

## **A message from the Headteacher**

I am beginning our February newsletter with an announcement of my intention to retire as Headteacher of Ludlow CE School at the end of the Autumn Term 2023. I appreciate this is some way off, but I am keen to give the Trust and Local Academy Board plenty of time to find a fantastic new Headteacher. I am so very proud of our school, and what we have achieved together; I feel blessed to have been given the opportunity to shape and lead Ludlow School. This has been an incredibly difficult decision to make, but I will be ready to move onto the next stage of my life in January next year. In the meantime, please be assured that it will be business as usual, and we will keep you updated about the appointment of the new Headteacher.

## **Other news from the Headteacher**

It has been a very business-like half-term, with our focus well and truly on teaching and learning. Many of our Year 11 students have already applied for post-16 courses, and are now preparing for the next set of mock exams, to take place in March. We would expect Year 11 students to be averaging two hours of revision each evening, moving to double this each day at the weekend. There is no secret to doing well in exams: it requires focus in lessons and regular revision at home.

It was lovely to be able to welcome so many of our parents/carers of Year 8 students to our subject-based Parents' Evening in January. Attendance on the evening was nearly 90%; thank you for your support. We are looking forward to the Year 9 Parents' Evening on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, an important evening for firming up GCSE course preferences. The online GCSE Option Choice form will be emailed out to students on 17<sup>th</sup> February, for completion by 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The final Parents' Evening for Year 11 will take place on 28<sup>th</sup> March; this will be the opportunity to review mock performance and set the focus for the remaining few weeks of preparing for the summer's GCSE exams.

We will be saying a sad farewell to one of our Dance teachers, Mrs Hart, this week, as she moves to a full-time role in a school closer to her home. She has been a fantastic member of the Creative Studies Faculty, inspiring so many of our students in a love for Dance. Her teaching will be taken up by a temporary teacher of Dance, Miss Chidlow, with Year 11 being seen through to the end of the course by our permanent Dance teacher, Miss Davies. Ms Taylor has now gone on Maternity Leave. Miss Crawford has taken on the role as teacher of Science, during Ms Taylor's absence, with Mr Swift, having joined us in January, as the new Head of Science.

I hope you are able to enjoy some Spring sunshine over half-term.

Best wishes, Paula Hearle

## **International Holocaust Memorial Day**

The school marked International Holocaust Memorial Day, January 27<sup>th</sup>, with assemblies for all year groups. The theme for this year was "Ordinary People", with a focus on the difference we can all make in terms of tackling prejudice at all levels.

Students were also asked to consider anti-semitism, today, in Britain and around the world and the difference they can make by simply asking questions and not accepting discrimination. Students listened intently, showing respect, as they considered how lies and stereotypes can be spread and twisted to influence people.



**HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY 27/1**

## Reminders about our Uniform Policy

Thank you to the overwhelming majority of our parents/carers who support all aspects of our uniform policy. Unfortunately, time is still being wasted on a daily basis, with following up issues around incorrect uniform, particularly the issue of black socks and nose piercings.

- We are really clear with students that white socks can only be worn for PE; black socks must be worn with school uniform, please.
- Facial piercings are not permitted; clear plastic keeper-studs are allowed as a temporary measure, until the piercing can be removed for school.

It is disappointing when members of staff are, on occasion, accused of being petty for following up on incorrect uniform. We have high expectations of how our students should conduct themselves in school, and by students picking and choosing which rules to follow over uniform undermines these expectations.

In the Christmas newsletter, I reported back that the Local Academy Board would be reviewing the consultation survey we sent out about the proposal to include tailored shorts, with a school logo, as Summer uniform. After consideration, the decision was made that, at this point, it is not appropriate to pursue this change, the main reason being the concern raised by many parents/carers regarding this additional expense during the cost-of-living crisis. It would also contradict government guidance for reducing uniform costs. It was felt that the school's response to the heatwave, last Summer, worked effectively, where students were allowed to wear their full PE kit on hot days.

## Careers Education

The vast majority of Year 10 have now secured a week of Work Experience. This will take place in July this year. Thank you to all students, parents and carers who have supported this invaluable experience. It certainly gets more challenging every year to find suitable placements. However, this year, we have students going to accountants, primary schools, vets, an archaeologist, trade businesses and even a pet hotel! I will certainly enjoy visiting that student during Work Experience week.

