



# Lacon Childe School

*...more than just a school*

Head of School Mrs. Rachel Croxton-Broome  
Consultant Executive Headteacher Mrs. Ruth Allen



08 January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back! Happy New Year!

I hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas period and have had the opportunity to enjoy some quality time with your families. It gives me great pleasure to write this first Head's Update of the new calendar year. It has been a productive start to our spring term for staff. On Monday staff had a full day of training that included an important safeguarding refresher, training on effective teaching as well as time spent adjusting lessons and preparing for Year 11's final full term before their GCSE examinations. As a school, we have high expectations as we care about our students and their success. We took some time on Monday as a staff to revisit our expectations to improve our consistency and remind ourselves the reason behind our high expectations - that every student deserves to feel safe and learn in a deserve disruption free environment.

It was great to see our students back in school on Tuesday and hear about their holiday. The vast majority of students returned to school looking smart and ready to learn. A reminder of our uniform policy, available at the following link [here](#). We will be in contact with you to discuss any uniform issues with you. We appreciate your support and understanding with this matter. If you have any questions or concerns or need any support with uniform, please contact us.

As well as welcoming students back to school we also welcomed two new staff to Lacon Childe School: Mr Jordan (Geography) and Mr Hillman (PE). We wish them both much success in their new roles and look forward to getting to know them better.

As a result of our staff leavers/new staff, we have also made some changes to form tutors. These are as follows:

Head of Year	CLEE	MORTIMER	STRETTON	WREKIN
<b>Year 7</b> Mr Adams	Mrs Davies Treble (M/W/Th) Mr Jordan (T/F) R34	Mr Turner R8	Mrs Harding R2	Miss Davis R23
<b>Year 8</b> Miss Lloyd	Mr Warnes R3	Mrs Howard R4	Mrs Wilding (M/Tu/Th/F) Mrs Titley (M/W/F) R13	Ms Shepherd (M/Tu/Th/F) Mrs Wilson (M/W) R6
<b>Year 9</b> Mrs Aldridge-Buften	Ms Koziel R27	Mr Hillman R31	Mr Martin R15	Miss Kettle R10
<b>Year 10</b> Mr Davies-Treble Miss Martin	Mrs Traylor R29	Mrs Blizzard R28	Mrs Bird R25	Mrs Rawnsley (M/T/W/Th) Mrs Broom (F) R32
<b>Year 11</b> Mr Davies-Treble Miss Martin	Mrs Salmon (M/W/Th/F) Mrs Britton (Tu) R27b	Mrs Youngson (M/Tu/W/F) Mr Treasure-Evans (Th) R7	Miss Johnson R21	Mrs Gilder (M/T/Th/F) Mr Treasure-Evans (W) R19

## Returning to School

Returning to the usual routine after the holidays can be a stressful time for anyone and that includes those children and young people who are making their way back to school. Difficulty readjusting to a structured schedule, worries about reuniting with classmates and teachers, and potential pressures around continuing

their education cannot only impact children's academic performance, but have further negative effects on their emotional wellbeing. We will do all we can to help and support your child to make the transition back to education as easy as possible. Please contact your child's year lead if you would like any additional support. The attached information contains expert advice on this topic.

### **Online safety: social media and mental health**

As is often the case, Father Christmas will have been very generous this Christmas and will have gifted a number of our student's new phones and/or gaming machines. Just a reminder that although we allow phones on school site, they should be switched off and not used at any point during the day. Young people spend a significant time on screen and the school day provides a much-needed break from this and provides students with an opportunity to talk with their peers without the pressures that social media brings. Social media and prolonged periods of screen time have been shown to have a detrimental effect on adolescent mental health. The most recent research found that children's daily entertainment usage of screens grew by 17 percent between 2019 and 2021—more than it had grown during the four years prior. Overall, daily entertainment screen use in 2021 increased to 5.5 hours among tweens ages 8 to 12 and to more than 8.5 hours among teens ages 13 to 18, on average.

As Jean Twenge, wrote, "The more time teenagers spend looking at screens, the more likely they are to report symptoms of depression. . . It's not an exaggeration to describe [this generation] as being on the brink of the worst mental-health crisis in decades."

In addition, all of that time on screens, even without social media, degrades attention and concentration skills, making it harder to focus fully on any task and to maintain that focus. This is not a small thing. Attention is central to every learning task and the quality of attention paid by learners shapes the outcome of learning endeavours. The more rigorous the task, the more it requires what experts call selective or directed attention. To learn well, you must be able to maintain self-discipline about where you direct your attention.

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that parents/carers know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down a rabbit hole that isn't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which enthralls young people, but we can still help children to be mindful of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK and knowing what to do about content that upsets them. Please find attached a PDF guide in which you'll find tips such as how to hide content, setting daily limits and discussing what your child has seen online.

