

# Lockyer's Middle School

February 2026 - Spring Term 1b - Issue Number 98  
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## Headteacher Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of Spring 1, we are officially halfway through the academic year! It has been a whirlwind first half, and we are so proud of our students' progress. The next term and a half promises to be just as busy, with plenty of exciting events and learning opportunities still to come

### Attendance

We are delighted to share some wonderful news regarding our attendance figures for the Autumn term. FFT Education has officially recognised our school as being among the highest-performing schools in the country for attendance.

Achieving a place in the **Top 10% for Primary** and the **Top 25% for Secondary** is no small feat. It reflects the vibrant, welcoming environment our staff work hard to create and the dedication of our students. Excellent attendance is a cornerstone of student success, and these awards are a testament to the collective efforts of our pupils, staff, and families. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to parents and carers for your continued support in ensuring your children arrive at school ready to learn every day.

### Homework and AI

While tools like ChatGPT and Google Lens can be brilliant for brainstorming or breaking down complex concepts, we have noticed an increase in students using these tools to complete their homework. We wanted to share some insights into why this matters for your child's long-term progress.

- **Growth Requires Effort:** The brain builds stronger connections when it has to work through a problem. Removing the "struggle" removes the learning.
- **Masking the Gaps:** Using AI prevents teachers from seeing where a student truly needs help. This makes it difficult for us to provide the right support.
- **The Sparx Feedback:** Sparx adapts to your child. Using AI "tricks" the system into thinking a student is more advanced than they are, leading to future tasks that are unnecessarily difficult and frustrating.
- **Purpose of homework:** Homework ensures students retain what they have learned, creating the building blocks for the next stage of their education. Each year of school relies on the foundations laid the year before

### Mary Poppins JR - The Musical

We are thrilled to announce that our upcoming production will be Mary Poppins JR.! Based on the beloved books by P.L. Travers and the classic Disney film, this enchanting musical follows the Banks family as they learn that "anything can happen if you let it." Our talented cast and crew are excited to bring iconic numbers like Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious and A Spoonful of Sugar to life. It promises to be a magical experience for the whole family, so keep an eye out for ticket information coming soon!

### Staffing Update

At the end of this academic year, we will be saying a fond farewell to Mrs. Lockhart. After six dedicated years at Lockyer's, she will be retiring to spend more precious time with her family and grandchildren. We are incredibly grateful for everything she has contributed to the school. Please join us in wishing Mrs. Lockhart a very happy retirement and all the best for the exciting adventures ahead.



Best wishes,

A. Dufek

A. Dufek, Headteacher

## What's been happening at Lockyer's?

### Year 5

Our Year 5's have had a great first half term of 2026, continuing the fantastic work they were producing before Christmas. 5Em have been the first of the Year 5 classes to visit Corfe Mullen Library. During the session, the students were given the opportunity to learn about the Library, through an info talk by Jess, the Librarian and a quiz. Thank you to the parent helpers for giving up their time to assist with this trip. We look forward to the 5JG, 5RS and 5IS visits after half term.



In Art, our Year 5's have been working incredibly hard on their still life drawings. The standard of work is absolutely incredible, as you can see from these examples. We look forward to seeing what creative work they produce next half term.

### Year 6

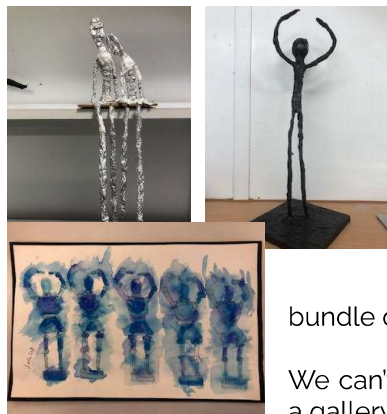


In Art, our Year 6 students are currently in the middle of a complex, multi-layered sculpting project. This is following the Autumn Term's work based on Alberto Giacometti. This process is as much about engineering as it is about art:

**The Skeleton (Armature):** Students used wire to create a sturdy "bone" structure, ensuring their poses—whether running, sitting, or leaping—could stand on their own.

