

Ludlow CE School

OCTOBER HALF TERM NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers

Hopefully, you have a lovely half term planned and that the joys of trick-or-treating are enjoyed sensibly in your community. This newsletter contains many examples of your children making you proud and offers a glimpse into what has happened at Ludlow Church of England School this half term.

There will always be things missing, as it has been a busy half term with a great deal going on, and inevitably some things are forgotten in the hustle and bustle. As I write this, I can hear the excitement of the students in the hall next door as they prepare for Awards Evening. It is gratifying to be able to acknowledge some of the wonderful children in our school; inevitably, some miss out, and hopefully they will be recognised next year.

I value the opportunity to celebrate those who make a quiet difference to our school on a daily basis, and it is a shame that we cannot include everyone who deserves recognition. To do so, we would need to hire the Cathedral. There is often a tendency to demonise young people rather than celebrate how special and good the majority of them are.

Trick-or-treating is a good example of this. Most children take part with manners and respect, with parents aware of where they are and ensuring that vulnerable members of the community are not negatively affected by the experience. Some, however, do not behave in this way, and their behaviour is not addressed by those who should be guiding them and helping them to grow into people to be proud of.

Tonight, we recognise those young people whom we can celebrate; those whose actions make both you and me proud. They are the young people who do, rather than merely say, and who reflect positively on their families. I am sorry that we lack the space to celebrate more of them. However, if your son or daughter is featured in this newsletter or demonstrates attendance and behaviour in line with the expectations of our society, then you should justifiably be proud of them, as they reflect the values you have instilled in them.

Have a lovely half term, and we look forward to welcoming your son or daughter back on **2nd November**.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Stoppard

Introducing Our Senior Prefect Team 2026-2027

We are delighted to announce the appointment of our Senior Prefect Team for the 2026-2027 academic year.

Following a rigorous selection process, which included a formal interview, candidates were given the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership qualities, commitment to the school community and ability to act as role models for younger students. The standard was exceptionally high, and we were incredibly impressed by the maturity, confidence and professionalism shown by all those who took part.

We are pleased to introduce our newly appointed Senior Prefects:

- **Head Boy:** Thomas Kilby
- **Head Girls:** Rosie Solomon and Jemimah Edomwandagbon
- **Deputy Head Boy:** Harry Jones
- **Deputy Head Girls:** Evie Goosey and Megan Chaproniere

Our Senior Prefects play a vital role within the life of the school. As ambassadors for our community, they will represent the school at important events throughout the year, including the annual Remembrance Service and other occasions within the local community.

They will also lead and support a wider team of prefects, helping to coordinate a range of initiatives designed to benefit both our students and the wider community. Planned projects include developing paired reading opportunities with pupils from local primary schools, organising charity fundraising events, supporting the running of the Student Wellness Hub, assisting with school duties and helping staff to organise after-school clubs and revision sessions.

These positions carry significant responsibility, and we are confident that our Senior Prefects will rise to the challenge with enthusiasm, dedication and integrity. Their willingness to serve others and contribute positively to school life makes them excellent representatives of our school values.

We congratulate Thomas, Rosie, Jemimah, Harry, Evie and Megan on their appointments and look forward to working with them throughout the year ahead. We know they will make a valuable contribution to our school community and inspire others through their leadership and commitment.



Careers Update

Year 11 students have attended careers appointments with our Careers Adviser and attended a number of assemblies led by local post-16 colleges and training providers, in addition to the RAF and DWP. Students have also attended open events at Hartpury College, Ludlow Sixth Form, Hereford and Worcester Group Training Association and Kidderminster College.

Since September, all Year 11 students and parents/carers receive a weekly careers newsletter via email. It can also be accessed through the school website. These provide information regarding Open events at colleges, apprenticeship vacancies, career-related events in school and links to useful websites, along with updates on 'My journey since school' profiles, written by former students.

Y10 Work Experience week will resume next June. The event was launched in an assembly last summer and we urge Year 10 to approach employers asap.

Year 9 will be looking forward to the annual 'Guess my job' event. This is another very well received session where the aim is to guess the job of 12 different employers. Not as easy as you think – the employer is only allowed to give a Yes or No answer to questions and students only have 5 minutes with each one. Each employer ends the session with a presentation of their professional role, industry and career pathways.

Year 7 -Year 9 have attended sessions run by the DWP, with the focus on 'Introduction to the world of work' and apprenticeships. As the academic year progresses, there are a number of other career-related events that KS3 will attend.

Finally, an annual event that always proves to be very successful, is our Careers Fair for Year 8-11 students. It is a fantastic opportunity to gain information and ask questions of employers and colleges in order to gain a much clearer idea of life beyond school.



Congratulations Izzy

During the summer, Izzy joined 17 others in completing an incredible 170-mile bike ride from Ludlow to the Emirates Stadium in memory of Alex Elder.

The team took on the challenge to raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital and Alder Hey Children's Hospital, ultimately raising an amazing £28,805, plus £5,262.57 in Gift Aid.

Izzy and the team later visited both hospitals to present the money raised.

A fantastic achievement for a wonderful cause. Well done, Izzy and everyone involved!

St Peter's Pumpkin Carving Fundraiser



Students recently attended a pumpkin carving event to raise money for **Ludlow Foyer**. Everyone had a fantastic time, showing creativity and teamwork while supporting a worthwhile local cause.

Congratulations to **Ben Blythe** and **Rory Jenkins**, who were the winners of the pumpkin carving competition with their impressive designs.

The event was a great success, with students enjoying the opportunity to have fun, be creative, and contribute to fundraising for the community.



PE Extra Curricular Update

It has been a busy and successful start to the term with students representing the school excellently across a range of sports.

