

Message from the Principal

I would like to start off by thanking the families of our learners for their support throughout this entire term.

The school will close at the end of the day (3:00pm) on Friday 22nd December 2023 to all learners.

Given that children are likely to spend more time online over the holiday period we would once again, advise that families review the guidance provided by the NSPCC to ensure that we can all do our part to keep our children safe. Although this information is available on our website, you can access this guidance using the link <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>.

Learners return to school on Tuesday 9th January 2024.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

A Butt
Principal

Act of Kindness

The Team at Lyndon and Maple Leaf Community Mental Health Team, Hobs Meadow organised fundraising for Lyndon School to support the good work that we do for with our Uniform/Food Bank.

Priscilla, Physical Health Lead Nurse emailed to say: "A little something from us for our local school over Christmas time to support the Uniform/Food Bank at Lyndon School. All staff have generously contributed to a total of £280 and some supplies for food parcels.

Last year, we were able to donate a few shoe boxes, but due to shortage of staff, this has been a bit difficult for us to do this year....honestly we absolutely loved doing this last year.

Sending you a lot of Christmas cheers, blessings to you all for looking after our children and always doing your best".

Priscilla also dropped off some biscuits for staff to enjoy at breaktime.

We are all really grateful to the Lyndon and Maple Leaf Community Mental Health Team thinking about our learners and families and supporting the community in this way. Thank you!

100% Attendance Winner

Congratulations to Belal Ghanem for winning the iPad as part of the 100% attendance half termly raffle., which was held in October.



Remembrance Ceremony

Our Remembrance ceremony was centred around honouring those who serve, promoting understanding and tolerance of others, and humanitarian care for all affected by conflict. This year we focused our ceremony on the contributions of those of the Windrush generation, as that was the national theme for this year (as suggested by the Royal British Legion); however, we made reference to all who practise public service and to all who keep us safe, from all religious backgrounds, ethnicities and nationalities. We ended the ceremony with a reminder to our learners about compassion and respect, as well as guidance for our learners to seek understanding rather than division, in line with our school virtues, their rights enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the fundamental British values.



HS2 Stem Day

50 learners participated in a HS2 STEM Day at Lyndon school in October. HS2 will impact our local area significantly over the coming years and become a major employer in the area. The day included sessions exploring an introduction to engineering, working on team building activities and building creativity skills. Careers advice was also given which enhanced learners' understanding of the jobs available to them in the STEM industry.

Most of the morning focused on building a railway for the future and planning ways in which this could be completed sustainably, an integral part of Summit Learning Trust's vision. Learners also had to predict what stations will look like in 2050 and they used forward thinking as they considered AI technology and robotics. The afternoon allowed learners to engineer a bridge that could hold a weight. The competition winners were able to hold 5kg of weight, which was a fantastic achievement. All learners collaborated well as a group and used their problem-solving skills and resilience to overcome many obstacles.



Upcoming STEM Events

In December 'PM Group' visited Lyndon school to run a women in STEM day. 50 Year 9 learners were selected to take part in the event which focused on raising the profile of women and the role they can play in the STEM industry. This was an interactive activity where they worked in teams to complete a common goal. Raising the profile of STEM and ensuring learners get careers guidance is an important part of our personal development at Lyndon. All of the learners thoroughly enjoyed this session and it has helped to ensure learners get the best careers provision as well as widening participation for females in an under represented sector.

Year 10 Masterclass Programme

The Year 10 learners who are on the masterclass programme are making fantastic progress. Learners have now planned and developed their workshops to present to the primary school children visiting Lyndon School. They have been creative and imaginative in designing their engaging lessons.

Before the Christmas break, the first three groups delivered their masterclasses on lava lamps, rockets and elephants' toothpaste.

Before each session, they will be trialling their lessons with our own Key Stage Three STEM club that runs every Monday at Lyndon School. This will allow them to evaluate and make improvements where needed so that their Year 5 masterclasses are perfected.

The primary school children from our local areas started visiting us from Monday 27th November for their seven week programme of STEM masterclasses. It is a pleasure to welcome children from Ulverley School and Olton Primary and will form a brilliant part of transition to secondary school.



Climate Action Group News

The Climate Action group have been busy this term.

Cut Your Carbon November

In November they spoke to learners in year 7, 8 and 9, along with the Geography team, about how we can cut our carbon. Learners were challenged to complete nine tasks throughout December to reduce their own carbon footprint as part of Cut Your Carbon November. They have also led on an assembly informing learners on what climate change is and why it is important for us to tackle climate change.



