

Ludlow CE School Summer Newsletter



Update from the Headteacher

It has been a year of change at Ludlow Church of England School, with a series of challenges as the year has progressed. We will continue to improve, and I look forward to more newsletters allowing us to share that improvement.

As a school, we are privileged to care for so many outstanding children and, who are a credit to you as parents/carers. This newsletter highlights a few of their achievements. Please do continue to share their success, we are always proud to celebrate them (and as a parent, I know the joys of embarrassment as well as the pride that comes with it).

I would like to thank all of those involved in the Prom, which occurred recently. Staff voluntarily give up their time to make it a lovely event for the students, so thank you to them for doing so. The young people looked stunning as they marked their final goodbye to the school. I wish them the very best as they await their results this summer.

Since joining the school, I have had the pleasure of meeting many parents and I am overwhelmed by their support, and affection for our school community. I would like to thank you for the support to the staff, as well as the messages sent recognising the endeavours done for students at the school.

I hope you have a lovely summer and that you are able to enjoy time together as a family over the holidays, making memories. We look forward to welcoming all students back on 3rd September for the new year, when we will have a variety of rewards and trips occurring, also a musical! (To reassure everyone, I am not singing or dancing, a disappointment, I know).

Best wishes,
Mr M Stoppard

Congratulations, Edward

Edward H, 11, who attends Ludlow Church of England School, has won two gold medals and winning his classes at the Hereford Festival of Performing Arts.

Encore Enterprises, who organise the festival alongside the judges, have also awarded Edward with the Junior Shield for 2025.



The Pupil Support Centre Garden

We have a polytunnel in the PSC garden, which was re-covered last July. Thanks to the Tesco blue token scheme we were awarded £1500 to pay for it! Now we're growing courgettes, pumpkins, cucumbers, tomatoes, carrots, garlic, lettuce, rocket, sweet potato, fennel, peppers and chillies.



Ludlow Castle

Students studying History in Year 10 have been given the opportunity to investigate the location where



Ludlow's very origins began. Their investigation of the castle, which is at the root of the town's development, saw around 60 students visit Ludlow Castle in an examination of how the structure has changed over almost 1000 years. Students analysed the building itself and use their findings to scrutinise research which shows how the castle developed from a Norman fortress against the Welsh, to a local stronghold and site of lavish wealth, and then finally into the hustle and bustle of the courts of the Council of the Marches and retreat of the Tudor royal family. Their findings will form a key part of the revision for their final GCSE exam.

School Production 2026: Matilda the Musical JR. – A Magical Night Awaits!

Get ready to be swept off your feet by the cleverness, courage, and charm of Matilda the Musical JR., coming to our stage in February 2026. Based on the beloved book by Roald Dahl, this high-energy production tells the story of a remarkable girl who dares to stand up for what's right, armed with her imagination, intelligence, and a bit of telekinetic magic.

Join us for an unforgettable night filled with catchy songs, energetic dance numbers, and a heart-warming tale that reminds us all that "even if you're little, you can do a lot." Our talented cast of young performers will be working tirelessly to bring this story to life, and they can't wait to share it with you. From the terrifying Miss Trunchbull to the sweet and supportive Miss Honey, each character will leap off the stage with vibrant costumes, expressive performances, and infectious energy. Isla L, as Matilda, is joined by Amira C and Bella B in lead roles, along with another forty students making up the rest of the cast and ensemble.

Whether you're a longtime fan of the book, the film, or new to the story entirely, Matilda JR. is perfect for families, students, and theatre lovers of all ages. This junior version keeps the essence and excitement of the full-length Broadway musical while being just the right length for younger audiences. We can't wait to see you there!

If you or your company would like to sponsor the production and have your name on all promotional material, please email C.Harrison@ludlowschool.com. Any support would be valued.

Year 10 students present handmade picnic table to Hazlin

Year 10 Design and Technology students, accompanied by staff, recently visited Hazlin to present a handmade folding picnic table as a token of appreciation. The table was crafted by the students as a gesture of thanks for Hazlin's ongoing support of the DT department.

