

## Lucton Sixth Form's formal dinner

On Thursday evening we held the Sixth Form dinner that was postponed because of the bad weather last week. It was a lovely event! The Sixth Form were joined on this occasion by our Year 11 students. They all put a great deal of care and thought into their appearance and they looked individually and collectively



quite wonderful. After the champagne reception in the Memorial Hall, we moved into the Dining Room and were treated to a veritable feast, prepared for us by the kitchen staff and served by a group of efficient and polite Year 10s. Taylor Mogford gave a first-class speech of welcome and thanks and after Mr Goode's by now traditional long, awful joke the evening closed with dancing until 10.20. Particular thanks must go to Sameer Rai for playing the piano during the reception, to Alice Cunningham for decorating the Memorial Hall and Dining Room with a gorgeous Autumn theme, to Grace Phelps for compiling a play list that kept everyone dancing right up to the end of the evening, to the army of Sixth Formers who assisted with the evening and to the teachers who stayed late to supervise the dancing and to ensure that everyone was picked up and made it home safely.



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# Prep School News

Last week's Assembly by 3PH was on the power of sharing and giving. Absolutely appropriate considering it was Children in Need – in our case Hope House Children in Need. They performed the Toymaker and the Prince. A story where a prince demanded toys but was still bored until he noticed some children playing with sticks and how much fun they were having (and who wouldn't have fun with a stick?) So, he invited the child in to play with his toys. What fun was had! Thereafter, the Prince invited more and more children to come and play with his toys and he was never bored again. Thank you, 3PH, for reminding us that sharing makes for more fun for everyone and that being selfish, in the end, only hurts the one being selfish.

Well, the Prep School Parents and children certainly weren't being selfish. What a smorgasbord of cupcakes and cakes you brought in and then the generosity in buying them, often giving more than asked for. The Prep School raised over £200, thank you so much. It is the season to be generous to those who are not as fortunate as ourselves and we are continuing, next week, with our traditional Reverse Advent. The idea is simple; instead of opening the door to a chocolate or a picture, we do the giving. We will ask the children to put aside one or two donations over advent, so we have a collection of goods ready to drop off in time for Christmas at a local food bank chosen by our Chaplain, Rev.



Kelvin Price. We all know giving helps others, whether we volunteer for organizations, offer emotional support to those around us or donate to charities. But studies show that giving is also good for the giver — boosting physical and mental health. Isn't that wonderful?

I think that 'coping with change' could well be the theme of this week! At the beginning we had the annual LAMDA exams. Now these are, quite often, the first public exams that children take. As well as being a wonderful memento – we have certificates up at home – these exams help the pupils to speak in public, retain poetry (always good to have a poem or two to hand) and gain confidence. If they continue, the poems change to acting with breathing techniques and learning how the theatre works. Finally, at the top end, these can count towards A Levels and even UCAS points. But, these exams helped the rest of the school as we had to be quiet and think of our friends and help them out. So quite a change there. To add to the fun we had the annual 'flu vaccination as well, on







Thursday. Classes had to move around and teachers became very creative in their lessons! Change indeed and we all coped admirably.

I almost forgot! We had our first Prep School Music Concert on Monday evening and a wonderful evening it was. What was quite extraordinary was seeing and listening to the Year 5s, and others, who only started to learn their instrument in September and they were good as well. Obviously those who have been playing for longer were smoother and more fluent in their execution but all the same the beginners held their own. Staying with music; aside from Years R-2 practising their songs for the Nativity, the rest of the school have started to practise for the Carol Concert – a mere 3 weeks away!

A super week indeed and with only one more assembly – the anticipated Ballet Assembly on 29th November – Please do try and come along, to applaud and celebrate the children's achievements, catch up on School news, have a cup of tea and even use the School pool; a perfect start to the weekend.



## Forest School

I would ask you to look up the images of Andy Goldsworthy as we tried to emulate him this week. The autumn leaves are perfect for making ephemeral patterns. It is getting colder so, please would you ensure that your son or daughter has a warm jumper, hat and gloves as well as a coat/waterproofs. Despite what they say it is too cold for a t-shirt!



## Christmas Fayre Friday 6th December (4.00 – 6.00pm)

Make sure you pop in before heading home, there will be a Santa, Bottle Tombola, glitter tattoos, turkey rolls, Secrets Room, Raffle, Crafting and more. Always a lovely event!



