



Great competition at House Cross Country

The weather turned out to be perfect for running this week with the high pressure in control. The competition started with the enthusiastic and strong-willed Prep School runners showing off their skills and appetite for running! With places in the house relay teams and the ISA Midlands X-C event up for grabs, this added to the competitive aspect.



The day was as much about the houses as it was about individuals and the whole school positions were decided by all of the runners in Year 3-13. Overall Yr 3 to 6 placings: 1st - Rodney (193). 2nd - Drake (203). 3rd - Nelson (209). 4th - Collingwood (255).

In Years 7 and 8, the appetite is on a par with the Prep School and we have some exceptionally talented runners here too. Rodney House were on top in this age group in the overall placing too. Years 9 and 10, where some excellent and committed running was still on show with Malachy C dominating and rarely moving out of 2nd gear! Overall, Collingwood dominated this age group! The final group to run were Year 11-13, a truly international affair. The gifted runners in these races were largely Year 11 or pupils that have been at Lucton the longest.



Overall:	Girls	Boys	Totals
Collingwood	709	607	1316
Drake	503	462	965
Nelson	574	971	1545
Rodney	449	1282	1731

In this issue:

- Prep School News
- Boarding News
- Eco Club
- Castles activity
- Sports Report
- Equestrian News

Prep School News

We had a super assembly last week from Year 3. They entertained us with their knowledge of the skeleton. Not only the common names such as shin and thigh bone, we got femur and tibia, ulna and even phalanges, the latter being Miss Jay's favourite word. They also made up a quiz for us about the parts of the body and I think that we were most amazed by the fact that in the course of one year, the heart will have pumped enough blood to fill an Olympic swimming pool – that's 2.5 million litres – in 38.5 million heartbeats. So in a lifetime (or threescore years and 10) that would be 70 Olympic sized swimming pools. That is incredible.

The House Cross Country had been rescheduled to Monday and what a difference in weather. Instead of a deluge we had a bright, frosty morning. The only downside, for the spectators, was the mist which meant that they couldn't actually see the competitors running. From the runners' point of view, it was wonderful weather and they should be very proud of the effort that they put in. Tuesday was incredibly quiet in school as Years R, 1, 2 and 3 were all out at Ludlow Castle (Reception Class) and Techniquet (the rest). Reception Class came back full of tales of derring do as they began to act out



the storming of a castle and even making one in the playground. Meanwhile, the rest of the school came back with all sorts of science inspired stories and some very interesting souvenirs from the shop. There have been more inventive games on the playground, quite a lot involving mud!

We are well underway with our rehearsals for Christingle next week on 29th January. Christingle can be celebrated from Advent up until Candlemas on 2nd February. It is a celebration of the Christian story in a very simple and fun way. We are extremely fortunate to be able to go to St Laurence's in Ludlow and we do hope that you can come along as well.

We may well be coming to the end of a season surrounding the birth of Christ but now we are beginning another season as you may have noticed; mud season, according to the Anglo Saxons or Solmonað in fact they named February



mudmonth! An apt name I am sure you agree with.

I am not sure what happens in this term, but the dark side of the internet is rearing its ugly head again. We will be sending out a letter and inviting you all to an internet evening. In the meantime, please remember to use your parental controls on the home hub; remember that WhatsApp, Instagram, Snapchat and so on are only for those aged 16+ and that Fortnite is for 12+. There have been studies to show that too much screen-time reduces the memory capacity by 50%. It is a great tool and we use it a lot but, as with anything, it can be overused and it is up to us as teachers and parents to help educate the children.

That leaves me space to invite you,

family and friends to all of our Friday Assemblies to help us celebrate the children's achievements, to catch up on School news, have a cup of tea with friends and even use the School pool to help that promise to become fitter in 2020!

Forest School

Mudmonth is definitely here and it seems as if it leaps from the ground to the children like a magnetic force. No matter what we do, we get muddy and that includes me! Never mind, mud is very useful making gargoyles and covering our bridges. We can see why the ancients used it for building, even if it is rather messy!