For several years, Hazlin has generously supplied timber used in numerous school projects, playing a key role in the success of the department's practical work.



Wildlife Rescue

A lethargic baby ferret was found in school, and Dave our Site Manager came to the rescue. The ferret was taken to Teme vets, where Sarah and Zoe looked after the poorly little fella, who they named Dave. Dave (the ferret) was quite poorly with a heavy flea burden and was found to be extremely anaemic. He was taken home by Zoe for the weekend, and I am pleased to report that he is now eating and is staying with Zoe for a period of rehabilitation.

..... A very happy ending



Community Spotlight

We are thrilled to share that Lucy Venalls from Vision Homes Association, has generously donated 25 boxes of safety goggles. These goggles will be used in our science labs and workshops, helping to ensure the safety of our students and staff during hands-on activities.

We are incredibly grateful for their support, and we look forward to putting these resources to good use.

A Heartfelt Thank You to Ludlow Racecourse

We would like to extend our deepest thanks to Ludlow Racecourse for their incredible help, support, and generosity this year. Their contribution playing a vital role in making our Summer Ball a truly memorable event for our students.

We are so grateful for their continued partnership and community spirit.

Thank you, Ludlow Racecourse, for helping us celebrate in style.

Year 9 visit to Staffordshire University

Our Year 9 students visited Staffordshire University Stoke Campus on Friday 4th July. During the day they enjoyed a campus tour and took part in a variety of different workshops including engineering, Law, Games Design, Forensic Science and Art and Design. Most importantly all of our students have come away from their experience more informed about university life and the benefits of studying a degree.



Clubsport Hereford Uniform Pop-Up Shop – Save the Date!

We're excited to announce that **Clubsport Hereford** will be hosting a **pop-up shop** for school uniform sales on:

Wednesday, 27th August

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: School Canteen

This is a great opportunity to get everything you need for the new school year in one convenient place. Come along to browse, try on, and purchase uniforms with expert help from the Clubsport team.

Whether you're preparing for a new term or just need a few essentials, we look forward to seeing you there!

Year 11 Summer Ball 2025

The 2025 Summer Ball took place at Ludlow Racecourse on the evening of Friday July 4th. As is traditional, there was a cavalcade of vehicles of all shapes and sizes dropping off the glamorous and dapper guests.

This year a committee of students and staff had worked hard to plan and raise funds for the event, to try to reduce the cost to guests. Food was a buffet with snacks and sweets to keep everyone going. The music was provided by DJ Miles again and got everyone up on the dance floor.

Thanks must go to Ludlow Racecourse for the great venue, the caterers, Café V, and the staff who put so much time and effort into making sure that it was a night to remember, Miss Van Den Bergh, Mrs Millington and Mrs Turner. Thanks also to the small band of parents and grandparents who helped set up on Friday, and to Miss Van Den Bergh's Mum for supplying sweet peas for the tables.

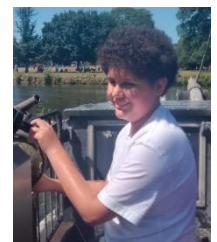


Alton Towers Rewards Trip

On Friday 11th July, we had the pleasure of taking **215 students** to **Alton Towers** as a reward for their **excellent attendance** throughout the academic year. Each of these students achieved an attendance rate of **over 95%**, and this trip was a well-deserved celebration of their commitment and consistency.

It was a **fantastic day out**, filled with excitement, laughter, and memorable moments. The students represented the school brilliantly, and we are incredibly proud of their achievements.

This trip marks the **first of many celebrations** planned to recognise and reward our students for their hard work and dedication. We look forward to continuing to celebrate their successes next academic year.



Workplace Encounters

We are looking to increase the number of workplace encounters for our students in all year groups. If you have a local business that would be able to host on site a class of students for a short workshop or visit; or feel that you can contribute to our careers program in any way then can you please get in touch with Stephen Richards, Assistant Headteacher via s.richards@ludlowschool.com.

