

High standards at Aquathlon

The annual Lucton Aquathlon (swim and run) event went ahead again this year for Years 3 to 6 with an open invitation to all local schools. Lucton children are now familiar with this event and excitement each year is particularly generated by Year 3. The course was very damp under foot and the Year 5/6 running course



extended at the final hour. Race Director, Mr Warren, was particularly concerned to ensure all the hard work of groundsman, Ray Williams, didn't go unnoticed. Mr Muckalt literally got out of his sick bed to help run this event. The lifeguard team were also vigilant throughout. Miss Davies in the office was excellent as always. A great team effort and thanks too for parents who support these events so enthusiastically.

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Prep School News

Last Friday Year 1TC asked us to think about little acts of kindness or those small actions that make us feel happy. The children came up with all sorts of examples: it might have been when daddy looks in at night or when grandma's dog licks you or when they are baking together. Year 1TC wanted to remind us that these little things are probably more important than the big ones. They finished off their assembly with AA Milne's 'The King's Breakfast' when all the King wants is a little bit of butter for his bread, but the whole court tries to give him something else. Well done Year 1TC for the great assembly and reminding us that it is the little things that matter!

I am continually reminded that, with a little bit of help, children can understand a lot more than we give them credit for. A prime example at the moment is computers or, rather, computing. Did you know that there is a world of difference between ICT and Computing? The latter is when you use (and we teach) the different suite of programs in Microsoft Office. This is quite important given that we are all writing up reports or making graphs of the heart rate of different animals and their lifespan (Year 5) or making a fact file of the different Greek Gods (Year 3) or Roman Gods (Year 4). Or we are making cards using Paint (Year 2). It is also important to know how to save your work and (really importantly) where to save it. Having 20 or



so documents labelled 'Doc 1' really isn't helpful. Whereas Computing is the ability to write the actual program. Now, we aren't at the level of writing programs for video games or software companies but Year 1 have been writing algorithms to move their Bee-Bots Related image and this is just the start and yes the Year 1s do know the word 'Algorithm' and they can explain that it "...makes it go where we want it to go." Each class from Reception to Year 5 have a dedicated lesson in the Computer Room and then we book it for those times we want the children to research topics. The death of the ICT suite has been over exaggerated as has the death of the PC and I cannot stress the importance for the children to learn to type. BBC Dancemate typing is a good place to start.

But it isn't all computers. Year 5 have been baking recently. There has been a lot of mixing of colours in Reception and Year 1. Years 2 and 3 have been experimenting painting with inks and Year 4 have been creating mosaics.





And so, we come to the end of the first half of the autumn term and now we have

the run up to Remembrance, LAMDA exams, the Christmas Showjumping competition, the Nativity, Reverse Advent, the Christmas Fayre and then the Carol Service. Yes it is the most exciting half term yet! So do please keep an eye on the calendar and make sure that there is some rest over Half Term.

Forest School

This week has been a week of collecting leaves, finding more conkers, making dens and discovering how much fun it is to play hide and seek and that you can't be found if you keep really still and really quiet.

Friends update

Family Quiz - Thank you!

Thank you to the families that joined us last Saturday for our Family Quiz, your support was very much appreciated. It was a fun afternoon of questions, music and good company. We had team names like the 'Gremlins' and 'Team Bingo', but in the end the 'Disco Rockstars' ran away with the trophy and winners prize. Well done to them!



A Winter Ball - Saturday 30th November

We are pleased to announce that on Saturday 30th November the Friends are hosting a Winter Ball, this will be a fabulous warm up to the season. Ticket prices are £40 per person, this includes welcome drinks, a three course dinner followed by coffee, cheese and biscuits. The ticket price also includes buses home, this is such fantastic value for money. We will be having a DJ to entice you to the dance floor to the early hours. Come along with your partner, bring a few friends or why not bring lots of friends and make up a table of 10? Its a fun evening of great food, games and dancing and all

proceeds will go back to the Friends of Lucton who support projects and events for the pupils and school.

