



## Newsletter February 2018

I write to you at the end of a busy and eventful half term. In the recent Government published league tables Limpsfield Grange has been ranked as the second most successful special school in the country based on the progress that students make with us over time. I would like to thank the staff, students and you as parents and carers for your support in ensuring the girls make the best possible progress that they are capable of. We are all really proud of the school's achievements.

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Alexander has been appointed as our KS4 Science teacher. She has been working with us for the past few months, and has built a good relationship with the girls.

School has taken on artistic air this half term, inspired by our work with Rachel Rooney, a poet. Girls have been working with Rachel on developing their poetry writing and have begun composing their own poems. I am sure the Limpsfield Grange poetry project will yield some interesting and original results!

I am pleased to inform you that we are hosting some great events for parents to attend over the next few weeks. We are hosting a talk on autism and romantic relationships on Wednesday 21st February – please see our website for more details. Sarah Hendrickx will be at Limpsfield Grange on Monday 26th February delivering a parents workshop and working with the girls. Sarah is a fantastic autistic speaker and I would highly recommend that you come along 10.30 – 12.00 on the 26th February to hear her speak. You won't be disappointed.

I wanted to take an opportunity to update parents about our quality of life project. We have now collected 3 data sets, and have started looking at the differences in quality of life between autistic teenage girls and boys. We are currently analysing the data for different quality of life domains, and will report on this shortly. We hope to continue to run the quality of life project over the next few years as we think this is a really important area to explore with the girls and their families.

I would like to thank parents and carers who completed the parental survey recently; these surveys help us to reflect on and adapt our practice at Limpsfield Grange.

I am looking forward to welcoming the girls back to school on Monday 19th February 2018. I wish you all a restful half term break.

With best wishes *Sarah Wild - Headteacher*

## Social Media – What is the Truth?

More children are using the Internet than ever before and 4G gives them constant access to any website through their mobile phone. Most teenagers are using social media, but whether it is Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook or Twitter, how good is your daughter at spotting the truth?

Can your daughter spot a fake profile? If she received a message from Justin Bieber would she reply? Last year a 42 year old man was arrested after allegedly committing 931 sexual offences, by pretending to be Justin Bieber on social media.

So what's the solution? Should we be friends with our children on Facebook? Unfortunately the answer isn't always that easy as teenagers are cunning and will simply set up their own fake accounts where they can post the stuff they don't want you to see!

Don't stop them from using social media but instead have an open dialogue about what they post and who they chat to. Offer the following tips:

- Check your privacy settings regularly – especially after a software update. Make sure only friends and family can see your posts.
- Use a screen name rather than your own name.
- Only be friends with people you know in real life.
- Remember – what you post online stays online.

Some teenagers need help telling fact from fiction and many will believe what they read online without even considering whether it is the truth or not. Fake news is on the increase and can be very upsetting for some teenagers.

How to spot fake news:

- Check if the news story appears elsewhere
- Read comments after the news report to verify its authenticity
- Check whether the organisation behind it is one you trust

Check out the Online Safety page on our website for more advice - <http://limpsfieldgrange.co.uk/policies/e-safety/>

*Mrs Janaway - Student Support Lead*