

# NEWSLETTER

*The official newsletter of Landau Forte QEMS & Sixth Form*



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## Message from the Principal

Mrs K Adams

What another busy and productive term we have had at QEMS and Tamworth Sixth Form! The students, once again, have gone above and beyond in their commitment to our academy. Our students demonstrate daily our values of **compassion** (in their fundraising efforts), **curiosity** (in their approach to learning) and **courage** (in trying new activities). You will see a small selection of these in this spring term newsletter.

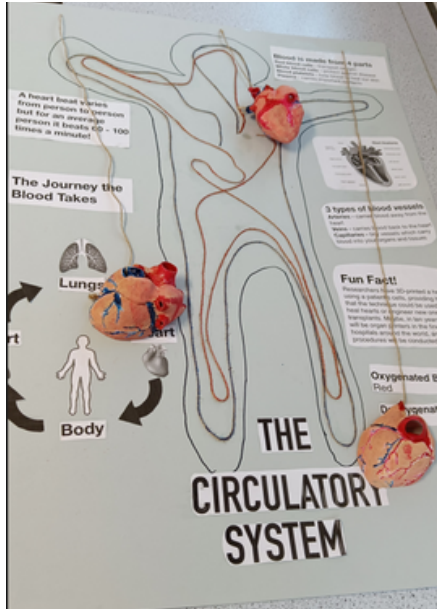
Next term is an important one which will see our Year 11s and 13s take their formal examinations. Their attitude has been exemplary and they have been supported by our dedicated and passionate teaching and support staff. We are very proud of them all, and wish them all the very best in their examinations.

We would like to thank all our parents and carers for their continued support for our academy.

Wishing all our students' and their families a wonderful Easter break.

## Year 7 Science Homework

The Year 7 science homework project was on the body systems (skeletal and circulatory included here). Here are two submissions from 7G (Ms Reardon's Form, Guy House). Well done to all those who created the project!



## Year 9 Geography



# Y9 Challenge



### Y9 out-of-class challenge:

Let's see you get creative and away from screens for this optional creative activity.

### Could you bake a cake or other sweet treat that resembles the layers of the Earth?

If you like the sound of this challenge, submit a photograph of your best effort to the class Teams channel or email them to me within the next couple of weeks – all attempts will receive a praise postcard home and the top 2 winning bakes will receive a prize!

## Year 9 Geography

Year 9s have made bakes for the structure of the Earth for their hazards topic.

Frazer in 9T baked the cookies and Amelia in 9Q made the jelly.

### Culture Lessons

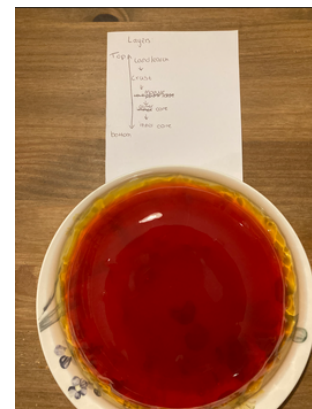
Over the past few weeks some of our students have enjoyed a Culture Lesson. The first of these was a Chinese New Year's Celebration Lesson. We have many students from Hong Kong in the school. These students were given the opportunity to meet. We played games and chatted about New Year Traditions.



The next Culture Lesson was for our Russian speaking students. Both Russian and Ukrainian students got to know each other. It was an opportunity to overcome the tensions happening in the wider world. Instead our school values of Curiosity and Compassion were very much in evidence. Some firm friendships were made.

The Third Culture Lesson was for our Polish students. We had a large crowd of students and even Mrs Adams popped in to see everyone enjoying the event. We discussed the best and least favourite Polish food and the excitement of Polish Weddings.

The final Culture Lesson was for our Romanian students. They really enjoyed playing games and meeting the other students.



These Culture Lessons have been a brilliant opportunity for students from the same or similar backgrounds to get to know each other. These events are designed to build the students' confidence. It is also an opportunity for the older students to introduce themselves to the younger ones and peer mentor them. Our Year 9 students have been choosing their options and these Culture Lessons gave them an opportunity to ask the Year 10 and Year 11 students about their Option choices and experiences of those lessons.

