The students spent a morning learning how to board both standing up and lying down, the latter turning into a competition of speed with some students reaching up to 70+km per hour!



For a more comprehensive report and to see more photos please visit www.leedswestacademy.org.uk

Sports news

- The Year 7 rugby team have made the Leeds Final for the Leeds Rhinos Rally Tournament, finishing second in their group
- The Year 8 football have drawn against Crawshaw 3-3 and beat Pudsey Grangefield 2-1
- The Year 7 football team beat Priesthorpe Sports College in their first game of the season with a resounding 7-3 victory! The boys dominated the game from start to finish, playing attractive and clinical football throughout! They followed that up with a 7-2 win against Crawshaw

Fantastic effort from all teams, keep up the good work!

LWA furniture for sale!

Decking Planters made by Social Enterprise students were marketed at the LWA open evening by Year 11 students. Aaron (11MHR) and Lee (11MHR) quickly developed direct sales techniques resulting in orders, over £100 in sales and some happy customers!

In the last few weeks, as a result of marketing the Social Enterprise products in the community, the group were contacted by The Globe pub in Bramley. A £900 contract to refurbish the pub's beer garden has been secured, with the design brief being to produce bespoke planters and fence panels to create a family friendly area. Social Enterprise groups are currently designing and manufacturing the first planters to fulfil the first order. In addition to local businesses and parents/carers the groups are also working towards marketing our goods and services directly to our feeder primary schools.

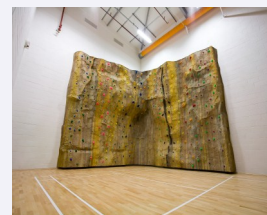


Well done to all on a great (and successful) effort!

Climbing the Leeds West Wall!



Science teacher Mrs Jeffrey completed her Single Pitch Award over the summer and is now a qualified climbing instructor. With her extensive climbing experience she is able to instruct groups on our own new indoor climbing wall and at other indoor and outdoor venues around the country. We were able to showcase her talents and our fantastic new facility on our open evening when Helen and her 6th form assistant Ben (13CWL) helped over 50 visitors of all ages scale the dizzying heights of the Leeds West Wall! The climbing wall is now being used regularly in PE lessons and we have plans to extend our climbing provision to our residential trips, after school clubs, Post 16 courses such as Uniformed Services and staff and community taster sessions.



Performing Arts news

- Sophie (7DPA) recently landed the title role in *Annie* at the Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds and is currently rehearsing for the opening show on 21 November!
- Luke (10ESH) has entered the 'Next Brit Thing' music competition online under the name DJStepz – you can view his entries and vote for him at: www.nextbritthing.com/track/1508/life#Comment
- Charlie (13KPA), following her success in *South Riding* on ITV, has just finished filming for a new production of *Horrid Henry* to be broadcast at Christmas!

New staff profiles

Introducing some of the new staff who have joined LWA....

Miss Catterill studied History and Spanish with Portuguese at Sheffield University, then spent a year living in Spain and travelling round Europe – she has since moved home to Leeds and is now working as a Teaching Assistant here at LWA.



Mr Payne is the new Performing Arts Technician and is in charge of looking after our wonderful new theatre! He has written and produced plays at Leeds City Council theatres, produced featurettes for BBC Worldwide DVD and is Director of a small production company.



Mr Horsfall is our new technician in the Innovation Hub. Having graduated in Multimedia Technology at Leeds Met, he previously worked teaching music production, DJ'ing, graphics design and editing to youth groups. In his spare time he runs a record label with his brother, DJ's once a week on a Leeds-based radio station and helps run a monthly nightclub event.



Miss Tomlinson is our Beauty Therapy Instructor. Having worked in a busy city salon for five years and then gained qualifications and teaching experience, she is now in charge of our fabulous new salon!



Miss Brown studied Physical Education at Leeds Metropolitan University and has worked at Camp America as a water sports instructor - and then travelled round the States! She has returned to Leeds where she plays rugby union and is working as a Teaching Assistant here at LWA.



Mr Etherington has joined LWA as Finance and HR Officer. Having worked for the Post Office for the last 38 years in various financial management roles, he is ideally suited to help run the day-to-day operations of the academy! A father of three teenage sons, he spends his weekends watching his sons play football and coaches and manages his local under 15's cricket team.



