

Great exam results for 2019

Lucton's Year 11 pupils achieved 83% with 5 or more passes at GCSE and 73% for 5 passes including English and Maths. Again this year, sciences did very well at Lucton and the separate science subjects were amongst many subjects that achieved a 100% pass rate.



Lucton's leavers, also performed well, delivering an excellent set of A Level results. With just over 20 candidates, this year's cohort achieved results ahead of their predicted grades. Enbo and Lek led the way with A*AAB and A*ABB respectively and will be going on to study at UCL and

Manchester. Over a quarter of all exams taken achieved A* and A grades and over half were A* to B grades – excellent results from a non-selective cohort!

The picture shows Millie, last year's Head Girl, who will be reading Psychology at Bath.



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PARENTS' WELCOME BACK RECEPTION

**Tuesday 10th September
7.30pm, Memorial Hall**

All parents are welcome to attend this informal opportunity to meet staff and other parents.

Prep School News

WELCOME BACK! It was absolutely wonderful to see everyone on Tuesday morning. A new school term is always a lovely time but September is completely special. New classes, new teachers, possibly new classmates as well. Then there is the new school uniform, new shoes, shiny haircuts and glossy pencil cases to show off. There are the new stories to swap with tales of derring-do. I overheard tell of new kittens and new puppies. There have been new skills learnt: riding without stabilisers, swimming front crawl etc. But for us there has been a new classroom built and a new teacher joining us – Miss J Parker-Hill. Miss Parker-Hill is an Old Luctonian herself having been here from Year 7-13 before disappearing to university and across as far as Iran with horses! It is a delight to welcome her back, bubbling with enthusiasm and with a font of new teaching ideas. Mrs Wall is re-joining us as a class teacher after a temporary sojourn in the Middle School. Welcome to both. Some of us have swapped Year Groups as well, just to keep everything fresh.

So we start this Academic Year with 8 classes and 85 children. This must be a record for us. In order to accommodate us all we have introduced a new idea that all pupils in Years 1 and 2 come in drop off their bags and come back outside whilst Years 3-5 stay outside and bring their bags in at line up. The teachers will be in their classrooms should you wish to have a quick



word; however, this will ensure that we keep passages as clear as possible.

With a new Academic Year comes new topics, such as Bread, Rivers, Animals, Habitats, Romans in Britain. Of course we revisit the old favourites such as : Place Value (what value is the 5 in 14542?); When do we use capitals – you'd be surprised! Are we sure that is spelt correctly? What book are we reading and yes you really do have to learn your times tables!

Our Friday Assemblies begin again and remember that you and your friends are invited to all whether or not it is your son's or daughter's. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the children's achievements, catch up on School News, have a cup of tea and even use the School Pool. Please do come along. Finally don't forget next Tuesday is the Curriculum Evening at the Prep School followed by Welcome Drinks in the Memorial Hall. This is the perfect opportunity to meet your Class Teacher. It is not a Parents' Evening but it is a time to learn about expectations for the year. This is followed by an opportunity to meet with parents across the whole school. Please do come; it is a great beginning. 6:45 start in the Prep Hall to be in the Memorial Hall

by 7:30. To finish I leave you with a poem for the start of the year:

Teach us something please.
Whether we be old and bald
Or young with scabby knees
Our heads could do with filling
With some interesting stuff,
For now they're bare and full of air,
Dead flies and bits of fluff,
So teach us things worth knowing,
Bring back what we've forgot,
Just do your best, we'll do the rest,
And learn until our brains all rot.



Forest School

Exploring, investigating, crawling, building, finding hazelnuts, finding 1000 year old trees...discovering that there is a difference between crickets and grasshoppers and that stinging nettles are aptly named. Watching housemartins getting ready to migrate; finding all sorts of berries (most we can't eat)... Who wouldn't want the chance to be outdoors with friends to do this together?



Eco/Gardening Club

Thursday saw the first session of the new eco / gardening club. Eight eager students had a good look around the garden that they will be taking responsibility for over the coming months. There is much work to be done with clearing the area and getting the beds ready for planting. The students have already started to come up with their own ideas of what vegetables and plants they would like to grow. Once the first bed is clear we hope to plant some quick growing winter vegetables to try and get a first crop before the year is out. The club would be more than grateful for any donations of old tools, plant pots etc. The focus is keeping the club environmentally friendly and although we will not be encouraging the use of

buying plastic, we would encourage the recycling of old plastic pots. If you are looking to get rid of any old plastic pots, again they would be more than gratefully received.