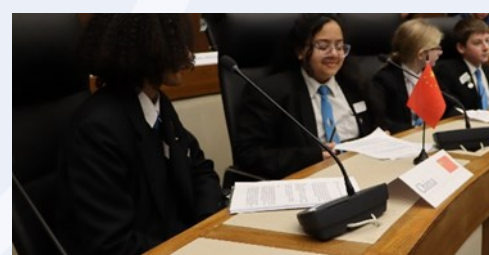
Litter Pick

On November 23rd members of the Climate Action Group, along with year 9 junior prefects, took part in a litter pick around the local area. The issue of litter has been something we have also been trying to tackle within school as we continue to raise awareness of the impacts we can all have on our surroundings.



Climate Conference

On 7th December, nine learners took part in a COP28 style conference at Solihull Civic Centre, along with seven other schools and colleges. They represented different countries and had to give a speech on their countries position on climate change. Learners were representing China and the Marshall Islands, which have very contrasting issues surrounding climate change. As a well as a speech, they were questioned by the other countries involved, with China having to justify its position on its use of fossil fuels, just as they will have had to do at COP28 which was held in Dubai recently.



Active Travel Campaign

Several learners from the Climate Action group, along with several junior prefects, are also involved in an Active Travel Project. This project will be taking place over the next few months in order to find strategies to encourage more learners to travel more actively to school (for example, swapping the car for walking, or being dropped off at a distance from school). Studies show that learners who are more active in their travel to school improve on their learning due to exercise and lower pollution exposure levels. More information about this will be coming out over the next term.



If you are interested in getting involved in campaigning to reduce climate change and would like to join the Climate Action Group, please see Mrs Purnell in U110 or speak to your Geography teacher.

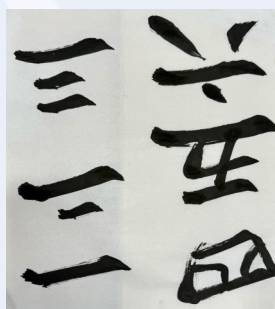
Library Ambassadors

To coincide with an assembly theme: 'How will climate change impact on young people?' learners have been encouraged to view our new library display and read one of the many informative books available to borrow on this important topic.



Japanese Club

Learners in our Japanese Club this term had the chance to practise their calligraphy skills. What a fantastic opportunity!



Advent in the Library

Mrs Walker created a reading advent calendar in the Lyndon library. One lucky learner will be selected at random to unwrap and win a free reading book each day throughout December. Learners will be entered into the draw based on their reading efforts around school.



Principal's Pick of the Week

Liam Mumford—Year 8, who collected an exceptional amount of shoeboxes for the Shoebox appeal.



Year 9 learners Cole Waters, Oliver Lovelock-Halpin and Jack Elt, were awarded PPOW for their compassion, bringing in lost dogs from the school field. The dogs were re-united with their very grateful owner.

Year 11 2023 Art Work Collection

Art work for learners who left Lyndon in 2023 is now ready to collect. Please contact the school to arrange collection and allow 48 hours to enable the work to be prepared and sent to reception. Work will be kept until mid February 2024.

Year 11 Hoodies

We are pleased to share this year's link to the online shop where you can order your child's leavers hoodie. The shop is now open and will remain open until the 10th February.

www.schoolleaverscompany.co.uk/shop

Shop's username: 2871

Shop's password: Tr+7P1Lj

BEBRAS Computing Challenge

In November, KS3 learners and two year 10 classes of Lyndon learners took part in the BEBRAS Computing Challenge <https://www.bebbras.uk/>. It is organised in over 60 countries and designed to get learners all over the world excited about computing.

These challenges are promoted by Oxford University.

All learners that participated will receive certificates which will be given out in ICT lessons.

13 Lyndon Learners came in the top 10% nationally. To put this in perspective, this year a total of 408,339 learners took part, so this achievement is amazing. These learners will now go onto the next round, and they are invited to participate in the online Oxford University Computing Challenge, which will take place early February 2024.

Well done to all that participated and good luck to our 13 learners in February.

