



THE LANDAU LEADER

Wishing you a Happy Easter

The Tower of London – Sixth Form Visit

In January, 15 History A Level students from Year 12 and 13 recently visited the Tower of London for an inspiring and highly educational visit.

During the visit the students were able to see and enter the world-famous White Tower, originally built in the 11th century where they were able to see the collections of the Royal armouries whilst learning about how the fortress has changed from the Norman period onwards. The students also had the opportunity to see the other highlights of the collections including exhibitions on famous executions which have occurred at the Tower itself.

Our 15 A Level students also engaged in an incredible education workshop with an expert education officer specialising in the Tudor Period. The session helped our students consolidate their understanding of the

reign of King Henry VIII which saw cataclysmic changes for both church and nation through visiting and learning about the Tower's use as a palace, prison and place of execution in re-shaping Henry VIII's England.

Our students were then taken on an immersive tour of the site while analysing physical and documentary evidence to consider the Tower's role as a reflection of both the domination and destabilisation of Henry VIII throughout his reign.

Just before leaving to catch the tube back to car park where the college the mini-bus was parked. Our students were able to have the unforgettable experience of seeing the British Crown Jewels which are housed at the Tower of London.



Work experience success for Year 10 students at LFCD!

Year 10 students successfully completed their work experience placements in businesses in Derby and beyond! Work experience is so important to our young people, it develops key skills such as communication, resilience and teamwork and builds maturity, independence and self confidence. Students participated in placements in a variety of exciting settings including education, engineering, digital media, health and the arts. The feedback received by this group of young people has been incredible, Employers have shared that our students were self motivated, hard

working, independent and dedicated to their roles.

A brilliant example of a successful placement is Isla who completed her work experience placement at The Digital Maze. During her placement Isla managed all five of the company's social media accounts, created new web pages and authored a blog post.

Well done to all our Year 10 students, we are very proud of you!



Celebrating LGBTQ+ History Month

Thank you to our ex-student Tilly who returned to LFCD to deliver inspiring gatherings celebrating LGBTQ+ History Month.

Tilly spoke to students about the historical struggles and successes of the LGBTQ+ community. They shared with students the importance of

promoting equality, combating prejudice and increasing the visibility of the LGBTQ+ community and their achievements. Tilly ended their gathering by speaking about how crucial it is that we are all kind to each other - such important advice for all of us.



First Story six-word story competition

Giya has been highly commended in the national 2026 Six Word Story Competition, held annually by the creative writing charity First Story and supported by Penguin Random House. This hugely popular competition challenges students to write a compelling story in just six words. This year, 950 young writers from 26 schools took part.

Giya was highly commended for her entry '*I was introduced to mother again*' with the Penguin Random House judging panel noting that the overall "creativity and range of entries were incredible".

Inspired by Ernest Hemingway's famous six word story "For sale: baby shoes, never worn", the six word story challenge is a real test of skill and creativity and one of the many ways that First Story encourages young people to discover their own unique voice and storytelling abilities.

Alison Brannick, Principal, said: "We are incredibly proud of Giya on being highly commended in this competition. It is a real pleasure to celebrate her creative flair and talent, which reflect the high standard of work we are committed to here at Landau Forte College. We hope Giya's success will serve as an inspiration to other students and encourage them to develop a passion for writing with confidence. Congratulations to Giya on this incredible and well-deserved achievement!"

Miss Akhtar, First Story Lead, said: "A massive congratulations Giya on your incredible success in the Penguin Books six-word story competition! Your story perfectly echoes the 'button eyed' horror of Neil Gaiman's Coraline and we couldn't be more delighted to see your talent sewn into the spotlight! To be highly commended by Penguin Books for such a chillingly clever twist is a phenomenal achievement!"

International Women's Day Celebrations

Thank you to our Sixth Form Ambassadors who supported with our International Women's Day celebrations. The theme for this year was Gain to Give, focusing on the importance of giving back to your community. Students participated in gatherings and were encouraged to send inspirational postcards to women and girls they see as excellent role models.

As always, our students really enjoyed celebrating the achievements of women and promoting gender equality, empowerment, and women's rights.



Landau Forte College Derby has been selected by the Department for Education as an Attendance and Behaviour Hub lead school

Landau Forte College has been selected by the Department for Education to be one of just 90 Attendance and Behaviour Hub lead schools in England, recognising its strong track record in improving attendance and behaviour.

In May, the Department for Education invited applications from the country's "best of the best" schools to lead the hubs, seeking those with proven success in raising standards. Twenty-one schools were announced in the first wave of the government's programme, with others - including Landau - being confirmed throughout the year.

Landau Forte College, which is oversubscribed, received a glowing report from Ofsted in April 2024, with inspectors saying that behaviour there is "exemplary". The Ofsted report said that "pupils thrive at this school" and show "highly positive attitudes to learning".

