

Langley Park School for Girls

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



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

27 September 2024

Dear Families,

Reflecting back on this week, a real recurring theme for me has been 'collaboration'. There have been opportunities to work with others in school, within our trust and across Bromley. I came together with secondary headteachers from Hayes School, Langley Park School for Boys and Ravens Wood on Monday to discuss ways in which we are looking to peer review our schools this academic year, prior to a collaboration with Senior Leadership Teams on Tuesday evening, and a meeting of all Bromley secondary headteachers today.

I believe that in unity there is strength and we have much to gain from working together, as we improve and develop in common areas, while sharing strong practice and established success in others. I therefore look forward to working in partnership with our trust primary and secondary schools throughout this academic year.



European Day of Languages
26 September

This week we celebrated the European Day of Languages and on Thursday at lunch time students enjoyed a song performance in French from last year's Year 7 song competition winners. Students were also entertained by music and dancing and being rewarded with sweets if they knew how to ask for them in German, French or Spanish.

Throughout the week, Ms Stavrou continued to deliver assemblies to all year groups on the values of learning a language and included stories of teachers who lived and worked abroad. A group of Year 11 students also contributed to the assemblies by talking about their experiences on the German and Spanish exchanges. In lessons, students in Key Stages 3 and 4 have learnt songs in their languages of study.

We hope our students feel inspired for their language learning and encouraged to take opportunities to go abroad.

Friday 27 September marks 'National Teaching Assistants' Day' and I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight the work of our team of learning support assistants and to thank them for their commitment and contribution to our school. Working within our SEND Hub and across the school, they provide support to both teachers and our students. I have seen the care and encouragement they show and the difference they make to the day-to-day school experience of our young people. Our dedicated team is focused on enabling our students to access learning and to supporting their academic and personal development - they make a real difference. Thank you!

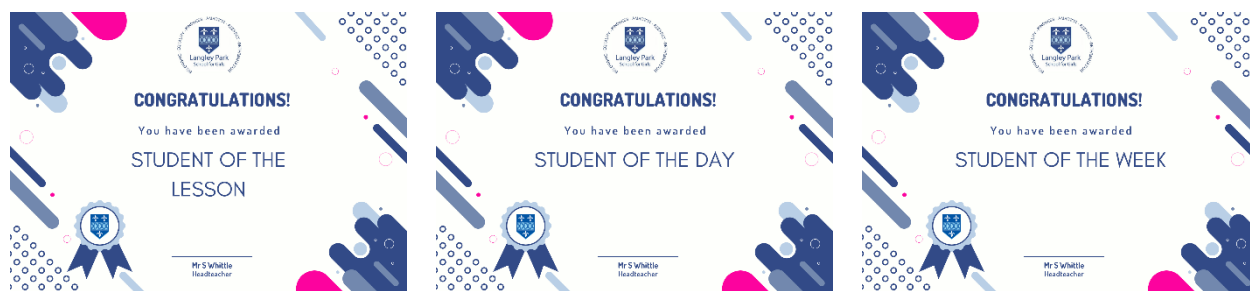
As Mr Seward, Deputy Headteacher shares in this short [video](#) on standards and behaviour, we recognise that following the introduction of a new Management Information System, we have not yet been fully able to synchronise this to some of our existing systems. Whilst we are exploring a review of existing parent apps and considering the implementation of a new Parent App in the future, we want to share directly with families those students receiving positive recognition by their teachers as 'Student of the lesson', 'Student of the day' and 'Student of the week'. We look forward to sharing this good news with parents and carers from next week.

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

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Since the start of term, students have received a staggering 55,853 progress (P) points for demonstrating our school values of belonging, equality, kindness, ambition, respect and determination and over 1,200 students have received no consequence points for behaviour, uniform or punctuality concerns.

We have recently been alerted about an attempted mugging in the local area in which students from our neighbouring school have been the victims. We talk regularly to our students in school about how to stay safe and will continue to do so. I considered it important to share this with families so that the message can be supported at home. Many thanks for your support with this.