Football has enjoyed a strong start to the year. The Year 7 boys progressed in the English Schools' Cup with an exciting 5-4 victory over Kingstone, while the Year 8 boys produced an outstanding 9-1 win away at Bournville in Birmingham. The Year 11 boys now face EMC in the second round in what promises to be a highly competitive fixture. The Year 8 girls also showed excellent resilience and determination despite a first-round defeat against a very strong opposition.

Netball students across all year groups have represented the school in friendly fixtures and county competitions. A highlight was the U16 team finishing 5th in a highly competitive county tournament at Haberdashers School, where they performed brilliantly and were a credit to the school.

Rugby has also been thriving, with students competing regularly across all year groups. Confidence, skills and tactical awareness continue to develop through competitive fixtures. Students who are enjoying rugby are encouraged to continue their development at a local club, with Ludlow RFC Junior Section training on Sunday mornings.

Cross Country students produced phenomenal efforts at the Long Mynd event, tackling a demanding course with resilience, determination and excellent pacing. Their fitness levels and positive attitudes were evident throughout, with all participants representing the school superbly.



Year 11 Geography Fieldwork Trip to Carding Mill Valley

Our Year 11 Geography students recently enjoyed a fantastic fieldwork trip to Carding Mill Valley, where they had the opportunity to bring their classroom learning to life. Throughout the day, students collected a range of river data, investigating how the river changes from its source downstream and exploring the different *spheres of influence* that affect the river environment.

Students worked exceptionally hard, using a variety of fieldwork techniques to measure and record changes in the river channel. The data collected will provide valuable evidence for their GCSE Geography studies and help them develop their fieldwork and analytical skills.

One of the highlights of the day was the walk to the top of Light Spout Waterfall. The route offered stunning views of the valley and gave students the chance to observe many of the river landforms they have studied in lessons.



Prefect Training Supports

Student Leadership

Our prefects have made an excellent start to their new training programme this term, taking part in a range of sessions designed to help them fulfil their important roles within the school community. As part of their preparation, prefects completed essential First Aid training, learning how to respond in emergency situations, including what to do if a student is choking or requires CPR.

The prefects also benefitted from a presentation by Ben Straker, Safeguarding Lead for our DHMAT. Ben spoke about the role prefects can play in helping to maintain a safe and supportive school environment.

He discussed how to recognise potential concerns, the importance of listening to others, and the correct procedures for reporting issues through the appropriate channels. Looking ahead, we are delighted to have several external speakers joining us next term to work with our prefect team. These sessions will focus on leadership skills, inspiring younger students, and helping our prefects develop as positive role models within the school community. These opportunities provide valuable experiences for our young people, and we are extremely pleased with the enthusiasm, maturity, and commitment they have shown as they embrace the responsibilities of their new roles. We look forward to seeing them continue to grow and make a positive difference across the school.



Oakerwood Adventure Day - Year 7

Our Year 7 students recently enjoyed an action-packed day at OakerWood, filled with excitement, challenge and plenty of teamwork. Throughout the day, students stepped outside their comfort zones and embraced a variety of adventurous activities designed to build confidence, resilience and new friendships.

From tackling outdoor challenges to supporting one another through team-building activities, students demonstrated excellent determination and enthusiasm. It was fantastic to see so many pupils encouraging their peers, celebrating successes and showing the positive attitudes that make our Year 7 cohort so special.

The trip provided a wonderful opportunity for students to strengthen friendships, develop new skills and create lasting memories beyond the classroom. There were plenty of smiles, laughter and moments of achievement throughout the day, making it an experience that everyone will remember for a long time.

A huge thank you to the staff who supported the visit and helped make the day such a success. We are incredibly proud of the way our Year 7 students represented Ludlow CE School, demonstrating our core values of **Excellence, Resilience and Care** throughout the day.





Normandy 2026

From 12th-16th October, fifty pupils from Year 8 and Year 9 visited Normandy with Mrs Witty, Miss Van Den Bergh, Mr Thomas, Mrs Turner and Ms Turner.

On our first full day there, we visited Collège Jacques Brel in La Ferté Macé, Ludlow's twin town. There, pupils were able to see what school is like in France and meet their pen-pals. We then visited the town hall and met the Mayor of the town who welcomed us to La Ferté Macé and Normandy, then in the afternoon pupils completed a very energetic treasure hunt at the Chateau in Bagnoles de l'Orne with their pen-pals and teachers. Apparently Mr Thomas' group won, though he didn't mention it much!

Wednesday was a very history-focused day. We started at the American National Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer followed by a visit to Omaha beach and Arromanches. We finished the day at the battery at Longues-sur-Mer where pupils were able to experience the history of D-Day first hand, exploring bunkers and weaponry which remain much as they were in 1944.

Our final day before travelling back was spent between Bayeux and Caen. In Bayeux, we visited the British Military Cemetery and the Bayeux Memorial Museum, and pupils enjoyed some free time to explore the souvenir shops, antique shops and cafés. We had a picnic lunch outside William the Conqueror's castle in Caen, followed by an afternoon of shopping and sightseeing. We finished our trip with disco bowling in Bayeux, which was a great way to end a fabulous trip.

As staff, we were incredibly proud of our pupils. They showed a mature and respectful attitude when visiting the cemeteries and war memorials and were excellent company throughout the trip.



Wear Red to Stamp Out Racism

Students and staff came together to support **Wear Red to Stamp Out Racism**, showing our commitment to creating a school community where everyone feels valued, respected and included. By wearing red, we stood in solidarity against racism and celebrated the diversity that makes our school stronger. Thank you to everyone who took part and helped raise awareness of the importance of kindness, equality and respect for all.

