

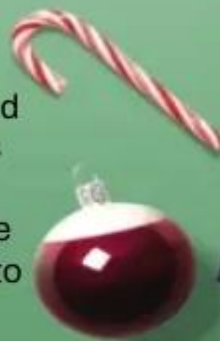
December 2021 Newsletter

LARCHES HIGH SCHOOL

Headteachers Message



Welcome to another edition of the Larches newsletter. As you can see, school has been very busy this term and now that some of the Covid restrictions have been lifted we have been able to resume pupils visits and work within the community - hopefully this will be able to continue in the New Year.



Curriculum work continues and pupils have completed some outstanding work in all subject areas, as you can see. Larches also has been actively involved in supporting partner agencies to make Preston a safer place for our young people, which is really positive, and I would welcome any ideas you may have around this so I can share them with our representatives from the City Council.

I am sure you will join me in thanking all of the staff for their continued hard work and dedication. The Larches family wish you and yours a happy and safe Christmas and all the very best for 2022.

Christine Mitchell

Preston Vocational Centre has won the BIBA's Education Establishment of the Year award! They are extremely proud to have won this prestigious award which recognises outstanding work across a wide range of activities and through the interwoven nature of the work they do.



The team pride themselves on working together to ensure every learner feels supported to achieve their full potential at PVC.

BIBAs
Winner

Martin Grayston, Centre Manager at PVC said 'on behalf of myself and the whole team at PVC, we would like to say a big thank you for your support, we could not have done this without you!'



The intervention team would like to welcome Amanda, Sophie and Moya to Larches High School to work alongside Emma and Lisa. The intervention team provides additional support in the areas of emotional, social and mental health needs, learning needs, behavioural needs, speech and language and Emotional Literacy Support (ELSA) interventions.

Together the intervention team ensure that our pupils have their needs identified early and the correct support put in place.



Following suggestions from school council, pupils and staff participated in this years Children in Need 'Dress Down Day' and raised a grand total of £55!



Spencer, our lead school council representative, has been working with the Lancashire Children's Champions on a pilot project, 'The Journey through Alternative Provision', which aims to hear the voices of our young people in Lancashire and track their journey through school and assess key points. Spencer then explained the process to school council and encouraged others to participate.



Knife Angel - Blackburn Cathedral

On Wednesday 10th November, 6 of our pupils visited Blackburn Cathedral to see the Knife Angel and take part in a creative media knife crime campaign, which was a joint venture by Lancashire Police, the Crime Commissioner and Rock FM.



We listened to some harrowing statistics and stories about the effects of carrying a knife. Our pupils then created their own radio advert as part of the anti-knife crime campaign, which will be broadcast on Rock FM at a later date.

All the students involved, Jake, Daniel, Madison, Spencer, Harley and Jayden made fantastic contributions and were subsequently praised by the organisers - everyone at school is all looking forward to hearing the radio edit!

The sculpture is currently in Lancashire until the end of November as part of a national tour.



A big thank you to Barton Grange Garden Centre who kindly sent us a £20 donation to help us start a herb garden, for use in our dishes in food technology.

We chose a selection of herbs such as mint, chives, rosemary, thyme, parsley and sage. With some careful planting and nurturing they are growing nicely and we have started to use them already!



Afternoon Tea in the Community!

The KS4 food technology pupils had the opportunity to prepare, plan, cook, bake and serve afternoon tea for 18 members of Ashton Community Church. This took weeks of planning and preparation beforehand but the hard work was totally worthwhile!



On the day everyone worked well as part of a team and the community members were very appreciative of all their efforts. Thanks was shown by a huge round of applause and a lovely box of Roses chocolates to be shared. £55 was also raised and can be donated to a charity of our choice.

The day was a great success and brought a smile to everyone's faces! Well done to all the pupils involved.



Spotlight on Careers!

Willmott Dixon

We are proud to announce that over the next few years we will be working with local construction company Willmott Brown on a rolling programme to support young males in construction.

The programme starts with sessions in school or PVC and will be centered around 'Being Male in Preston'.

The group of pupils will then attend a series of weekly sessions at a construction site where they will work with industry and trade experts to gain hands-on work experience.

Following on from these visits they will identify a project in school then plan, develop and build it, with support from Willmott Dixon.

As pupils start to make post-16 plans they will be mentored and supported with college and apprenticeship applications.



MONEY TALKS

On Friday 15th October we were delighted to welcome an ambassador from the Bank of England who spoke to the Year 11's via Microsoft Teams.

