Lindsworth School

2026/ 27 Newsletter

Autumn 1

KEY DATES

- ❑ 23.10.26 – Break up for October half term
- ❑ 02.11.26 – Students return to school for Autumn 2 Term
- ❑ 23.11.26 - Year 11 mock exams begin
- ❑ 30.11.26 – INSET Day (school closed to students)
- ❑ 10.12.26 – Progress Review Day (3.30 pm – 6.30 pm)
- ❑ 18.12.26 – Break up for Christmas School Holiday
- ❑ 04.01.27 – Student return to school, for Spring 1 Term
- ❑ 22.01.27 – INSET day (school closed to students)

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A Message from the Headteacher

As we reach the end of the first half term of the academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a successful and positive start for our school community.

It has been wonderful to see our new Key Stage 2 and Year 7 pupils settling into school life so well. They have begun to embrace new routines, form positive relationships and approach learning with enthusiasm and confidence. Our older students have also made an impressive start. Year 10 have approached the beginning of their examination courses with maturity and determination, recognising the importance of the qualifications they are working towards.

Meanwhile, our Year 11 students have successfully embarked on their weekly college visits, an exciting opportunity that supports their preparation for adulthood and helps them explore the next stage of their educational journey.

We remain incredibly proud of last summer's examination results. Every student who left Lindsworth School achieved qualifications and secured a positive next step, whether that was further education, training or employment. This achievement reflects the hard work of our students, staff and families, and provides a strong foundation for our current cohorts.

Finally, our programme of building improvements continues across the site. These developments are helping us create an even better learning environment for our students, ensuring that our facilities match the ambition we have for every young person.

Thank you for your continued support, and I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Kate Beale

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The History of Toys: Key Stage 2

This half term, Key Stage 2 pupils have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the fascinating topic of The History of Toys. Throughout the term, they have discovered how toys have changed over time, learned about the materials used to make them, and compared the experiences of children from different generations.

To bring their learning to life, pupils visited the Black Country Living Museum, where they stepped back in time and experienced a traditional school lesson from 1912. They also enjoyed a visit to the old-fashioned funfair and took part in an engaging workshop exploring toys from up to 100 years ago. The trip provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils to immerse themselves in history and gain a real understanding of what life was like for children in the past.

As part of their topic work, pupils used their creativity and practical skills to design and make their own hand puppets. They carefully planned their designs before learning how to sew and assemble their creations, demonstrating patience, perseverance and pride in their work. The completed puppets were fantastic and showcased the pupils' growing confidence and independence.

Alongside their curriculum learning, pupils have continued to develop a wide range of personal development skills. This half term they have enjoyed taking part in exciting circus skills sessions, where they practised coordination, balance and teamwork. They have also participated in cooking lessons, learning valuable life skills while gaining confidence in preparing food safely and independently.

A particular highlight for many pupils was the return of The Animal Man. Meeting and learning about a variety of animals was an experience that pupils looked forward to and thoroughly enjoyed, providing memorable opportunities to build confidence, curiosity and respect for living things.

We are incredibly proud of everything our pupils have achieved this half term and look forward to sharing more exciting learning experiences in the months ahead.

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Students Explore the Future with Drones

This term, we were delighted to welcome an external robotics company into school to deliver an exciting series of hands-on robotics sessions centred around the use of drone technology.

The workshops provided our students with a fantastic opportunity to explore cutting-edge technologies that are shaping the future. Through a range of engaging activities, students learned about the growing role of drones in industries such as engineering, agriculture, emergency services, photography and delivery services. They also discussed how advances in robotics and automation are creating new career opportunities for the next generation.

One of the highlights of the sessions was the chance for students to become drone designers. Working collaboratively, they explored the key features that make drones effective and created their own innovative drone concepts. This encouraged creativity, problem-solving and teamwork, whilst helping students develop their understanding of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects.

Students then had the exciting opportunity to fly drones in a safe and supervised environment. Learning how to control the drones helped them develop resilience, patience and precision as they navigated a range of challenges and tasks. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm, confidence and determination shown by everyone involved.

The sessions were both educational and inspiring, providing valuable insight into technologies that are likely to play an increasingly important role in our daily lives and future workplaces. We would like to thank the visiting team for delivering such engaging and memorable experiences, and we are incredibly proud of how our students embraced the challenge and demonstrated excellent curiosity, creativity and communication skills throughout the day.

