



# The Word

THE BEST FROM EVERYONE, ALL OF THE TIME

15 JANUARY 2021

## Headteacher's Roundup

Well done and thank you to everyone this week! The Light Hall spirit continue to shine through and light the way in these dark days. Thank you to parents/carers for all your support – we do understand and appreciate just how difficult this time is for everyone. We are aware that some families are struggling. Please don't forget to look at supportive links on our website page, <https://www.lighthall.co.uk/covid19-well-being-for-all/>

House tutors are ringing home over the next two weeks, inbetween teaching, to catch up with their tutees, and to offer any support that they can. Please do speak to your child's house tutor if you have any concerns that you feel the school may be able to help with.

We have been really impressed by the levels of engagement from our students, in their remote lessons, so please do congratulate your child on our behalf. Thank you for all your positive comments about how remote learning is progressing, I am incredibly proud of the agility shown by both students and staff in rising to this incredible challenge. Our teaching offer is improving each day and next week we will be rolling out visual and audio live lessons for year 11. I am grateful to Mr Hayfield for leading on this

aspect. He is doing a fantastic job. His expertise and enthusiasm are inspiring us all. A separate letter to all parents of year 11 will be e sent today giving further information on this.

We have listened to feedback from students, parents/carers and staff and we completely understand how demanding and stressful it is to be sitting in front of a technical device for 5 hours a day. Therefore, from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January, we are shortening delivery of period 1 and 3 to allow everyone time to get up from their screen, move around, take comfort break etc, before beginning period 2 and 4. Teachers are adjusting their lessons accordingly.

The new timings are as follows:

REMOTE LESSON	TIMINGS
<b>Registration &amp; Tutor Time</b>	08.45 - 09.05
<b>Period 1</b>	09.05 - 09.50 <i>(15 minutes break until pd 2)</i>
<b>Period 2</b>	10.05 - 11.05
<b>Break time</b>	11.05 - 11.25
<b>Period 3</b>	11.25 - 12.10 <i>(15 minutes break until pd 4)</i>
<b>Period 4</b>	12.25 - 13.25
<b>Lunch time</b>	13.25 – 14.00
<b>Period 5</b>	14.00 – 15.00

We will continue to keep this under review.

We are also concerned how homework may be having a negative impact on screen time during the day and for that reason, whilst we will continue to set homework, it will be optional.

We would of course, expect all students to attempt some or all of the tasks throughout the week, but we look to parents and carers to support in managing the workload. We are very conscious of student wellbeing and mental health, whilst satisfying the required learning hours stipulated by the government.

Finally, to try to limit the amount of information we keep sending out to you, we will continue to send the Word every week, and contained within this will be messages for your child's year group.

Best wishes for a safe and happy weekend







## Vaccinations

Year 9 Booster Vaccinations are taking place Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January. Times for students to attend will be emailed out to parents on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

## House Points Totals

The running totals for number of house points so far are:

 ATLANTIS	 CHALLENGER	 DISCOVERY	 ENDAVOUR
<b>14713</b>	<b>15080</b>	<b>15279</b>	<b>14890</b>

## Word of the Week

### VISUALISE

*Verb:* To recall or form mental images or pictures of something or someone. *During the Yoga class the teacher asked them to visualize somewhere peaceful and relaxing.*

## Thought of the Week

### The Importance of Problem Solving

World Logic Day, 14<sup>th</sup> January

The ability to think is one of the most defining features of humankind. In different cultures, the definition of humanity is associated with concepts such as consciousness, knowledge and reason. According to the classic western tradition, human beings are defined as "rational" or "logical animals". Logic, as the investigation on the principles of reasoning, has been studied by many civilizations throughout history and, since its earliest formulations, logic has played an important role in the development of philosophy and the sciences.

On 26 November 2019, the 40th General Conference of [UNESCO](#) proclaimed **14 January** to be [World Logic Day](#), a global day of supporting the development of logic through teaching and research, as well as to public dissemination of the discipline. The date chosen to celebrate **World Logic Day**, 14 January, corresponds to the date of death of [Kurt Gödel](#) and the date of birth of [Alfred Tarski](#), two of the most prominent logicians of the twentieth century.



## Year 7 Parents' Information

**Attendance and learning:** online learning is going extremely well with **average weekly attendance of 93%**. Keep up the good work year 7!

Please continue to encourage students to answer questions in the 'chat' function in Teams, and to engage with the interactive quizzes. Teachers have been enjoying giving praise badges to specific students in Teams this week!