The Bank Ambassadors work in a wide range of roles and they spoke to our pupils about the economy, what the Bank of England does and shared their own career stories, helping our students learn about careers and supporting the careers programme by linking the curriculum with employers to achieve some of our Gatsby Benchmarks.

Research has shown that 97% of teachers say guest speakers help broaden students' job aspirations and 87% of teachers say guest speakers tackle stereotypes about jobs and careers.



We believe understanding how the economy works is important as it can help establish good finance skills, spark an interest in the study of economics and inform good career choices. One student was particularly interested in Cyber Security and posed lots of questions with regards to this career pathway.

Art.

KS3 have been really productive this term and have displayed some fantastic and varied skills including sculpture and painting.

3D Food Sculptures

Based on the work of the famous artist Claes Oldenburg, students have designed and made oversized models in card which they then covered in Modroc and painted. During this project the students had to consider proportion, lettering and the handling of modelling materials, as well as applying paint to their final designs.



We think you'll agree that the sculptures look great and we know the students are rightly proud of their achievements.

All eyes on you!



Our second project has focused on animal eyes and how fascinating and varied they are compared to the human eye. Producing these canvases has required both skill and control whilst painting and requires an understanding of the colour wheel whilst colour mixing.

Some pieces of work are still ongoing but the completed work so far look eye catching and hopefully will be on display in rooms at home soon.

Art.

Christmas Crafts

Fancy trying your hand at creating paper trees for the festive season?

Follow these step by step instructions to transform old magazines or books into Christmas Trees that make great homemade gifts:

1. Remove the outer cover of your book/magazine. Fold the corner of the book into the inside edge.



2. Fold the edge in again.



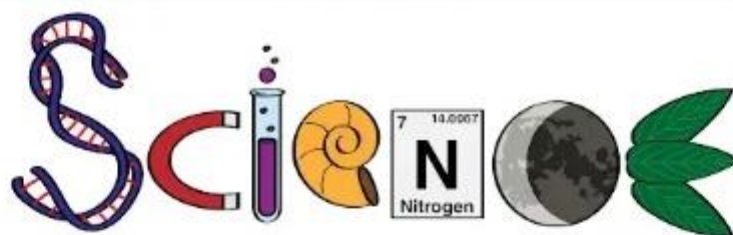
3. Bend up the small bottom edge and then tuck inside neatly.



4. Continue until all pages are folded over and as an extra decoration you could add a paper star to the top.



Good luck and happy crafting!



Science - Autumn Term 2021

It has been a busy term in the science labs for students and staff alike. We have made good use of our new equipment that was secured during the last summer term; microscopes for use with all students to observe detailed cell structure, electronic water baths as well as the linear air track (see pic) in order to investigate the laws of one certain Mr Newton!



We are looking forward to securing a new ripple tank for investigating wave formation as well as hopefully developing some outdoor areas from a conservation perspective... providing the weather improves!

KS3 students have been investigating a range of topics: diffusion of 'shark blood'; the reasons why they look like they do... the students, not the sharks (variation and inheritance); extracting DNA from strawberries and kiwi fruits; studying Darwin's finches and competing in a bird-beak competition to model natural selection; making fossils from plaster of paris and sculpting lenses from jelly to replicate the lenses in our eyes.

Year 10 & 11

Year 10 and 11 students have been working hard with their GCSE courses.

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Year 10 have been focusing on the Periodic table and the genius that was Dmitri Mendeleev. They have seen the alkali metals in action reacting with water, carried out displacement reactions of the halogens and heard how helium and xenon gas affect our vocal chords.

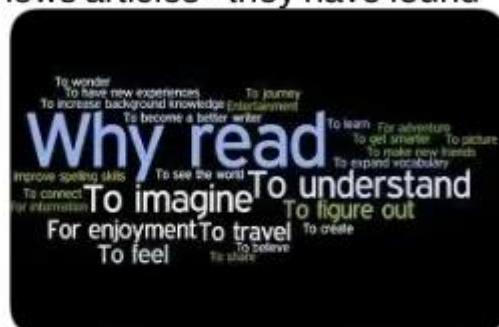
Year 11 have studied subjects ranging from the hormones coursing through their blood vessels, how catalysts speed up reactions and how to calculate the acceleration of objects (fleas do actually accelerate faster than Formula One cars!)

High Support Newsround

We decided together that one of the ways in which we could try to improve our reading skills was to read short bursts of information rather than long pieces of text. The students have thoroughly enjoyed exploring local news articles - they have found them really interesting and most relevant.