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Lindsworth Lions First Fixture of the Season

The Lindsworth Lions kicked off their 2026-27 football league campaign with an exciting home fixture against Woodlands School on Wednesday 7 October. Despite a challenging result, the match provided valuable lessons and showcased the determination and resilience of the team.

The Lions made the perfect start when Baylee opened the scoring within the first four minutes, calmly finishing from a superb cross delivered by captain Nathaniel. Woodlands responded quickly, however, and capitalised on several chances to take control of the game. As the match progressed, the team faced a difficult spell, but there were plenty of positives to take away from the performance.

Captain Nathaniel led by example throughout, demonstrating outstanding commitment both in attack and defence. His efforts were rewarded with several superb goals, including an impressive long-range strike that highlighted why he was named the match's Most Valuable Player. Fellow players also showed great character, with strong contributions from defenders Tyrell, Jacob, Jevani and Year 7 debutant Alfie, who earned the Captain's MVP award for his determination and attitude.

Lindsworth School VS WOODLANDS SCHOOL

While the final score did not reflect the team's potential, the match reminded everyone of the importance of teamwork, encouragement and resilience. The players have reflected positively on the experience and are determined to learn from it as the season progresses.

With their first fixture now behind them, the Lions are already looking ahead to the next challenge and are eager to show what this talented squad can achieve together. Come on the Lions!

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The Animal Man Inspires Learning and Curiosity

This half term, pupils in Key Stage 2 and Year 7 were delighted to welcome The Animal Man for a fascinating and interactive learning experience. The visit provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils to get up close to a variety of animals while developing their understanding of nature, biodiversity and the importance of caring for the world around us.

Throughout the session, pupils met a range of animals from different habitats and ecosystems. They learned about each animal's characteristics, adaptations and role within the natural environment. The visit supported learning about living things and their habitats, helping pupils to understand how different species contribute to biodiversity and why protecting wildlife is so important.

One of the most valuable aspects of the visit was the opportunity for pupils to observe and, where appropriate, safely handle some of the animals. This hands-on experience brought learning to life, encouraging pupils to ask thoughtful questions and engage enthusiastically with the activities. It was wonderful to see their curiosity grow as they discovered new facts about the animals and their environments.

The visit also supported pupils' personal development by helping them to build confidence, develop empathy and show respect for living creatures. Many pupils demonstrated excellent listening skills and responsibility throughout the session, while others challenged themselves to overcome initial nervousness when encountering unfamiliar animals.

The level of engagement was exceptional, with pupils from both Key Stage 2 and Year 7 showing genuine excitement and enthusiasm throughout the day. Staff were particularly impressed by the thoughtful questions pupils asked and the mature way they interacted with both the animals and the presenter.

The Animal Man's visit was a memorable highlight of the term, providing an exciting blend of education and enjoyment. Experiences such as these help to inspire a lifelong interest in the natural world and encourage pupils to become responsible and informed custodians of the environment in the future.

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Celebrating Black History Month Through Learning

This month, pupils took part in a rich cross-curricular programme to mark Black History Month, exploring the achievements, experiences and contributions of Black people throughout history and in modern society.

Across a range of subjects, students learned about Black-owned businesses and the important role they play in supporting local communities, creating opportunities and driving innovation. They also explored the lives of inspiring community leaders and Black Rights activists who have worked tirelessly to challenge injustice and promote equality.

In English, pupils studied the powerful words and lasting legacy of Maya Angelou, reflecting on themes of resilience, courage and hope. They also examined influential civil rights speeches, considering how language can be used to inspire change and bring people together. In Art and Design, students discovered the work of talented African Tribal artists and designers, investigating how culture, identity and creativity shape artistic expression.

A particularly important aspect of the programme focused on forgotten historical heroes. Pupils uncovered the stories of individuals whose achievements have often been overlooked, gaining a deeper understanding of the diverse people who have helped to shape our world.

Recognising Black History Month is about more than learning about the past. It is an opportunity to celebrate achievement, appreciate diversity and encourage meaningful conversations about equality, respect and inclusion. By exploring a wide range of voices, experiences and perspectives, young people develop a fuller understanding of history and the society in which they live.

