

Message from the Principal

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2024. I am pleased that our learners have returned to school refreshed and eager to continue their learning.

Included in this newsletter are some of the events from the end of 2023 and some that have taken place since the start of 2024.

Have a wonderful half term break and we look forward to welcoming learners and colleagues back to school on Monday 19th February, 2024.

Lyndon's Crazy Chords

During December, Lyndon's Crazy Chords went along to Solihull Hospital to sing for staff and patients. Along with other learners from the Summit Learning Trust, they helped raise £505.60.

Solihull Moors Football Club also dropped by to help them sing along!

The funds were used to provide Christmas Trees throughout the hospital, festive treats for staff and patients to enjoy at Christmas and toys for children receiving treatment over the festive period.

Lyndon School received a certificate of appreciation from the Charity.

Well done 'Crazy Chords' for spreading some Christmas joy!



100% Attendance Winner

Grace Newman Year 8, won the 100% attendance award at the end of the Autumn Term 2023

Kitronik's LAB:bit

Kitronik's LAB:bit for the BBC micro:bit is an exciting and practical approach for Lyndon learners to learn to code. It has been specifically designed for use in computers in the classroom and is supported by online MakeCode courses.

Our Computer Club has successfully set up and programmed several devices on the new Micro bit LAB, bit kit.

They have created the following programs:

Making a dice, colouring a rainbow, traffic lights and controlling motor speed.

Trust Scientific Literacy Challenge

Luey Rogers Year 8, received 'The Trust Scientific Literacy Challenge'. Luey received a certificate and voucher from Mr Butt. Well done Luey!



Principal's Pick of Week

Alana O'Dwyer Year 7, Commitment and dedication to Art & Design lessons.

Deborah Adegbite Year 7, completed her reading record log for the whole year. This means she has written reviews for 36 books!

Apprenticeship Sessions

Year 11 learners had 2 apprenticeship sessions in January. They experienced a 'Mock Assessment Centre' with Balfour Beatty and Workpays supported them in setting up accounts and searching for vacancies. All learners took a lot away from the sessions. Thank you Balfour Beatty and Workpays for supporting with their journey after Lyndon.

County Fitness Competition

Congratulations to our Year 9 Girls who came 3rd in the County Fitness competition. They had strong competition from other schools in Solihull, Coventry and Warwickshire.

Sufiyah Dinally, Amelie Kenning, Sophie Rossiter, Hannah Unlu, Maisie Bull and Ella Biddle.

This is a fantastic achievement, well done to all.

S.T.E.M. Club

Every Tuesdays 3pm until 4pm.

Each week fun activities to do. Quick and easy and take home what you make.

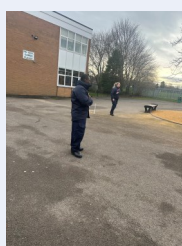
All year groups welcome - Come down to Pod 5 with Miss Jones, Design Technician

Tarmac Assemblies

Tarmac Ltd delivered employability LMI assemblies to our Year 7 and Year 8 learners during January. It is never too early for our learners to begin thinking about the future opportunities available to them.

Royal Navy Visit

The Royal Navy visited Lyndon school in January to work with Year 8 and Year 9's. Learners made flares and learnt about the diverse opportunities in the Navy from monitoring global warming to how we build flares in emergencies. Learners developed their leadership skills and knowledge of STEM throughout their day. We look forward to welcoming the Navy back in later this year to work with Year 7 and the rest of Year 9.



Frozen Trip

40 lucky learners, were left spellbound after watching a spectacular performance of the hit West End show Frozen in January.

The trip was all the more memorable because it included a performance workshop led by professionals from the Disney Education Team. During the session, learners were taught the song and routine to popular Frozen number, 'Fixer Upper'.

Lyndon School has a rich heritage in music, dance and drama, and the trip - which is one of a number of cultural experiences offered by the school to enrich the curriculum - was designed to inspire learners to take Performing Arts when they reach Key Stage 4.

Sophie McCoy, Performing Arts Teacher, Lyndon School, said: "This was a once-in-a-life time experience for our learners. They threw themselves into the workshop with incredible energy and effort, learning new tricks and tips from Disney's pro-squad which they could not only see in action on stage, but will also be techniques they can apply in their own performances to come."

Abid Butt, Executive Principal, Lyndon School, said: "It is really important to everyone at Lyndon School that we find new and impactful ways to bring the curriculum to life for learners, and I have no doubt that this incredible experience will have inspired them enormously."

