

## Ditch the Distractions

Year 7 students had a visit from Staffordshire County Council's Safer Roads Partnership who delivered an Assembly around the theme of *Ditch the Distraction*. Students were informed that there has been a steady increase in pedestrian accidents involving young people between the ages of 11 and 15.

Many happen while students are distracted. They may be messing about with friends, texting, using social media, playing games on their smartphones or listening to music. Students were urged to *Ditch the Distractions* and stay safe.

## Firework Safety

Tamworth Fire Service came into school on Monday 3 November to talk to Year 7 students about the dangers of fireworks. They were given a talk by Tamworth Fire Officers and encouraged to stay safe and enjoy Bonfire Night.

## GCSE FOOD

There are revision guides available to purchase at the cost of £8.00 from the DT department.

If you would like to order one please see Mrs Rose or Mrs Morgan.



## Morning Drop Off and Afternoon Pick Up

Following meetings with the County and Borough councils, Tamworth 6<sup>th</sup> Form have been advised that they are in breach of their planning conditions by allowing student drop offs via the 6<sup>th</sup> Form entrance. Please be aware that from 5 January 2015 the gate at the 6<sup>th</sup> Form will be closed when you will be dropping off your children in the morning. All drop offs and pick-ups need to be via the Landau Forte Academy QEMS entrance and turning circle. There will be considerably more people dropping off in this area, so please take extra care.



## DRAMA

After Christmas Miss Bird will be running a drama group on a Wednesday afternoon at 4pm for an hour. This will be in the performance area. Any students that are interested need to go to E4 and sign up.

## GCSE Business Studies

GCSE Business Study students will be starting controlled assessments which accounts for 25% of their final GCSE.

Year 11 and double option groups will be completing their assessments at the start of January 2015.

Letters will be sent out in the post with further information from Mr Coates.

## Young Enterprise

We are the Young Enterprise team for 2014 and our business is called Cap'd, aptly named as our unique product is based around the use of a recycled bottle caps. We are a group of 7 Year 10 students comprised of Julia Kings; Lucy Martin; Ellie Smith; Emily Cox; Tilly Lawrence; James Griffiths and Lewis Smith. Our product is a recycled bottle cap which we remould, add a personalised centre design and turn into a key ring. We are making our product in the DT block. You can place your order for a key ring through any of our members or Mrs Morgan. The key rings cost £1.50 each.

## Exams

All Year 11 students will be sitting Mock exams week commencing 5 January. Timetables have been issued to students.

## Remembrance Sunday



On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2014 our Year 11 students honoured the many soldiers and servicemen and women that have protected and died for our country in WW1, WW2 and in modern wars. Proudly displaying our banner (made by Mrs Robinson) they marched through the streets alongside many of the other local schools, soldiers, cadets, brownies and families.



## Children in Need

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014 Landau Forte Academy QEMS raised £718.49 for Children in Need. Our Year 11 students organised a fayre in the hall during lunch-time. Activities the students could participate in included: Face painting, Raffle, Doughnut Challenge, Cake sale, Lemon game, Apple bobbing, Guess the sweets in a jar and Bean bag toss game. The student leaders, Mrs Clayton and Mrs Perkins also organised Golden tickets treasure hunt in the library during break and lunch. We also raised money towards our total by the whole school wearing non-school uniform (with an item of yellow) and bought wristbands for the charity!



## Tamworth Old Boys

Once again the Old Boys from Tamworth Grammar School attended their annual Remembrance Service on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November to remember friends, colleagues and peers who died during both world wars.

The service was led by Mr Fell. The Brass Band, conducted by Mrs Walters, performed suitable items during the arrival of guests, hymns during the service and on their exit. Sarah Hambly performed The Last Post on the trumpet superbly.

There were 6 old boys who attended, one of them read out the names of the 34 who perished during WW1 and the 21 who fell in WW2.