To support the well-being of both staff and students, the below lesson timing changes will occur from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January. This is across all year groups:

Lesson 1 - 9:05 - 9:50

Lesson 2 - 10:05 - 11:05

Lesson 3 - 11:25 - 12:10

Lesson 4 - 12:25 - 13:25

Lesson 5 - 2.00-3.00

**Reminder – please make sure that students let their teacher know that they are there for all lessons by adding their name in the chat function on Teams.**



Achiever



Awesome



Coach



Creative



Kind heart



Leadership



Problem solver



Team player



Thank you

**Rewards and competitions:** total house points for this week were **247 – the highest of all the year groups!**

Mr Williams launched his 'House Points and Attendance Challenge' this week. Rewards will be sent home for excellent attendance and achieving 10 or more house points between Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January.

Top house points this week go to – **Aadil A, Shayma Y, Imogen L, Darcy P, Luke R, Jaydon S and Corey T.** Well done!

**Upcoming dates this week:**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January - parent webinar (motivating children at home) is available. Emails have been sent to parents. Please use the link to log in and access at any time: <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register>

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## Year 8 Parents' Information

**Attendance and learning:** online learning is going extremely well with **average weekly attendance of 96%**. Keep up the good work year 8!

Please continue to encourage students to answer questions in the 'chat' function in Teams, and to engage with the interactive quizzes. Teachers have been enjoying giving praise badges to specific students in Teams this week!



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Thank you

To support the well-being of both staff and students, the below lesson timing changes will occur from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January. This is across all year groups:

Lesson 1 - 9:05 - 9:50

Lesson 2 - 10:05 - 11:05

Lesson 3 - 11:25 - 12:10

Lesson 4 - 12:25 - 13:25

Lesson 5 - 2.00-3.00

***Reminder – please make sure you let your teacher know that you are there for all lessons by adding your name in the chat function on Teams.***

**Rewards and competitions:** total house points for this week were **241 – the third highest of all the year groups.**

Mr Williams launched his 'House Points and Attendance Challenge' this week. Rewards will be sent home for excellent attendance and achieving 10 or more house points between Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January.

Top house points this week go to – **Hanbi K, Natalie A, Aamani K and Brad W.** Well done!

**Upcoming dates this week:**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January - parent webinar (motivating children at home) is available. Emails have been sent to parents. Please use the link to log on and access at any time: <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register>

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## Year 9 Parents' Information

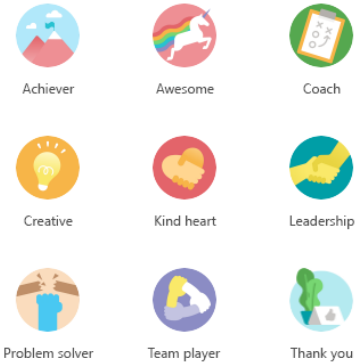
**Attendance and learning:** online learning is going extremely well with **average weekly attendance of 93%**. Keep up the good work year 9!

Please continue to encourage students to answer questions in the 'chat' function in Teams, and to engage with the interactive quizzes. Teachers have been enjoying giving praise badges to specific students in Teams this week!

To support the well-being of both staff and students, the below lesson timing changes will occur from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January. This is across all year groups:

- Lesson 1 - 9:05 - 9:50
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- Lesson 4 - 12:25 - 13:25
- Lesson 5 - 2.00-3.00

**Reminder – please make sure you let your teacher know that you are there for all lessons by adding your name in the chat function on Teams.**



**Rewards and competitions:** total house points for this week were **244 – joint second highest of all the year groups!** Mr Williams launched his 'House Points and Attendance Challenge' this week. Rewards will be sent home for excellent attendance and achieving 10 or more house points between Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January.

Top house points this week go to – **Aimee B, Poppy B, Kaleem K, Avani B, Leigh G, Aimee G, Ikra H, Scott W.** Well done!

**Upcoming dates this week:**

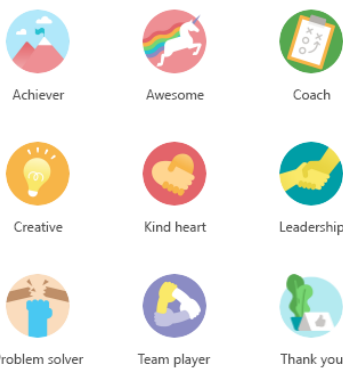
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January - parent webinar (motivating children at home) is available. Emails have been sent to parents. Please use the link to log on and access at any time: <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register>

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## Year 10 Parents' Information

**Attendance and learning:** online learning is going extremely well with **average weekly attendance of 94%**. Keep up the good work year 10!

