

LAKELANDS NEWS

A message from The Headteacher

I write this final newsletter of the 2024-25 academic year as we look forward to our first rewards trip in recent years. There is a huge amount of work required for these trips to take place and I want to publicly thank all the staff who have made this possible. We hope your children enjoy the day and also that it becomes an annual addition to our school calendar which can grow to include other experiences and destinations. For those staying in school, we have arranged a variety of activities in order that we can also celebrate their successes from this year.

We have made a real commitment to recognising and rewarding our students and I am delighted to report that it has been a record breaking year! The range of rewards has continued to grow and now includes, in addition to the trips, 'Golden Ticket' fortnights (recognition of upholding our school values), 'Thank You Friday', outstanding and improved attendance and our 'R' system with points contributing towards their House totals. On the penultimate Friday of the summer term, 592,468 'R' points have been issued at an average of over 1000 per student. All students have achieved well in excess of 728 with the leading student currently on an incredible 1340 points. House totals are updated on our website each Friday evening and the competition has been hotting up in recent weeks. Whitemere are currently in the lead with 151,514 points and you can see how the year ends by viewing Lakelands Academy.

In addition to the reward trips, our staff have offered an increased number of curricular trips, expeditions, qualifications, visits, extra-curricular clubs, fixtures, meetings and tournaments. Last week witnessed another extremely successful Sports Day and Year 11 Prom along with our attendance rewards which saw 121 students recognised and celebrated. Readathon was a huge success that included raising £900, holding a book swap and celebrating the end of the Accelerated Reader programme with our Year 9s. In the week prior, the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh groups completed highly successful expeditions and we also held a charity football tournament, including myself and Mr Birch having soaking wet sponges thrown at us in the name of raising money! The final week of term includes the annual sponsored walk, our Summer Festival and participation in the HD Sportz Schools Soccer Tournament, in addition to the celebration trips. We are hoping to further extend these opportunities in 2025-26.

I would like to thank you for your support with ensuring your children's attendance has been as high as possible. This has resulted in Lakelands having the highest attendance of all Shropshire secondary schools, improving on our third position last academic year. Our attendance is also significantly above the national average for secondary schools. Following on from our 2023-24 national attendance awards (top 25% of all schools and top 25% of similar schools nationally), we have recently received certificates for being in the top 10% of similar schools nationally and the top 25% all schools nationally for Spring term 2025. We are extremely proud of our success with attendance as it is such an important area. When a school's attendance is high, it demonstrates that children feel safe, have a sense of belonging and enjoy coming to school, and it is really important to celebrate outstanding attendance as well as significant improvements.

Another area of significant improvement has been the responses to our stakeholder voice surveys. As you will be aware, we have asked yourselves, our students and our staff to complete these surveys on a termly basis since February 2024. When comparing our most recent survey to the first one, it demonstrates many significant improvements:

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LAKELANDS NEWS

Summer2025

Parent/Carer

- 31% increase in agreeing that school makes you aware of what your child will be learning.
- 31% increase in agreeing there are opportunities to communicate with the SEND Team to discuss your child's needs and progress.
- 20% increase in agreeing the school makes sure our pupils are well behaved.
- 18% increase in agreeing that school lets you know how your child is doing.
- 15% increase in agreeing that school supports your child's wider personal development.
- 14% increase in agreeing your child's learning is appropriately challenged in lessons.
- 13% increase in agreeing that our communication is effective and timely.
- 11% increase in agreeing that our school has high expectations for your child.
- 10% increase in agreeing that instances of bullying have been dealt with quickly and effectively.

Our priority for improvement in response to your feedback is to further increase the number of clubs and trips available to your children at our school. We have worked hard to increase opportunities this year and this will continue to be a key area for further development in 2025-26.

To provide context to our results, we have undertaken a benchmarking exercise to compare your responses to those recorded nationally. I am delighted to share that thirteen of the fourteen comparable questions show a more positive response for Lakelands than the averages nationally with just the area highlighted above falling below this.

Students:

23% increase in agreeing that school provides them with information about their next steps.

- 17% increase in those agreeing that school encourages them to respect people from other backgrounds and to treat everyone equally.
- 17% increase in agreeing that school encourages them to look after their physical health.
- 15% increase in agreeing that school encourages them to look after their emotional and mental health.
- 12% increase in those agreeing school encourages them to be independent and take on responsibility.