Through Lucton News we will keep you updated on the progress of the garden.



Boarding House News

We are delighted to welcome all the boarders back for another year at Lucton. Old faces and new are all settling in and we look forward to getting to know our new boarders as the weeks progress. We particularly welcome the boarders in Year 11 and Year 13 who are entering their final GCSE and A level years, and we wish them all the success over the coming year.

We have a busy itinerary of weekends over this first term. Starting this weekend, Croft House will enjoy a game of 10 pin bowling and the chance to try out the new Adventure Golf experience that has opened at The Grove in Leominster. School Cottage will be going trampolining which they will undoubtedly enjoy. The popular weekly trip to Morrisons supermarket will continue to run on Friday evenings where the boarders will have the chance to stock up on any supplies that they need. Friday evenings will also see the introduction of a Cinema Club in Croft House.

The boarding team of Mr and Mrs Muckalt, Mr Rogers and Mrs Webb-Rogers, Miss Roper and Mr Johnstone are also delighted this year to have help in the boarding house from our new team of grads. Mr Britton, Miss Tyler, Miss Griffiths and Mr Drummond have spent



the week getting to know the boarders in School Cottage and Croft House and we look forward to working with them over the coming months. We are also delighted to announce that Mike Chan and Harriet McFarland have been named as the Boarding House Captains for the year. It remains the aim of the boarding house to give the boarders the opportunity to develop in an open and trusting atmosphere, to develop their responsibility for themselves, for others and for their environment, and to develop their qualities for leadership and ability to work as part of a team.

If you have any questions for the boarding house team, please contact us at the Boarding House on 01568 782010 (Croft House) 01568 782019 (School Cottage) or via our email boardinghouse@lucton-school.org. Alternatively, you can contact us through the school office.



The Watts' LEJOG ride

The beginning of August saw the Watts Family start their Lands End to John O Groats Bike Challenge. The first day began with some of the toughest climbs of the entire route but these came with rewarding views of the impressive coastline, St. Michael's Mount and finished on the edge of Dartmoor.

Day two was another grippy day on the bike with the magnificent climb of Cheddar Gorge finally arriving in the stunning city of Bath.

The following day skirted the Cotswolds before crossing the sweeping expanse of the Bristol Channel on the Severn Bridge. Then onto one of the most beautiful sections of the ride along the River Wye finishing in the market town of Ludlow.

Day 4 was the Ludlow to Oswestry 50 mile Bike Challenge with 15 other riders joining this section of the Watts Family journey. Finishing the ride at HOPE HOUSE and meeting some of the children there was a fitting end to the day's efforts.

The next day's riding began through the Shropshire and Cheshire plains. In the afternoon the landscape became more suburban as the route passed between Manchester and Liverpool ending North of Preston. This was the first experience of the extremes of weather to come with thunder, lightning and torrential rain.

The sixth day saw both the weather and scenery improve with views towards the Pennines and then North onto the mighty Lake District and the steady but long climb of Shap Fell. Onwards through Penrith and Carlisle and finally across the boarder at Gretna Green and into Scotland.

Day 7 saw the family push on through the lowlands with a steady climb to Edinburgh, an epic crossing over the iconic Forth River Bridge before finishing at Lock Levan for a well-earned rest. By now the legs and lungs had become accustomed to the daily work out and just in time before tackling the mighty Highlands.

Day 8 started with a Yellow Weather Warning of high winds and heavy rain. This only added to the challenge of riding into the stunning Grampian Mountains through the Cairngorms National Park and tackling the tough climbs of the mighty Glenshee and infamous Lecht Hill ski resorts without the snow and the toughest day so far!

After a good night's sleep and a hearty Scottish breakfast, the family was again ready to tackle whatever the route and weather had instore. The start of the day passing Culloden and on to Inverness was cool and undulating and by the end of the day was in the remotest and most spectacular part of Scotland.

The morning of the final day, although a damp and cold start, did not give up the little surprise instore until reaching the rugged North Atlantic Coast. Then the weather unleashed all it had in seemingly a last attempt to stop the destination of John O Groats being reached. Gusts of 60 mph made progress very tough and cold and the finish line that little bit sweeter. 23 Counties, 3 countries and 1 tired but proud family!