Please continue to encourage students to answer questions in the 'chat' function in Teams, and to engage with the interactive quizzes. Teachers have been enjoying giving praise badges to specific students in Teams this week!



To support the well-being of both staff and students, the below lesson timing changes will occur from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January. This is across all year groups:

- Lesson 1 - 9:05 - 9:50
- Lesson 2 - 10:05 - 11:05
- Lesson 3 - 11:25 - 12:10
- Lesson 4 - 12:25 - 13:25
- Lesson 5 - 2.00-3.00

**Reminder – please make sure you let your teacher know that you are there for all lessons by adding your name in the chat function on Teams.**

**Rewards and competitions:** total house points for this week were **230**. Not as high as other year groups. Let's hope Year 10 can get onto the leaderboard next week!

Mr Williams launched his 'House Points and Attendance Challenge' this week. Rewards will be sent home for excellent attendance and achieving 10 or more house points between Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January.

Top house points this week go to – **Aatikah A, Priya C, Noora K, Amber E, Mahinooz S, Cerys B, Mya C, Freya D, Lilia J.** Well done!

**Upcoming dates this week:**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January - parent webinar (motivating children at home) is available. Emails have been sent to parents. Please use the link to log on and access at any time: <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register>

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – full reports to parents.

**Congratulations** to the following students for winning the Year 10 Form Time Competition and being the first to log in every morning:

- 10CJHA – Carah M
- 10EJHU – Amina H
- 10DDBU – Tobias A
- 10ANRA – Sulaiman B
- 10CAHU – Evie S
- 10EAMK – Scarlett H
- 10ANPL – Maya P
- 10DHSN – Jorja H

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## Year 11 Parents' Information

**Attendance and learning:** online learning is going extremely well with **average weekly attendance of 91%**. Keep up the good work year 11!

Please continue to encourage students to answer questions in the 'chat' function in Teams, and to engage with the interactive quizzes. Teachers have been enjoying giving praise badges to specific students in Teams this week!

To support the well-being of both staff and students, the below lesson timing changes will occur from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January. This is across all year groups:

- Lesson 1 - 9:05 - 9:50
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Achiever



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Leadership



Problem solver



Team player



Thank you

**Reminder – please make sure you let your teacher know that you are there for all lessons by adding your name in the chat function on Teams.**

As from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January all lessons for Year 11 will be live. Please ensure that students keep their cameras off and adhere to our remote learning policy. All lessons will begin with a reminder of our expectations. We look forward to hearing from our students next week!

**Rewards and competitions:** total house points for this week were **244 – joint second highest of all the year groups!** Mr Williams launched his 'House Points and Attendance Challenge' this week. Rewards will be sent home for excellent attendance and achieving 10 or more house points between Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January.

Top house points this week go to – **Gurpreet V, Suliman AB, Somiya A, Joshua D, Faieq G.** Well done!

#### Upcoming dates this week:

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January - parent webinar (motivating children at home) is available. Emails have been sent to parents. Please use the link to log on and access at any time: <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register>

#### Applying to colleges/sixth forms:

We have made contact with the colleges and sixth forms that most of our students go on to attend: Solihull College, Solihull Sixth Form, South and City College, Stratford College, and all reassure us that the application process will continue as usual. Students will not be disadvantaged by not having readily available mock grades. Offers will continue to be made based on suitability, the strength of the application and interviews. All offers are conditional based on the summer- released grades.

Based on a survey sent to students before the Christmas break, our Student Services team are calling any students who have not already applied, offering further support and guidance. If you have any queries, please email Mrs Mohamed on [kmohomed@lighthall.co.uk](mailto:kmohomed@lighthall.co.uk)

### PE Activities and Challenges



The PE department will be posting activities and challenges each week for you to attempt on Show My Homework. They will set as a flexible task for each year group. Staying active is really important, especially at the moment. These are optional tasks you can complete at home, so get involved and have a go.

Stay active

Mr Churchill and the PE Team

### Diary Reminders

#### All Years:

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January – Parent Webinar <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register>  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January – House Points and Attendance Challenge

#### Year 7:

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January – Period 1 – Elevate Study Skills

#### Year 8:

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January – Period 2 – Elevate Study Skills

#### Year 9:

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January – Period 3 – Elevate Study Skills  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January – Live Lessons start  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Booster Vaccinations

#### Year 10:

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Full Reports to Parents  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January – Period 1 – Elevate Study Skills

#### Year 11:

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January – Live Lessons start  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January – Period 2 – Elevate Study Skills



Last week I shared with you the details of the **Literacy Trust** - <https://literacytrust.org.uk/> and their parent-facing platform, **Words for Life and Zone**. Hopefully you have found these resources helpful. As promised I want to get in touch with you this week to share some more ways in which you might support your child's literacy!

