

Issue 11

Monday 27 Nov

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

28 Performing Arts
Winter Showcase -
6.30pm

DECEMBER

04 Year 11 PPE
Exams Begin

04-15 Year 10 Work
Experience Weeks

15 Last day of Autumn
Term

JANUARY

03 First day of Spring
Term

25 Year 11 Parents'
Evening - **NEW
DATE** (official
announcement on
page 3 - details to
follow)



A message from Headteacher, Mike Sullivan

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the term enters its final phase, with only three weeks left before the Christmas break, it is a good time to reflect on what a busy and productive period it has been for all members of our school community. The upper part of the school has two important windows beginning next week with Year 10 Work Experience commencing at the same time as Year 11 undertake their Pre Public Examinations. Monday 4 December marks the start date for both and we wish the boys the best of luck in their endeavours.

This term has shown me that, in the wake of the challenges we encountered last academic year, there is a real passion and drive in the student, parent and staff body to move the school forward to better times. This is in no small way reflected in the number of parents who have put themselves forward to stand in the election of parent governors. There are 12 candidates for the 3 positions. The election closed last Friday and we will be announcing the result as soon as possible. I look forward to working with the successful candidates on an increasingly representative and highly skilled governing body.

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CHRISTMAS STORY COMP

Students who enjoy **creative writing** are invited to participate in the English Department's 'Christmassy Story Competition'.

The top three stories will win a special prize.

The deadline is Monday 11 December.

Entries should be:

- 500 words max
- submitted to Room 134 at break or lunch time



A message the headteacher continued...

Thank you to the many volunteers who put themselves forward to help out in school in myriad ways. Many are already contributing to the school and we will be finalising arrangements for support from others as we approach the end of term. Even if we do not have the need or capacity to take on support from all volunteers at this point, we value the offer and will certainly make contact to give thanks and request that we keep details on record for the future.

Our new format Academic Review Day (ARD) which took place on 14 November ran very smoothly with excellent attendance across the school. I hope you found it informative and useful. We took the opportunity to gather feedback about your views on the school and the day itself. Of course, we will need to make adjustments for future ARDs, and your valuable comments will help us to do this more effectively. I certainly feel there was a very positive and collegiate atmosphere in school on the day and that there was a sense of partnership in ensuring the best outcomes possible for the boys.

I would like to thank all parents who have contributed to our voluntary school fund this term. We have received a significant amount already, which we will put to good use. I will share details of areas which will benefit from the fund later in the year. Can I take this opportunity to encourage you to contribute to the fund if you have not already done so? Attached to the email with this newsletter is the communication I sent out earlier in the term about how to make a contribution.

As you will be aware, we have worked very hard to ensure that we have a well-qualified and committed teaching staff to secure the best outcomes possible for our students. This term we have had some unforeseen staffing issues, particularly in science, which has resulted in the need to further recruit. There is a national shortage of science teachers and in common with many schools we have found it more difficult than we would like to fill our vacancies. Please be assured that we are actively seeking to recruit appropriately qualified staff in a difficult landscape and we will continue our efforts until we are successful.

I hope you will be able to come to our Expressive Arts Winter Showcase on Tuesday 28 November. There will be performances from all age groups across the full range of the arts. The evening begins at 19:00. Tickets are available from Main Reception priced £1 per child, £2 per adult and £5 per family ticket.

Finally, to give you advanced warning, I'd like to share arrangements for the final day of the Autumn Term, 15 December. There will be an early closure of school on this day, with students being dismissed from school at 12:10 following the staff pantomime performance. The Spring Term begins on Wednesday 3 January.

Best Wishes,
Mike Sullivan, Headteacher

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Year 11 Parents' Evening

ALL YEAR 11 PARENTS PLEASE NOTE:

Due to operational reasons it has been necessary to change the year 11 Parents' Evening to THURSDAY 25 JANUARY (instead of Thursday 11 January).

Details will follow.

SPORT NEWS

FOOTBALL

Mr Hollidge has continued to enjoy great success with his squads this season. His Year 8 squad were victorious against St Bonaventures 2-1 in the London Cup and then followed this up with a very impressive 7-2 victory over Bishop Challoner in the National Cup.

Meanwhile, his Year 10 squad has continued their winning ways with a 4-1 victory over St. Matthews in the Blackheath Cup.

