

Langley Park School for Girls

Enabling everyone to thrive – acting with kindness, determination and respect.



Headteacher: Mr S Whittle, MA (Cantab), PGCE, NPQH

20 September 2024

Dear Families,

As I reflect on the many activities taking place in school this week, I am reminded of my brief attempt to participate in group skipping in the courtyard one lunchtime. I am not yet sure whether this was to the admiration or astonishment of students!

Ms Stavrou has led a series of engaging assemblies this week on languages and language learning, in preparation for our celebration of the European Day of Languages on Thursday 26 September. It has been wonderful to recognise the many community languages spoken by our students and families at home, to see students attempting simple greetings in new languages and reflecting on the playful side of learning a language and the many benefits of doing so.

Thank you to parents and carers of Year 7 students for joining us at our Welcome and Information Evening. This provided an opportunity to meet the tutor team and receive information on our curriculum, reading programme, behaviour systems and the somewhat legendary Year 7 residential to Kingswood next month. I am grateful to all who have attended our recent in-school events and appreciate your commitment to working in partnership with the school to ensure our children and young people thrive – this is at the heart of our school vision.

We all have a desire for our children to achieve, learn without disruption and to develop into responsible, respectful and caring young adults. There are inevitably sometimes instances where students make the wrong choices and may act without kindness or respect towards others. I believe we have a shared responsibility to hold students to account for the highest standards of conduct, to support them to 'correct' behaviours and to learn from their mistakes. Our school sanctions (or 'consequences'), a common feature in all schools, are designed with this in mind. My colleagues and I have greatly appreciated the support from families where we have communicated behaviour incidents in school. On the rare occasions where we do not receive support, our experience is that students are more likely to repeat the same behaviours and receive the same sanctions.

I must congratulate the school community on their exceptional conduct and co-operation during this week's fire drill, highlighting the importance of a calm and orderly evacuation from school buildings in the event of an emergency.

Recent trips and activities have included a Year 11 Drama Trip to see War Horse, a visit to Hastings by our Year 12 Art BTEC students and a Bell Boating DofE Silver Expedition for Years 11, 12 and 13. Last week our Year 10 students participated and competed in public speaking workshops in partnership with the Jack Petchey Foundation and Speakers Trust, talking about topics of real interest and real-life experiences. Our teachers have also engaged in the launch of our professional growth programme, identifying areas of pedagogy and professional practice to research and develop within our designated teaching and learning communities. This demonstrates our commitment to continuous professional development and providing the best possible learning experiences for our students.

Langley Park School for Girls, Hawksbrook Lane, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3BE

Tel: 020 8639 5200 • info@lpgs.bromley.sch.uk • www.lpgs.bromley.sch.uk

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2022-2025



In this letter to families, I introduce members of our Senior Leadership Team and their areas of responsibility, as well as confirming the changes to the school day due to our forthcoming Open Evening, in support of our preparations.

Yours faithfully,

S J Whittle
Headteacher

MESSAGES FROM STAFF

Introducing the Senior Leadership Team



Mrs Emma Ashman-Clark
Deputy Headteacher
Achievement & Standards



Mr Steve Whittle
Headteacher



Mr Paul Seward
Deputy Headteacher
Quality of Education & Culture



Ms Sola Awoberu
Assistant Headteacher
Behaviour & Inclusion



Mrs Chloe Bush
Assistant Headteacher
Teaching & Learning



Mr James Chinery
Assistant Headteacher
SENDCO



Mrs Rachel Hurley
Assistant Headteacher
Safeguarding & Attendance



Ms Jenna Laity
Assistant Headteacher
Raising Standards



Ms Siobhan Osborne
Assistant Headteacher
Sixth Form



Ms Coral Sunman
Assistant Headteacher
Curriculum & Personal Development

Open Evening – Changes to the School Day

Thursday 3 October – dismissal at 1.25pm

Friday 4 October – later start at 10.00am

Students will be dismissed from school on Thursday 3 October at the end of Period 4 (1.25pm).

Arrangements will be made for students in receipt of free school meals to receive a packed lunch and break service will be available as normal.

