

Positive news on GCSE tables

Following the way the school has suffered from two years of local misleading GCSE results tables, we are pleased to hear that we have been assured that this problem will not occur again! The tables had not used the actual exam results of the students

in Year 11 who took the exams, so instead of being a respectable 5th out of 16 schools locally, the distorted table understated our results by nearly 20%. *(See full details of this good news for the future and victory for common sense on the attached press cutting.)*

Pancake Day



Year 3 spent an enjoyable time on Tuesday making pancakes then dousing them with lemon and sugar before quickly dispatching them to their stomachs! There are some budding chefs who will one day, no doubt, have their own television programme!

Crucial Crew

Year 6 completed the second part of their Crucial Crew training this week. They learnt how to be safe on the internet, the effects of street crime on family, friends and community and about the dangers of alcohol, smoking and taking drugs. All in all, it has been a great success towards helping the children make safe choices for themselves both now and in later years. They were especially delighted to receive a free Crucial Crew water bottle at the end of the course.

New Fire Escape at Prep School



The new fire escape, which was needed to improve the safety of users of the 2nd floor classroom at the north end of the Prep School, also provides another fire exit from the first floor, thanks to the conversion of a window to a door in Mr Evans' classroom. The work was completed during half term by Leominster steel construction firm, J.R.C.

The Friends of Lucton School

"The Science of Taste and Flavour" takes place on Tuesday 10th March and costs just £4 for adults and £2 for children (who must be over 10). This event supports the school's activities during Science Week. Tickets are also available for our final event of the term, a lavish fashion show presented by Wysteria Lane on Wednesday 25th March.

We hope you will all do your best to find sponsors for the School Staff Sponsored Swim, which will take place on Wednesday 24th March. The staff are raising money jointly for the Friends' Sports Centre Appeal and the County Air Ambulance, so please help us make this the biggest sponsorship we've ever had, after all, two good causes will benefit from the generosity of the sponsors and you may find that people with no connection to the school will be happy to sponsor the swim because of the Air Ambulance.

If you would like to become more involved in any Friends' activities, or just have some questions about the Friends, please contact, Sarah Handley-Edgar on her mobile: 07967362246, or by e-mail: sez@bromyard43.fsnet.co.uk and if you leave a message and contact number, Sarah will get back to you.

Sunday Service

The Family Sunday Service takes place this Sunday, 1st March at 10.30am in the Memorial Hall. You are all very welcome to join us.

THE SCIENCE OF TASTE & FLAVOUR

For Parents & Students, at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10th March, in the Memorial Hall.

Lucton School

Lucton

Herefordshire HR6 9PN

Telephone: 01568 782000

Fax: 01568 782001

E-mail: enquiries@luctonschool.org

Website: www.luctonschool.org



Senior School & Sixth Form Open Evening

4.30 - 7.30pm

Thursday,
5th
March



Arrangements for Senior Open Day

Arrangements are currently being finalised. It is hoped that all day pupils will be able to stay. Pupils should have let Mrs Buffon or Mr Styles know if they are unable to stay. We very much appreciate parents collecting their children later for these important occasions in the life of the school.

Prep School, & Nursery Open Morning

9 am - Noon, Friday
6th March



From the Boarding House

The boarders are appreciating the milder weather since half term and the seniors are working harder as they are becoming more aware of the closeness of next term's exams. During the break, some work was carried out on improving the water pressure in the showers on the top floor. So far, the results look promising.

SPORTS REPORT

CROSS COUNTRY – Midlands ISA championships. Lucton pupils ran well in fast conditions on the challenging and undulating course. Senior pupil, Leonard Chiang, was selected for the Midlands Cross Country Team to compete in the ISA National Cross Country Championships.

U 16 Girls: (3700m) Iona Reid 22, Molly Argent 33, Storm Fowler 44 and Chloe Evans 46. There were 67 starters. U 16 Boys: (4800m) Charlie Stokes 28, Lewis Hiscox 36 and William B-S 37. There were 63 starters. Senior Boys: (600m) Leonard Chiang 11 and Joe Griffiths 15. There were 27 starters.

U12 & U14 NETBALL – v Wigmore – There has been a vast improvement in both team's play since our last match against Wigmore. The U12 team struggled in the first quarter, and was unable to catch up the deficit even though they played excellent netball in the other three quarters.

U16 NETBALL – County Tournament – Our U16 team played very well, winning three out of four matches. They won against Minster by 5 goals to 3, against Bishops by 9 goals to 1 and against Hereford Academy by 13 goals to 1. They unfortunately lost against Cathedral by 3 goals and that put them in second position in their pool. The girls played very good netball throughout and can be very satisfied with their excellent effort. Well done!