The feedback from the students was overwhelmingly positive and the only thing that could improve the event is the provision of snacks!

## Sparx

So far this year students have completed over 8,000 hours of personalised learning on Sparx Maths with 678,761 questions answered correctly. Out of all of the schools who use Sparx we are in the top 10% in the country. The resilience of students is paying off, enabling them to make faster progress within lessons. A big thank you to parents/carers for supporting the launch of this platform. Homework club will continue on a Monday, Thursday and Friday 3pm-4pm in B01.

Top 3 for XP in each year group:

- Year 7: Hattie-Mae G, Amira S and Mason B
- Year 8: Alex P, Ethan P, Hollie B
- Year 9: Emily B, Maria S, Isobel W
- Year 10: Divine E, Jack R, Angus S
- Year 11: Liam L, Callum B, Celease E



## Maths Challenge

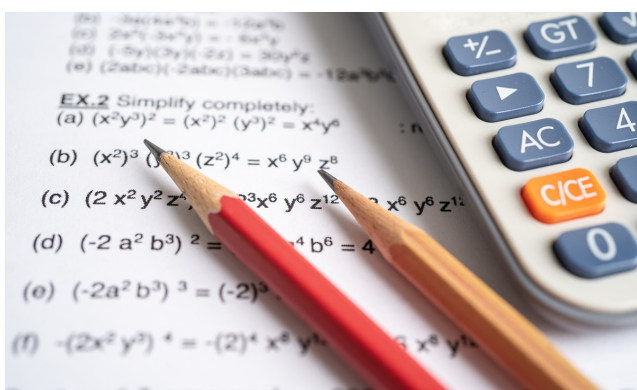
In February 60 students were selected to enter the UKMT Maths Challenge from year 9 and 10. Students embraced this challenge and did themselves proud. Mia T was the standout performer on the day, receiving a gold certificate. Well done to everyone that took part.

The following received certificates:

Gold - Mia T

Silver - Emily F

Bronze - Dominik B, Oliver B, Aaron B, Callie B, Freya B, Ethan G, Maya L, Patrick M, Daniel B, Emily B, Elis M, Rosie U, Isobel W.



## Sport

### Broad Results / Match Reports

#### Football

Year 7 Boys:

0-0 versus Amington (Draw)

1-0 versus TEC (Win)

2-2 versus Wilnecote (Draw)

Year 8 Boys:

4-0 versus TEC (Win)

2-1 versus Amington (Loss)

3-1 versus John Taylor High (Win)

Year 9 and 10 Boys:

3-1 versus TEC (Loss)



## Year 11 Celebration Assembly

We celebrated Year 11 as they received their final mock exam results. The students have worked extremely hard this year and many of them have been able to celebrate their successes with their peers and staff. This sets them up well for their final exams.



## World Book Day

For World book Day we have reinstated the QEMS Reading Chair. A comfortable space for staff and students to read for 15 minutes to model a love of reading.



We were really excited to receive a set of Stacey Hall's gothic mystery 'Mrs England' in time for World Book Day. The author herself kindly donated the books to both students and staff, we cannot wait to read them!

## Book Appeal

Each year, students at LFATQ participate in the Staffordshire Young Teen Fiction awards and the Carnegie Book awards. With limited funding this year, we are appealing to parents, staff and businesses to contribute towards the cost of the books on the shortlist so that our students can continue their involvement in the awards.

Last year's Carnegie books were so popular that the English department added three of them to the Key Stage 3 curriculum on the recommendation of students. October, October by Katya Balen, When the World Was Ours by Liz Kessler and When the Sky Falls by Phil Earle have all now been enjoyed during our Reading for Pleasure lessons. Without the initial library purchases of the shortlisted books, KS3 would have missed out on these beautiful and thought provoking novels.

If you would like to support the promotion of new literature and our reading for pleasure initiative, you can do so by purchasing one of the listed books, or by contributing towards the cost of one, through Parent Pay.

## Ring For The King

Landau Forte QEMS Bell Ringing Club are pleased to announce that a group of Year 7 & Year 8 students are training hard up until May when they will ring the bells of St. Edith's Church for King Charles III coronation day.