Another area we have sought your views on this year has been the potential benefits of joining a multi-academy trust (MAT). Your input has proven really useful and has contributed towards our extensive due diligence process, a process that has also included consultation with solicitors, external auditors, Governos and Headteachers of other schools and a professional consultant amongst many other elements. After four months of detailed due diligence, both the Lakelands Academy Governors and Trustees of The 3-18 Education Trust have voted in favour of submitting an application to the Department for Education (DfE) for our school to join the family of schools. This process can take a number of months before the DfE make their decision and I will keep you updated on the progress of this.

Earlier this year, we launched our new website and shared with you the links to some of the key pages. Some of these have been updated or added to recently and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of these:

Staff contact details - Staff-Contact-Details.pdf

Curriculum overviews - Faculties & Subjects - Lakelands Academy

Careers - Careers - Lakelands Academy

Safeguarding information and signposting - <u>Safeguarding - Lakelands Academy</u>

Policies - Policies, Inspections & Financial Statements - Lakelands Academy

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Vision and values - <u>Vision and Values - Lakelands Academy</u> (thank you to all who responded to our consultation regarding our review of the school vision. Your responses have had a large impact on what we have created).

Our social media is another source of information, announcements and updates:



Facebook: Lakelands Academy Ellesmere

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php? id=61559753621024



Instagram: _Lakelands_Ellesmere

https://www.instagram.com/lakelands_ellesmere



X (Twitter): @LakelandsAcad

https://twitter.com/LakelandsAcad

I would like to publicly thank Miss Guthrie, Mr Wright, Miss Griffiths and Mrs McEvoy who are leaving us for new opportunities and challenges, along with Miss Burrage who left us at May half term after my last newsletter. Joining us, I welcome Miss Bellis (Science), Miss Capewell (Maths), Miss Powell (Geography) and Mr Raeside (Outcomes and Standards Leader – Teacher of Science and Maths) along with Mrs Read (French) and Mr Batley (History), both of whom have joined us since the April newsletter.

My final thank you and good luck go to our outgoing Year 11s who I know are awaiting their Prom (which will have taken place by the time you receive this) and then their GCSE results with much anticipation. They conducted themselves brilliantly throughout the exam period and deserve to achieve everything they wish for. As their time with us has come to an end, they make way for our latest additions to the Lakelands family and we look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 cohort in September.

I hope you all have a great summer as we look forward to further improvements and opportunities in the new academic year.



A reminder please, all students return to school on Wednesday 3rd September 2025





Science and Technology





A small group of Year 8 students took part in a Science and Technology competition at Shrewsbury College on the 7th July. They completed a series of challenges including:

- making a small (6 inch) moving vehicle and competing in a time challenge
- programming a robot to simulate a robotic lawnmower
- investigating crimes and making a police style E fit of a suspect using diagnostic tests to identify a medical condition and learning how to perform CPR

















Great Maths work by year 8 pupils this term. Mrs Guthrie was so impressed with all the pupils. Keep up that fabulous work .











Year 8 pupils receiving their Gold, Silver and Bronze awards and badges from the Junior Mathematical Challenge 2025 (UK Maths Trust) 3 3 4 6 6





Attendance Rewards





A super couple of days for our students receiving their attendance rewards.

121 of our students enjoyed their ice lolly reward. Recognising the students that just missed 100% attendance and for the students that have significantly improved their attendance.

Completing our attendance recognition rewards with a wonderful trip to 'It's only a Sundae' in Ellesmere for our students that have achieved 100% for the academic year. Glorious day to celebrate their achievement and fabulous to see our students laughing and joking and enjoying their afternoon. With a significant increase in numbers meaning the café was closed to the public as it was at capacity with Lakeland Academy students.





Students Performing & Excelling in

Out of school Activities



Tom won the gold medal in both the 100m and 200m competing against other schools in North Shropshire.





Tom in Year 10 represented Lakelands Academy at the Shropshire Schools Athletics Championship in Telford and won the silver medal in the U17 200m. Tom was selected to recently represented Shropshire Schools in the 200m at the Mason Trophy event held at the Northwood Athletics stadium in Stoke present the Shropshire Schools Athletics team.





Two of our year 7 pupils represented Lakelands Academy at the Shropshire Swimming Gala in Telford. Competing in 100m in front and back crawl and 200m Individual Medley (Butterfly ,backstroke, breast stoke and freestyle) Huge well done to both.



Euan B in year 7 has been participating in the WADOS production 'You are Special'. This play tells the story of the Wemmicks, little wooden people who are made by Eli the wood carver. Well done Euan, it is lovely to see our young people contributing to events within the community.

Trips

The Year 10s had a fantastic time in London last week as part of a Creative Arts and Technology trip. They visited the V&A Museum, watched The Play that Goes Wrong in the West End, took part in a Stomp workshop and completed the trip with a visit to the Warner Brother Studios where they participated in an Art of Foley before a tour around the studios.