Unfortunately, our Year 7 squad were beaten in the Blackheath Cup by St Matthews. In spite of holding the opposition at one stage 3-3, St Matthews scored three further second half goals to run out 6-3 winners. Nevertheless, it was a very good effort from the Forest Hill

RUGBY

Mr Crowe's Year 7 Rugby squad played Bonus Pastor on November 18th and he has provided this report.

This was a great performance against a big BP side. Fhs almost won in the dying minutes but Bonus hung on with their strong defensive wall. Overall it was a really promising first match, as the team displayed super support play, tackling and rucking; including some powerful individual runs, mixed with moments of skill, speed and agility. Try scorers were Ashton and Kapene. Well done boys and thank you to all the parents that came to cheer and support!



BASKETBALL

The Under 14 basketball squad competed in the Lewisham Schools Basketball Championships recently at The Thunderdome. Forest Hill started the competition with two victories against St Matthews and Knights Academy but were then surprisingly held to a draw against Deptford Green. This was followed by a defeat against Connisborough College who won the competition. Forest Hill returned to winning ways in their final match against Prendergast Vale and this secured the runners-up spot. Well done to the team and to the Under 16's who are playing in their competition this week.

Rewards for boys who read all 5 books!

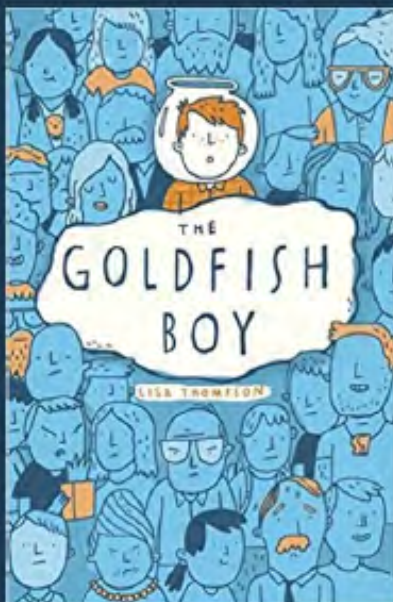
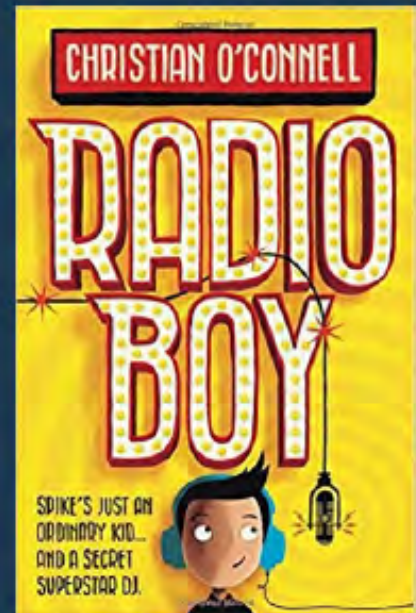
LEWISHAM BOOK AWARD 2018

FOR YEARS 7-8

The Lewisham Book Award is back with five new books for 2018.

If you would like to be involved this year, all you have to do is read these books by the end of March.

Go to the library for more information and to borrow.



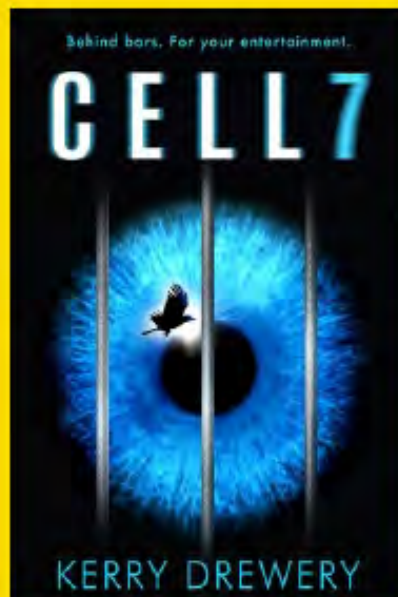
LEWISHAM READING CHALLENGE 2018

FOR YEAR 9

The Lewisham Reading Challenge is back with five new books for 2018.

If you would like to be involved this year, all you have to do is read these books by the end of March.

Go to the library for more information and to borrow.



For years 9, 10, 11, 12, 13...

Thanks to Mr Mees, Sedgemoor School Librarian, for the art work