## Harriet Goodwin

Landau Forte Academy QEMS were lucky enough to be selected for a visit by award-winning author Harriet Goodwin, who has written brilliant and exciting novels for children, such as 'The Boy who Fell Down Exit 43' and 'The Hex Factor'. Harriet worked with students in Years 7 and 8 on their creative writing skills and offered some inspiring tips on developing their own stories. Class 7i have also been working hard on a display board about her first book, 'The Boy who Fell Down Exit 43', which they were proud to show her. The students will be using their new expertise to develop their own short stories and hope that Harriet will come to visit again to look at the stories that they have written. Literacy Coordinator Mrs Perkins said "Visits like this are inspirational to our students; they were hanging off her every word!" Librarian Mrs Clayton commented "Her books are flying off the shelves, meeting her has inspired students to read her books. It was lovely to hear how impressed she was with our students attitude to reading. "





## House Music

House music took place on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November. The competition was fierce between all of the houses, with some excellent performances taking place, including solos from Lauren Walker-Hughes, Alice Jones, Jade Mahon and Gabriel Summerfield. There were also many great choir and ensemble pieces which were performed excellently. In the end, Peel were victorious and took the trophy. It was a very close competition but Peel deserved victory after a particularly well arranged ensemble piece and a brilliant solo. Congratulations to Sarah Hambly, Charlotte Dale, Lewis Jones, George Williams, Aliyah Glover and Ben Thacker for leading their house to victory! It was a very enjoyable evening of music.





## Primary Challenge

On the 27<sup>th</sup> November, 240 children from local primary schools came to Landau Forte QEMS for a day of learning about Samba music and its origins. Groups of children rotated around different areas of the school to learn about Brazil. In the DT department, the children cooked a special type of Brazilian bread. In the art department the children made masks which are worn for carnivals. In music they created a Samba piece on Cubase as well as playing a Samba piece on the keyboards. In the performance area there was a dance workshop where the children learnt how to dance to Samba music. In the hall there was a drumming workshop in which the children put together a Samba performance. All of the children participated in four of these activities. The children and their teachers learnt a great deal about Samba in a very practical hands-on way and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.





## Tingling Tango

On the 17<sup>th</sup> October, Year 7 spent the morning learning about Tango. They practiced an ensemble performance of La Cumparsita, a piece of tango music. There was a poetry writing session in which the pupils wrote poems about Tango music. In Art they created fans and Argentinian Flags. In the afternoon parents enjoyed a glass of non-alcoholic bubbly and were entertained by the Year 7 students who put on a concert showcasing what they had done during the day. There were ensemble pieces, solos and poetry readings. The concert was a great success and it was good to see the entirety of Year 7 participating.



## Performing Arts Showcase

The Performing Arts Showcase took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> November and will form part of the assessment for those taking the GCSE Performing Arts qualification. The evening included a wide variety of performances, including Blood Brothers, vocal and dance performances and scripts that had been written by the students on the subjects of 9/11 and homelessness. Students were also marked on their participation in backstage management, lighting and sound engineering. All in all, there was a very impressive range of talent showcased.

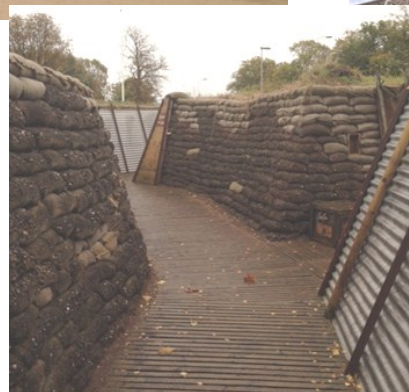
## Year 9 History visit to Whittington museum and the National Arboretum

In October the History department took a group of Year 9 students to Whittington and the National Arboretum to consolidate and add to their understanding of the World War One topic being studied. They focused on experiences of the war for both soldiers and civilians and how we remember and commemorate those who lost their lives in the First World War and in other conflicts. One of the Year 9 students who went on the trip reflected on their day:

'My experience at Whittington was amazing. I learnt about the different soldiers who were in the British army. We learnt about the different uniforms they wore and we looked at how some soldiers died and their specific roles. We looked at the roles of women in the war and we were given a presentation about what they did; mostly about the nurses and how they would work. We learnt about the volunteer nurses as well as regular nurses and the conditions of the hospitals. Next we went into the trenches with sound effects and the way they were laid out was so real you felt as though you were there. We learnt about how they coped with the conditions and how they held the defences.

The National Arboretum was an experience I won't forget because learning about the deaths in the war was shocking. We went to a lot of memorials for the First World War, the Second World War and some others. We went to the armed forces memorial where on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month the sun shines on the central memorial where they lay the poppies. The second memorial I remember the most was the shot at dawn post. Our guide told us that it is positioned at the east of the arboretum so that the sun can hit that memorial first before any others to symbolise dawn and when the soldiers were shot.

My experiences at both were very good. I learnt a lot of new things and extended my knowledge on things I knew about. I am glad that I went and I hope that next year's Year 9 students will consider going if they do this topic.'