Tania	Konovalenko	129.00
Bilal	Ahmed	129.00
Bethany	Tse	119.00
Laith	Gul	118.00
Jan	Panek	118.00
Sebastian	Houghton	118.00
Harold	Ng	117.00
Tyrell	Barnett	117.00
Logan	Richards	113.00
Nathan	Wharrier	113.00
Sophie	Rossiter	112.00
Sahara	Zane	112.00
Alex	Overton	108.00

Shoebox Appeal 2023

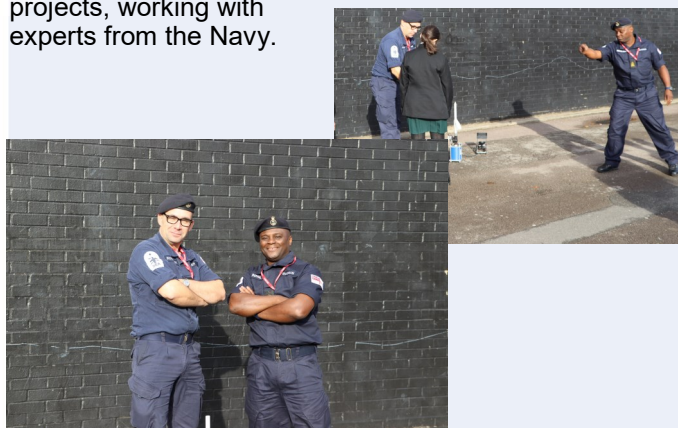
The Lyndon School community demonstrated its altruism and compassion this year as we took part in our annual shoebox appeal for the charity T4U. Our learners, their families and the wider community all worked together to make up shoeboxes that are being taken to displaced people in eastern Europe, many of whom have no homes due to the war in Ukraine.

Thanks to the generosity of the whole Lyndon School community, we sent 210 boxes this year, full of lovely things to brighten someone's Christmas. The boxes were collected by Mrs.Redpath, a former teaching assistant at the school, and a representative from the charity. We look forward to working together on making boxes for those in need next year.



Royal Navy Visit

In November the Royal Navy Engagement Team visited Lyndon School, working with our Year 8 learners on a 'top secret' mission to design and build a flare. Learners had a fantastic time testing and adapting their projects, working with experts from the Navy.



Music Instrumental Exams

Many congratulations and well done to the learners below for passing their instrumental exams this term:



Tamsin—Grade 1 Piano



Vincy—Grade 6 Guitar



Janelle—Grade 5 Piano



Grayce—Grade 6 Piano

If your child would like to learn an instrument, please ask them to see Miss Prentice in L101 to collect a letter.

Lessons on offer are:

Violin	Clarinet	Flute
Cello	Trumpet	Trombone
Drum	Bass Guitar	French Horn

Viola	Saxophone
Tuba	Piano/Keyboard
Vocals	Guitar

Rock and Pop Event

On Friday 27th of October, my band, Silver Alchemist performed at 'Rock and Pop Night' at The Core Theatre.

We performed the songs Smells Like Teen Spirit by Nirvana, Paranoid by Black Sabbath and Summer of '69 by Bryan Adams.

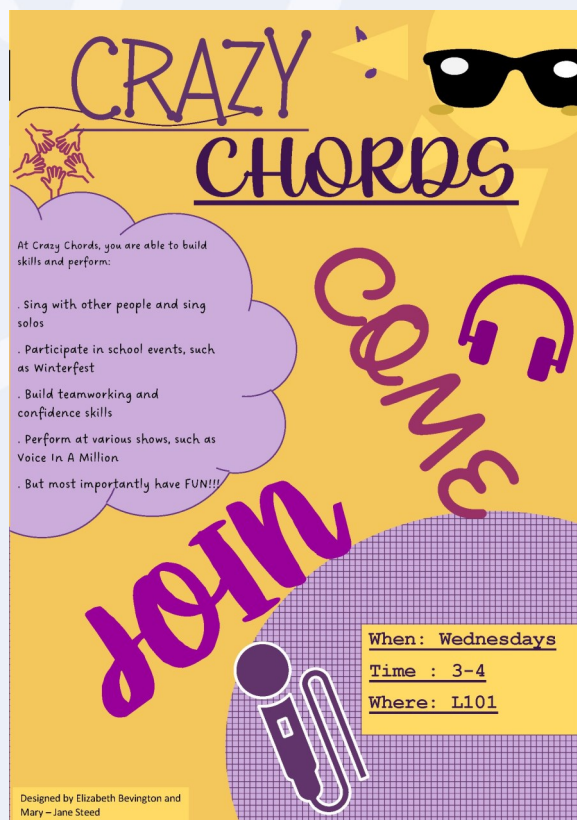
Our performance was very successful, and we had a great time showing people what we had worked on for many weeks, especially all of our parents who attended the event. The atmosphere at Rock and Pop was exhilarating and we enjoyed listening to what the other bands had performed and what they had worked hard to performance for us that evening.

