



Shropshire
Gateway
Educational Trust

Lacon Childe School

...more than just a school

Head of School Mrs. Rachel Croxton-Broome
Consultant Executive Headteacher Mrs. Ruth Allen



26 March 2025 (Week B)

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week we have been talking to the students about the progress we have made so far this term on calling out inappropriate behaviours and language. During the early part of the Spring term, we introduced a new Safeguarding Education programme designed to challenge unhealthy attitudes and to encourage kindness, respect and tolerance. This was created in response to the student voice at our school. During her assemblies Mrs Guise has referred to the changes we have made and our plans for summer term. Students were also reminded of what to do when they have a worry or concern and the people they can go to for help and support. This is in response to many of the students telling us in the most recent survey that they do not report or challenge behaviours they know are not appropriate. School is a partnership between staff, students and parents/carers and we hope to build on the work we have started this term as we move towards the summer. Whilst still continuing to educate on key topics, the focus will also be on developing the confidence of our children to stand up when things are wrong and report their concerns in a safe way.

Safeguarding Update

Are you up to date with teenage slang and emojis? Please see below a link to a website called Smart Social. It is a constantly updating website that parents/carers may find useful because it helps us to stay informed on the frequently changing teen slang and emoji use that is so prominent on social media. This “secret” code language can help to hide certain behaviours from parents/carers and staff. By being familiar with its use and meaning we can work together to safeguard our children.

[Smart Social](#)

Incel Culture

Attached to this letter are two documents one on supporting boys in the digital age and the second a brief parental guide to Incel Culture created by ‘youcantknoweverything’ education. Incel stands for ‘involuntary celibate’ and is a term adopted by individuals in the incel community to describe themselves. The incel community is an overwhelmingly male (predominantly young, white male) online community. Incel ideology centres around the idea that incels are denied sexual and romantic relationships, and that women are to blame for this. Women and girls are stereotyped, objectified and dehumanised within incel culture – they are seen as genetically inferior. At their most extreme, incels condone violence, including sexual violence, against women, and occasionally sexually active men, as ‘punishment’ for denying the incels sexual relationships (to which they believe they are entitled).

Incels believe that there is an inescapable hierarchy within society – based largely on physical attractiveness – and place themselves at the bottom of this. Some believe that women are all ‘programmed’ to want to ‘mate’ with alpha males and will manipulate and deceive other men in order to do this. As incels believe that they are at the bottom of this perceived hierarchy, incel communications not only focus on rage and resentment directed against women and certain groups of men, but also include feelings of self-loathing, worthlessness and hopelessness.

The Manosphere

Incel subculture is part of a wider online community known as the manosphere. The male-dominated collection of groups that make up the manosphere are united by sexist beliefs that women and

feminism are to blame for problems within society. There is a shared narrative that men are victims, and that feminism has hijacked society and denied them their rightful, dominant position.

Why Should We Be Aware of Incel Culture?

Incel culture promotes an extremist ideology and presents a risk of radicalisation. Vulnerable boys and young men who embrace incel culture are at risk of being drawn into extremism and potentially into acts of terrorism. We should also be aware that with incel culture comes associations of self-harm and suicidal ideation. We know there has been a significant increase (DfE 2022) in the number of Prevent referrals which fall into the category of 'mixed, unstable or unclear' (MUU) ideologies. 'Inceldom' is included within that category. The MUU ideologies category made was the second-largest group, behind extreme far-right radicalisation, and exceeding concerns related to Islamist radicalisation. Incel culture thrives online. The increased amount of time that young people spend online in recent years means that the risk of incel influence has grown.

We hope that this information will aid and support you to talk to your child about the dangers online. Please let us know if you want to discuss any concerns you have with us.

Year 5 Taster Day

Last week we proudly hosted our Year 5 taster day for those students considering joining us in September 2026. We welcomed 154 enthusiastic students from 14 different local primary schools, all eager to explore what our school has to offer. Throughout the day, students participated in a variety of engaging activities designed to give them a taste of life at Lacon. The day was filled with laughter, curiosity, and new friendships as our future students mingled with our current students and staff. It was great to see so many bright faces and hopeful spirits, all excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. A big thank you to everyone involved in making this event a success, including our dedicated staff and the participating primary schools. We look forward to welcoming these students back in September for their Year 6 taster day.

