



LAKELANDS NEWS

March 2026

A message from The Headteacher

I would like to start this term's newsletter by saying a very warm welcome to all our new Year 6 children and families who we are delighted will be joining the Lakelands family in September. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all well for the upcoming SATs and I hope that by sharing this newsletter with you, you will be able to further develop a feel for our wonderful school. Further down this newsletter is a link to a short parent/carer consultation survey through which I would welcome your feedback as incoming families, along with that from our current Year 7 to Year 10 cohorts.

In preparation for writing this term's newsletter I have reflected back on the newsletter from the same time last year. It is hard to believe that it is now twelve months since we opened the consultation with you regarding the proposed transfer from being a single academy trust school to a school within a multi academy trust. Lots of work has been undertaken behind the scenes and continues at the time of writing this. The latest update is that the Department for Education, in consultation with Lakelands Education Trust, The 3-18 Education Trust and both sets of solicitors have set a slightly revised transfer target date of 1st May 2026. In the meantime, we continue to work closely with The 3-18 Education Trust and the schools within it which will help to ensure a smooth transition. As part of this, our IT systems and services are migrating over the Easter Holidays and from 30th March, all school email addresses will change. The new addresses will be available at [Staff-Contact-Details-September-2025.pdf](#).

I am delighted to let you know that the work to install our new outdoor canopy was completed last week and that our children are already enjoying the benefits of it. After months of rain when the shelter would have been really useful, it is being used by some this week to shelter from the sun! The astro-turf surface, to complete the project, is being installed over the Easter Holidays.

In my letter to you in February, I introduced the possibility of a slightly amended school day from September and promised to write to you with more details once we had consulted with staff and transport companies. The staff consultation has now been undertaken and I have received a positive response from Lakeside Transport meaning we know it is possible for the home to school transport to operate at the slightly earlier times if we do decide to proceed. I await a response from Arriva but wanted to begin a parent/carer consultation as soon as possible so that I can in-turn facilitate sufficient notice if a change is to be made. I must emphasise that no decision has been made at this stage and that your responses will provide a critical steer to any decision made. As such, I would be grateful if you could consider the following two options and then complete [Parent/Carer Consultation - Times of the School Day from September 2026 – Fill in form](#). I will review the results of this, along with all the other information on our return from the Easter break and will then write to you again with the outcome.



Current School Day: 9.00 – 3.30 (32.5 hr per weeks)		Option 1: 8.40 – 3.10 (32.5 hrs per week)			Option 2: 9.00 – 3.30 (32.5 hrs per week)		
9.00 - 9.15	AM Registra- tion	8.40 – 8.55	AM Registration		9.00 – 9.15	AM Registration	
9.15 - 10.15	Period 1	8.55 – 9.55	Period 1		9.15 – 10.15	Period 1	
10.15 - 11.15	Period 2	9.55 – 10.55	Period 2		10.15 – 11.15	Period 2	
11.15 - 11.30	Break	10.55 – 11.15	Break		11.15 – 11.35	Break	
11.30 – 12.30	Period 3	11.15 – 12.15	Period 3		11.35 – 12.35	Period 3	
12.30 – 13.10	Lunch	12.15 – 12.45	Lunch sit- ting 1	Period 4	12.35 - 13.05	Lunch sitting 1	Period 4
13.10 – 13.30	PM Registra- tion	12.45 – 13.15	Period 4		13.05 – 13.35		
13.30 – 14.30	Period 4	13.15 – 13.45			Lunch sitting 2	13.35 – 14.05	Period 4
14.30 – 15.30	Period 5	13.45 – 14.45	Period 5		14.05 – 15.05	Period 5	
		14.45 – 15.10	PM Registration		15.05 – 15.30	PM Registration	
Break length: 15 minutes		Break length: 20 minutes			Break length: 20 minutes		
Lunch length: 40 minutes		Lunch length: 30 minutes			Lunch length: 30 minutes		
Toal social time: 55 minutes		Toal social time: 50 minutes			Toal social time: 50 minutes		

Once again, there has been so much going on in and out of school this term with some great opportunities, experiences, trips and events for our children. Many of these have been shared on our social media as well as on our website which also has a calendar of upcoming events. A really positive addition to our communication this academic year has been the launch of the 'Lakelands Look Ahead' which we share with you every Friday afternoon. In case you haven't seen it, it details all of the extra-curricular clubs, enrichment, trips and opportunities on offer for the following week along with those planned for the remainder of the term.