## Newtown Linford Trip



On the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of September, our GCSE Geographers completed some research in the field to help them with their coursework which is 25% of their GSCE grade.

They conducted different experiments to find out the impacts of tourism on the small town of Newtown Linford in Leicestershire. We also conducted questionnaires inside Bradgate Park to find out why people went there.

The students did some great fieldwork and this hard work will hopefully pay off in their coursework mark. Well Done Geographers!



## Battlefields Trip

17 students participated in a trip around different memorials and Battlefields of WW1 on the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> October. This was an extra special occasion as it commemorated the centenary of the beginning of the Great War.

The students had the privilege of visiting original trenches of WW1 and got to experience what it would have been like for soldiers not much older than themselves. We found the names of the QEMS 'old boys', who came to this school, at the Thiepval memorial. The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme is a major war memorial with 72,195 names. Two lucky students participated in the last post ceremony in Ypres, where they lay a poppy wreath for the 'old boys' and the millions of others who gave their lives.

I enjoyed going round Flanders Field Museum because it was a great reflection and told me a lot about it.

I enjoyed sanctuary Wood and the trenches because it was like I was actually there.

I was shocked to see how many names there were on the memorials and we even found the names of people from our school.

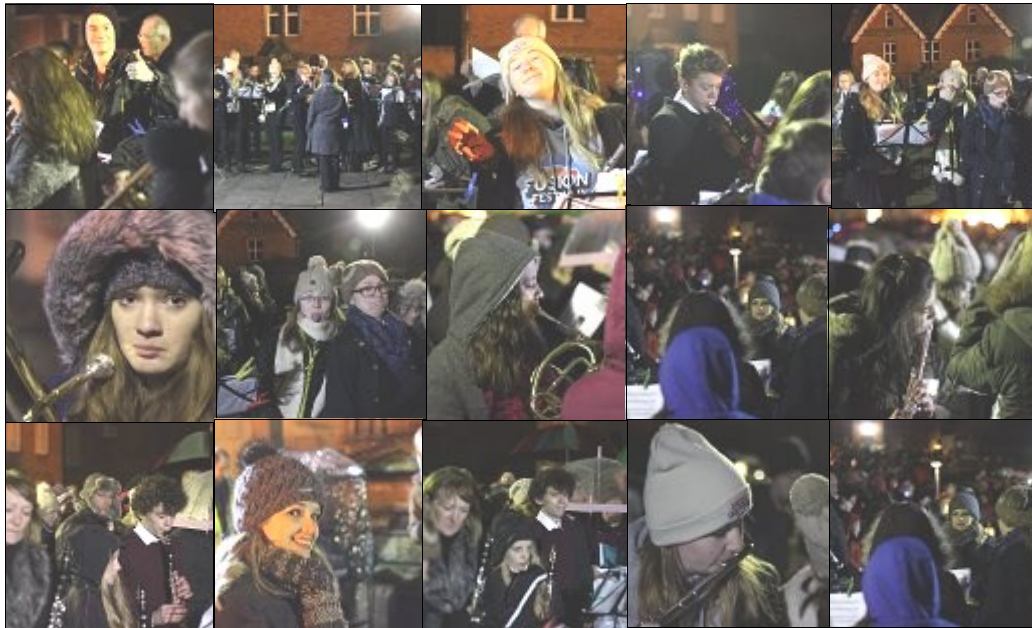
It was a great experience and I learnt a lot.





## Light Up a Life

The Wind Band were again privileged to be invited to accompany the carols for the annual St. Giles 'Light Up a Life' service, outside Lichfield Cathedral. The band played the carols 'Once in Royal David's City', 'Silent Night' and 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' to accompany the congregation of around 1000 people. The rain held off until the service started and the band got a little wet, but played extremely well. They represented the school well and played extremely sensitively for this emotional event. Thank you to all involved, including all of the parents who also came to support the band.



**Bookbuzz** has arrived in school! Year 7 Students have been selecting free books from the **Bookbuzz** reading program. There were some fabulous books to choose from and to help them decide, different members of staff each championed one of the books.



The staff loved getting their hands on brand new books and were impressed by the questions asked by students. Most popular choices were, *A Boy Called Hope*, *Operation Ouch!* and *Geek Girl*.

Books are now in school and will be given out to Y7 over the next 2 weeks...just in time for Christmas!

There are lots of **Bookbuzz** games competition and more information about on their website.

[www.bookbuzz.org.uk](http://www.bookbuzz.org.uk)