The tasks completed from the reading have varied and everyone has enjoyed looking at stories based on:

- * Local sporting heroes
- * Problems linked to social media platforms such as SnapChat and TikTok
- * The Knife Angel - helping to combat knife crime
- * Teenagers who are completing charity work and helping others.



The cross curricular elements that have arisen from these articles have been immeasurable. We now readily discuss what is happening around us - whilst improving our literacy skills - fantastic effort from everyone - well done! Mrs Bain.



During the Autumn term the whole of KS3 have been taking part in a competition as part of their first DT design and build task with the new DT teacher Mr Dewhurst.

Pinewood Derby is massive in the USA, where most hardware shops sell a standard kit - consisting of a standard weight block of wood, 4 wheels and 2 axels - then you design and build your car using only the contents of the kit. When finished you would then race them in heats to see who gets the fastest time - simple!



For the Larches version it was decided we would go for distance rather than speed to promote other skills such as measuring and the logistics of arranging heats.

Most of KS3 really got behind the project and 20 cars were constructed and a custom made ramp was set up in A corridor.

Most cars achieved between 6 and 8 metres but Ruby's managed a very impressive 13.3 metres - virtually the whole length of the corridor!

Prizes will be awarded for the furthest distance and best design.



Our Garden

Pupils have been involved in improving areas of our grounds with the help of the charity 'Redeeming Our Communities' Gardening Services Team.

Patches of the site have been identified for development and work was undertaken to remove overgrown trees and to clear a space for a "Bug Hotel" and a food growing area.

The pupils worked really hard, in cold weather, and enjoyed using all the strimmers, wood shredder and chain saw - all risk assessments were completed beforehand!



Feedback from the ROC staff was fantastic and the project will continue in the Spring Term.





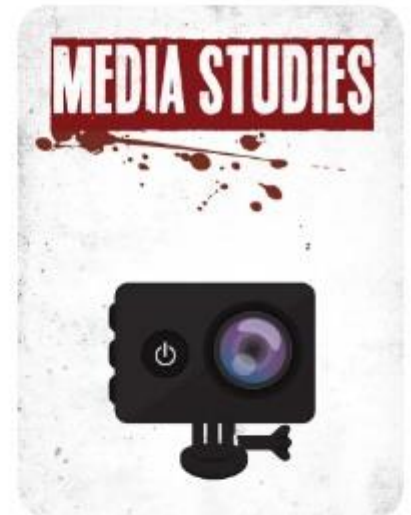
ROC
REDEEMING OUR
COMMUNITIES



In Key Stage 3 there has been focus on the use of camera angles to create impact and effect. Students have also been looking at the use of colour: hue, saturation and brightness and what impact this can have on a viewer from a psychological perspective.



An example of a hip level shot, also known as the 'cowboy' shot.



In Key Stage 4 students have been looking at the psychology of colour and the use and meaning of denotation and connotation. They have also started work on their projects: the creation of their own magazine that they then have to analyse. They have already analysed a popular magazine cover and are starting the design process for their work.

DRAMA

In Drama, we have studied Ancient Greek theatre masks. Masks were used commonly in history, society and theatre. The three groups involved with the mask are: the artists, the wearer and the spectator. The mask has a powerful effect on the audience from reading the codifiers of the face. The masked actor has to consider carefully each subtle movement, gesture and positioning of their whole body.

In Ancient Greek theatre, the mask is used so that an actor can play more than one role, to convey an exaggerated emotion to an audience at any distance and to amplify the voice.

Students had to take this into consideration when designing their own Ancient Greek masks and when writing their evaluation of their research and design.





KS3 have enjoyed studying our new resources, in particular, 'The Savage' - a graphic novel by David Almond. We have also focused on Black History Month this term, writing some persuasive letters associated with Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott. More recently, we have been analysing gender representation in some of the major companies' Christmas adverts and creating our own display adverts using persuasive techniques.

For the fourth year running in the English department, we are pleased to welcome a trainee teacher from Edge Hill University. Mr Joe Riley-Green has enjoyed planning lessons and teaching a variety of groups across the school.

The KS4 classes have been practising their essay writing skills, analysing unseen poetry, and studying *Macbeth* and *A Christmas Carol* for their GCSE exams. Some students have also participated in the Young Writers' Twisted Tales task.



In Latin, the students have studied work, travel and the military in Roman times based on the Roman site of Vindolanda and treasures discovered in York. The grammar focus was the use of adjectives, verbs and imperatives. Students have assessed their learning and created a list of imperatives for the Roman health and safety department.

Your task:
Roman Vindolanda has let health and safety slip. With so many dangers around, you are in charge of creating **four new imperative / command posters**. You need to draw a recognisable image and write your 'do' and 'do not' commands in Latin.