On Friday 4 October, school gates will be open from 9.45am and students will be expected to be in form time at 10.00am. Period 2 lessons will start at 10.10am.

Thank you to all the students who are supporting at Open Evening and showcasing our school to prospective students and their families. There will be a short meeting after school on Wednesday 2 October for student guides in Years 7 and 8.

The Importance of Routines in Our Classrooms

At Langley Park School for Girls, we believe that establishing effective routines in the classroom is key to creating a productive and positive learning environment. Research shows that routines can have a powerful impact on both student focus and overall learning outcomes. Here's a look at the research behind why routines matter and how they are shaping our students' experience at school.

Routines matter because they:

Direct Learner Attention: Routines help students focus their attention on what matters most in the classroom (Begeti, 2020; Fuster, 2008).

Prepare the Brain for Learning: Learning requires focus, and routines serve as an essential foundation for achieving this (Dehaene, 2021).

Support Developing Minds: The areas of the brain responsible for attention and self-regulation are still maturing, especially during adolescence (Blakemore, 2018). Routines provide the structure needed for students to practice and improve these skills.

Empower Teachers: Well-established routines allow teachers to teach more responsively, fostering better relationships with students (McCrea, 2020).

At LPGS, we use simple, clear, and consistent routines across our school to ensure students are focused and ready to learn. These routines are shared throughout the school, making them easier to follow and helping students transition smoothly between classes. Below are the three core routines we use in our classrooms:

Arrival and Entry

When students arrive, they are greeted by their teacher at the door. This is an opportunity to check uniforms, engage in brief conversations, and ensure a calm entry into the classroom. Once inside, students follow their seating plan, remove coats, place bags under their desks, and begin the "Do Now" task in silence while the teacher takes the register. This routine allows for a smooth start to every lesson, minimising distractions and preparing students for focused learning.

3, 2, 1 Ready to Learn

When it's time for the teacher to gather the class's attention, they will use a simple "3, 2, 1" countdown. By the end of this, students are expected to be "Ready to Learn," which includes:

- Sitting up and facing the front
- Listening attentively to the speaker
- Answering questions clearly and loudly so everyone can hear
- Having nothing in their hands
- Tracking, which means looking at the person or thing they need to be focused on (teacher, board, or peer)

This helps students quickly re-centre and direct their attention to the lesson, optimising their learning experience.

Ready to Go

At the end of each lesson, the teacher will summarise the key learning points and celebrate individuals by awarding P points and 'student of the lesson'. Students will then be asked to pack away their materials, tidy their workspace, and stand behind their chairs. The teacher will dismiss them row by row, checking uniforms as they exit the classroom.

When students have clear, consistent routines, they can focus better and feel more secure in their learning environment. This structure reduces distractions, allows for smoother transitions, and helps everyone maximise their time and energy in the classroom. These routines are not only vital for academic success but also for fostering a sense of community and discipline in our school.

We encourage you to talk to your child about these routines and how they can benefit their learning both at school and beyond. By working together — teachers, parents, carers, and students—we can create the best environment for success.

Mrs C Bush, Assistant Headteacher

A Big Thank You from the LPGS Careers Academy!



We would like to say a BIG thank you to the very kind parents/carers and local businesses who have kindly donated to our new LPGS Careers Academy room. This week, we are ecstatic to say that we have been donated two large flat screen televisions, a board room table, an item of wall art and a skyline white board. We have also received cash donations from some generous parents and from local businesses:

- Wimpey, Beckenham
- Secure Inheritance

We still have a little way to go to reach our fundraising target. Any donations will be so very gratefully received! <https://www.gofundme.com/f/lpgs-careers-academy-fundraiser>

Mrs H Hayden & Miss W Day, LPGS Careers Academy


INFORMATION

Welcome & Information Evening Presentations

The Information Presentations for years 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13 are all available on our website and can be accessed via this link - [Information Presentations](#).

