

L.E.A.P update – Spring Term 2025

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At Latymer, we are proud to be a school where diversity is celebrated, voices are empowered, and inclusion is at the heart of everything we do. Through our **Latymer Equalities Action Plan**, both students and staff work together to build an environment where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued.

L.E.A.P update – Spring

January: Non-Uniform Day – Raising Money and Awareness for the Childhood Trust

The Childhood Trust is a London-based charity dedicated to alleviating the impact of child poverty. They focus on providing essential resources, educational opportunities, and emotional support to children and young people who face significant challenges, ensuring that they have the chance to thrive and succeed. Their work is vital in helping to break the cycle of poverty and make a lasting difference in the lives of vulnerable children.

Our school's charity committee carefully selected The Childhood Trust for this non-uniform day because their mission aligns closely with our values of compassion and inclusivity. By participating in this event, we hoped to inspire our students to recognise the importance of giving back and to understand how their contributions, no matter how small, can have a meaningful impact on others.

We were pleased to raise £1885.85 in total, and, as ever, we thank our parents and carers for their support with this.

January: Holocaust Memorial Day

At **Latymer**, we observed **Holocaust Memorial Day** with a series of reflective activities and assemblies aimed at deepening students' understanding of the Holocaust and its lasting impact on humanity. Taking place annually on **27th January**, Holocaust Memorial Day marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration and extermination camp. The day invites people across the UK to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside victims of subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.

This year's national theme was **"The Fragility of Freedom"**, a powerful lens through which our students explored the experiences of those who suffered under genocidal regimes and the lessons these histories offer for today.

Several year groups attended assemblies delivered by staff, which offered a sobering but essential opportunity to remember and reflect. Holocaust Memorial Day was also marked during extended form time, where students engaged with a series of reflective activities.

Students completed a “Pledge for Peace” activity, where they wrote commitments on how they will stand up against all forms of hatred, racism, and discrimination in their communities today.

Form tutors facilitated guided discussions, helping students connect the lessons of the Holocaust to current events and explore how remembering the past can shape the future.

February: LGBTQ+ History Month

February 2025 marked another powerful and reflective **LGBTQ+ History Month** across the UK, and at **Latymer**, our school community embraced the opportunity to deepen understanding, celebrate diversity, and honour the resilience and achievements of LGBTQ+ individuals throughout history. This year’s national theme, “**Under the Scope: LGBTQ+ Activism and Social Change**”, focused on the vital role that LGBTQ+ people have played—and continue to play—in shaping a more just and equal society.

LGBTQ+ History Month offers a dedicated space in the school calendar to recognise the contributions, struggles, and identities of LGBTQ+ individuals that are often overlooked in mainstream historical narratives. It is also a chance to educate, reflect, and strengthen our commitment to building an inclusive school environment where all students feel seen, valued, and safe.

At Latymer, our students engaged with a range of activities to learn about historical figures and events that have contributed to driving social progress, from the Stonewall Riots of 1969 to more recent milestones like the legalisation of same-sex marriage.

February: South Asian Society (SAS) Assembly

In February, our South Asian Society led a vibrant, student-led assembly that offered the entire school community a window into the rich diversity of South Asian cultures. The assembly was a joyful celebration of identity and heritage, created and delivered entirely by students, and it became a true highlight of our calendar.

From the moment students entered the assembly hall, there was background music from a variety of South Asian cultures—including Indian classical ragas, Pakistani Qawwali, Sri Lankan folk music, Bangladeshi Baul songs, and contemporary South Asian pop. This diverse playlist, selected by members of the South Asian Society, created an atmosphere that was both celebratory and reflective of the region’s vast cultural richness.

One of the standout elements of the day was the traditional cultural dress worn by many Sixth Form students and members of the society. From intricately embroidered sarees and lehengas to sherwanis, salwar kameezes, and kurtas, students proudly showcased garments representing South Asian culture.

March: International Women’s Day

To mark International Women’s Day 2025, our LEAP Ambassadors from Fem Soc (Feminist Society) delivered an inspiring and thought-provoking Whole School Assembly, dedicated to

celebrating the achievements, resilience, and ongoing struggles of women across the world. The theme for this year's International Women's Day was #AccelerateAction, and our students used this opportunity to reflect on both how far we've come—and how far we still need to go.

Our LEAP Ambassadors explored the theme #AccelerateAction, urging the school community to not only acknowledge past progress but to actively participate in the drive toward a more equitable future.

The students presented an engaging and informative overview of the strides women have made across multiple industries:

- In film and media, they highlighted the rise in female-led narratives, the push for greater representation behind the camera, and movements like #MeToo that have shifted cultural expectations and industry standards.
- In sport, they celebrated icons like Serena Williams and Megan Rapinoe, while also acknowledging the gender pay gap and the fight for equal visibility and investment in women's leagues.
- In literature, they examined the contributions of authors like Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Malala Yousafzai, who not only tell powerful stories but shape global conversations about feminism and education.
- In music, they reflected on the role of artists such as Beyoncé, Billie Eilish, and Lizzo, who use their platforms to challenge stereotypes, promote self-worth, and advocate for gender and racial equality.

The assembly also included personal reflections from students on how gender inequality still plays out in everyday life—from classroom experiences to career expectations—and why it's important to raise awareness and challenge assumptions, starting within our own school community.

Throughout the presentation, the emphasis was on student voice, with students leading every element of the assembly. It was a remarkable display of leadership and conviction, which sparked meaningful conversations across year groups and tutor sessions for the rest of the week.