We are proud of the enthusiasm and thoughtfulness shown by our pupils throughout the programme. Their engagement demonstrated a genuine curiosity about different cultures and experiences, helping to foster the values of empathy, respect and community that are central to our school.

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Safeguarding: Supporting Pupils to Use AI Safely

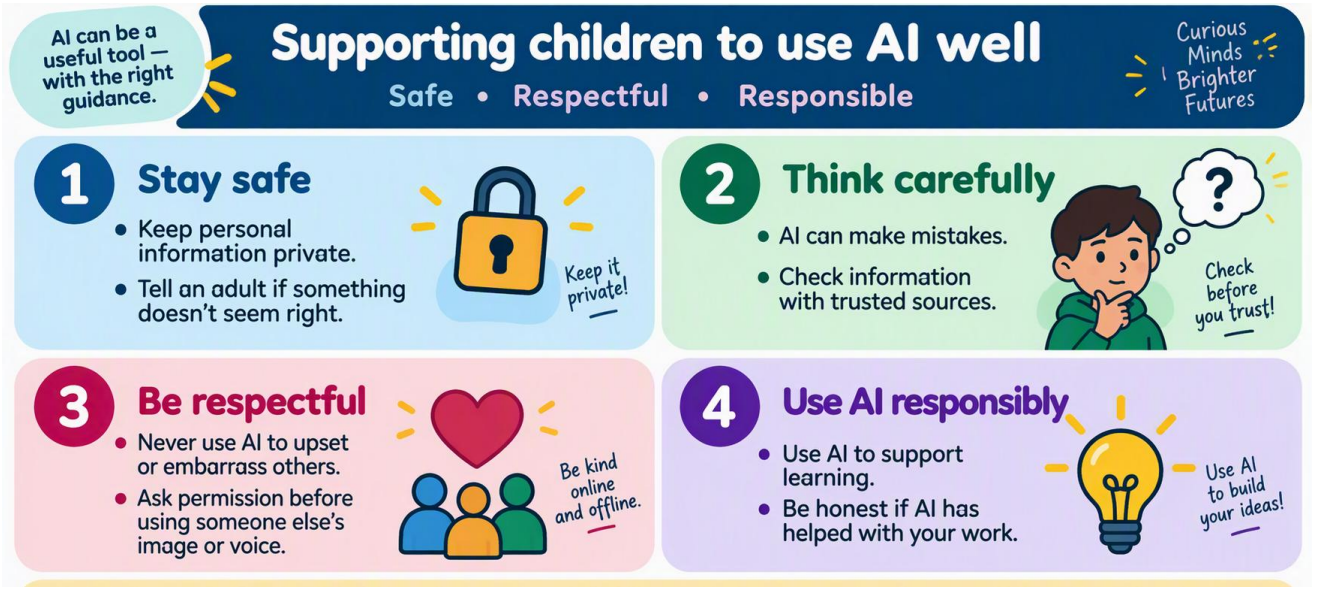
Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming an increasingly common part of everyday life. Many young people are already using AI tools to answer questions, generate images, develop ideas and support their learning. While AI can offer many benefits, it is important that children understand how to use it safely, respectfully and responsibly.

Generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot and Google Gemini, create content in response to a user's request. Although these tools can seem knowledgeable and convincing, they do not always provide accurate or appropriate information. Children should be encouraged to think critically and check information against reliable sources.

Online safety remains a key priority. Children should never share personal information, passwords, photographs or private details with AI tools. If they encounter content that is upsetting, inappropriate or concerning, they should speak to a trusted adult straight away.

It is equally important that AI is used respectfully. AI should never be used to impersonate, embarrass or bully others. Before using another person's image, voice or information, permission should always be obtained, and children should consider how their actions may affect others.

Finally, AI should be seen as a tool to support learning rather than replace thinking. Pupils should use AI to develop ideas, not complete work for them, and should always be honest about how it has been used.



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Lindsworth School: World Mental Health Day

On 10th October, students and staff across Lindsworth School came together to recognise and celebrate World Mental Health Day, highlighting the importance of positive mental health and wellbeing within our school community.