Music Extra-Curricular Timetable

Our extra-curricular Music activities have started this week, it is not too late to join in. Please contact Ms Sheppard (GS@lpgs.bromley.sch.uk) for further information.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BEFORE SCHOOL 8.05am – 9.05am	CHAMBER CHOIR For Yr. 9-13 singers (any ability) Mr. Sizer E008	STRING ORCHESTRA For Gr.1+ string players Mr. Sizer E008	YOUNG VOICES For Yr. 7-8 singers (any ability) Mr. Sizer E008	MUSIC EXTRA-CURRICULAR AUTUMN 2024-25	
LUNCH 1.35pm – 2.05pm	IVORY LOUNGE For playing the piano in groups (any ability) Miss Sheppard E008 GRADE 5 THEORY For improving knowledge of how music works (with optional qualification entry) Mrs. Brown E007	SAXTET For anyone who already learns the saxophone Miss Sheppard E005 BELLES & BOOMS For anyone who wants to play hand bells or boom-whackers (no prior experience necessary) Mr. Sizer E008	STEEL BAND For anyone who wants to play steel pans in a group (no prior experience necessary) Miss. Sheppard E008	CONCERT BAND For Yr.8-13 wind, brass and percussion players Miss. Sheppard E008	
AFTER SCHOOL 3.30pm – 4.30pm	TOUR BAND & CHOIR *Until October 1/2 term* For all students going to Austria E008 (dates for each group have been emailed home) COMPOSITION CLINIC For GCSE & A level Music students seeking coursework support Miss. Sheppard, Mr. Sizer & Mrs. Brown E005	JAZZ BAND For Gr.4+ players Miss. Sheppard, Mr. Sizer & Mrs. Brown E008	YEAR 7 BAND For ALL instrument players in Yr.7 Mrs. Brown E008 COMPOSITION TUTORIALS Pre-booked for GCSE & A level Music students Miss. Sheppard E005	JAMMING Open to all wanting to be in their own band (guitars, bass, drums, keyboards, voice) Student led E008 MAT ORCHESTRA *starting after October 1/2 term* For Gr.5+ string, brass, woodwind, percussion players (invite only) Miss. Sheppard Concert Hall	

Open Evening 2024 – Thursday 3 October

Open Evening
LANGLEY PARK SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Parents and carers are invited to join us for our Open Evening event for 2025 Year 7 Admissions.

Thursday 3 October

5.00pm-8.00pm

**Hawksbrook Lane,
South Eden Park Road,
Beckenham, BR3 3BE**

**Headteacher's Talks at
5.15pm, 6pm and 6.45pm**

Visit Our Website
lpgs.bromley.sch.uk

Please note there will be limited parking available on the Langley Park Campus and families are encouraged to walk or use public transport where possible.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 25 September – Tuesday 1 October
Thursday 26 September
Friday 28 – Monday 30 October
Tuesday 1 October
Wednesday 2 October
Thursday 3 October
Friday 4 October
Tuesday 8 October
Monday 14 – Wednesday 16 October
Monday 14 – Friday 18 October
Friday 18 – Tuesday 22 October
Monday 21 October – Friday 1 November
Monday 4 – Friday 8 November
Monday 25 – Friday 29 November
Thursday 28 November
Thursday 5 December
Monday 9 – Wednesday 18 December
Tuesday 10 December
Thursday 12 December
Friday 20 December
Monday 6 January
Tuesday 7 January
Thursday 23 January 2025
Thursday 6 February 2025
Thursday 20 March 2025
Thursday 1 May 2025
Thursday 15 May 2025

Year 12 Baseline Assessments
Year 12 & 13 Dance Trip
Duke of Edinburgh Award Silver Expedition
Year 10 Photography Trip
Year 12 & 13 Drama Trip
Open Evening, (dismissal at 1.25pm)
10am start for all students
Music Tour Concert and Parent Meeting
Year 7 Residential Trip
Year 11 & 13 Trial Exams
Music Tour
Half Term
Year 11 & 13 Trial Exams
Year 10 & 12 Assessment Week
Year 11 Parents' Evening
Sixth Form Open Evening
KS3 Assessment Weeks
Year 7 – 11 Flu Vaccinations
Year 13 Parents' Evening
Last Day of Term
Inset Day
Students return to school
Year 9 Parents' Evening
Year 8 Parents' Evening
Year 7 Parents' Evening
Year 12 Parents' Evening
Year 10 Parents' Evening

Details of sports fixtures can be found on [Firefly](#)