

LUCTON

Autumn term
2011, Issue 1

News



Welcome back to news of our best ever A level results

A warm welcome back to a new school year and a huge first-time welcome to 46 new school pupils and a further 8 in the nursery. Even in these tough economic times, numbers are still growing. For me, though, this astonishing growth is not the most impressive story of the moment. This year's A level results are excellent and put the collective achievement of Lucton leavers in the same bracket as many of the country's leading selective schools. A massive 55% of all A levels taken at Lucton achieved A* or A grades. The majority of this year's Lucton leavers are now destined for Russell Group universities. This overall level of performance is reminiscent of the old-fashioned selective grammar schools and is all the more amazing when you consider that Lucton has a highly inclusive admissions policy.

Further statistics in the results are equally impressive, with 76% A* to B and 85% A* to C grades and 94% pass rate. Moreover, it is worth adding that the vast majority of the A-levels taken in the Lucton

Continued overleaf



Lauren Wiseman-Jones and Lawrence Thompson collecting their results.



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WELCOME BACK FROM THE HEADMISTRESS - continued from front page.

Sixth Form are in the traditional, academically-demanding subjects favoured by world-class universities. This aspirational spirit was particularly exemplified by Head Boy, Yang Xi, whose five A grade A levels included three A*s in chemistry, maths and further maths and Laurence Thompson's A* in maths and further As in physics and chemistry. Other notable performances were recorded by Dhiluni Kandage (3 As and 2 Bs) and Lauren Wiseman-Jones (2 As and a B). Naturally, the ability of Lucton's students has been reflected in the offers they have received from prestigious Russell Group universities, such as UCL, Imperial College, Birmingham, Manchester and Southampton, as well as other established and respected institutions. Achievements like this require the determination of the students,

together with the support of their teachers and parents. The AS results from Year 12 also show great promise for next year with a particularly strong performance by Toby Simpson, who recorded A grades in all five of his subjects.

As you will see from the feature below, our GCSE students have also had another good year, with over one third of all exams achieving A* or A grades for the second year running.

We have also had a busy time around the school during the holiday with the French language school here for three weeks and hundreds of cyclists here for a week in August at the Tandem Club's National Rally. In amongst these activities a huge amount of work has been done. So well done to all the maintenance staff and contractors for their efforts!

Floreat Luctona!

Eric Thorne

37% A* & A GCSE grades

There were smiles all round at Lucton School on results day. For the second year running, over one third of all exams taken achieved A or A* grades, which is well above the national average. 80% of GCSE candidates achieved 5 A* to C grades, with 86% of all exams taken awarded C or above.

This year's cohort also achieved the highest points per candidate in recent years. Being a mixed ability school, we are used to variable results, but any selective grammar school would be proud of these grades. We are particularly pleased with the consolidation in our top grades following last year's record results. Most of our Year 11 students are staying on and it is really promising for Lucton's Sixth



Form, which has seen considerable growth in the last few years. We now have 57 in Lucton's Sixth Form, which is a new record high.

Lucton has always done very well with value-added scores and this year is no

exception. In fact, this cohort has again achieved excellent value-added scores. Some students improved on their Year 9 predictions by over 2 grades per subject. These results fully endorse the school's ambition to enable every pupil to achieve their full potential. Pic.: Henry Llewellyn, Sarah Handley, James Dunn, Matthew Handley, Alex Lyke.

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Equestrian Centre is open

Lucton School Equestrian Centre is opening for business this term and lessons on-site will commence before the end of the month.

Our planning application for a new larger school was refused so we set about refurbishing the surface and enlarging the existing school on the site to give us a perfectly serviceable 40 x 20 metre arena. The fencing is due next week and it will be ready for riding lessons the following week. Miss Coates will be bringing horses and ponies on site gradually and we should be teaching regular lessons before the end of September.

We shall be appealing the planning refusal



for a new larger arena, but the good news is that with the space we have, the 14 stables, the lunge ring and the current arena, we have everything we need to deliver riding lessons and Equine Studies as part of the curriculum.

Boarding upgrades

The cafe area in Croft House has been completely renovated with two new ovens, two sinks, many new storage units, a large freezer, a new large fridge plus a new set of tables and chairs. School Cottage has been totally spruced up, but most specifically, the bathroom has been completely refurbished and had a new shower pod installed.



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Prep School News

Welcome back after the long summer break. What appears to stretch into infinity way back in July suddenly arrives like a gale in September, which is quite apposite considering the weather at the moment! I hope that you are all rested and ready to get stuck into the busy life of Lucton.