Year 11 are now applying for college courses. There have been a number of Open Events at all the local college and training providers. Attending these events offer students a taste of what post-16 studying / training is like. In order to secure a place on courses, Year 11 are encouraged to send their applications in ASAP.

Interviews have started already. Students are aware that they can make a careers appointment with Mrs Griffiths-Jones, if they require any further support with regard to post-16 choices.

'National Apprenticeship Week' took place from February 6<sup>th</sup>. All students from Year 7 – 11 took part in activities during tutor time. Career provision and guidance is now compulsory for all young people in school from the age of 11.



## School's Safety Procedures

You may be aware, that every few weeks we carry out a **Fire Evacuation drill**, to ensure all staff and students are able to respond safely in a situation where we need to swiftly vacate the school building. The drill held last week went very smoothly, with the building empty, and everyone at the muster point, within three minutes of the alarm sounding.

After half term, we will be taking the school community through a **Lockdown Procedure**. Schools are advised to have a protocol to bring everyone inside the school's buildings on a specific alarm sounding. This protocol can be activated in response to any number of situations, but some of the more typical might be:

- A reported incident/civil disturbance in the local community (with the potential to pose a risk to staff and students in the school)
- A warning being received regarding an environmental risk e.g. smoke or gas clouds (with the potential to pose a health risk to staff and students)
- An intruder on the school site (with the potential to pose a risk to staff and students)
- The Police have informed us we should use our lockdown procedure

I will talk students through the procedure during assemblies, ahead of a practice drill.

## Lent

With Easter fast approaching, students had a moment for reflection of Jesus' sacrifice in the annual Lent assembly. We focused on the opportunity that is provided to us during Lent to look at our own beliefs, and how we can be ever-more mindful and grateful for our own lives and the joy of faith. Students were interested to see the impact of faith in other people's lives and how Jesus' life and death remains an important part of Christian identity.



## Year 9 Design Technology Trip to Stratford-upon-Avon

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 45 Year 9 students went on a triple extravaganza, to Stratford-upon-Avon.

Firstly, we went to the MAD Museum - Mechanical Art and Design Museum. My favourite exhibition piece was a big box the size of a chest, with a key in the lock, which turned slowly, operated by a motion sensor. The lid slowly lifted, and a hand came out and then it shut quickly, and the hand shot in.

After this, we went down to the River Avon to eat our lunch, and then on to Shakespeare's old schoolhouse. The thing I remembered most was the construction of the building, using "wattle and daub".

It is building method used for making walls and buildings, in which a woven lattice of wooden strips, called wattle, is daubed with a sticky material, usually made of some combination of wet soil, clay, sand, animal manure and straw. We were "treated" to a Tudor-style lesson, learning Latin and writing with a quill.



The last stop was the Butterfly Farm. As we walked around, there were butterflies flying around our heads; some people were scared. There were iguanas in the humid Butterfly House, and I got to hold a sticky insect with spikes on it, the size of my hand. They had leaf-cutter ants, spiders and a snake.

My favourite of the three experiences was the MAD museum, as it was literally Mad! It was both interesting and fun.

Robert

## Key Dates (please see the calendar on the website for the year's events)

Date	Event
20th—24th Feb	Half-Term break
3rd—17th Mar	Yr11 Mock Exams
22nd Mar	Yr9 Parents' Evening
28th Mar	Yr11 Parents' Evening
3rd — 14th Apr	Easter Holiday
26th Apr	Yr9 SLB Vaccinations TBC
1st May	Bank Holiday
3rd May	Yr10 Parents' Evening
8th May	Bank Holiday— Coronation
29th May—2nd June	Half-Term break

## Drop-off and Picking-up from School

We are very fortunate to be allowed to use the extensive area of the Leisure Centre car park adjacent to Bromfield Road, for parents and carers to drop off and collect children from school. Please do not pull into the front of the school, or park in the residential driveways, or the bus lay-by on Bromfield Road, as this causes an obstruction and is dangerous to pedestrians and traffic. Unfortunately, the parking of parents in driveways is causing potholes for the owners. Please also be mindful that Majestic Wine's carpark is for customers only.



**No parking**