Our GCSE Geography field trip to Carding Mill with Year 10 was a success. We had a great day, the sun was shining and the Year 10's were a credit to Lakelands Academy.





Summer Music Festival









Although we had to change our plans and host the Summer Festival indoors this year, Lakelands students did not disappoint! Well done to everyone who performed and organised games and thank you to everyone who came to support.





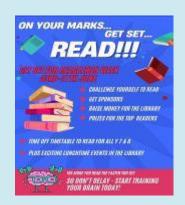


Students enjoyed a sunny reading picnic as part of our Readathon week celebrations. It was lovely to share books, poems and snacks together in the sunshine!



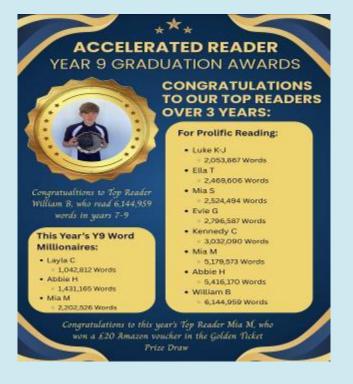








A huge Congratulations to the following students for their fabulous efforts and dedication.





Thank you to all the students who brought in books to swap at our Big Book Swap event yesterday! Lots of students brought in books to swap, and it was great to see them going away with stacks of new reading material to keep them busy over the summer holidays.





World War 2 Church Service

Our wonderful students have helped put together an exhibition based on their World War 2 studies. During the service, students will also talk about a recent get together with the five 'veterans' who told them about their personal experience of living through the war. It was a pleasure to welcome them here.

The initiative, involving the Royal British Legion had been featured on BBC Shropshire Breakfast.



PE - NEWS - PE - NEWS - PE - NEWS - PE

Cricket Tournament ...the boys were fantastic and a credit to the school. We played some excellent schools including Haberdasher Adams, Priory,



Year 7 and 8 girls who competed at the North Shropshire Rounders Tournament All of the girls were a credit to themselves and Lakelands. Year 7s did particularly well, winning all of the games in their group before narrowly losing out in the semi-final to Thomas Adams.



We played Oswestry school, Corbet and Thomas Adams B in the group stages. We won all 3 games. Then progressed straight to the final where we played Thomas Adams A team. We beat them comfortably as well. So as a result of them winning the tournament, we are now through to the



Year 9 mixed touch rugby team playing some quality rugby against some top opposition from across the North West

Sports Day

The sun was certainly out for us on Sports Day this year, but luckily our spectators had plenty of natural shade to sit and observe the sheer resilience and determination of our competitors who gave their absolute all for their tutor groups and house teams! The atmosphere was amazing and the students personified the Lakelands values of kindness and responsibility in cheering everyone on and getting them to the finish line.

The afternoon events were also highly impressive, with a number of students surprising themselves with their performance on the day. Lots of house points awarded, medals presented, but most importantly, lots of smiling faces!

Well done Lakelands, a fantastic finish to another positive year.

















What a wonderful day we all had. Super proud of all the pupil's who took part.







Charity

COMIC RELIEF 2025



"Stop right now, thank you very much..."





The money we have raised for charity this year and the charities we have supported? The total amount so far is over £3380 and the charities we have supported include:

Ella's Army (Brain Tumour Research), Macmillan, Young Minds (mental health), Save the Children, Children in Need, Sea Watch Foundation.



King Trust programme

Some of year 9 and 10 students working on the Kings Trust programme, recently spent the morning at Tesco bag packing. They raised £123. The money raised will be split between an end of year trip and the local food share charity.

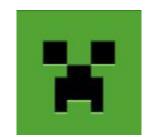




Lunchtime Minecraft club!













I'm delighted to report that the Minecraft Club at Lakelands Academy has been a resounding success. Launched as a trial initiative, the club has consistently attracted a high number of students, with enthusiastic participation each week. The positive response from both students and staff has been overwhelming.

Beyond its popularity, Minecraft Education has proven to be a powerful learning tool. It fosters creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking, while also supporting key academic areas such as STEM, literacy, and problemsolving. Students engage in immersive, hands-on experiences that make learning more accessible and enjoyable. The platform also encourages higher-order thinking skills and inquiry-based learning, helping students tackle real-world challenges in a safe and inclusive environment.

Given the success of the trial, we are excited to confirm that the Minecraft Club will continue throughout the next academic year.

Thank you for your continued support.

