



LUDLOW CE SCHOOL

Half-Term Highlights



Headteacher's Update:

I always write these messages with a degree of regret because there is so much that happens in a school that we forget to include in the newsletter. Schools are busy places, and often some of the magic is missed, such as the jigsaw being put together in the PSC at the school. It's a simple but lovely project that the students are working on. Piece by piece, it is coming together thanks to the efforts of everyone in that area.

The picture is of Ludlow High Street and, just like in a school, there are the odd pieces that are missing but will eventually be solved... if they can find the missing piece (a mystery to be solved on a Thursday, probably).

Anyway, I hope this newsletter gives you a picture of the jigsaw that has been this half term. I apologise to those whose pieces are missing, as it's sometimes a rush to get the picture finished in time to show it off.

On a more personal note, I would like to thank the Ludlow students who went to Hereford Cathedral on 9th December. They represented the school in a choir of 400 to a congregation of over 500 (a guesstimate) and played their part magnificently, I, of course, sang like an angel (more Osborne than Gabriel).

Have a wonderful, pigs-in-blankets kind of Christmas, and we look forward to seeing your wonderful children back in the New Year.

Ho Ho Ho

Mr M Stoppard

Anti-Bullying Week

This half term we always participate in the Anti-bullying Alliance's annual campaign. This year the theme is about speaking out, either as the victim of bullying or a witness to it. Mrs Tysall's assemblies to each House reflected this message. As a result of the assembly, a Year 11 student was inspired to write this beautiful poem.

It Gets Better

They whispered words that cut like glass,
I tried to smile and let them pass.
Each hallway echoed, sharp and loud,
And I felt lost beneath the crowd.

I hid my pain behind a grin,
Pretending strength that wore too thin.
But someone saw what I concealed,
A teacher asked, "How do you feel?"

Their voice was calm, their eyes were kind,
They helped me speak what trapped my mind.
With every word, the weight grew lighter,
The days ahead felt somehow brighter.

So if you're hurting, don't stay small—
There's hope and help; please tell them all.
It gets better—believe, stand tall.

To reinforce the anti-bullying message, we also participated in Odd-Sock Day on Monday 10th November. Many staff and students wore odd socks that day.



Remembrance Service at Ludlow School – Friday 7th November

The assembly, led by Mr Sampson, encouraged students to reflect on events nationally and historically, while also considering how remembrance connects to our own school and town community—and how each of them can make a difference going forward. Across the school, tutor groups engaged in creative and thoughtful activities, deepening this sense of reflection.

Later, our Head Boy and Head Girl represented Ludlow School at the town's service, joining the wider community in paying tribute.

This occasion was a powerful reminder of how our students reflect, show empathy, and look beyond themselves—qualities that truly matter.



Spanish Trip

In November, Year 9 pupils enjoyed a trip to The Angel in town, where they were able to sample a range of authentic, traditional tapas dishes. Pupils joined in enthusiastically in trying the new foods and engaged really well in discussing the different dishes with each-other, their teachers and the staff at the restaurant. The trip was a great success and one which we will look to repeat in the future.

Girls' Football Update

Our Under-14 girls' team has successfully progressed to the next round of the County Cup after an impressive 2–0 victory against Sir John Talbot. Meanwhile, our Under-13 girls represented the school in the Utilita EFL Cup at Shrewsbury Town FC, finishing top of their group and securing an excellent 3rd place overall. Looking ahead, we are excited to announce the launch of the *Football Activator Programme* in the new year for a select number of KS3 girls. This initiative aims to promote the popularity and enjoyment of girls' football within our school community.

Following in the footsteps of Charles Darwin and Sir Michael Palin is Elliot Dixon

Elliot Dixon, a current Y11 student, has been accepted into one of the most prestigious private schools in the country - Shrewsbury School. It was a neighbour of Elliot who suggested that he apply to study A-Levels at the school. Elliot attended an Open event last summer and was made aware of a course open to students living in Shropshire, with a particular interest in STEM subjects. Elliot decided to enroll and has been part of 'Shrewsbury School's STEM Potential course' since September 2024. He attends the course every 6 weeks and this confirmed his decision to apply to study A-Levels this September. The application process was not for the faint-hearted and required potential students to complete a personal profile, 3 entrance exams conducted over 2 days, formal interviews with the Director of Admissions and a Housemaster and to provide a reference.

Competition for places is highly competitive with applications from students all over the world. Charles Darwin and Sir Michael Palin are just 2 highly successful Shrewsbury School alumni.



Elliot has applied to study A-Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry and has chosen to be a boarder. He plans to balance studying by continuing to swim, representing Shropshire. Fortunately for Elliot, his new 'home' has a pool! We all wish Elliot the best of luck as he embarks on this very exciting new chapter

Year 9 Careers in Science Presentation

In November, our Year 9 students who have been demonstrating outstanding progress in Science were treated to an inspiring visit from former student Kaya Tengiz, who returned to school to share his remarkable academic and career journey. His presentation offered students a unique glimpse into the exciting opportunities that can grow from a passion for science.