# Boarding News

Last Saturday, the boarders took in the sights and sounds of the German Christmas Market in Birmingham. The elder boarders went straight to the market, while the younger ones enjoyed a game of mini-golf heading into the market themselves. Although the city centre was very busy, it was a wonderful opportunity to see the many stalls that lined New Street with food, confectionary, and all sorts of Christmas decorations. It really did get us all in a festive mood.

On Sunday we welcomed back Mathieu for another bakery masterclass. School Cottage and some of the boarders from Croft House enjoyed an afternoon of baking some shortbread biscuits and some tuiles. They truly enjoyed themselves and I can confirm that the biscuits were delicious.

It was lovely to see so many of our boarders enjoy the Sixth Form dinner on Thursday. They all dressed up beautifully and a great time was had by all. Some of our Year 10 boarders also helped out with



serving at the dinner and it was great to see them dressed up as well. Again, if we can remind boarders to advise House Parents of their Christmas travel plans as soon as possible. You can contact the boarding house office on our email address [boardinghouse@luctonschool.org](mailto:boardinghouse@luctonschool.org).





# Flying cadets

On Tuesday 19 November, 4 cadets from the RAF Section made their way down to RAF St Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan. They were rather pleased to be part of the Air Section when they checked into their single rooms, ready for a peaceful night's sleep. The following morning, the excited cadets made their way across to the airfield and after watching safety briefs and practising safety drills were ready to be fitted into a helmet, parachute and life jacket before being walked to their aircraft. This is when the real nerves set in! One by one, they crewed in with an experienced pilot and took to the air to experience powered flight for themselves. Guy Bicker-Caarten, Felicity Aston, Amelia-Sky Stevens and Hannah Millhouse, each took control of the Tutor Grub under the watchful eye of the aircraft commander to experience straight and level flight and turns and a little sightseeing over the South Wales coast before returning with huge smiles. A big



thank you to Flt Lt Harry Brooks and 1 AEF who made us very welcome, we look forward to returning on 4th December.

# Important letters

The children in the Transition Class have already begun preparing for Christmas.

After writing our letters to Father Christmas, we walked down to the village to post them, we are hoping for a reply soon.





# Sports Report

## **BADMINTON** v Alcester Grammar

This week we took a small but experienced squad to Alcester. Ryan and Joe achieved some very decisive wins over their opponents, demonstrating their superior skill set in this fixture. Aaron and Liwen had to work much harder and fought some exciting and close matches, but ultimately they also managed to win all their matches, working well as a team. This badminton squad is really going from strength to strength.

Lucton - 6 Alcester- 0

## **U13/14 LACROSSE** v Packwood

A Fantastic performance by the girls, winning the lacrosse match against Packwood. On Monday, Mrs Gloster x (England player) came in and did a training session with the girls; this had a huge impact on their performance, skills and ability in the game. From the first blow of the whistle Lucton were eager to win.

There were some outstanding goals by Sophie, Tiphany, Rachel, Darcy and Jess. The defence were tight and man-on-man marked very closely making it hard for Packwood to score. Fremah and Rosy were extremely good at slowing the players down. Well done to Annalise in goal for being awarded man of the match for some very tricky saves. I am so pleased that all the girls enjoyed themselves and performed to their best ability. It just proves that hard work and commitment pay off. Well done!

## **1st XI FOOTBALL** v Alcester

Lucton produced one of their best performances in the season and led Alcester Grammar School for the majority of a tough away fixture. We played with great energy against a team that had previously beaten us. With Henry producing a defensive midfield masterclass, Aaron was able to pull the strings in midfield as Lucton looked to play on the counter. Indeed, the team had a few chances in the first half, with Aaron combining with



Kazuki, the latter slotting away a tidy finish when put through for 1-0. With legs tiring in the second half, Lorcan produced a goalkeeping display of great maturity, and has shown that when focussed, he remains a top, top footballer. Calm and quick off his line, he took control of his area well, and kept Alcester at bay for much of the game. With legs tiring in the second half, Lucton eventually succumbed to a second half penalty, and whilst there was discussion over whether it looked offside, 1-1 was a fair result on the day.

#### **U16/15 HOCKEY v Wrekin**

Against the odds and with the help of some fine goal keeping from debutante Libby, ( player of the match) the girls managed to defend well enough to earn a 0-0 draw!

