



Newsletter

Summer
2026

Celebrating Another Fantastic Year at Lakelands Academy

As we look back on another successful year at Lakelands Academy, we are incredibly proud of the achievements, experiences and opportunities that have shaped the lives of our students. Our social media channels have provided a wonderful window into the vibrant life of the school, showcasing the many ways our students have embodied our values of being safe, smart, responsible and kind.

Throughout the year, students have engaged enthusiastically in a wide range of academic, sporting, creative and community activities. Highlights have included participation in charity fundraising for organisations such as Children in Need, Young Minds, Brain Tumour Research, Royal British Legion and Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital, alongside community projects including work with the Memory Café and the Teams4U Shoebox Appeal.

The Performing Arts have continued to flourish, with our spectacular production of Oliver! providing an unforgettable showcase of student talent, teamwork and dedication. Students have also enjoyed creative opportunities through initiatives such as the Vibrant Arts Shropshire workshops, choir performances within the local community and numerous enrichment activities across the curriculum as well as our Summer Festival.

Reading and literacy have remained a key focus, with every Year 7 student receiving a book through the BookBuzz programme, the celebration of new 'Word Millionaires', paired reading schemes and popular events such as Harry Potter Day helping to foster a lifelong love of reading.

Sporting participation has been another major success, with students representing the academy in football, netball, rugby, athletics and many other activities. We have celebrated numerous individual and team achievements at local, county and national level, while our inter-house competitions have continued to build teamwork, resilience and school spirit. In recognition of our outstanding commitment to developing physical education, increasing student participation, and hosting competitive sports, I am delighted to announce that we have recently been awarded the national School Games Gold Award.

Educational visits and enrichment opportunities have further enhanced learning, with trips to venues such as Cadbury World, Shrewsbury Prison and Lilleshall National Sports Centre, alongside careers events, guest speakers and workshops that have helped students broaden their horizons and prepare for their futures.

This year has also seen significant achievements for the school itself. Lakelands Academy has been recognised with national attendance awards, including ranking among the top 25% of schools nationally for attendance and consistently having the highest attendance of all secondary schools in Shropshire. We have also recently been awarded the Bronze 'Inclusive Attendance' accreditation. These achievements reflect the commitment of our students, staff and families working together to ensure success.

Our last few weeks of the academic year has seen lots of activity and opportunity for our children. From Sports Day and football tournaments, to reward trips and Prom, from Summer Festival to transition day, and attendance rewards to ice creams plus so much more it has been a truly memorable end to 2025-26 which I really hope your children have enjoyed. Above all, we are proud of the kindness, enthusiasm and determination our students demonstrate every day. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, on stage, through community service or in support of one another, they continue to be outstanding ambassadors for Lakelands Academy. We thank parents and carers for their ongoing support and look forward to building on these successes in the year ahead.

As is almost always the case at the end of an academic year, we are saying goodbye to some staff members. I would like to publicly thank Alison Butler, Barbara Cole, Peyton Allum, Jacky Wyer and Stephen Llewelyn who are leaving us for new opportunities and challenges, all of whom have given incredible service to our school and your children.

My final thank you and good luck go to our outgoing Year 11s who had an amazing school Prom last week. They now await 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.



Mark Hignett
Headteacher



Website:

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



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>



SPORT NEWS



Some fantastic results at the North Shropshire Athletics last month we were up against 10 other schools, many much bigger than ours. Our amazing students achieved 4 x 1st, 2 x 2nd and 7 x 3rd positions across all the disciplines.



SPORTS DAY

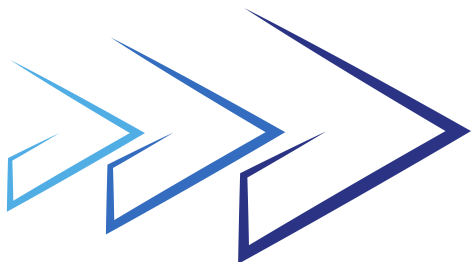


2026



Sporting Opportunities Across the Year

Lakelands students have embraced an exceptional year of sport – from netball, football, gymnastics and swimming, to leadership qualifications, coaching festivals, padel taster sessions and outstanding performances at Queensway and our own Sports Day. Their enthusiasm, resilience and teamwork have shone throughout every opportunity.



North Shropshire tournaments – Students represented Lakelands brilliantly in multiple netball, rounders and football competitions, demonstrating skill, teamwork and determination.

Gymnastics and swimming – Participation across both Key Stages has continued to grow, with students showing confidence and commitment in individual and team events.

Cricket coaching – A significant number of students in KS3 and KS4 benefited from six weeks of specialist coaching earlier this year, developing technique, game awareness and a love for the sport.