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>

I wish you all a safe, enjoyable and productive Easter break. For our Year 10s and 11s this will no doubt include lots of revision and preparation for the Year 10 mock exams and Year 11 final GCSE exams respectively. On behalf of all our staff I would like to wish them all the very best of luck.





Brightstar



Brightstar's first week packed a punch!

An accredited programme designed for young people to teach fundamental boxing techniques, discipline, and emotional regulation. It acts as a key element to their education, combining practical boxing sessions with mentoring to boost confidence and build positive pathways.





Forest School



A big thank you to Mrs Dubicki for setting up our new forest school at Lake-lands. We have made a good start at cleaning the area. We look forward to developing our site further.



A fantastic effort from our Year 11 King's Trust students, who recently organised and delivered a football tournament for Years 7 and 8 ⚽

The event was a great success, showcasing teamwork, leadership and excellent organisation throughout. Thanks to their hard work, the tournament raised an impressive £90.02 for the school PE department.

A special well done to Andreas Campbell, Harvey Jones, Kai Hoare and Callum Hinton for their commitment in planning and running the event.

The funds have now been presented to Mrs Campbell, Head of PE, and will go towards supporting future activities and opportunities for our students.

Food Experiment



Year 9 pupils tested different foods for nutrients.

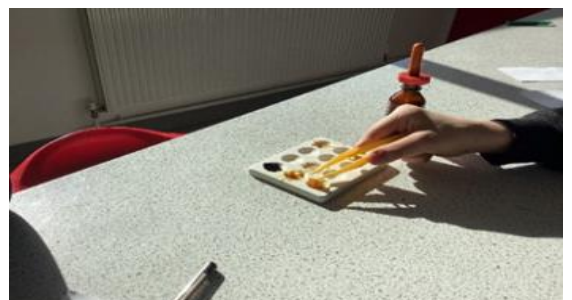
Benedict's test

Iodine test

Biuret test

Paper test

allowing qualitative analysis about nutritional content of foods



PE - NEWS - PE - NEWS - PE - NEWS



There have been lots of sporting opportunities for our students across the last few weeks including various fixtures and including the following North Shropshire events; the swimming gala at Moreton Hall, the U13 and U15s girls football tournament hosted by us at Lakelands, the year 7 netball tournament hosted by the Marches and the year 9 tournament hosted at Oswestry School. In addition to this, we ran the Go Coach course, funded by the Youth Sport Trust, to some of our fantastic Year 10 students who then put their skills into practice in running a primary girls' football festival for 160 girls at TNS this week.

As we approach the final term, we look ahead to more competitions in gymnastics, rounders, cricket and athletics and thank all of our lovely students for participating in so many clubs and activities, both as performers and officials.



PE - NEWS - PE - NEWS - PE - NEWS



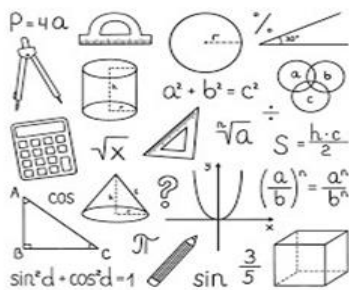


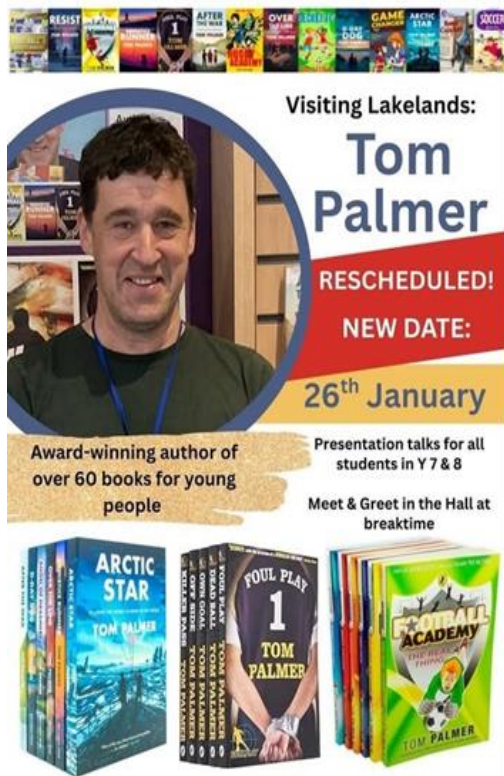
Congratulations



A huge well done to the Year 9's who took part in the intermediate Maths Challenge this term .