#### **U18 Herefordshire County Tournament**

Although we were up against tall, fast opposition, the girls played as well as could be expected. We opened with a tough game against HCS, went 6-0 down in the first half to come back and win the second half, reducing the deficit to 10-5. JMHS proved equally challenging, as their, tall, mobile defence made many turn overs in the first half. Again, we made a second half come back, with some excellent defending from Hattie and Elsie, solid centre court play by Ella and Edith and well-timed circle feeds from Faith to Annie and Georgia, and although we lost 8-4, proved that we could rise to the occasion. On paper, it looked as though HSFC had an easy win (12-3), however, despite their tall, dominant presence, our defenders forced many errors and we had many attacking attempts thwarted! Tough though this was, the girls played in good spirit, will have learnt that superior fitness, speed, positional play and drive is needed to compete at this level in the second half of a game, that with more confidence and training, we could maintain this level of play from the outset.

#### **U15 HOCKEY v Shrewsbury School**

An encouraging start and a close encounter during the first half ended with Lucton conceding a short corner goal as the whistle blew. Having defended strongly in the first half, the girls began the second half with more constructive play, stringing together a series of passes. Player of the match, Libby, made several important saves, but failure, by the defenders, to clear the ball effectively, provided the opposition with three more scoring opportunities. The team worked hard and showed good improvement since the last fixture.

#### **1st TEAM NETBALL v Alcester Grammar School**

A long bus ride, a short warm up, a chilly day and a fast start by a strong and skilful opposition meant that they accelerated into 8-2 lead at the end of the first quarter. Undaunted, the girls dug deep and worked hard, especially in the second half. Improved speed, decision-making and creating positive attacking moves, created many goal scoring opportunities for Harriet and Annie. As they adjusted to the height and speed of the agile defenders, goals were scored and we closed the gap, losing the third quarter by one goal and winning the final quarter 8-3. We lost the overall game (25-18) but we won in so many ways. There was excellent defending by Elsie (player of the match), Harriet B who made a very welcome return to the court and Alice, whilst centre court players, Faith, Edith and Grace all upped their game, especially around the shooting circle where they used several moves practised in Monday's training session. It was a pleasure to see the girls show great tenacity, character and team spirit!

#### **U13 County Rugby Tournament**

With a reduced squad due to Lamda exams, injury, etc. we travelled to Ledbury with only 12 boys. Our first match was with JKHS and they kindly also played with 12. In the scrum area it was fairly



even, with our 5 of Zak J, Matt G, Maxwell, Ed and Tristan holding their own despite a slight disadvantage in physical size. This really helped our far superior backs. A number of the boys can create something out of nothing and some of our off-loading, simply done, was fantastic and it is this that does not allow the opposition defence to set up. We beat JKHS comfortably by 4 tries to 1 in the 15 mins match. Zak P scored 3, but all three were due to the support of team-mates that helped him greatly. Tristan scored the other with a very powerful run. George T and Leo on the wings, both displayed good skills in attack and defence and two of our tries came from their work in the tackle area. Our second and final group match was against a very big Kingstone team, who ran hard and straight, off-loaded well, but luckily for us only used single runners which we were able to contain, turn-over

and then create attacking chances. Twice we were behind to them, and as they had 13 boys on the field, defeat looked a possibility. As in the first game it was great defence that was turned into attack that gave us the advantage – Matt G, quiet in the first match stole possession a number of times, had a couple of powerful runs, managing to score with his first. Zak P scored yet another try and our winner came from a kick off receipt, set up by George T, moved away by Ed S, to Tristan, who given a bit of space was able to make a lot of ground and was then able to off-load to Leo in support to score. A very good display all-round. George J did many very “simple” things on the pitch really well, which gave others the time and space to be creative and at 9 in the second match was the driving force behind the victory. Finally, James H and Arthur C playing a year up both performed very well.

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## Reception's autumn walk at Queenswood

Reception were blessed with a cold but dry day for their walk in Queenswood on Tuesday morning. There were leaves of many different colours and enough sticks, mud and puddles to keep everyone happy!





# Prep School concert

On Monday, we enjoyed the Prep School Concert, which gives our young musicians an excellent opportunity to perform on stage in front of a lovely audience. We were delighted to hear quite a number of those who have only been studying their instruments for a couple of months – it just goes to show how much you can achieve, when you practise. It was also wonderful to hear some of our more seasoned ‘professionals’; special thanks to Frayja for stepping up and starting off the show unexpectedly, to cover the technical hitch with the CD player! In addition to tunes learnt in peripatetic lessons, it is always brilliant to be able to share some of the classwork we have been undertaking, including the children’s own compositions. Thank you to all the music and Prep School staff for your constant support – backstage is just as vital as front of house. Well done everyone who played or sang so confidently; now we can really turn our thoughts to the Carol Service!