Throughout the day, pupils took part in a range of activities during PSHE lessons and form time, focusing on understanding mental health, recognising the importance of self-care and learning how to access support when needed. These sessions encouraged open and supportive discussions, helping students to develop a better understanding of how mental health can affect everyone and the different ways we can look after our emotional wellbeing.

A key message of the day was that it is always okay to ask for help. Students explored the range of support available both in school and within the wider community, learning about trusted adults, support services and practical strategies for maintaining positive mental health. These activities reinforced the importance of talking openly about mental health and supporting one another with kindness, empathy and respect.

To mark the occasion, staff and students were invited to wear something green, a colour often associated with positivity, hope and wellbeing. It was fantastic to see so many members of our school community embracing the theme and showing their support. The school was filled with a vibrant splash of green, creating a positive atmosphere and helping to raise awareness of this important cause.

We were also proud to support Birmingham Mind through a non-uniform donation. Thanks to the generosity of students, families and staff, all donations were contributed to the charity, helping to support its vital work promoting mental health and wellbeing across the local community.

We would like to thank everyone who took part and contributed to making World Mental Health Day such a success. Together, we continue to promote a culture where mental health is valued, support is readily available and every member of our school community feels empowered to thrive.

Top tips to improve your mental wellbeing

There are little things we can all do to take care of our mental wellbeing.

Just like our physical health, it is important to look after our mental health. This can help us to learn new ways to cope with life's challenges and lead happier, healthier lives.

Simple changes can make a big difference – here are six areas that can help you look after your mental wellbeing:

1. Being aware of unhelpful thoughts

Learn to ask yourself whether your thoughts are helpful or not? Is there a different way to see the situation? What would you say to a friend?

2. Focus on now

Spend time focusing on the present instead of getting stuck on the past or worrying too much about the future. You could try relaxation techniques and mindfulness.

3. Getting enough rest

Make sure you have enough down time before bed and a good sleep routine with a regular bedtime and wake up time.

4. Connecting with others

Make time for socialising with friends and family or online communities where you are able to talk about the way you feel.

5. Living a healthy lifestyle

Eating well and getting enough exercise for your physical health can help to boost your mental wellbeing too.

6. Do something for yourself

Have some 'me time' by spending regular time on the things that make you happy, whether that's a hobby, trying something new or relaxing.

Better Health every mind matters

If you or someone you trust has a smart phone or computer and can access the internet, do visit **www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/** for more tips and information on caring for your mental health, and find what works for you. You can also get access to the internet at most local libraries.

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BBC News Feature

We are incredibly proud that Lindsworth School was recently featured in a BBC News article highlighting the positive impact of our Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) programme on pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).The article showcased how MMA lessons at Lindsworth are helping pupils to develop confidence, resilience and self-regulation, while also supporting engagement with learning. The BBC reported on the experiences of pupils who have benefited from taking part in these sessions and explored how the programme is helping young people who may previously have struggled in mainstream educational settings.

The feature recognised the commitment of staff and coaches in providing opportunities that build not only physical fitness, but also important life skills such as discipline, perseverance and respect. Through structured activities and positive relationships, pupils are encouraged to challenge themselves, develop self-belief and celebrate success.

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MMA lessons aim to empower special needs pupils

Aimran Majid (centre) runs the mixed martial arts lessons at Lindsworth School

Louise Brierley

BBC News

At Lindsworth School, we are always looking for innovative ways to meet the needs of our learners, and it is wonderful to see this work receiving national recognition. The BBC article highlighted how the programme has supported improvements in behaviour, engagement and achievement, demonstrating the value of providing personalised opportunities that inspire and motivate young people.

We are extremely proud of all the pupils who took part in the feature and represented the school so positively. Their willingness to share their experiences reflects the confidence and maturity they have developed through their time at Lindsworth.

Being recognised by the BBC is a fantastic achievement and an opportunity to celebrate the hard work of our pupils, staff and wider school community. We look forward to continuing to provide enriching experiences that enable every young person to thrive, achieve their potential and prepare successfully for the future.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g4449yg75o

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Developing Oracy at Home

At school, we are committed to helping pupils develop strong oracy skills. Oracy is the ability to express ideas clearly, listen carefully to others, and communicate with confidence. These skills are essential for learning, building relationships, future employment and everyday life.

Parents and carers play a vital role in supporting oracy development at home. The good news is that it can be developed through simple, everyday activities.