**The Muscle (Foil):** Layers of aluminum foil were added to give the figures volume and definition.

**The Skin (Paper-Mâché):** Finally, they are applying paper-mâché to create a textured, "multi-layered" finish that mimics the rugged, expressive surfaces of Giacometti's original masterpieces.



Beyond just making "cool stuff," these projects teach our students **spatial awareness, perseverance, and fine motor precision**. Working with wire and wet paste is messy and sometimes frustrating, but seeing a 3D person emerge from a bundle of wire is an incredible boost to their creative confidence.

We can't wait to display these finished sculptures for you to see in person. Keep an eye out for a gallery invite later this term.

### Year 7

Our Year 7 cohort were fortunate enough to attend the production of "Legally Blonde the Musical" at Queen Elizabeth School in Wimborne this half term. Some of our students' reviews are below:

"Legally Blonde: The Musical finished to perfection by QE School was a smash hit! Based on the amazing 2001 film, Legally Blonde tells the story of Elle Woods, and her pink... everything, who follows her ex boyfriend to Harvard to win him back.

Personally, my favourite was the UPS driver AKA Lukas S. With his style and iconic walk, he had me rolling on the floor with laughter. They definitely were the start of the show.

My favourite scene was the Party Disaster because the reaction of the actors there was flawless and the song was on point. Also, the song "Bend and Snap" was so good! The whole cast was incredible.



I would recommend this musical to 13+ fans of Legally Blonds and lovers of comedies and fans of High School Musical. The soundtrack reminded me of the Spice Girls."

★★★★★ - Oscar R

"QE School has put on an amazing musical production this year! The musical that they picked was based on the 2001 film ,Legally Blonde, which tells the story of a pink addict, a sorority girl who decided to follow her ex to Harvard Law School.

In my opinion, Paulette (played by Gracie G) was an outstanding character because of the hilarious accent she managed to pull off. However, when she sang it was like a whole other person, her singing managed to fill the whole room over the loud music.

One of my favourite scenes was when Brooke and some others were skipping and singing perfectly. The songs I will never be able to get out of my head were "Omgod You Guys" and "Bend and Snap". Another great song was "Whipped into Shape".

I would recommend this musical to people in Year 7 and above, since there were occasional rude words. People who like Mean Girls might enjoy this musical as they're both about pink obsessed girl groups always wanting boyfriends. Fans of High School Musical will find themselves enjoying Legally Blonde as the songs are catchy and include kids in school."

★★★★★ - Hope S

## Year 8

### Year 8 Cooking Club



Mrs Siallagan has been running a year 8 high level skills cooking club, on a Monday after school. Pupils have learnt how to make rough puff pastry involving creating a pastry dough, rolling and folding skills and laminating butter between the pastry to create puff pastry layers and then using the pastry to make sausage rolls. Pupils have also made chocolate profiteroles and eclairs, making choux pastry and piping the pastry onto trays to be baked in the oven and then filled with cream and decorated with chocolate. This week pupils have made lemon and chocolate mousses, separating eggs and whisking up the egg whites and cream and folding this into the egg, sugar and lemon mixture. All the year 8 pupils are thoroughly enjoying the club and the skills they are learning we help them when they move on to their next school into year 9 and at GCSE.

Well done everyone.

### Year 8 STEM Club

Three teams from our Year 8 Girls STEM club are off to Bournemouth University to take part in the Soroptimist competition in early March. The competition aims to inspire girls and encourage girls in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. They have been working on solving an issue in the developing world using sustainable materials. Two teams have focused on harvesting rainwater and growing crops using recycled materials, but in very different ways. The third team has designed a desiccator to help preserve fruits and vegetables. The girls have shown great ingenuity and teamwork. We wish them the best of luck.