Mrs Pennington studied French and Criminology at Keele University and pursued a career in Community Safety and Management working in both local regional and central government. A keen walker and skier, she had a change of profession and is now a French and Spanish teacher here at LWA .



Attendance

LATES CHALLENGE

As from 31st October, each half term we are running a LATES CHALLENGE. This means from 31st October to 16th December if you are not late you will be entered into a draw for £10 for each Foundation, Intermediate and High schools. So be in it to win it!

Other dates are:

4 January - 10 February
20 February - 30 March

16 April - 1 June
11 June - 14 July

YEAR 11 PROM

Remember every half term 100% attendance earns you **£7.50** off your prom. 4 x 100% half terms you go for FREE. Don't miss out on a fabulous night to remember, but remember you have to have above 90% attendance. So now's the time to be in every day!

REFERENCES

Please remember that your attendance certificates for Year 10 and 11 are requested by colleges and employer's as part of your reference. Don't miss out on opportunities because you have low attendance and/or poor punctuality. You have time to make the change.

ATTENDANCE REWARD POINTS

- If you have 100% Attendance for a half term you will receive **3** rewards (Two half terms in a term = 6 points)
- If you have 100% Attendance for a Term you will receive **5** rewards points

That means 11 reward points per term x 3 = 33 rewards points for Attendance per year

TOP TEAMS

Each week we publish the Top Coaching Teams and these students receive **1** reward point each.

£5 100% WEEKLY DRAW

Remember every week there is a **£5** draw for each school for students who have a **100%** for the previous week. Be in it to win it!

Sept 2010 - End of May

Half Term:

Foundation school **96.4%**

Intermediate school **94.9%**

High school **91.9%**

Year 7 96.4%

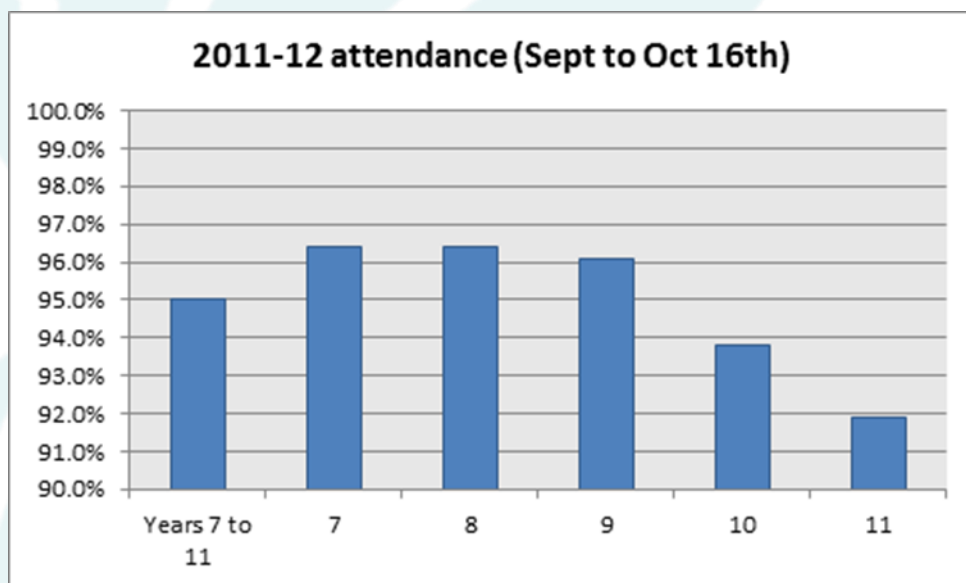
Year 8 96.4%

Year 9 96.1%

Year 10 93.8%

Year 11 91.9%

Total: 95%



- During coaching plot your attendance to see if you are rising - try to get into the 'Green zone' - above 95%
- Remember every day counts - missing odd off days off school mean lower grades in your GCSE's
- Remember 100% weekly attendance enters you into the £5 weekly draw - be in it to win it!
- Try make your dental/medical appointments early in the morning or late in the day - there should be no need to take a full day off for medicals (unless discussed with the attendance team prior)
- Punctuality counts - employers or colleagues look at your punctuality as well as your attendance and if either of these are poor they can have an effect on whether you are offered jobs or places on courses
- Leeds West Academy prosecutions in court recently have resulted in a range of fines from £450.00 to £1,700 for non or poor attendance