Congratulations to Alfie who has been invited to take part in the next round of competitions.

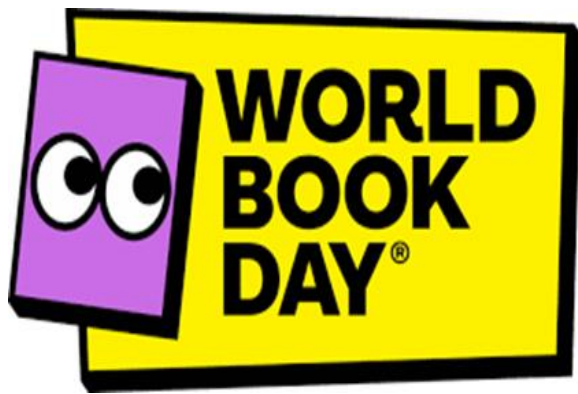




It was wonderful to welcome author Tom Palmer to Lakelands. Tom is a popular author of over 60 books for children, and it was amazing to hear him talking about the inspiration behind his stories, the research he's undertaken.

During the morning, he talked to all students in Y7 & 8, and they asked him some fantastic questions about his writing. Students were then able to meet him and get their books signed at breaktime. What a wonderful way to kick off the National Year of Reading!






WORLD BOOK DAY
5 MARCH 2026

Overall Winner!

Demi-Leigh D as Jesus!



WORLD BOOK DAY
5 MARCH 2026

Year 7 Winner

Kodie S as A Roman Centurion



WORLD BOOK DAY
5 MARCH 2026

Year 8 Winners

Elinor W, Ruby M & Kerryn R-M as The Hunger Games



WORLD BOOK DAY
5 MARCH 2026

Year 9 Winner

Alfie E as The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Highly Commended





Lily U & Katie V Sam S & Jess S Alisha L

WORLD BOOK DAY
5 MARCH 2026

Highly Commended





Ben F Maddy N Euan B

WORLD BOOK DAY
5 MARCH 2026

A Few Extra Pics...



WORLD BOOK DAY
5 MARCH 2026

World Book Day -House Competition

To celebrate World Book Day, as well as all the amazing things run by the English Department and Library form tutors were given a potato to turn into a book character. There were some fantastic and creative ideas ranging from Batman, Mr Darcy, Jacob Marley to Donald Trump. Tutor groups submitted their entries on World Book Day and the winning House was 10B.

Library News

Congratulations to Freddie H, winner of our Y7 'Design a Bookmark' competition! The competition challenged students to design a bookmark that would inspire others to read, and our winning designs certainly do that. Well done Freddie H, our overall winner, and Philippa B-P and Bella S our fantastic runners-up



Our in-school murder mystery event has come to a close, and we're delighted to announce that the case has been cracked! The library was full of amateur detectives last week, and after many hours analysing the evidence and scouring the case file, a total 15 teams managed to catch the killer. Congratulations to all the teams who cracked the case, and especially to Ben R, Faith B, Jess S & Catrin U, who successfully managed to piece all the clues together. A fantastic piece of detective work!





What an amazing response we had to our Globe Theatre competition! Our Year 7 students were challenged to create a model of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, and the results were amazing. We had theatres made of card, clay, wood, paper, lolly-pop sticks, Lego...we even had a crocheted Globe!

Congratulations to all the students who entered, and especially to our winners:

First Prize: Scarlett C

Second Prize: Noah B

Joint Third: Dyllon B, Florence M & Florence T

Highly Commended:

Natasha V-K

Bella S

Demi-Leigh D

Grace P

Ferne L

James F

Ollie M

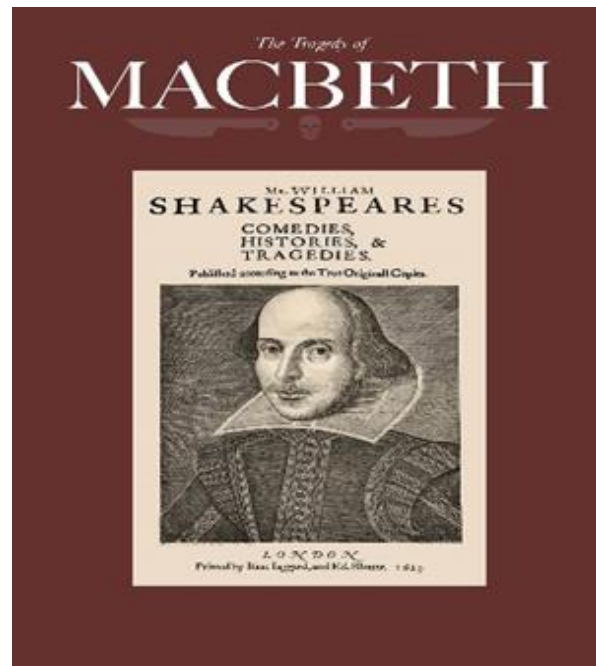
Oliver F

Lilly M

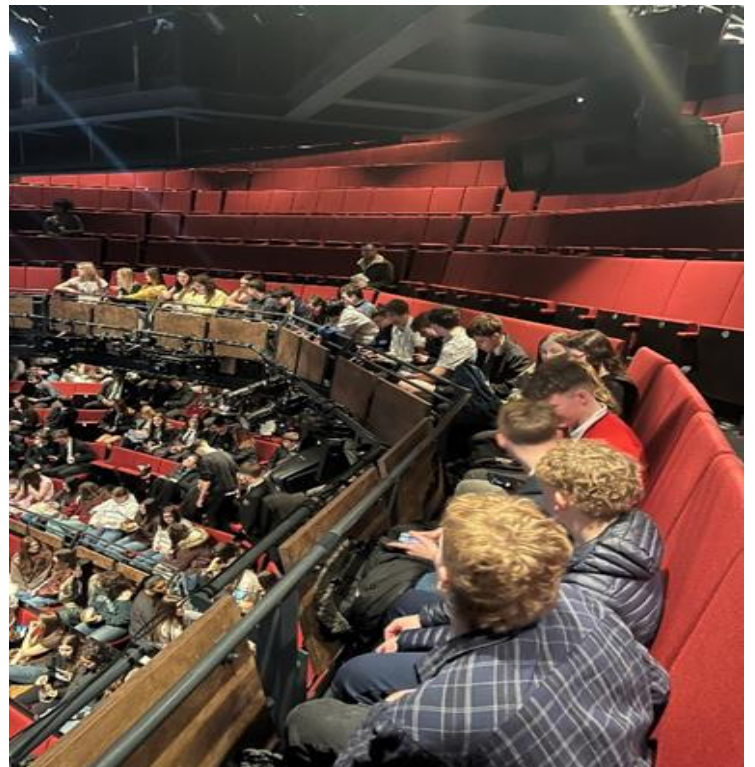
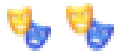
Isla C

Charlie D

Lakelands Academy staff are overwhelmed with pride to all the students who took time to do this, a huge well done 🍌 🍌 💙



Current year 11's had a fantastic time watching a performance of Macbeth at Chester Storyhouse. They watched a performance of the play in the morning and took part in a workshop with actors and Storyhouse theatre staff in the afternoon. They were a credit to the Lakelands Academy



Year 8 York Trip



Year 8 visited York in February. A trip aimed at helping students develop their contextual understanding of English history and to explore British values too. We visited the Jorvik Centre and literally travelled through time; the highlight being the fossiled pooh! We also had a ghost tour of York in the dark - pretty scary if you're of a weaker disposition! The absolute highlight was the visit to the York Chocolate Story where we got to make our own chocolate lollipops.





We held our termly SEND café on the 25th March, 2026.

It was lovely to see so many parents attend our session. Thank you to Mrs Nichola Ethelston for a wonderful insight into how Art can benefit health. Mrs Ethelston gave us some wonderful ideas and we are looking forward to using these ideas with our students.



RED NOSE DAY

So far we have raised £400



Comic Relief -Bike Challenge

To help raise funds for Comic Relief we held a non uniform day and held a bike House challenge. Greg James (BBC radio) completed a Comic Relief Challenge on his tandem bike and we tried to mirror that at Lakelands. An exercise bike was positioned in reception and students from all Houses competed to see who could ride the furthest in a 15 minute slot. Well done to Evelyn Charles in year 7 who rode a whopping 4.8km in 15 min. Newtonmere won overall for the furthest distance cycled.