Funding Proposal and Survey

We hope you saw the email last Friday from the School Office with The Friends of Lucton School Funding Proposal document and the link to the Survey. We are looking for your views on where we might provide funding now that the field is paid for. Please pop along and complete the survey, it only takes 2 minutes and everyone's opinion counts!

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Q6RVPV3>

Boarding House News

It has been another busy week in the Boarding House with plenty of activities going on. Last Friday, the Boarders made their weekly trip to Morrisons supermarket and stocked up on goodies with which to watch the latest film in the Marvel Film Club. We are now up to Thor. It was once again a thoroughly enjoyable evening with a packed cinema room watching the film.

On Saturday, Croft House and School Cottage joined up for an outing to the Ironbridge Gorge museums. There are a number of different museums at Ironbridge. We visited Egnuity, an interactive design and technology museum, before going on to Blist Hill Victorian Town, an open-air museum that recreates the Victorian era. It really was a fantastic day out for the Boarders.

Once they arrived back at school, Mr Britton treated School Cottage to a game of indoor rounders in the Sports Hall.

On Sunday, School Cottage had a special "trick or treat" as Miss Roper took them to Morrisons where they bought a number of Halloween pumpkins. There was much carving of the pumpkins in the afternoon,



led by Mr Britton, and now a number of gruesome pumpkin faces can be seen staring out of the windows of School Cottage.

We were also treated on Sunday afternoon to a Body Shop pamper session as Emily (Debbie's daughter) brought in some sample products. There were face masks galore, face peels, hand and body creams, and we were left with some very sweet smelling Boarders and House Parents.

Mr Britton and Miss Griffiths opened the swimming pool in the evening for the Boarders to have a deserved swim to round off a fun-packed weekend.

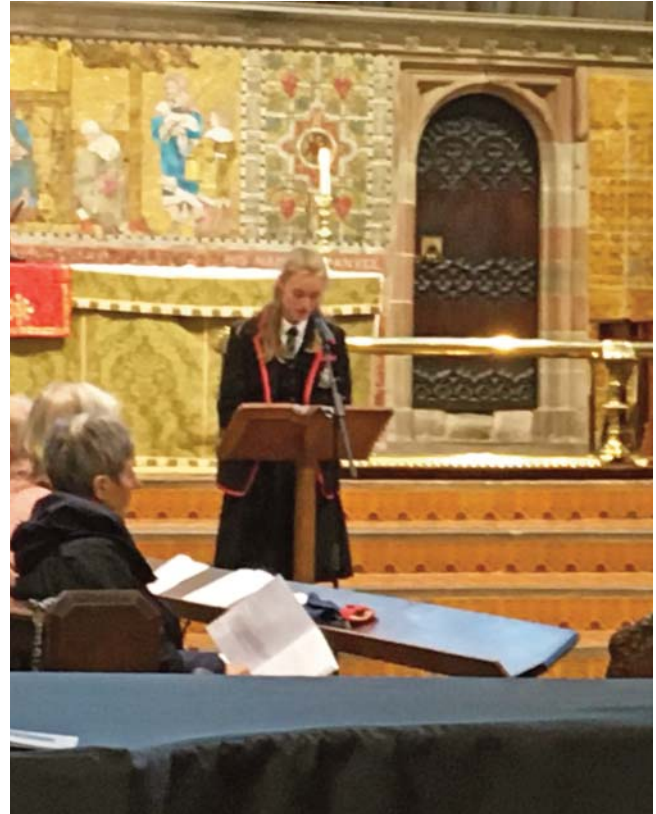
As this first half term draws to a close, we wish all the Boarders safe travels and hope they have a restful and relaxing week.