Year 10 Visit to Ludlow College

On Thursday 3rd July all our Year 10 explored options that they have post-16 at the Ludlow Campus of Herefordshire, North Shropshire and Ludlow College group. Our students had an engaging day where they 'tasted' subjects including Hairdressing, Geology, Motor Vehicle Studies, Visual Arts and Engineering to name but a few.

Year 10 Employer Encounter and Career Insight Day

On Thursday 10th July we held an Employer Encounter and Career Insight Day for all of our Year 10. This day was planned in conjunction with Emma Lopez from the Marches Careers Hub which took into account the career preferences that they recently expressed in their Future Skills Questionnaire. During this day they met with employers working in a range of sectors through a series of workshops which included:

Mat Sen: A presentation from a former professional boxer who had sparred with Antony Joshua. He shared his thoughts on his career and what this has told him about what really matters in life.

West Mercia Police: Students spoke to PC Ahmed Chaudry about careers in the Police force. They also had chance to sit in a police car and to try out all the gadgets!

Medical Mavericks: Semaya and Renita (Y3 Medical Student and a doctor) brought into school a range of instrumentation used in medicine. Anything that could be measured was Including pulse, blood pressure, ultrasound images of internal organs; some students proved very proficient at taking bloods and others tried out keyhole surgery.

Hit the Dhol: Students learned about careers in music and the creative industries through a drumming workshop run by Antonio Jhalli. During an exciting finale to the day, Toni performed live with our resident drum and base Year 10 boy's quartet which got the audience out of their seats to the sound of bhangra beat.

RAF: Kamil Spence led a fitness-based session that also explored careers in the RAF.

All of our presenters were hugely impressed with the participation of our students who through their encounters gained an insight into a variety of different careers paths and the skills needed to succeed in them.



Student Spotlight: Libby E (Year 10)

We are delighted to celebrate the creative talents of Libby E, a Year 10 student whose passion for writing continues to flourish. Libby frequently shares her work with her English teacher, and her love of poetry has recently led to an exciting achievement—one of her poems is soon to be published in an upcoming book!

Her writing is thoughtful, expressive, and full of insight. We're proud to share her latest poem below, which explores themes of self-image, identity, and empowerment.

Mirror Talk

by Libby E

I meet her each morning, silent glass
She watches me as moments pass.
A tilt of a chin, a furrowing of a brow,
She asks herself "is this enough?"

My eyes trace the curves, to compare,
Taunted by the praise replaying.
The mirror echoing in every doubt,
A chorus I want to live without.

But today, I shift the frame,
Speak to her not with shame but name.
"This is skin that holds my fire,
Not a canvas for desire."

These arms have been lifted, these legs have run,
This stomach laughs beneath the sun.
A thousand stories live in me,
Not filtered through what all eyes see.

She blinks, less judgement, more of a friend than foe,
Learning to love myself.
And though the glass still shows the same,
I leave it calling and whispering out my name.

Libby's writing is an inspiration to her peers and a reminder of the power of creative expression. We look forward to seeing where her writing journey takes her next!

Under 14's Football Champions

Our Under 14's boys have won the ESFA U14 Small Schools' Cup, defeating Truro School 2-1 in the final at The Hawthorns stadium, home of West Bromwich Albion.



This is the first time in the school's history a team has won a national sports competition. Many thanks to the kit sponsors, McConnel and International Insignia.



Homework Club

in the Pupil Support Centre



Years 7-11
welcome

Computers



Merits for
good work!

Drinks and
toast.

Every Monday and Tuesday
from 3:30pm until 5:00pm

Contact Mrs Seaman - 01584 872691 Ext 238 or just turn up!



Science

- Do you have siblings or friends who are budding scientists joining us in September?
- If that is a YES!
- Let them know there will be an after-school SCIENCE CLUB for year 7, starting in September
- Details of where and when, to follow at the beginning of term.