 Do not run
 WASH YOUR HANDS!
 NO ENTRY
 WEAR SAFETY SHOES
 NO ENTRY
 NO ENTRY

Word Bank
(name you will know!)

scribite!
sedete!
purgate! - clean
manete domi! - stay home
legite!
laborate!
cave canem!
salite! - jump

Word Bank
(name you will know!)

noli / nolite tangere!
curre! - run
vociferate!
cave!
periculosus!
ecce!
infectum! - wet
relinque!

Do as you're told!
Flavius and Iulius are watching the centurion. He is in charge of the soldiers and is giving them their orders.
Translate the comic strip.

WORDSTOHELP
milites - soldiers
audite! - listen
sumite! - pick up
portate! - carry
procedite! - go forward
destitute! - put down
testudinem facite! - make a tortoise



Show Racism the Red Card!

Students and staff have been learning about 'Discrimination and Prejudice' in their humanities lessons. A focus area which has been looked at is the racial abuse England football players received after the European Championship final against Italy this summer.

After Danny Rose was abused by fans, Raheem Sterling tweeted 'get some education', and that is exactly what Larches High School wanted to help with. Students have been looking at the North-East charity organisation 'Show Racism the Red Card', which uses inspirational footballers to help children tackle racist attitudes.

The students worked through lessons which explored the idea of stereotypes and how to identify a racial incident and the ways in which they can deal effectively with these potential incidents. They also explored what Hate Crime is, how to distinguish what is and isn't a hate crime and how to report one. The lessons identified how people of all ages and backgrounds have suffered with the experience of racism and how much it can cause innocent people to suffer just because of their race, culture, heritage and religion.



An educational film was also viewed which features high profile players from across the footballing world, past and present discussing their experiences of racism.

We were also extremely fortunate and would like to thank Blackburn Rover FC and current North-West League Two player of the season, Tranmere Rovers FC club captain, Peter Clarke, who both sent the school a match shirt that promoted the EFL Football league anti racism campaign, 'Not Today or Any Day'.

The British Red Cross sent education packs for the students to work on and Preston North End donated some posters. Manchester City FC U21 and U23 Academy sent in shirts promoting the Premier League's 'Heads Up' campaign ready for our next topic, which will look at mental health. All shirts also have the Mind charity logo displayed on them, in support of mental health.



PE Department

Funding

The PE department successfully received £2315 of funding through Active Lancashire, in the summer, to purchase new sports equipment.

Equipment included:

- * Football Goals
- * Footballs
- * Basketball hoops
- * Basketballs
- * Badminton equipment
- * Table Tennis equipment
- * Line markings on both concrete play grounds
- * Line markings on the field - football pitch, cricket boundary, athletics track - including a sprint track.

Curriculum Highlights

GCSE theory has been further developed by introducing the Full GCSE PE course by Edexcel for the first time to enhance theoretical knowledge and to inspire pupils to achieve the best possible qualifications for further education.

The PE department is currently in discussion with Preston North End to further enhance local opportunities and relationships to engage pupil interest through physical activity.

The PE department has now created a network between Active Lancashire and Active Blackpool to further enhance pupil opportunities in the community.

Show Racism the Red Card

We have enjoyed working with the Humanities department this term on the 'Show Racism the Red Card' project

The PE department has linked the theory work from history into practical lessons and football club.



The KS3S form group made a notice board to go with the project too.



FOOTBALL TEAM **NEWS**

Larches High School participated in their first inter-house football fixture since 2010 due to Covid 19.

The following pupils took part in the football game:

- * Macauley Harkin
- * Luke Robinson
- * Sean Dunderdale
- * Harley Kellett
- * Ethan Keating-Barr
- * Lennon Brady
- * Kaci Fowler
- * Yemin Tun
- * Daniel Cartwright



The football team have now confirmed fixtures in the near future and into the next academic year.

The game was a friendly with no overall winner but was great fun for all!

Fantastic Attendance!

Well done to all the following pupils on their attendance this term:

11L - Luke Robinson
11A - Leah Kirkby
11R - Sean Dunderdale
10H - Daniel Buckley
10E - Spencer Robinson-Watson
10S - Jake Wilkinson
KS3A - Richard Moriarty
KS3S - Kaci Fowler
KS3H - Kyle Glover

Best Overall
attendance this term, and a
huge well done, goes to:

**Spencer Robinson-
Watson**

who gained an amazing

97.37%

EVERY DAY COUNTS

School and future **success** starts
with good **attendance**!