Great Malvern Priory Evensong

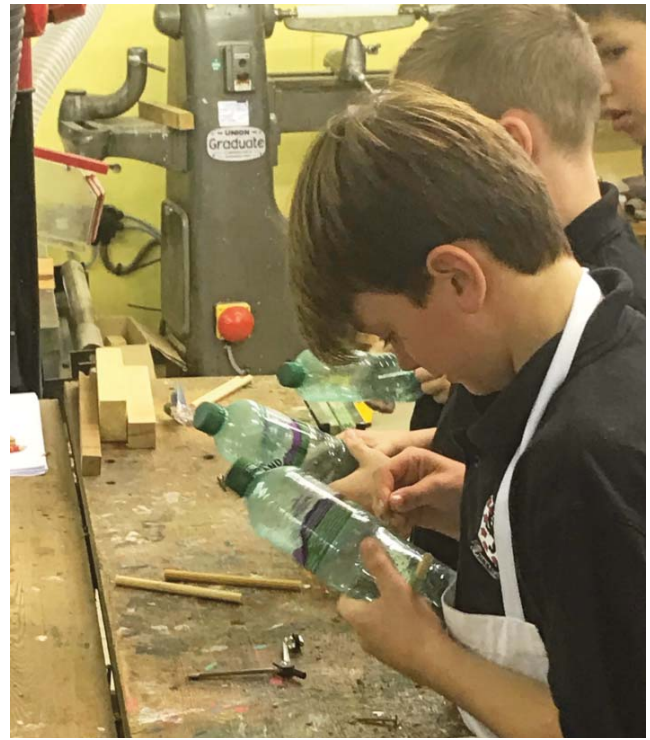
Last Friday afternoon, the Chamber Choir and friends journeyed to Great Malvern Priory to sing choral evensong. This was the first choral evensong of the year and all the children sang extremely well. The music that was sung included: the Brama Responses, Ives' Salisbury Service and my anthem 'If ye Love me'. Mr Maxim, in my convalesce, conducted the choir whilst Mr Ron Ward kindly played the organ for us. The service was led by Rev. Jonny Gordon, who is Malvern Priory's new curate. Amelia-Sky S. and Felicity A. kindly did the two readings and I have heard so many compliments about their reading - well done! Just to liven up the rehearsal, by pure coincidence, Jo McFadden, winner of BBC's Strictly Come Dancing happened to be in the Priory while we were rehearsing and complimented us on our singing. Sincere thanks to Mrs Wall and Mrs Berry

for getting things physically organised at the Lucton end in my absence and also to Mrs Taxis, Miss Coates and also to Mr Jones for singing with us.



Eco Club

The inclement weather of the last week, prevented our team of gardeners from using the garden last week. Their spirits were not dampened however, and we are grateful to Mr McKenzie for providing us with use of the CDT workshop where we were able to do some garden craft projects. With “re-use and recycle” being one of the key messages that the garden club is trying to promote, we used some plastic water bottles to make some bird feeders. Some of the children have got to take their bird feeders home and the remainder will be hung in the garden to help feed some hungry winter birds over the coming autumn and winter months.



Sports Report

U15 NETBALL v Bedstone.

The U15 girls netball team travelled to Bedstone with a rather depleted number of players due to the Battlefields Trip. Lucton excelled themselves against a mixed Bedstone team. Every member of the team worked tirelessly to take possession of the ball and move it rapidly up the court for Catherine Clulee to make a stand out performance as Goal Attack. With the constant high level of play from the Lucton girls they managed to score an impressive 10 goals in under 10 minutes. Jessica Watts was named player of the match due to her relentless desire to gain possession of the ball and move it through the court. The Lucton girls displayed not only exceptional attacking skills but also brilliant defending skills which prevented the Bedstone players from managing to score even one goal. Lucton won again, 10 goals to 0, well done!

U14/13 HOCKEY v Lord Wandsworth College

It never rains until pours, was an apt

description of the weather experienced during this friendly, yet very competitive match. Although Lord Wandsworth College played with skill and determination, making some early breaks to score a couple of quick goals, some excellent goal keeping from defensive player of the match Annalise and tenacious play from Rosie, Tiphany, Scarlett and attacking player of the match Darcy, ensured that we held our own in the defensive end of the mid field. Good support and improved play from all players and especially Connie and Hannah was evident throughout and although we did not win, great progress was made by all players.