As a school, we are working to educate our students about the adverse effects of prolonged screen time and social media. We encourage all students to join an extra-curricular club to improve their connectedness with their peers as well as their teachers. A full list of the extra-curricular activities that we offer can be accessed by clicking [here](#)

### **Year 7 and 8 maths groups**

With a full term of maths teaching complete we are now in a position to reassess the Year 7 maths groups. Since September students have been completing the low stakes 20-mark quizzes at the end of each unit (four so far), and in December students undertook an end of term assessment. The data gathered from these coupled with KS2 SAT scores builds a picture of your child's maths skills to date. This then supports us as their teachers to make any necessary changes to groups, in order to support student progress moving forward.

The same process has been undertaken for Year 8, although the number of changes is much fewer.

As we have shared previously, we reflect on ability levels and group moves at the end of each term as we understand that students do not learn in a linear way. This fluidity allows us to support your child on their maths journey, aiming to provide the most beneficial maths group for their ability and support confidence and progress. Changes will be made on Wednesday (Y8) and Thursday (Y7) of this week. If you have any queries regarding maths group moves please contact me via email, [ailsa.harding@laconchildeschool.co.uk](mailto:ailsa.harding@laconchildeschool.co.uk).

## CinderElla Pantomime

During the holidays I attended the pantomime at The Regal in Tenbury Wells. I was very much looking forward to it as it had been billed as...

CinderElla is feeling fed up. She spends her days keeping the pumpkin farm going whilst her meanie stepsister's slob around and shop till they drop! CinderElla dreams of breaking free... So, could an invitation to the Young Farmer's Ball, a ballgown and a pair of funky wellies change everything? With dazzling costumes, a hilarious script and toe-tapping musical numbers, this is a much-loved rags to riches Christmas adventure. A Farm fresh Fairytale for all ages! It certainly did not disappoint, and I was glowing with pride watching our talented students perform so fantastically and confidently on this stage. Inspired no doubt by one of our former senior prefects, Amelia Jones who joined the professional cast members in her role as aide to Prince Charming. Congratulations to the following students who took part in this production:



*Ella-May Hughes (Year 9)*

*Isla Hunter (Year 8)*

*Freya Richards (Year 10)*

*Rosie Shaw (Year 9)*

*Ben Hughes (Year 8)*

*Tibby Wooding (Year 7)*

Well done on this amazing achievement we are extremely proud of you all and I look forward to watching you again next year!

## Careers

A new term brings new careers events, starting with dedicated KS4 assemblies with the HLNSC and King Edward VI school liaison officers, who will also meet with our students and talk them through opportunities and the application process. In addition, we will also be starting phase two of our careers meetings with our external careers advisor. This will be an opportunity for identified students to follow-up on the first meeting and assure that the action plans established over the last two terms, were successfully put in place. Students who missed their first session, will be offered a chance to catch-up. If you would like to view your child's action plan please contact me Miss Koziel at [Aleksandra.Koziel@laconchilleschool.co.uk](mailto:Aleksandra.Koziel@laconchilleschool.co.uk)

## L@fter

Due to the adverse weather conditions, our L@fter transport will not be running this week. If your child would like to stay for an after-school club, please can you make alternative arrangements for your child to be collected. Apologies for any inconvenience.

## Yr11 Triple Science - Hobsons trip

Yesterday the Y11 Triple Science group visited Hobsons Brewery accompanied by Mrs Broom and Mr Mayall. Here they had a tour of the site and got to see the brewing process in action, tasting some of the flavours added (but not the beers!) and smelling the hops that the beer is made from. They saw the bottling plant and the kegs/casks being cleaned, all in a normal working day. The visit combines their studies of the production of ethanol with a careers link, showing just one of the very many routes chemistry could take them! A massive thank you to Hobsons for taking time out of their extremely busy day to host us and to Mrs Broom for organising the trip.



Thank you for your continued support of our school whilst we are on this improvement journey.  
Yours sincerely



Rachel Croxton-Broome  
Head of School



Ruth Allen  
Consultant Executive Headteacher

### Attachments


- [Artificial Intelligence Solutions](#)
- [Supporting children to return to routine](#)
- [Year 7 welcome back](#)
- [Year 8 welcome back](#)
- [Year 9 welcome back](#)
- [Year 10 welcome back](#)
- [Year 11 welcome back](#)
- [Year 9 Options Information](#)

### Trips and Shop Payments

The following are available on Arbor to make payment for

Item	Information	Payment Due
Year 7 KS3 Design Technology Contribution	Voluntary Contribution	
Year 7 London Trip		01/02/25
Year 8 Arthog Trip	2 <sup>nd</sup> Payment	10/01/25
Year 9 French Trip		01/02/25
Year 9 DofE	Deposit	31/01/25
Year 10 Poland Trip	4 <sup>th</sup> Payment	01/02/25
Year 10 Science Revision Books		
Year 10 GCSE Fine Art Contribution	Voluntary Contribution	
Year 10 GCSE Materials Contribution	Voluntary Contribution	

### Fixtures

	Date	Year	Sport	Venue & Start Date	Staff
	Tuesday 14th January	Y9 Boys	Rugby	Home - Lacon vs Thomas Adams finish 4.30pm	SA

Love Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire DY14 8PE

Tel: (01299) 270312

E-mail: [admin@laconchildeschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@laconchildeschool.co.uk)

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

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