U11 & U13 CROSS COUNTRY TOURNAMENT – At St Richards. The course at St Richards is particularly tough and all ran very well. Our best result was Hattie Jones in 2nd place, and only 5 seconds slower than the U13 girls' winner! We also had several good places: U13 girls, Jennifer Smith 17th and Jemima Cooper 18th, boys Frank Kelly 16th, U11 boys Will Russell 19th, and The U13 girls' team was 4th, and the boys 5th. Well done to all!

ISA U11 NETBALL – All the girls played exceptionally well throughout the Tournament staying in the top half of the competition to get through to the quarter finals of the cup where we lost by just a few goals. Well done to all, especially Emily Grove who took a bit of a knock!

U9 NETBALL – v Heathfield. This was their first experience of a netball match and was used by both teams as a training session. They all seemed to enjoy the chance to play, and this will stand them in good stead for their next match.

U12 FOOTBALL – v Wigmore. Although we lost this match, there were some standout individual performances. Will Russell scored Lucton's goal, while Simon Lyke, who was goalkeeper for the second spell, made some excellent saves and Max Dalziell played valiantly throughout in defence.

U13 7-a-side HOCKEY TOURNAMENT – At Bridge Street Astroturf. We played three matches, the first against Moor Park A and despite a spirited effort lost 2-0. The second match was against The Downs side and again, despite an excellent level of commitment we lost, 3-0. In our final match, against Moor Park B, the team really came together, passing and shooting well. Despite a number of excellent shots by Lucton's front two, and thanks to some excellent saves by George Tasker in the Lucton goal this game ended 0-0. Throughout the afternoon the team improved greatly. All the squad played with excellent spirit and behaved in a sporting manner. Well done, boys! AL

NEXT WEEK'S FIXTURES

Mon Mar 2nd U10 Football & Netball v St Richards (A), 2.30pm

Wed Mar 4th U12 Football v Tenbury (H), 3.45pm

U13 7-a-side Rugby v St Richards (A), 2.30pm

Senior Football v Wrekin (H), 2.15pm

U12 & U16 Netball v Lady Hawkins (A), 3.30pm

U15 County Netball Tournament at Hereford, 3.00pm

U13 7-a-side Mixed Hockey v Moffats (A), 2.30pm

Thu Mar 5th U9 Football & Netball v St Richards (A), 2.30pm

Sat Mar 7th ISA Mixed Senior Badminton Championships at Bedstone, 10.00am



Lucton School

Lucton, Herefordshire HR6 9PN

Telephone: 01568 782000 • Fax: 01568 782001

E-mail: enquiries@luctonschool.org • Website: www.luctonschool.org



Head's plea results in a true picture

BY MARK BOWEN

mark.bowen@midlands.newsquest.co.uk

A HEREFORDSHIRE headteacher is delighted that a Government department has changed its stance on league tables.

Gill Thorne, headteacher at Lucton School, has argued that the way league tables are currently used fails to illustrate the achievements of the independent sector.

One of her criticisms is the use of tables giving the percentage of 15-year-old pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C.

This is often promoted as a 'gold standard' to measure the academic success of pupils when the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) publishes its annual league tables.

Mrs Thorne has argued a better way of comparing schools would be to give greater prominence to tables giving the results of all pupils taking GCSEs, regardless of age.

After an enquiry by the *Hereford Times*, it looks as if this year's situation will not occur again next time.

Matt Hopkinson, spokesman for the DCSF, said: "This won't happen again because from now on we will use all data of people taking GCSEs regardless of age."

After hearing the news, Mrs Thorne said: "This is a huge step forward for common sense in the educational world. I am thrilled to bits."

Mrs Thorne had criticised the way tables were used as many independent schools place younger pupils in Year 11 so they can do GCSEs early.

"The independent sector is not as rigid as state schools about placing children in their correct age group, if we feel

that it is not in the child's best interest," said Mrs Thorne.

"We had a 10-year-old achieve an A* at GCSE last year and many take exams early. One girl in our current Year 11 is a year ahead and she will achieve all As and A* and would not register on a 15-year-old result.

"With our small cohort this year, she will in fact pull us down five per cent in the 15-year-old table with the loss of her results.

"In fact, by using the 15-year-old table as any sort of measure to compare schools, you discriminate against the schools that cater to the specific educational needs of individual pupils."

Mrs Thorne added that these tables do not recognise the achievements of overseas pupils.

"The DCSF 15-year-old measure causes particular distortion for independent schools, and even more again for boarding schools with overseas students who are often placed in the year below to accommodate any weaknesses in language.

"These pupils sit the full range of GCSEs that British students take but in English which is, to them, a foreign language.

"Their results on the 15-year-old measure count as failures, and a minus on the statistics, despite the fact that they may gain 10 excellent GCSEs."

Mrs Thorne believes DCSF figures for Year 11 pupils (all those who have taken the exams) are more reliable for those who wish to compare the performance of schools.

This year's figures for 15-year-old pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C give Lucton School a score of 57 per cent. But its percentage score for its Year 11 students achieving the same results is 75 per cent.

Hereford Times
12th February, 09