A big thank you to all who have supported our fundraising to date especially students at Lucton school who participated 4th July in their own 1000 Mile Challenge.

The Watts Family



2019/20 Residential Graduate Teachers

This term we welcome a new team of Residential Graduate Teachers, who are so important in assisting the Houseparents

with the smooth running of Lucton's boarding community.

From left to right: Mr Britton and Miss Tyler, who are both sports graduates, former Lucton pupil Miss Griffiths and Mr Drummond.



OPEN DAYS

Middle School, Seniors and Sixth Form
Thursday 26th September, 4.00pm - 7.00pm

Prep School & Nursery
Friday 27th September, 9.00am - Noon



Year 2's farm trip

Year 2 kick-started the year with a fun-filled trip to Newbridge Farm on Thursday. We had a wonderful day and enjoyed feeding lots of animals, petting little creatures in the petting barn, riding up steep banks on the tractor and rolling around on bales in the play barn. The sun shined and we made lots of new friends!



The Friends update

Welcome back to the new term! The Friends of Lucton School (Lucton's PTA) will be continuing our summer selling of ice creams on the Prep School playground throughout the month of September. Every Friday afternoon during pickup we will be there, all ice creams are £1 and anyone is able to purchase, so come on up and grab a Friday treat.

On Wednesday 18th September we have

The Friends Annual General Meeting at 7pm which is also our Bring and Share supper event, it would be fantastic to see you there!

Coming up towards the end of September we have The Friends Quiz and Curry Night, on Friday 27th September at 7.30pm - £10 per person which pays your entrance to the quiz and for your curry. This is always a popular event so please book your table by contacting the school.

CCF Annual Camp

CCF Annual Camp – Barry Buddon 2019

The highlight of the CCF Training Year is the annual camp, and this year Lucton School CCF were lucky enough to be sent to Barry Buddon Training Centre, slightly past Dundee, Scotland. So, with passports in hand, proof of inoculation and some hearty packed lunches we set off on our epic coach adventure to the far reaches of the Bonny Wee Scotland; and in answer to your question – yes at times we did take the high road!

The first couple of days were spent carrying out practice and rehearsals of the cadets' low-level tactics – with everything from the obstacle course, casualty extraction, section attacks and being taught Close Quarter Combat (CQB) by a crazy Scottish chap.

The middle of the week was taken up consolidating the training in the form of a 36-hour exercise. Recces were carried out, ambushes set and sprung, enemy defeated. The final phase was an attack on



a farm house and stables complex where the enemy had withdrawn after their multiple defeats throughout the period. They were finally seen off by our steely eyed gunslingers from Lucton CCF Platoon.

After the hardships of battle the cadets set off for a day's adventure training in the form of rafting down a river and some trail riding on mountain bikes. Both were



highly enjoyable despite the monsoon that decided to drench the cyclists.

The activities were rounded off nicely on Friday with an afternoon on the ranges firing from the 100m and 200m positions, some targets were hit and some missed, but it was a good experience for the new cadets and fun for the older group.

All of the cadets performed well throughout the week and although mischievous, their behaviour and representation of Lucton School was excellent.

Finally, at the end of the week some awards and promotions were given out:

½ Red Star: Archie Atherton, Jack Fletcher, Joe Nichols, Jack Nicholas, Sameer Rai, Nathan Taylor Woodward, Tom Wall, Tiphany Williams, Ellis Yates

Red Star: Amelia Bassett, Guy BC, Fred Chilman, Matthew Darwood, Harry Digwood, Morgan Ferguson, Toby Gilmour, Kian Hasson, Katie Lewis, Tom Marron, Kennedy McLaren, Millie Palfreman, Toby Payton, Fred Perry, Eliza Rowson Knowles, Archie Russell Stark, Jess Watts, Tim White, George Williams, Jamie Woodfield, Dom Yates

Promotions to:

LCpl: Malachy Clarke, Sameer Rai,

Kennedy McLaren, Katie Lewis

Cpl: Harry Digwood – Acting Cpls – Georgia Brown, Tom Marron, Fred Perry, Tim White, Jamie Woodfield

Sgt: Cassie Hollier

CSgt: Ellie Nicholson

CSM: Aaron Powell

Farewells: Harriet Sneyd, Amelia Bassett, Archie Harper, Eliza Rowson Knowles, Georgina Yates, Ellie Nicholson, Cassie Hollier

Despite the excessive travel, the cadets really enjoyed this camp and the CCF staff would like to thank them for attending and giving their best shot at everything they participated in. The Scottish wildlife also proved interesting from the large highland cattle – bos taurus, down to the tiny and elusive wild haggis – haggorious Scotarris. Intelligence is now being gathered for future operations as it is rumoured that the Umbrella Corporation have regrouped and military intervention is required – watch this space.