Trust Poetry Evening

On Thursday 20 March, Lacon Childe students were joined by children from Clee Hill, Cleobury Mortimer and Stottesdon primary schools to celebrate international poetry day with our annual Trust poetry evening. Up to 100 performers, from Year 2 up to Year 12 (and some a bit older) entertained a packed hall with a plethora of poems. There were family favourites such as 'The Highwayman' and 'Jabberwocky' as well as poems about nature, places and love. Poems to make us laugh, and poems to make us think. It was fantastic to hear so many of our talented students write and share their own poetry, too. It was also lovely to welcome back some of our students from last year (Hannah, Meg and Eva), and perhaps one of the highlights, hearing the tale of 'The Lion and Albert' recited by a grandparent, Malcolm Williams. It takes nerves of steel to recite a poem from memory to an audience and our students and staff did themselves and the school proud. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the event.



PTA Race Night

We are thrilled to share that the PTA Race Night last Friday evening was a fantastic success! The event brought together staff, families, and friends for a night filled with excitement and friendly competition. Thanks to the generous support of our school community, we raised over £2,000!! These funds will go a long way in helping the PTA continue their tireless work to support our school and enhance the educational experiences of our students. A special thank you to Mr Wood for his brilliant organisation of the event.

Year 9 Parents' Evening

A reminder that our Year 9 parents evening is taking place tomorrow evening from 4.30 - 7.00pm.

Year 9 and 10 House Matches

Although not as well represented as our Year 7 and 8 house matches, thank you to our Year 9 and 10 students who attended their house matches in football and netball. Mr Wood refereed the Year 10 football competition and has provided this report:

In a competitive series of Year 10 house matches, Mighty Mortimer showcased their dominance on the pitch, securing victory against Clee with a resounding score of 5-1. Mortimer continued their impressive form by defeating Clee 6-1 in their second encounter. Despite the setbacks, Clee managed to redeem themselves with a thrilling 7-4 win over Wrekin.

Outstanding performances came from Mortimer's Blake, Will, and Seth, who consistently demonstrated skill and determination throughout the matches. Their teamwork and strategic play were pivotal in securing their house's victories.

Clee, despite their losses, displayed remarkable effort and resilience, with Luca, and Toby going above and beyond to support their teammates. Their commitment and 100% effort were commendable, making them true sportsmen in the face of adversity.

Overall, it was a great evening of sport, thank you to all students who participated, Betty, Issy, Phoebe and Ruby (Year 11 students) for umpiring and to the pastoral team who gave up their time to organise and run the event.

KS1 Multi-sports festival

We received this lovely feedback from Farlow Primary School after they attended our festival last week, "We wanted to say how great the multi-sports session was yesterday and how much the Farlow children really enjoyed themselves. The year 8's were really helpful." A huge thank you goes to Mrs Stokes for providing these amazing experiences for our feeder schools as well as the invaluable leadership opportunities for our own students.

Mr Davies-Treble

Years 10 and 11 had an emotional assembly this morning where Mr Davies-Treble announced that he would be leaving the school at Easter. The students were very kind and understandably a little disappointed. They all wished him good luck in his next school. Both year groups will continue to be supported by Miss Martin under the leadership of Mr Wood. Further details to follow.

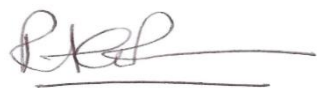
Attachments:

[Incel culture parent guide](#)

[Response to adolescence](#)

[Regal 1](#), [Regal 2](#), [Regal 3](#)

Yours sincerely



Rachel Croxton-Broome
Head of School



Ruth Allen
Consultant Executive Headteacher

Trips and Shop Payments

The following are available on Arbor to make payment

Item	Information	Payment Due
Year 7 KS3 Design Technology Contribution	Voluntary Contribution	
Year 7 London Trip		01/04/25
Year 8 Arthog Trip	Final Payment	21/03/25
Year 9 DofE payment	£50	01/04/25
Year 9 French Trip		01/04/25
Year 10 GCSE Fine Art Contribution	Voluntary Contribution	
Year 10 GCSE Materials Contribution	Voluntary Contribution	
Year 10 History Revision Guides		

Love Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire DY14 8PE

Tel: (01299) 270312

E-mail: admin@laconchilideschool.co.uk

www.lacon-childe.org.uk

The Shropshire Gateway Educational Trust