A reminder for students when travelling to and from school:

- Go straight home.
- Take the most direct route to school/home.
- Walk in a group if possible.
- Stick to a recognised route that parents/carers would be expecting you to take.
- Ensure your phone is charged.
- Don't take short cuts through parks and fields, alleys etc, particularly during the darker evenings.
- If you are worried – go to a busy area, contact a parent, carer, or other family member etc. Where required, seek help from others – think about who it might be best to approach i.e. shop staff, an adult with children etc. This doesn't guarantee safety, and you should be aware of this, but likely to be a better choice than approaching a lone individual. If near to school, then return and seek assistance from a staff member.
- Do not display expensive items: the latest iPhone, Canada Goose jackets, cash, smart watches, headphones etc. are the items that are most frequently targeted.
- Be alert to your surroundings – don't walk with both your headphones in.
- Don't assume that other young people are safe and do not pose a threat. Most of the robberies we have been made aware of in recent times have been committed by other young people.

Further to the letter sent home on Monday, a reminder that we are inviting parents to stand for election as a Parent Governor. The letter is available on our website and further information on what being a governor would involve is available [here](#).

Yours faithfully,

S J Whittle
Headteacher

MESSAGES FROM STAFF

Open Evening – Thursday 3 October

– dismissal at 1.25pm & Friday 4 October – later start at 10.00am

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

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 and the day will continue as usual.

Thank you in advance to all the students who are supporting at Open Evening and showcasing our school to prospective students and their families either as guides (Y7, 8 and 13) or in subject areas (Y9-12). There will be a short meeting immediately after school on Wednesday 2 October for student guides in Years 7 and 8. All students who have been invited to help must have parental consent [via this Firefly link](#).

Ms J Laity, Assistant Headteacher

Wellbeing Hub Garden

Following the creation of our new Wellbeing Hub, we are looking to make the garden area a welcoming space for our students. We would be grateful for donations of exterior wood paint, gardening gloves, small handheld garden tools, compost/soil for planting and autumn/winter bedding plans or bulbs to plant for next year. If you are able to help with any of the above, please email Mrs Little via info@lpgs.bromley.sch.uk.

Mrs C Little, KS3 Pastoral Manager

Black History Month Reading List

Please see below a suggested reading list celebrating Black History Month from the Lit in Colour reading programme.



WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU MANGOES: Clara enjoys spending time with her best friend in their Jamaican village. There's just one problem: she can't remember anything that happened last summer. As family secrets are uncovered, and Clara's memory gradually returns, she must finally face the truth.

MEG, JO, BETH and AMY: Graphic Novel. A modern retelling of Little Women. Meet the March sisters sharing laughter and tears as they support each other through a difficult year.

CREEPING BEAUTY: Verse Novel. A book with bite for Halloween in this fun retelling of Sleeping Beauty. Eshe is a Fairy Godmother who will need all her special powers to change the future.

QUIET STORM: Storm has never liked to stand out from the crowd. She prefers to follow her best friend's lead. A passion for sport and being part of a team will help Storm find her own voice.

THE DOOR OF NO RETURN: Verse Novel. Kofi Offin leads a peaceful life with his family in Ghana but his world is shattered when he is captured and transported across the seas to a life of slavery in America.

NEEDLE: Quick Read. Charlene loves knitting and the little sister she has not seen since their mum died. When a gift she is knitting is destroyed by her foster mum's son, Charlene loses it. Can she find a way to say sorry when her future and her freedom are at stake?

BLACK AND BRITISH: A short, essential history covering 1800 years of Black British history from the Roman Africans who guarded Hadrian's Wall right up to the present day.

PARADISE ON FIRE: Addy and a group of children from inner-city New York, set out on an organised adventure holiday in the countryside. A forest fire breaks out. Addy will need all her survival skills to lead her group to safety.

WINDRUSH CHILD: Powerful, moving story tracing the life of Leonard who comes from Jamaica to join his father in England. Every day he faces racism in a country that seems alien to him. Young Adult

SLAY IN YOUR LANE: The Black Girl's Bible: Packed with real-life stories and interviews with iconic black women, providing practical advice to inspire a generation to succeed.

TAKING UP SPACE: The Black Girl's Manifesto for Change: Impassioned polemic by two Cambridge graduates against the lack of diversity within the education system.

CUTS BOTH WAYS: Honest, funny, heart-warming story. How can Cynthia follow her heart when it's being torn in two? Love is never just black and white.

WITH THE FIRE ON HIGH: Emoni wants to be a renowned chef more than anything else but having a young daughter doesn't make life easy. Ambition and determination will help Emoni find a way to 'feed' her dreams.

SLEEP LIKE DEATH: Cinderella is Dead but Snow White must fight on! Princess Eve can conjure weapons from nature. Her sole mission is to destroy the evil Knight.