Social Media



Instagram 🗶







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https:// www.instagram.com/



https://www.instagram.com/ lakelandsacademype/

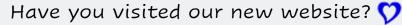


https://x.com/

Do you follow us on Social Media? We post daily, so please give us a like and a follow on one or all of our platforms



https://www.lakelandsacademy.org.uk/





TALKING SAVES LIVES

18 people die by suicide every day in England and Wales.
But help is out there. There's always someone to listen.



shout 85258

SAMARITANS

- **3** 0300 123 3393
- Helpline mind.org.uk
- J Text SHOUT to 85258
- 24/7 text servicegiveusashout.org
- 116 123
- 24/7 helplinesamaritans.org

MINDS





- Text YM to 85258
 24/7 text service
 youngminds.org.uk
- 0800 58 58 58
 Helpline for men
 thecalmzone.net
- 0800 068 4141
 Under 35s Helpline
 papyrus-uk.org

Champion Health

Water safety tips



Choose a safe swimming place



Do not overestimate your abilities



Go swimming with someone



Help others as much as possible

Remember to never swim and



in bad weather

In bad use weather inflatable conditions



Remember that people drown quickly and quietly, not screaming for help

Community and Surrounding Area Events















UNIFORM REMINDER

A reminder of the uniform code is in your child's diary.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation and for helping us to support the strong values of Lakelands Academy.

Please label all uniform and belongings.

This really helps us when trying to reunite lost property with its owner.

CORRECT



Top button/ tie fastened

Shirt tucked in

Black knee length pleated skirt / smart tailored trousers



Single small stud in each ear is permissible but no other piercings are allowed

Tie tucked in

Black sensible (flat) shoes or plain black trainers

No boots or Converse trainers

INCORRECT

Tie not tucked in

Shirt untucked

Leggings / skinny trousers

Logo / Coloured trainers



Top button undone

Shirt untucked

Jogging bottoms

LAKELANDS PRE-LOVED CLOTHES SHOP

To make pre-loved school clothing available to our school community we have set up a school shop. All items available will be free of charge.

How it works!

- Families kindly donate any old, unused or unwanted school uniform they no longer require. If you would like to donate any school uniform please drop it in at reception.
 Please make sure all uniform has been cleaned and washed prior to donating and any name tags removed.
- Uniform can be ordered using the Microsoft Form below and can also be found on our school website. Please copy the link and paste into your browser.
 - You will receive an email confirmation when your order is ready to be collected.
- Orders can be collected from reception by the Parent or the pupil. We ask that orders are collected as soon as possible and will only be held for 5 days.
- If the item is not in stock you will be added to a waiting list and contacted as soon as it becomes available.

Link to form - https://forms.office.com/r/Z19NqNvuRg

First Half Autumn Term

Wednesday 3rd September— Friday 24th October 2025

2nd Half Autumn Term Tuesday 4th November—Friday 19th December 2025

1st Half Spring Term
Tuesday 6th January 2026—
Friday 13th February 2026

REPORTING AN ABSENCE

If we are expecting your child to be in school and they are unable to attend, please telephone, **not email**.

If your child is absent for more than one day, please note that we require you to phone **every morning**, not just on the first day of absence.

These are safeguarding requirements.

To report an absence please ring 01691 622543

Reminder

Pupils must arrive at school on time in the mornings and be on site ready for the 8.55am bell.



Thank you!

THE SCHOOL DAY

- School Opens 8.55am
- Morning Registration- 9.00 9.15am
- Period 1 9.15 10.15am
- Period 2 10.15 11.15am
- Morning Break 11.15 11.30am
- Period 3 11.30 12.30pm
- Lunch 12.30 1.10pm
- Afternoon Registration 1.10 1.30pm
- Period 4 1.30 2.30pm
- Period 5 2.30 3.30pm End of the Compulsory School Day

Total Hours provided in a typical week - 34 hours & 35 minutes

Attention All Parents!



Have you downloaded the new parent App?



•:.....

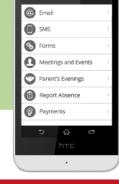
≪ ⊕ 常⊿195**日**2 🔑 ParentMail

Receive and respond to school messages from your smartphone instantly!

- Find messages in a clear, uncluttered feed (separate from your busy email inbox!)
- Receive ALL school & club messages on one App
- Have instant access no need to login
- Receive in-App notifications making sure you're alerted each time you're sent a message
- Read school messages even when there's no
- Preserve your data allowance









PARENTS/CARERS PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK SHOW MY HOMEWORK. YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE WHAT HOMEWORK HAS BEEN SET AND IN SOME CASES IF THE HOMEWORK HAS BEEN HANDED IN.



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