We wish them all the best for this event where they will ring alongside members of the Tamworth Bell Ringing Association and in unison with other churches all across the country.



## Personal Development Days

Students have taken part in a number of Personal Development days over the year so far. Students cover a variety of different topics during these days. Some key themes we have covered so far include careers, healthy lifestyles, exam stress, gender stereotypes, FGM and how to stay safe online. Students have been really engaged during these days and have been having some very interesting debates in lessons.



## Duke of Edinburgh

All students involved in the award have been working hard on the skill, physical and volunteering sections of their award.

Alongside completing these activities our bronze Year 9 students have been learning the key skills they will need for their expedition in the summer term. This has included navigation skills, tent pitching, cooking and first aid. All students have shown a great level of maturity during these sessions and are working hard on their routes.



## Sixth Form Class of 2023

The end of January marked the deadline for applying to university for our year 13 students. In all, 90 students applied to university and they will be heading off to pastures new come September.

Students have applied for a wide range of subjects, from architecture to veterinary science and many subjects in between!

For example, Evie is hoping to study biomedical science. This could lead to a variety of future career options: teaching, law or research to name a few.

Oliver has applied to study film and media production. He has a particular interest in working in the film industry and hopes this degree will be the perfect stepping stone for his future career.

Adam applied back in October for medicine. The application process began earlier as it involves specialist exams and interviews.

We have students applying to universities all over the country: from Newcastle University in the north to The University of Exeter in the south. Students have also applied to universities in Wales and Scotland as well as some of our excellent, local universities.

We wish all year 13 students the best of luck for the future.

## Aladdin Production

Our annual production Aladdin was a huge success with sell out audiences. Over 95 students performed in this event across a show week consisting of 4 matinees and 4 evening productions. The students demonstrated dedication in rehearsals and were so professional throughout the run of the show. We are extremely proud of what the performing arts students at this academy achieve and we look forward to producing next years' production.



## Disneyland Paris

We are pleased to announce that Landau Forte Concert Band and Landau Forte Dance company successfully auditioned to perform on the Disney stages in Paris in July 2023. The judges spoke of the high quality work we produced and the quality of the performances. The students will also receive a workshop by practitioners who are working in the field of performing arts. This is an excellent experience for the students, especially those looking to pursue performing arts/ music as a career in the future.

## Careers

We have been continuously working towards embedding Careers and Raising Aspirations into both QEMS and Sixth Form programmes. As part of the Personal Development Days we have launched the full use of our Unifrog Careers System, this involved a presentation on how it worked and what the benefits to students will be, followed by a one hour session completing some of the psychometric testing modules and familiarisation exercises. This system will be a key part of the students' careers journey through QEMS and Tamworth Sixth Form, with a Tutor time programme being designed and ready for delivery in September 2023.

We have launched Work Experience for students in Year 10 and Year 12, again using the fully automated Unifrog Placement tool, which removes the need for paper forms and needless admin.

There have been a number of employability encounters with students receiving visits to the Academy from a solicitor, and a former student who took part in "Camp America" Science students visiting the University of Birmingham, with The "Smallpiece Trust" visiting on behalf of HS2 to deliver STEM events.

All Year 11 Students have completed 1:1 Information, Advice and Guidance Interviews where future education and career pathways were discussed as part of their "next steps" planning. These interviews have also been offered to students in years 10, 12 and 13.

We are also working on the new T Levels which will launch in September: the course involves students completing an industry placement that makes up 20% of their course and comprises of Employer Assessment and completion of an Employer Set Project.

Future events include:

- Business Breakfast for Local Employers wishing to engage with, and support both QEMS and Tamworth Sixth Form (for anyone interested in more details on this event please contact Mr Bates on [careers@lfatsf.org.uk](mailto:careers@lfatsf.org.uk))
- Mock Interviews for students in year 10 and Year 12.
- Whole School Careers Fair on Tuesday 23 May.
- More visits to Universities.
- The opportunity for all students in year 12 to attend the UCAS Careers Fair at the NEC on Monday 26 June.