### Pupil Voice - Non Uniform Day for Future Pillars Zambia

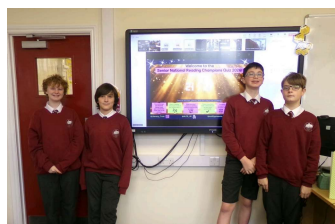
Thank you to everyone who donated money on Non-School Uniform Day a couple of weeks ago. We raised over **£650.00** for Future Pillars Zambia.

Future Pillars Zambia is a UK-based Christian charity dedicated to providing education, food, and vocational training to vulnerable children and young adults in Kabwe, Zambia.



**Future Pillars Zambia**

### Senior National Reading Champions Quiz 2026



Two teams of Year 7s competed in the first cross-regional heat of the Senior National Reading Champions Quiz.

It is the first time that Lockyer's has taken part in the opportunity and our Reading Lead, Miss Nash, was delighted to spend the day with the eager volunteers. The questions ranged in difficulty



and topic and both teams performed admirably with excellent team spirit and enthusiasm to be taking part with schools from across the country.

Well done to Jasmine, Callum, Tegan, Hope, Daisy, Leo, Dylan and Oscar!  
(They are determined to return next year with an even wider knowledge of different books!)

### Science Award for Mr. Bishopp!!

A HUGE congratulations to our very own Mr Bishopp, who has won the Rising Star Science Technician of the Year Award from the Association of Science Education!

This week Miss Dufek presented Mr Bishopp with his fantastic trophy, certificate and goodies from the ASE.

Thank you to Mr Bishopp for everything he does both in Science lessons and around our school!



### Merit Prizes

Spaces are filling up for our Merit Prizes. Please encourage your child to carry on exhibiting great behaviours and earning those points! Keep up-to-date with their total on the Arbor app!

PRIZES	
Non-Uniform Day raffle	20 merits
Amazon voucher raffle	20 merits
Lego afternoon	60 merits
Mario Kart tournament	85 merits
Christmas biscuit making	100 merits
Dodgeball competition	100 merits
Christmas film afternoon	120 merits
Summer film afternoon	120 merits
Baking cupcakes	140 merits
Coffee shop visit	150 merits
Bowling trip	230 merits
Prevail scooter park trip	230 merits
Golf driving range trip	230 merits
Adventure Pirate – Nerf Battle	250 merits
Bouncy castle assault course	250 merits



### PE news from Mr. Joyce

Despite the incredibly wet start to 2026, Mr Joyce and the PE Department have managed to take part in some outstanding sporting fixtures...



**Year 8 National Small School Cup Round 4**

LOCKYER'S MIDDLE SCHOOL  
1988

**Millfield Prep 0 - 7 Lockyer's  
Middle School**

SCHOOL GAMES  
PLATINUM  
2025-26



## Coming Soon...



## Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 24th February - Back to School
- Monday 2nd March - School reports out
- Monday 2nd March - 5RS Library Visit
- Thursday 5th March - Subject Parents Evening
- Tuesday 10th March - Subject Parents Evening
- Thursday 12th March - Spring Disco (run by Friends of Lockyer's)
- Friday 13th March - Year 5 Paultons Park Trip - Group 1
- Monday 16th March - Year 5 Paultons Park Trip - Group 2
- Monday 16th March - 5JG Library Visit
- Monday 23rd March - 5JS Library Visit
- Tuesday 24th March - Mary Poppins Junior Production
- Wednesday 25th March - Mary Poppins Junior Production

Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April - Easter Holidays

- Monday 13th April - Inset Day
- Tuesday 14th April - Pupils back to school

For a full list of term dates for 2025/2026 click [here](#)

## Kit Shop

Don't forget, students are able to purchase stationery equipment from our Kit Shop.