# Swynnerton Camp

Swynnerton Cadet Camp November 2019 – Exercise REAPER BLITZ. This proved to be the largest mid-term exercise that Lucton School CCF has ever organised, with 37 cadets and 6 adult staff. Following on from the success of our exercise in March 2019 Lucton School CCF, callsign Reaper 17 (R17), was called upon once again to seek out and destroy the dastardly Umbrella Corporation that had infiltrated the area local to Swynnerton in Staffordshire. They had set up a firm base and were using it to create chemical and biological weapons. R17's mission was to gather intelligence (int), arrest and detain cell members and finally formulate a plan for breaking down the remainder of the network.

During the evening on Friday the teams were inserted into their area of responsibility and met with a friendly agent in order to procure equipment and intelligence. With clearance patrols completed they were briefed on the activities to come. Saturday came with a round robin of training scenarios that could be used later on during the evening

period. Two sections were tasked with ambushing enemy transport in order to gain intelligence, and once completed that led onto the remaining two sections taking part in recce patrols, where they encountered an enemy ambush having to break contact and extract themselves back to their patrol base.

With the all intelligence gathered the final push came on Sunday with a series of attacks on a large bunker complex. Firstly, having to gain access to the compound, suppressing the enemy with small arms and mortar fire. Finally, clearing the interior of the bunker by means of breaching the entry point – Explosive Method of Entry (EMOE). Once inside there was chaos, enemy troops, hostages, casualties and did I mention chaos. With the enemy destroyed R17 could enjoy a leisurely coach trip back to Herefordshire, just in time for tea and medals.

The next training weekend will take place in March 2020 and will involve the Sennybridge Training Area, Brecon. Hills, forestry blocks and a rather large FIBUA village may also be involved.

*WO2 Rich Brown, SSI, Lucton School CCF*





# The Old Luctonians Association Dinner

Last weekend, the Old Luctonians' Association Annual General Meeting and Dinner was held at the school. Mr and Mrs Thorne, together with two of our senior pupils, Head Girl Alice Cunningham, and Head Boy, Taylor Mogford, were also guests at the evening! It is always interesting to meet former Luctonians wishing to remain part of the school and it is fantastic to see how keen they are to keep up with people who have become lifelong freinds.

Following the meal, Mrs Thorne gave an update on what we're currently up to at Lucton and as is tradition, an Old Luctonian responds. This year, Sir Tom Knill choose to speak on the life of Tony Yoward, who sadly died this year and for many years up until last year's dinner, Tony has won the prize for being the oldest attendee.



# Friends update

**Winter Ball** – Saturday 30th November (7.15pm to 1am)

It's just over a week away now until our Winter Ball, we are very much looking forward to seeing you all for a fabulous evening of food and dancing. If you haven't secured your ticket and you wish to come along the deadline date is Monday 25th November (next week!).

**Winter Fayre** – Friday 6th December (4-6pm)

We have just over 10 shopping stalls for our event now, and lots of things lined up for the children to do, plus a visit to see Santa of course. Make sure you pop and see us before heading home; there will be a bottle tombola, glitter tattoos, turkey rolls, crafting and more. Always a lovely event!

*Maddy Meek*

*Chair of The Friends of Lucton School*

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## Friends of Lucton School (FoLS)

My name is Amelia Davies and I am currently in Reception Year 1. I have been at Lucton school since Nursery and have seen all the wonderful things the FoLS do to support our school.

The FoLS has a core of parents and relatives at its heart (just like you) with the single aim of raising funds to benefit our time as pupils at Lucton from Nursery through to Sixth Form. The FoLS meet monthly during the school term and have lots of exciting plans it wishes to implement but we need your help (girls and boys you may need to give your parents some gentle encouragement).

My mummy and daddy support the FoLS as much as possible and try to attend as many FoLS meetings and activities as they can. The FoLS is a very welcoming group and it is keen that we encourage our parents to support us throughout the year and especially during major events like the Food Festival, Christmas Fayre, Quiz Nights and the forthcoming Lucton Winter Ball which I gather is a real hoot and allows the Lucton teachers, parents and friends to let your hair down after a busy year of looking after us children.

Children, if you want to get your photo into the Lucton Newsletter then get your mummy and daddy to support the FoLS



and they too can write an article about their experiences in supporting our wonderful school via one of the many FoLS activities. In essence “Your School Needs You”!

*Amelia (age 5)*