Lilleshall National Sports Centre – An opportunity for our Year 7 girls to experience taster sessions in boxing, netball, cricket, archery and squash, building confidence and self-belief through sport.

Leadership & Coaching Success

FA Go Coach qualification – A dedicated group of Year 10 students completed the course and put their new skills into action by leading a primary girls' football festival at TNS.

Golf leadership training – Year 9 students stepped confidently into leadership roles after completing their training, running a successful golf festival for local primary schools.

BTEC enrichment – Some of our Year 10 BTEC students enjoyed free padel and squash taster sessions at Lion Quays, and Shrewsbury Squash Club broadening their experience of emerging sports.

Competition Highlights

Queensway performances – Lakelands athletes achieved fantastic results at recent events, showcasing speed, strength and resilience.

Sports Day achievements – Our whole-school Sports Day was a brilliant celebration of participation, house spirit and personal bests. Students across all year groups contributed to an energetic and memorable day.

Looking Ahead

We are incredibly proud of every student who has taken part, competed, coached or led this year. Their commitment and enthusiasm have shaped a truly outstanding year for PE at Lakelands. We look forward to building on these successes next year and wish all of our fantastic students a well-earned, restful summer break.

SPORT NEWS

WELL DONE ALL





Year 7 football team who won the tournament beating a school from Reading in the final. We went 7 games unbeaten, beating schools from London, Telford and Stoke. They were a credit to the school, showed sportsmanship and respect throughout and we are incredibly proud of them for this.



Attendance

SUMMER 2026

ACHIEVEMENT



We are delighted to announce that our school has been awarded the Bronze Inclusive Attendance Award. This prestigious accolade recognises the remarkable efforts we have undertaken to promote a positive and inclusive school environment, where attendance is prioritised as a key enabler for our students to achieve their dreams and fulfil their potential. Through a whole-school approach, we have implemented strategies and initiatives that have significantly improved attendance rates and fostered a culture of engagement and commitment among our student body. By working collaboratively with families and the wider community, we have been able to address the unique challenges faced by our students and provide the necessary support to ensure their consistent presence in the classroom. This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff, students, and families. It underscores our unwavering commitment to creating an inclusive and nurturing learning environment where every child can thrive and reach their full academic and personal goals. We are immensely proud of this achievement and look forward to continuing our efforts to enhance attendance and support the holistic development of our students. Together, we can ensure that our school remains a place where learning, growth, and success are the cornerstones of the educational experience.



What a beautiful afternoon we had at 'It's More Than a Sundae' celebrating with our students who achieved 100% attendance. It was the largest group to date, and the cafe was filled with our Lakelands students. It was an absolute pleasure to share the celebrations with them.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our superb staff and to all of you, our parents, who share and support the importance of attending school and embedding the skills necessary for future success.

Thank you for your continued commitment to your child's education.



IMPROVED ATTENDANCE AWARDS



SUMMER 2026

TRIPS

SUMMER 2026

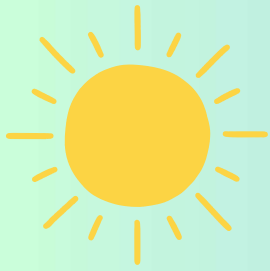
YEAR 10'S CREATIVE ARTS TRIIP TO
LONDON



HARRY POTTER



The Year 10s had a fantastic time in London as part of a Creative Arts and Technology trip. They visited the Imperial War Museum, watched Mama Mia 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 workshop before a tour around the studios.



SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL

July 2026



Lakelands Academy put on their Summer Music Festival on Wednesday 8th July. The students thoroughly enjoyed taking part. We had the school choir, solo singers, singing ensembles, dancers and instrumentalists performing. Thank you to everyone who performed, supported the performers or attended the event. We all enjoyed ourselves!

KENYA



In the penultimate week of term we had a whole school spotlight on Kenya to support Tallulah in Year 10. Over the summer holidays she is going as part of a local team to a mother and baby centre in Kenya to support orphaned and abandoned children. Thank you to the bakers of Ellesmere who donated home made cakes to sell in school to raise money for this worthy cause. We raised £145. We wish Tallulah a safe journey.



Prom Night





We had a magical evening for our Year 11 Leavers Prom. What a special way to say goodbye. Good luck everyone, have the most well-deserved Summer break!

Reading Matters- Summer 2026

Lakelands Supports the
National Year of Reading 2026

See what we are doing to GO ALL IN...



Free Books for Summer



Please follow link above for more
news on the library

Free Books for Summer



This week, we were delighted to give every Year 7 student a **FREE book** to take home and enjoy over the summer holidays. Thanks to the very kind donation from the **Rotary Club, Ellesmere**, students were able to choose from a fantastic selection of books and find a new story to take with them into the summer break.