Lakelands Academy staff would like to thank all parents and pupils who have kindly donated. We have raised an amazing £294.82 for the

Charity Week

At the time of writing the newsletter we have had a thrilling week of charity events. As a school community we are contributing to help raise the £10, 000 needed to fund a bespoke wheelchair for Morgan Clewes. There has been plenty happening around school from penalty shoot out, sponge the teacher to bake sales and karaoke. Miss Manfield has also organised some amazing football trailers and spin bikes. Thank you to her and all students who have taken part in this charity week. Once we have the total raised we will share this with the community.





it's *Hot*
chocolate
time



100%

A wonderful celebration for our students who have achieved 100% attendance in the spring term.





Year 11



Earlier this week Year 11 were treated by our staff to lovely ice creams supplied by More Than a Sundae. This was to recognise all of their hard work over the past few months. They have completed two sets of mock exams, huge amounts of coursework and continue to work hard towards their upcoming exams. Final push now everyone!





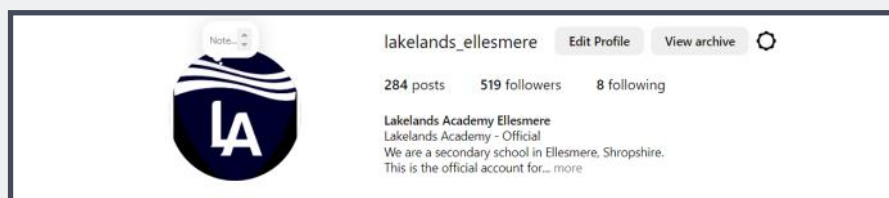
Social Media



Instagram



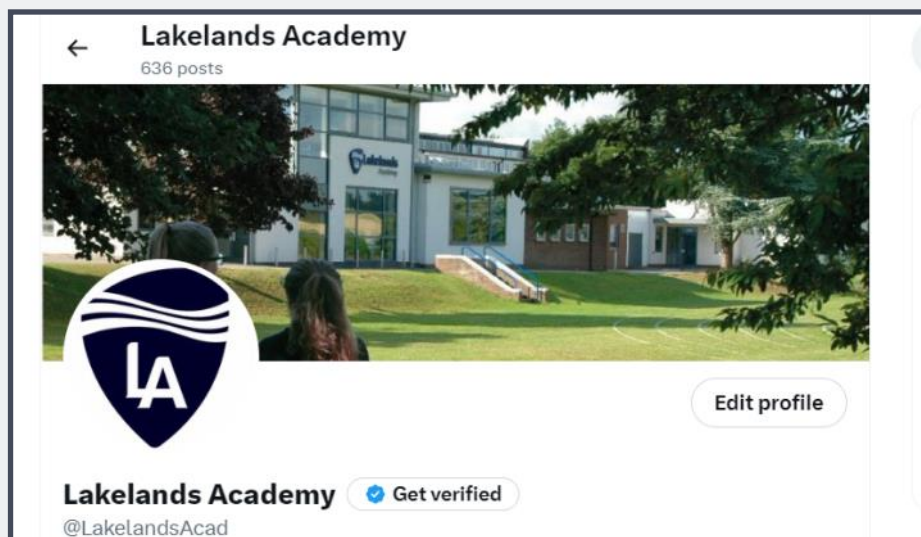
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UNIFORM REMINDER

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

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>

Reminder

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



EASTER HOLIDAYS

Monday 30th March—10th April, 2026

SUMMER FIRST HALF TERM

13th April—22nd May 2026

Bank Holiday Monday 4th May

SUMMER SECOND HALF TERM

1st June—17th July 2026

School Closed for the Summer Holiday from
20th July 2026

Thank you!

Wow..! Look how lucky our school is ..!!

Thank you **Tesco** in Ellesmere for this amazing donation of uniform. This will really help us stock up our spare uniform cupboard.

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



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



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.



Attention All Parents!

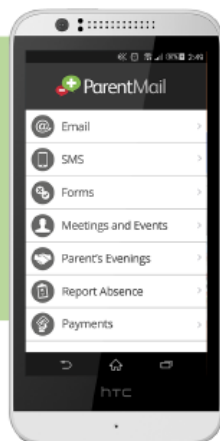


Have you downloaded the new ^{FREE} parent App?

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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