WHEN OUR WORLDS COLLIDED: Three teenagers, from very different backgrounds, are brought together when they witness the murder of a young boy. What follows will flip their worlds upside down.

LOOKING FOR LUCIE: 18 year-old Lucie has just done a DNA test. She has never met her father and wants to uncover her ethnic heritage and family history. A story of self-discovery and newfound friendships.

LOVE IS A REVOLUTION: When Nala meets Tye it's love at first sight but there's a problem. Tye is a committed eco activist, while Nala just likes to relax with a good film. Tricky ... but Nala has a plan.

BLACK HISTORY FOR EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR: Perfect dip into book as David Olusoga tells the story of Black history, sweeping the reader across the world and through the ages.

Adult Reads

WITHOUT PREJUDICE: Lee Mitchell is a young barrister from a working class Caribbean background. When she takes on the high-profile case of a notorious millionaire businessman, the line between her private and professional life becomes dangerously blurred.

OPEN WATER: Two young people meet in a pub in South East London. Both are Black British, both are artists ... he a photographer, she a dancer. They fall in love and try to make their mark in a city that by turns celebrates and rejects them.

SOUL TOURISTS: An extraordinary odyssey as odd couple Stanley and Jessie embark on a literary road trip across Europe and engage with ghosts of marginalised historical figures such as Shakespeare's 'Dark Lady' and Pushkin's Ethiopian great-grandfather.

BLACK TUDORS: From musicians to princes, this illuminating book reveals the hitherto unknown part played by black people living and working in Sixteenth Century Britain ... and they were free.

Mrs J Hall, Librarian

INFORMATION

School Photographs

Students in Years 7, 10 and 12 who had their photographs taken last week will have brought home the details of how to view and order the prints via the Van Cols website.

Van Cols have asked that parents/carers register online so when the photographs are released you will then be notified directly. The photos should be available to view within the next week.

Allergens – A Message from Innovate Catering

The Food Standards Agency has made us aware they're warning people with a peanut allergy to avoid consuming foods that contain, or might contain, mustard, mustard powder, or mustard flour, because these ingredients may have been contaminated with peanuts. These ingredients can be found in food such as dips, sauces, pre-made salads, pasta, curries, cake products, custards and sandwiches. Please see the [attached letter](#) for further information.

Free School Meals

We are anxious to ensure that parents/carers with children who qualify for free school meals receive this entitlement.

The school also receives additional funding for students in receipt of free school meals, enabling us to offer financial assistance for trips and other school resources for those families in financial difficulty.

Please be assured that the free school meal grant is confidential and the money would be credited daily directly onto your child's card. There are no special arrangements for collection of grants or paying for items in the school canteen.

Eligibility

The first qualification for free school meals is that the children who live with you are full time school students attending a Local Authority maintained school in Bromley, it does not matter if your family home is out of the Bromley borough – it is the school address that counts.

The children who live with you are entitled to free school meals if you are in receipt of:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit

- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Pupils who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

How to apply

If you are in receipt of any of the above, and have not already applied for free school meals for your child, please visit the [London Borough of Bromley website](https://www.londonbromley.gov.uk/) for further information and to complete an application form.

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.



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

follow

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Instagram is a highly popular social media platform with over 2 billion active monthly users. The app is continuously updating and adding new features to meet the wishes of its audience, allowing them to upload images and videos to their Instagram feed, create interactive 'stories', go live, exchange private messages or explore and follow other accounts that catch their eye.

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

ADDICTION

Many social media platforms, Instagram included, are designed to keep us engaged on them for as long as possible. They encourage scrolling often and scrolling more in case we miss something important – in essence, a fear of missing out. On Instagram, young people can lose track of time when aimlessly scrolling and watching videos posted by friends, acquaintances, influencers and possibly strangers.

UNREALISTIC IDEALS

Children sometimes compare themselves to what they see online: how they look, how they dress, and the way their life is going in comparison to others on social media. However, most people only share the positives about their lives online and many use filters when sharing pictures of themselves. A constant comparison with unrealistic ideals can lead to insecurity over one's own appearance and lifestyle.

GOING LIVE

Livestreaming on Instagram allows users to connect with friends and followers in real time. Risks increase if the account is public, because that means anyone can watch the broadcast, which could result in further contact from strangers. Additional dangers of going live include an impulse to act inappropriately to draw more viewers, as well as being exposed to harmful content or offensive language.

