

Message from the Principal

As we draw to the end of another busy and productive term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our learners, parents and carers for their support.

I would also like to remind our families that the school term will finish for learners on Friday 22nd March, 2024 at 3.00pm Year 7—Year 10 and 4.00 pm for Year 11 learners.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our learners and families a very happy Easter break and we look forward to welcoming our learners on their return on Monday 8th April, 2024.

Abid Butt— Executive Principal

County Fitness Championships

In February, a team of Year 9 boys qualified and competed in the County Fitness Championships. The boys performed exceptionally well and placed 2nd, narrowly losing out to Henley-in-Arden School by only two points. The boys were an absolute credit to themselves and the school, working really hard across a range of events. Well done to Archie Guy, Harry Pittman, Ansu Sanoe, Rayan Malang, Callum Cochrane and Noah Latusek.



Creative Writing Competition

Congratulations to all of the learners who entered 'The Glitch' creative writing competition organised by Mrs. Walker, our Librarian. All the learners involved received certificates and have the opportunity for their stories to be published in a book!



Active Travel Ambassadors

Well done to the Active Travel Ambassadors, Shad, Tamsin and Nathan for successfully bidding for funding to promote Active Travel to school. They will be using the money throughout the summer term to promote active and/or sustainable travel to school.



Principal's Pick of the 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!

Michael Lok Year 10, Michael has been attending creative writing club consistently every week since September and has entered three competitions. Michael wrote an impressive poem from the point of view of a character from 'The Hunger Games.'

Courtney Brayson Year 11, for excellent work and commitment in Art, which has exceeded expectations over the year.

Tread Lightly Project

Lyndon School was delighted to welcome David Clarke, Deputy Lieutenant of West Midlands Lieutenancy to discuss the launch of Tread Lightly, a project for schools, tackling environmental challenges.



Royal Navy

The Royal Navy came in to work with Year 9 learners on a teamwork task to build a structure that could withstand a hurricane. All the learners thoroughly enjoyed taking part in this task.



STEM Workshop

To celebrate National Careers Week and thanks to funding from the Royal Academy of Engineering, 35 Year 7 learners participated in a STEM workshop making hydrogen powered cars. The learners learnt about sustainable engineering and careers of the future. Learners worked collaboratively to solve problems and design their cars so that they could move eight metres.

DofE Year 11 Presentation Night

30 learners received their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award certificates during a Presentation Evening at Solihull Sixth Form College on the evening of 29th February 2024. It was an amazing night and all of the parents/carers and teachers were so proud of what the learners had achieved.



DofE Year 10 Walk

Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh learners had a great practice walk in Meriden. Everyone enjoyed their experience and developed their character virtues of compassion, integrity, resilience and resourcefulness. Well done to all involved and thank you to all colleagues who supported!



CBSO Schools Concert

On Wednesday 8th February 2024, learners in Year 7 went to watch the amazing CBSO at The Symphony Hall.

Tickets were fully funded by Services for Education and the cost of coaches, provided by Birmingham International Coaches, was paid for by the school, so that all learners could take advantage of this fantastic event at an inspiring location in central Birmingham. This is just one way that Lyndon School provides Cultural Capital opportunities for its learners.

Before the event Tiannah Simpson commented, "I'm so excited! I'm curious to see how the experience will go. This will be our first trip where we are all together."

Once inside the Symphony Hall, Tiannah's words were, "It's amazing! There are people everywhere; I'm speechless. I've never been anywhere like this before."

After the show, Tiannah commented that she was, "mesmerised by the fascinating instruments" and "seeing how it related to what Miss Prentice had taught us in Music for Instruments of the Orchestra was amazing. I think my favourite pieces were Harry Potter and Angry Birds. This is something I will never forget. I'd definitely go again if I had the opportunity. It was such a memorable experience. Thank you Miss Prentice."

Just Giving Pages

As part of a Trust collaborative we have a chosen Trust charity, University Hospitals Birmingham Charity (UHB). Our target is to collectively raise £10,000 in 2024 with various fundraising activities across our academies. Fundraising will be held throughout this calendar year. Lyndon's Just Giving Page is www.justgiving.com/page/lyndon-school

Outstanding Artwork

Courtney Brayson Year 11, was awarded Principal's Pick of the Week for outstanding work that had been created over the year in Art, Design and Technology.



World Book Day

Lyndon school went all out for World Book Day on Thursday 7th March, 2024. Colleagues dressed up as literary characters, the amazing Art and Design department transformed their classrooms into the land of Oz and the English department decorated their doors in the style of book covers. They also arranged a book swap in the library, along with activities and quizzes and held a bookmark designing competition.



The canteen put on a book themed menu, serving up the following literary inspired dishes:

- Mr Twit wormy spaghetti— 'The Twits' by Roald Dahl (spaghetti bolognese)
- Rat burger— 'Ratburger' by David Walliams (battered chicken burger)
- Bella Italia mushroom ravioli— 'Twilight' by Stephanie Meyer, inspired by Bella's first meal with Edward at Bella Italia restaurant (mushroom ravioli in a creamy cheese sauce)
- Bruce Bogtrotter's chocolate cake—'Matilda' Roald Dahl

The National Literacy Trust's Annual Literacy Survey, recorded the lowest level of reading enjoyment since the trust began its survey in 2005. They found that just 2 in 5 (43.4%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 said they enjoyed reading in their free time in 2023, the lowest level since they first asked the question in 2005. The survey also concluded that fewer than 3 in 10 (28.0%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 said that they read daily in 2023.



Abid Butt, Principal at Lyndon said:

"Reading is the foundation of education: at Lyndon, I want our young people to not only be confident readers, but to enjoy reading. I am delighted that both colleagues and learners put so much effort into celebrating World Book Day. I do hope everyone went home with something new to read and were stuffed full of rat burgers and wormy spaghetti!"

Science Magician

It was great to welcome Dr Matt Pritchard the iconic science magician to Lyndon School to perform his "surprising science" show to Year 7 learners to celebrate British Science week. What a fantastic show!





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 a.m. 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 a.m. 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 consultations, 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

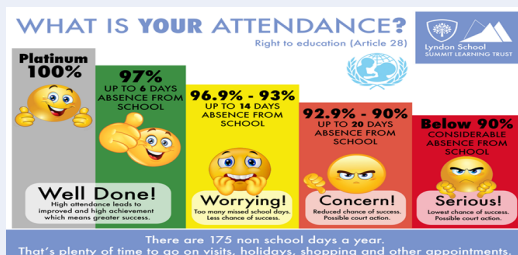
Parents/carers should not book holidays or similar arrangements during term time. It is unlawful for learners to be granted holidays during term time; therefore, the principal will be unable to authorise absences unless there are genuine exceptional circumstances.

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 for continuing support - help-raise



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School Term Dates 2023—2024

Spring Term 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	(Learners not in school)
Half Term	Monday 27 th May – Friday 31 st May 2024	
		Friday 5th 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 Learners return to school as below:	Monday 2nd September 2024 (LEARNERS NOT IN SCHOOL) 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 29th 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	Monday 5th May 2025 (LEARNERS NOT IN SCHOOL)
Half Term	Monday 26 th May – Friday 30 th May 2025	
		Friday 4th July 2025 (LEARNERS NOT IN SCHOOL)
Term Ends	Friday 18 th July 2025 Learners last day – Normal Finish Time	