*WO2 Rich Brown, SSI,
Lucton School CCF Contingent*



Sports Report

A positive start!

The beginning of September is significant as it marks the beginning of meteorological autumn and the new school year! With lots of new faces, trying their hand at new sports, it was really encouraging to see how willing our pupils were to impart their knowledge and help their new friends learn the basic skills of netball, hockey and of course lacrosse, where the Year 9 and 10 girls were impressed by Mrs Thorne's impromptu visit and dash across the field during which she displayed some excellent cradling and movement skills! With lots of focus on revisiting basic technical skills,



with progression to friendly, coached games, a positive and happy start to the term was made as all pupils worked hard on their sporting rotations.



WELLBEING AWARD

What is it?

This whole-school award focuses on ensuring effective practice and provision is in place that promotes the emotional wellbeing and mental health of both staff and pupils.

With this award we can:

- Show our commitment to promoting mental health as part of school life
- Improve the emotional wellbeing of our staff and pupils
- Ensure mental health problems are identified early and appropriate support provided
- Offer provision and interventions that match the needs of our pupils and staff
- Engage the whole-school community in the importance of mental health awareness
- Capture the views of parents, pupils and teachers on mental health issues



Mrs Taxis



Mr Muckalt



Mrs Goode



Len Griffiths



Richard Brown



Mrs Muckalt



Alex Pudge

Equestrian News

The start of the new term also brings the new NSEA programme of competitions and events for our Equestrian Team to focus on. In just the next eight weeks we have dressage qualifiers, Show Jumping qualifiers, the very popular Eventer Challenge being held here at Lucton School which is also a qualifier for Hickstead in May 2020 as well as having six riders preparing and practising for the Show Jumping Championships taking place at Addington in October.

Over the summer, Seren Lloyd has had some fantastic results winning the Intermediate Show Jumping at the Pony Club Area competition plus the Intermediate Team Eventing at Chepstow, she was Individual winner at the Riding Club Show Jumping Areas for Marden, won the team Show Jumping and Eventing Area Competitions, came 7th individually and 6th team at the Riding Club Championships at Swalcliffe.

Hannah Lawry on her new horse Lucky (we hope she will live up to her name!) is also having great success as she won the 80cm Eventer Challenge at Allens Hill, 1st in the dressage at Pudleston Show and had two wins, a 2nd and a 3rd at the Pony Club Team Show Jumping at Herefordshire County Fair.

George Jones on Cleo competed at the Pony Club Area Competitions and came 3rd individually plus a team 1st meaning they qualified for the Pony Club Show Jumping Championships at Rectory Farm. He also had a 1st and 3rd at the Pony Club Team Show Jumping at Herefordshire County Fair.

Jess Lane won the 80cm at Marden Show. She then went on to win the 1m class, 2nd in the 90cm and 3rd in the 80cm at Pudleston Show last weekend.

Many of our other team horse and riders were also out competing and training throughout July and August in preparation for the forthcoming events and many came



home with rosettes, trophies and fantastic results. We also have some new members that have just joined Lucton who will be competing in the NSEA competitions with us but sadly we have had to say goodbye to Megan Ferriday, who was a valued member of the Equestrian Team with her fabulous pony, Frank; however, we do have the addition of some much younger members from pre-prep joining us, Bea Rogers and William Hellyar who have both just started their NSEA competition careers with Lucton!

Jake's Blog

We've had a lovely summer hacking out and playing in the sun and some have been away on holiday doing other things! Some are still away. Charlie has two more competitions, then comes back! We are looking forward to teaching all our new people and it looks as though we are going to be very busy! We have the inter-schools arena eventing at the beginning of October and the Prep School show jumping at Christmas! We have had lots of riders out and about and well done to all you have had a great summer!