

Lockyer's Middle School

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Headteacher: Miss A. Dufek . Deputy Headteacher: Mr. T. Mockridge
01202 692779 - office@lockyersmiddle.org



Headteacher Update

Happy New Year! We hope your Christmas break was restful and fun. The children have returned with such enthusiasm, sharing wonderful stories of their festivities and diving straight back into their school routines. It's great to have everyone back!

The January Refresh - Success Through Consistency

This term, we are back with a focus on school routines. Reliable structure reduces anxiety and builds the essential time-management skills students need for academic success. We will be focusing on "**swift starts**" across the school day to maximise learning time, and we ask for your support in ensuring students arrive at school on time and fully equipped for the day. Thank you for helping us set the standard for a productive term ahead.

Order in the Court! Year 8 Courtroom Drama

Our Year 8s became legal experts for the day on Thursday 8th December! We were delighted to host the **Dorset Heath Partnership** for their "Arson Courtroom Drama," an immersive experience supported by our local Fire and Police services. Students took a deep dive into how a Crown Court operates, discovering the serious consequences of arson and its devastating effects on our beautiful Dorset heathland. It was a fantastic way to bring the National Curriculum to life while discussing community responsibility. A huge thank you our visitors who made this session so engaging!

The Art of Active Listening

This week, our whole-school assembly focused on "**Active Listening.**" We reflected on why this skill is so vital, noting that students spend more time listening during the school day than any other activity. We explored the idea that an active listener doesn't just hear words but fully focuses on understanding the speaker's message. Based on the fantastic ideas shared by the students during our discussion, we have created the diagram to illustrate what active listening looks like at Lockyer's.



Raising Attainment with Wellbeing Award

Earlier this week, you should have received a letter regarding our work toward the **Raising Attainment with Wellbeing Award**. This initiative reflects our commitment to balancing academic success with personal growth. To build on our core values of ambition, courage, and respect, we are introducing new **Character Values** each half-term. We invite you to explore these together at home using the guides sent by your Head of Year. We would love to celebrate your child's progress; please email the school office with examples of these values in action at home to earn **5 Merits** for your child!

Parents Evening

Save the Date! We are pleased to announce that this term's Parents Evenings will take place on **Thursday 5th March** and **Tuesday 10th March**. As in previous years, these sessions consist of five-minute appointments with subject teachers to discuss your child's progress. We will share further details on how to book your slots later this term.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

A. Dufek

A. Dufek, Headteacher