Active Travel Survey

On 8th February the Active Travel Ambassadors will be attending a Dragons Den style event to bid for money to promote active travel to school. We would like to encourage learners to walk to school, even if its just for some of their journey. More information will be shared next half term.

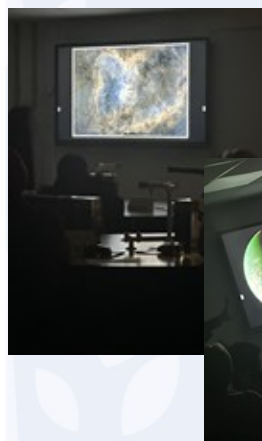
Community Stargazing Event— Monday 5th February 2024



On Monday 5th February, The Summit Learning Trust organised a Stargazing event with The Ogden Trust which was held at Solihull Sixth Form College.

Learners and parents went along and listened to a talk about searching for life in the universe, the JWST (James Webb Space Telescope) and how astronomers search for new worlds beyond our own.

The event was well attended by Lyndon learners, parent/carers and a thoroughly amazing time was had by all.



Debating Society

The Lyndon Debating Society has returned this year, led by founding member Finlay Ariss, and have discussed a wide range of topics affecting our world. Learners started by debating the Education Secretary's stance on mobile phones in schools, and controversially agreed to ban them. Jocelyn Au's impassioned debating skills convinced the group that it is not too late to do anything about climate change.

Linking to our Lyndon character virtue of compassion, learners are currently engaged in preparing to debate 'Is the death penalty a reasonable response?'

The Lyndon Debating Society: Finlay Ariss, Joceyln Au, Alyssia Ariss, Gracie Martin, Grace Ford, Tamsin Dalton, Thea Kaur

Climate Action News

The Climate Action Group are looking at methods we can use to reduce plastic waste within school. Next half term they will be running a competition to encourage learners to bring in refillable bottles rather than using disposable plastic bottles. More information will be shared during tutor time and assemblies.



INFORMATION



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, pen, pencil, ruler and full PE kit if they have PE on the day.

It is the learner's responsibility to remember their equipment and we cannot always guarantee we can loan items to learners or send equipment to them during the school day.

Attendance

Please report any absences before 8.30 am. You can leave any messages on the **absence line on 0121 743 3402. (option 1) or by email to office@lyndon.org.uk**

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, please see Mrs O'Gorman

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



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

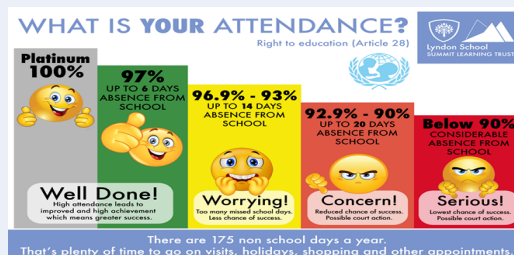
Parents/carers should not book holidays or similar arrangements during term time. It is unlawful for learners to be granted holidays during term time; therefore, the principal will be unable to authorise absences unless there are genuine exceptional circumstances.

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.



School Term Dates 2023—2024

Spring Term 2024	
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
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

School Term Dates 2024—2025

Autumn Term 2024		INSET DAYS
Term starts	Monday 2 nd September 2024	Monday 2nd September 2024 (LEARNERS NOT IN SCHOOL)
	Learners return to school as below:	Tuesday 3rd September 2024 LEARNERS NOT IN SCHOOL)
	Wednesday 4th September 2024 Year 7 & Year 11 Registration 8.30am Year 8, 9 & 10 Registration at 10.45am	
	Thursday 5 th September 2024 - ALL Year Groups	
Half Term	Monday 28 th October - Friday 1st November 2024	
		Friday 29 th November 2024 (LEARNERS NOT IN SCHOOL)
Term Ends	Friday 20 th December 2024 - Learners last day – Normal Finish Time	
Spring Term 2025		
Term Starts	Monday 6 th January 2025	Monday 6th January 2025 (LEARNERS NOT IN SCHOOL)
	Tuesday 7 th January 2025 - Learners return to school	
Half Term	Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st February 2025	
Term Ends	Friday 11 th April 2025 Learners last day – Normal Finish Time	
Summer Term 2025		
Term starts	Monday 28 th April 2025	
May Day	Monday 5 th May 2025	(LEARNERS NOT IN SCHOOL)
Half Term	Monday 26 th May – Friday 30 th May 2025	
		Friday 4 th July 2025 (LEARNERS NOT IN SCHOOL)
Term Ends	Friday 18 th July 2025 Learners last day – Normal Finish Time	