

09 October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

## **Open Morning**

We were fully booked for open morning on Friday when prospective students and their families toured the school with Mr Adams (Year 7 lead), Mrs Aldridge-Buften (Year 8 lead) and Miss Martin (KS4 assistant lead). Open morning provides the opportunity to visit Lacon when the school is in session and our visitors were all extremely impressed by our calm corridors and purposeful classrooms. It was a great opportunity to show off our students and the school and as always, the students were brilliant. Well done everyone.

## **Reading**

The ability to read is a fundamental life skill essential to us all if we are to participate fully in society and the workplace. Unfortunately, the negative impact of the Covid pandemic has led to higher numbers of our children struggling with reading independently and so reading less. As a result, they do not accumulate the background knowledge and vocabulary needed to access the secondary curriculum. Pupils who arrive in secondary school as poor readers are likely to continue to struggle and become disengaged with school.

Here at Lacon we are making identification of reading needs and targeted additional teaching for those who need it a priority; we need students to be able to read age-appropriate books with fluency and be proficient readers who can access the secondary curriculum. Research shows that having a lower reading age is not just a barrier to learning and outcomes at 16+, but can potentially create a barrier to living a successful and healthy life.

As a school, we are working hard to rectify this. Reading is fundamental to our homework policy and we have introduced weekly reading for our Year 7 students. We continue to focus on reading in tutor time: with students reading novels, short stories and non-fiction texts, dependent on the year group, whilst adhering to our reading protocols of actively following the text, answering questions and exploring vocabulary. In English, all students up to Year 10 are expected to have a reading book and read at the start of lessons, keeping a record of their reading progress. Timetabled lessons for more extensive reading and use of the library are also in place for students in Years 7-9. Alongside this we will be running focused interventions to ensure students with a reading age significantly below their chronological age get the support they need. We have completed testing with most students in the school and the results will be shared with you in due course. Testing will be repeated later in the year.

As a parent/ carer, it is vital that you continue to prioritise reading at home as much as possible and we hugely appreciate your support with making reading a positive experience. If you would like to speak to us further about your child's reading age, or other aspects relating to literacy, then please contact Ms Hennessy on [emma.hennessy@laconchilideschool.co.uk](mailto:emma.hennessy@laconchilideschool.co.uk).

## **Activities Week**

This academic year, we will be offering our range of residential and day trips, and in school activities, during the same week from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025. Activities Week provides every student in Years 7-10 with the opportunity to mix with other students outside of their normal circle of friends, try new experiences, access cultural opportunities, learn new skills and make memories to share with their friends and families. Watch this space for more information.

## Key Stage 4 Enrichment

As part of Key Stage 4 form time enrichment, which encompasses Religious Education and Literacy, Year 10 are currently examining how the Lacon me values fit in with religious and non-religious worldviews (resilience), and Year 11 are examining various religious and non-religious festivals (Ramadan). This year, Key stage 4 will be welcoming a variety of speakers from different religious and non-religious worldviews. We began this programme with a visit from Imam Sohaib, and his wife Asiya from Craven Arms Mosque last Thursday.

Imam Sohaib spoke about the history, religiosity, meaning, and requirements of the fourth pillar of Islam; fasting during Ramadan. He drew out the meaning of Ramadan and requirement of resilience within the religious worldview of Islam. He touched on the need for resilience in education from our students. He provided us with an interesting account of the way that Ramadan is celebrated across the world and challenged misconceptions about culture and religion.

Asiya, who is also a scholar and has received the same level of intense education as Imam Sohayb explained the role of women within the mosque. She takes on an important leadership role, which is vast! She spoke about her position, offering parental advice to other parents and carers, general advice on wellbeing, to religious advice, and how to read, and understand the Quran in Arabic.

Key stage 4 listened intently, and it was commented how well they had received the information, and many students and staff spoke of how interesting they found it and could see clear connections with the booklets they complete during form time. We look forward to welcoming other people from different worldviews in the coming year. We are on the lookout for a gospel choir that may spare some time to come and sing for us! If there are any parents or carers who wish to come in and speak to key stage 4 about any religious or non-religious worldviews, please contact Mrs Blizzard on [beth.blizzard@laconchilddeschool.co.uk](mailto:beth.blizzard@laconchilddeschool.co.uk)

## Careers Day

Well done to our students for their participation in our first Careers Fayre Day! Students visited the Careers Fayre to meet and talk to different providers to learn about opportunities available to them after their journey at Lacon. Our guests were really impressed with our students, their engagement and their behaviour, which makes us very proud.

A huge thank you to the following providers for making yesterday possible and to Mrs Koziel for her excellent organisation of the event.