INFLUENCER CULTURE

Social media influencers are sometimes paid thousands of pounds to promote products, services, apps and more. When celebrities or influencers post such content, it often says 'paid partnership' above the post. In April 2024, Ofcom found that over a quarter of children (27%) believed in influencer marketing, accepting their endorsement of products wholeheartedly. So it's perfectly possible for young people to be taken in by this kind of content.

PRODUCT TAGGING

Product tags allow users to tag a product or business in their post. This tag will take viewers directly to the product detail page on the shop where the item can be purchased. Children may also be encouraged by influencers to purchase products that they advertise.

EXCLUSION & OSTRACISM

Youngsters are highly sensitive to feeling excluded, which comes in many forms: not receiving as many 'likes' as expected; not being tagged in a friend's photo; being unfriended; not receiving a comment on their post or a reply to a message they sent. Being excluded online hurts just as much as offline. Young people have reported lower moods and self-esteem when excluded in this way, feeling as if they don't belong and aren't valued.

Advice for Parents & Educators

AVOID GOING PUBLIC

If a young user wants to share their clothing style, make up or similar and use product tagging to show off the items in their post, they may be tempted to change their settings to public. This leaves their profile visible to everyone, which carries the risk of strangers getting in touch with them. Set a child's account to private and explain the importance of keeping it this way.

HAVE AN OPEN DIALOGUE

Talk to children about the positives and negatives of social media, including the risks involved and how they can view or create content safely with family and friends. Explain how safety settings will ensure only followers can view them, and why this is so important. Also, if you find a child continuously uses filters on their photos, ask them why and impress on them that they don't need it.

MANAGE LIKE COUNTS

Due to the potential impact on mental wellbeing, Instagram allows users to hide the total likes on their posts, to prevent people from obsessing over that number in the corner. Users can hide like counts on all the posts in their feed as well as on their own posts. This means others can't see how many likes a person gets. This can be done by going into Settings > Notifications > Posts > Likes > Off.

USE MODERATORS

Instagram Live has implemented a mechanic called 'Moderators', meaning that creators can assign a moderator and give them the power to report comments, remove viewers and remove the ability for certain viewers to comment at all. Consider this if a child in your care wants to go live on the platform. It's also recommended to keep devices in communal spaces so you're aware if a child does go live or watch a livestream.

FOLLOW INFLUENCERS

Following influencers will allow you to monitor what they're sharing as well as being able to discuss anything which you deem inappropriate. Talk to children about who they follow and help them to develop critical thinking skills about what the influencer is trying to do. For example, encourage the child to ask themselves if an influencer is trying to sell them a product when they make a video endorsing it.

BALANCE YOUR TIME

Instagram has a built-in activity dashboard that lets you control how much time is spent on the app. Make sure children sign in to the platform with the correct age, as Instagram's 'Teen Accounts' afford much more control for parents and carers over how long they can use the app each day. Talk with young users about how much time they spend on Instagram and work together to set a healthy time limit.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/instagram-2022>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 25 September – Tuesday 1 October
 Friday 28 – Monday 30 October
 Weeks commencing 30 September & 7 October
 Tuesday 1 October
 Wednesday 2 October
 Wednesday 2 October
 Thursday 3 October
 Friday 4 October
 Tuesday 8 October
 Tuesday 8 October
 Monday 14 – Wednesday 16 October
 Monday 14 – Friday 18 October
 Wednesday 16 October
 Friday 18 – Tuesday 22 October
 Monday 21 October – Friday 1 November
 Monday 4 – Friday 8 November
 Monday 25 – Friday 29 November
 Monday 25 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
 Duke of Edinburgh Award Silver Expedition
 Key Stage 3 Book Fair
 Year 10 Photography Trip
 Year 12 & 13 Drama Trip
 Open Evening Student Helpers' Meeting
 Open Evening, (dismissal at 1.25pm)
 10am start for all students
 Year 10 & 11 Parents' Bromley Y Coffee Morning
 Music Tour Concert and Parent Meeting
 Year 7 Residential Trip
 Year 11 & 13 Trial Exams
 Spanish Exchange Parent Meeting
 Music Tour
 Half Term
 Year 11 & 13 Trial Exams
 Year 10 & 12 Assessment Week
 Year 7 Parents' Bromley Y Coffee Morning
 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](#)