After leaving our school, Kaya went on to study Astrophysics at Liverpool University, a subject that he was passionate about from an early age. He spoke about the thrill of exploring the mysteries of the universe, from black holes to distant galaxies, and how his time at university opened doors to new academic and personal experiences, particularly his time spent in China.

Following his undergraduate degree, Kaya completed an MA, further deepening his expertise and strengthening his drive to pursue scientific research. He shared with students the importance of perseverance, curiosity, and seeking out opportunities that push you beyond your comfort zone.

Perhaps the most exciting part of his story is what comes next: in January, he will be travelling to Australia to begin a PhD, where he will continue his research in astrophysics. He encouraged students to stay dedicated to their studies, reminding them that their current efforts can shape incredible futures.

The Year 9 audience listened with enthusiasm and asked thoughtful questions, clearly inspired by Kaya's achievements. We are grateful for his visit and proud to see a former student reaching for the stars—quite literally.

PACC Newsletter

Please see the December edition of the PACC newsletter including lots of useful information and articles on:

- The SEND Reforms National Conversation and how to join it
- The Mental Health, Autism and ADHD Review
- Current opportunities to share your views through local and national SEND surveys
- The PACC Team highlights of 2025

[PACC December 25 Newsletter Published - PACC Shropshire](#)

Careers Convention

Our annual Careers Convention took place in the main hall this week. Students from Y8-11 attended the event with stands hosted by local colleges, our link university, 'Staffordshire University' and local, regional and national companies. Feedback from employers was overwhelmingly positive. High levels of interaction, positive attitudes and interesting questions, being regular comments made from our hosts.



Recycled Bottle Poppies

Year 7 students and helpers made over 250 recycled bottle poppies for remembrance in Art and DT. Some of those poppies are now baubles on the Christmas Tree Trail in the Castle.



The “Pupil Support Centre” Garden - from raised bed to soup!

This year we grew a crop of sweet potatoes in our poly tunnel; a vegetable we haven't grown before. One plant produced 3kg of potatoes and this photo shows how strange they looked!



We washed and chopped the sweet potatoes then cooked “African Sweet Potato Soup” - it's totally tasty! We have frozen it and in the new year, we will sell this and other varieties of soup, with garlic bread, to pupils and staff at lunchtimes. This fundraising event (cash only) helps us to buy more seeds to plant in our PSC garden.....and the growing/harvesting cycle begins again!

Advent Service at Hereford Cathedral

Fourteen wonderful young ladies from KS3 proudly represented our school at the annual DHMAT Advent Service held in the magnificent surroundings of Hereford Cathedral. They joined a large combined choir made up of students from across the trust, creating a powerful and moving ensemble that filled the cathedral with music and Christmas spirit.

For the past five weeks, the choir members have shown outstanding commitment, rehearsing nine challenging pieces in preparation for the event. Their repertoire included much-loved traditional carols such as O Come All Ye Faithful, as well as the vibrant and rhythmic Siyahamba, a hymn that originated in South Africa and brought an uplifting, joyful energy to the service.

The atmosphere throughout the performance was one of joy, warmth, and true Christmas cheer. The audience responded with heartfelt appreciation, clearly moved by the dedication and talent on display. Our students were exceptional ambassadors for the school, demonstrating professionalism, enthusiasm, and teamwork from the moment they arrived until the final note was sung.

We are incredibly proud of their achievements and grateful to everyone who supported them in preparing for this memorable celebration of music and community.

Science Club

Our enthusiastic year 7 scientists have been very busy this half term doing lots of interesting experiments and making scientific things.....

- In a fire-based lesson, they did FIRE writing, talked about the fire triangle and saw Mrs Holland set on fire by Dr Steventon, in a spectacular demonstration.
- Making vegetable fat and bird seed feeders to take home to put in their outdoor spaces. A little helping hand for garden birds as the weather turns colder.
- Their first introduction to acids and alkalis using the pH scale and using geranium petals as acid/alkali indicators.
- They made iron filing sparklers for Bonfire Night and Mrs holland demonstrated the ammonium chromate volcano experiment.
- Some scientists dissected owl pellets and were able to identify the mammals that the owls had been eating by comparing bones and skulls to an identification table.

Farewell from Mrs Tysall

After a little over 15 years at Ludlow Church of England School and almost 25 years as a teacher (and a very significant birthday), I have decided that now is the right time to retire.

Ludlow School is an amazing family to be part of, like all families, it goes through change and has its ups and downs. At the heart of this school there is a fantastic staff body, teachers and support staff, who come to work every day to make a difference to children's lives.

Our students are all wonderful young people, sometimes they get things wrong, but that is how they learn. I wish every one of them all the best for their future. It has been an honour to be a small part of so many young people's lives.

Thank you to all parents who have been supportive of the school.

I hope that you all, staff, students and parents continue to work together - only that way can the school continue to thrive.