



LANSDOWNE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear parents and carers,
I hope you've had a good week. It's wonderful to see everything settling back into our usual rhythm after the Christmas break, with the full range of curricular and extra-curricular activities once again taking place across the school.

This week, Mr Lee took a group of pupils to Islington for a workshop run by the Ben Kinsella Trust, where they learned some valuable life lessons. Ben was just 16 years old when he was tragically killed in a senseless act of violence on 29th June 2008. The Ben Kinsella Trust, established in his memory, works to tackle knife crime through education and campaigning, and we're grateful for the important work they do with young people.

We're delighted to resume our 'Artist of the Month' feature this week, showcasing the wonderful work of a Year 13 Pupil. Inspired by the fauna and flora of the Amazon rainforest, this pupil has created striking tote bags with unique and beautiful decorations.

Finally I'd like to draw your attention to a newly published guide by the Children's commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza - What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives. It can be found here: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/

Supporting children's safety has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. This guide was written with the direct involvement of children in England and reflects their views. In her conversations with children, the commissioner noted "I ask them: would they give a smartphone to their own teenager? Almost unanimously, they tell me no. They want to be protected from it as long as possible." Certainly food for thought!

Thank you for your support getting the children back into the routines and rhythms of the school week. It is much appreciated. Have a great weekend.

—Francis Downing, Head of School

Class of the Week
in KS3
Congratulations!
8CS


Class of the Week
in KS4/5
Congratulations!
14CR

Register here

Come with a parent, come with your young person, or come on your own!

Post-School Options for SEND aged 18-21
We are inviting parents of young people with SEND aged 18-21 to find out about post-school options. The event takes place at Vanguard School on Tuesday, 27 January at 3.30-5.30pm. This should be the first of a series of events in 2026. In April, we hope to run a larger event, aimed at young people, in partnership with Southwark Council at a prestigious South Bank venue. In October, we hope to work with Evelina London Children's Hospital again to run events aimed at parents and young people. — From Dan Oakley (Lambeth's SEND Preparing for Adulthood Lead)

**Next Friday's
Assembly Class**
11BM
on 23rd January
at 9.35am

 **Dates for your Diary:**
After School Clubs will resume on Tuesday, 20th January.
Enterprise Café in West Dulwich on 11th February.

Life Skills!



This term in Life Skills lessons we are learning about daily living skills in the home. This includes work on personal hygiene, cleaning, laundry, kitchen safety and making snacks. Parents and carers can help us with this important work by giving their young people opportunities to practice these skills at home - either with support or independently, if possible. If you have any questions about how best to support your young person please do contact Mr Hilton via the school office. Good luck! —Mr Hilton



Pupil Voice: Artist of the Month

I created this tote handbag completely from scratch in Art lessons. I used hessian fabric to make it and then applied different sewing skills that I learned in art such as: patchwork (at the sewing machine), various types of stitches, (lots of) sewing buttons and added fabric straps. My bag is inspired by the topic of the Amazon Rainforest and all its incredible tribes, plants and unique animals, I chose a toucan and a sloth as designs for my bag. My bag is functional but rather heavy to carry, because of all its buttons, but I will use it to carry my shopping, hum... what should I buy?

—Year 13 Pupil



Handmade Tote Bag
Sewing skills techniques
(Inspired by the Amazon Rainforest)



Choices & Consequences Workshop by the Ben Kinsella Trust

On Wednesday 14 January, a group of nine boys attended a Choices and Consequences workshop held at Finsbury Library, Islington. The group was accompanied by Mr Lee and Ricky, travelling safely to and from the venue using public transport. The journey involved walking from Lansdowne School to Stockwell Station, taking the

Northern Line to Angel, followed by a 15-minute walk to the library. The students conducted

themselves responsibly throughout the journey. The aim of the workshop was to raise awareness of the dangers of knife crime and to empower young people to make positive, informed choices that prioritise their safety. A key focus was on prevention, helping students understand the

direct link between the decisions they make and the consequences that follow. During the session, common misconceptions surrounding knife crime were explored and challenged—particularly the false belief that carrying a knife offers protection. Through discussion and real-life examples, students gained a clearer understanding of the risks involved. All students found the workshop engaging and informative, and they demonstrated excellent behaviour throughout the visit.

—Mr Lee