It was wonderful to see students excitedly browsing the selection and choosing their next read. We hope these books provide plenty of enjoyment over the holidays and inspire lots of happy reading.

The Big Book Swap



The library was buzzing with excitement as students took part in this year's Big Book Swap. The event gave students the chance to bring in books they had already read from home and exchange them for something new, helping to refresh their bookshelves just in time for the summer holidays.

It was wonderful to see so many students enthusiastically browsing the selection, sharing recommendations and discovering their next great read. As well as encouraging reading for pleasure, the Big Book Swap gave pre-loved books a new home and ensured that even more students have plenty to enjoy over the summer break.



Thank You Student Librarians



Thank You Student Librarians

It was a sad moment saying goodbye to our wonderful Y11 student librarians this term.

Curtis W-M, Amelia B, Evie M-M, Martha R, Fern F, Gracie R, Tilly M, Antonia M and Tilly N, have given up countless breaktimes and lunchtimes to help Mrs Gordon and keep the library running smoothly. Their hard work, reliability and enthusiasm have made a real difference, and they will be greatly missed.

Thank you Y11 Student Librarians for everything you've done—we wish you all the very best for the future!

We'll be recruiting a new team of student librarians in September, and we can't wait to welcome the next generation of library helpers.

Reading Picnic

On the Tuesday of Readathon week, we enjoyed a lovely reading picnic, in our new outdoor reading area. The sun was shining, we had some delicious picnic food to share, and it was wonderful to be able to work towards our Readathon goals together in the open air. We feel so lucky to have this lovely outdoor space where we can enjoy reading together.



Social Media



Instagram



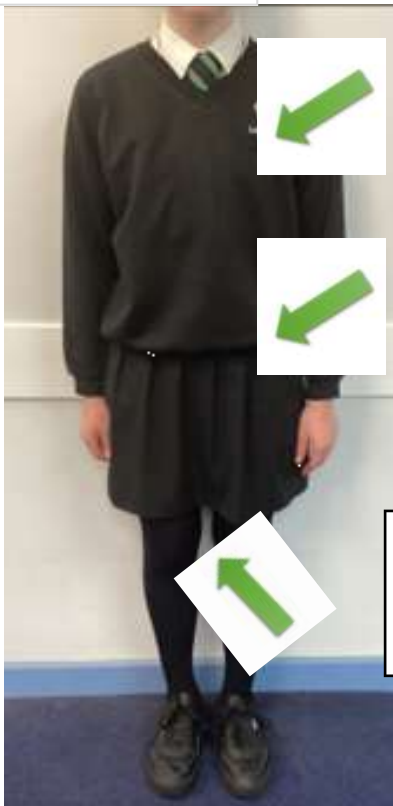
UNIFORM REMINDER

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

INCORRECT

Tie not
tucked in

Shirt
untucked

Leggings /
skinny
trousers



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.

Reminder

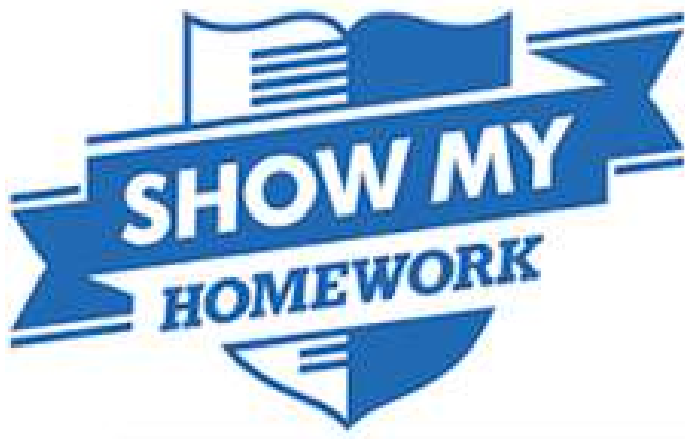
Pupils must arrive at school on time in the mornings and be on site ready for the 8.55am bell.



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



**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.**

9.00 – 9.15	AM Registration	
9.15 – 10.15	Period 1	
10.15 – 11.15	Period 2	
11.15 – 11.35	Break	
11.35 – 12.35	Period 3	
12.35 – 13.05	Lunch sitting 1	Period 4
13.05 – 13.35		
13.35 – 14.05	Period 4	Lunch sitting 2
14.05 – 15.05	Period 5	
15.05 – 15.30	PM Registration	

**This will be starting from
Wednesday 2nd September
2026**

Attention All Parents!



Have you downloaded the new **FREE** parent App?

Receive and respond to school messages from
your smartphone instantly!

You can:

- ✓ 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 internet connection
- ✓ Preserve your data allowance



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