

News from the Headteacher

Welcome to our first newsletter of the academic year 2023-24, a chance to let you know about some of the developments and activities in school over the last 8 weeks, and to provide you with an update of what lies ahead after the half-term break.

The term has started well, with strong school attendance above national figures. Our focus has been upon settling students to the demands of their learning and, particularly for all the new students to the school, making sure they feel confident and supported. We have had the largest Year 7 intake in a number of years, along with a number of admissions in September, to other year groups. We now have over 600 students on roll. It would appear, from conversations with new parents, that we have become the local school of choice. We are very proud to hear this.

Our Open Evening at the end of September was exceptionally well attended, and Mark Burton, our Headteacher from January 2024, spoke with parents and carers for the first time. We look forward to Mr Burton joining us. The students who spoke on the evening, our ambassador tour guides, and the dozens who helped in different classroom activities, were an absolute credit to the school. Thank you for collecting them at the end of the evening.

Our Year 10 and 11 students are determined to work hard on their GCSE courses over the coming months, making sure they follow the mantra of their hashtag *#makethedayscount*. Our Year 11 mock exams run from 15th November to 1st December. Students have been supported in their preparation for these exams with a Revision Skills workshops on either 17th or 19th October. The mock exam timetable is on the school website, along with the provisional timetable for the final GCSE exams in the summer.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our two GCSE Information Evenings. We had a fantastic turnout across the two evenings, with over 130 parents/carers. Your support is invaluable. We have identified three key areas where parents/carers can make the biggest difference: ensuring their child's best attendance, overseeing that their child completes all Homework tasks with care, and that there is a healthy sleep routine during the school week. If you need support with setting up the *ClassCharts* Homework app, so that you can access your child's Homework information, please email Mr Thomas (r.thomas@ludlowschool.com).

In November Year 9 students will start to consider their GCSE option preferences for next year, and they will come home with a booklet detailing the different GCSE courses we offer. Year 9 families will be invited to the GCSE Information Evening on Thursday 16th November at 6pm. The evening begins with a presentation giving information about the choices available to students, followed by the opportunity for you to visit subject specific talks on courses your child is interested in studying.

We have welcomed a number of new teaching staff to the school this term: we have a new Assistant Headteacher and English teacher, Ms McArthur. Mrs Millhouse has also joined the English Department. Miss Downes is a new Maths teacher, Mrs Toms-Arbel and Mr Olaleru are teaching Science, and Mrs Triana Spanish. Miss Andrews has joined the PE Department during Mrs Lewis' Maternity Leave, and Ms Heels is the Food teacher during Mrs Jones' Maternity Leave. I am delighted to share with you that Mrs Lewis has had a baby girl, Hetty, and Mrs Jones, a boy, named Leo. All are doing well.

Mrs Richards is our new Cover Supervisor, and Mr Biggin is the D&T technician. We also have a new face in our Reception office, Miss Gittins.

Please read on to learn of some of the exciting events we have enjoyed over the last 8 weeks. The last day of the half-term for students is Thursday 26th October. It will be a non-uniform day to raise funds for our school production of *Grease*. Rehearsals are well underway; pop the dates of the shows on your calendar – 6th and 7th December. It will be a fantastic night of entertainment!

School is closed for staff training on Friday 27th October. The new half-term starts on Monday 6th November 2023. I hope you are able to find some time to relax with your children over the half-term break.

Best wishes, Paula Hearle

Ludlow School Catering Autumn Menu

Our new Autumn to Spring menu launches after half-term. Details of the 3-week rotating menu are available on the website under **General Information/Catering Provision**. These menus provide the detail for our main meal offer for £2.50 a day (free to those eligible for Free School Meals). All main meals are compliant with the school's Food Standards, providing a healthy and balanced hot meal. The tariff for our main meal offer, "grab and go" selection etc. can also be found on the website.



We have been working hard to keep our prices low, although food inflation is still running at 9.9%. We continually monitor our pricing structure. Despite rising food prices over the last year, we are pleased to be able to tell you that, with the exception of the price of a jacket potato, our prices remain the same. You can still purchase a jacket potato with filling for £2, and with two fillings for £2.50. Most people prefer the ease of using an online account, where you can also track all purchases that are made, but we are still happy to accept cash in the dining room.