Written by Lola Beer, Year 9



CBSO Concert—Birmingham Symphony Hall

All our Year 7 learners have been invited to attend a special concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Thursday 8th February 2024. If you have not done so already, please return your completed reply slips to reserve a place.





INFORMATION



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Learners leaving during the school day

If your child needs to leave school during the school day for an appointment, please send your child with the appointment letter or a note to excuse them from lesson saying what time they have to leave lesson and to show at reception. Could you also please state on the note whether your child is leaving on their own or you are meeting them in reception. Please remind your child to remember to make their way down to reception at the time you have asked them to.

Learners who feel unwell during the school day

Please remind learners that if they feel unwell during the school day, they must visit First Aid or their Pastoral Manager to contact home.

Learners must not call home using their own mobile phones.

Equipment

Please remind learners to check their planner/timetable each day, to ensure they bring in the correct equipment for the day.

Please ensure that they have their planner, reading book, pens, pencil, ruler, calculator and full PE kit if they have PE on the day.

It is the learners responsibility to remember their equipment and we cannot always guarantee we can loan items to learners or send equipment to them

Attendance

Please report any absences before 8.30 am. You can leave any messages on the **absence line on 0121 743 3402.**

Please clearly state your child's name, year group and the reason for absence. Thank you.

Football boot exchange

We are arranging a football boot exchange within the PE Department to assist families in the current cost of living crisis. If you have any old football boots that are no longer required and would be happy to donate to the school, we would very much appreciate this. All used boots will be sanitised and cleaned before use.

Please ask your child to hand any donations into the PE Office. Many thanks, PE Department.

Food Bank

Lyndon School is a recognised centre to support families and individuals in crisis. There are many reasons why a family is in crisis and unable to access support to be able to buy food. We are here to help. As a registered food bank referral agency we can support a family to access food.

Sanitary Products

We are in a position to support learners who need sanitary products. They are located in the girls' toilets and are also available for any learner that wants to take products home:

Uniform Bank

We have a Uniform Bank. If any learner is in need, please contact Mrs O'Gorman.

TO SEEK SUPPORT WITH FOOD, SANITARY PRODUCTS OR UNIFORM, PLEASE EMAIL MRS O'GORMAN:

jacqueline.o'gorman@lyndon.org.uk

Cycling to School

We request parents and carers remind learners to take extra care when cycling to and from school.

Please also ensure that your child wears a suitable bike helmet when cycling to school.

Breakfast Club

Lyndon is part of the National School Breakfast Programme and offers learners a free toasted bagel before school every day. Breakfast is served every morning from 8.00 am in the canteen.

School Reception

Please note that Reception opening times are:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 8.00 am - 4.30pm

Tuesday 8.00 am - 3.30 pm

Please ensure that learners are collected from school promptly.

Return Phone Calls

Please be reminded that all phone calls should be returned within one working day; thus **by the close of play on the day after the request is made.**



INFORMATION



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Attendance and Punctuality at Lyndon School

At Lyndon, we believe that excellent attendance and punctuality are both important in helping our learners to achieve their full potential. As such, at Lyndon School our expectations are that all learners should be at school and on time every day the school is open unless the reason for absence is unavoidable.

To meet our statutory obligations and to ensure our learners benefit from consistent high quality learning Lyndon School will:

Promote perfect attendance and work closely with our families to ensure all learners attend school each day.

Act proactively to identify and address patterns of absence which may hamper a child's life chances.

Communicate regularly with our families to provide information regarding their child's attendance and the impact it is having on their progress at the academy.

Working in partnership with various agencies to support the work of Pastoral Managers, Attendance Officers, and the Education Welfare Service. Remember, excellent attendance is key to your child being able to fulfil their potential and make good progress in school.

Improving attendance: What parents and carers can do?

One of the most important ways a parent or carer can support the personal and academic development of their child is to ensure they attend every day and on time. At Lyndon, we have a clear expectation that learners should aim for 100% attendance every year. We recognise however, that illness happens, children can become unwell and there will be occasions when your child is too poorly to come into school. The academy expects the support of parents and carers in ensuring that children always attend, when possible.

Please encourage your child to come to school even if they are feeling slightly unwell. Pastoral Managers will contact you if it becomes necessary for your child to go home however, creating an ethos of getting into school, prepares them for further education and the workplace.