Our target for
all students

100%
Your attendance
is excellent!

97%
Well done!

6 DAYS ABSENCE
30 hours lost to learning
You're on the right path for
success, keep it up!

95%
We're concerned

10 DAYS ABSENCE
50 hours lost to learning
A poor attendance gives you
less chance of success.

90%
Seriously worried

19 DAYS ABSENCE
95 hours lost to learning
Very poor attendance has a
serious impact on your
education and may reduce
your life choices.

DAILY LATENESS EQUATES TO...



3

**DAYS
LOST**

5 MINUTES LATE
15 hours lost to learning

6

**DAYS
LOST**

10 MINUTES LATE
30 hours lost to learning

10

**DAYS
LOST**

15 MINUTES LATE
50 hours lost to learning

Remember

Your education is important - don't miss out!



Christmas Party Maths Puzzle

There were three times as many men as women at the Christmas Party.

After 4 men left with their wives, there were 4 times as many men as women.

How many men and how many women attended the party?

Christmas Tree Maths Puzzle



This 5ft Christmas Tree has 21 lights.

How many lights will a tree have which is 10ft tall, if it continues to need one extra light for every one foot tall it is? (The answer isn't 40!)

What about a 100ft tall Christmas Tree?

Can you find a formula for the number of lights for any height of Christmas Tree?



O B E A Y H A R E E S P G L R T
F R Q N G L E T O B A R N R V I
C W N I A I I T N Y M E I U S N
M O E A N C E M E A T S F D T S
Y L O D M L Y N A U S E F O H E
S L E K T E M D R F I N U L G L
O E L S I I N K N U R T T P I C
R U I O H E E T T A H S S H L A
F M H C H Y S S T O C K I N G S
S E I R R E B N A R C S E V L E



candycane
chimney
Christmas
cookies
cranberries
elves
family
holly
lights
mistletoe

ornament
presents
reindeer
Rudolph
Santa
sleigh
stockings
stuffing
tinsel
turkey



Well it's that time of year again,
Festive jollies, sparkles and candy canes.
This Christmas we all hope to share,
With our dear loved ones, which has been so rare.



We wish you a very Merry Crimbo,
and we hope the COVID crisis does not leave us in limbo!
Stay safe, spread JOY and laughter;
Make this one to remember, forever after.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from
all the staff at Larches High School**





Christine
Mitchell -
Headteacher -
07967 630212

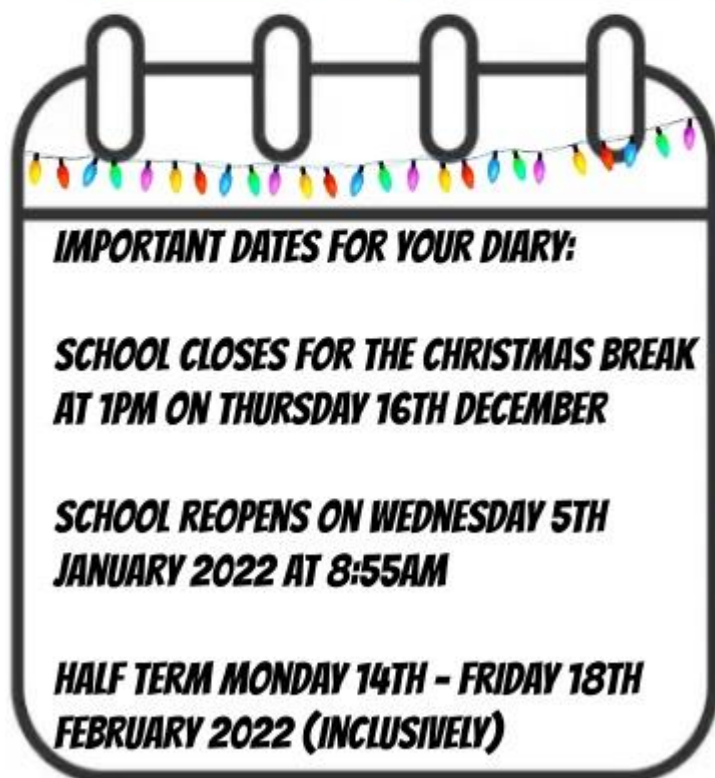
Action for Elder
Abuse
0800 069 9784

Food Bank
0808 208 2138

Victim Support
0808 168 9111

The
Samaritans
116 123

CRUSE
Bereavement
0808 808 1677



Childline
0800 1111

National
Domestic
Abuse Helpline
0808 2000 247

NHS - 111

NHS Covid
Helpline 119

Mindsmatter
01772 773437