This week I want to share the '7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home' resource from the EEF (Education Endowment Foundation). This is designed specifically to be shared with families to support you in developing your child's reading skills as regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures. You can access the resource here: <https://bit.ly/3bcp3Mr> but I've also shared it with you below.

This week's coming week's assembly theme is '**What does an education give us?**' – to support that, our Learning Resource Manager Mrs Klejdysz has put together her suggestions for books that are set in schools and would be great books for your son or daughter to read!

We'd also love to hear from your son or daughter about what they are reading and enjoying lately. Please encourage them to get in touch and email Mrs Klejdysz at [hklejdysz@lighthall.co.uk](mailto:hklejdysz@lighthall.co.uk) with the name of their favourite book and a quick blurb about the book (no more than 100 words) along with a rating (out of 5 stars). They could consider the genre of the book, who their favourite character is and why? What they think about the plot? Who is the book most suited for...? We look forward to hearing from them!

## What does an Education Give us?

2019 Blue Peter  
Book Award  
Winner of Best  
Story

**'The Boy At the Back of the Class'** by Onjali Rauf is a heart-warming adventure story, a child's perspective on the refugee crisis. It highlights the importance of friendship and the power of kindness.

Books that are set in school include:



Hogwarts is the most famous school to feature in a book. The series is a school story as well as a tale of wizards, wonder and magic.



'A Murder Most Unladylike Mystery' book series by Robin Stevens combines the golden era crime novel with a boarding school adventure. Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong the dynamic duo at Deapdean school are always have a mystery to solve.

## 7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

- 1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

- 2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

- 3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

- 4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

- 5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

- 6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

- 7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'



## TIME TO WRITE

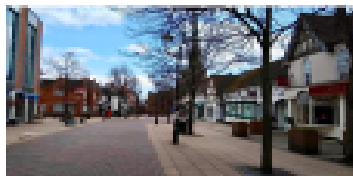


### Light Hall English Lockdown Challenge



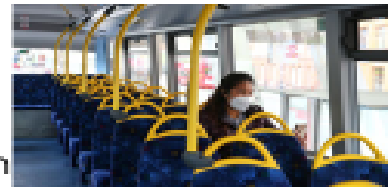
Find something that has **inspired** or **interested** you during this lockdown – either while you're outside taking your exercise, something you see from your window or something (or someone) in the house – and **take a picture** of it.

Then, **write a description** of what you see in that picture.



Try to:

- Use a range of **interesting and ambitious vocabulary**
- Split your writing into **paragraphs**.
- Use some **language devices** e.g. similes or metaphors.
- Use accurate punctuation



**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: 26/2/21**. Send your descriptions and pictures to [challenges@lighthall.co.uk](mailto:challenges@lighthall.co.uk)



## Support at home

We understand that we are not there face to face at the moment for all of the pupils that we support, but we can arrange a chat and check in on Teams if you or your child wants to speak to us. Please just email the relevant member of staff.

Here are some strategies that you can use at home to support your child if they feel stressed or anxious or are just not coping at any point during lockdown, some of these may not work and that is okay.

1. Keep your child in a routine, it is really important to get them up and get them ready each morning as they would for school. Structure and routine are good and mentally it gets us ready for the day ahead.
2. If your child is feeling stressed with school work online then you can give them a break, it is okay to take a break from learning and it is okay to not complete the work all in one go.
3. Break up the work into smaller chunks and if you can use a visual cue or now and next board to show them what they have to do. You can create your own or we can help you make one.
4. If they need it, use a timer to give them a clear start and finish time for each activity or lesson. You can use online timers, such as the one here - <https://www.online-stopwatch.com> or you can buy one online.
5. Make sure that they get some downtime and they get some time to relax.
6. If your child gets angry, then give them some space and allow them to go somewhere that they feel safe, possibly their bedroom and let them do something that they like, something that will calm them down.
7. Do not push them to talk about why they are angry or upset until they are ready to talk. If you push it too quickly then they may have to start the process of self-regulation again.
8. Provide them with calming/sensory equipment. It can be as simple as a ball of blue-tack or can be more expensive, such as a sensory cube or tangle toy.
9. If your child needs an overlay in school then they can download the Colorveil programme to support them whilst they are doing their online learning and it is free - <https://www.aurelitec.com/colorveil/windows/>
10. Do not struggle alone and ask for help. We have sent out a lot of information of parent/carer groups, our contact details and the details of national agencies that can support your child.