Landau will work closely with other schools to share expertise, practical strategies and proven approaches, helping to improve outcomes for pupils and strengthen school communities.

Schools receiving support will be those identified as experiencing significant attendance and behaviour challenges.

Alison Brannick, Principal, said: "We are very proud to be selected as an Attendance and Behaviour Hub lead school.

"This recognition from the Department for Education reflects the hard work and commitment of our staff and students in creating a positive, inclusive school culture.

"We are excited to be working with other schools and sharing what we have learned, so that we can help more students enjoy school and reach their full potential."

This is my place - supporting Children's Mental Health Week

Thank you to our Sixth Form Ambassadors who ran a pop-up stall at lunchtime during Children's Mental Health Week. Our ambassadors provided resources to sign post young people to relevant sources of support and reminded them of the support provided by their trusted adults in school. The theme of this year's Week is 'This is my place', highlighting the importance of a sense of belonging for young people. At LFCD, we work hard to ensure all our young people feel included, we want our young people to feel successful and to know they are an important part of our community.



Charity fundraising for KORT

Thank you to all in the Landau community who supported our samosa and brownie sale on the last day of term. This was our annual fundraising event in memory of our dear student Musa, who sadly passed away in 2019. The event raised just over £1500 which is incredible and testament to the kindness and generosity of all in the Landau community.

Since 2019 the LFCD community has raised a significant amount of money for KORT, a charity that transforms the lives of orphans in Pakistan.

It was also fantastic to welcome ex students, including Musa's brother Idrees, back to LFCD to support with the organisation and running of this very successful annual event.



Museum of Making

On the 4th March 24 year 9 students visited the Museum of Making for 'The Science of Innovation with Rolls Royce' event which saw them gain some hands on experience with non-destructive testing including X-rays and ultrasound, making and painting their own propeller with the materials team and working together as a team to successfully produce a part worthy of passing the high expectations of quality control. The students were also able to have one on one conversations with Rolls Royce apprentices for advice on careers in the company and the application process involved in the apprenticeship scheme. The students were an asset to the college and some are keen to be the apprentices of the future!

Apprenticeship Fair

In February as part of our ongoing Sixth Form careers programme, all our Year 12 students attended the East Midlands Apprenticeship Fair at the University of Derby. The Fair is designed to give students a unique insight into the exciting opportunities available through degree apprenticeships, and to help them make informed decisions about their future. The students were engaged and were able to make connections with both local and national employers,

including the Navy, Derby City Council, Pektron and DJH.



Passing Financial Guidance to the Next Generation

Derbyshire Community Bank recently visited LFCD to speak to Post 16 students regarding money and its importance, CEO Phil Cole shared the below blog post, following the visit –

At Derbyshire Community Bank, we believe financial education should not begin when someone applies for their first loan, it should start much earlier.

That's why we were proud to be invited to speak to the sixth form students at **Landau Forte Sixth Form in Derby**. Our **CEO, Phil Cole** delivered a financial guidance session designed specifically for young people preparing to step into adult life.

Our core message was simple - **“Money is not about money. It's about choices”**

Why We Delivered This Session

Sixth form students are on the brink of major life decisions such as university, apprenticeships, employment, moving out, driving, travelling. Each of these steps involves financial responsibility.

As a not-for-profit financial cooperative serving Derbyshire, we feel a responsibility not only to lend responsibly, but to share knowledge responsibly.

We wanted to pass on practical, real-world financial understanding.

Control and Purpose

We discussed the importance of having a financial plan and understanding that money is about choices. It's not just what you earn, it's what you manage and keep. Financial control creates options and independence.

Borrowing and Affordability

Students explored some practical examples of how loans work, about essential and discretionary spending; how we can sometimes cut back on things we don't need to afford the things we really do need, the difference between good debt and bad debt and how credit scores work. We highlighted how time and interest can significantly increase the cost of borrowing — especially when making credit card minimum repayments.

Gambling Awareness

We examined the tactics used in gambling advertising and encouraged students to think critically about who is really in control. Understanding marketing techniques is key to making informed decisions.

Investing and Long-Term Thinking

We introduced basic investment concepts such as compound interest, risk appetite, and “set and forget” strategies. The focus was on mindset — showing how starting early can make a meaningful difference over time, enabling your earned interest to earn more interest.

Why This Matters

Financial mistakes often come from lack of awareness rather than lack of effort. By equipping young people with some knowledge of what can work in the favour and some pitfalls to avoid, we can help them build resilience and confidence for the future.

Passing on financial guidance is one of the most important investments we can make as a community, and we are proud to support Derby's young people as they take their next steps.