Castles activity

Swords and shields to the ready, the brave knights of Reception set off for Ludlow on Tuesday morning. They had a fantastic time learning about what castle life was like a very long time ago and the visit was rounded off with a lovely story time.



Eco Club

We were lucky enough with the weather to get outside today and do some gardening. In the vegetable plots, the onions we planted last term are really shooting up. The early spring bulbs are also coming out and we're not far off our first daffodils of the year opening out and giving us some much needed colour. The main exercise this week was planting some seed trays. We have gone with some lovely pinstripe aubergines, cauliflower and some salad leaves. We have also sown a variety of sweet peas into some trays and again we look forward to the colour they will provide.

Boarding News

It was an exciting weekend in the boarding house as fifty boarders signed up for one of our most popular trips – go-karting and laser tag. For many of our boarders, this was the first time that they had experienced go-karting and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They made good use of all the facilities on site with arcade games, (Sean had the best ko punch on the punch bag) and a new café where they made the most of the food on offer.

On Sunday, Carrie took charge of decorating the boarding house in readiness for Chinese New Year and she has done a fantastic job. The boarders have continued to make good use of the Sports Hall at the weekend and during the evening.

Although it seems that we have barely been back in school, this term is now

flying past and half term is quickly approaching. We therefore need to start asking that all boarders let the boarding houseparents know their travel plans for half term. The boarding house can be emailed at boardinghouse@luctonschool.org or you can contact us by telephone on 01568 782010.



Sports Report

U13 FOOTBALL v Ludlow

A strong team performance saw the U13 boys clinch a 4-3 victory at Ludlow on Wednesday afternoon. After only 4 minutes, the home side scored from a well-struck shot just inside the area. Lucton were not behind for long and straight from the kick-off, Zac P and George J worked the ball well to Matthew G who poked home the equaliser.

Lucton started to grow in confidence and on 8 minutes scored a fantastic goal. Zac P won the ball in midfield and played a defence splitting pass through to Matthew G who struck the ball first time. Ludlow came back at Lucton, and it was Charlie R in goal who prevented Ludlow from equalising with a brilliant double save. Lucton again surged forward and Matthew G sealed his hat-trick. Ludlow didn't give up and battled back. Lucton left some open gaps in midfield which Ludlow capitalised on and Lucton were pegged back to 2-3 just before half time.

The second half was played in a similar fashion until Zac P extended Lucton's lead 8 minutes in the second half, but tiring legs gave Ludlow more space in the middle as they started to press forward. With both teams tiring, the game became end to end and with 5 minutes remaining Ludlow got their third of the match. As Ludlow pressed for the equaliser, some desperate defending kept them at bay and Lucton held out for the victory that their efforts deserved.

Well done to the boys for winning a well-fought match and all of the players deserve credit for the result.

YEAR 6/7 LACROSSE v Packwood

On Wednesday the Year 6 and 7s had an outstanding lacrosse match against Packwood, you can really see the progression since the beginning of the year. Chloe M-J was captain and she



led a positive warmup with the girls feeling confident with their stick skills. In the first minute of the game Lucton scored their first goal though trailed at half time. After a team chat and a re-adjust of position, Lucton went out in the second half with their heads held high. Eno scored a fantastic goal taking the ball right from our end from a turn out. Her ability to see the space and run with the ball at speed to made it hard for Packwood and she was awarded player of the match. There were also some goals from Freya, Sophie and Harriet. The final score was 10-8 to Packwood but this was an extremely close game and a positive match considering Lucton had no goal keeper!

1st NETBALL v Alcester Grammar School

This was a battle of the Titans, a cracking game, with the girls displaying great progress since last term's encounter. This



was a fast, physical game, which required positive attacking play from the onset. With Faith controlling the centre court, linking well with the wings, Edith, Alice and Ella, the girls made the most of all attacking opportunities. Excellent rotation and movement in and around the attacking circle, opened up the space, with Harriet M and Annie (player of match) working well with the circle edge players. Improved confidence by all players and some athletic defending, (a necessity against their tall, agile shooter) from Harriet B and Elsie, helped keep us in the game. Although we lost 37-25, the girls played really well, were more mobile, sharper and determined in every area of the court. We are moving in the right direction and for those prepared to commit to training, the reward was that of knowing we can compete at a much higher level!