New terms are always a treat but the beginning of the new school year is usually the best treat of the year. There is the wonderful gaggle of groups on the first days, catching up with gossip, comparing tans and new shoes. Then there is the excitement of finding out what will be in the new classrooms. Has there been anything done to the school itself? In our case, over the summer holidays, our IT suite was upgraded with twelve new computers! These came with an upgrade to Windows 2010 and thus not only are the children learning about a new way of using

the computer, so are the teachers! As well as new computers we have been joined by 14 new children. All children appear to have grown and so new sports kit has been bought! With new classes there is some new information to be given; to that end we have a Curriculum Evening next Tuesday at 7:00pm followed by an early evening Welcome Drinks Reception in the Memorial Hall. This will give you a chance to clarify anything and to meet up with the parents in your class and exchange gossip and compare new shoes!

With that, welcome back once again and see you in the playground or watching future sports fixtures or listening to musical events!



Mrs Fower with the new Reception Class.

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**WE HOPE
THAT YOU
HAVE ALL
HAD A
WONDERFUL
SUMMER**

Boarding House News

The Boarding House Staff are very happy to see all the boarders back at Croft House and School Cottage safe and well after the long summer break. A very warm welcome is extended to all new boarders and it was a pleasure to welcome back last years' boarders who all seem to have had a really good holiday with many exciting stories to tell. The main boarding house has a brand new café area with a fitted kitchen and new appliances. It is a fabulous resource for the boarders and an amazing asset for Croft House. School Cottage has a new state of the art bathroom with a high-tech shower, so all boarders returned to lovely new facilities. Everyone has settled in really quickly and it is lovely to see so many happy, smiling faces around the school. We wish all the students a very successful and happy year.



Head of Boys' Boarding, Adam Smith and Head of Girls' Boarding, Johanna Breuer.

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Supporting

Lucton School Rugby Team

on their tour of Canada

Good luck lads!

FRIENDS OF LUCTON SCHOOL

We look forward to meeting everyone and especially the new parents at the **Welcome Back Drinks Reception next Tuesday at 7.30pm.**

It will be a very useful opportunity to meet the staff and other parents in an informal setting.

On Sunday 2nd October, our annual **Croft Ambrey Sponsored Walk** will take place, following a **FREE LUNCH** for all walkers in the Queen Anne Dining Hall. This is not a particularly arduous walk and everyone (and their dogs) will be made very welcome. See sponsorship form on last page. For more details contact, Sarah Handley-Edgar: 07967362246, sez@bromyard43.fsnet.co.uk

CCF Annual Camp

This years Annual Camp was held at Longmoor Camp in Hampshire in early July, hosted by 145 (South) Brigade. The weather was superb throughout, although it could be said that it was far too hot at times. Cadets participated in a wide variety of events, including section and platoon battle drills, a range day that included an ETR range, a Gallery range and a shot gun range. The cadets also took part in orienteering, an excellent survival skills day and the ever popular watermanship day, this year on Hawley

Lake.

Overall, the camp went very well with all cadets enjoying their week and returning home happy and exhausted.

CCF Training Dates for the Autumn Term

Thursday 13th – Saturday 15th Oct
CCF Weekend Training, Caerwent
(NOT FOR YEAR 8 CADETS)

Friday 25th – Sat 26th Nov
**CCF In-school training
and CCF Annual Dinner Night**
(NOT FOR YEAR 8 CADETS)



Sports Report

On Wednesday afternoon, pupils from the Middle and Senior Schools were back in training, preparing for next week's fixtures.



Sporting Fixtures

**Week beginning
Mon 12th September**

Wednesday 14th September

U18 Football v. Wrekin (h) ko:
2.30pm

U15 XV Daily Mail cup v Malvern
(h) ko: 3.30pm

U18 mixed badminton v. Bedstone (a)

U12 Netball v Lady Hawkins (a)

U13 Netball v Lady Hawkins (a)

U15 Netball v Lady Hawkins (a)

U11 Rugby v St. Richards (h)

Thursday 15th September

U16 XV v Anglo Welsh Cup v St.
Mary's (h) ko: 4.00pm

KINGTON SHOW - THIS WEEKEND

We look forward to seeing the usual selection of Old Luctonians, pupils and parents at the Kington Show this weekend, where we have a tent which will be offering hospitality and shelter from the showers to all.

Battlefields Trip

A reminder that the final payment of £129 is now due. Details of the final itinerary will be confirmed in the next few weeks. **There are still some places available**, but you would need to confirm quickly. Please let the office know if you wish to go.

On Sunday 2nd October, the annual **Croft Ambrey Sponsored Walk** will take place, following a **FREE LUNCH** for all walkers in the Queen Anne Dining Hall.

Lunch from 12.30pm, walk from 1.00pm. Please raise sponsorship towards the Friends' contribution to the Sports Hall Appeal.

Name	Full Address of sponsor	Postcode	Amount	(v) Gift Aid?

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