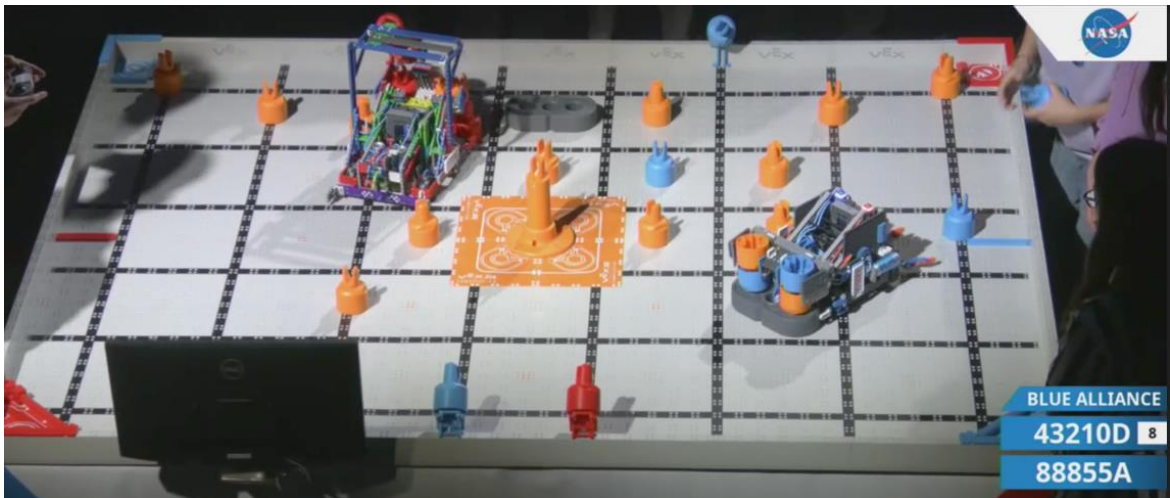
Season highlights VEX 2026

The 2026 season was another excellent year, with strong performances across both the V5 and IQ series. In March, three teams travelled to the National Finals at Telford. Team Jeff were outstanding across the two days, finishing top of their division during the event and ultimately placing second overall. Team Pixelated and Team Cambi also enjoyed excellent seasons; Cambi was honoured with a Judges' Award at the National Finals.

In January, Team Jeff competed at the Tea Party competition in London, which featured teams from around the world, and achieved a credible second place.

Our V5 teams also had a successful season, qualifying for the nationals. Team Omega finished 6th in their division, an excellent achievement.

Thank you to all the parents for their support with travel to and from Telford.



Derbyshire Schools' Book Awards

Last term our Reading Club attended the fabulous Derbyshire Schools' Book Award final at Derby University. The group have been reading the six books nominated for the award and it was a great opportunity to come together with other schools to celebrate reading.

Students were given a tour of the University campus, listened to presentations from other schools, took part on a book quiz and were entertained by an author talk from young adult writer Sarah Hagger-Holt.

Here's what some of our students thought:

"I thought the best thing about the trip was looking in one of the medical classrooms as I learned a lot and also it looked really cool. I also liked the fish tank area."

"I liked the fish room, the lab where students were studying blood transplants and one of the social areas."

"My favourite book award book was 'How to draw a secret' by Cindy Chang. I really liked the theme, which was family and what family means to me. I also enjoyed all of the illustrations as it was a graphic novel."

"My favourite was 'After' by Padraig Kenny. It's a sci-fi story set in a dystopian world, where an event called 'The Flood' wiped out most robots, but also most people. The story revolves around the relationship between a father and his daughter, though the two aren't related (as the father is a robot and the girl is a human)."

"I really enjoyed the author talk because Sarah (the author) was really funny and made everything interesting."

"I enjoyed the author talk because we understood the journey of book writing."

We are already looking forward to participating in next year's book award!



Birmingham Symphony Hall visit

In February a group of Year 7 and Year 8 students volunteered to visit the Birmingham Symphony Hall to watch the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) perform for them. The 1-hour concert focused on Programme Music (music that aims to tell a story) and included some family favourites as well as some lesser-known pieces. This tied in nicely with the Year 7 work of that time, which focused on them creating music on the theme of 'Descriptive Music' and they too had been learning about some famous pieces of music that aim to tell a story. The students thoroughly enjoyed the trip and became more intrigued at what it takes to be a musician and to be involved in an ensemble as established as the CBSO.



The Roundhouse and The Hudson Building visit

Year 11 students from Thrive recently took part in a visit to The Roundhouse and The Hudson Building, where they had the opportunity to explore a wide range of vocational subjects and hands-on career pathways.

The visits highlighted the different routes available, including apprenticeships. Staff explained how these qualifications can lead directly into careers or further study, helping students see the bigger picture beyond college.

