



The Word

THE BEST FROM EVERYONE, ALL OF THE TIME

4TH FEBRUARY 2022

Headteacher's Roundup

We come to the end of another very productive week. Despite the wet and chilly weather, we remain cheery.

On Tuesday, as part of our house competition around 30 students undertook our Orienteering challenge, organised by Miss Johnson. It was great fun and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Endeavour was our overall house champion! Well done to Oscar T, James R for coming joint first, Sophie G was second and Logan W was third.

During the Inset on Wednesday, our staff had a fruitful day. In the morning, staff had a training workshop on Autism and in the afternoon, we collaborated with 10 other local schools, leading on sessions in sharing pedagogical best practice, developing the curriculum and PHSEC.

Well done to year 9 for settling down so well to their assessments this week. A group of students I was talking to were

proud to tell me they carried on revising during the day off on Wednesday.

Year 10 PHSEC was well received with our young people learning about roles of the monarchy, political parties, building resilience, and developing supportive relationships

Whilst on the subject of the monarchy I wanted to share with you that we will be planting 10 fruit trees as part of the Queen's Canopy. We are very excited to welcome the Deputy Lieutenant, The Mayor and the Leader of the Council to school, for the ceremony on 11th March. Our Eco club are heavily involved in the preparations for this visit and the ground is being prepared. If your child would like to get involved in the Eco Club, please ask them to see Miss Ross. They will shortly be starting our preparations for Spring, sowing our wild flower meadow, encouraging and filming wildlife, and checking upon our resident bat family!

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.

Annette Karblin

Word of the Week

SENSE

Verb: To become aware of or realise something, although it is not very obvious.

She **sensed** her sister was feeling anxious.

Noun: Your senses are the physical abilities of sight, smell, hearing, touch and taste.

House Points Totals

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

			
25516	23987	25044	26147

Diary Reminders

All Years:

Monday 7th February – Year 7 – 11 Basketball Coach – Gym
Monday 14th February – Year 7 – 11 Basketball Coach - Gym
Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February – HALF TERM

Year 7:

Tuesday 8th February – Year 8 PSHEC Day
Wednesday 16th February – Year 7 Netball Skills School Games (A) Tudor Grange Tennis Centre – 1.30pm – 3.30pm
Monday 14th March – Friday 18th March – Year 7 mid-year exams
Wednesday 23rd March – Year 7 PSHEC Day

Year 8:

Monday 7th February - Year 8 PSHEC Day
Monday 7th February – Year 8 Netball (A) v TG Kingshurst
Wednesday 9th February – U13 Basketball Semi-final playoffs (A) v TG – 3.00pm – 5.30pm
Monday 28th February – Friday 4th March – Year 8 mid-year exams
Wednesday 30th March – Year 8 PSHEC Day

Year 9:

Thursday 10th February – Year 9 Basketball Playoffs TBC
Friday 11th February – Year 9 PSHEC Day
Thursday 3rd March – Year 9 options evening
Friday 4th March – Year 9 annual reports to parents
Thursday 10th March – Year 9 parents' evening
Thursday 24th March – Year 9 PSHEC Day

Year 10:

Thursday 10th February – Year 10 Parents' Evening
Thursday 10th February – Year 10 Basketball Playoffs TBC

Year 11:

Thursday 10th February – Year 11 PSHEC Day
Monday 21st March – Friday 25th March – Year 11 exam week (second mocks)

Thought of the week

What is anxiety and what can we do about it? Childrens' Mental Health Week

Schools, youth groups, organisations and individuals across the UK will take part in Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is **Express Yourself**.

Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. This could be through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, and doing activities that make you feel good.

It's important to remember that being able to **express yourself** is not about being the best at something or putting

on a performance for others. It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel



good about yourself.

We will be encouraging children (and adults) to consider how they have grown, and how they can help others to grow.

Place2Be is a children's mental health charity that provides counselling and mental health support and training in UK schools, using tried and tested methods backed by research.

We believe that children should not have to face mental health problems alone.

Last year, Place2Be worked with 700 schools in England, Scotland and Wales, reaching 380,691 children and young people.

Over 30,000 UK teachers and school staff have signed up to our online Mental Health Champions – Foundation programme, which enhances professionals' understanding of children's mental health and introduces approaches that foster positive wellbeing in schools and communities.

Last year, 418 people completed a child counselling qualification through Place2Be and 1,039 people attended a 'Taster Day', building an ever-growing body of professionals who specialise in working with children and young people.

Class charts

We are now using class charts as our method of communication with students and families. Please note that any unconfirmed absences/attendance will be sent through class charts (as per previous notices in The Word).

Please be aware of this and set your notifications appropriately.

https://pages.classcharts.com/wp-content/uploads/Class_Charts_for_parents_guide.pdf



Year 8 STEM Challenge Day 8th February

The day will involve elements of each of the subjects; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. A selected number of Year 8 students will utilise their skills in order to work on a Design and build team challenge task.

The students will be working with their peers in teams, supported by a number of engineers and representatives of the Smallpeice Trust, an external educational trust company who will deliver the event alongside staff from the D&T and Science departments.

May the best team win!



Meet our new Education, Welfare and Family Liaison Officer

We were delighted to welcome Mr Petty into our team this January to help support our students and families. Mr Petty will be working alongside parents/carers and the students to help identify and break down barriers to school success. He will be driving forward our attendance strategies and working alongside our pastoral team to ensure our students succeed in school life.

A little bit about Mr Petty

I have 15 years' experience working with children and young people. During this time, I have worked for the Local Authority in Education Welfare, in addition to this I have also worked in Education as a Pastoral Manager –Leading on Attendance and Safeguarding. I enjoy being part of the team at Light Hall and look forward to supporting and improving the outcomes for pupils across all year groups. Outside of work, I enjoy playing golf; I also manage junior football teams in my local community.

Why Attendance Matters!

Regular absences from school can affect:

- attainment levels - the quality of school work, qualifications gained;
- school routine - disrupting your child's learning and that of the other pupils;
- the chances of children and young people being involved in anti-social behaviour;
- a child or young person's general well-being and long-term life opportunities.

Improving regular attendance at school is therefore a key priority.

Help with getting your child to go to school

If you are having trouble getting your child to go to school, Light Hall School can help you by:

- discussing attendance problems with you and agreeing a plan with you to improve your child's attendance;
- supporting to reduce the burden on children where families are in difficulty (for example if a child is spending a lot of time caring for someone)
- working with families and students to overcome bullying and other serious problems

Please do get in touch with Mr Petty or any of your child's pastoral managers if you think we can help support your child's better attendance.

Year 7: Miss Morgan rmorgan@lighthall.co.uk

Year 8: Mrs Cull scull@lighthall.co.uk

Year 9: Mr Arslaan marslaan@lighthall.co.uk

Year 10: Mrs Heal jheal@lighthall.co.uk

Year 11: Mr Blunt jblunt@lighthall.co.uk

Our Attendance Plan

We will be targeting all students whose attendance is below 90% - rest assured this does not count time off with Covid-19. Either Mr Petty, your child's Pastoral Manager, Progress and Development Leader or Form Tutor will be in touch to discuss ways in which we can promote better attendance and help support you and your family. Only in us all working together can we secure better attendance and better life chances for our students here at Light Hall.