Where a child is unwell, parents and carers should ensure they follow the 'Reporting' procedures below.

Reporting an absence

All absences must be reported to the Attendance Officer before the start of school by 8.30am, on the absence line, giving the reason for absence. If it is a prolonged absence a call is required each day.

Absences can be reported via the school absence line on 0121 743 3402 (option 1) or by email to office@lyndon.org.uk

If you know your child is going to be absent due to a medical appointment, please let us know in advance with evidence for the absence. In such instances, absences from school should be limited to the length of the appointment and travelling time.

Absence due to illness will be authorised unless there is a concern about the authenticity of the illness, in which case you may be asked to provide medical evidence. Unexplained absences will be unauthorised by the academy.

Examples of authorised absence

Medical or dental appointments. Routine appointments should be made for outside of school hours. Evidence of these appointments is required. The academy will only authorise a maximum of half a day's absence for unavoidable medical appointments (e.g. hospital consultant, CAMHS or orthodontist appointments).

College/employment interviews. Evidence is required.

Family funerals of close and immediate family members or recognised religious observations. (One day will be granted on prior notification).

For exceptional circumstances a Leave of Absence request form can be obtained from the school for completion. On receipt of this form the Principal will decide and write to you to confirm whether authorisation is granted.

Examples of unauthorised absence

- Unauthorised leave of absence
- A full day absence for a medical appointment
- Absence not reported on the day or supported by written explanation upon return to school
- Arriving late after the register has closed (9.30 am)
- Truancy: isolation will be given as a sanction

Examples of medical evidence

- Medical appointment card or photo with one appointment entered
- Letter from a professional
- Medical note
- Medication prescribed by a GP
- Copy of prescription
- Print screen of medical notes
- Letters concerning hospital appointments
- Slip with date, pupils name and surgery stamp, signed by Receptionist

Request for leave of absence during term time

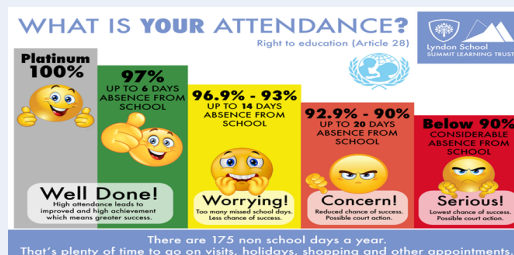
Parents/carers should not book holidays or similar arrangements during term time. It is unlawful for learners to be granted holidays during term time; therefore, the principal will be unable to authorise absences unless there are genuine exceptional circumstances.

Punctuality

We ask that learners arrive at the academy prior to 8.30am ready to attend tutor time at 8.40am. If your child is going to be late, please call the main office to inform them of the reason. The school gates close at 8.30am and should any learners arrive after this time, they must sign in at the 'late desk', located at the Upper School Gate entrance. If a learner arrives late, without a genuine reason, they will be issued with a 20-minute detention which will need to be sat at the end of the same school day. For learners who arrive after 9.30am, without a valid reason, they will be marked as a 'U' which is an unauthorised absence.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding attendance, please contact your child's Pastoral Manager who will be able to advise and support you as well as putting you in touch with other agencies should this be required.

Thank you for your continued support in helping to raise attendance, punctuality, attainment, and achievement at Lyndon School. If you are unsure of any of the details regarding attendance, a full Trust Attendance Policy can be viewed on our website.



Key Dates 2024

16th January 2024	Year 9 Progress Evening
24th & 25th January 2024	Year 9 MEN/DTP Vaccinations
6th February 2024	Year 11 Progress Evening
16th April 2024	Year 8 Progress Evening
6th & 7th June 2024	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

School Term Dates 2023—2024

Autumn Term 2023		INSET DAYS
Term Ends	Friday 22 nd December 2023 Learners last day – Normal Finish Time	
Spring Term 2024		
Term Starts	Monday 8 th January 2024	Monday 8 th January 2024 (Learners not in school)
	Tuesday 9 th January 2024 Learners return to school	
Half Term	Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th February 2024	
Term Ends	Friday 22 nd March 2024 Learners last day – Normal Finish Time	
Summer Term 2024		
Term starts	Monday 8 th April 2024	
May Day	Monday 6 th May 2024	Monday 6 th May 2024 (Learners not in school)
Half Term	Monday 27 th May – Friday 31 st May 2024	
		Friday 5 th July 2024 (Learners not in school)
Term Ends	Friday 19 th July 2024 Learners last day – Normal Finish Time	