For Thrive students, these experiences were not only informative but also inspiring. Exploring a range of vocational subjects allowed them to discover new interests, build confidence, and start thinking about future careers in a more practical way.

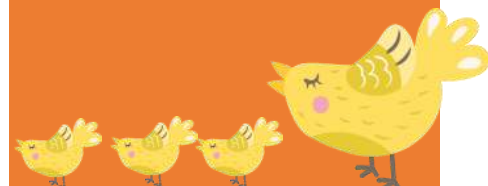
As they prepare to make important decisions about their next steps, this college visit has given students valuable insight into the many pathways available proving that success comes in many different forms.



Twycross Zoo

Y8's took part in a trip to Twycross Zoo. They took part in an evolution workshop which involved them understanding links between species of chimpanzees and human beings. Students were able to study and observe many different types of species, many of which are not native to the UK. They explored different adaptations which would enable them to survive in their environment.

All students represented the school to a high standard.



Landau Forte's first ever community Iftar

Thank you and Ramadan Mubarak to everyone who joined us at LFCD's first ever community Iftar.

It was a real pleasure to welcome so many families into our school to celebrate the breaking of the fast. Thank you to our Restaurant team who created a brilliant three course meal for everyone present. Well done to Ibrahim from Year 11 who performed a fantastic recitation from the Quran.

Special thanks must go to Iman Burhaan Khandia who delivered an inspirational speech, talking about the importance of education to our young people.

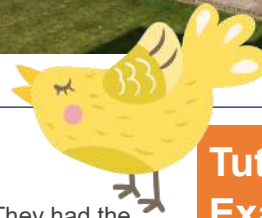
Thank you to all in the Landau Community who made our first ever Iftar such a successful event.





University of Oxford Next Gen Residential

In September Mrs Quinn and Mr Needham took a group of 11 Year 13 students to St Edmund Hall to undertake a two-day residential for those students thinking of applying to Oxford or Cambridge. This was the culmination of a scheme that some of our students had been on since Year 10, with others joining in Year 12, and saw students taking part in a range of targeted seminars and also attending the Open Day. Students really enjoyed the chance to talk to current students and academics whilst also staying in halls of residence overnight.



Festival of Ideas 2026

Mrs Murton and Mr Needham took a group of Year 12 students to this year's festival which had a focus on digital and AI skills. The students had the opportunity to explore emerging technologies, future career pathways and the real-world applications of AI through engaging, hands-on workshops. The workshops were run by Balfour Beatty/AtkinsRealis, Rolls

Royce and Caddick. They had the chance to show how atoms were split, to show communication skills creating a model only seen by the leader of the group, as well as think about the equipment needed to live on a submarine for up to 6 months. There was a chance for questions and answers by all the employers to learn about careers within each company.

Tutor2U Psychology Examination Workshop

In March, Ms Askham took Year 13 psychology students to Birmingham for a psychology examination workshop. The students found it extremely useful as they engaged in workshops that strengthened their understanding of key topics, evaluation skills and built their confidence with research methods. It also helped students to apply their knowledge effectively to a range of exam questions.



* Happy Easter *

LFC students visit Spain

Day 1 - A very early start, leaving Landau to head to Birmingham airport at 3:30am! After a sleep on the flight, we arrived in to Alicante and headed to the accommodation. We got settled in to our rooms, then headed straight into the sea for kayaking and paddle boarding in the freezing cold sea! Miss Araru took photos from the boat while Mr Dawkes got stuck in to the activities. We did karaoke in the evening with a stand-out performance of a Bad Bunny song in Spanish by the year 12s.

Day 2 - We started the day with a cooking workshop, where the students made traditional Spanish biscuits. Although it seemed we had taken the English weather with us on this day, everyone had fun on a scavenger hunt, followed by volleyball and football on the beach.

Day 3 - Luckily the weather improved on day 3, and we headed into the local town via the castle, which had amazing views of the local area and the coast. Students had some shopping time in the town, involving the questionable purchase of a bright pink wig which was worn for the rest of the day! In the evening, we had a Spanish dance workshop, learning salsa, flamenco and bachata moves.

Day 4 - After our delicious daily buffet breakfast, we headed to Cartagena on the coach to visit the Roman amphitheatre. An afternoon of shopping was followed by a group ice cream on the steps of the town square, before we returned to the hotel for our farewell/15th birthday party. While we suffered some technical difficulties with the music, the year 10 boys performed their dances they had learnt the day before for a memorable end to the trip.

Day 5 - Another early start to head to the airport for our flight home. After a frustrating two-hour delay and a devastating missed Burger King opportunity we boarded the flight back to the UK. Lots of snoozing on the journey back to Landau after a tiring but fun week of speaking Spanish and immersing ourselves in the culture.



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