U14 Herefordshire County Netball Tournament

A glimpse of sunlight and a tough tussle against a tall, athletic St Mary's team meant that we had to work hard to score a point in our first game. Fortunately, despite lacking confidence to drive in the first half, a more proactive approach ensured that during the second half, we reduced the five goal gap to 4-7, scored a few goals and gained a point for scoring more than half



the winning score. Although the 2-2 draw against Fairfield was not a true reflection of our play, the positive 6-1 victory over Kingstone was just what we needed for a successful end to the day.

U18 and U16 friendly netball tournament v Bedstone and Ludlow College

As the fog lifted and the sun peaked through the stratus cloud, the U18s got off to a flying start with some slick play. Superb defending by Elsie, solid centre court play by Ella and sharp movement in and around the shooting circle by Hattie (player of the match) and Annie, ensured a robust 16-1 victory over Bedstone 1. A closer affair against Ludlow College ensured that team work was of the essence, as Keira, Aoibh and Grace upped their game, with Elsie, (player of the match) seeing some excellent passes into the attacking circle, as Annie and Hattie worked hard for their 11-8 victory. A quick reshuffle of the centre court for the final match against Bedstone 2, proved effective as Ella (now WA) fed some skilful passes into the shooters. Hattie (player of the

match) often used her defensive skills to win the ball in the centre court and both shooters were on form for an 11-3 victory. It was great to see Ella back on the court and the girls all agreed she made a winning debut as centre! This was a positive team effort, no doubt the result of the warm up motivational music!

With a new team line up, the U16s began cautiously and took a couple of games to gel. Despite close losses to Bedstone 2 (6-3) and Ludlow College (6-2) improved movement and focus were evident in the third match, resulting in a 5-3 win over Bedstone 1, as Natalie, (player of the match) scored some superb goals. Strong defending by Faith (twice player of the match) was supported by all players and it was encouraging to see improvement in all areas of the game, with some slicker moves, smart feeds into the attacking circle by Amelia and closer defending and marking by all, which meant the girls definitely finished on a positive note!

U14 NETBALL v Bedstone

The Year 9 had a great start to their fixture finishing the first quarter with a draw. Into



the second half of the game the girls started to rush and make silly mistakes. This meant that the girls fell behind and lost the game. Everyone tried hard until the final whistle considering the changes made in court. We took a big squad and allowed everyone to get some game time and experience in different positions. A great training fixture to move toward to the next match. Well done to all.



LUCTON AQUATHLON

Continued from the front page.

In the races, Year 3 and 4 competed over 4 lengths and then a 1km while Year 5 and 6 swam 6 lengths and ran 1.6km. The event also includes the transition and times are taken from the start in the pool to the finish line. Lucton this year included most of the children in Year 3 top 6 which is testament to the enthusiasm of the teaching



staff in the pool, and running activities within games lessons with Mr Wilson.

The primary purpose of the event is to provide children with an opportunity in multi-sports events as they travel through the school. The results were as follows:

Year 3 Boys: 1st Jake Ibbs, 2nd Harry Crawford, 3rd Max Blundell Rouse

Year 3 Girls: 1st Emily Evans, 3rd Isabel Furniss

Year 4 Girls: 2nd Matilda Judd

Year 5 Boys: 2nd Nathan Berry 3rd Will Evans

Year 5 Girls: 1st Solange Dakar Arop, 2nd Poppy Crawford 3rd Emily Grace Stevens

Year 6 Boys: 2nd Thomas Berry 3rd Henry Hellyar

Year 6 Girls : 1st Amelia Jones

Overall school winners: Lucton School
Congratulations to all. *MJW*



A busy botanical Biology Week

We have now collated the information from all areas of the school who took part in Biology Week. This was organised by the Royal Society of Biology. It is a celebration of the work done by biologists around the world.