**PLEASE NOTE: YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BUY FROM OUR KIT SHOP; WE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO HAVE EVERYTHING THEY NEED WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT SCHOOL EVERY DAY.**

Children should take ownership of their belongings. We ask that you regularly check to ensure that they have

Lockyer's Kit Shop Price List	
Blue Handwriting Pen	50p
Pink, Green or Purple Pen	20p each
Eraser	30p
Whiteboard Pen	50p
Pencil	30p
Gluestick	£1
30cm Ruler	50p

**CASH ONLY PLEASE**



everything they need for every school day.

## Personal Labelling/ Lost Property

Please could we once again stress the importance of labelling every item of clothing, lunchboxes, water bottles and any other items that are potentially going to get lost. The amount of unlabelled lost property in school is extremely high and it is important that children take responsibility for their belongings.

## School Dinners - Cut-Off Dates



### Deadline to place order

Sunday 15th February  
Sunday 22nd February  
Sunday 1st March  
Sunday 8th March

### For Week Commencing

Monday 2nd March  
Monday 9th March  
Monday 16th March  
Monday 23rd March

Click [here](#) for the Autumn/Winter Menu (Up until week commencing 23rd March)

## Achievement Badges



All children at Lockyer's Middle School can work towards becoming a Maths Master, Millionaire Reader and Tassomai Titan (*Key Stage 3 pupils only*).



To be a **Maths Master** you need to have achieved 10,000 XP on the Sparx Maths platform, "**Read through the Rainbow**" and collect certificates for every 3 successful book quizzes. To be a **Millionaire Reader** you need to have collected a million words from successfully-completed quizzes.

**How many badges can you collect this academic year?**

## Social Media

Please follow us on



**Facebook** Lockyers Middle School  
**X (Formerly Twitter)** @Lockyers\_Middle

We aim to provide regular updates.

You can also use our **school website to learn more about our school**. Visit <https://www.lockyersmiddle.org>




## Extra-Curricular Achievements





Congratulations Zac, Samuel, Bea, Charlie, Oliver and Maisie on their fabulous achievements this half term. Thank you so much to everyone who has sent in their extra-curricular achievements. We LOVE sharing them within the school community.



Please keep them coming in next half term!

    
@DORSETMHST

 Dorset Mental Health Support Team in Schools

 NHS  
Dorset HealthCare University  
NHS Foundation Trust

## MHST: INTRODUCTION TO THE TEENAGE BRAIN

Join the Dorset Mental Health Support Team for Schools online for an insightful webinar exploring the fascinating changes that occur in the teenage brain.


We'll delve into key areas of brain development and discuss how these changes impact behaviour, thinking, and relationships during adolescence.

The session will also offer practical, evidence-based strategies that parents and carers can use to support their teens through this critical stage of growth.

Whether you're navigating mood swings, risk-taking, or communication challenges, this webinar will equip you with tools to foster connection and resilience.




Watch the recording now:


<https://forms.office.com/e/Hsz2E07hjl>




enquires to: [dhc.mhsteam.northandeastdorset@nhs.net](mailto:dhc.mhsteam.northandeastdorset@nhs.net)  
To leave feedback: <https://gthr.co.uk/24f9>

@DORSETMHST

    
@DORSETMHST

 Dorset Mental Health Support Team in Schools

 NHS  
Dorset HealthCare University  
NHS Foundation Trust

## MHST: SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH EXAM STRESS


Join the Dorset Mental Health Support Team for Schools a session designed for parents of young people preparing for exams who may be struggling with stress.

It will help parents understand what stress is and when it is helpful and unhelpful, recognise the signs of it in their children and understand how it affects the teenage brain.

They will also learn practical tips and techniques to support their children manage exam stress and receive information about additional resources and services that can help

Watch the recording now:

<https://bit.ly/4bACMMa>



enquires to: [dhc.mhsteam.northandeastdorset@nhs.net](mailto:dhc.mhsteam.northandeastdorset@nhs.net)  
To leave feedback: <https://gthr.co.uk/24f9>

@DORSETMHST

Have a wonderful half term break!