LUCTON 1st VII RUGBY v Ludlow

It was great to play the first 7s of the term against a very big and powerful Ludlow College team whom we have played last term in the larger format of the rugby game. A contrast of techniques was on show with Lucton playing a passing and width brand of the game as opposed to a direct tight tactic from Ludlow. It paid dividends early as Nabil and Harri showed excellent pace to score early. Other tries followed for more players. Archie J showed excellent footwork and agility to weave through the opposition like a hot knife through butter. Fergus scored a full length try from a turnover on our line—simply wonderful! It was terrific to have Harri make his debut for Lucton and to see Henry Y out again. The special relationship with Ludlow allowed the boys to mix up teams for a second match, which was excellent to see and so fitting of the values that rugby union players exude—barbarians style rugby followed. This game was very tight and played with fun and spirit. It was a pleasure to ref!

U12/13 LACROSSE v Packwood

On Wednesday our U12/13 team played at



home against Packwood Haugh. We showed some good development of our skills and as the match progressed gained confidence in our aggression and confidence with the ball. Packwood were very accurate with their passing and ultimately were victorious with regards the score line, but with Mrs Thorne's coaching at the end of each quarter we showed good resilience and tenacity. Some excellent play by our goal scorers Darcy Clarke and Scarlett Barrett and our goalkeeper, Ava Coleman, earned herself the distinction of Player of the Match!

U16 NETBALL v Alcester

This was an exciting game and should have resulted in a draw! We started slowly but by the 2nd quarter, the pace and quality of the game improved. The girls kept space and fed Megan and Natalie with good quality ball which they converted to goals on a high percentage rate! Megan was also voted player of the match but many of the team could have had that honour. The defence also played an important part with some lovely turnover ball and excellent interceptions. Grace and Mollie had good movement and read the game well and communication throughout the team was strong. Alcester moved ahead in the 2nd by 3 goals but this was pulled back within the quarter and we traded goal for goal and we just missed out in the last minutes to lose 20-19, just 30sec more!

U11 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

This Wednesday 22nd of January saw Lucton under 11s host a schools invitational football tournament on the Prep



School Field. There was an array of talent on show as Lucton came out with two strong teams. Other schools included Brockhampton, Kingsland, Wigmore & Stretton Sugwas. The first game for Lucton team 1 there was really good link up play between Archie, Henry M and Harry P. Brockhampton's keeper was excellent and the game ended in defeat for Lucton 1-0. The next game for Lucton team 1 was against Wigmore. Both teams created chances in an end to end game and neither team could break the deadlock finishing 0-0. Lucton team 1's final group game was against Kingsland. Lucton grew great confidence from the previous games and took control. Archie L produced some great wing play, passing multiple defenders and scoring in the bottom right corner with cool finish. Other goals came from Harry P & Henry M. Lucton came out of this game with a resounding 4-0 victory. Two teams had the same points and goal difference, so a coin toss was used to decide who progressed. Lucton ended up on the wrong end of the coin toss and played against Stretton for 3rd place. Lucton played some of their most fluid football in this game and came out 3-0 winners with a really good final strike by Ted M. This ensured a 3rd place finish for Lucton whilst position 1 and 2 were taken by Brockhampton's team 1 & 2.

While these matches were being played on pitch 1 Lucton Team 2 were in action on pitch 2, involving quite a few new players to competitive football including

Theo O who shone in defence. Lucton team 2's first game was against an attacking Brockhampton team but brilliant defending from Theo and Tom B ensured that they kept the score to 0-0. The second game against Wigmore 2 was a very end to end affair with Henry H causing the Wigmore defence issues, though unfortunately ended 0-0. The final game for Lucton 2 was a tough physical game which was decided by a strong free-kick taken by Wigmore with the final score being 1-0 to Wigmore.