Philosophy and Ethics Taster Session

Last week Mrs Merrick's GCSE RE Year 11 class welcomed Clare Lloyd from Hereford Sixth Form College.



Clare ran a Philosophy and Ethics session for the students, which involved tricky moral dilemmas and different approaches, for example, Natural Law and Situation Ethics. There was a lot of debate and discussion, and thoughtful questions from the students.

Clare also gave lots of information about the Philosophy and Ethics A level course available at Hereford Sixth Form College. There is an Open Morning on Saturday 21st October.

Uniform

Thank you so much for your support with uniform, this half-term. Students are looking really smart, and we are picking up very few issues.

We are still needing to remind a handful of students to wear black socks with their uniform, and for girls to wear their black tights without the addition of a pair of socks. Your support with this would be much appreciated. Also, our rule on facial piercings has not changed – the stud either needs to be replaced with a plastic keeper stud or covered with a plaster. Jewellery should be kept to the minimum, in fact – a single stud earring in each ear, a ring and a watch; multiple ear piercings, hoops or drop earrings, necklaces and bracelets, are not permitted.

Reporting your child's absence

Please make sure you either make a phone call into school, or send an email to admin@ludlowschool.com, if your child is too unwell to attend school. This contact needs to be made *each day* of your child's absence, not just the first day. We also need *written confirmation* of the absence when your child returns to school, either as a separate letter, or a note in the Student Planner. We ask that all routine dental and medical appointments are not made in school time. However, if this is unavoidable, please send in a note with your child and email the school. It is very difficult for our Reception staff to manage last minute phone calls.



Request for Parking

We are very fortunate that the Teme Leisure are happy for parents to pick up and drop off from their carpark. Can I ask that you use the bays to the left as you drive in, please, so that paying customers can park close to the centre. On a similar note, only customers visiting Majestic Wines should use their carpark. The manager has informed us he will fine parents using the carpark on the school run.



The front of school should not be used by parents, please; we need safe access for buses picking up and dropping off students. We would also ask that you respect the neighbours around the school by not pulling into their driveways, or onto the roadside, where there are yellow lines.

Support Tesco *Stronger Start* Bid for the Ludlow Schools' Garden Project

Tesco *Stronger Starts Grants* are committed to giving thousands of children a healthier, active start in life. The grant supports schools to apply for extra financial help they might need to provide healthy food and activities that boost young people's mental and physical wellbeing.



Tesco customers are able to vote for the group or school they want to see funded every time they shop in store. The project with the highest number of votes in our area will receive £1,500 (or the amount that was requested up to this value), the second placed project £1,000 (or the amount that was requested up to this value), and the third placed project £500.

Voting is in the Ludlow Tesco store now, for the "Ludlow CE School Garden Project Improvements". Please use your token to vote for us!

Aim Higher and Higher Horizons

Year 10 students toured Harper-Adams University's campus this term, without even leaving the school hall! On two consecutive Thursdays, this term, the Higher Horizons team from Harper-Adams University, based in Shropshire, brought an inflatable Stardome to the school, offering students a 360° virtual tour of the university campus as well and providing information about student finance. Finally, the team went on to lead workshops on learning styles and revision skills, helping students to be successful in school and achieve exam success regardless of whether they intend to go to university.



Terms Dates 2023-24

Date	Event
27th October	PD Day
30th Oct - 3rd Nov	Half-Term
6th November	Return to School
20th Dec - 2nd Jan	Christmas Holiday
3rd January	PD Day
4th January	Return to School
12th - 16th Feb	Half-Term
19th February	Return to School
25th Mar - 5th April	Easter Holiday
8th April	Return to School
6th May	May Bank Holiday
27th - 31st May	Half-Term
3rd June	Return to School
19th July	End of Term

Events 2023-24

Date	Event
8th November	Y7 & 10 Parents' Evening 4pm - 6.30pm
16th November	GCSE Options Information Evening 6pm
6th & 7th December	School Production - Grease
19th December	Save the Children - Christmas Jumper Day
18th January	Y8 Parents Evening 4pm - 6.30pm
1st February	Y11 (2023) Presentation Evening
9th February	Non-Uniform Day for "Helping Hands"
13th March	Y9 Parents Evening 4pm - 6.30pm
19th March	Y11 Parents' Evening 4pm - 6.30pm