

**21 May 2025 (Week B)**

Dear Parents/Carers

As we find ourselves at the end of the first summer half term, I cannot quite believe that we have nearly completed another academic school year.

On Friday we will say goodbye to our lovely Year 11 students as they embark on study leave in preparation for the final phase of their GCSE examinations after half term. This is always an extremely emotional time for us all and we will be very sad to see them go. We will look forward to celebrating their hard work and achievements on results day in August.

Friday will also be a day tinged with sadness as we say farewell to our subject lead for Geography, Mr Treasure-Evans. Since starting with us last September, he has been fully committed to the school, and our students, and for this we are truly appreciative. Thank you for all your hard work and enthusiasm this year Mr Treasure-Evans, we wish you all the very best for a happy and healthy future. Good luck in your new job, we will miss you!

## **Examination stress**

We are working hard in school to support our students with the pressures of examinations, but we also recognise that this can also be a very pressurised time for parents/carers. It is often difficult to know how to support our children through the balancing act between ensuring they are trying their best and not adding too much pressure. The links below provide a range of advice and guidance for both students and parents/carers to help alleviate or lessen the anxiety they have about sitting examinations.

- [NHS - help your child beat exam stress](#)
- [Anna Freud - academic and exam stress](#)
- [Student Minds – exam stress resources](#)
- [Ofqual - coping with exam pressure – a guide for students](#)

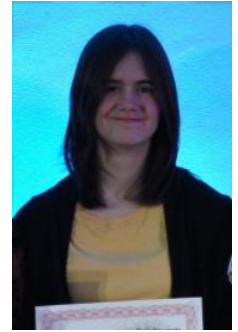
## **Reading**

As you know, reading is a priority for us and we treasure our library with its array of books for all to borrow. We were delighted to receive a very kind and generous donation from John Cartledge of over 70 books, 40 of which were beautiful hardback books by Terry Pratchett, all in immaculate condition. John lives locally and volunteers at Clee Hill Academy, listening to children read every week. We feel very lucky to now be in possession of such a wonderful selection of valuable books for all at Lacon to enjoy. Please encourage your child to come along to the library to have a look and try some of these special books. A huge thank you from us all, Mr Cartledge!



### **Worcestershire's poet laureate competition**

At Lacon Childe, we take every opportunity to get involved and celebrate poetry and so we were thrilled to hear that Louisa McDonald in Year 11 became a finalist in Worcestershire's poet laureate competition this year. She was asked to write two poems and perform one of them in the final. This year's competition drew a record number of aspiring writers, with 148 poems submitted from across the county. Louisa along with 11 other finalists took to the stage at The Hive in Worcester on Sunday 27th April. Louisa's dramatic performance and brilliantly crafted poem evoked high praise from the judges. What a great ambassador you are for our school, Louisa. Well done and keep writing! You can read Louisa's poem below which has been attached for you.



### **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme**

Huge congratulations go to the following students who have recently completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh awards, well done on an amazing achievement:

Anna Austin-Davies

Greg Bradley

Kelsey Grogan

Lea Thompson

Paige Wood

Ruby Mansbridge

A big well done also goes to Amelia Hawkins, Louisa McDonald, Theony Packard, Lottie Pearce-Bourne and Isobel Starkey who recently completed the expedition section of their Silver Duke of Edinburgh award.

### **PTA Summer Raffle**

Our PTA Summer Raffle tickets are now on sale! There are some superb prizes to be won, including a cottage stay, activity day passes, pub meal tickets and much, much more, all sourced by our amazing volunteers on the PTA. Tickets are £2 each or £10 for a book of 5. Each family will be sent home 2 books of tickets (with the youngest sibling) this coming Friday to sell amongst family and friends, so please check school bags and support the PTA in its fundraising. The half term holiday provides a great selling opportunity! All money raised will be spent supporting school equipment and activities. Please see attached poster for more information. Thank you!

### **Minecraft**

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft has hundreds of millions of players - making it more important than ever to stay informed. With its vibrant worlds and endless potential for creativity it's no wonder Minecraft continues to capture the imaginations of our young people. With the Minecraft movie hitting cinemas in April, interest in the game has remained strong. But whether they're mining resources or building digital castles, our young people could also encounter strangers, scary content or bullying behaviour online. Please see the attached guide which offers parents and carers the latest top tips on how to keep children safe from issues like grieving, chat risks, and unintended purchases, while still embracing the game's educational and creative benefits.

### **Free School Meals**

Shropshire Council has been allocated additional funding through the Household Support Fund (HSF7) for the 12-month period, 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026. This means that they are able to extend the arrangements for the provision of support with food costs outside of term time to fund benefits-related free school meal students. The local authority will provide for the Easter holidays 2025 (2 weeks), Summer half term 2025 (1 week), Summer holidays 2025 (3 weeks), Autumn half term 2025 (1 week), Christmas 2025 (2 weeks), Spring half term 2026 (1 week) and Easter holidays 2026 (2 weeks). For the Easter holidays 2025, funding is provided for 2 weeks support, £30 per eligible pupil, these will be emailed to parents on 21 May.

It has been great to see so many parents/carers of our Year 7 and Year 10 students at our recent parents' evenings, I hope you have found them to be both helpful and informative. A reminder that it is our **Arthog Parents Information Evening** (Year 8) tomorrow evening starting at 5.30pm in Room 15.

Well done to everyone for an excellent first half of term and I wish you all an enjoyable break!

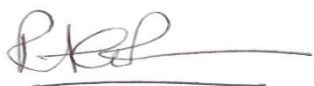
### Attachments

[Companion](#) by Louisa McDonald

[Minecraft](#)

[Summer Raffle 2025](#)

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 10 GCSE Materials Contribution	Voluntary Contribution	
Year 10 French revision guide		£3.55
Year 10 French workbook		£3.55
Year 10 History Revision Guides		
LCS Minibus Deposit	£50	2 June 2025

### Dates to remember:

Thursday 22 May	Arthog parent's information evening 5.30pm
Friday 23 May	Y11 Leavers assembly
Friday 23 May	Summer Half Term
Monday 2 June	Return to School
Monday 2 June	GCSE examinations all week
Saturday 7 June	DofE Practice Walk
Sunday 8 June	DofE Practice Walk
Monday 9 June	Year 7 examinations all week
Monday 9 June	Year 8 examinations all week
Monday 9 June	GCSE examinations all week
Monday 9 June	Year 10 Geography Cardingmill Valley trip

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**[www.lacon-childe.org.uk](http://www.lacon-childe.org.uk)**

**The Shropshire Gateway Educational Trust**