At Lucton we have had a focus week on biology and all things botanical. The week began with two biology assemblies, one on the importance of biology (7B) and the other addressing the issues the world is facing in terms of climate change (6R). The Year 6 form created an eco-tree which has been put up in the biology classroom, encouraging pupils to write down their ideas on how to make Lucton a more eco-friendly school. The pupils have come up with some excellent ideas to be discussed at the next school council meeting.



Across the school we chose the theme of flowers. The art department has been busy producing lots of flower-related art—some beautiful technical and creative drawings of flowers from all the year groups.

In English, children have been encouraged to write stories and poems linked to flowers. In form time we have looked at the importance of flowers to the Earth and how gardening can enhance our well-being.

The Prep School has taken the theme of flowers for their harvest cakes and we look forward to pictures of these soon!

In the science department the biology teachers have been busy setting up a project “Flora Luctoniense”. The aim is to catalogue as many of the plant species as possible from across the Lucton site. Pupils from across the whole school have been out identifying plants, counting different species, doing bark rubbing and finding autumnal leaves.



Yr 9 Maths Picnic

On Tuesday morning we hosted a Year 9 "Maths Picnic" in the Memorial Hall. QE and Whitecross brought 6 teams between them and we supplied two. The event comprised a countdown style round running throughout the competition, a crisp(number crossword) and a very interesting round based on A Level physics, involving turning moments with numbers and algebra. Each team consisted of three team members.

Three teams were neck and neck throughout the morning with just a couple of points separating them going into the final round. In the end we tied with Whitecross A for first place, so the team of Charlie, Nathan and Archie can be congratulated, but Esther, Rosie and Sameer also performed well. This was an enjoyable event, making maths accessible to all, and allowing all of the pupils to feel that they could do some of the questions set and be successful.



Equestrian News

On Saturday, Ms Quick took five students from the boarding house on a trekking adventure along the Black mountains. It was an early start but the weather held out and the group enjoyed some fun canters through streams, ferns and across open ground. Johanna K, Noa H, Lilly L, Hannah P and Luise T all showed off their riding skills whilst taking in the amazing views through the valley, they were even lucky enough to witness Ms Quick having to jump off her horse to get across the stream and watch wild ponies graze alongside the trails. Ms Quick hopes to



arrange another trekking day very soon so if anyone is interested please let her know.

Home Endurance Internationals

Over the weekend of the 4th-6th of October, Edith Jones represented Wales at the endurance riding Home Internationals on her pure bred Arabian horse Gwely Coeds Razil. The Home Internationals is an annual competition where teams from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland compete against each other. The venues rotate and this year Wales were the hosts (Edith was also in the Welsh team last year in Inverness and hopes to be included in 2020 when Ireland are the hosts). As well as competing, Edith and Razil led the parade of the teams on the Friday.

Edith and Razil completed their first 50km at an average speed of 10.1kph, riding for 4 hours and 45 minutes, with a starting heart rate of 32 beats per minute and a final of 42 gaining a grade 1. Red Dragon is one of the toughest rides on the endurance calendar by virtue of the challenging terrain the event takes place over. She and Razil gained their third grade

1 out of three starts. On top of this, Edith won the Cambrian challenge cup for the best novice overall, 2nd junior in the Home Internationals and Celtic Challenge and 2nd in the 50km in the Home Internationals and Celtic Challenge. This season, together with the three grade 1s, they won a Pony Club Endurance Championship qualifier. This is particularly astonishing as they have only been a partnership for 3 months and Arabian horses are known for needing to have a good relationship with their owners in order to perform at their best – they are definitely one person horses! Edith has quickly gained Razil's trust and they have bonded well so are a partnership to watch for the future.

Endurance riding is one of the least known about equestrian activities. It involves the rider navigating with the aid of maps and markers on the course. A successful outcome requires the rider to complete the course at the required average speed and to ensure the horses welfare so the finishing heart rate is low and the horse is in good condition when

examined by the vets in a post finish examination. Therefore it is more than simply rider prowess as overall horsemanship is necessary to do well over a long period. A good crew is also necessary as horses and riders are given drinks and horses 'sloshed' with water at crew points on course.

