

100% pass & 50% A* and A at GCSE



Thursday saw the publication of GCSE results from the November examinations. The top set in Year 11 took GCSE English early with over half the set gaining A or A* grades. A* grades were awarded to Lily Argent, Alex Athanasiou, Jenny Burgess, Ruby Plant-Milne and Lucy White; A grades were awarded to Chris Blenkharn and Kieran Dunn. In addition two pupils took their GCSE Mathematics early - Lily Argent gained an A* and Jenny Schulz an A grade. Module results for GCSE mathematics were also published for both pupils in Year 10 and Year 11. Again a large number of pupils in both Year 10 and Year 11

scored highly. As with all modular examinations it is important that pupils gain as many marks as possible on each module – “every mark counts”! If there are any queries on the examination results, please do not hesitate to contact the pupil’s form tutor or subject teacher or Mr Styles.

Mrs Thorne said with much delight, “The hard work that they have put into their studies is reflected in their wonderful achievements. A*s are not easy to gain, and we have a large number of pupils who have not only achieved this high standard but have done so seven months early!”

League tables distort results again

Yet again, the local league tables will show Lucton in a bad light and as you can see from the above report, achievement levels at Lucton are both amazing and improving year on year. As Lucton is the only senior boarding school in Herefordshire, it is greatly misrepresented in local tables. The IGCSE results of overseas students are still not included in the tables. Also, no allowance is made for students taking all their exams in a second language, which, added to the non-recognition of the IGCSE exams has huge impact on results, when in Lucton’s small cohorts, one pupil is worth nearly 5%!

The government also excludes independent schools from Value Added scores because our sector is always at

the top. The Telegraph this week stated: “Independent schools score zero (or very low scores) if they enter all or most pupils for the International GCSE in either English or maths, which is not recognised by the Government. All independent school figures should be read with caution.”

The other disadvantage for Lucton compared to local state schools is that we focus on traditional subjects such as separate sciences and languages which good universities require, whilst almost all state schools boost their number of GCSEs per pupil for the league tables, with vocational ICT courses which are deemed to count as 4 GCSEs. The Times Educational Supplement lamented the fall in

The Friends of Lucton School

Thank you to everyone who turned up to the Friends’ planning meeting on Thursday. Next term’s plans were finalised and whilst the Sports Hall Appeal remains our main focus, it was agreed to joint fund the plans for developing a pupils’ garden with planters and chickens at the Prep School. The proposal is that this will be a jointly funded project between the Friends, the Old Luctonians Association and the School. It was also agreed that we would earmark the income from the Race Night to cover the Friends’ contribution and that for the rest of the current year, we would re-focus on our Sports Hall Appeal.

There is the opportunity for anyone to sponsor one of the six races and to buy various horses in each race. Please contact the school offices for more information or just to book your tickets.

standards stating that these ICTs could be achieved by “the average 11-year old” and took half the teaching time of other GCSEs. One of our Lucton pupils said that a sibling was unable to do languages and had to do ICT in order to boost the league tables at a local school! If the conservatives get in, they have promised to rid league tables of vocational courses!

We look beyond league tables at providing pupils with the opportunities they individually need for their A Level course to get them into the best universities.

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The Friends of Lucton School
present:

RACE NIGHT

7.30pm on Saturday
6th February, 2010.
in the Memorial Hall
at Lucton School
Tickets £3.50 each to
include buffet!

From the Boarding House

After fun in the snow last week, the boarders were ready for a relaxing weekend. Saturday involved a trip into Hereford where some chose to go and watch 'Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakw!'. The boarders thoroughly enjoyed the film, particularly Dhiluni who is a member of the Sixth Form!

We were due to go bowling on Sunday, but unfortunately this had to be cancelled due to the weather conditions. Instead, we all went into the Swimming Pool to play Water Polo. Most of the senior boarders spent Sunday revising in preparation for forthcoming exams.

Almost all of the boarders have now returned to school and already preparations are underway for half term. Could we take this opportunity to remind parents that we need details of flights and pick up times as soon as possible.

Some overseas boarders have experienced snow for the first time, the following report is by Yusef in Year 7: My first time experiencing snow – I had never seen snow in my life. In my country it is so hot and reaches temperatures of 45c. When you travel to Nigeria and step off the plane you will not remember when you started sweating. When I first held the snow it felt different because I have never held something as cold and smooth. I think snow is the best substance I have held since I was born. I have really enjoyed throwing snowballs at my friends and it has been such fun playing together.

Images of snow at Lucton



SPORTS REPORT

Weather still hits fixtures. Due to continuing adverse weather conditions, all fixtures arranged for this Wednesday had to be cancelled. We hope that all fixtures next week will take place as stated in the calendar. May I take this opportunity to remind all pupils and parents that swimming kit should always be brought in on a Wednesday and whenever PE is scheduled in the timetable. This will enable us to continue productive lessons even if the weather is bad.

Notice for Prep School parents

From Monday 18th January, a new activity programme will take place. This will enable more sport and PE to be incorporated into the timetable from 4-5pm each day. Please would all Year 3-5 pupils have their kit throughout the week to ensure that they can participate fully, this includes swimming kit. A copy of the activity timetable will be sent home next week and thank you again for your continued support.

NEXT WEEK'S FIXTURES

Mon 18 Jan	3.45pm U15 Football v Weobley (H)
Wed 20-Jan	2.00pm U18 Mixed Badminton v Wrekin (A)
	2.00pm U18 Basketball v Wrekin (A)
	2.30pm U11 Football v Moor Park (A)
	4.00pm U12 & U13 Netball v Queen Elizabeth (H)



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