Thank-you to all staff and student volunteers that helped on the day. It was a great success, giving the children chance to be involved in a competitive tournament and show off their team working skills and strong footballing ability.

BADMINTON v Alcester 22nd Jan

This week we had the opportunity to play a home fixture against Alcester. The event was played in a very friendly and positive spirit, as although our boys Mike, Harold, Joe and Ryan, were easy winners in all their games, the Alcester boys took it as a learning opportunity and enjoyed the match. The girls games were all much closer; however, all ended in Lucton's favour. Zoe won an excellent match against her opponent at singles whilst Evie was also playing at her best during the singles, winning her game in fine style.

U12 FOOTBALL v Ludlow

We travelled the short distance to Ludlow School along with the U13s and U15s. It was great to have so many boys from both schools competing in matches at the same time - it reminded me of running around a park in London back in the 1990s and there were at least a dozen matches all on at the same time.....anyway back to the football. We begun confidently enough, but their left midfielder was particularly good and only some outstanding saves from Arthur C in goal kept the score down. We managed to sneak a goal just before half-time with some determined play from Kieran. We rallied at half-time and

produced a much improved second-half. Jonathan D scored two good goals to bring a little respectability to the score. James H worked well throughout, but Arthur was man of the match.

U15 XI v Ludlow School

An excellent performance saw Lucton dominate away from home. In a slightly unfamiliar line-up, Lucton showed some early nerves, but finally came out of their shell in the second half. Lorcan should have had a penalty when chopped down in the first half but confusingly was awarded a free-kick. Captained by Ellis Y, the defence ensured that Ludlow got no joy, although we were indebted to Will M for two outstanding saves, one at point blank range. Still, once Jack F got into the groove, they made full use of Jack B's pace on the wing. This proved to be the breakthrough; Ellis' fast thinking sent a quick free-kick into

Jack, who crossed for Leo to put away, via a deflection. Lucton looked lively every time they came forwards, and should have had another penalty as Jack B went down under a clumsy challenge; nothing given. Playing in goal in the second half Lorcan produced a stunning save from a curling shot, as he tipped it onto the underside of the bar and fell on top of it. Somehow, the referee misjudged the situation and gave a goal and despite the clear confusion amongst our players, their attitude and approach to the misguided decision was spot on. We should have gone on to win it from there, with Malachy's dominance in midfield growing with each passing minute. In the end, Joel B cleared off the line as we pushed forwards, but there were no more goals. Although officially a 1-1 draw, in reality the boys can be very happy with the performance and the victory!

Equestrian News

Five Lucton pupils competed at The Area 10 Pony Club Tetrathlon qualifiers at Monmouth boys school.

Bea R, aged only 5 came an impressive 8th out of 25 competitors in the 'Beanie' class, which involves throwing bean bags onto a target followed by a 500 metre run. Oliver D, Ted Rogers and Arthur C all competed in the 'Minimus' class with some fantastic personal bests achieved in all three disciplines of shooting turning targets, running and swimming. Oliver D came 10th whilst Arthur C, who came 9th, qualified for the national Pony Club Tetrathlon finals in March. Sophie D competed for the first time in the 'Junior' class which involves shooting turning targets one handed, a 3 minute swim and a 1500m run. Sophie had personal bests in all three disciplines. It was a fantastic day, with Pony Clubs from all around the country competing against each other, but especially wonderful to see Lucton pupils performing so well in a very competitive

field. Good Luck to Arthur in the finals!

Jake's Blog

We have had an exciting week back with high winds and rain to cope with! Alfie has fitted in well but still seems to be in a state of shock! Mouse is due back soon but still away enjoying himself at present! Rose has come back and settled back in and we are all enjoying the work and seeing some new riders! Mr Blane came back this week too which was fun. Good luck to all those who are jumping at Kings this weekend!