One of the best ways to support your child is by making time for regular conversations. Ask open-ended questions such as, “What was the best part of your day?” or “Why do you think that happened?” Encouraging children to explain their thoughts helps them develop confidence and vocabulary.

Reading together is another excellent way to promote oracy. Discuss characters, events and ideas from books, magazines or news stories. Asking your child to predict what might happen next or explain their opinions helps to strengthen speaking and listening skills.

Family mealtimes can also provide valuable opportunities for conversation. Encourage everyone to listen respectfully, take turns speaking and respond thoughtfully to what others have said.

You can also support oracy through games and activities. Board games, storytelling, role play and even discussing television programmes can help children practise speaking, listening and reasoning.

Most importantly, celebrate your child’s efforts to communicate. Praise them for sharing ideas, asking questions and expressing opinions. Building confidence is a key part of becoming an effective communicator.

By encouraging regular discussion at home, you can help your child develop the oracy skills they need to succeed in school and beyond. Together, we can support every child to become a confident speaker, attentive listener and successful learner.

OUR COMMITMENT TO BIRMINGHAM'S INCLUSION CHARTER

INCLUSION FOR EVERYONE, EVERY DAY

Birmingham City Council

Birmingham Children & Young People's Partnership

ACCESSIBLE TEXT ALTERNATIVE

THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE OF BIRMINGHAM

ARE AT THE CENTRE OF OUR CHARTER

OUR 4 PRINCIPLES...

A SHARED CITY WIDE COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION

- EVERY LEARNER IS AT THE HEART OF OUR WORK
- WE ARE AMBITIOUS FOR EVERY LEARNER
- WE SUPPORT THROUGH STRONG PARTNERSHIPS
- WE ARE RELATIONSHIP BASED & RESTORATIVE

BIRMINGHAM'S INCLUSION HOUSE

www.inclusionhouse.birmingham.gov.uk

INCLUSION THROUGH OUR EYES...

"DON'T EVER ALLOW THIS WORLD TO CONFINE YOU IN A SPACE YOU DON'T FIT IN, YOU DESERVE TO FEEL LIKE YOU BELONG, NOT JUST BE THERE"

LEGACY...

IT'S PLANTING SEEDS IN A GARDEN YOU NEVER GET TO SEE

WE KNOW... IT TAKES A VILLAGE... TO RAISE A CHILD!...

WE NEED TO BE A CONNECTED & COLLABORATIVE!

"MAKE VISIBLE CHANGES THEY HAVE A HUGE IMPACT!"

"ALWAYS BE KIND & CONSIDERATE!"

"SPEAK OUT IF INCLUSION IS NOT PRESENT! EVERY VOICE NEEDS TO BE HEARD"

"INCLUSION IS KEEPING HERE TO THRIVE"

"EVERY LEARNER BELONGS & EVERY VOICE MATTERS!"

BIRMINGHAM LEARNERS TOGETHER – Our voices Our city

PUPIL VOICE

TRANSITIONS

- KNOW YOUR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & CONTEXT
- PLAN EACH TRANSITION CAREFULLY
- WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUR COMMUNITIES & FAMILIES

IF CHILDREN CHANGE BUT WE DON'T – HERE NO LONGER MEETING THEIR NEEDS

THE BEST ADAPTATIONS DON'T SINGLE CHILDREN OUT THEY LIFT EVERYONE UP!

EVERY CHILD NEEDS A ROCK SOLID

KEY ACTIONS FOR EDUCATIONALISTS

- FOSTER A CULTURE OF BELONGING & HIGH EXPECTATIONS
- PRIORITISE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- EMBED INCLUSION IN EVERY DAY PRACTICE
- SECURE & ALLOCATE RESOURCES
- MONITOR, EVALUATE & SHARE PROGRESS
- LEAD BY EXAMPLE
- COLLABORATE FOR IMPACT

INCLUSIVE PATHWAYS

INCLUSION CANNOT SIT WITH ONE PERSON OR TEAM... MOST EFFECTIVE WHEN WOVEN INTO THE CULTURE OF OUR SCHOOLS & SETTINGS

WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OUR CHILDREN!

OUR INCLUSION CHARTER FRAMEWORK

BELONG. MATTER. THRIVE