Bewdley Sixth Form  
Ludlow and Hereford Colleges  
King Edward VI Colleges  
Kidderminster College

The Army  
Kudos Blends  
The Pioneer Centre  
Hobson's Brewery



## Year 11 Kind Edward's VI College Applications

King Edward's VI College in Stourbridge has opened their application process, the deadline for applying is Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2025. For more details and guidance on how to apply, please consult the "How to" document (link) or, alternatively, visit <https://www.kedst.ac.uk/>.

## Reminders

### Trips

A reminder that we have the following trips available for different year groups, if your child is interested in attending any of these can you please ensure that the deposits are paid by the following dates:

Year 7 – London Trip – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October

Year 8 – Arthog Trip – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November

Year 9 – Paris Trip – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October

### Attendance Matters – Minutes Matter

A reminder that if your child is unable to attend school please report absence before 8.45am on the first day and each subsequent day they are unable to attend school. Please either email [attendance@laconchilideschool.co.uk](mailto:attendance@laconchilideschool.co.uk) or leave a phone message on 01299 270312. Unfortunately, there is no functionality in Arbor currently to report absence, if you do reply through Arbor the message will not get through to the attendance officer. Thank you for your continued support in helping us to improve attendance at Lacon Childe School.

### Student access to Arbor

A reminder that the student portal for Arbor is now open and available for your child to log in to. All students in Years 8-11 have been shown how to do this and have received an email to their school email account explaining this process in case they have forgotten. The following link (included in their email) will take students directly to the correct site, this should be stored in their bookmarks for future use. <https://the-lacon-childe-school.uk.arbor.sc/>

Once students have should have logged in and set their own password. Once in, they will be able to see their attendance, timetable, and assignments (homework) information. They will no longer need to ask you about what homework they have. The link below (also included in their email) provides further advice on using the student portal. <https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/360006651877-The-Student-Portal-Quick-tips-for-students>

### Stakeholder Voice

Thank you to those parents/carers who have already completed our questionnaire using this QR code. The link will be active for a further week. Please give us your feedback.

### Letters and information for Parents/Carers:

[English literature text letter](#)

[Application process for King Edwards College](#)

[Protect our children flyer](#)

Clee Hill Rugby Flyers - U12/14/16 Girls, U11/12/13/14 training and

**Why is school attendance so important?**

Attending school **regularly** helps to build **confidence** and develop vital **life skills**

**School** is the **key** to **future success!**

Missing **2 days** of school each month = Missing **nearly 3 weeks** during a school year

**15 minutes** late every day = **two weeks** of learning lost each school year

Data shows pupils with more than **95% attendance** Achieve better GCSE results! **at least one grade higher!**

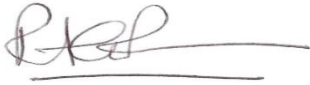
Even **90% attendance** is still 19 days of education lost in a school year

**ATTEND! AIM HIGH! ACHIEVE!**



Thank you again for all of your support. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me on [rachel.croxtombroome@laconchilideschool.co.uk](mailto:rachel.croxtombroome@laconchilideschool.co.uk)

Yours sincerely




Rachel Croxton-Broome  
**Head Of School**

Ruth Allen  
**Consultant Executive Headteacher**

**Dates to remember**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October  
 Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October  
 Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October  
 Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October  
 Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October  
 Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October  
 Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November

7M Church Visit  
 7W & 7S Church Visit  
 Yr 11 BTEC PE Coursework - all week  
 Year 7 Science of Sewage session  
 Year 10 English Poetry Assessment  
 End of term  
 Half Term

**Fixtures**

 LACON CHILDE SCHOOL ...more than just a school	Date	Year	Sport	Venue & Start Date	Staff
	Wednesday 9th October	U15 Boys	Rugby	CSS Return to school - 5.30/6pm	SA
	Thursday 10th October	U15/U13 Girls	Hockey	Shrewsbury Depart - 2pm Return to school - 7pm	SA
	Tuesday 15th October	Girls	Football	Lacon - finish 4.30pm	LS
	Tuesday 15th October	Yr8 Boys	Rugby	Lacon - finish 5.00pm	SA
	Tuesday 15th October	Yr9 Boys	Football	Lacon - finish 5.00pm	AU
	Tuesday 15th October	Yr8 Girls	Netball	Lacon - finish 5.00pm	LAB
	Wednesday 16th October	Yr11 Girls	Netball	Lacon - finish 4.15pm	ZT
	Wednesday 16th October	U12 Boys	Football	Lacon - finish 5pm	ZT
	Wednesday 16th October	Yr10 Boys	Rugby	TBC	AU

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**[www.lacon-childe.org.uk](http://www.lacon-childe.org.uk)**

**The Shropshire Gateway Educational Trust**

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